

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

SBC's Indy registration may reach 18,000 messengers

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP) — Although it will be the first time the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention has been held in Indianapolis, the Hoosier city can expect as many as 18,000 messengers June 9-11, according to an SBC official.

Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, told Baptist Press he expects between 17,000 and 18,000 messengers to register for the 135th session in the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis. Porter has had an impressive record in predicting messenger registration since 1978, including a prediction last year in Atlanta of 22,500 with actual registration of 23,465.

With spouses, visitors, and guests, total attendance at the 1992 annual meeting could approach 23,000 to 25,000, SBC officials said. Most of the motels and hotels near the downtown are full although there are still rooms available in the outer loop area of Indiana's capital city.

The convention's largest attendance was in Dallas in 1985 when 45,519

registered followed by the 1986 Atlanta convention with 40,987 messengers. The meeting usually is much smaller in attendance when held outside the Bible belt area between Texas and the east coast.

Porter said registration for the convention would open at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 7, and 8 a.m. Monday and Tuesday, June 8-9. The registration area is near the front entrance to the Indianapolis Convention Center and Hoosier Dome, in the "500" ballroom.

"We want to help messengers to register and that can be facilitated with them having their messenger cards completely filled out," Porter said. "If they do that, we will register them in less than five minutes."

Porter suggested people try not to register at the opening each day but rather an hour later to keep from standing in line.

"Each church needs to secure their messenger cards by writing their state convention office and getting the cards they are entitled to," Porter said.

Each church is entitled to mes-

sengers according to membership or by giving to "convention causes," Porter said. Actual requirements are printed on the messenger cards.

"It is important that each messenger be elected by their church and that they have their card completely filled out and then bring that card to the convention," Porter said.

If messengers do not have cards, they will have to secure a statement from their church and will have to go before the credentials committee, Porter said.

"Churches should elect only their required messengers; alternate messengers do not register," Porter said. Churches often have problems when alternate messengers try to register and they exceed their allotted number of messengers. It becomes embarrassing to the church and their regular messengers if alternate messengers are elected, he said.

"Every messenger must be elected, including the pastor; no one is automatically a messenger ... not denominational workers or mis-

sionaries. Every messenger must be elected by a cooperating church," Porter said.

Details on messenger qualifications can be found in the SBC constitution and bylaws.

"Missions (congregations) can only be represented through their sponsoring church and churches have had to give (financially) last year to come to this year's convention," Porter said. For more information about the registration procedure, Porter can be reached at (904) 785-8596.

Asked by Baptist Press if he would be a candidate for renomination as recording secretary following a close election in Atlanta last year, Porter said he was still "mulling over" the possibility.

Porter, 62, became assistant to the pastor and administrator at St. Andrew Church in Panama City, Fla., March 1. He previously had been with the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville 15 years. — See pages 6-7 for convention schedule and related meeting stories.

Commitment means more than sending missionaries

By Frank Wm. White

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists should not be content that sending missionaries fulfills their commitment to Christ's Great Commission, participants in an April 22 missionary commissioning service were told.

After 87 new home missionaries were presented at Nashville's First Church for commissioning, James T. Draper Jr., president of the Southern Baptist

Sunday School Board, told those participating in the service it is not enough to send missionaries.

"The call of Christ is personal, unique, and it is for all of us. We do not send out these missionaries instead of us. Those of us who remain behind also have a calling."

Draper said Southern Baptists must pray for and financially support missionaries, co-labor with them in

volunteer missions, and report to others about the work of missionaries.

The 87 new missionaries will join 4922 other Southern Baptist home missionaries in all 50 states, Canada, and Puerto Rico, said Bob Banks, HMB executive vice president.

HMB President Larry Lewis charged the new missionaries with the commitment to evangelism. "No matter what your assignment is, there is no more important task than to be a faithful soul-winner," he said.

The commissioning service also served as a celebration of Southern Baptist commitment to the Bible, involvement in Bible teaching, and leadership in Bible publishing.

For SBC roles

A Holman Family Worship Bible was presented to the James L. Sullivan family. Sullivan, retired president of the Sunday School Board, was joined on the platform by four generations of his family. Sullivan said in his home the Bible was never a book to remain on the shelf but a book to be lived and shared.

Al Riddley, director of the Illinois Baptist State Association's Sunday School department and president of the association of state Sunday School directors, presented to Harry Piland, director of the Sunday School Board's Sunday School division, a Bible that has been read in public ceremonies in

— Commitment means, page 5



BUSY SENIOR ADULTS — With more than 70 years' experience as workers with bed babies at First Church, Donelson, Nancy Moore, left, and Mary Ellen Duncan typify the 1992 Senior Adult Day theme, "Heritage, Happiness, and Hope in the Senior Years." Senior Adult Day will be observed May 3 in many Southern Baptist churches. — Photo by Jim Veneman

MOVING? Mail this label to the Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024 with your new address.

Tennesseans nominated

NASHVILLE — Several Tennessee Baptists have been nominated to serve on boards and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Tennesseans were named by the 1992 Committee on Nominations, chaired by Bobby Boyles of Moore, Okla. Nominees must be elected by messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 9-11 in Indianapolis.

Following is a list of SBC agencies, boards, and committees along with Tennessee Baptists nominated for service.

Executive Committee — John Wallace, businessman and member of First Church, Morristown

Foreign Mission Board — Jack Parrott, pastor, Sunnyside Church, Kingsport (second term)

Home Mission Board — A. Ray Newcomb, pastor, First Church, Millington

Sunday School Board — Mary Margaret White, retiree and member of First Church, Humboldt; Jack Stewart, businessman and member of Manley Church, Morristown; Bruce Robinson, pastor of West Lonsdale Church, Knoxville; and Phil Glisson, staff evangelist, Leawood Church, Memphis

Annuity Board — Glenn Weekley, pastor, First Church, Hendersonville

Southern Seminary — Richard D. White, pastor, First Church, Franklin (second term)

Southeastern Seminary — Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Church, Cordova (to fill unexpired term)

Southern Baptist Foundation — John Nanney, hospital engineer and member of Meridian Church, Jackson. Betty Pettey, Nashville, and William C. Lovell Jr., Brentwood, were nominated for second terms.

American Seminary Commission —

— Tennesseans, page 5

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Editorials**Standing up for sexual chastity: right, courageous**

It is a time for re-evaluation of moral issues — and not just for Christians. It is a time for reassessment of the values that guide lives — and time for action.

If ever there was a time for the church to step to the front and say this message, it is now. We must live beyond our smallmindedness and lack of expectation. Get over it! There is no power created by man, and no power allowed by God, that can overcome a concerted effort by Christians to turn the world upside down.

It was done once before by a very small group — and it can be done again.

An article in May's issue of the *Reader's Digest* succinctly tells of "The Chastity Revolution." We have been through years during which chastity had no bearing on the vast majority of Americans.

Chastity has several clearcut synonyms: purity, virtue, innocence, sexual incorruptness, and discipline. The antonyms don't have such a clean sound: lewdness, lustful, wantonness, corrupt, defiled.

In the article ideas are espoused which haven't often been publicized. The chastity revolution may really be on the way. Saying no to sex is gaining acceptance, and says the article, that message may be a relief to young people. A Harvard psychiatrist says many young people have sex out of peer pressure.

He also said that sex has special meaning: "It has to do with caring. It is not something to be treated casually or without respect."

And others add, "or without marriage." The safety argument also appeals to many people — but Robert Noble, professor of medicine at University of Kentucky, in the RD article says there is no safe sex.

Encapsulated into the article was a classic statement of four pithy paragraphs from *The Wall Street Journal*. Entitled "The Judgment Call," the insert makes a distinct call for chastity, and reminds us of the futility of lifestyles which fail to take into ac-

count God's plan of marriage and monogamy.

The *Journal* statement refers to two prominent persons — Earnest "Magic" Johnson of basketball stardom and William Kennedy, a nephew of the politically prominent family. One has admitted to sexual promiscuity and the other had sex with a woman he picked up in a bar.

Remarked the *Journal*, "Each news event was about something altogether alien to contemporary culture: sin." What a straightforward statement!

Pressing on, the *Journal* prodded Americans with this: "Sin isn't something many people spent much time worrying about in the past 25 years. But we will say this for sin: it at least offered a frame of reference for behavior. When the frame was dismantled during the sexual revolution, we lost the guidewire of personal responsibility, the rules for proper conduct of sexual relations. Everyone was left on his or her own. It now appears that many people could have used a road map. They needed to

be told the direction their sex life was taking was simply wrong."

Closing the compelling argument for chastity, the *Journal* talked about prudence instead of prudery, and the problems with drugs, high-school sex, AIDS, and rape.

"None of these will go away until people in positions of responsibility come forward and explain, in frankly moral terms, that some of the things people do nowadays are wrong."

Will the real church stand up?

Finally, in his brand new biography, baseball star Nolan Ryan (always known for his clean living), noted that Johnson cannot be called a hero for speaking out now for safe sex because he knew the risks taken in his lifestyle. We need honest-to-goodness heroes, and we need individual Christians, churches, and officials to stand up with the message of sexual chastity for all. It is a time for courage.

— WFA

Senior Adults need to lead

What do we do with Senior Adults? What's the age delineation? Who qualifies? When do they get herded out to pasture?

As Tennessee Baptists have opportunity to observe Senior Adult Day on May 3 in the churches, we need to know who we are honoring — and why.

Churches have to answer questions relating to members who are "senior citizens" as well as those outside to whom we relate. The name doesn't matter.

It is important that churches not pander to seniors, designating all as "over the hill."

Some secular establishments give special discounts to people of certain age. It varies from about 55 to 65. But before we mark that down as an absolute "speed limit," we must remember to treat older citizens as individuals.

Much of the best collective wisdom and character strength in any church comes from the senior members. Many remain physically sturdy late into their lives, offering a vital resource to the church body.

Across America, the statistics indicate that there are more seniors each year. Better health care, improved living conditions, and spiritual wisdom beyond measure make this group a treasured resource for the church.

Perhaps the best thing we can do for seniors is to respect them, accept them always as family, include them in all the church does, and keep them hard at work. Seniors usually know their limits. When they are fully included — the church will flourish. — WFA

Nelson Price speculates on electability to presidency

By Debbie Moore

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — "If it is me (who is elected as Southern Baptist Convention president) it will be a new precedent in that the president will not be chosen before the convention this year but at the convention," said Nelson Price, elected last year as SBC first vice president.

