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Executive Board sets new guidelines for CP reporting

By Lonnie Wilkey

The Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention voted to establish new guidelines for reporting gifts from TBC churches during its May 15 meeting at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

Board members also adopted a "working goal" for the 1992-93 budget and heard committee reports during its spring session.

Procedures needed to be changed to effect clarity and a better way of reporting gifts from TBC churches in the *Baptist and Reflector*, said Bobby Turner, chairperson of the budget and program committee. CP gifts, as provided by the TBC Accounting Depart-

ment, are printed quarterly in the state newsjournal.

Under the proposal, which was approved without discussion, a church which designates a portion of its Cooperative Program gifts, would still be listed as giving through the Cooperative Program.

The gifts would appear as designated to the TBC and/or SBC causes by a symbol, such as, (1) for TBC and a (2) for SBC. The subtotal would be separated as designated to TBC, SBC, or Cooperative Program.

Previously, if a church designated any portion of its CP gifts, the entire amount was reported as "designated" giving.

Turner noted the present "designated" column would continue to show gifts designated for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Golden State Missions Offering, etc.

In another budget related action, Executive Board members voted that a working goal for the preparation of the 1992-93 CP budget be set at \$27,159,322, a four percent decrease from the current budget.

TBC Executive Director D. L. Lowrie told board members the convention is receiving more money through the Cooperative Program now compared to the same six month period last year.

"We are not meeting our budget, but it was an unrealistic budget. However, we are moving forward," Lowrie said.

The new budget will continue to include a preferred item for the Expanded Annuity Program and the percentage of distribution to TBC and SBC causes would remain the same as for the 1991-92 budget: TBC, 62.5 per-

Nashville youth Speak Out winner

A Tennessee Baptist youth has been selected as the winner of the 1992 Jerry Clower National High School Baptist Young Men Missions Speak Out, an annual competition sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

John Highsmith, a member of Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, won the award in competition with finalists representing eight Baptist state conventions.

Highsmith's speech, "The Value of Worship," was videotaped and sent to



HIGHSMITH

Memphis for judging at the Brotherhood Commission.

As the national winner, Highsmith will receive an expense-paid trip to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Indianapolis. He will present his speech during the annual Brotherhood breakfast on June 10.

Highsmith, who also is the state Royal Ambassador president, will receive a college scholarship award and a missions trip from the Brotherhood Commission's board of trustees.

Pressler still FMB nominee despite opposition

HOUSTON (BP) — Although urged to withdraw as a nominee for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board by a number of SBC leaders, Judge Paul Pressler insists he has a lot of supporters and is still a nominee.

In an interview with Baptist Press, Pressler responded to an Associated Baptist Press May 14 story which said a number of SBC leaders had a conference call with him urging him to voluntarily withdraw as a nominee before the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis, June 9-11.

"I have received two letters asking me to withdraw, one letter supporting my nomination," Pressler, of Houston, said. "I have received four negative calls (on the nomination) but 50 calls which were supportive."

Former SBC presidents Adrian Rogers, Jerry Vines, Jimmy Draper,

Lowrie takes Texas pastorate

D. L. Lowrie, executive director/treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention for three and a half years, will become pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Texas.

Lowrie, a Tennessee native, joined the TBC Jan. 1, 1989. He worked for four months with Tom Madden and succeeded Madden when he retired on April 30 that year. He will take the Lubbock post after the Sept. 4 meeting of the TBC's Executive Board.

Lowrie is returning to the church he served as pastor from 1980-86. He was director of the State Missions Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas until joining the TBC.

Much of Lowrie's ministry has been spent in Texas where he served as pastor of five other

churches. He was president of the BGCT in 1981-83 and was chairman of the state's executive board.

The 8000-member Lubbock church voted by ballot Sunday night after he preached in the morning service May 17. He accepted the call which came as a result of a 98 percent favorable vote.

Lowrie and his wife Alice also attended graduation ceremonies at Baylor University in Waco Saturday where their youngest son, John, graduated.

Lowrie told the TBC Executive Board of his planned Lubbock trip during its May 15 meeting at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

A search committee will be named by Jerry Oakley, chairman of the Executive Committee, and pastor of Springfield Church.

cent; SBC, 37.5 percent.

Board members also approved a Golden State Missions Offering Allocations proposal of \$1,050,000, a \$50,000 increase over the 1991 goal. The allocations proposal also must be approved by the board of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.

In other actions, board members:

- Approved a recommendation from the Education Committee that raises the debt ceiling for Belmont University by \$2.5 million for construction of a new library, classroom additions to the Massey Business Center, and computer-related updates/purchases.

- Adopted a recommendation from the Convention Ministries Committee

that the Executive Board support and encourage Tennessee Baptists to participate with other Southern Baptists in (Jan. 9-March 9, 1995) soul-winning effort known as "Here's Hope - Share Jesus Now."

- Ratified the decision of the Executive Committee to raise the debt ceiling for Carson-Newman College from \$11 to \$12 million to assure adequate availability of funds for construction of a student activities center and related improvements if needed.

- Voted to allow Baptist Health System of East Tennessee, which receives no Cooperative Program funds, to select and pay for its own

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Hancock said.

Hancock said he was considering making a motion in Indianapolis to nominate an alternate to Pressler for the FMB but hadn't yet made a final decision. He said he felt it ought to be a Texas Baptist to make the motion since it concerns a Texas Baptist position.

But Pressler said it is ironic charges of "cronyism" were being made against his nomination when he could remember several husband-and-wife combinations on SBC boards prior to 1979, the start of the "conservative resurgence." Pressler is given credit for being one of the architects of that movement which gained control of SBC leadership over the past decade.

Pressler, 61, served seven years on the powerful SBC Executive Committee before rotating off last year.

Baptist Press called a number of SBC leaders and high-profile "conservative" pastors in Texas and most of them were sympathetic to the withdrawal of Pressler's nomination.

However, all asked not to be quoted and said they would not publicly support any movement to provide an alternate nomination.

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Editorials**Lowrie's leadership in Tennessee moves to a close**

Tennessee Baptists heard news this week that is unsettling. The Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board will have to elect its third executive director/treasurer to serve within a five-year period.

Soon a search committee will be formed to find a successor to D. L. Lowrie who May 17 accepted a call to return to Texas. The congregation of First Church, Lubbock, must see in Lowrie the same kind of leadership that enabled him to lead Tennessees through some lean times.

When he succeeded Tom Madden in 1989, Lowrie was coming home. A native of east Tennessee's Bluff City, he gave his heart to Christ at age nine — and surrendered his life to the pastoral ministry while he was in high school.

His upbringing in that small conservative community enabled him to handle top places of leadership among Southern Baptists in ensuing years. After studying at Southwestern Seminary, he didn't come back to work in his native state until he was elected as Tennessee Baptists' executive at age 54.

He had found a wife, Alice Reynolds, and they had had four sons. In his own words, he intended to finish out his work for the Lord among Tennessee Baptists.

But God's call does not always fit our calendars nor our sometimes narrow perspective. Knowing D. L. Lowrie — even for three years — means knowing a man whose primary goal in life is to work hard for Christ's cause wherever he is led.

Leadership does not brag or boast about its

qualities. But when a person is a leader — it is evident. We appreciate D. L. Lowrie's tenure and applaud his strong efforts.

One of the great qualities that Lowrie possesses is his dependence on prayer. In every situation, with every problem large or small, he has always encouraged us to pray. He believes in prayer as a lifestyle, and we know his latest decision was bathed in prayer.

All of us must then pray for the next steps — for a search committee that is uncompromising in its leadership views, committed to being diligent in the search, to fervently seek God's leader, and to be openly honest. We also should band together these summer-months to keep on the straight path of witness and ministry. — WFA

Setting the course, choosing the route — and flying

The super jetliner, packed with passengers and loaded with tons of baggage and food, taxied down the runway. Some of the travelers earlier had sensed something was amiss.

The waiting area around the departure gate had been filled with eager and determined people, anxious for the trip to begin. There had been several announcements from the airline agent, informing passengers of short delays in departure.

As the plane approached a strategic crossing down the runway, apparently poised for the final run, the massive engines slowed and gradually came to a halt. The pilot told his passengers there would be an hour's delay on takeoff.

He quickly explained the reason: there was a violent rainstorm besieging the destination city, and there were spasmodic storms of potential danger along the route.

Some passengers were disgruntled and said so. Others were noncommittal, pretending everything was on schedule, or perhaps believing weather conditions would quickly improve. Some said they would rather rely on the weather advisory than take a chance.

We thought, while sitting there on the runway, that the interrupted departure was quite similar to

the plight of the Southern Baptist Convention at present.

We can't even get off the ground because of dissension and problems in relating to each other. The lingering doubts still plague us. We are stifled by lack of direction and we need that wholesome and assuring cooperation that pushes us forward together.

And the thought of comparison continued. In just a few minutes after takeoff, the captain told us he would be flying lower than usual and charting a new route, wide enough to skirt the storms.

Those on the jetliner had a destination planned — and they had chosen the airline. However, the route was changed and we flew at a much lower altitude. The hour's delay prior to takeoff, and the precious time wasted in rather tenuous explanations did not help the cause. That we were forced "off course" by the displays of lightning's electrical power only irritated those whose purpose was to arrive straightway at the city of destination.

There are other ways to describe the SBC's current health status, but this one seems simple and pointed.

We have endured a generation of disruption.

Changes have been made. Different routes have been chosen. Many Southern Baptists have decided to switch destinations, and others have selected alternate vehicles for transportation. Schedules have been thrown out by some — and others feel forced to fly with the favorite — even though the pilots have been changed.

The storms have delayed takeoff. And so the time of arrival also has been set back. The pesky disturbances along the journey are disconcerting and some say even dangerous. Flying lower than the safe routes is a questionable tactic.

Pockets of atmospheric instability cause some passengers to be sick, and others may suffer bodily injury. The fellow travelers are not as congenial and much valuable time has been wasted.

We fly a mile forward and two backward. In real life for the Southern Baptist Convention, for every splinter group that forms and dies, two more spring up. There is always a group or a plan willing to divert us from the main route and destination.

