

# Baptist and Reflector

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## Proven principles greatest impetus to church growth

By Lonnie Wilkey

JEFFERSON CITY — Effective use of time-proven principles, not an undiscovered formula, is the key to growing churches, agreed leaders at a church growth conference at First Church, Jefferson City.

"Church growth is simple. It's using basic principles combined with a lot of prayer and a lot of hard work," said Ken Hemphill, pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va., who, effective Aug. 1, will become director of church growth, a new position jointly funded by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Hemphill and James Hill, pastor of South County Church, St. Louis, Mo., were the principle speakers April 30 at the first church growth conference sponsored by The Norton Institute of Carson-Newman College.

"A lot of Southern Baptist pastors are looking for new ways (to grow churches)," Hemphill observed, yet, he added, "other denominations are coming to us asking what our secret is."

The secret, Hemphill offered, is Sunday School.

"I believe Sunday School is the single most effective church growth tool on the market today," he said.

Hemphill cited six basic principles of growth which were first introduced about Sunday Schools by Arthur Flake nearly 70 years ago.

- **Process.** Church growth is a process, not an event or collection of events, he said. An event, like Vacation Bible School or revival, can be used to feed the process, but churches cannot depend solely on big events to draw people and keep them in church, he said.

- **Pyramid principle.** Hemphill noted the height of a pyramid depends on the base. Starting new Sunday Schools enlarges the foundation, he said.

- **Receptivity.** A church needs to spend its greatest amount of energy and resources on the people most receptive, he said. An event, such as Vacation Bible School, can be used to create receptivity, Hemphill suggested, but he noted immediate followup after the event is crucial.

- **New units.** The human body grows by cell division. When one cell gets bigger you have cancer, Hemphill said, noting the same principle applies to Sunday School classes. Sunday School classes should have an attendance of 12-15 people so it will have room to grow, he added.

- **Homogeneous.** Age grading is one way to achieve homogeneity, Hemphill said, stressing that age grading is not for members because they know one another. It's for the visitors so they will know where to go, he said. Hemphill also said there are other ways to achieve homogeneity, which basically puts people together who have common bonds.

- **Leadership.** Church growth begins with the pastor, Hemphill said, adding, however, that it is important to have strong lay leadership as well.

Hill, a former Home Mission Board staff member who resigned about two years ago to begin the church in St. Louis, reminded the almost 200 conference participants that Southern Baptists have a mandate from God to grow churches.

"God has given us the mission to fulfill the Great Commission in our day; to share the Gospel with our



**GETTING READY** — Stanley Young, right, pastor of Edgemore Church, Clinton, and president of the East Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference, goes over the program for the church growth conference held in Jefferson City with program participant Ken Hemphill, center, and Tom Madden, associate director of The Norton Institute of Carson-Newman College.

generation," he said.

Hill cited several factors for church growth. It's important to find a definition of church growth "that addresses where you are," Hill said.

A second factor in church growth, Hill said, is understanding the field of service "where God has placed you. You cannot grow a church until you know the community and understand the lifestyles of the people there," he said.

Hill agreed with Hemphill about the importance of Sunday School. Sunday School is Bible study, he stressed. "God still speaks to people through his word," he observed.

Growing churches also must be committed to stewardship, Hill said. "You

cannot grow a church without stewardship. We must teach, preach, and lead our people to be good stewards," he said.

Another factor, Hill cited, is to develop a genuine strategy for evangelism and assimilation. He noted his church in St. Louis "takes seriously" new member training and discipleship. As a whole, Southern Baptists "do a pathetic job of evangelism. That's why we can't find one-half of the 14-15 million Southern Baptists (on church rolls). They must be assimilated into the congregation," he stressed.

Southern Baptists also need a vision of facilities. "The facility is not nearly — Proven principles, page 5

## Southern trustees approve new professors after discussions

By Pat Cole

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — In a test of their one-year-old covenant with faculty and administration, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees elected six people to faculty positions by overwhelming margins during their April 27-29 annual meeting.

Despite spirited discussion about the candidates' views on women serving as deacons and pastors, each received only a handful of dissenting votes among the 60 trustees. The professors were elected under the terms of the "Covenant Renewal" approved last year by the Louisville, Ky., school's faculty and trustees. The document specifies that only "conservative evangelical scholars" will be added to the faculty.

New professors elected to tenured positions were:

- James Chancellor, dean of arts and sciences at Colorado Christian

University, as W. O. Carver associate professor of missions and world religions.

- Jack R. Cunningham, associate director of Seminary Extension in Nashville, as J. M. Frost professor of Christian education.

- Timothy P. Weber, professor of church history at Denver Seminary, as David T. Porter professor of church history.

In addition, trustees elected James Nogalski, an adjunct professor at Anderson College, to a tenurable position as assistant professor of Old Testament and Charles J. Scalise, a current Southern Seminary faculty member, to a tenurable position as assistant professor of church history.

The trustees also granted tenure to David S. Dockery, dean-elect of the school of theology. Dockery, who will be associate professor of New Testament, was named dean earlier this

year by seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt.

In response to questions raised by trustee David Miller of Arkansas, members of the trustees' academic personnel committee said all candidates were open to women serving in ordained roles. Members of the committee conducted lengthy interviews with the prospective professors before recommending their election.

Miller claimed a belief that the Bible permits women to serve as deacons

and pastors is an "aberrant view of Scripture."

"It's not an aberrant view," countered trustee Paul Stam Jr. of North Carolina. "It's not a disqualifying view. It's a different view. I can take you to 'conservative' evangelical churches that do it (ordain women)."

Academic personnel committee chairman Richard White of Tennessee said the candidates have solidly "conservative" credentials. Trustees, he

—Southern trustees, page 5

## April budget showers good increase

Cooperative Program income from the churches to the Tennessee Baptist Convention rebounded in April from a dismal showing in March.

Though income is still \$1.7 million under budget needs, April "blossomed" out with a total of \$2,519,920.62, a boost of \$47,966 over last year's April figure.

Another positive budget indicator is that the CP total for the first six months shows a gain of \$250,559.11 (2.07 percent) over last year at this time. The budget income Nov. — April is \$12,367,135.41.

Budget needs for the first six months amount to \$14,145,480.

"We rejoice that Cooperative Program giving from the churches showed a good increase in April," said D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director/treasurer. He added that income remains short by 12.5 percent, not including some \$404,000 designated income — which amounted to 2.8 percent.

Tennessee Baptist Convention program departments, the *Baptist and Reflector*, and Woman's Missionary Union, will continue to operate on 88 percent of budget, he said.

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## Editorials

# Strengthen that which God has blessed — the home

We are in the middle of Christian Home Week — which began May 3. Mother's Day will be celebrated May 10 — not only by Baptists and other Christians, but by millions of other people.

It is good to remember the fifth of God's commandments which He delivered to Moses from Mount Sinai: "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you."

Of course we are aware that is the first commandment with a promise. And it is a promise that will never be broken, for God faithfully minds his word.

In last week's editorial we pointed out that standing up for sexual chastity is right and courageous. It is also Biblical and common sense. Common sense is that sense that will not allow a person to injure himself in any way, and takes others into account. It outranks "book learning" when the well-being of the whole person is considered.

The first place a child can learn morality and Christian discipline is in the Christian home. Here the values of moral life and Biblical obedience can be taught, explained, and role-modeled. The parents cannot rely on the church nor can they shift the burden of teaching Christian values away from themselves. God spoke to that issue too many times. Christ addressed it vigorously in the New Testament.

What a blessing it is when mothers understand that and place great emphasis on setting the example — and living it out. The same is true for fathers — but we celebrate their special day in three weeks. Each member of the family has a privilege and obligation to make the family life strong, close-knit, and beautiful.

Only Christianity has produced a home life where each member of the group, particularly the mother and father, has rights respected and honor given.

When home life fails, free government fails. Christian home life can be considered the nursery of democracy, where all learn to cooperate and respect each other's rights as individuals. Further, only when we make the home Christian do we make it what it should be.

The home is the best place for teaching morals

and Christian faith and doctrine. The idea that Sunday School and church can do what the home fails to do is a fallacy. They can help, but if parents have the notion that Christianity should be taught and learned only in church settings, they are tragically mistaken.

Mother's Day is a good day for the entire family to resolve that family life shall be more completely, more strongly, more consistently, more perfectly Christian — and more acceptable to the Christ who had an earthly home of but a while.

Then we will come to realize that Christ Jesus makes every house he visits a home. In the fifth commandment, perhaps we are astounded to read that mothers and fathers are ranked equally, contrary to general opinion that mothers were kept in the background in Old Testament times. Reverence for parents is always essential to the solidarity of the family. Without it no family can cope with the vicissitudes of life.

The most difficult period in family life is when children reach the age when they begin to pass from parental control to go on their own as individuals. That is when the most severe testing comes.

We are living in days when Christian homes are in the minority. Many children have no home at all. Many have split homes, caused by divorce. Many have homes where parents are not strong in leader-

ship roles. Many children have to fend for themselves for security, entertainment, friendships, morals, and finances.

What do they do? We have increasing numbers of children on the loose, free to make all sorts of choices — many of which are wrong.

In such a vacuum, children teach themselves. They learn to be independent of the home, though they may long for Christian leadership. Where parents have abdicated that leadership role, children are victims of morally sick society.

It may be possible for working parents to find adequate care for children at home. And when the family is together even for a short while, Christian values can be taught.

Both parents play important roles in their teaching. But mothers, at least when children are very young and impressionable, must teach. Each family member must find that place of belonging.

Mothers have been applauded by children and father, by scores of musical tributes and plays, books, and dramas. Rightly so. Mothers have a place in the home that is necessary for the good of all.

On Mother's Day, honor mother in person or in memory. Better still, live out the Biblical teachings of godly mothers, and your own. We can use that kind of love to build and strengthen that which God has richly blessed — the Christian Home. — WFA

## TBCH Mother's Day Offering

One million dollars.