Price, one of three candidates for president at the June 9-11 Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis, was the guest speaker for a recent chapel service at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. Pastor of the nearly 8000-member Roswell Street Church, Marietta, Ga., Price, at the invitation of seminary President Landrum P. Leavell II, spoke a few minutes about his nomination for convention president before his chapel message on discipleship.

Acknowledging the denomination's 13-year "conservative" trend, he said, "Reputedly for some years a very

Tennessee schools cited on honor roll

Tennessee's three Baptist colleges are among 111 schools nationwide named to the 1992 John Templeton Foundation Honor Roll for Character Building Colleges and Universities.

Belmont University, Nashville; Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; and Union University, Jackson, were chosen from 809 candidates nominated exclusively by presidents and development officers from more than 1450 colleges and universities across the United States.

small group proud of the Southern Baptist Convention chose an individual who would be their candidate for the presidency and almost inevitably that person emerged as the president. . . .

"Those who did that had for some time said there's got to be a day when we get away from that and it becomes an open convention and persons can be nominated without that individual being chosen in advance of the convention," said Price, a 1956 graduate and former trustee of New Orleans Seminary.

Believing "conservative" SBC leaders to be sincere in wanting to depart from methods used in past years and since there is no official "conservative" candidate this year, "I responded to the overture of friends and acknowledged my desire, my willingness, for my name to be put in nomination for president of the convention."

Concerning his personal beliefs, Price asserted, "I am an unashamed conservative. . . . That's our basic heritage and that's our root. We're committed to the Book and to the Lord of the Book, uninhibitedly."

In conclusion he said, "I may well not be elected, but if the Lord is so gracious as to use this experience to open our convention so that in the future a number of individuals can and will be nominated and the convention itself (chooses) the president, it will be a good thing."

Following the chapel address, Price said privately, "It is my prayer our "conservative" movement is so strong

we no longer need a coalition candidate. If we can, and we can, elect a president without using the method of the last few years, we will prove we are a movement and not a party. Thus we will demonstrate a unique strength and further validate the breadth of our credible cause.

"If we do not do this at some point, we will have fallen into an opposite but equal error as the denomination loyalists/moderates before us who chose our presidents and whose actions were resented."

A native of Osyka, Miss., Price is 60 years old. He was president of the SBC Pastors' Conference in 1987 and president

of the Georgia convention in 1982-83.

Roswell Street Church, where Price has been pastor since Nov. 1, 1965, regularly has been among the top five churches in Georgia in Cooperative Program giving every year. Some of the ministries he has led his church to establish over the past 26 years include a Christian radio station, WFTD 1080 AM; a Christian preschool and kindergarten; the second largest worship center in the southeastern United States, seating 4000; "Come Alive," a weekly television ministry; and Love Life, Inc., which includes a Women's Pregnancy Center offering alternatives to abortion and The Clay Home, a residence for unwed mothers.

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Tennesseans assist in Moscow food distribution

By Linda Lawson

MOSCOW (BP) — Packaging of food for some 40,000 needy families through Project Brotherhood is expected to begin the week of April 20 by two teams of volunteers.

Five volunteers from Tennessee and Michigan who arrived in Moscow April 12 spent part of their first week moving equipment from Moscow Church to the warehouse where food will be packaged for distribution. While they waited for food to arrive, team mem-

bers went sightseeing and passed out tracts. A bus driver accepted Christ as his Savior after the witness of one team member, who then gave him a Russian Bible.

A second group of five volunteers, from Tennessee and Missouri, arrived April 19. Tennesseans in Moscow until April 24 were Mark Lassiter and Lawson Newman from Memphis and Pat and Linda Lawson Still from Nashville. Tennesseans who arrived April 19 were Gene Vincent and Robert

Noah of Millington.

Project Brotherhood is an effort to provide food to persons in the Commonwealth of Independent States under the leadership of the Baptist World Alliance. At the request of the BWA, the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission is recruiting volunteers and coordinating their work. Brother's Brother Foundation, an international benevolence organization based in Pittsburgh, is handling transport of the food supplied by the

U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dennis Quinn, who with his wife, Jennefer, serve as on-site volunteer coordinators for Project Brotherhood, said he was notified April 14 the first shipment of flour, rice, and beans had arrived in Moscow. About ten percent of the shipment is designated for Project Brotherhood; the remainder is to be distributed by the Russian Orthodox Church.

Quinn said the food is arriving in large containers and must first be packaged in two-pound sacks.

Each family will receive four pounds each of flour and rice and two pounds each of beans and powdered milk. Recipients will bring their own containers for vegetable oil and butter oil. Families with small children will receive baby formula.

"We will be meeting temporary, short-term needs with these one-time food gifts," Quinn said.

Specifics regarding the food boxes and contents are available from state convention Brotherhood offices or by calling the Project Brotherhood Information Center at (901) 272-2461.

Southern Baptists are encouraged to continue supporting Project Brotherhood through their donations and prayers. Contributions should be clearly marked "For Project Brotherhood" and mailed to Project Brotherhood, Brotherhood Commission, SBC, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104 or to Baptist World Alliance, 6733 Curran St., McLean, Va. 22101.

Boyles has 'confidence' in SBC system

By Art Toalston

NASHVILLE (BP) — The chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations said he feels "even greater confidence in the way our Southern Baptist system works" as the 68-member committee released its 1992 nominees for trustees or directors of SBC-related agencies and institutions.

Chairman Bobby Boyles, pastor of First Church in Moore, Okla., also defended the nomination of Paul Pressler as a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board. Pressler, a Texas appeals court judge in Houston, has been a key leader of the SBC "conservative" movement and last year concluded two terms on the SBC Executive Committee.

"Judge Pressler is a man who loves God with all his heart and has a tremendous heart for missions," Boyles said. "He has served tirelessly for years to the best of his ability in our denomination. I respect him for his commitment to the Word of God."

Pressler told Baptist Press he hopes to "be part of a support team using the knowledge I have acquired through ac-

tive involvement in world missions to assist our staff and missionaries in what I consider to be the greatest mission program in the world."

His missions involvement includes preaching in more than 20 countries in Latin America, Europe, and Asia, he said. Last summer, he spent a month in the then-Soviet Union and Romania preaching in churches and accompanying Baptist leaders in Moscow, Kiev and Arad, Romania, in meetings with government officials about religious freedom and restoration of church properties.

As a new trustee, Pressler said, he will not be involved in the search process for a successor to R. Keith Parks, FMB president who has announced retirement in October when he turns 65. Pressler also said he will miss his first trustee meeting, June 22-24 in El Paso, because he will travel with fellow members of First Church in Houston to Romania for an evangelistic campaign in Arad.

Boyles said his experience as Committee on Nominations chairman "has reconfirmed in my mind, in my heart that we have the best denominational

system the world has ever known. It is fair, it is equitable in representation. And the agencies and boards receive the best each convention has to offer."

The committee recommends members for the SBC Executive Committee and trustees for the Foreign and Home mission boards, the six SBC seminaries, the Christian Life, Radio-TV, and other SBC commissions and several other SBC organizations.

Describing the committee's nominees as "Bible-believing," Boyles said, "In Southern Baptist life, the majority rules. We are electing Bible-believing (SBC) presidents and thus Bible-believing people. Through this system, the majority of grass-roots Southern Baptists have input into every Southern Baptist entity. And it is a very positive thing the majority of Southern Baptists are moving toward a Bible-believing base."

Chapman appoints committee members

WICHITA FALLS, Texas (BP) — Appointments to two key committees to serve during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis, June 9-11, have been announced by SBC President Morris Chapman.

Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, announced the appointment of the Committee on Committees and the Committee on Resolutions April 24. The SBC bylaws require the president to announce the appoint-

ments "at least 45 days in advance of the meeting."

The credentials and tellers committees must be made public 30 days before the annual meeting, according to the SBC bylaws.

The Committee on Committees has 68 members, two from each of the 34 state or regional conventions qualified for representation on SBC entities.

SBC Bylaw 21 says the Committee on Committees "shall nominate all special committees authorized during the sessions of the convention not otherwise provided for." The usual responsibility of the committee is to nominate members of the Committee on Nominations, which, in turn, nominates trustees to serve on the 24 national entities of the SBC.

Chapman named Keith Thomas, pastor of First Church, West Palm Beach, Fla., as the committee chairman.

Tennesseans on the committee are Beverly Ann Gatton, retired nurse and member of Second Church, Knoxville; and Glenn Rogers, minister of Tricities Church, Kingsport.

No Tennessee Baptists were named to the Resolutions Committee, which is composed of ten members, three of whom must be members of the SBC Executive Committee.

The bylaw also asks that proposed resolutions be sent to the committee 30 days before the annual meeting. Chapman named R. Albert Mohler, editor of the Georgia Christian Index, as the committee chairman.

Samford taps Drummond for teaching position

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Lewis A. Drummond, retiring president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina, has been named the first Billy Graham professor of evangelism and church growth at Samford University's Beeson School of Divinity, effective July 1.

Before assuming Southeastern's presidency in 1988, Drummond was the Billy Graham professor of evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., for 16 years.

A 1950 Samford graduate, Drummond also has taught at Spurgeon's College in London, England.

He has written or edited 17 books. His 1978 volume, *The Awakening That Must Come*, is considered a noted work among evangelical Christians. His latest work is a two-volume biography of church leader C. H. Spurgeon, who died 100 years ago this year.



TIME TO CELEBRATE — First Church, Tracy City, began special events on April 12 commemorating its 100th anniversary. The first event was a "birthday party" and open house. Earlene Church cuts the birthday cake, assisted by Pastor Max Cooper and Ryan Sanders, one of the youngest members. One of the early church bells stands in front of the sanctuary — as noted by Cooper; James Street, moderator; Jerry Curtis, deacons' chairman; and Cordell Newsome, building committee chairman. — Photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen



Our Readers Write

History and heritage

I notice articles in the Baptist and Reflector pertaining to churches observing anniversaries. I appreciate our paper noting these celebrations of our history.

I believe more churches would hold similar celebrations if they were encouraged to do so and made aware of available resources to help them.

The Tennessee Baptist Historical Society seeks, among other things, to encourage churches to document, celebrate, and teach their history and heritage.

We will hold our annual state meeting May 15-16 at First Church, Murfreesboro. Our theme is "1992 - The Two-Hundredth Anniversary of William Carey's Call to Missions." Dr. Bryant Hicks, missions professor at Southern Seminary, will speak twice. On Saturday morning, we will hold four workshops with such varied topics as old church photographs, missions education, church media library, and writing your church's history.

There is no charge for this meeting though an offering will be taken to defray expenses.