We can draw conclusions. There is less to feel good about and little for our Lord to honor when we continue as we are now doing. As the old adage says, it's time to "straighten up and fly right." — WFA

Solemn assembly may broaden repentance in US

WASHINGTON (BP) — The repercussions of a recent solemn assembly for national prayer leaders will include "broadening the base of repentance" in the United States, predicted a Southern Baptist who presided over the meeting.

Avery Willis, who has been leading solemn assemblies since 1989, said the need to call Christians to repentance seemed to impact participants in the May 6 solemn assembly on the eve of National Day of Prayer.

Prayer leaders such as Willis and Henry Blackaby of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board have led in solemn assemblies throughout the Southern Baptist Convention during the last four years. An evening session of last year's annual SBC meeting was dedicated to a solemn assembly. Based on Joel 1, a solemn assembly is a gathering of Christians to repent of their sins and renew their covenant with God.

Denominational leaders involved in the Day of Prayer-related assembly said repentance has been "a missing element in prayer events they have had in the past," Willis said. "The sense of leaders of prayer in the United States is that they need to repent of not leading our people more in prayer and in repentance. Many leaders told me, 'This is a model for us. We've never done this before.' It was obvious the Lord was working and was in the service."

The solemn assembly brought together about 200 people, including prayer leaders from about 30 denominations, other denominational leaders, members of the National Prayer Committee, key youth leaders, and pastors.

Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in Suburban Memphis, preached and Wallace Williams, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey, led in a "call to sacrifice."

During the assembly, at a Methodist church in Arlington, Va., there was a "real sense of this great need in America" and of the failure of Christians "in not having a more effective role in the nation," said Willis, manager of the adult section of the Discipleship Training department at the Sunday School Board.

"I think God has given us a wake-up call and is saying, 'You've gone much further than you realize,'" Willis said. "God has spoken that we're not pleasing to him. I really think we need a solemn assembly in America. We need to see where we are in history in God's sight — and that is a precarious position."

Some of those who participated expressed "this is not only a Southern Baptist concern and we need to wake up as a body," Willis said. "I see this as a benchmark, that a lot of denominations are saying, 'We need this as a body.' I believe they're saying, 'If revival comes, and I believe it will, it

must come in all denominations.' If we have a national revival and awakening, we must have these types of relationships between denominations. I see the Lord laying a foundation for that."

Willis said at least three other denominations are planning solemn assemblies at their 1992 meetings. Blackaby and he will lead one for the Christian Missionary Alliance in September. The Evangelical Free Church and the Church of God based in Cleveland, Tenn., both are planning solemn assemblies in June.

While the Bible reveals a nation can reach a point where God will not grant requests for mercy, Willis said he does not believe the United States has reached that point. Although America is on a "collision course" with God's judgment, the prayer movements in the country indicate the Lord is still willing to bring revival, Willis said.

"People don't pray naturally," he said. "So anytime you see someone seeking God, you know he's at work."

"It's evident when God wants to do something: He gets people praying."

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Connie Umstead, News Assistant/Church Pages Coordinator

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Southeastern trustees elect Patterson as president

By Robert H. Dillard

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — In a widely-anticipated move, trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary elected Dallas educator Paige Patterson as the school's fifth president during a special called meeting May 14 here.

The 24-1 secret ballot vote followed an hour-and-a-half discussion between Patterson and trustees, whose sometimes pointed questions probed his role in the Southern Baptist Convention's "conservative" movement; his relationship with trustees of Criswell College in Dallas, where he has served the last 17 years as president; and the approach he will take with seminary professors uneasy with Southeastern's increasingly "conservative" tack.

Although spectators and the press were permitted to attend the discussion, voting took place in executive session. Board chairman Roger Ellsworth said an attempt after the election to make the vote unanimous failed by "three or four votes."

"Several people who voted for Dr. Patterson voted against making it unanimous," he said.

Patterson will join the seminary's administrative staff June 15, giving him a two-week period of overlap with

Drummond, who retires June 30 after four years as president. Inauguration ceremonies are expected in the fall.

In addition to his responsibilities as president, Patterson will serve as a tenured faculty member.

Trustees approved an annual salary package of about \$70,000, said Paul Fletcher, vice president for internal affairs. Patterson also will receive an additional \$21,000 in annual insurance and annuity benefits, an automobile, and use of the president's house on campus, Fletcher said.

The new president will face daunting challenges in his role, including potential loss of accreditation, declining student enrollment, loss of faculty, and decreased financial revenues.

Satisfying accreditation concerns will be "agenda No. 1," said Patterson, assuring trustees the agencies' stipulations could be met. "They have not asked us to do anything unreasonable. They are reasonable requests. They can be achieved."

While he has "some sympathy" with a growing movement among Southern Baptists to "dump accrediting agencies," he dismissed the possibility of severing ties with ATS and SACS. "In the kind of world we live in you can't proceed effectively without accrediting agencies," he said.

Patterson said he is optimistic the newly raised "conservative" banner at Southeastern will attract a growing number of students — perhaps as early as this fall — to offset the past four years' losses.

Increased enrollment will be crucial to Southeastern's financial stability as well, since contributions from Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program unified budget to the denomination's six seminaries are based on a formula directly related to enrollment.

A freeze placed on the formula two years ago to shelter Southeastern from the impact of declining enrollment is expected to be lifted later next year.

Patterson's clout with "conservative" leaders who now hold the denomination's reins could serve him well in lobbying for pieces of the Cooperative Program pie. "I don't want to take advantage of any influence to exploit but I'd be disappointed if whatever influence I had would not let me tell the Southeastern story," he said.

Beefing up the school's battery of professors — which will number only 12 by December — also requires attention, Patterson said, and an unknown number from Criswell College are expected to follow him to North Carolina.

Those promises apparently did not satisfy Jerry Holcomb of Virginia Beach, Va., the single trustee to oppose Patterson's election.

"My only concern is that he gave no assurances he would not be active in the political life of the convention," said Holcomb, pastor of King's Grant Church in Virginia Beach and current president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

But trustee Adrian Rogers, Memphis, said Southern Baptists have nothing to fear from Patterson. "I appreciate and love this man," said Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church and a former SBC president. "If people are afraid of Paige Patterson they are afraid of scholarship, compassion, love, and courage. . . . He will help nudge this school to a higher orbit."

"Moderate" professors who joined the faculty prior to the 1987 changes and now find themselves out of step with the school's new direction may find some comfort in Rogers' words. Patterson promised to treat those professors with "dignity, compassion, and concern. I want to respond to them in a Christ-like way. I'll ask them to support the general direction of the institution and give me an opportunity to prove I love and respect them."

Poll shows Masonry's roots run deep in SBC

By Art Toalston and David Winfrey
NASHVILLE (BP) — How deep are Masonry's roots in the Southern Baptist Convention?

According to a poll by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, 14 percent of Southern Baptist pastors are or have been Masonic lodge members, along with 13 percent of directors of missions of Baptist associations, and 18 percent of church deacon chairmen.

Baptist VIEWpoll is conducted four times a year by the BSSB's corporate planning and research department on various SBC topics and trends. Four questions about Freemasonry were included in the poll's November poll. The questions were asked at the request of the Home Mission Board, which was reviewing a motion from the 1991 SBC to launch a study of Freemasonry.

VIEWpoll's survey involves 1400 pastors, ministers of education, directors of missions, deacon chairmen, and church clerks.

In addition to lodge membership, VIEWpoll asked:

"In your opinion, how important is it for the SBC to have an official statement on Freemasonry?"

Among pastors: 37 percent, very important, important, or somewhat important; 45 percent, not very important at all; 18 percent, no opinion, or no answer.

Directors of missions: 26 percent, very important, important, or somewhat important; 61 percent, not very important; 13 percent, no opinion, or no answer.

Deacon chairmen: 34 percent, very important, important, or somewhat important; 34 percent, not very important; 32 percent, no opinion, or no answer.

"How much conflict do you feel exists between the tenets of Freemasonry and Christian doctrine and practice?"

Pastors: 27 percent, major conflict; 22 percent, minor conflict; 18 percent, no conflict; 33 percent, don't know, or no answer.

Directors of missions: 16 percent, major conflict; 35 percent, minor con-

flict; 21 percent, no conflict; 28 percent, don't know, or no answer.

Deacon chairmen: 21 percent, major conflict; 12 percent, minor conflict; 20 percent, no conflict; 47 percent, don't know, or no answer.

"Has the issue of Freemasonry ever caused a problem in your church/association?"

Five percent of pastors said it has been a "major issue," along with one percent of directors of missions and three percent of deacon chairmen.

Responding they have never dealt with the issue were 71 percent of pastors, 86 percent of directors of missions, and 86 percent of deacon chairmen. Among other responses to the question, ten percent of pastors said their churches had discussed Freemasonry but taken no position on it.

Less-scientific assessments of Masonry in Southern Baptist life abound.

"There are legitimate concerns regarding Freemasonry by a sizeable number of our constituents," said Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"There's a large percentage of our people who still need to examine this topic," said John Ankerberg, a member of Brainerd Church, Chattanooga, the past ten years, and host of a weekly Christian issues TV talk show aired on independent stations and cable systems in all 50 states. Ankerberg and a co-worker, John Weldon, have written a 333-page book on *The Secret Teachings of the Masonic Lodge: A Christian Perspective*, published by Moody Press.

Said Walter Brookshire, 69-year-old retired Southern Baptist pastor and 32nd degree Mason from Madisonville, "There's no way to get Masons out of the churches. Many of the pastors are Masons, and deacons are Masons, and Sunday School teachers are Masons."

James "Larry" Holly, a Southern Baptist physician and Bible conference leader, from Beaumont, Texas, who is seeking an SBC study of Freemasonry,

said, "If Southern Baptist pastors and deacons withdrew their moral and financial support from the lodge, it would collapse overnight." Holly, a former trustee of the Sunday School Board, has mailed to some 5000 Southern Baptists a call for a stand on Freemasonry.

Ever since Home Mission Board directors in March referred a SBC motion to study Freemasonry back to the June convention in Indianapolis, letters to the editor on the subject have streamed into Tennessee's Baptist paper, for example. In a rare step for an editor, the *Baptist and Reflector's* Fletcher Allen wrote in the May 13 edition that no further letters on Freemasonry will be printed, stating, "We believe all views have been expressed adequately."