That's the goal this year for the Mother's Day Offering for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. The offering originates with Tennessee Baptist Convention churches and individuals.

The Mother's Day offering provides a substantial part of the TBCH annual budget. "Share ... because you care" is the 1992 theme.

TBCH offers shelter, food, clothing, and counseling to children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned — and the offering will make a difference in their lives.

On the campuses children live in cottage homes in groups of eight with their houseparents. Daily

support, love, and encouragement help the children enter a Christian atmosphere in life.

How is the \$1 million used?

Used along with the regular budget income from the Tennessee Baptist Convention and other sources, TBCH is able to give each child proper care in all phases of life. The main campuses are in Chattanooga, Franklin, and Memphis. Satellite cottage homes are located in Johnson City, Kingsport, and Burrrville. The Boys Ranch is in Millington, and alternative homes for unwed mothers are in Greeneville and Franklin.

The need is critical — and Tennessee Baptists have always been generous. — WFA

## National Prayer Day set; Tennesseans observe May 7

Thursday, May 7, has been set by the Congress of the United States as a National Day of Prayer. The theme for the 41st consecutive observance is "Let's Pray." President and Mrs. George Bush are serving as honorary chairpersons.

In 1952, by joint approval, both Houses of Congress called upon the president to set aside a day every year as a National Day of Prayer. Although national days of prayer have been part of our country's heritage since the first one was declared by the Continental Congress in 1775, Congress enacted legislation proclaiming the first Thursday of May each year as the day of prayer on our national calendar.

President Bush, in a proclamation, said, "On this National Day of Prayer, let us acknowledge with heartfelt remorse the many times we have failed to appreciate the Lord's gifts and to obey His commandments. Giving humble thanks for His mercy, let us vow to fulfill not only our responsibilities but also our potential as one Nation under God. Most important, let us make our prayers pleasing to Him by the regular practice of public and private virtue and by a genuine renewal of America's moral heritage. As Scripture says, 'righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.'"

J. Gordon Henry, Murfreesboro, who serves as the Tennessee coordinator for the National Day of Prayer, said,

"By almost any standard, America has slipped into moral and spiritual complacency which is reflected in the public sector, in the media, in both family and individual lifestyles in ways that would have been unthinkable only a generation ago. Spiritual healing and awakening is needed which will only come about as we seek God's grace and forgiveness."

Henry, who is involved in conducting prayer seminars nationally and internationally, urges all Tennesseans to become involved personally in observing the National Day of Prayer by taking five minutes at noon on May 7 to acknowledge our dependence upon God, give thanks for the many blessings our country has received from God through the years, recognize the need for personal and corporate renewal of moral values, and intercede both for the healing of our nation and for the guidance of our governmental leaders.

### Around the nation

WASHINGTON (BP) — Americans are expected to gather at city halls in about 2500 cities May 7 to pray for a moral rebirth in the country.

Officials of the event, named "Meet at City Hall," are encouraging Christians to go to their local city hall and pray from 12:20 to 12:40 p.m. on that day. The event is scheduled on the annual National Day of Prayer.

"The Bible tells us in Romans that we are to support the government for conscience sake and we're commanded in I Timothy 2:1 and 2 to pray for kings and all that are in authority," said Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "What better day than the National Day of Prayer to visibly and collectively fulfill those commands by gathering and praying at the local seat of government? Christians and those in authority, Christian or not, should be encouraged by such

demonstrations of piety and faith." Land is one of 11 honorary co-chairmen of "Meet at City Hall."

"I would encourage Southern Baptists to get involved in local efforts and, if there isn't a local effort, to commence one."

The mayors of Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston have made public service announcements for television supporting "Meet at City Hall." Wildmon said. Many radio stations also are promoting it, he said.

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## Fellowship group adopts statement, missions offering

By Ken Camp & Orville Scott  
**FORT WORTH (BP)** — At its general-assembly here, the fledgling Cooperative Baptist Fellowship adopted a guiding statement for its own missions program, approved an annual missions offering, welcomed four former Southern Baptist missionaries as the fellowship's first missionaries, and approved a \$2.5 million goal for CBF global missions causes in 1993.

About 6000 persons attended the largest single session of the CBF general assembly, April 30-May 2 at Fort Worth's Tarrant County Convention Center.

The CBF was organized last year in Atlanta after meeting the previous year, also in Atlanta, by "moderate" Southern Baptists who said they have been excluded from significant decision-making roles in the Southern Baptist Convention since "conservatives" gained control of SBC agencies and institutions.

The fellowship adopted a guiding statement on global missions, stating in part, "Our purpose is to glorify God by leading people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, sharing Christ's love and mercy, and carrying out the Great Commission through inclusive global missions in which all Baptists can participate."

As part of its missions emphasis, the fellowship welcomed its first four missionaries: Charles "T" and Kathie Thomas, former Southern Baptist missionaries to Romania, and John David

and Jo Ann Hopper of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Hopper, president of the Ruschlikon seminary, announced his resignation as a Southern Baptist missionary at a press conference prior to the opening session of the CBF assembly. Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board last October withdrew the board's \$365,000 annual support for the seminary in Ruschlikon.

In the wake of the trustees' action, Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks; the board's two top administrators for Europe, Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker; and several other missionaries resigned or retired earlier than they had originally planned.

When Parks, who was not a speaker on the CBF assembly program, was recognized in the crowd by moderator John Hewett of Asheville, N.C., the veteran missionary received a lengthy standing ovation.

Thomas expressed thanks to the fellowship for its support, brought for-

mal greetings from Baptists in Europe, and underscored the need for an indigenous approach to global missions.

"Genuine partnership means that sharing Jesus Christ is more important than being American," he said. Echoing the apostle Paul's words about becoming "all things to all men," Thomas said, "Let's do missions the way Paul did missions — the Biblical way."

Of a total \$2.5 million CBF missions goal approved for 1993, half is devoted to European Baptist projects, with the remainder devoted to urban ministries, ministry with internationals, and evangelization of unreached people groups in areas closed to traditional missions outreach.

The CBF hopes to provide financial support for 20 former Southern Baptist missionaries serving as CBF missionaries in Europe by the end of 1993, according to Jimmy Allen of Big Canoe, Ga., co-chairman of the fellowship's global ministry group. A portion of that financial support will

come from a global missions offering, the details of which have not yet been developed.

The fellowship unanimously affirmed the European Baptist Federation's Dorfweil Statement of Principles, which was sent to trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, but, as yet, not affirmed by them.

The general assembly heard a report from the CBF finance committee that receipts from the fellowship's three giving plans are expected to total more than \$6.5 million in 1992, with about \$5 million directed to traditional SBC programs and the remainder devoted to fellowship operations and causes.

Distancing itself further from the SBC, the CBF assembly voted to revise its "regular" giving plan — the most conservative of three financial options offered to churches — to devote more money for fellowship causes and to decrease funding for Southern Baptist entities.

## Hoppers resign from missionary positions

**FORT WORTH (BP)** — In a news conference when John David Hopper and his wife Jo Ann announced their resignations as missionaries of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship moderator John H. Hewett of Asheville, N.C., announced the Hoppers would become missionaries of the new organization of Baptist moderates.

Hopper, who is president of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, said he and his wife were compelled to resign as a result of "a creedal agenda" of Foreign Mission Board trustees "and a reversal of the honored and effective mission principles of partnership and cooperation with which we have worked in Europe."

Since Europeans bear financial responsibility for the guidance of the school in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, "I alone cannot force any agenda or creed on the school, nor would I want to. This, in my opinion, is not the Baptist way."

European Baptists are dedicated to the Bible and to the task of bringing Christ to the people of Europe, Hopper said. "They want to be respected partners with the world's Baptists in the global evangelistic effort," he said.

Hopper said that against the advice of FMB President R. Keith Parks and the board's European staff, and without consultation with European Baptists, a majority of foreign mission board trustees broke two of three com-

mitments made by the board in 1988.

These commitments, he said, were to support the Ruschlikon seminary with a full subsidy, ending with the amount of \$365,000 in 1992, and a gradual reduction of this support for up to 15 years to allow for proper financial transition of the seminary to European Baptists.

Foreign Mission Board trustees voted last October to cancel all financial support to the seminary, beginning in 1992.

Trustees, who had disagreed on the seminary's theological stance for years, felt the seminary showed it was continuing in a "liberal" direction by allowing Glenn Hinson, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., to teach there on sabbatic leave. At the time, trustee Ron Wilson, pastor of First Church, Thousand Oaks, Calif., said the seminary and its leaders had neglected to keep promises made in 1978 and 1983 regarding a more "conservative" philosophy for the school.

Hopper said, "Friends for Ruschlikon across the United States have more than replaced the funds which the FMB denied us."

## S.C. calls for special session

**WHITE OAK, S.C. (BP)** — Trying to end what its president Robert Shrum called a "long nightmare of the soul," the 85-member general board of South Carolina Baptist Convention voted April 24 to request a special convention session, setting the stage for a split with Furman University, its oldest institution.

After four hours of debate, convention president Eddie Greene, pastor of New Prospect Church in Anderson, agreed to call the 1836-church SCBC together in order to deal with a number of recommendations related to Furman. The special session will convene at 1 p.m. May 15 in the Canteen Building on the State Fairgrounds in Columbia. The convention's constitution provides for a special session to be called by the president at the request of the general board. The general board will ask messengers to consider:

- "Rescinding the November 1991 convention action concerning a declaratory action;
- Dissolving legal and financial ties between the S.C. Baptist Convention and Furman University;
- Allocation of escrowed and budgeted funds; and
- Authorization of appointment of a committee to study the relationship between the S.C. Baptist Convention and its agencies and institutions."

Specifically, the board will recommend legal and financial ties be dissolved as of May 16, 1992, and the "executive committee of the General Board working with officers of the convention be authorized to implement actions necessary for the completion of all and any legal documents which need to be signed and delivered."