Charles L. Nored
Baptist Student Union
619 North Tennessee Boulevard
Murfreesboro 37130

New congregations

We in New Church Extension rejoice to see new congregations starting that reach unchurched, develop disciples, minister, and become involved in missions. We find fulfillment in being involved with you as partners in missions.

We especially commend Tennessee Baptists for being in the top ten state conventions in the United States in the

starting of Anglo new congregations in 1991. You ranked ninth along with Texas, North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, California, Kentucky, Alabama, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

We know it is God who gives the increase. But it takes much planting and watering as we labor together with Him and one another. We pray that 1992 will be a fruitful and fulfilling year.

Floyd Tidsworth Jr.
Home Mission Board, SBC
1350 Spring St. NW
Atlanta, Ga. 30367

Study needed

I have read with great interest the letters appearing in Baptist and Reflector concerning Freemasonry. One of the most important things a Christian can do is read, ask God's leadership, and decide for himself.

Manley Hall, writing in Lost Keys to Freemasonry (p. 48) said:

"When the Mason learns that the key to the warrior on the block is the proper application of the dynamo of living power, he has learned the mystery of the Craft. The seething energies of Lucifer are in his hands."

Christ warned against oath swearing in Matthew 5:33-37, in summary: "Don't do it" (q.v.).

John reminds us: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. By this know ye the spirit of God; every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God." (I John 4:1, 2).

With careful research, I believe sufficient evidence is available to the objective, spirit-filled Christian to warrant a look at Freemasonry in light of II Corin-

thians 6:14: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion has light with darkness?"

At the least, the paying of dues and taking of oaths and fellowshiping with non-Christians is unequal yoking and removes a professing believer from a right relationship with Jesus Christ.

We all must ask if an organization we may belong to, has as its purpose and practice to glorify God and not man. If it is not the true God of the Bible, it is of man, then of the world (I John 2:15, 16) and Satan is the prince of this world... (John 12:31). And the prince of this world is judged (John 16:11). To follow Satan is to seek his judgment. God help us.

I believe Dr. Chapman and the Executive Committee need appoint a committee to study this phenomena in SBC life and propose a Biblical solution.

Daniel D. Carlen, pastor
First Church
P.O. Box 169
Mt. Pleasant 38474

The writer included about 12 other quotes, emphasizing one from Albert Pike which appeared in a letter last issue. — Editor

Father was Mason

My Dad was baptized as a young man and attended First Church where he was a faithful member of Dr. W. W. Bass' Sunday School class until his death three years ago. Never would he consider Masonry as a religion!

The good things accomplished by Masons are almost too numerous to mention: shoes for needy children, wheelchairs for the handicapped, a nationally known hospital and burn center, emergency provisions for hungry families, etc. Another point can be made here. It is said that often the character

of man can be determined by the friends he has. Looking back, I know that some of the finest people in our community were Masons. But Dad also had fine friends who were not Masons.

Not all his fellow members were Baptists; either, but then, Jesus never said we all had to be Baptists. He just wants us to believe in Him as our Savior, repent of our sins, and, as a reflection of this belief, perhaps in our own way, to... "go and tell" (John 3:16). He also said to love one another.

Peggy Holsclaw Welch
1418 Royal Drive
Jefferson City 37760

Planting in Europe

The European Baptist Convention sends out a call for a "few good couples" to come over and help plant English language churches in the international cities of Eastern and Western Europe.

These are change-point times in Europe. English is the business language of the world. That is an open door for the Gospel and for planting English language churches. God is at work!

The European Baptist Convention (English language) has a goal for planting 20 churches in four years in international cities. We need volunteer couples who are (1) committed to Christ, trained in soul winning and discipleship, (2) flexible and adaptable in cross cultural environments, (3) comfortable in interacting with strangers, (4) satisfied with a basic and simple lifestyle, and (5) able to provide financial support, including travel and living expenses.

If you are available and want more information, write: European Baptist Convention, Sonnenberger Str. 60, 6200 Wiesbaden, Germany.

William R. Reynolds
Church Planting Consultant
European Baptist Convention
6200 Wiesbaden, Germany

French negate characterizations during missions effort

By Connie Davis

The French are aloof and can be downright rude — especially to Americans. Not true, reported some Tennesseans who returned from a missions endeavor in the country.

The Tennesseans, who formed the first large group to lead an evangelistic effort in France, report French people are more friendly than characterized by most Americans.

"We did not find the hostile Frenchman that we had heard about," noted Juanita Bush of First Church, Nashville. "I don't think it was any different than you would find on the streets of Nashville," she added, referring to evangelism efforts outside churches conducted during the March 19-31 effort.

"They were warm, receptive people," explained Herbert Higdon, director of missions, Madison-Chester Association.

The volunteers, numbering about 160, broke up into teams and worked in 30 of the 100 churches which form the Baptist Federation of France. The Americans were assisted by the 39 Southern Baptist missionaries now serving in France.

"It's one of the best missions I've been involved in and I've been on twelve or so," reported Carl Duck, retired director of missions, Nashville Association, who coordinated the event.

Teams worked with church leaders in a variety of activities. Bill Whitford, a volunteer from Woodmont Church, Nashville, explained the two churches in Lyon he helped did not hold evening

services because businesses closed from 1-3 p.m. and did not reopen until 7 p.m.

Whitford and his wife, Liza, led a children's program in one church which fit into the school schedule because schools are closed one weekday but continue through Saturday. About 40 children attended the program, which was a large group for the 100-member church.

The couple's team, which included members from Cross Plains, also led a program including a slide show about Tennessee which was well attended, Whitford added. He also was asked to sing for a radio show sponsored by one of the churches.

A more traditional approach toward evangelism was taken by the church Herbert Higdon worked with. Rhu du Main Church in Paris, which meets in a 100-year-old building, held services each evening.

However, the congregation was quite unique, said Higdon. He preached to at least 20 different nationalities each service. Rhu du Main Church is made up of several congregations, including French, Korean, Romanian, Greek, Spanish, and English, he explained. Some were refugees who had just arrived and some had lived in Paris for 50 years, but "all were treated warmly," said Higdon.

Although the church just averages about 150 in Sunday morning worship service, about 125-175 attended the evening meetings. And the final Sunday morning service drew a surprising 230, he reported.

Outreach to the French population,

which is about 90 percent Roman Catholic, was conducted differently, Higdon observed. The French Baptists held meetings in plazas and marketplaces. They and the volunteers also distributed literature and Scripture on the streets and door-to-door, he added.

The "warm-spirited" Christians there not only accepted a diverse congregation but minister through their outreach and programs like their

May 9

Volunteer conference set for Knoxville

"Bold Missions Thrust can become a reality only if Southern Baptists learn to harness the tremendous manpower of our laypeople," says Ray Gilder, new associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department.

To help Tennesseans live up to the designation of their state as "The Volunteer State," the Missions Department has planned a Volunteer Conference May 9 in Knoxville.

The conference will provide an overview of missions opportunities through 18 conferences, a missions fair, and "food stroll" luncheon. It will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Central Church, Bearden.

During the conference, the project "Tennessee 10,000" will be launched. This is a plan to register and recognize 10,000 volunteers across the state by the year 2000. Volunteers would include any person doing mission work outside the church facility.

People seeking more information on the conference should contact Ray

weekly project of feeding the homeless, said Higdon.

The number of spiritual decisions surprised him, Higdon said. At Rhu du Main after the week-long revival, seven people made professions of faith and eight declared other spiritual commitments, he added.

"Hopefully the work will move forward because our teams were over there," said Higdon.

Gilder at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Missions Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024-0728 or (615) 371-2044.

Knox County resolution addresses homosexuality

At a recent meeting, the executive board of the Knox County Association, Knoxville, approved a resolution on "Homosexuality and the Church."

The resolution reaffirms "the Biblical truth that homosexuality is a sinful lifestyle which is unacceptable behavior for Christians."

The board also resolved that "we express to the churches and to the public our opposition to the acceptance and/or approval of so-called marriages between two men or two women" and expressed opposition to ordaining homosexuals for the ministry.

The resolution's preamble states the Bible teaches that homosexual behavior is a sin, and that such lifestyle is "not deserving of local and denominational support or endorsement."

Life goes on for former Tennessee Baptist editor

By Daniel Cattau

NASHVILLE — When asked to describe himself, Al Shackleford invokes the image of Superman.

"He was a man of great power who, in order to do his job, disguised himself as a mild-mannered reporter," said Shackleford. "I am a mild-mannered reporter who, in order to do my job, had to act like Superman."

Unlike the comic book hero, however, Shackleford didn't prevail.

On July 17, 1990, Shackleford was fired as director of Baptist Press and as chief public relations officer for the Southern Baptist Convention. Also fired was Dan Martin, the Baptist Press news editor. They are the highest-ranking SBC officials to be dismissed during 13 years of denominational strife.

The convention's Executive Committee, which is dominated by SBC "conservatives" and which operates Baptist Press, accused the men of being biased in favor of Southern Baptist "moderates."

The two editors denied they were biased and said they were operating a truthful and balanced news service. They were asked to resign but refused.

"In our situation, to have resigned would have been a compromise," said Shackleford, 59.

Instead, the Executive Committee dismissed the pair without stating a reason and granted both editors six months' severance pay.

Of the two editors, Shackleford has fared worse after the dismissals. Martin is the pastor of a small church in North Carolina and a free-lance writer. But Shackleford has been without a steady job for nearly two years.

Asked whether he would have stood up to denominational officials if he had known how difficult finding work would be, Shackleford replied: "I hope I would have."

Even among critics of Baptist Press, specific criticisms of Shackleford are hard to come by.

"Al simply saw things in our convention from a different perspective than the way we do," said Eldridge Miller, a pastor in Sallisaw, Okla., and now secretary of the Executive Committee.

Founded in 1947, Baptist Press primarily serves the nearly 40 state and regional Baptist newspapers. But it also traditionally has had a strong following among those covering re-

ligion for secular newspapers.

Since July 1990, Shackleford has sought about 50 editing or public relations positions — about half of which were with Southern Baptist-related institutions.

He now is working temporarily as a \$6.60-an-hour clerk for the United Methodist Publishing House in Nashville. Until mid-February, he had spent ten months working as a \$4.60-an-hour clerk in the nutrition department at a Kroger grocery store in suburban Brentwood.

From March 1987 until July 1990, his Baptist Press job paid approximately \$60,000 a year.

Describing the Kroger job as "good therapy," Shackleford talked about how he mixed peanut butter, made fresh orange juice, arranged vitamins on shelves, and stocked other supplies.