Masonry-related letters have far outnumbered those about the retirement of longtime Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks over missions conflicts with FMB trustees, noted Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor of the paper.

The HMB action also prompted two nationally known evangelicals to write letters of concern to Lewis.

Peter Wagner, professor of church growth at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., and author of a new book on *Warfare Prayer*, wrote, "I do not pretend any expertise in Masonry per se, but I have been researching spiritual warfare and have become aware that Freemasonry is much more than a fraternal or civic organization . . ."

Stephen Olford, Memphis-based Bible teacher and authority on spiritual awakening, told Lewis, "I consider this (Freemasonry) movement to be one of Satan's most subtle forms of intrusion into the life of the church. . . . Masonry is unBiblical, attacks the person, and work of Christ, and is a satanic deterrent in keeping able men from being and doing what they should in the life of the church."

CLC trustee tenders resignation

NASHVILLE (BP) — A Christian Life Commission member telephoned his resignation to the Southern Baptist agency May 11 after concerns about his corporation's application for a liquor license were raised in an anonymous letter to the convention's Executive Committee.

The CLC commissioner, J. T. Williams, told Baptist Press, however, he was resigning because he has become a Democratic candidate for Georgia's state senate and wants to avoid any conflict of interest between his candidacy and his role on the CLC.

Williams acknowledged that Killearn Properties, which he leads as chief executive officer, serves alcoholic beverages at a golf course clubhouse it operates in Tallahassee, Fla., but said it is not "bar-and-saloon operation" but a "family country club."

The anonymous letter to the SBC Executive Committee included an article from an Atlanta-area newspaper quoting Williams as saying, "We probably will ask for a mixed drink license," for a golf course clubhouse at Stockbridge, Ga., near Atlanta.

Killearn is a developer of "golf course communities," Williams said, noting its Atlanta-area subdivision, Eagle's Landing, encompasses some 3000 acres.

"I would never want to embarrass the (Southern Baptist) Convention or the Christian Life Commission," Williams told Baptist Press. He said he is a lifelong Southern Baptist, a member of Celebration Church in Tallahassee and seeks through his business to share a witness for Christ to members of Killearn's country clubs.

Our Readers Write

Jesus is different

I am responding to a letter written in the April 22 edition of the *Baptist and Reflector*. The letter titled "More regret" prompted thoughts of how we determine success in Christianity. Should we determine correct doctrine or theology based solely on how many people are baptized, or how large one church can get?

I strongly disagree, and would propose we use Jesus as our example. Jesus showed people his Father by loving and caring for their needs. Jesus did not come to crush his opponents as his many followers had hoped on Palm Sunday. Rather, He came to the meek and powerless and told them they would inherit the earth. We must remember Jesus died basically alone, with no large crowds following him. To the "conservative" Jew of his day Jesus was disruptive. So much so, that they crucified him.

If Jesus walked among us today, I believe He too would be disruptive. He did not align himself with the power structures of his day and I cannot believe He would today either. Jesus was also a "liberal" for his day. When we look at the results Jesus had, only a few followed while most rejected him and He was God.

Dennis Perger
6465 Clover Lane
Talbot 37877

'I have AIDS'

"Mom, Dad, I have something very serious to tell you. I have AIDS! I am 'gay'." So began a new journey for our

family. Our son opened to us, his parents, a room in his life we had not entered before.

Many of our friends across our state know our burden and are holding us up before our Savior. We want all our Christian brothers and sisters to know, because we can only "bear one another's burdens when we know."

Thank you for allowing us to share this experience with you, our dear friends.

Matt and Frances Nevels, and Stephen
3809 Sliger Circle
Chattanooga 37415

GUIDELINES: Opinions of Tennessee Baptists on pertinent subjects are welcomed. Letters should be concise, no more than 250 words. Writer's name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Only one letter from the same writer will be considered for publication per quarter. Letters must not make personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone. Form letters and "open" letters will not be published. Writers should send original copy. Writers are encouraged to write in a positive, Christian manner. Address and phone number must be included. Letters not conforming to these guidelines will be returned.

God's view

As a Bible-honoring Christian I have been outraged, infuriated, incensed, and insulted as a Southern Baptist at what has taken place in North Carolina at

Pullen Memorial Church (marriage of homosexual males) and at Olin Binkley Memorial (choosing to license a homosexual to the ministry), not to mention defiling the name of Olin T. Binkley by allowing such an atrocity to take place in a building named after him.

We can't hide behind priesthood of the believer and autonomy to put forth a low view of Scripture in these cases. It is very hard to misinterpret God's view of sodomy. I speak of God's interpretation, not sodomites in the Metropolitan Church (the sodomite denomination).

Both Pullen and Binkley are participants in the Alliance. The SBC has promised to take action. We must honor the Alliance's goal to interpret Scripture differently from the fundamentalist. Many are waiting to see how the Alliance views sodomy, and what measures it will take against these churches. If no action is taken, are we to assume the Alliance is a haven to harbor and express any view of Scripture, accept any form of immorality?

Sodomy is not a gray area. It is open sin which shames our God.

Alan Buckles, pastor
Springdale Missionary Church
1616 Haga Road
Kingsport 37660

A growing church

Through the years as a Baptist Christian, I have seen my share of dwindling congregations. Through observations I have formulated "Ten Commandments for a Growing Church."

Thou shalt not think thou owns people

just because they visit one service; tell them "look how much money we give" or how "good" everyone is.

Thou shalt not look down thy nose at people who don't dress well, for we all are aware when our clothes are not the latest styles.

Thou shalt not act like the newcomers are God because they throw around beautiful phrases. People are talented to speak though they are not Christians.

Thou shalt not pressure people into sitting in one certain place as long as you can get them to church and not disturb the worship service; just let them sit.

Thou shalt not gossip around the church, even little people understand gossip.

Thou shalt not "nit pick" a good pastor. If his faults are as small as a flea's egg, don't pick him to pieces looking for more. God's vessel, the pastor, is made of flesh, blood, bone, and nerve... just like you!

Thou shalt not go after members that have laid out — like the old fashioned public school truant officer did.

Thou shalt not comment on one's financial status when you visit. Be interested in getting people on their way to Heaven.

Thou shalt not comment or flout just for the sake of getting in on the act when unpleasant situations arise. The least said is the least to mend.

Thou shalt not pressure people into taking a job, for if one's heart is not in it, the church will never grow.

Maude Lindsey
736 Mutton Hollow Road
New Market 37820

Baptists inactive while AIDS grows, officials say

By David Winfrey

ATLANTA (BP) — Despite the continuous growth of AIDS, many Southern Baptists remain ignorant about its impact on their community and opportunities for ministry, say Baptists involved in AIDS education.

"Most Southern Baptist churches are just at the threshold of realizing this is an issue that is not going to go away," said Fred Loper, a medical missionary with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

More than 211,000 Americans have tested positive for AIDS or the HIV virus since the disease was identified in 1981, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Each month, 4,000 new cases are reported to the CDC.

"The crisis is already on us and we don't recognize it," said Darrell Ellsworth.

Child care still available at SBC

INDIANAPOLIS — Pre-registration for child care during the June 9-11 Southern Baptist Convention remains open, according to the coordinator, Shirley Bearce.

But, she cautioned, "If parents have not pre-registered their children and received their confirmation before arriving at the SBC in Indianapolis, preschool child care space may not be available" when the service opens June 9.

Child care is being offered for bed babies through kindergarten, to a capacity of 75 children, Bearce said. It will be available only during the six scheduled sessions of the SBC June 9-11, not during mealtimes, she said.

Parents needing child care should mail a pre-registration request immediately to Bearce at 164 Congress Court, Mooresville, Ind. 46158. — BP

worth, pastor of Jewell Church in St. Louis. "I dare say you run into people every day coming and going who are infected with AIDS and you don't know it."

Meanwhile, about one percent of Southern Baptist churches are involved in a ministry to people with AIDS, according to a 1991 HMB survey.

By comparison, 17 percent of churches polled are involved in prison or jail ministries and six percent are involved in programs for alcoholics.

"By and large, churches are not doing much on the AIDS issue," said Joe Haag, associate director for the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"AIDS is such a formidable and scary disease," he said. "When you minister to prisoners, you don't fear — even if it's an irrational fear — that you're exposing yourself to anything."

Loper said many Baptists still link the disease solely to gay men and intravenous drug users. "That perception is changing but I believe it's changing very slowly."

AIDS transmission grew among homosexuals and intravenous drug users during the past year but it decreased as a percentage of the total population who contracted the disease, according to the CDC.

Some people avoid action because they don't want to "interfere" in what they believe is God's punishment for a wicked lifestyle, said Ellsworth, who conducts lectures on AIDS in Missouri churches.

He scoffs at that idea, pointing to the more than 3,000 babies the CDC states were born HIV positive. "I don't see a righteous God punishing children." He added the church has a history of in-

voking God's judgment on issues it can't explain.

Ellsworth and others contend many churches will never address AIDS in their communities unless someone in their congregations contracts the disease.

"It's going to have to hit them personally," he said. "Until it affects people in the local congregation, nobody's going to buy into it."

Such reactions keep some Southern Baptists with AIDS from telling their church they have the disease because they fear expulsion, Ellsworth claimed. He said he knows several people in that situation.

Loper, who teaches pastors about AIDS and ministry opportunities, said the number of pastors who know of AIDS patients in their communities has increased dramatically.

Only one in ten pastors said they knew a person with AIDS two or three years ago, he said. "Now, most places

Information available on AIDS, ministry

ATLANTA (BP) — Baptists interested in more information about AIDS or about ministry opportunities to people with AIDS may contact the following:

- The Centers for Disease Control National AIDS Hotline, 1-800-342-2437.
- The Home Mission Board has published a pamphlet by medical missionary Fred Loper titled "Beginning a Ministry with People with AIDS." To order, call 1-800-634-2462 and ask for pamphlet 632-76F.
- The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has published five pamphlets on AIDS: "AIDS: A Deadly Disease," "AIDS: Biblical Insights," "People with AIDS," "Ministry to People with AIDS" and "Critical Issues:

I go, it's nine out of ten," he said. "It does not seem to make a difference whether I am in a rural area or an urban area."

Pastors often keep such information from their congregations because of promises of confidentiality to the patient's family, he said.