The board's executive committee

voted unanimously April 10 to call the full board together to hear a report from a convention committee appointed last year to seek a declaratory judgment against Furman. The report says negotiations have ended in an impasse. The committee also heard from a group of 34 Baptist pastors representing differing theological perspectives who recommended a special session of the convention be called to sever legal and financial ties between the two bodies. The convention and Furman have been in dispute since October 1990 concerning election of trustees at the Baptist institution, started in 1825 by state Baptists.

## Celebration ends in tragedy at Buffalo Church

A day of celebration turned into a nightmare for members of Buffalo Church in Rutledge.

On May 3, members were celebrating the first of three events planned to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the church.

The day ended in tragedy, however, when a runaway car struck three people, killing one and injuring the others.

After the morning worship service, members were going to a nearby park for a picnic. A car carrying three elderly ladies who had attended church ran out of control, hit a truck, and caromed into the church members, reported David Tydings, director of missions for Grainger County Association.

The car then continued across the

main highway before landing in a creek, Tydings said, adding that the accelerator apparently stuck on the car, causing the driver to lose control.

Killed was Carson Cabbage, a deacon of the church and chairman of the committee which had planned the bicentennial celebration.

Cabbage's wife, Evelyn, was slightly injured. His six children and 12 grandchildren were present at the church when the accident occurred, said Mary Hipsher, wife of host pastor Jack Hipsher.

Church member Jenelle Griffin was seriously injured and was rushed to the University of Tennessee Hospital in Knoxville where she was listed in critical condition.

Another member, Myrtle Kee, who was in the car, also was

seriously injured and taken to the hospital in Jefferson City. The two other ladies in the car, who were visiting the church, were not seriously injured, said Mrs. Hipsher.

"I have never seen him any happier," Mrs. Hipsher said, referring to Cabbage, who had planned the celebration and had videotaped the morning events.

Two other planned events will continue, said Mrs. Hipsher, noting Cabbage's wife told them her husband would want things to continue as scheduled.

Mrs. Hipsher called for prayer for the families involved and the Buffalo congregation.

"We are all so upset, but we will make it with the Lord's help," she said.

# Clearview layman leads Moscow scientist to Christ

By Linda Lawson

MOSCOW (BP) — A letter written in a moment of desperation by a Russian scientist to a medical doctor he had never met in the United States led to the Russian's receipt of a suitcase of clothes and the Gospel of Christ.

"I address to you with unusual request in Russian crisis and big inflation now. My pay salary will not suffice even on nourishment for my family," wrote Anatoley Zhukov, a researcher in the lipid biochemistry unit of the Institute of Plant Physiology at the Moscow Academy of Sciences.

Zhukov addressed his letter to Dewey Dunn, a physician at Veterans Hospital in Nashville and an active member of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship, an organization which encourages involvement in missions by Southern Baptist physicians and dentists, based at Brotherhood Commission offices in Memphis. Zhukov had Dunn's name as a result of Dunn's request for a copy of an article by Zhukov.

"Can't you and your colleagues render any food, money, or old clothes (to provide) help for my family?" Zhukov continued. "If I can render to you some (time a turn), I ready fulfill it. Beforehand, thank you."

When Dunn learned Nashvillian Pat

Still would be leaving April 11 for Moscow, he packed a suitcase of warm clothes and medicines for Zhukov.

"We packed one suitcase of clothes and some medicine like those for ulcer, infection, hypertension, bowel constipation, and skin problems," Dunn wrote to Zhukov in a letter carried by Still. "This should be given to a doctor or pharmacist who can use them for appropriate persons who need these, including your family."

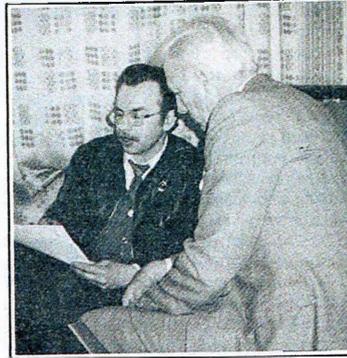
Through an interpreter, Still, a layman from Clearview Church, Franklin, contacted Zhukov April 20. The bespectacled, 47-year-old scientist arrived one hour later at the Rossiya Hotel.

He brought copies of articles he had written on polar lipids and soybeans that had been translated into English.

Zhukov said his monthly salary of 1700 rubles, along with his wife's income, supported them, their two children and his in-laws, with whom he shares a four-room flat near the institute. He also helps to support two elderly women.

"For the last five years we cannot afford to buy any clothes at all," Zhukov said. Also, fruit is "beyond our means."

When Still asked Zhukov if he had been "born again," Zhukov, not understanding the question, replied, "I think



**MOSCOW VISIT** — Anatoley Zhukov, left, showed Pat Still of Nashville articles he has written on plants lipids and soybeans. Still shared the plan of salvation with Zhukov. — Photo by Linda Lawson

all people of Russia are being reborn."

As Still explained being born again meant one had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, Zhukov replied, "I wish I could be born again. I would like Jesus in my heart."

After Still outlined the plan of salvation, asked Zhukov to read John 3:16 from a Russian Bible, and explained that a person must confess his sins and ask Christ to come into his heart and give him the gift of salvation, Zhukov

prayed and asked God for salvation.

"Let everything we have been talking about take place in my life," said Zhukov after concluding his prayer and wiping tears from his eyes.

Zhukov invited Still to return with him to the institute to see his lab. The two took turns carrying the suitcase to the subway station.

On the way, Zhukov asked, "How can I be baptized?"

Still told him about the Moscow Church, encouraged him to take his family there the next Sunday, gave him money for the subway, and promised to return with a Bible.

The next day, Still and Southern Baptist missionary George Lozuk took a Bible to Zhukov, who met them outside the institute. The three spent an hour in Lozuk's van discussing Zhukov's new relationship with the Lord, showing him how to use the Bible.

"I agree with you it was God's will for you to bring these things (clothes)," Zhukov told Still.

Grateful for his new faith, Zhukov nevertheless remained pessimistic about his economic future.

"For the nearest five years, we shall have no future," he said. "If we don't starve, we shall probably live in miserable poverty. Then probably we shall start moving forward."

## Mission group's tactics questioned by SBC leaders

By Chip Alford

NASHVILLE (BP) — Questions are being raised about the enlistment and fund-raising tactics of a North Carolina-based ministry currently recruiting Southern Baptist college students for a summer missions program in Spain.

Encounter with Christ, a self-described nonprofit religious and educational organization based in Cary, N.C., has been on Baptist college campuses in Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, North and South Carolina, and Indiana recruiting students for a "Summer Mission Outreach" during the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona.

A promotional flyer published by the organization said the five-week

outreach July 6-Aug. 11 will involve the students in sharing their faith, assisting in a sports ministry with Spanish children, and teaching Spanish church members how to witness and disciple new Christians. The flyer also said students will attend training seminars on witnessing, Scripture memorization, and other topics.

The promotional piece, however, contains some false information, according to Barry Sneed, a youth specialist in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training department.

Sneed's picture and title is printed on the flyer and he is listed as a professor and speaker for the summer event. Sneed, however, said he has no plans

to attend or participate and never gave his permission for Encounter with Christ to use his picture for promotional purposes.

"They called me three or four months ago and asked if I would be interested in participating in the program," Sneed said. "I told them it might be something I would be interested in but that I would like to know more about what it was and who they were."

Sneed said he soon received a packet of information from Encounter with Christ, adding the materials he read on the group indicated their doctrinal beliefs were sound. He never heard from the group again, though, until he learned last week his picture had been used on their promotional flyer.

Sneed said a representative from Encounter with Christ called the office while he was out of town on a field service assignment and asked his secretary to send a photograph of Sneed because he had agreed to be involved in their summer outreach program.

"My secretary just figured it was a regular field service assignment so she sent them the photo, but I never gave them permission to use it and I never agreed to be involved in the program," Sneed explained.

Carolyn Ortega, co-founder and trustee of Encounter with Christ, said the use of Sneed's name was "a misunderstanding." She said her secretary thought Sneed had agreed to speak at the summer outreach but that Sneed apparently did not receive a letter that would have confirmed the agreement.

In addition to Sneed, Encounter with Christ also was using the name of Brad Gray, a consultant in the Sunday School Board's student ministry department, in their recruiting efforts. But Gray said he also never gave his endorsement to the project.

To clear up any confusion about

alleged Sunday School Board sponsorship of the project, student ministry department director Charles Johnson sent a letter to all state directors of student ministries April 22. In the letter, Johnson urged state directors to notify all BSU directors that Encounter with Christ's summer program "is not a program of the student ministry department summer missions program."

The letter also stated that any reference Encounter with Christ representatives make to Gray or Sneed "does not in any way signify an endorsement."

Encounter with Christ has run into problems before by claiming Southern Baptist ties without permission. Two years ago the organization was working in Ocean City, Md., and a local pastor said representatives from the ministry were using his church's name in their fund-raising without permission.

"I liked the people okay but I was not very pleased with their fund-raising," said Terry Davis, pastor of Ocean City Church. "They were sending kids out on the boardwalk and asking for money. When people would ask what church they were with, they would tell them they were with us. I had that stopped right away."

Wyndee Holbrook, campus minister at Cumberland College, said she regrets Encounter with Christ representatives were ever let on campus.

"I'm advising my students to be wary of them," she said. "I've had some students say they have been very pushy in their tactics."

Still, Ortega insists the problems have all been the result of misunderstanding and sometimes poor administration. "We've made about 20 mistakes we wouldn't make again," she said, adding she has assured Sneed and Gray their names will no longer be used in recruiting efforts.

## SBTS plans homecoming festival

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will host its first homecoming festival for the school's alumni on the weekend preceding the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis.