"It killed a lot of time," he said. "Plus, I didn't know how my jobs in the past had protected me from the general public."

The job also kept Shackleford in touch with an informal but extensive support group. The grocery store is close to Brentwood Church, where he teaches a kindergarten Sunday School

class and plays trumpet in a musical ensemble. The store is also near TBC offices, where he once edited the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Since college, he said, he had never really considered working at anything besides religious communications. Then, all of a sudden, "I'm no longer acceptable to any Baptist organization. Any time I hear of a Baptist job in this field, I send in my resume and ask some friend to contact them. In most situations, I don't even get a response."

Shackleford said he still is a "loyal Southern Baptist" and his faith in God has actually increased through his trials. He still hopes to get a job in church-related journalism or public relations.

Unlike his former boss, Martin, 53, pastor of a small Baptist church in Bakersville, N.C., never sought another Southern Baptist Convention job in news or public relations.

"I didn't expect any Southern Baptist organization to hire me," he said. "Al and I were hot potatoes."

Daniel Cattau is religion editor of the *Dallas Morning News*. This story is reprinted with permission. — ABP

Honeycutt keeps vision after decade of service at SBTS

By Pat Cole

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — A decade of guiding one of the world's largest seminaries through the stormy waters of denominational discord has not dampened Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt's vision for the future.

"I want to be a part of the continual shaping and development of this institution through what I think will be the 'feathering out' of this crisis in the Southern Baptist Convention," said Honeycutt, eighth president of Southern Baptists' oldest institution. "I use the term 'feathering out' intentionally because I don't think it will end on a certain date on the calendar but I think it will become less intensive."

The seminary community and trustees honored Honeycutt and his wife, June, during a tenth anniversary celebration April 28 on the campus in Louisville, Ky.

Honeycutt assumed the presidency of Southern in the spring of 1982, three years into Southern Baptists' longest and most divisive controversy. Much

of the criticism of the "conservative" takeover movement has been aimed at the denomination's six seminaries. Honeycutt's presidency has confronted the double duty of dealing with the denominational crisis while leading one of the world's largest theological schools.

"One of the most prominent things in my ten years as president is that we have negotiated ten years of denominational controversy," he said. "There are still problems to confront but the institution is still together and we're still doing, I think, quality education."

Yet Honeycutt's presidency has not just been about institutional survival. During his tenure, the seminary has tripled its endowment, constructed the largest capital project in its history, and achieved record enrollments. It also has expanded continuing education offerings and curriculum, including the opening of the Carver School of Church Social Work.

"None of them (the achievements) are mine alone," he said. "All have been a shared role. I'm indebted to

Bible produced by the Sunday School Board and the American Bible Society. The translation is the first complete translation of the Bible in Hmong. Of the 300,000 Hmong speaking people in the world, 120,000 live in the United States, Pate said. Many Hmong people came to the United States as refugees from their homeland in the highlands of Cambodia and Laos in Southeast Asia.

Piland showed participants a copy of a microfiche Bible similar to one taken into space aboard the space shuttle Atlantis which returned April 2. The Bible was taken by David Leestma, flight chief engineer and member of University Church in Houston.

The commissioning service was coordinated by the Sunday School Board Sunday School division and also sponsored by the Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, and Brotherhood Commission.

many people for what has happened."

The seminary will face the future guided by a "more consciously stated conservatism," Honeycutt said. Its more "conservative" course is spelled out by the Covenant Renewal, a document approved by trustees and faculty last year, and the Glorieta Statement, an agreement among the six Southern Baptist seminary presidents.

One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Joy Brodier, member of Brickhill Baptist Church, Bedford, England, is a quiet and unassuming mother of two.

She did not seek and did not expect the notoriety that came her way last November. Her "claim to fame" was something she did without fanfare, just because she has Christian compassion.

Joy Brodier is one of thousands upon thousands who follow the lifestyle of Christ, living as He lives, acting and reacting as He does, and being obedient to his commands.

The difference is that her act of kindness was toward someone truly famous — and that person told the world about it.

Terry Waite gained fame for his work in freeing hostages, and later as a hostage himself. The man became a special envoy, one who was trusted by the free world authorities and by the Middle East terrorists.

He was able to open the doors to freedom for several men who had been held hostage by shadowy Muslim groups in Lebanon. Then — for reasons yet unknown, he was kidnapped himself and held for almost five years.

When Waite and the other hostages were released, possibly because the kidnappers had learned there was no value in holding them, he told an interesting story.

Brodier is one of many people who had been praying constantly for the hostages. She always remembered his birthday during the 1763 days of

captivity.

In one of his first interviews after being released, Waite told reporters about a card he had received while imprisoned:

"One day, out of the blue, a guard came with a postcard," he said. "It was a postcard showing a stained glass window from Bedford. I turned it over and there was a message from someone whom I didn't know simply saying:

"We remember, we shall not forget, we shall continue to pray for you and to work for all people who are detained around the world."

The card, with a photograph of a stained glass window featuring the great Christian hero John Bunyan, was the first contact Waite had had with the outside world — after four years of total isolation.

We can imagine how Waite's spirit must have soared as he read that message and was reminded of Bunyan's own imprisonment for doing that which was right.

The gesture of kindness, the card, the thought behind it, are reminders to us that Christ was serious when He told us to love one another, to remember the prisoners — and to treat others as we would want to be treated.



ALLEN

Commitment means more than sending

— Continued from page 1
each state convention during the past six months.

Billie Pate, associate director of the Sunday School division, presented copies of a Hmong translation of the

Tennesseans nominated

— Continued from page 1
Lloyd Brown, physician and member of College Heights Church, Gallatin; and Wayne Bayles, retired and member of Poplar Heights Church, Jackson; and Hoffman C. Harless, Creeview Church, Nashville (second term)

Christian Life Commission — Jackie Kay, pastor, Bartlett Church, Bartlett Radio and Television Commission — Harold Curtis Fry III, airline pilot and member of Germantown Church, Germantown — Compiled from Baptist Press reports



Southern Baptist Convention

Tuesday, June 9 - Thursday, June 11
Hoosier Dome, Indianapolis, Ind.

Theme: Bold Believers in a Broken World

**Bold Believers
In A Broken World**

Tuesday morning

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration - First Church Choir, Wichita Falls, Texas
- 8:30 Call to Order. Congregational singing, and Prayer
- 8:40 Registration Report and Constitution of Convention - Lee Porter
- 8:45 Committee on Order of Business (First Report) - O. S. Hawkins, chairman
- 8:50 Introduction of vice president - Morris H. Chapman, president; James Danforth Quayle, vice president of the United States
- 8:55 Welcome and Response
- 9:15 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers
- 9:20 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Report - William O. Crews
- 9:30 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 9:55 Executive Committee Report (Part 1) - Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer
- 10:55 Historical Commission Report - Lynn E. May Jr., executive director
- 11:05 Congregational Singing
- 11:10 Music - First Church Choir, Wichita Falls, Texas
- 11:20 President's Address - Morris H. Chapman
- 12:00 Benediction

Tuesday Afternoon

- 1:00 Music for Inspiration - First Church Choir, Franklin, Tenn.
- 1:55 Congregational Singing and Prayer
- 2:05 Messenger Information Survey - Martin B. Bradley, director, Corporate Planning and Research Department, SSB
- 2:10 Business - Committee on Order of Business (Second Report), Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 2:20 Crossover Indianapolis - James Merritt and Freddie Gage
- 2:30 Election of Officers
- 2:45 Committee on Nominations Report - Bobby Boyles
- 3:00 Music - First Church Choir, Franklin, Tenn.
- 3:05 Executive Committee Report (Part 2) - Harold C. Bennett
- 4:00 Congregational Singing - Curtis Brewer
- 4:05 Business - Committee on Order of Business (Third Report), Committee on Committees Report, Introduction of Business and Resolutions, Miscellaneous Business
- 4:45 Election of Officers (Second)
- 5:00 Benediction

Tuesday Evening

- 6:30 Music for Inspiration - First Church Choir, Norfolk, Va.
- 7:00 Congregational Singing and Prayer
- 7:10 Election of Officers (Third)
- 7:20 Bold Mission Thrust Report - Harold C. Bennett
- 7:30 Music - First Church Choir, Norfolk, Va.
- 7:35 Radio and Television Commission Report - Jack B. Johnson, president, Fort Worth, Texas
- 7:45 Southern Baptist Foundation Report - Hollis E. Johnson III, president
- 7:55 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Report - Lewis A. Drummond, president
- 8:05 Special Recognition
- 8:25 Congregational Singing
- 8:30 Home Mission Board Report - Larry L. Lewis, president
- 9:30 Benediction

Wednesday Morning

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration - Calvary Church Choir, Knoxville, Tenn.
- 8:50 Congregational Singing and Prayer
- 9:00 Election of Officers (Fourth)
- 9:10 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Report - Roy L. Honeycutt, president
- 9:20 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report - Russell H. Dilday Jr., president
- 9:30 Stewardship Commission Report - A. R. Fagan, president
- 9:40 Woman's Missionary Union Report - Dellana W. O'Brien, executive director
- 9:50 American Bible Society Report
- 10:00 Introduction of Past Presidents
- 10:05 Introduction of Fraternal Representatives
- 10:10 Congregational Singing
- 10:15 Baptist Sunday School Board Report - James T. Draper Jr., president
- 10:45 Music - Stone Brothers Trio
- 10:50 Election of Officers (Fifth)
- 11:00 Business - Committee on Order of Business (Fourth Report), Committee on Resolutions (First Report), Miscellaneous Business
- 11:35 Congregational Singing
- 11:40 Music - Cindi Price, soloist
- 11:45 Convention Sermon - Lewis A. Drummond, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
- 12:15 Benediction
(No Wednesday Afternoon Session)

Wednesday Evening

- 6:15 Music for Inspiration - Mass Youth Choir
- 6:50 Congregational Singing and Prayer
- 7:00 Business - Committee on Order of Business (Fifth Report); Election of Convention Sermon Preacher and Alternate, and Music Director, 1993; Denominational Calendar Report - V. M. Piland, chairman; Introduction of Local Arrangements Committee
- 7:10 Introduction of Newly Elected SBC Officers
- 7:15 Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report - Milton Ferguson, president
- 7:25 New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Report - Landrum P. Leavell II
- 7:35 Annuity Board Report - Paul W. Powell, president
- 7:45 Presentation of Outgoing SBC Officers
- 7:50 Congregational Singing
- 7:55 Christian Life Commission Report - Richard D. Land, executive director
- 8:05 Baptist World Alliance Report - Denton Lotz, general secretary/treasurer
- 8:15 Foreign Mission Board Report - R. Keith Parks, president
- 9:15 Benediction

Thursday Morning

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration - Council Road Church Choir, Bethany, Okla.
- 8:50 Congregational Singing and Prayer
- 9:00 Business - Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
- 10:00 Brotherhood Commission Report - James D. Williams, president
- 10:10 Report on SBC Canada Planning Group - Larry L. Lewis
- 10:20 Congregational Singing
- 10:25 Commission on the American Baptist Seminary - Arthur L. Walker Jr.
- 10:35 Denominational Press Report - Herbert V. Hollinger, vice president for Baptist Press, SBC Executive Committee
- 10:45 Education Commission Report - Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director
- 10:55 Congregational Singing
- 11:00 Music - Randy Elrod, minister of music, First Church, Satsuma, Ala.
- 11:05 Message - Charles Stanley, pastor, First Church, Atlanta
- 11:40 Benediction

June 7-8

Pastors' Conference takes look toward 21st century

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) - A look at "The Church in the 21st Century" will be the thrust of the Pastors' Conference June 7-8 prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 9-11.