Ellsworth said it won't be long before many churches will have to face the disease. He projects that by 1994 more than 136 million Americans will be touched by AIDS because they will have the disease or know someone with it.

Francis Dubose, a senior professor of missions at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in California, said he thinks the disease will soon spread even faster among heterosexuals because of teen-age promiscuity.

"We're going to be faced with a real challenge in the very near future," he said. "We're just about there now."

AIDS." Contact the CLC at (615) 244-2495 or write 901 Commerce St., Suite 550, Nashville, Tenn. 37202 or FAX (615) 242-0065.

• The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has produced two books on AIDS: *AIDS: A Christian's Response* and *AIDS: A Christian Student's Response*. The books are available at Baptist Book Stores or by calling the Sunday School Board at 1-800-458-2772.

• The Baptist General Convention of Texas Christian Life Commission has published an information packet about AIDS, including Biblical perspectives on the disease. Contact (214) 828-5197 or write 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Tx. 75246-1798.

Committee develops profile for next FMB president

By Robert O'Brien

DALLAS (BP) — A Foreign Mission Board search committee has developed a profile for a successor to President R. Keith Parks and invited Southern Baptists to send comments and recommendations to the committee chairman.

Parks will retire Oct. 30 after a 38-year career in foreign missions, including nearly 13 years as president. He has cited philosophical differences with board trustees in his retirement decision.

The 15-member trustee committee, chaired by Joel Gregory, pastor of First Church, Dallas, met May 7-8 in Dallas to draft the profile. It will meet again June 10 during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis and June 22 during a trustee meeting in El Paso, Texas.

The search committee set no target date for naming a successor to Parks. But John Jackson, trustee chairman from Fairfield, Calif., told Baptist Press the committee may have a better idea of timing after its June 22 meeting. Jackson, an ex officio member of the committee, participated in the May 7-8 meeting. Efforts to reach Gregory for comment May 11 were unsuccessful.

In a May 8 memo to FMB trustees, staff and missionaries, the search com-

mittee requested input, said it spent much time in prayer and noted it had "no preconceived candidates or inclination toward any individual. We are committed to a spiritual quest that will result in God's person being chosen to lead the Foreign Mission Board."

Asked about rumors trustees have predetermined their selection, or at least narrowed it down to a few names, Jackson said: "Our only agenda was and is to find the will of God. One committee member indicated he had come with a name in mind but said our time of praying together brought him to the point of wanting to avoid considering names or going in with a prejudiced mind."

The memo said the committee reviewed a profile developed in 1978 by the search committee seeking a successor to the board's former chief executive, Baker James Cauthen, whom Parks succeeded on Jan. 1, 1980.

While it contains some changes, the new profile parallels the 1978 document closely — including a statement the new president should have an "unquestioned commitment to foreign missions (and) ... a broad knowledge and understanding of missions ... preferably including missionary service."

Names circulated as possible suc-

cessors to Parks have included several leaders with no missionary experience. Many, including Parks, have said missionary experience is essential for the board's president to understand the complex context and needs of missions today.

The search committee released what it called a final draft of the profile but Jackson said it was still open to change "if someone points out a valid omission."

The profile included a range of 17 spiritual and leadership qualities desirable for a new president and four church and denominational qualifications.

The church and denominational qualifications call for someone who (1) "manifests knowledge of and consistent loyalty to our distinctive doctrines, polity, and ways of cooperation as Southern Baptists;" (2) is "committed to the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering as the historic and primary sources of funding for Southern Baptist foreign missions work;" (3) "possesses the ability to initiate and sustain good working relations with the recognized agencies, boards, commissions, and committees of the Southern Baptist Convention as well as appreciation for the historic relationship with the

Woman's Missionary Union;" and (4) "understands and is committed to the seven adopted principles which govern the mission philosophy of the Foreign Mission Board."

The seven principles, enunciated by Parks and affirmed by the trustees, are: (1) a Biblical basis for all we do; (2) a primary purpose of evangelism that results in churches; (3) an incarnational approach to foreign missions, emphasizing the career missionary; (4) a conviction that every Southern Baptist is a witness and can be involved in foreign missions by giving, going, and praying; (5) a commitment to the indigenous principle, which calls for churches established to be "natural" in their environment; (6) a comprehensive approach, not only focusing on a single issue or method, but also seeking to express the total scope of ministry; and (7) a responsibility for communicating foreign missions opportunities, challenges, and results to Southern Baptists regarding their efforts in foreign missions."

The committee asked interested Southern Baptists to send comments, recommendations, and biographical data of potential candidates to Joel Gregory, chairman, FMB Presidential Search Committee, 1707 San Jacinto, Dallas, 75201, or send them via fax to (214) 969-7757.

S.C. Baptist Convention severs ties with Furman

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP) — Messengers to a special South Carolina Baptist Convention voted May 15 to dissolve legal and financial ties with the convention's oldest institution, Furman University.

The vote came after 19 months of controversy and debate. Furman University trustees first voted to amend their charter and give their board sole authority to elect trustees in October 1990.

The second largest number of messengers in the convention's history, 4873, met in the Cantey and Ellis buildings at the state fairgrounds in Columbia. Hal Lane, pastor of West Side Church in Greenwood who opposed Furman's release, said the vote "will set a precedent for the loss of other Baptist institutions. God has not called us to retreat in the face of intimidation and controversy."

Robert Shrum, president of the general board and pastor of Oakland Church in Rock Hill, called on messengers to end the controversy. "It is time for a different and new relationship to be formed between Furman and South Carolina Baptist Convention. It is time for Furman to chart its own course."

Prior to the Furman vote,

Executive Board sets new guidelines . . .

— Continued from page 1
auditor. Board members were assured the move was needed solely for having an auditor experienced in health care system audits, not for moving away from convention affiliation.

- Elected Dan Ferrell of the TBC Program Services Department as interim TBC registration secretary, filling the position vacated when Pat Porter moved to Florida.

- Changed the 1993 convention site from the Nashville Convention Center to Two Rivers Church; and

- Approved the following Tennessee

messengers voted to rescind the November 1991 recommendation to seek legal action against the college. The motion to rescind was approved overwhelmingly. Shrum asked messengers to approve the motion because of a drop in the Baptist funding system, the Cooperative Program. "Let us elect to protect the lifeline of our other ministries and let this go," Shrum said.

A motion to place \$1.56 million representing escrowed 1991 Cooperative Program funds into an irrevocable trust account for Furman University scholarships, was replaced by a substitute motion presented by Stephen D. Corts, pastor of Citadel Square Church in Charleston. Corts' substitute motion placed 1991 funds in an irrevocable trust fund reserved for

students going into church-related vocations at South Carolina Baptist Convention institutions and all six Southern Baptist seminaries, excluding Furman University. A show of hands was inconclusive and a ballot vote was taken. The vote outcome was 2179 in favor, 2088 against.

In other votes, messengers approved \$30,000 to fund a full-time campus minister at Furman University beginning in the fall of 1992 to continue to develop the Baptist Student Union program on the campus.

Messengers also approved a motion to allocate \$25,000 to the South Carolina Baptist Historical Collection housed at Furman for use in recording and preserving the history of South Carolina Baptist churches.

The balance of funds, about \$450,000,

was allocated for scholarships for South Carolina Baptist students attending the three remaining state Baptist colleges: Anderson College, North Greenville College, and Charleston Southern University for the 1992-93 school year. The funds would be allocated by the general board's campus ministry scholarship committee.

Remaining 1992 funds budgeted for Furman after the special session of the convention are to be divided equally among Anderson College, North Greenville College, and Charleston Southern University, the three remaining convention institutions of higher education. If the 1992 budget is fully funded, funds would amount to \$1.1 million. An amendment to include Furman in this allocation of funds was introduced but failed.

North Korean seeks religious asylum — in Russia

SEOUL, South Korea (BP) — A North Korean student seeking asylum in Russia to obtain religious freedom is being sheltered in the Moscow apartment of South Korean pastor Lee Chul Soo.

Officials in communist North Korea reportedly ordered 31-year-old Kim Myung Seh, a doctoral student at

Moscow University, to return home. Instead, Kim sought help from Lee, pastor of Han In Church in Moscow where Kim attends worship services.

A member of the ruling North Korean Workers' Party, Kim claims he has become a believer in Christianity. Since February he has served as Lee's Russian teacher and interpreter.

Shortly after Kim sought refuge at Lee's ninth-floor apartment in Moscow's Kacorinsky district, about 20 officials from the North Korean Embassy arrived. They requested Kim to accompany them. When he refused, they threatened to break in and forcibly apprehend the North Korean expatriate.

Kim contacted South Korea's embassy for help. South Korean officials then asked the Russian government to intervene. Russia's foreign minister sent a representative who dispatched two policemen to guard Lee's apartment.

Kim sent a petition for political

asylum directly to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Until government officials make a decision, Russian guards reportedly have instructions to keep Kim in — and the North Koreans out of — the apartment.

The foreign ministry of South Korea has asked the Russian government to consider Kim's request on humanitarian grounds and not turn him over to North Korean authorities.

South Korea's "government has asked and will keep asking Russia not to return Kim Myung Seh to North Korea and to protect South Korean pastor Lee Chul Soo, who is protecting Kim in his apartment," a foreign ministry official told the *Korea Times*.

The North Korean's attempted defection also has been covered in Russia's "Dateline News" television reports.

North Korean officials contend Kim stole valuables from their embassy a year ago. They want Russia to extradite Kim to North Korea for indictment on those charges.

May 8

Seven Tennesseans receive SWBTS degrees

FORT WORTH, Texas — The complexities of life require a strategic plan, the president of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, told graduates at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's spring commencement May 8.

Lanny Hall said changes in the past three decades have produced the complexity of the modern world. But he said change will always be with us. The question is "How will we cope with change?"

Southwestern President Russell H. Dilday awarded degrees to 378 graduates during the ceremony. The class included seven from Tennessee.

"What ministry endeavors will occupy your energies?" Hall said.

He said corporations, as well as



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denominations, are identifying megatrends to help plan for the future. For Christians, three megatrends should be at work in their lives, he said.

First, Christians should have a heightened awareness of their dependence on God.

"Life is tough," Hall said. "We're pulled in every direction. A lot of us are confused, stressed-out, perplexed."