The June 6-7 event will offer the Louisville, Ky., school's alumni opportunities to renew acquaintances with former classmates and professors, tour the seminary's new \$12 million campus center, and participate in an alumni worship service. The weekend also will feature a "town meeting" with seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt who recently has completed ten years as president.

Several of the seminary's retired faculty will be returning to campus for the event, including Henlee Barnette, Findley Edge, Forrest Heeren, Estill Jones, and Robert Proctor. Senior professors Wayne Oates and Wayne Ward will be present as will former seminary President Duke McCall and former SBC Presidents Herschel Hobbs and Wayne Dehoney. A reunion choir, directed by Richard Lin, senior pro-

fessor of church music, will sing at the Sunday worship service.

Registration, which includes a picnic lunch and a continental breakfast, is \$15 per adult; \$5 for children under 14; and \$35 maximum per family.

Tickets can be purchased by sending a check and self-addressed, stamped envelope to "Homecoming Festival," c/o Alumni Relations, Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky. 40280.

Frank Hawkins, pastor of First Church, Kingsport, and president of the state alumni association, has asked SBTS alumni in Tennessee to participate in a faculty appreciation service June 7 at the seminary.

A collection of special remembrances of faculty will be presented along with a monetary gift.

Alumni are encouraged to send a description of favorite memories and, if possible, a monetary gift to the Alumni Office at Southern Seminary.

For additional information, call Hawkins at (615) 247-4122.

## FMB committee recommends maintaining news practices

By Robert H. Dilday

**RICHMOND (BP)** — A subcommittee examining the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's news philosophy has opted to recommend no changes in current practices.

However, the panel acknowledged that a successor to President R. Keith Parks, who will retire in October, "will want to interact with trustees and staff in shaping his news philosophy," leaving the door open for possible future changes in policy or reinterpretations of current guidelines.

The FMB's longstanding news philosophy, as outlined by Parks, is a commitment to "openness, integrity, responsibility, and professionalism."

The seven-member subcommittee, which met April 27-28 in Richmond, is composed of FMB trustees and staff. It was appointed by communications committee chairman John P. Greene during the board's April meeting in Clemson, S.C., to study concerns by some trustees at how board staff have handled recent controversial events.

Although trustee scrutiny of FMB press operations is not new, it has increased following the board's elimination last October of budgeted funds for the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, which angered many Southern Baptists.

Some trustees have maintained negative reaction could have been avoided if press reports had included additional information about the Swiss school and its past relationship to the FMB.

In particular, trustees have expressed dissatisfaction with a Jan. 7 news conference held in the board's chapel to announce the resignations of two senior staff members.

In the conference, Isam Ballenger, vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, and Keith Parker, area director for Europe, charged the Ruschlikon affair indicated a change in mission strategy for the board and accused trustees of pursuing a "fundamentalist" agenda overseas.

Board members later said they were displeased the conference was held in the FMB headquarters building and no trustee was invited to respond to charges.

Following its meeting, the subcommittee studying the issues released a two-paragraph statement:

"The subcommittee on communication of news releases and press conferences has reviewed the overall news philosophy and administrative guidelines presently employed by the FMB. We will be reporting to the com-

munications committee that we find no problems with present news philosophy and guidelines. However, we did acknowledge to Dr. Parks and staff that were present concerns with how the January press conference was handled.

"The FMB is in a period of transition. We recognize that the new president will want to interact with trustees and staff in shaping his news philosophy. Therefore, we recommend that no further action be taken at this time."

Although the subcommittee's first day's proceedings were closed to the public, representatives of Baptist Press and a local newspaper were permitted to attend the second day.

In addition, Herb Hollinger, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee vice president for Baptist Press, met with the panel on the second day. The FMB's news and information office also functions as the Richmond

bureau of Baptist Press.

"We had a good time of dialogue with staff and with Dr. Parks," subcommittee chairman Terry L. Williams said of the closed session.

"We discussed the (news) philosophy we have here on the board and had a healthy time of dialogue."

Williams, pastor of First Church in Batesville, Miss., said the statement will be shared with trustees at their June 22-24 meeting in El Paso, Texas.

In addition to Williams and Greene, a businessman from West Palm Beach, Fla., other subcommittee members are trustees Michael D. Smith, an Asheville, N.C., contractor, and William H. Pace Jr., a minister from Largo, Fla.; Alan Compton, vice president for communications; Irma Duke, associate vice president for communications support; and Robert L. Stanley, director of the news and information office and chief of BP's Richmond bureau.

## Bush opposes homosexual rights

**WASHINGTON (BP)** — President George Bush signaled to evangelical Christian leaders he does not support homosexual rights, two Southern Baptist leaders said after an April 21 White House meeting.

"I think we came away with a clear understanding this president is opposed to the radical gay rights agenda," said Richard D. Land, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission.

"I have no doubts about the president's intentions," said Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention. "At the same time, I hope those around the president understand his position and will do nothing to detract from or diminish his position with the American people."

The two Southern Baptist leaders were part of a meeting with 15 evangelicals focused on the president's position on homosexual rights.

The White House organized the meeting after Chapman, pastor of First Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, and Land challenged President Bush in a Feb. 19 letter to "disavow any support or sympathy for the homosexual civil rights agenda." They wrote the president after learning Robert Mosbacher, chairman of the Bush/Quayle re-election campaign, had met with homosexual activists Feb. 13.

The president made it clear his administration, does not support their agenda, Land said.

## Charges do not merit Marshall dismissal, report finds

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)** — Accusations against Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor Molly T. Marshall by a Virginia layman do not warrant her dismissal, a seminary trustee committee concluded.

At the April 27-29 trustee meeting, the academic personnel committee told trustees that Marshall had not made controversial statements that had been attributed to her by Austin E. Jones Sr., a retired real estate broker from Blairs, Va. Committee chairman Richard White of Tennessee said the committee thoroughly examined tran-

scripts of two lectures at Averett College in Danville, Va. and found that Marshall did not say the Gospel was "an insult to women," "not good news to many women" or a "deformed image of God" as claimed by Jones.

The committee reported it "found no charges for dismissal... based on notations made by" Jones. However, the committee asked for "clarification" from the seminary administration about some statements that appeared in the transcript. Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt was asked to bring a report to the committee at

its October meeting.

Trustee chairman W. Wayne Allen of Tennessee said in an interview the request did not mean Marshall was in jeopardy of dismissal. "We just want some clarification," he said.

Jones had called for Marshall's termination in a February letter to seminary trustees from Virginia and in a news release sent to secular and denominational media. In an April 23 letter to seminary trustees, Jones and two other "concerned Baptist laymen" stood by the accuracy of Jones' charges. The laymen said they recently had listened to tapes of the lectures after learning it was available in the Averett library. They said the tape verified the accuracy of a Danville newspaper article Jones used as the basis of his charges. Marshall and seminary officials have disputed the article's accuracy.

## Southern trustees approve new . . .

— Continued from page 1  
said, should not expect unanimity at every point, adding the women's ordination issue should not be a "test of fellowship."

Miller, however, asked, "Why should we be satisfied with men who are 95

## Proven principles . . .

— Continued from page 1  
as important as we think it is," Hill observed, adding "most buildings are built for ourselves, not for church growth."

D. L. Lowrie, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, also spoke during the conference. He challenged participants to do "greater works" for the Lord and reminded them "greater works involve the glory of God."

Regarding church growth, Lowrie said the first thing he would do if his church was not growing would be to have a prayer meeting.

"You never will have a growing church until you establish a prayer core at the heart of the church," he said.

Other participants on the church growth program included Jerry King, TBC evangelism director, and Jere Phillips and Larry Kirk of the TBC Missions Department.

percent correct when there are men across this convention who are 100 percent correct on every point?"

Trustee Jerry Johnson of Colorado noted that Baptists hold differing Biblical interpretations regarding the role of women in the church. "B. H. Carroll (founding president of Southwestern Seminary) had women deacons and if we could raise him from the dead I would like to make him a faculty member."

Trustee Don Graham of Alabama warned against "establishing such a precedent" of electing faculty members who favor women's ordination. "This bothers me and I think it's time for somebody to be bothered," he said.

Several trustees expressed their personal opposition to women's ordination while voicing support for the new faculty members. Later in the meeting, trustees passed a resolution by a 23-14 margin which stated that "no action of this board should be construed as an endorsement of women in the role of pastor or deacon."

Following the meeting, Honeycutt said he was impressed many trustees were willing to set aside personal viewpoints in a spirit of cooperation.

"Trustees came through this meeting with a strong show of support for the covenant," he said.



**CONSULTANTS TRAINED** — Receiving training as Great Commission BREAKTHROUGH consultants were, from left, Richard Cassidy, pastor, Henard's Chapel Church, Rogersville; John Albright, pastor, Allons Church, Allons; and Thurman Prewett, retired, Shelby County Association. They were among 67 consultants trained by Baptist Sunday School personnel April 27-28 who will be assigned as GCB consultants to at least 100 TBC churches during the upcoming church year. The Great Commission is a three-year training emphasis that will end in 1995. For more information, contact Roy Miller, program associate.

## Tennesseans impressed with ministry opportunities in Chile

By Connie Davis

"It was the best ten days of my life," said Naomi Edwards of her volunteer service in Chile as part of the Tennessee/Chile Partnership.

Even momentous occasions like having children don't compare, said the member of Woodmont Church, Nashville.

An executive secretary for Ingram Industries in Nashville, Edwards has done volunteer missions work in five other countries, including the Commonwealth of Independent States (formerly Soviet Union). In comparison, this trip produced "visible results of our efforts," she explained.

Edwards and 25 others worked April 2-11 in Chile. The Tennesseans, joined by one volunteer from California, formed the seventh group to participate in the partnership since its official beginning Jan. 1.

To work in churches, the team split up in Chile. Edwards, another volunteer, and a Southern Baptist missionary traveled to a city of about 65,000 - Constitution. Located in a rural area on the Pacific Ocean coast, ox carts could be seen among luxury cars, she described. The people, of Spanish and European descent, are of Catholic background.