The conference, which began in 1935, will feature 14 speakers during four sessions in the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis.

Jack Graham, Pastors' Conference president and pastor of Prestonwood Church, Dallas, paraphrased the meeting's theme saying, "As we approach the 21st century, what will it take for the church to reach this and the coming generations for Christ?"

Each of the four sessions will focus on "a specific area of the church's mission and ministry," Graham said. "We've all heard of great revivals and great spiritual awakenings in yesteryear but this is our time and



ROGERS



GRAHAM

God's time - and it is past time for all of us to reach people and grow churches."

Graham described scheduled Pastors' Conference speakers as "well-known for their unique and contemporary ways of reaching people for Christ and for growing churches."

The opening session, June 7 at 6 p.m., will focus on the church's worship - "our ministry upward, our ver-

tical relationship with God," Graham said. Preachers will be Adrian Rogers, former SBC president and pastor of Bellevue Church, Cordova; O. S. Hawkins, former Pastors' Conference president and pastor of First Church, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and Bill Hybels, pastor of Willow Creek Community Church, South Barrington, Ill.

The three sessions Monday, June 8, will be at 8:30 a.m., 1:15, and 6:10 p.m.

The morning session will focus on the witness of the church and its members. Preachers will be Jim Henry, another former Pastors' Conference president and pastor of First Church, in Orlando; Larry Thompson, pastor of Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, Ala.; James Merritt, pastor of First Church, Snellville, Ga.; and Mike Hamlet, pastor of First Church, North Spartanburg, S.C.

The Monday afternoon session will

address the church's "walk - the personal walk of the pastor and the church's integrity and ethics," Graham said. Preachers will be Joel Gregory, pastor of First Church, Dallas; Dallas evangelist Jay Strack; Joseph Stowell, president of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago; and Fred Lowrey, pastor of First Church, Bossier City, La.

The evening session will focus on the church's warfare - "being spiritually and physically prepared for the battle, the church victorious in our day," Graham said. Featured speakers will be Kenneth Cooper, fitness author, founder of the Cooper Clinic in Dallas and a member of Prestonwood; Ed Young, one of three likely nominees for SBC president and pastor of Second Church, Houston; and Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas. - Art Toalston

During annual meeting

WMU to honor Keith Parks, highlight leadership

By Susan Todd Doyle

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union will honor R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, during its annual meeting June 7-8.

The five sessions of the meeting will be in the Indiana Convention Center of the Hoosier Dome beginning Sunday afternoon at 2:30. The Sunday evening session begins at 7 p.m. Monday sessions begin at 9:30 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m. Theme of the meeting is "Lead Me, Lord."

Parks, who recently announced plans to retire in October, will bring the closing message of the meeting. WMU will honor Parks during the Monday evening session. That session also will include a commitment service, the first

ever included during a WMU annual meeting.

William O'Brien, director of the Global Center of Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala., and husband of WMU Executive Director Dellanna W. O'Brien, will bring the special music prior to Parks' address.

All living former WMU national leaders will participate in the program: Carolyn W. Crumpler and Alma Hunt, former national executive directors, and Helen Fling, Christine Gregory,



PARKS

Dorothy Sample, and Marjorie McCullough, former national presidents.

Silent Touch, a deaf praise and worship group from Louisville, Ky., will present the theme interpretations at the beginning of each session.

During the annual meeting, nine Southern Baptist missionaries will talk about God's leadership in their lives: Ann Griffith, New York, N.Y.; Jim Queen, Lincolnwood, Ill.; Heberto Becerra, Manhattan, N.Y.; Fred and Lavada Loper, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Peter Chen, San Francisco, Calif.; Ethne Stainer, Yemen; Thomas Canady, Honduras; and Bonnie Wiggs, South Korea.

Reports will be given by Catherine

Allen, president of the women's department of the Baptist World Alliance, and Dorothy Sample, president of the North American Baptist Women's Union. Dellanna O'Brien will present reports during each session. Carolyn D. Miller, national WMU president, will bring an address during the Sunday evening session.

An offering for the Second Century Fund, WMU's permanent endowment fund, will be taken. The Second Century Fund was created by WMU during its centennial year as a gift to future generations of women in missions. All contributions are invested permanently. Only the interest earned on the principal is given each year in grants to develop women's missions endeavors worldwide.

SBC-related organizations hold pre-convention meetings

A number of Southern Baptist Convention-related organizations are planning meetings in conjunction with the annual SBC meeting which will be held June 9-11 in Indianapolis.

Religious Educators

A past, present, and future look at "empowerment" will be the focus of the 37th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association June 7-8 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Indianapolis.

"Empowerment — Learning from the Past, Ministering in the Present, and Forging the Future" will be the theme of the meeting. Bill Gambrell, minister of education at First Church, Jackson, Miss., is the current SBREA president.

Speakers include Tennesseans

Keener Pharr, Signal Mountain; Jimmy Dunn, minister of education, First Church, Nashville; and Art Criscoe, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Virginia pastor Ken Hemphill also will speak during the meeting.

Church Musicians

Church musicians will be offered "Joy for the Journey" during the 36th annual session of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference June 7-8 at Northside Church in Indianapolis.

The conference's theme will focus on "joy in Christian service, joy for the long haul," said Bob Hatfield, conference president and minister of music at Dawson Memorial Church,

Birmingham, Ala.

Several choirs from across the nation will perform including the youth choir of First Church, Nashville, directed by Mark Edwards, minister of music.

Exhibits by music publishers and suppliers will be open throughout the conference, Hatfield said. Gary Fenton, pastor of Dawson Memorial, will preach during scheduled worship times.

Directors of Missions

"Discovering Divine Directions" will be the theme of the 31st annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions June 7-8 at the Holiday Inn North in Indianapolis.

The meeting will explore, "How do you find where God is at work?" said conference president Glenn Hickey, director of missions for Pulaski Association in Little Rock, Ark. Answers to the question "should provide us clues for developing our mission strategy for the future for local Baptist associations," Hickey said.

One of the meeting's key emphases will be volunteerism. Reginald McDonough, executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, will speak on "Divine Directions ... in Volunteerism." There also

will be a panel discussion led by four associational leaders: Jim Pearce, Boston, Mass.; Glenn Williams, McComb, Miss.; Bill Moyle, Tampa Bay, Fla.; and Allen West, Louisville, Ky.

Other speakers include Jim Herrington, Houston, Texas; David Aker, Somerset, Ky.; Vernon Davis, Kansas City, Mo.; Jimmy Draper, Nashville; Preston North, North Dakota; R. Keith Parks, Richmond, Va.; James Walker, Indianapolis; Dennis Betts, Cleveland, Ohio; Doug Benedict, Purvis, Miss.; Norma Mackey, Waynesboro, Miss.; and Barry Landrum, Houston.

Hispanic Baptists

Hispanic Baptists will gather for fellowship and worship — and to work at establishing a Hispanic congregation in the Indianapolis area. More than 350 Hispanic Baptists are expected to attend the June 7 meeting at Chapel Wood Church, said Bob Sena, conference coordinator.

Sena said conference officials have scheduled speeches from two of three announced candidates for the SBC presidency — Ed Young, Houston, Texas, and Nelson Price, Marietta, Ga. — and are working to get all announced candidates to address the Hispanic pastors.

Martinez, Green featured speakers during SBC evangelists' meeting

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — A program "to showcase some of our denomination's most effective evangelists" has been planned by the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, according to the organization's president, Steve Hale, an Evansville, Ind.,-based evangelist.

Theme for the conference's June 10 meeting, in conjunction with the June 9-11 Southern Baptist Convention, will be "Finding Him Faithful ... Yesterday, Today, and Forever!" The evangelists' meeting will begin at 1:15 p.m. in the Indianapolis Hoosier Dome's Hall D.

An evangelist has been selected for each time frame, Hale said. Veteran evangelist Angel Martinez of Fort Smith, Ark., will speak on the "yesterday" aspect of the theme. "Many Southern Baptist pastors, especially of the baby-boom generation, have never had the privilege of sitting under Angel's ministry," Hale said.

The "today" preacher will be evangelist Kelly Green of Mobile, Ala., as an example of an evangelist "contemporarily being used of God," Hale said, while Scott Camp of Del City, Okla., will be the "forever" preacher, as an example of an evangelist not yet widely known among Southern Baptists but one whom "God's hand is resting mightily upon."

A first-ever wives' luncheon, at noon June 10 in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, has been added to this year's meeting, Hale noted. Marthe Beasley, wife of the late evangelist Manley Beasley, will be the featured speaker.

The luncheon will be free to evangelists' wives, thanks to funds provided by Indiana churches, Hale said.

The conference's annual business meeting has been changed to a breakfast, at 7:30 a.m. June 9 in the Hyatt Regency, from the traditional evening banquet format, Hale said.

Among the musicians at the June 10 session will be Allison Durham Speer and Perfect Heart, both of Nashville.