Hall said Christian's should make their second megatrend an increased sensitivity to those in need. The poor,

the homeless, the victims of AIDS should be reached as Christians remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:40, he said.

The third megatrend should be an enhanced sense of personal responsibility in fulfilling God's will, he said.

Hall said that despite the increases in technology and the proliferation of machines, "human beings will continue to serve as the principal instruments in God's strategic plan."

"We must remember that men and

women must carry a personal message about a personal savior," he said.

Tennessee graduates are: Thomas Martin Blakely, Knoxville, Robert Terry Brown, Lenoir City, Douglas Campbell, Morristown, Frank James Stillwell, Knoxville, and Lincoln Scott Taylor, Nashville, master of arts in religious education;

Everett Wayne Ingram, Chattanooga, master of divinity with Biblical languages; and Shaun Shoukri Shorrosh, Cleveland, master of divinity.

Tennessean leads HMB affirmation of ethnic groups

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP) — In response to charges that the Southern Baptist Convention is not inclusive of racial groups, Home Mission Board trustees adopted a resolution expressing admiration for ethnic and black congregations.

The resolution, approved during the trustees' May executive committee meeting, also called for the denomination to include non-Anglos in leadership roles.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, meeting earlier in May in Fort Worth, Texas, passed a resolution to reject the "racism which has persisted throughout our history as Southern Baptists, even to this present day."

"Their resolution created questions I had to answer as chairman of this board," said Ron Phillips, pastor of

Tennesseans to Chile

Six Tennesseans will leave May 29 to work in volunteer missions at the Baptist Academy in Temuco, Chile.

Volunteers are Sarah F. Bedenbaugh, Antioch; Marty G. Bell and Twyla K. Fagan, First Church, College Grove; Charles N. Holloway Jr., Wrigley Church, Lyles; Charles L. McGee, Harpeth Heights Church, Nashville; and Kathy C. Sharp, Grandview Church, Nashville.

The team will return June 9.

Central Church, Hixson, and chairman of the HMB directors.

Phillips admitted, "We're not where we need to be but we're not where we were." He noted the SBC is the most ethnically diverse denomination in the United States other than the Catholic Church.

Phillips asked Oscar Romo, HMB director of language church extension, and Willie McPherson, HMB director of black church extension, to report on their work.

Romo noted the Southern Baptist Convention includes more than 6000 ethnic churches which use 100 languages and serve 102 ethnic groups. He noted all American Indians are classified as one group so the figures do not reflect the variety of American Indian congregations.

Last year, 466 language churches were started, Romo said. He also reported the Southern Baptist Convention is the largest Spanish-speaking evangelical religious group in the world.

McPherson reported it was 1951 before a black congregation petitioned its association to become part of the Southern Baptist Convention. He said the convention now has 1400 predominantly black churches with 400,000 members. Eighty predominantly black Southern Baptist churches are started yearly, McPherson said.

McPherson and Romo said blacks and people from various ethnic groups are represented on the staffs and boards of SBC agencies. McPherson noted, however, only California has a black person serving as the state convention's director of black church extension.

In response to the reports, board members approved a resolution to affirm ethnic and black churches and express "admiration for their spirit and numerical growth."

Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Church, Marietta, Ga., and author of the resolution, said the "spirit" he referred to in the resolution was the "spirituality, integrity, and aggressiveness" he noted in McPherson's and Romo's reports.

The resolution also called on board members to work toward greater involvement for blacks and ethnics in denominational leadership.

Earlier in the meeting, board members passed a resolution in response to a request from Hispanic Baptists. The resolution called for the

Southern Baptist Convention and its agencies to recognize the heritage and contribution of Hispanic Southern Baptists.

It was noted Southern Baptists have worked with Hispanics for 111 years and that Hispanics are the largest ethnic group in the convention.

That resolution also called for the denomination to "work toward greater participation of Hispanic Southern Baptists into the total life of the denomination."

In other business, board members elected Bob Sena, pastor of First Spanish Church of metro Atlanta, to the position of assistant director of the language church extension division. He will assist churches, associations, state conventions, and SBC agencies with ministries to Hispanics.

Sena, who is Hispanic, is a native of Roswell, N.M. He graduated from Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He has previously worked for the HMB as a regional missionary.

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

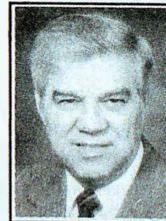
The Tennessee legislature has finally gone home. The sessions of this legislature has to be some of the more difficult in the history of our state. Time will tell how wisely they acted.

We can be grateful for one thing they did not do. They did not open the door of our state to the gambling interest. Those interested in seeing our state have the lottery worked hard, but they were unsuccessful. Those interested in the betting on horse racing also tried to make it easier to have this destructive industry in our state, but failed.

Your influence was felt in the legislature. Bill Bates was there on a

regular basis keeping the members aware of the moral concern of Tennessee Baptists. He has become an effective and trusted representative for us. Some of you responded to some special calls for help, and contacted your representatives. Some of them heard you, and your contact made a difference. Many of you prayed for the governor and the legislators, and God heard your prayers. We bless the name of the Father for answered prayers.

This legislative year is history, but we now turn our attention to the election process. We need to elect persons who will address our problems in a responsible, wise way. Tennessee still has a major financial need to address. Our state cannot fund all of its programs off of a sales tax. It is too high now. You need to know what answers your candidate has to these problems. The lottery should not be one of them.



LOWRIE

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership — May

Prayer requests have come for specific needs and undated requests in the Chile/Tennessee Partnership Mission.

21 — Today is Baptist Children's Home Day in Chile.

22 — Sara Huiscao Calfuqueo, an 11-year-old resident of the Children's Home in Temuco, and the houseparents who try to provide a Christian home environment.

23 — TBC leaders Bill Wilson and Jarvis Hearn who are in Chile.

24 — "Evangelistic Impact Emphasis" which is being observed at the University of Temuco this month.

25 — Missionary Diann Bailey and Argomede Church in Chile as they plan and work in the community.

26 — The Tennessee Acteen Activator Abroad teams who are currently in a 60-hour preparation program for mission service in Chile in July.

27 — Campro Verde, a mission in Arica which is in need of property.

Former Tennessean to be challenged for SBC position

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Bob Bender, pastor of First Church in Ada, Okla., will be nominated next month in Indianapolis to serve as registration secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention. He will vie for the position with current registration secretary Lee Porter who has held the job 15 years.

The SBC registration secretary oversees the credentials and tellers committees as well as the messenger registration process.

As a member of this year's credentials committee, Bender will serve with the man he is challenging in the election.

Bender will be nominated by O. S. Hawkins, a former Oklahoma pastor now serving as pastor of First Church, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

"As far as Lee personally is concerned, that's not an issue," Bender said. "I've been thinking about it for almost a year and have been talking with some of my friends and they've encouraged me to go ahead and O. S. said he'd be honored to nominate me."

Bender said he has "a desire to serve the convention and be used in whatever way the Lord chooses to use me, if indeed I'm elected."

"It's time for a change," Hawkins said, "and to elect someone who will work in cooperation with and support the duly-elected presidents of the SBC."

Porter, a former Sunday School Board staffer and pastor of Nashville's Bell Road Church now serving as assistant to the pastor at St. Andrew

Church, Panama City, Fla., said he has been opposed only twice in his 15 years as registration secretary. The first time he won by a 70 percent margin, while last year in Atlanta he won by 17 votes.

"I plan to be renominated for the position in Indianapolis," said Porter, 62, adding, "I have been elected by the messengers and as long as the messengers want me to serve, I will continue to serve."

"I feel I have brought honesty and integrity to the registration and the election process. I have tried to keep political positions out of registration. We register people from any church as long as they come with proper credentials. We've asked the credentials committee year after year to never make a decision on the basis of a political decision."

"We try to treat everybody exactly the same and when it comes to balloting we simply ask they ballot accord-

ing to the constitution and bylaws," he added. "There has never been any question about the fairness and honesty of any ballot vote."

Bender said he was appointed by then-SBC president Charles Stanley to serve on the tellers' committee. "I worked with Lee then," Bender said. "Lee did a great job and trained us (the committees) well."

In May 1991 Porter took early retirement from the BSSB after he was told he could not be nominated for further service as a SBC officer and continue as a BSSB employee.

After the 1990 SBC in New Orleans BSSB officials told Porter it would be "unwise" for him to serve as registration secretary again. Porter charged the board leadership was making a "radical change in policy" in not allowing him to be renominated for the SBC post since five other SBC employees had served a total of 85 years as convention officers.

Volunteers needed in Indianapolis

ATLANTA (BP) — Volunteers are still needed for Crossover Indianapolis, said Bill Cox, volunteer and local coordinator of the evangelistic project.

"We don't have many people who have signed commitment cards to be there, but as I travel across the states, I hear people say, 'We're coming.'" Cox said.

People need to register so they can be assigned to activities where they are needed, Cox said.

Bobby Sunderland of the Home Mission Board's evangelism section said about 2000 people have volunteered but the majority of the registered participants are from Indiana.

Crossover Indianapolis is the evangelistic thrust preceding the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June. One of this year's activities is street evangelism June 2-5 which will involve about 250 volunteers. Other events include door-to-door witnessing and four block parties Saturday, June 6, a church-starting campaign, and 200 simultaneous revivals in area churches.

Activities will culminate with a rally June 6 where J. Harold Smith will preach. Smith is famous for his sermon titled "God's Three Deadlines."

To register, call the Crossover Indianapolis office at (317) 636-7121.



DAILY SEARCH — Philippine Baptist pastor Tony Senora stands amid children and others searching for food on Smoky Mountain, their home and Manila's largest dump. The Senora family does the same. Senora is pastor of Co-Worker Baptist Church. The Senoras sacrifice to serve God here: their food is rancid, the water is polluted, the air is not fit to breathe. But they believe God brought them to Smoky Mountain to work and will continue to adapt to their surroundings. Though Tennessee Baptists' partnership with the Philippines ended in March, Tennesseans are encouraged to pray for Filipino Baptists and their ministries. — Photo by Joanna Pinneo

In Philippines

Clarksville evangelist returns from crusade

CLARKSVILLE — The James Shepherd Evangelistic Association of Clarksville recently returned from a Bible conference and crusade endeavor in the Philippines.