In Constitution, 16 Chileans are members of the only Baptist church there, reported Edwards. After the teams' work there, the church had 33 members.

So many people attended the evening services of Iglesia Bautista Getsemani they had to stand in a sanctuary filled

to its capacity of about 40, added Edwards.

Struggling to lead itself because the congregation lacked a pastor, the team encouraged the members, added Edwards. The North Americans and members visited friends and family members not attending church and a school, she added.

Work in the 11 churches assisted during the project resulted in 90 spiritual decisions, reported Bob Landham, a coordinator of the team. That outcome was good, he said, considering the lengthy Christian history of the country.

Landham, minister to married adults at Two Rivers Church, Nashville, led 16 from his church to participate. A goal of the church was to involve those inexperienced in missions work, he said. Eight members from Two Rivers had never worked on a missions team.

To assist the volunteers, the church invested about \$12,000 in the trip. Church members also donated items requested by Chilean missionaries which are unavailable in Chile, Landham reported.

After participating in his first overseas missions trip, Landham said he plans to return "as soon as possible." The missionaries in Chile are "heroes of the faith" and should replace the heroes the North American culture presents to children.

Two Rivers member Susan Meredith-Janssen grew to appreciate Chilean Christians during the trip.

"They're the most servant-like people you'll ever meet," said Meredith-



**IN CHILE** — Hermana Ernestina de Auburto and her child helped serve a meal to Tennessee volunteers at Primera Iglesia Bautista in Talca. — Photo by Don Mauldin

Janssen, a musician who has worked in the publishing industry. "They probably would take food off their own table to see you'll have food."

She noted the 50 or so people who attended services at Primera Iglesia Bautista in Talca sang all the hymns by memory because the church only had two hymnals.

"They sang with such a full voice that it sounded bigger than our Two

Rivers choir . . ." she added.

Don Mauldin, a veteran of five missions trips and Tennessee Baptist Convention Discipleship Training Department associate, noted Chile presents a challenge to Tennesseans because of the vast number of people who have a Catholic background but no faith and few evangelical churches or missionaries.

Only one missionary serves in Talca, a city of 137,000, he explained. To prepare for the teams, which worked in five churches there, several missionaries and local Baptists manned a booth at an agricultural fair held in Talca. Materials announcing the partnership activities were distributed.

To follow up, the volunteers continued to distribute literature, including a tract on salvation in both Spanish and English and New Testaments in the city, he reported.

"We would give them (materials) to anybody on the street that would take them and they were glad to take them. They were wondering what we were doing there anyway," said Mauldin, who is a member of Woodmont Church.

One day when he gave the last New Testament he was carrying to a shopkeeper, a worker nearby became upset. Finally, Mauldin was able to communicate that he would return with one for him, he recalled.

Mauldin reported the team traveled without fear in Talca even without escorts, ate wonderful food, including fresh fruit produced for North America, and enjoyed the "friendly, helpful" people.

## Dickson church celebrates yesterday and tomorrow

By Connie J. Umstead

Missionary Church, Dickson, now known as First Church, was organized 100 years ago by seven charter members. Those one hundred years of worship were celebrated April 22-26 around the theme "Yesterday's Faith - Tomorrow's Future" by more than 1000 people.

Highlights of the centennial celebration included a renewal of wedding vows by couples who were married at the church; performance of a centennial song written by Chip Leek, minister of music, and Chuck Nall, church pianist; a devotional offered by Interim Pastor John Laida; and special music by former ministers of music Clay Turner, Ellijah, Ga., Bill Blankenship, Cookeville, and Mike Schwartz, Marietta, Ga.

Unseasonably cold weather didn't deter several older members from concluding the commemoration with a visit to the original church site in downtown Dickson. According to Donald B. McCoy, pastor of the church for 19 years until his retirement last year, many who attended the praise and prayer service on the corner where the first church building was built in 1902 were baptized in the old building. An automobile sales lot is located there now.

Much of the church's early history was recorded by Eva Davis Banks, the daughter of charter member Mrs. Will Davis.

Banks noted that "the stories of their struggles upward from a handful of persons to a position of influence are generally full of pathos,

as well as incidents that betray heroism and fortitude as great as any that battle ever knew."

The seven charter members, which included a normal school professor, a lawyer, and a railroad engineer, first met in the Union Presbyterian Church building. The two congregations met together for two years, rotating responsibility for the worship services each Sunday.

After a fire destroyed a livery stable and blacksmith shop on the corner of Church and College streets in Dickson, the Baptist church bought the lot for \$250. Church records describe the property as "a mud hole when purchased."

The first building was built and dedicated in 1902, and the first pastor, J. R. Wood, was called in 1903.

The 5.4 acres of land for the present church building on the east side of Dickson was purchased in 1962, and the first worship service was held in the new building Nov. 10, 1965. Since then an education/recreation facility has been added.

The celebration service was attended by three former pastors: McCoy, B. Carter Elmore, and H. Lawrence Martin. During his years of service, 1964-1971, Elmore, who now lives in Texas, was known for his emphasis on evangelism.

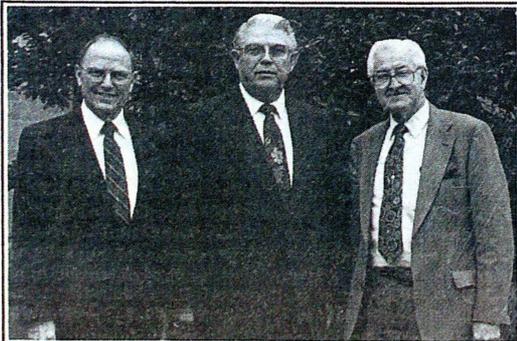
Martin, 1961-1963, left Dickson to serve a church in Connecticut and then entered the United States Navy chaplaincy. During his 20-year naval career, he served in Vietnam and wrote a 23-volume history of the U.S. Navy chaplaincy.

McCoy, who is now a church starter/strategist with the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department, is the longest tenured pastor at First Church.

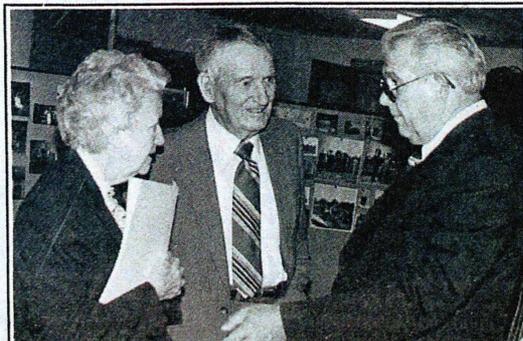
The church began three churches and two missions while McCoy was pastor.

McCoy believes "Dickson County is a mission field." According to him, out of the 34,000 county residents, only 7000 can be found in churches of any denomination on Sunday. The membership of First Church is 1703.

Members of the centennial committee were Delma Smith and Ruth Tune, co-chairpersons; Sherrill Hooper, Elise Scott, Dan Alsobrooks, Clayton Brazzell, Jeanette Edge, Bill Field, and Alice Weiss.



**THIRTY YEARS REPRESENTED** — Thirty years of service in the pastorate of First Church, Dickson, were represented at the centennial celebration. From left are H. Lawrence Martin, 1961-1963; B. Carter Elmore, 1964-1971; and Donald B. McCoy, 1972-1991.



**FAMILY BAPTIZED** — Leta and Graydon White (left, center) visit with former pastor B. Carter Elmore in the historical room at First Church, Dickson. The Whites and their two children were baptized in 1958 in the original church building located at Church and College streets.

**Mossy Grove Church**

# Congregation proves small churches can grow

By Lonnie Wilkey

**HARRIMAN** — Mossy Grove Church is defying the norm.

Small rural churches typically are plateaued or are declining, said Daryl Heath, growth consultant with the Sunday School Board in Nashville.

And, Mossy Grove Church, located between Harriman and Wartburg, was in that situation until just recently, admitted Pastor Huel Hooker.

When Hooker accepted the pastorate of Mossy Grove in 1988, the church was averaging about 60 people in Sunday School.

As recently as last April, average at-



**TEAM EFFORT** — The entire congregation of Mossy Grove Church helped Pastor Huel Hooker, front center, break ground with an old-fashioned plow. Joining Hooker up front were former pastors, from left, David Goodman, John McPeters, and Fred Copeland.

tendance had climbed to only about 77 people.

Since last October, however, growth has skyrocketed at the small rural church in Big Emory Association.

Sunday School enrollment has increased about 40 percent and the church has added about 50 new members, many of them young married couples who have been saved and baptized, Hooker said.

The church has grown so rapidly that a new building will soon be under construction.

Church members designated April as the "Month of Jubilee." The church added new members every Sunday during the month and on April 26, exceeded their high attendance goal of 150 in Sunday School by five people. That Sunday also was the day they broke ground for their new 50 x 105 foot building which will double existing Sunday School space. Earl Wilson, president of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, preached the morning message.

Why the turnaround?

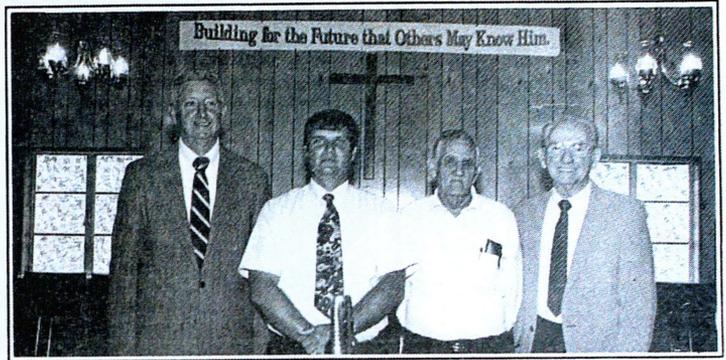
"For the first two years I was here I just preached God's Word," Hooker said, attributing the church's growth to "strong Biblical preaching and getting the congregation to realize we must have love for one another."