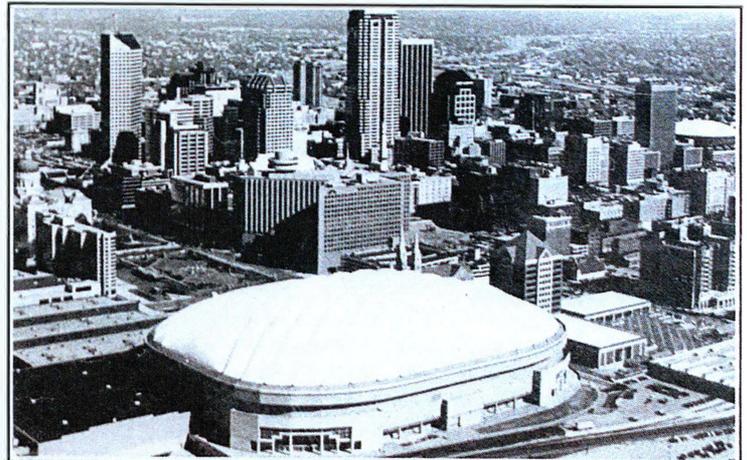
McClary to address SBC ministers' wives

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — The Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives organization will hear Deanna McClary, former model and nationally acclaimed vocalist of Pawleys Island, S.C., at their annual luncheon June 9.

The ministers' wives group holds its luncheon each year in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. The luncheon will begin at 12:15 p.m. in the Hyatt Regency Ballroom.

Each person attending the meeting will be given a copy of *Commitment to Love*, written by the guest speaker. Denise Behmyer of Council Road Church in Yukon, Okla., will provide the special music.

Tickets may be ordered by May 20 by sending a check for \$17 to Linda Myers, First Church, 106 Bluegrass Commons Blvd., Hendersonville, Tenn. 37075. Tickets will be \$19 at the door.



CONVENTION SITE — "Bold Believers in a Broken World" will be the theme of the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention, June 9-11, in the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis. Some 18,000 messengers representing Southern Baptist churches from across the country are expected for the annual three-day session that may include a three-way contest for SBC president, action on the issue of homosexuality, and a visit by Vice President Dan Quayle. A large-scale evangelistic campaign, "Crossover Indianapolis" will precede the convention sessions, along with various meetings of SBC-related organizations.

Baptists help Indian youth attend national conference

Because of area Baptists, 29 youth and sponsors from First Indian Church, Ripley, and Okla Indian Mission of Whitehaven Church, Memphis, attended for the first time the Southern Baptist National Indian Youth Conference last month in Shawnee, Okla.

"The Lord is so good to us to have provided this trip," said Linda Powers, leader of the group from First Indian Church. "We just do not have the resources."

The church, the only Indian Baptist church in the state, is limited by its size — 44 resident members — and the fact that few of those are men, explained Powers, whose husband, Mike, is pastor of the church.

The Powers and the youth started saving money months ago, but they didn't have enough.

When area churches found out about the need, they responded. Englewood Church, Jackson, provided two vans. Calvary Church, Jackson, not only

gave money but a Woman's Missionary Union group prepared snacks for the trip.

Others sponsoring the group were Munford Church, Munford; Ashport Church, Ripley; First Church, Halls, and First Church, Ripley; and WMU groups of First Church, Dyersburg, and Big Hatchie Association.

Todd Uniform Company in Ripley also learned about the youth trip and decided to help. The company donated personalized shirts in Choctaw red. The youth wore them when they performed the hymn, "How Great Thou Art," in Choctaw at the meeting, which drew about 1400.

Also an Econolodge motel discounted room prices for the group, added Powers.

While attending the meeting, four youth made professions of faith.

"That's what it's all about," explained Powers.



NEW INDIAN FRIENDS — Youth from Ripley, from right, Misty Bell, Rhonda Wilson, and Leslie Bell, pose for a picture with friends made at conference.

Georgetown Church recognizes church musician for 50 years of service

CLEVELAND — When the organ prelude signals the beginning of the worship service at Georgetown Church, Georgetown, on Sunday morning, a familiar figure is seated at the console.

Hazel Gee Bacon was honored recently for serving 50 years as a church musician by the Georgetown congregation. All but three years — when she was accompanist for neighboring Candies Creek Church — she has served Georgetown Church. "The Lord has been so good to me. He has permitted me to use the talent

he gave to me in his service and also as a source of income," said Bacon.

Her source of income for over 25 years has been in retail sales of pianos and organs. At her present position with a firm in Chattanooga, she is a consultant for many churches in the market for instruments, concentrating mainly on smaller installations, "since that is where I have spent my life and is what I know best," she said. Bacon's position at the church is a non-paid one.

Bacon became a church musician

while a teenager when her family joined Georgetown Church. She played the only instrument available — a piano — until the church bought an organ in 1960. She has served as organist since that time.

Despite the demands on her time, which include responsibilities for her family, Bacon also has found time to work as a Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School leader, and Training Union (now Discipleship Training) director.

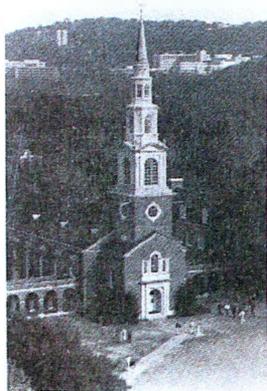
Dan Dockery, pastor, reported her

faithfulness and commitment are remarkable. "With her talent she could have played at many churches, possibly even receiving a salary, yet she has committed herself to this church. . . . She is a great example to the congregation, and they love her for it," he said.

Attending a reception honoring Bacon were about 125 people, including former students and church members. (Adapted from an article by Rhonda Scholar appearing in the Cleveland Daily Banner.)

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TenneScene

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People . . .

James Bess was licensed to the Gospel ministry April 26 at Northwood Church, Nashville.

Miracle Church, Knoxville, recently honored Norma Williams, a member of the church for 31 years. Pastor Norman C. Brock noted that the church has "had its ups and downs" over the years, but Williams' faith has kept her steadfast. Brock said "the Lord is definitely moving in Miracle Church now because of members like Williams who are putting their faith into action. The church presented her with a Bible engraved with her name."



Leadership . . .

Kyle Wilson joined the staff of Lincoln Park Church, Knoxville, April 22 as music director.

C. S. Knapp returned to East Lake Church, Chattanooga, April 15 as interim pastor. He was interim pastor at the church from August 1990 to May 1991. He has served as pastor of Westview and South Seminole churches, both in Chattanooga.

Churches . . .

Members of Etter Church, Byrdstown, recently broke ground for a new educational addition to the church building.

A ten-hour, 14-week parenting seminar will be offered beginning in May at First Church, Goodlettsville. The seminar, "How to Talk So Kids Will Listen," will include sessions on

Space still available at Barna seminar

George Barna, nationally acclaimed church researcher, author, and conference speaker will lead a day-long seminar on church growth Tuesday, May 5, at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel in Johnson City.

Sponsored by Holston Association, the seminar will seek to answer the question "Can My Church Reach our Kind of World?" Barna, president of the Barna Research Group, Glendale, Calif.; is author of seven books, in-

cluding *The Frog In The Kettle* and *User Friendly Churches*.

The seminar will begin with registration from 8 to 9 a.m. in the Sheraton Plaza Hotel Conference Center and continue until 4:30 p.m. Cost of the seminar is \$65 per person and includes program costs and lunch.

Those outside of Holston Association who are interested in attending the seminar should call the Holston Association office at (615) 929-1196.

helping children with emotions, co-operation, punishment alternatives, and praise. Sunday night sessions will begin May 10 and Wednesday night sessions will begin May 20. The seminar is free to church members and the public.

Nashville-area youth groups are invited to join the Crosspoint youth ministry of Haywood Hills Church, Nashville, in a "Tour de Faith" youth bicycle rally May 9 at 10 a.m. The rally for 7th-12th grade youth will begin with a 16-mile team race and a four-mile individual race around the church parking lot. Games and contests in a bike olympics will also be featured, with prizes awarded by a local bicycle company. There is no cost for the rally and check-in begins at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call (615) 832-6909.

The congregation of Mt. Carmel Church, Knoxville, celebrated the church's 76th anniversary and homecoming April 26.

A homecoming service will be May 3 at Meridian Church, Crossville.

Revivals . . .

Harold Hunter recently led revival at First Church, Millington, during which 130 professions of faith were reported and 37 people were baptized. Pat Roper led music.

Revival will be May 3-6 at First Church, Lewisburg. D. L. Lowrie, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention will be evangelist, and Terry Chitwood, First Church minister of music and youth will lead music.

Dean Haun, pastor of First Church, Sparta, will lead revival May 3-8 at Pine Eden Church, Crossville.

Roy Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, will lead revival May 10-13 at Manley Church, Morristown.

Two Rivers Church, Nashville, will hold revival May 3-6. Jim Henry of Orlando, Fla., will lead the services.

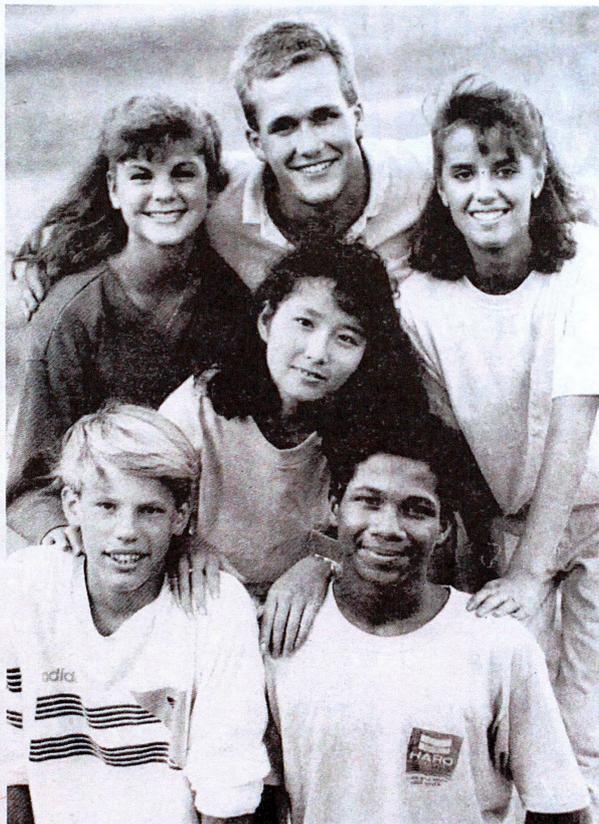
David Smith, Belmont University, Nashville, dean of admissions, and Ron Alley, Nashville music evangelist, will lead revival services May 10-13 at Highland Park Church, Columbia.

Revival is scheduled May 10-14 at First Church, Clifton. Tommy Tutor, pastor of Oakhurst Church, Clarksville, Miss., will be evangelist.