The conference was hosted by the Philippine Ministerial Association of Southern Mindanao. James Shepherd, pastor of Woodlawn Church in Montgomery County and president of the evangelistic association, has conducted

Tennessee pastor dies after accident

Central Association Pastor Thomas Britton died May 16 in a Nashville hospital following a construction injury in McMinnville.

Britton was pastor of Providence Church, near McMinnville.

He has served as pastor of churches in Salem and Wilson County associations, reported Thurman Seber of Salem Association.

Britton used his carpentry skills on many occasions and was instrumental in the construction of Salem Association's office building two years ago.

"Tom was well thought of in this area," Seber said.

The Alabama native is survived by his wife, Joan, and five grown children.

several meetings in the Philippines since his first visit to the country in 1987.

Shepherd led an area-wide Bible conference for more than 350 Filipino pastors and lay leaders. Bible teachers who accompanied Shepherd were retired Army chaplain Charles Currie, vice president of the evangelistic association; John Mark Thomas, pastor, First Church, St. Bethlehem; and Larry Combs, pastor, Calvary Church, Hopkinsville, Ky.

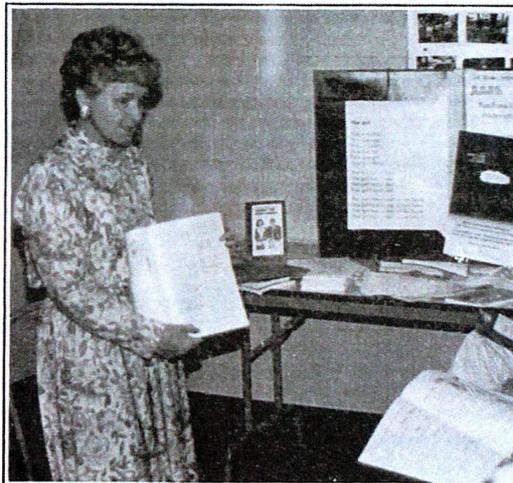
Upon completion of the Bible conference, each participant received a certification of completion from the James Shepherd Evangelistic Association and a study Bible.

During the evenings the ministry team conducted area-wide crusades throughout the region. The crusades were organized and orchestrated by the Philippine steering committee.

The programs included Filipino musicians and testimonies, followed by a message from Shepherd, Combs, Currie, or Thomas.

An estimated 300 people made professions of faith in Christ during the crusades.

The evangelism association hopes to return to the Philippines in 1993 to continue ministry in that country.



TRAINING TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

Following a spiritual motivation related to the state's heritage as "The Volunteer State," about 50 gathered for the Volunteer Conference May 9 at Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville, to learn about missions opportunities from leaders such as, below, Eric Spivey, chaplain, Dollywood, Pigeon Forge, and his wife, Marsha; and, left, Sarah Davis, director of Woodcock Baptist Center, Nashville.



Miller, Hamilton to lead state BSU Council

Robert Miller and Nancy Hamilton were elected president and vice president, respectively, of the 1992-93 State BSU Council during the State Spring Conference held recently at Immanuel Church in Lebanon.

Miller, a junior at Middle Tennessee State University majoring in aerospace, is an active member of the local BSU participating in the creative ministries team, Common Bond ensemble, and Bible study council. He has served in resort missions as a Home Mission Board summer missionary in California.

A junior at Tennessee Tech University, Nancy Hamilton is no stranger to BSU work. She served as middle region representative on the 1991-92 State BSU Council and currently serves as the local BSU student mis-

sions chairman. Her involvement in BSU includes choir, intermurals, and Bible study. She is majoring in early childhood education.

State Council members representing the East region are Chase Peebles, Carson-Newman College, representative; Robin Wilcox, East Tennessee State University, member-at-large; and Eddy Dyer, Cleveland State Community College, (two-year college).

Representing the Middle region on the State Council are Todd Bishop, Tennessee Tech, representative; Regina Barrett, Vanderbilt University, member-at-large; and Rosetta Howard, Volunteer State Community College, member (two-year college).

West region State Council members are Dana Chamblee, Rhodes College, representative; and Kimberly Darby, Dyersburg State Community College, member (two-year college).

The new State Council met in Brentwood April 10-11, for orientation and planning for the 1992-93 year.



STATE BSU COUNCIL — Members of the 1992-93 State BSU Council are, from left, back row, Dana Chamblee, Regina Barrett, Robin Wilcox, Kimberly Darby; middle row, Robert Miller, Nancy Hamilton, Rosetta Howard; front row, Eddy Dyer, Todd Bishop. The new council already has begun planning for the upcoming school year.

Belmont receives \$2 million bequest

NASHVILLE — Belmont University will receive more than \$2 million from the estate of Lucile Horn. Monies earned from the endowment gift will be used to provide scholarships to Belmont students with good moral character who display both academic ability and financial need.

As the last surviving member of the R. K. Horn family, she requested the scholarship fund be named for her father. The R. K. Horn Family Scholarship Fund for needy and deserving students represents the largest single gift to Belmont University outside the generosity of the Massey family. The Horn gift brings Belmont's total endowment to \$10.2 million.

Belmont is co-executor of the estate. Bequests were also made to Nashville's Grace Church and the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

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TenneScene

... from Santa Fe to Brush Creek,
and on to Powder Springs ...

People . . .

Faith Church, Atoka, recently licensed Jerry L. Boylan and Robert VanHorn to the Gospel ministry. Both men are in the United States Marine Corps.

Angela Locke, Middleton, was recently named recipient of the Clarice



Thomason Memorial Scholarship at University of Tennessee, Martin, Baptist Student Union. Locke, a senior with a major in interior design, serves as BSU campus ministry chairperson and focuses on creating awareness of Pro-Life and World Hunger issues on campus.

The Thomason scholarship, given to students based upon BSU activity, scholarship, and financial need, was established in memory of the first full-time BSU director at UT Martin. Thomason was killed in an auto accident while attending a student conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

Leadership . . .

Calvary Church, Jackson, recently called Danny McFarland as interim youth and activities minister.

R. Wayne Jones has joined the staff of First Church, Franklin, as associate executive pastor.

Phil Wilson, Houston, Texas, has been called as minister of students to Two Rivers Church, Nashville. Wilson,

a native of East Tennessee, holds a master's degree in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served at First Church, North Mobile, Ala., and Metropolitan Church, Houston.

The following Tennessee churches have recently called new pastors: Pine Grove, Mountain City, Carl Swift; Oak Grove, Washburn, David Acuff; North Johnson City, Johnson City, Kenneth Wayne Jamison; Upper Helton, Alexandria, Richard Loveday; Grace, Johnson City, Kenneth Gaskin; Coffee Ridge, Erwin, Jerry Keasling; Trinity, Lebanon, Mike Shrum; Smith Springs, Nashville, Glenn Chasteen; Hornbeak, Hornbeak, Bobby Barnett; Vine, Lebanon, Art Criscoe; Fishers Creek, Rogersville, Wayne Ferrell; Mount Tirzah, Newbern, Don Coleman; and Trimble, Trimble, Chris Campbell.

Ordinations . . .

Gills Chapel Church, Mooresburg, recently ordained Kenneth Brooks, Gregory Brooks, Ken Harrell, and Johnny Myers to the deacon ministry.

First Church, Baileyton, Greeneville, ordained Kenny Fillers, Bobby Grubbs, and Bud Tucker, as deacons.

Cave Springs Church, Rogersville, recently ordained Terry Hite to the deacon ministry and Wayne Ferrell to the Gospel ministry.

Stanley Blair was ordained as deacon April 26 at Miston Church, Bogota.

Range Hills Church, Memphis, ordained Dick Enterkin to the Gospel ministry April 26.

Associations . . .

At the recent bi-annual meeting of Holston Association, messengers voted in favor of a motion encouraging North Carolina Baptist entities to withdraw fellowship from member churches that have licensed a homosexual to the ministry and blessed the union of a homosexual couple.

In other action, messengers elected Jim Best, pastor of First Church, Greeneville, as moderator, and Wayne Addison, pastor of Beulah Church, Kingsport, as assistant moderator.

Churches . . .

Avery Willis Jr., was guest speaker at the 50th anniversary celebration of Hillcrest Church, Dyersburg. Willis is the son of the church's founding pastor, A. T. Willis.

A new educational/office building was recently completed at Persia Church, Rogersville.

A dedication service was held April 26 for the newly-renovated auditorium at Smyrna Church, Ocoee.

Homecoming will be May 31 at Lakewood Church, Nashville. Church members will celebrate 38 years of ministry. A fellowship luncheon will follow morning worship.

Members of First Church, Chattanooga, will celebrate the church's 140th anniversary May 31.

First Church, Flintville, will observe its 125th anniversary and homecoming May 24. Guest speaker for the morning worship service will be James Austin of Nashville, a former interim pastor. Pastor Eric Taylor will lead an afternoon service, following the noon meal.

Bear Creek Church, Parsons, will celebrate 150 years of heritage May 31. A dinner on the grounds and an afternoon anniversary service will follow the morning worship hour. Mike Moore is pastor.

Members of Mt. Harmony Church, Niota, will observe the church's 150th anniversary June 14. Following the morning worship service will be lunch and a time of fellowship. Stanley Hammonds is pastor.

Revivals . . .

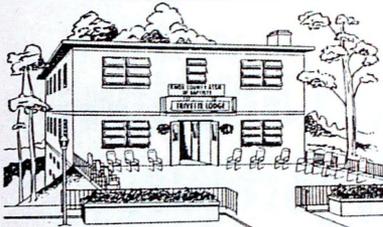
Tommy Lambert, pastor of Macedonia Church, Taylorsville, N.C., and Bill Browning, Memphis, led revival May 3-6 at Range Hills Church, Memphis.

A tent revival will be held May 25-29 at Bon Aqua Mission, Bon Aqua, with a different speaker each evening. Leaders will be Don McCoy, Glenn Hester, Jerry Reynolds, Joe Estes, and Pastor Tommy Clifton. Gary Cockrum will direct music.

Harold Hunter, Nashville, recently led revival at First Church, Bemis. There were 35 professions of faith and 200 other decisions recorded. Randy Wheeler is pastor.