Two other keys, Hooker said, have been visitation and strong fellowship.

"People who have been saved have gone out and told their friends and invited them to church," Hooker noted, adding that he or a deacon also visits those who visit the church.

In about one year, the church's young married class went from about six members to 34 who were present on April 26, Hooker observed.

"It's been a very humbling experience to see how the Lord has



**READY TO BUILD** — Mossy Grove Church will soon have a new sanctuary and additional Sunday School space. The church's theme for the project is "Building for the Future that Others May Know Him." Building committee members include, from left, Ken Jones, Royce Cross, Sonny Mathis, and Raymond Eastham.

worked," the pastor said.

Hooker also credits fellowship as a key to the growth. "We receive people as they are where they are. We try to minister to all classes. This reaches out and captures people," he said.

The SSB's Heath agrees wholeheartedly, noting Mossy Grove has found the right formula.

"A growing church today is a visiting church, no matter how small it is or where it is located," Heath said.

Heath, who works with rural churches, observes people in smaller churches tend to be apologetic, feeling there are things they cannot do "because we are a small church."

"One of my jobs is to help them see they are important and that good things can happen in smaller churches," Heath said.

Heath observed a small church must major on its strengths, not apologize for its weaknesses. And, the smaller church's strength is its fellowship, with

members caring for one another, he added.

New blood and increased fellowship have been important to Mossy Grove, but Hooker also credits the core members of the church who even in the lean years kept the church true to its Southern Baptist heritage.

When times were tough the church "was faithful to its call to missions and to the support of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, and the local association," Hooker said.

Current plans for the church are to proceed with the building program and to disciple the new members, Hooker stated.

Already there are fears that the new building, when completed, may have been "outgrown."

Should that happen the church will meet that challenge when it arises. In the meantime, "we just praise the Lord and give Him the glory," he said

# Belmont BSU team ministers to Cherokee Indians

By Julie Williams

For months, the topic of conversation around Belmont University's Baptist Student Union has been SPOTS — not polka-dots or a rash, but the annual spring break mission trip: Special Projects Other Than Summer.

Three members of Volunteer State Community College's BSU in Gallatin joined 19 students from Belmont on a trip to Cherokee, N.C., to work with Native Americans.

Though the accommodations were not plush, they were more than adequate for the week, reported team members who spent seven nights on the floor of the BSU center at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, N.C. Each morning the group piled into vans, half asleep, to commute to Cherokee. The team worked with four government-sponsored headstart programs on the reservation. Headstart is a preschool program for children ages two to five from families in need.

The group was divided and placed at the four centers: Big Cove, Soco, Birdtown, and Youngdeer. The students assisted the regular workers in preparing and serving meals, playing, doing art projects, and spending time caring for the children.

Both the staff and the children were extremely responsive to the team. It was exciting for the students to help teach a child how to slide down a pole,



**BUSY BREAK** — Working on the playground at a Cherokee Indian preschool center are Belmont BSU students, from left, Jennifer Potts, Julie Williams, and Hope Stewart. — Photo by J. C. Lewis

build a tower, or share crayons. The children were hungry for attention and affection which the team supplied abundantly.

During the afternoons, students did odd jobs around the reservation.

BSU member Jason Owens said he will long remember "the bonding experience" of the group. Time spent together at the end of each day sharing the day's events helped all the BSU members know that they were making a difference one day at a time.

"Everyone participated," said J. C. Lewis, director of missions for Bledsoe Association who traditionally accompanies the Belmont SPOTS teams.

Students agreed they received as much or more from the experience as they gave. The group feels it has a special bond and a common burden for the Cherokee Indians and hopes to keep in touch with some of the residents. They plan to continue to pray for the community.

SPOTS team members were: Dane Anthony, Belmont's BSU director; Sheri Edgington, Hope Church, Nashville; Hope Stewart, Brentwood Church, Brentwood; Jason Owens, Haynes Flat Church, Speedwell; Jennifer Potts, Christ Community Church, Franklin; Leigh Ann Batts, Glenwood Church, Nashville; Futoshi Kobayashi, First Church, Nashville; Laura Snyder, Liberty (Mo.) Church; Joey Dean, Springfield Church, Springfield; Marie Chambers, First Church, Atlanta; Trey Hunter, Immanuel Church, Lebanon; Vickie Patterson, First Church, Columbia; Christy Ridings, Highland Church, Tullahoma; Julie Williams, Brentwood Church; Sara Beth McPherson, Second Church, Clinton; Lee Barnett, First Church, Waynesboro; Stephen Dean and Angie Watson, First Church, Franklin; and David Elliott, Park Avenue Church, Nashville.

Team members from Volunteer State were: Diana Johnson; Angela Fentress, Twin Hills Church, Westmoreland and Lewis. — Williams is a sophomore social work major at Belmont.



**FIRST RECIPIENT** — Scott Farmer, right, recently received the first Christian Citizenship Award presented by Holston Association during its spring bi-annual meeting. The award is presented to Farmer, a high school junior, for his efforts in successfully encouraging managers of two nearby convenience stores to remove pornographic magazines from their shelves. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Farmer of Johnson City. Presenting the award was Dave Carr, director of the association's Christian Life Department.

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This Mother's Day

# Remember the children

By Dr. Gerald L. Stow

Mother's Day is such a special time for most of us. For the children in our care, this day evokes other feelings. Some of them will recall broken promises, anger, physical or sexual abuse, and the disappointment and fear from a home that has broken apart.

Because of the love you and others share for these children, through our Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, we will help them overcome these feelings.

We have begun our second century of caring for children. We are making a difference in their lives. Your Mother's Day gift is a vital part in helping us make

that difference. Twenty-eight percent of our operating budget is received from this offering. In other words, one out of every four children in our care is supported entirely by the Mother's Day



Dr. Gerald L. Stow  
TBCH Executive Director

Offering.

Through your gifts, we will provide adequate food, clothing and housing for 400 to 500 children a year. The greatest help we can give is to share our Lord with them. Forty-five children came to know Jesus Christ last year through our ministry. This is why we choose not to receive any state or federal funds, since doing so would restrict us from sharing the Gospel.

This year, twelve of our young people are in college. Others are enrolled in Vocational Training. Our other children attend public schools. We want them to get a good start in life, and with God's help and yours, that goal is being realized.

Please consider doing a little more this year to help us with the children. You will never know how much this means to the child you help this side of eternity. Thank you for being partners in this strategic ministry and mission to broken families in Tennessee.

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# TenneScene

... from Cottontown, south to Coalmont, and on to Sale Creek ...

## Leadership . . .

Kyle Wilson has been called as music director to Lincoln Park Church, Knoxville.

Scott McReynolds recently resigned as minister of youth and family activities at Calvary Church, Jackson, to accept the position of minister of youth at First Church, Gainesville, Ga.

Kathy Chapman Sharp has joined the staff of Grandview Church, Nashville, as minister of youth and education.

She began her duties April 1. A student at Belmont University, Nashville, Sharp recently served with the Foreign Mission Board as a missionary to Brazil from 1986 to 1991. She is married to Terry W. Sharp, associate director of the Missions Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention.



Lake Road Church, Union City, called Jeff Hamblin as minister of music.

Fred Freed has resigned as minister of music and youth at First Church, Troy, to assume similar duties at a church in Olive Branch, Miss.

## People . . .

Jane Green, wife of retired pastor Carl Green of Morristown, died suddenly March 31. The Greens retired from pastoral service at War Creek Church, Sneedville, and First Church, Sneedville.

Brenda Young, assistant professor of French at Carson-Newman College, has been awarded a \$21,000 grant from the University of Kentucky to pursue a doctorate in modern foreign languages while fellow faculty member Susan O'Dell Underwood, instructor of English, received a \$21,000 grant from The Appalachian College Association for doctoral study.

## Ordinations . . .

Jamie Hale and Ricky Malone were ordained to the deacon ministry of Salem Church, Liberty, May 3.

## Associations . . .

Shelby County Association will sponsor its first retreat for the mentally handicapped at Camp Cordova May 22-23. For more information, call David Sparrow at the associational office in Memphis at (901) 756-4012.

## Churches . . .

Members of Park Avenue Church, Nashville, celebrated the church's 104th anniversary and homecoming May 3. The Masters Quarter, Mur-

reesboro, presented a Gospel concert.

Temple Church in Shiloh Association recently broke ground for a new fellowship hall and Sunday School classrooms. Jetta Forsythe is pastor.

## Revivals . . .

Thurman Seber will lead revival May 10-15 at Covenant Church, Smithville.

Hillview Church, Franklin, will hold revival May 17-20. Guest evangelist will be James Roland, pastor of Hillsboro Church, Franklin. Clifford Horne will lead the music.

Spring revival will be May 17-22 at First Church, Parsons. Floyd Lammerfeld will lead the services.

Ircel Harrison led revival April 24-26 at Lascassas Church, Lascassas. Ed-win Florida led music.

Harold Hunter recently led revival at Chamberlain Memorial Church, Chattanooga, during which there were 45 professions of faith and baptisms.

## Missions . . .

Missionaries Joseph and Tamira Korn have completed language study in France and arrived on their field of service in Togo. They may be written to at Mission Baptiste, B.P. 1353, Lome, Togo. The Korns consider Mount Vernon their hometown.

## Tennessee volunteer bricklayers use skills to assist churches nationwide

Many Tennessee Baptists are finding out firsthand that the Lord can use their talents, no matter what they are.

One such group is the Tennessee Baptist volunteer bricklaying team which was organized last year.

The team has been instrumental in brickling churches in several states including Wyoming, Minnesota, Illinois, and Tennessee. Trips are planned this summer for Montana, Texas, and South Dakota, said Glynn Reynolds, one of the leaders of the organization.

The team recently received a plaque of appreciation from New Hope Church in Dyer, a beneficiary of the volunteers' talents.