The congregation of Hickory Hollow Church, Antioch, will be in revival May 3-6. Wesley Pitts, Cumberland Association director of missions, will be evangelist, and Ed Scruggs, minister of music at Judson Church, Nashville, will be music director.

Revival began April 26 at Sylvia Church, Dickson, and will conclude May 1. Mike Jones, Memphis, is evangelist.

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The many ministries of TBCH are possible because of the loving support of Baptists across the state. The Mother's Day Offering provides about one-third of the funds needed to support the annual budget. This year's goal is \$1,000,000.

Mother's Day Offering materials (videos, posters, bulletin covers, offering envelopes, and children's coin boxes) are available by calling 1-800-624-8591. The Central Office mailing address is TBCH, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood TN 37027.



Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes
A ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention
Dr. Gerald L. Stow, Executive Director/Treasurer

Churches need evangelism coordinator, says former Hixson minister

ATLANTA (BP) — Rather than assuming that evangelism is taking place, Southern Baptist churches are assigning a coordinator to make sure evangelism happens.

Keith Walker, Home Mission Board associate director of evangelism and church growth, surveyed 1200 churches last year and found more than 500 had a minister of evangelism. Thirty-two churches in Tennessee have a minister of evangelism, Walker said.

"Without someone with that particular responsibility, a comprehensive

program for evangelism generally does not take place," Walker said.

Formerly minister of education and evangelism at Central Church, Hixson, Walker has organized a network of ministers of evangelism that will have its first meeting during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis. Walker said the June 10 breakfast is open to people who have responsibility for their church's evangelism program whether they are a paid staff member or laity.

For more information about the

group or to register for the meeting, contact Walker at 1350 Spring Street NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30367-5601 or (404) 898-7736.

A number of Southern Baptist churches combine staff evangelism duties with other areas of responsibility. For example, David Rice is minister of evangelism and single adults at Bell Shoals Church in Brandon, Fla. The church has had someone in that position for only 16 months. Rice said his evangelism responsibilities are two-fold. First, he develops and oversees programs such as Continuing Witness Training for church members. Secondly, he develops new strategies for evangelism, such as community cook-outs and apartment ministries.

Layman Bobby Heath coordinates the evangelism program for Adamsville Church in Goldsboro, N.C. Heath receives all of the church's prospect cards and assigns them to people trained in Evangelism Explo-

sion, another tool to equip lay people to share their faith. For prospects who make a profession of faith, Heath makes sure they receive a Survival Kit for discipleship training.

Heath has also enlisted prayer teams for the evangelistic effort and phone teams to contact prospects.

Heath said he is sold on the need for personal visits because of his experience. "I was saved in my home on a Tuesday night because somebody cared enough to come knock on my door," Heath said.

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

You have heard of the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list. I encountered a new kind of Ten Most Wanted list a few days ago.

I was in a prayer meeting with Pastor Ken Altom and the deacons of First Church, Cookeville. The pastor pulled this list out of his Bible, and it was a list of the ten persons he wanted to be saved. They were his prayer and witness list.

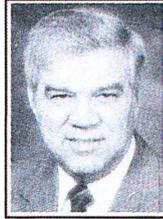
You should not be surprised that some of those on his list made professions of faith that week. God does answer our prayers and honor our witness.

You could have such a list. I have used small cards on which I keep the names of such persons. I try to pray for them daily, and seek opportunities to witness to them. It has been a

source of special blessing to me.

As you make the list, you should begin with those closest to you. Those may be members of your family who need to know the Lord. You should include the names of unsaved friends, acquaintances, neighbors, or fellow workers. We need to feel responsible for the unchurched and unsaved that the Lord has brought into our lives.

When you begin to consider the serious consequences of lostness, you will want to make this a priority. You will really "want" them to be saved.



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Confidence in God's power

By Jerry L. Glisson, pastor emeritus; Leawood Church, Memphis

Many people are living in discouragement and defeat today. Some admit it. Others talk of victory, but still live in defeat. They over-emphasize a Christian experience, believing they will never have another problem, but they under-emphasize their relationship with Christ Jesus. They live in defeat because they have a problem when they think they are not supposed to have a problem. Thus, they have two problems. And they can't deal with a problem they are not supposed to have and won't admit.

Paul had every right to be discouraged. He had enough problems to bring defeat for the average Christian. But Paul knew he had Jesus Christ in his life and quitting was not in his vocabulary.

Instead of having a pity party, Paul found joy in what he possessed. And that which caused Paul to be unwilling to quit can bring joy to us so we will refuse to quit when the going gets

tough. Notice several things that Paul had that we too can have.

God's mercy in our ministries (vv. 1-6)

Our ministries do not come from man, but from God who is full of mercy and grace. A ministry is a gift that comes in our conversion. This gift of bringing others to Jesus is not of ourselves, but of God. Thus, the ministry becomes a privilege rather than a burden. We can share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leave the results to God, for He is the reaper. Such an attitude will take the drudgery out of service and keep us from wanting to quit, trying to trick someone, or magnifying ourselves. Such a ministry will enable us to break through the blinding effect of Satan, for God is the one who saves through Christ Jesus (vv. 3, 4).

God's presence in our bodies (vv. 7-12)

Many people seemingly are programmed for failure rather than success and they fail. But God has pro-

grammed us for success (Brian Harbour, *II Corinthians: Commissioned To Serve*). He has placed the right treasure within us; that is, the Holy Spirit. We can focus on our weak and frail bodies and spend most of our time trying to keep it functioning so as to prosper materially. But God has given

BIBLE BOOK May 3 Lesson

Basic Passage: II Corinthians 4:1-5:10

us a weak body so we will depend on Him and magnify the glorious life of Jesus Christ. We also live in weak bodies so others may see God's power sustaining us and the life of the Lord Jesus flowing from us. "So then death worketh in us, but life in you" (v. 12).

God's assurance in life or death (vv. 13-18)

Paul's assurance came from a faith that he had nothing to fear from life or death. The pressures and sufferings of

life only helped him glorify Christ in his life. Death could do nothing more than usher him into the presence of God Himself. Why should he want to quit? Examine what God had given him (Warren Wiersbe, *Be Encouraged*).

Ultimate Victory: This victory will provide our own resurrection as well as our reunion with all believers (v. 14).

Abundant Grace: The more we suffer the more grace we receive ... the more grace others receive ... the more thanksgiving expressed ... the more glory God receives. Grace always leads to glory (v. 15).

Inward Renewal: While the body is perishing, the inner person is experiencing spiritual renewal daily. Living one day at a time takes off the pressures and keeps us from growing bitter and critical in suffering (v. 16).

Greater Glory: Troubles and sufferings are temporary, but God's blessings and heaven's joys will be eternal (ch. 4:17-5:10).

David Ring, who suffers from cerebral palsy, sums up these verses by saying, "Don't whine, but shine for Jesus."

Called to be God's people

By Ron Mouser, minister of education; Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville

The theme of "new birth" continues with the beginning of chapter 2. The transition words "therefore" or "wherefore" connect being "born again" with a vital, maturing faith. The living hope calls one to "... crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation ..." A mature faith would be a necessity for Christians facing trials and future persecution. Conversion was to be accompanied with a growing consistency in behavior indicative of the salvation experience.

These behavior changes in the child of God are grounded in Christ - "the living Stone." Since Christians live in relationship with the Lord, they "... also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

Although this letter was addressed to the followers of Christ exiled from their heavenly inheritance, the majority

of the recipients were likely Jewish converts. With a keen awareness of Jewish tradition and the operation of the temple, these believers were challenged to view themselves as a new spiritual house with priestly responsibilities.

CONVENTION UNIFORM May 3 Lesson

Basic Passage: I Peter 2:1-25

As a result of the "new birth" experience, each believer has direct access to God through Christ. This priesthood of the believer allows one to approach God on an individual basis and as an advocate for others. The believer is to offer spiritual sacrifices, not burnt offerings. These sacrifices are not legalistic rituals, but acts of surrender, confession, commitment, and service. This unique relationship is possible only through Christ - the chief cornerstone. The one rejected by

the religious establishment has become the foundation of the faith encounter.

Referring to the conditional covenant outlined in Exodus 19:5-6, Peter gives a new meaning to "the chosen ones." God's intended purpose for the nation Israel (the chosen people) was distinctive priestly and redemptive. Now, a new Israel is emerging. The redeemed of Christ have been called to be God's people. The followers are described as being "... a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God ..." Each descriptive phrase conveys the depth of this peculiar relationship. Called to be the people of God, Christians have been chosen through their "new birth" in Christ. God's people have been entrusted with the message of redemption. Believers are responsible for representing God to people and people to God. The chosen are responsible for Christ-like behavior in the marketplace. When Christians "walk the

talk," lost people see Christ revealed. As Peter stated, "Live such good lives among the pagans ... that they may see your good deeds and glorify God ..."

The remainder of chapter 2 deals with living in an exemplary fashion reflective of this special calling to be the people of God. One must remember that social conditions change. It is difficult for us to understand the ramifications of certain social structures and demands. Peter was challenging these early believers to practice their commitment. They were encouraged to "live out" their faith as follows: be subject to human institutions or governmental officials; honor all men; love the brotherhood; fear God; honor the emperor; and as slaves, submit to their masters.

Within the context of existing social systems, the people of God were called to live in a fashion befitting the sacrifice of Jesus. The example would guide others to the Lord, and they too could be "... returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls."

Hope in troubled times

By Sharon Herrington, layperson; Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage

Being a Christian does not necessarily mean we are immune to troubled times. James 1:2 says, "When you meet with trials," not "If you meet with trials." Suffering and trials are common to all humans.

Revelation was written by a person who had been exiled to Patmos for his loyalty to Christ to people suffering under Roman domination. John identifies with the reader as a companion in suffering. We too can receive John's intended encouragement as we face the squeezing times of life.

Isn't it interesting that some of the greatest literature and inspirational writings have come from persons enduring hardship and isolation? I think of Paul's letters from prison; John Bunyon's *Pilgrim's Progress* written in prison; Corrie ten Boom's *The Hidden Place* inspired by her concentration camp experience; the life of missionary Bill Wallace (*Bill Wallace of China* by Jesse Fletcher); and perhaps future writings by former hostage Terry Anderson.

John was empowered to write by the presence of the Holy Spirit on the Lord's Day (Sunday) which commemorated the day of Jesus' resurrection (Revelation 1:10).

The voice came from behind John. Remember John was in isolation, so he must have been startled. Writer Herschel Hobbs warns us not to take literally this description as it is apocalyptic language which expresses great truths about Jesus.