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Student	Aug. 15-21	Fall Marriage	Oct. 16-18
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Language missions leaders gain insights at TBC conference

Nearly 100 leaders from across Tennessee participated in the annual Language Leadership Conference held May 1-2 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

Leaders of international friends ministries, conversational English, interpreters for the deaf, sponsors of language missions, and language pastors and their wives met together for two days of intense training in their respective areas of ministry, reported Terry Sharp, program associate in the Missions Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Language pastors had the opportunity to study how to grow a church through their pastoral ministry, how to grow a giving church, and how to help a church develop a planned strategy for missions along with a vision for the world.

Specialized conferences also were held for those who work in specific areas of language ministry.

SSB trustees elect commentary editors

NASHVILLE (BP) — By a vote of 68-1, trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board have elected a new general editor and two associate general editors for *The New American Commentary*.

Ray Clendenen, chairman of the Old Testament and Hebrew department at Criswell College in Dallas, will become general editor of the 40-volume commentary being published by Broadman Press of the Sunday School Board. Clendenen will succeed David Dockery, who has been elected dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Clendenen is expected to assume his new duties Aug. 1.

Dockery and Ken Mathews, associate professor of divinity at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala., will become associate general editors. Dockery will work with New Testament volumes and Mathews, Old Testament volumes. Mathews has been a consulting editor for the series.

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The weekend conference also featured a festival of praise with musical selections sung in different languages.

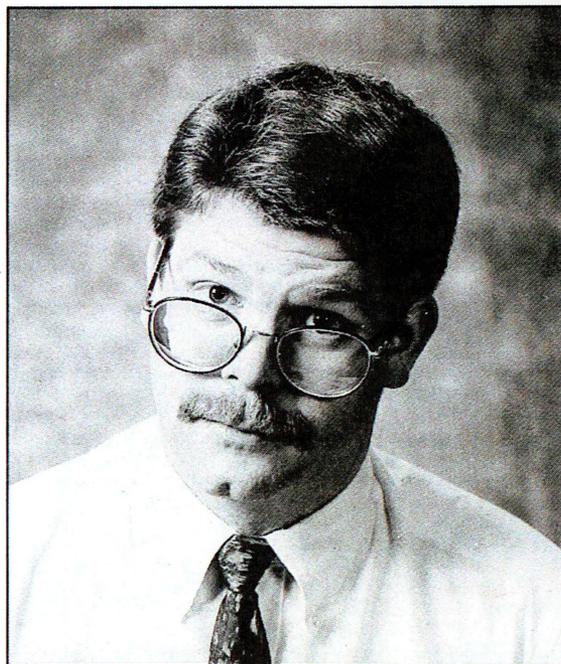
Sharp reported there were 13 language groups represented at the conference.

The 1990 census shows that 82 counties in Tennessee showed ethnic growth, thus a need to start more churches and Bible study units to reach ethnics with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, he said.

Sharp noted each of the groups have the same goal of reaching ethnics for Christ. "The conference enabled us to see how we all work together as a larger mission team and how we fit together in language mission work in Tennessee," Sharp said.



ETHNIC LEADERS — Terry Sharp, right, of the TBC's Missions Department, goes over material with S. B. Park, left, Korean Church, Memphis, and Hokil Kahng, Korean editor with the Baptist Sunday School Board, during the recent Language Leadership Conference held in Brentwood.



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Motivations for giving

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

Most churches would have sufficient funds if their members practiced grace giving. The admonition of Paul to the church in Corinth, "see that ye abound in this grace also," is the Lord's Word to His churches today.

Paul used "grace" to refer to the giving that was expected of the Corinthian church more often than any other word. The Jewish Christians in Jerusalem were suffering because of a lack of funds. Many Gentile churches were receiving offerings in their behalf. Paul was anxious for the church in Corinth to get in on the offering that was initiated by the efforts of Titus earlier. So he called for grace giving, a giving based upon the ability of God to provide the funds. Since God had already blessed them materially, Paul wanted their offering to be the working of God in their hearts. When God provides for us, His grace demands of us a great outpouring to meet the needs of His churches and of others. In this chapter Paul revealed to us what grace giving involves.

Emulating an example (vv. 1-9)

Paul used the giving of other churches to motivate the giving of the Corinthian church. The Macedonian churches included Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea (v. 1). Joyfully the Macedonian Christians gave out of their difficulties and poverty. They gave beyond their ability. They literally begged to give. Notice they gave beyond Paul's expectations as they first gave themselves to the Lord. When a person gives himself to the Lord, he'll give his money also. Being leaders in so many other areas demanded that the Corinthian Christians prove their love by emulating the giving of the Macedonia churches (vv. 7-8).

If the giving of the Macedonian Christians was not enough to stimulate their completion of their promised gifts, then a reminder of what Jesus had done for them should. Jesus had left the riches of heaven for the poverty of earth. And in such poverty, He gave His life on a cross so every follower of His could become rich (v. 9).

If one can't emulate the giving of other Christians, surely the giving of Christ can provide inspiration to give. At least Paul thought so.

BIBLE BOOK

May 24 Lesson

Basic Passage: II Corinthians 8:1-24

Fulfilling an opportunity (vv. 8, 10-12)

Even though the church members had committed themselves more than a year before to give, Paul was not going to order them to give (v. 8). However, he would challenge them (v. 10). He reminded them they had promised to get involved in the offering. Titus would be sent to encourage them to complete what they had started. It was time, Paul said, to be as willing to complete the offering as they were willing to promise one.

Their performance was expected because their promise was not just a commitment to Titus, but a commitment to God. Whether one makes a

promise, a commitment, or a pledge publicly, he is obligated, according to the Bible, to take advantage of opportunities to give (See Luke 6:38). It is not the amount, but the gift that is given from one's ability that counts with the Lord (v. 12).

Jesus recognized the gift of the widow's "two mites" as being the greatest, because it was all she had. Paul wasn't asking them to give all, but to give out of their abundance that God had provided. Such giving would fulfill their opportunity and bring more joy.

Expecting an accountability (vv. 13-24)

Grace giving involves accountability. And if there is no accountability, then giving becomes haphazard giving or foolish giving.

Paul recognized the need of accountability regarding the offering. He sent along with Titus two godly men to assist in receiving the offering, protect it, and make certain the collection would reach its intended destination.

Growing in grace

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

The brevity of the epistle of II Peter is misleading. Some distinct and pertinent themes are developed in this concise letter. Concerns with which the emerging church had to struggle are addressed. Those areas included: the challenge to grow and mature in Christian grace and commitment, the admonition to avoid the heresy of false teachings, and the reassuring affirmation of the Lord's return.

The influence of a particular false teaching is evident in II Peter. The tenets of gnosticism affected the development of Christianity and the doctrines of the early church. The followers of this school of thought placed extreme emphasis on knowledge or enlightenment. This group derived its name from the Greek word *gnosis* meaning "knowledge." Spiritual accomplishment or attainment was

associated with increased knowledge or insight. Only a select few became "knowers." This misguided belief system led to a distorted elitism.

A division was made between matter and spirit. Matter was viewed as evil, while spirit was seen as good. Gnosticism became a religion of extremes. Assuming that matter was evil, it was concluded that the body was evil since it was composed of matter. Two opposing practices developed

CONVENTION UNIFORM

May 24 Lesson

Basic Passage: II Peter 1:1-14

from this erroneous conclusion. One group practiced asceticism in an effort to control the fleshly impulses of the body. These were the abstainers. They avoided any experiences that could be

construed as succumbing to the flesh. Another group became libertines, indulging in any expression of corrupted gratification. Their philosophy was "eat, drink, and be merry," since the spiritual realm of life was all that counted.

The impact of these teachings on the early church is obvious. If these pagan customs were adopted by the followers of Christ, belief and practice would be compartmentalized. Christian behavior calls for a lifestyle reflective of the Master who lived in the world, but was not of the world.

Another serious dilemma confronting Christians was the Gnostic position relative to the nature of Jesus. Some Gnostics concluded that Jesus could not be human since the body was made of matter. If Jesus were a human being composed of matter, He would be

evil. They resolved this problem by concluding Jesus was a spirit who only appeared to be a man. Peter wrote a sermonic denunciation of such falsehood. The recipients were addressed as "... those who ... have received a faith as precious as ours ..." It is quickly stated that God and Jesus are the same.

Against the presumed knowledge (*gnosis*) of the false teachers, Peter asserted that grace and peace come in abundance "... through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." The word for knowledge here and other places in chapter 1 is *epignosis* meaning "full knowledge." Spiritual maturity is not found through "enlightenment," but in the "full knowledge" which comes through a salvation relationship with Jesus.

Believers are encouraged to exhibit behaviors which grow out of salvation.

The year I graduated from high school a teacher wrote in my yearbook "A man should choose with a careful eye, the things to be remembered by..."

Faithful yet compromising

By Sharon Herrington, layperson; Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage

In reading the Scriptural basis for this lesson, Revelation 2:12-17, I hear verse 13 calling me back to Christ's words, "I know where you live ..."

My dear Aunt Maybell in Bastrop, La., assured and warned me as a preschooler, "Sharon, you can hide from your mother and daddy, but you cannot hide yourself from Jesus; He knows where you are all the time and what you are doing."

I can imagine a sermon being constructed around this particular verse. It speaks to those who claim to be Christians, but whose actions and attitudes do not support their claim. It speaks to persons who feel trapped in life and who feel God has forgotten them. It speaks to persons who need to know God loves them enough to keep up with their whereabouts at all times. It says we are important to God.

The churches at Ephesus and Smyrna received letters. In Revelation 2:12-17, a third letter went to the

capital city of the Roman province of Asia, Pergamum. A cultural, political, and religious center set high on a hill, the city of Pergamum was famous for its idolatrous worship of four Greek gods.

The Scriptural truth of this lesson is a warning against compromising with any teachings and actions that misrepresent Christ and lead others astray.

The letter's sender is identified as one having a sharp, two-edged sword, meaning authority and possibly the dual role of Savior and Judge of the world. The Pergamum Christians were commended for holding fast to Christ's name and for not renouncing Christ in light of vast persecutions (vv. 13-15).