Though many of the bricklayers are from West Tennessee, and particularly Gibson County Association, which provides some financial support, volunteers come from across the state, Reynolds said. Volunteers pay their own expenses, he added.

Reynolds stressed "we are strictly volunteers. Most of us work on weekends or during vacations," he said.

He observed there seems to be a need for bricklayers. "The Lord is using our talents," he said. The team also includes "helpers," people who

assist with backyard Bible clubs and other needed tasks.

Team members include: Dale Aiken, Skullbone; Bill and Lucy Allison, H. B. Fisher, Jim Hadley, and Harold and Jean Pinkley, Humboldt; Felix McGehee and James and Joyce Tuck, Martin;

Bobby Brown, LeGrand Hill, Paul Nichols, Floyd Roberts, Kenneth Sparkman, Sandra Crim, Susie Graves, and Betty Arnold, Trenton; Bill and Peggy Castello and Terry Brown, Brownsville;

Vernon Dowland, LeRoy Perryman, James and Glenda Vinson, Thomas Watts, and Ronnie Yates, Union City; Alfred Gourley, Sweetwater; Henry Lancaster and Sonny and Margaret Taylor, Spring Hill; Dick Staggs, Jackson;

Paul King, Randy Latch, Toy Poyner, and Glynn and Retta Reynolds, Dyer; Bobby and Patsy Lynch and Shawn Roberts, Shelbyville; Bill Cobb, Bells; and Randy Easterling, Mississippi.

People desiring more information about the bricklaying team can contact Reynolds at (901) 742-2447 or James Vinson at (901) 885-1959.

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## Tennessee among top states in World Missions Conference participation

MEMPHIS (BP) — Participation in the Southern Baptist Convention's World Missions Conferences returned to the million-plus level during 1991, almost exceeding 1989's all-time record attendance, according to Kenny Rains, director of the conferences for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Rains will report to state convention World Missions Conference directors that 1,113,521 persons attended the conferences, which involved 3917 churches in 187 local Baptist associations.

"We are thrilled that our WMC attendance is back to more than one million," Rains said, adding that 455 persons made commitments to career or volunteer missions service.

"This is our first year to have more commitments to missions service than

professions of faith, and there were 425 (professions)," Rains said.

A category for "other decisions" was a new addition for 1991, with 421 persons volunteering for activities including neighborhood missions involvement, backyard Bible clubs, and literacy work.

The state conventions with the largest number of participating churches in 1991 were Arkansas, 583; Georgia, 452; Alabama, 364; Kentucky, 325; Texas, 322; and Tennessee, 314.

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Across the convention, 59 percent of the churches in the participating associations took part in the WMCs.

The conferences bring Southern Baptist missionaries into local church settings for personal contact with those who support them, Rains said. "Every church participating has two home-missionaries, two foreign missionaries, and one state or associational missionary come into their church and make a presentation, and that means a lot of personal contact with missionaries."

### Child Care Director Needed

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TN 167

# Paul's motivation for ministry

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

What are your motives for service? Some serve to miss hell, some to get rich, some to make others jealous, and some to be competitors.

Paul declared his motives were "plain to God" and plain to the Corinthians. No one had to doubt his motives even though they were under attack.

God knew them and the church should have known them. But other itinerant preachers had gone into Corinth and questioned Paul's motives before the church. Such an attack gave him an opportunity to discuss his real motives for ministry.



GLISSON

Knowing the terror of the Lord (ch. 5:11-13)

Paul knew the fear and awesomeness of being in the presence of God all of the time. This motivated him to seek to persuade the unsaved to trust Christ. Such fear was based upon a holy respect for God that prevented Paul from doing anything to break the

heart of God. Thus he was a witness who sought to keep his conscience clear, refused to seek the praises of others, and kept his eyes focused on the Lord despite the criticisms that came his way. Such an awesomeness ought to be our motivation as well.

Experiencing the love of Christ (ch. 5:14-17)

Christ's love continuously constrained Paul in his ministry. He was overwhelmed by such love, a love that caused Jesus to die for him. Such a death enables everyone to die so that everyone can live. Paul had experienced this love. Thus he could not stop, he had to go on. Every ounce of his energy had to be spent for his Savior and Lord. Oh that we might be constrained in like manner for we, too, have experienced such love and such life.

Christ's love brought death and life, but it also brought abundant life (see John 10:10). A new relationship exists (v. 17). Christ Jesus becomes important to us as He lives in us and flows out of us to others. The saved and the unsaved become important to us. We see people as important to God. We

know He loves them. And we want to share that love with them.

Receiving the ministry of reconciliation (ch. 5:18-6:2)

Paul believed he was commissioned to take the message of reconciliation to the unsaved. God had been reconciled to mankind by Christ's death on the cross. But the unsaved must be reconciled to God. And this reconciliation comes through union with Christ.

**BIBLE BOOK**  
**May 3 Lesson**  
 Basic Passage: II Corinthians  
 5:11-6:10

"And God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into His favor and be reconciled to Him." (v. 18, *The Living Bible*). This is God's commission to us. "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ . . ." (v. 20). We are God's representatives to a sick world. If we fail to perform our commission, then we have received God's grace "in vain" or wasted it (ch. 6:1). Since we have received this grace, let's share it with others be-

cause "now is the day of salvation," (v. 2).

Expressing an allegiance to Christ (ch. 6:3-10)

Paul knew what it was to be unappreciated. Every accusation that could be brought against him had been. His critics were ready to cut him down at any cost. But his ministry was not one commissioned to please people, but to please the Lord. He knew what Christ had done for him and he had always been ready to express his allegiance to Christ. He stated he was careful to avoid anything that would bring reproach to Christ (v. 3). He wanted no one blaming the Lord for his failures. In fact, he sought to reveal his calling was from God.

Paul also was willing to suffer hardship patiently for Christ (vv. 4-5, 8-10). To prove his point, he listed some of the hardships: sorrows, distress, difficulties, floggings, imprisonments, riots, labor, sleepless nights, hunger, dishonor, slander, accusations of being a deceiver and obscure person, punishment, etc. He was ready to prove his faithfulness to Christ by his wholesome life, understanding of the Gospel, patience, kindness, loving spirit, fulfillment with the Holy Spirit, truthfulness, standing true to the Lord, and joyfulness (vv. 4, 6-10).

# Witness in the midst of suffering

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

Suffering is an inevitable aspect of life. Believers in Christ are not exempt from trying situations. One needs only look to the Bible to see that the people of God experience hurt. Some suffering is a direct result of sin, as in the case of David and Bathsheba. Other trials derive their origin from physical limitations such as Paul's thorn in the flesh. Still others are sited by Satan like Job.



MOUSER

Early believers were confronted regularly with testings and afflictions. These exiled pilgrims, who had their eyes focused on the heavenly inheritance, still had to deal with harsh treatment. Many believers would lose their lives to the murderous cruelties of sadistic Roman

emperors. Realizing these harsh realities existed, Peter challenged Christians to face trials with a living hope grounded in Christ. The question is posed, "Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is right?" Peter was not advocating that one look for trouble or hunt for trials. The emphasis is the attitude with which one responds to the sufferings he or she encounters. The sufferer is to respond to tribulations with affection and respect for Christ. Knowing the faith of the believer will be challenged, the child of God is to respond " . . . with gentleness and reverence; . . . so that, when you are abused, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame." The believer's response to suffering can serve as a testimony of God's sustaining grace.

Christ is the model of the appropriate response to suffering. Facing

the trauma of crucifixion, the emotional agony of rejection, and physical exhaustion, He graciously uttered, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are doing." In one of the most poignant verses of Scripture, Peter expressed the Gospel with clarity, "For Christ also suffered (died) for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God . . ." The result of Christ's suffering was redemption.

**CONVENTION UNIFORM**  
**May 3 Lesson**  
 Basic Passage: I Peter 3:13-4:11

In Chapter 4, Peter indicated that believers are to follow the example of Christ in confronting suffering. Christians are to " . . . arm yourselves with the same attitude . . ." with which Christ faced adversity. Consequently, the child of God will be motivated to

live in God's will rather than for sinful desires.

The early church lived in the expectancy of the immediate return of Christ. This anticipation served as a basis of hope amid the complexities of life. With the phrase, "But the end of all things is at hand . . ." Christians are reassured of the ultimacy of Christ's victory. In God's calculation of time, suffering exists only for a fleeting moment. Thus, believers are to live in hope, practicing behaviors commensurate with their relationship with Jesus. Christian pilgrims are to be clear-minded and self-controlled; love each other deeply because love covers over a multitude of sins; practice hospitality without grumbling; use individual gifts to serve others; and administer God's grace in various forms.

When our energies are tuned outward to addressing the needs of others, suffering takes a back seat and God is glorified. Positive living is evidence of our identification with the sufferings of Christ.

# Diligent yet loveless

By Sharon Herrington, layperson; Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage

Poet James Russell Lowell once said, "They who love are but one step from heaven." Lowell's statement describes in part the loving counsel of Christ to His Ephesian church in Revelation 2. In this lesson, the Lord calls on us to be sure that our diligence for truth, our concern for right practice, and our steadfastness in service are all motivated by love.



HERRINGTON

In Revelation 2 we focus on seven letters to seven churches in Asia — a kind of association of churches. Because the church at Ephesus was like the "First Baptist Church county

seat town" and mother church to the other six churches, the first letter delivered on the postal route of churches was to the church at Ephesus. Each congregation in the association not only received an individual letter from Christ, but also the seven letters were probably circulated among the seven churches.

John was certainly familiar with the church at Ephesus, for he moved to the city to minister about A.D. 70. The town was an economic and cultural center of the region and was home to the temple of Diana.

Interesting is the similarity of the letters to these churches. With a few deviations, all the letters generally have seven common elements (scholars differ on wording and number of elements): a greeting; a

description of Christ as the author of the letter; a commendation; a reprimand; words of warning; an exhortation to listen; and a promise.