Jesus later identified the seven golden lampstands as the seven churches (vv. 11-13). One lampstand was like the Son of Man (Daniel 7:9, 13; 10:5-6). Hobbs refers to this as Christ, Deity-Humanity, present with His churches in their suffering, and the robe and girdle represent His priestly or kingly natures.

Christ's hair, white like wool, is thought to symbolize His holiness by some writers and His eternity (Daniel 7:9) by others. His flaming eyes suggest His omniscience and penetrating vision. Some interpret the bronze feet

to mean His stability, His strength, or God's judgment on wrongdoing.

Just like "the mighty river that pours over the falls is gathered from many sources, but ... issues forth with one great power," Fred Wood observes, "likewise God's eternal truth is proclaimed by many messengers but contains one great truth." Thus, the symbolism of Christ's voice is like the sound of rushing waters.

In verse 16, the stars in His right hand (strength) refer to verse 20 - "the angels of the seven churches." Angels are messengers, thus symbolizing the pastors and leaders of churches.

When John saw the brilliance of His countenance and all these above-mentioned characteristics of Christ being like the sun shining in His strength, he fell prostrate as a dead man (v. 17). This composite description of Christ's appearance perhaps is what John and the others witnessed at Christ's transfiguration in Matthew 17:2.

To John's reaction of awesome fear,

Jesus responded with reassurance. "Fear not ..." followed by His first person description of His identity in verses 17-18.

LIFE AND WORK May 3 Lesson

Basic Passage: Revelation 1:9-20

Christ charged John to "Write, therefore, what you have seen ..." not only to the suffering Christians in Asia, but also ultimately to all persons throughout the ages.

Oh, that we could catch a glimpse of the brilliance of Christ, comprehend the mighty strength of His hands and feet, look into His blazing eyes, hear His voice, and experience His assurance of what He means to our lives! Surely we, like John, would fall down in true adoration and appreciation of Him. Our lives would be changed by His touch so we too would communicate to others what a difference He makes in our perspective on the past, present, and future.

(BP) BRIEFLY

Compiled from Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention

Baptist pastor staying in Sarajevo despite war

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — A Baptist church here canceled services in April for the first time in its history as war raged in the city streets but pastor Boris Kacarovica has insisted on staying to minister.

Kacarovica told Yugoslavian Baptist Union leaders he would remain in Sarajevo with his pregnant wife and three children despite the violence. Union leaders had urged him to leave, according to a report from Christian Information Service, a church news service headed by Baptists in Zagreb, Croatia.

"We feel that our place is here in these difficult days. We want to be with the people we work with and minister to. Our pastoral calling and the future of our work in Sarajevo are at the heart of the matter," he said. Kacarovica said the church has set up a charitable arm called "Man to Man" to receive and distribute aid. But currently neither food nor medicine can get into Sarajevo because the city is cut off by road, rail, and air.

Grand Canyon faculty, staff take voluntary salary cuts

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Faculty and staff members of Grand Canyon University have taken voluntary pay cuts to move the 1750-student institution to a cash-based budget.

"We hope this is the only time this will have to occur," said Grand Canyon Provost Martha Taylor Thomas. The mid-year budget adjustment will allow Grand Canyon to avoid a deficit this year and, with a cash-based budget in the future as recommended by its banks, the university will be able to use gifts from donors to build endowment and meet needs in addition to the operating budget, Thomas said.

A 100-student decline in enrollment was part of the anticipated deficit but Thomas noted completed applications for fall enrollment are up by more than 100 over last year.

Thomas said faculty and staff had "100 percent participation in spirit" in salary reductions that were part of Grand Canyon's overall budget revision. Cuts were implemented on a salary-range basis.

Women in former Soviet Union gets boost from BWA women

WASHINGTON — Baptist women in the former Soviet Union will have a new fully equipped office in Moscow, thanks to the Baptist World Alliance's women's department.

The office will be a ten-minute drive from the present overcrowded offices of the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists, located in historic Moscow Central Church. The BWA women's department also has funded the salary of an office director for a year and plans are under way to provide requested training for new officers.

This assistance was made possible by special contributions from Baptist churches, individuals, and women's groups in North America and Mexico during the past 12 months, said Catherine Allen of Birmingham, Alabama, women's department president. Allen visited Moscow in April to complete negotiations to buy a small four-room apartment for the new office and consult with leaders. She was accompanied by Dorothy Sample of Flint, Michigan, president of the North American Baptist Women's Union.

The special fund-raising goal was reached in February 1992 with a gift of \$20,000 from First Church, Lumberton, N.C., from its foreign missions offering, designated to help purchase the office space. Also, the women's department received a grant of \$2500 from the Second Century Fund of the Southern Baptist Women's Missionary Union for this purpose. Other gifts were made by women in several states.

Child abuse remains concern for college students

NASHVILLE — For the fifth year in a row, college students responding to a Southern Baptist Sunday School Board magazine survey chose child abuse as the societal need or concern that troubles them most. Five hundred and fifty-seven readers of *The Student* responded to a questionnaire published in the October 1991 edition of the magazine. Asked to choose from a list of 28 societal issues that concerned them most, 46.3 percent picked child abuse.

"I was surprised when child abuse topped the list five years ago," Milt Hughes, editor of *The Student*, said. "But after hearing feedback from students at seminars and meetings I realized that this issue was a much broader problem for college students than I had thought." Hughes said the magazine's 1992 student survey will include more specific questions about child abuse to determine how many college students may have been victims themselves.

Other societal concerns most often picked by students responding to the 1991 survey included: abortion, 42.2 percent; the homeless, 33.7 percent; drug abuse, 33 percent; and racism, 30.7 percent. Of the 557 respondents, 54 percent were female and 46 percent, male; 86 percent were white, 9.7 percent Asian, 1.6 percent Hispanic, and 1.4 percent black.

Evangelicals in Croatia organizing new council

ZAGREB, Croatia — Baptists have joined with five other evangelical church groups in Croatia to consider forming a Council of Evangelical Protestant Christians in Croatia. If approved in a May 15 meeting, the council will replace an existing organization called the Association of Evangelical Church Workers of Croatia, according to a report from the Christian Information Service, a Baptist-led church news agency based in Zagreb.

The move reflects the pulling together of Christians in war-torn Croatia, which has been at war with the Serbian-dominated remnants of Yugoslavia. Slovenia and Croatia declared independence last year from Yugoslavia as did Bosnia-Herzegovina earlier this year. Yugoslavia essentially has been reduced from a federation of six republics to an alliance between the republics of Serbia and Montenegro.

More than 30 ministers and other church workers attended a meeting in Zagreb April 14 to discuss the new organization.

Researchers urge SBC churches to use senior adults

By Terri Lackey

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — The word "retire" should not be a part of the older Christian's vocabulary, two Christian researchers agree.

"For a Christian, there is no retirement," said Steve Taylor, an official with Age Wave Inc. of Emeryville, Ca., a company that studies the demographics of an aging population and the implications for churches.

Win Arn, director of L.I.F.E. International of Monrovia, Ca., a resource organization for church growth through senior adult ministry, said people "who don't have anything productive to do after retirement usually die within seven years" after leaving work.

Culturally Jewish churches needed says missionary

ATLANTA (BP) — In a year when anti-Semitic acts set a record, Jim Hendricks of Baltimore is glad Southern Baptists are "beginning to accept the idea of establishing culturally Jewish churches."

Such congregations allow Christian Jews to celebrate and maintain their identity and transmit their heritage to their children, said the home missionary who is working to establish a Messianic Jewish church in Maryland.

The 1991 number of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States reached a record of 1879, up 11 percent from the previous year, according to research by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Taylor said churches should pay attention to the resources they have in senior adults and use them.

"The older adult group is not just a group that needs to be ministered to," he said. "It is just as important they do the ministering."

Likewise, Taylor said churches should not restrict senior adults to minister only to their kind.

"You don't want to restrict the role of older adults to ministering to older adults," he said. "They need to be leaders in all facets of the church."

Arn said today 20 percent of church members are age 55 and older, while only ten percent are ages 13-20. In 30 years, 33 percent of a church's congregation will be 55 and older, he said.

Some of the acts included the murder of a 29-year-old Jewish man in Brooklyn, N.Y., a smoke bomb thrown at people entering a synagogue in Florida, and broken windows in homes and cars owned by Jews.

Hendricks, president of the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship, said Southern Baptists should, of course, resist such acts. But he added that they should go a step further by establishing culturally Jewish congregations.

For example, Hendricks said a culturally Jewish church would be likely to celebrate the Passover as a remembrance of the Jewish deliverance out of Egypt as well as their

"If you took the number of people age 65 and older and had them hold hands, they would stretch from the earth to the moon, back to the earth, and to the moon again," Arn said.

"There are 45,000 people more than 100 years old. That number has doubled in the last decade," he said in stressing the population growth among senior adults.

In a recent survey in which Arn polled 500 churches, "two thirds had youth directors, but less than ten percent had senior adult directors," he said. "Soon the day will come when youth directors will be trained in (ministering to) both youth and senior adults."

Arn said he believes churches are deliverance through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"We do have (Christian) Jewish people who are members of our churches," Hendricks said. He said establishing culturally Jewish churches gives Jews the same consideration that Southern Baptists give people of other ethnic groups when starting churches.

Hendricks said the Southern Baptist Convention has seven messianic congregations and at least ten fellowships. He said the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship, organized in 1990, is working to develop its constitution.

The fellowship will meet Monday, June 8, prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting at Pleasant Heights Church in Indianapolis.

finally beginning to recognize the older adult population as a valid resource for growing congregations.

"The church of tomorrow will be functioning under a new paradigm," Arn said. He explained paradigms as a grid of values and rules through which one interprets life.

"For example," Arn said, "in Columbus' day, the paradigm was that the world is flat. It's a way of thinking."

The church that is successfully reaching senior adults has changed its paradigms, he said.

Under the old paradigms, senior adults required volunteers, now they are volunteers; they were considered care receivers, now they are care givers. The senior adult program in a church consisted of one group; now there are several groups, Arn said of churches which are successfully reaching seniors.

A church with an effective senior adult ministry will provide older adults opportunity to use their retirement years meaningfully, he said.

He said he believes volunteerism among senior adults will change. "Meaningful work will replace busy work," Arn suggested senior adults can be the "best ministers of love in the church."

"Ministries of love, both giving and receiving, will receive greater priority in the church," Arn said. "Senior adults tend to be the most loving people in church. It is easier for senior adults to say, 'I love you,' and hug someone than any other group."