Look at Revelation 1:11 to see the location of the seven churches which are addressed. Now on to Revelation 1:12-16 for the descriptions of Christ which are used individually in the seven letters.

**LIFE AND WORK**  
**May 3 Lesson**  
 Basic Passage: Revelation 2:1-7

The first letter to the Ephesian church was sent by one who holds the seven stars (pastoral leaders) in his right hand . . . and walks among the lampstands (the churches). Christ still holds pastoral leaders and churches within His care and authority.

The commendation to the Ephesians concerned their maintenance of doctrinal purity, their testing pretenders (Gnostics), their perseverance and

hard work which resulted in economic and social hardship. However, they had not grown weary.

Verse four indicates the reprimand: Love was absent. "First love" generally meant their love for Christ. Echoes of Paul's words in I Corinthians 13 resound, " . . . but if I have not love, I am nothing."

The warning in verse five signaled danger if they chose not to return to their actions, feelings, and loving sensitivity they possessed when they first knew Christ. "Do the first works," said Christ. All our busy church agendas and schedules should be bathed in and tested for the key element: love!

Christ commended them for hating the deceptive practices of the Nicolaitans, not for hating the Nicolaitans themselves. Because it is difficult and challenging to separate the sin from the sinner, we can appreciate Christ's encouragement in verse six.

**(BP) BRIEFLY**

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

**Some Afghans listening to Gospel, sources say**

FRANKFURT, Germany — People in war-weary Afghanistan have become more open to the Christian Gospel in recent weeks as the final takeover of the government by rebel forces has neared, sources here report.

Many Afghans are questioning their future and taking a hard look at spiritual matters, according to Christian sources inside the overwhelmingly Muslim country.

Sources say minority ethnic groups — such as the Hazara people — are depressed and fear they will be massacred in the chaos and struggle for power caused by the downfall of the formerly Soviet-backed government. The Hazaras are Shiite Muslims who live mostly in Afghanistan's highlands. They number about five million and make up 60 percent of the population in Kabul, the besieged capital.

Two members of one Hazara family recently became Christian believers and other members of the family are studying the Bible, sources reported. The family has twice seen a video on the life of Christ. Christians in Afghanistan have issued a call for believers in the West to pray for the Hazara people in the coming days as Afghanistan experiences tumultuous change.

**Pastor elected executive director for Ohio Baptists**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Orville H. Griffin, a pastor and denominational staffer in Ohio since 1954, has been elected executive director-treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, effective May 1. The unanimous recommendation of the convention's search committee, he was elected with only three dissenting votes by the executive board at its April meeting in Columbus.

Griffin, 60, has been acting executive director since the death of Tal D. Bonham, the former executive director, last fall. He served under Bonham as associate executive director and handled Cooperative Program, stewardship, annuity, foundation, and other assignments. Earlier, he was evangelism director of Ohio.

A native of Georgetown, Ky., who attended Georgetown College there, Griffin's first Ohio connection was as pastor of East Dayton Church from 1954-67. He was president of the Ohio convention in 1966 and was elected to a second term but resigned when elected area director of two associations in the Cincinnati area.

**Clendenen nominated to edit commentary**

NASHVILLE — Ray Clendenen, chairman of the Old Testament and Hebrew department at Criswell College in Dallas, has been nominated to become general editor of *The New American Commentary* at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. The board's trustee executive committee voted without opposition April 23 to forward the administration's recommendation of Clendenen to the full board of trustees. Ballots and biographical information on the nominee will be mailed

to trustees. Ballots are to be returned to the administration by May 10.

In addition to naming Clendenen as general editor, the recommendation asks trustees to name current editor David Dockery as associate general editor for New Testament and Ken Mathews, associate professor of divinity at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala., as associate general editor for Old Testament. Dockery will become dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., effective Aug. 1.

Clendenen will become the third editor of *The New American Commentary*, a 40-volume conservative commentary series being published over a six-year period by the Sunday School Board's Broadman Press. Dockery replaced Mike Smith in May 1990 after Smith resigned to accept the pastorate of New Hope Church, Hermitage.

Clendenen was recommended with agreement of consulting editors who also favored the associate editor concept, board President Jimmy Draper told the trustee executive committee. Clendenen is one of two writers for the NAC volume on "Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi."

**African American Fellowship to organize, honor McCall**

INDIANAPOLIS — The African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention will hold its organizational meeting June 8 and honor Emmanuel L. McCall, longtime Home Mission Board liaison with black churches.

The fellowship has met for a luncheon or dinner, a program and dialogue for some ten years in connection with the annual SBC meeting, said E. W. McCall Sr., one of the fellowship's organizers and pastor of St. Stephen Church in La Puente, Calif. (The HMB's McCall and pastor McCall are no relation.)

This year, the group will vote on a constitution drafted by a 25-member steering committee that met in September in Dallas, McCall said. The steering committee also is recommending a slate of officers, headed by Joe Ratliff, pastor of Brentwood Church in Houston, as president and McCall, of St. Stephen's, as first vice president.

The fellowship's organizational meeting and program will begin at 11:45 a.m. June 8 at the Holiday Inn, Union Station, in Indianapolis, host city for this year's June 9-11 annual SBC meeting. The proposed constitution will create a 20-member executive board to act in behalf of the fellowship between SBC meetings, McCall said.

In honoring Emmanuel McCall, tribute is being paid to him as "one of the pioneers" in involving blacks in the Southern Baptist Convention, E.W. McCall said. McCall, retired in July 1991 after 23 years on the HMB staff.

**Committee seeks successor for Illinois executive director**

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — A search committee is seeking names and resumes of potential successors to Illinois Baptist State Association Executive Director Maurice L. Swinford, who will retire May 30, 1993. Swinford announced his retirement plans to the IBSA board of directors March 3 during their semi-annual meeting.

Search Committee chairman Wendell Garrison of Belleville, Ill., said the committee "is accepting recommendations and resumes for possible candidates for the position." They should be sent to Garrison at 225 Dorchester Drive, Belleville, Ill. 62223.

## Baptists feed survivors after Mexico explosions

By Mary E. Speidel

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (BP) — Baptists have set up a feeding station for rescue workers and displaced residents in the wake of gas explosions in Guadalajara that killed more than 200 people and injured 1000 April 22.

Mexican Baptists and Southern Baptist representatives began the effort after consulting with local relief officials. The station, which began operating April 24, is housed at

Bethany Church near the explosion site. The church reportedly was not damaged in the explosions.

In addition, some medical personnel from the Mexican American Hospital have visited clinics in the area to offer their services and donate medical supplies. The hospital, which Southern Baptists helped begin in 1958, sent an ambulance to the blast site to assist in rescue efforts throughout the day April 22.

Southern Baptist worker Larry Gay traveled to Guadalajara to help plan Baptist relief efforts. His presence freed Southern Baptist health workers living in Guadalajara to concentrate on meeting medical needs. Gay also took Baptist relief funds to meet emergency needs.

The series of gas blasts in the city's sewer system began the morning of April 22 and continued into the night in southeastern Guadalajara, Mexico's second-largest city. The explosions were caused by a liquid called hexane that leaked from a factory into the city's sewer, according to press reports.

Some 1000 buildings and houses were damaged in explosions that ripped up more than three miles of city streets. Officials immediately evacuated the

area and some 4500 rescue workers began trying to save victims pinned under debris or inside vehicles, press reports said.

No Southern Baptist representatives living in Guadalajara were harmed by the explosions but some Mexican Baptists had not heard from relatives living in the area as of April 23.

When the first of the blasts occurred, Southern Baptist representative Judy Wise, a nurse from Houma, La., was working at the Mexican American Hospital in western Guadalajara. A few injured people were brought to the hospital, she said, but most were taken to medical centers closer to the area where the explosions occurred.

Mexicans have responded well to the crisis, she added.

## Lewis cites principles for churches

DAYTON, Ohio (BP) — Eight principles will help churches present their changeless message to a changing society, said Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis.

Lewis, speaking during a Models for Metropolitan Ministry conference, said his pastoral experience taught him these principles work in blue-collar areas as well as white-collar and inner-city churches.

Lewis said churches must:

- Discover and cultivate prospects. "Find out where they live and what their spiritual condition is," Lewis said. "Make someone in your church responsible for that information."
- Expand their organization. Lewis recommended the church's witnessing programs be "very intimately married" to Sunday School and Sunday School take the dual responsibility of reaching and teaching people.
- Train and motivate workers.

"Buildings don't reach people," Lewis said. "People reach people."

- Provide space for ever-growing structure. Lewis said this does not have to mean new buildings. It may mean using Sunday School space more than one hour a week or beginning satellite congregations or mission churches.

- Go after people. "We're not really New Testament until we've shared the Gospel face to face with people in our community," Lewis said.

- Provide superior programs. "People want the best we can provide in music and relevant preaching that is Biblical, not just a self-help lecture."

- Develop solid public relations. Lewis urged conference participants to get to know the religion editor of their local newspaper and use tools such as telephone surveys and mass mailings.

- Pray. "Learn how to make our Father's house a house of prayer."

## Midwestern Seminary's annual luncheon set

The alumni association of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., will meet for its annual luncheon in Indianapolis, Ind., during the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, June 9-11.

The luncheon will be held June 10 at 12:15 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 110 W. Washington St. The hotel is near the Hoosier Dome, site of the SBC annual meeting.

Alumni and friends of the seminary are invited to attend the event for a time of fellowship among the Mid-

western family. The luncheon program will include an update on the seminary by MBTS President Milton Ferguson. In addition, alumni of the year and honorary alumni awards will be presented.

Advance tickets for the luncheon are \$13 per person. During the convention, tickets may be purchased in the exhibit hall at the seminary booth for \$17. Luncheon tickets may be reserved by writing to the alumni office, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 5001 N. Oak St. Trafficway, Kansas City, Mo. 64118; or call (816) 453-4600.