Herschel Hobbs tells of these Christians being required to confess "Caesar is Lord," but instead the faithful replied, "Christ is Lord." One can only imagine the punishment associated with refusal to honor

Caesar. In fact, theologian Ray Summers spoke of Pergamum as "hell's headquarters," probably because the most severe persecutions took place there.

The Ephesian church was accused of forsaking their first love, Christ. The Smyrna church had no accusation brought against its membership, but the Pergamum church was charged with two accusations. First, the church tolerated some within its membership who compromised their faith. Verse 14 speaks of Balaam worship being incorporated into the church, and the study of Numbers 22-24 reveals the unhealthy, Godless, degrading practices of Balaam worship.

The second accusation involved the church's endorsing the doctrines of the Nicolaitanes or gnosticism, which was the teaching that the actions of the body had no effect on one's spirit. This doctrine led to numerous immoralities.

The main criticism focused on the church who remained true to Christ, but "in the name of broadmindedness ... tolerated those who led im-

moral lives," (Hobbs).

At this point of compromise, the water hits the wheel for most 20th century churches. Hobbs suggests that we allow for honest difference of Scriptural interpretation, but "rank immorality and heresy are different matters." Commentator Fred Wood reminds us that lying, cheating, unfair business practices, and character assassinations are just as much sin as sexual immorality!

LIFE AND WORK

May 24 Lesson

Basic Passage: Revelation 2:12-17

So what is the promise to this church — hidden manna, meaning spiritual sustenance, and a white stone generally thought to represent acquittal, a kind of ticket to a great feast, or a victor in ancient sports events.

Today our challenge is not to bring God's standard of living down for sinful man, but to bring sinful man up to God's standard.

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Golden Gate trustees approve budget, new vice presidents

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary adopted a balanced \$5,288,400 budget for the 1992-93 academic year and elected two vice presidents at their spring meeting. A seven percent increase over the previous academic year, the new budget anticipates a six percent growth in enrollment, an increase in student fees to \$600 per semester, a slight reduction in Cooperative Program support, and continued progress in the seminary's fund-raising program.

Included in the new budget are increased faculty support and development, additional money for areas related to student recruitment, strategic planning and fund-raising, fully operational computer support, a five percent cost of living increase for full-time employees, and a \$233,000 contingency fund. Until last year, Golden Gate had struggled to regain financial stability in the face of declining revenues and enrollment. "The new budget helps lay the foundation for restoring the seminary to 'normal' and beyond," said President William O. Crews.

Clayton Harrop, 68, professor of New Testament who joined the faculty in 1955, was elected vice president of academic affairs and dean of the faculty. The position had been vacant since Robert Cate resigned as academic dean in 1990.

Jim Stephenson, 48, was elected vice president for business affairs. He took early retirement as an AT&T executive in late 1989 and had served as assistant to Gordon Fercho, seminary vice president for business affairs, since 1990. Fercho resigned last year.

Three to receive distinguished alumni award from SWBTS

FORT WORTH, Texas — Three former students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, will receive the distinguished alumni award from the school during the Southern Baptist Convention June 10 in Indianapolis. The three will be honored during the seminary's National Alumni and Friends Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Indianapolis.

Receiving the award for 1992 are Molly Wong, retired editor of Hong Kong Baptist Press; Gerald Ray, minister of music at First Church in Houston; and Louie Wilkinson, retired senior design editor for the Baptist Sunday School Board and former editor of the devotional guide *Open Windows*. Wilkinson is a member of Immanuel Church, Nashville.

Tickets to the Southwestern Seminary luncheon are \$15 prior to the SBC and are available by contacting the Office of Institutional Advancement, P.O. Box 22000, Fort Worth, Texas, 76122 or by calling (817) 923-1921, ext. 2350. Tickets will also be sold at the SBC for \$17 each.

Alumni luncheon set for New Orleans Seminary

NEW ORLEANS — Three men representing long-term seminary service, academic and pastoral leadership, and professional service for the Southern Baptist Convention will be honored as distinguished alumni of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary during this year's annual alumni meeting and luncheon in Indianapolis.

The 1992 distinguished alumni award recipients are Oscar K. Bozeman Jr., Alexandria, La., Jachin Y. Chan from Kowloon, Hong Kong, and Terry W. York, manager of field services for the church music department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The awards, given annually by the seminary's faculty, will be presented Wednesday, June 10, during the NOBTS alumni luncheon in the White River Ballroom in the Indiana Convention Center and Hoosier Dome, 100 S. Capitol Ave., immediately following the conclusion of morning session of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The alumni luncheon also will feature New Orleans Seminary's kickoff for its 75th anniversary celebration and a report by seminary President Landrum Leavell II. Tickets for the luncheon are \$12 each and are available by mailing that amount to Office of Alumni, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126-4858. Tickets purchased from the office after May 29 may be picked up at the seminary's booth at the Southern Baptist Convention. Tickets purchased at the seminary's booth will be \$15. For more information, call (504) 282-4455, ext. 3291.

McDill to address Southeastern luncheon

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — The Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary alumni office will host its annual luncheon in Indianapolis during the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention. The luncheon, at the Hyatt Regency, Mountain Suite, third floor, will be June 10 at 1 p.m.

Speaker for the program will be Wayne McDill, Southeastern professor of preaching. Seminary Vice President L. Russ Bush also will address the alumni.

Advance tickets for \$12 per person may be obtained by writing to the Alumni Office, Attn: Sherri Carter, P.O. Box 1889, Wake Forest, N.C., 27588. If space permits, tickets also will be available at the Southeastern booth at the convention for \$15.

Midwestern Seminary's annual luncheon set

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary alumni association will meet June 10 for its annual luncheon in Indianapolis during the Southern Baptist Convention June 9-11. The luncheon will be at 12:15 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 110 W. Washington St., near the Hoosier Dome, site of the SBC annual meeting.

Alumni and friends of the seminary in Kansas City, Mo., will hear an update 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 at the seminary booth in the exhibit hall for \$17.

Luncheon tickets may be ordered by writing to the Alumni Office, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 5001 N. Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, Mo., 64118 or by calling (816) 453-4600.

Golden Gate Seminary hosts SBC alumni, friends luncheon

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary's annual luncheon for alumni and friends will be Wednesday, June 10, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, one block from the annual meeting site across from the state capitol.

The luncheon, in the Chancellor Room on the fifth floor of the hotel, will begin after the conclusion of the Southern Baptist Convention's Wednesday morning session. The program includes seminary updates from President William Crews, alumni, faculty, and staff. Tickets are \$7 each. An award presentation to the alumnus/alumna of the year also is slated. Tickets may be purchased in advance from the Alumni Relations Office, GGBTS, Strawberry Point, Mill Valley, Calif., 94941 or at the seminary's booth in the SBC exhibit area. For more information, call (415) 388-8080, ext. 298.

Relief worker killed, another injured in crash

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey — A Southern Baptist relief worker was killed and another injured May 11 when the taxi they were riding in collided with a minibus outside of Diyarbakir, Turkey.

Chiquita "Chickie" Hood, 29, of Birmingham, Ala., and the taxi driver died after the taxi collided at the top of a hill with an oncoming minibus that turned left in front of them. Todd Bennett, 24, of Boone, N.C., was injured and taken to the Diyarbakir State Hospital for multiple lacerations. He was released the next day.

The names of the taxi and minibus drivers were not available. The minibus driver reportedly was not seriously injured, nor were two other passengers with him. Turkish police have charged the minibus driver and are holding him in custody.

Hood, a registered nurse, and Bennett, a medical relief coordinator, both worked in Iraq with Global Partners, a London-based relief and development agency. Bennett was on his way home to the United States after working in Turkey and Iraq since early 1991. Hood, who began work in Iraq last September, reportedly was going to Diyarbakir for a rest break from the harsh work conditions in Iraq.

Paul Stevens honored by RTVC with award bearing his name

FORT WORTH, Texas — Paul M. Stevens was the first recipient of the "Paul M. Stevens Golden Herald Award" given by the Radio and Television Commission to honor outstanding contributions in the field of Christian broadcasting, according to RTVC President Jack Johnson.

Johnson recently presented the award to Stevens on "Night of Honors," a two-hour program simulcast on two television services operated by RTVC, the American Christian Television System (ACTS), which reaches 601 cable systems nationwide, and FamilyNet, which serves 77 broadcast TV stations.

Stevens led the RTVC from 1953 until his retirement in 1979. "Most of those who were the cornerstones of the colossal Christian broadcasting industry of our day have passed from the scene," Johnson said in his presentation. "They made a distinguished contribution and received their divine reward. 'There is one still among us,'" Johnson continued. "His peers in the history of Christian broadcasting are few. Fewer still are living. It is appropriate that this award for distinguished Christian broadcasting be named the Paul M. Stevens Golden Herald Award. It is also appropriate that the first recipient be Dr. Paul M. Stevens, president emeritus of the Radio and Television Commission."

Eight awards to be presented during new work banquet

ATLANTA — Eight awards for leadership in starting churches will be given by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during a new work banquet Monday, June 8, in Indianapolis. The banquet is sponsored by the Home Mission Board in cooperation with the Southern Baptist New Work Fellowship.

The purpose of the banquet is to recognize leaders who started churches last year and to create awareness of the "crisis need" for new work, said David Bunch, Home Mission Board assistant vice president for strategy development.

James Herrington, director of missions for Union Baptist Association in Houston, will deliver the keynote address on "Empowering Kingdom Growth Through the Association." More than 600 people have been invited to the banquet by state convention mission leaders and HMB President Larry Lewis. The program will begin at 6 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency.

Research fellowship to meet prior to SBC

ATLANTA — Studies of American Protestantism and marginal church members will be among the research presented during the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship meeting Saturday, June 6, at the Holiday Inn Union Station in Indianapolis.

The program includes research reports of:

Southern Baptist perceptions of quality pastoral ministry by John Dever of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, churches and church members in the United States by Martin Bradley of the Baptist Sunday School Board, a national study of marginal church members by Kirk Hadaway of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, United Church of Christ, and Penny Marler of Hartford Seminary, and research on American Protestantism in the 1990s by James Lewis, director of the Louisville Institute for the Study of Protestantism in American Culture.

The program, which includes a banquet, will begin at 12:30 p.m. and is scheduled to conclude at 9 p.m. To register for the meeting, contact Chester Davidson, program information specialist with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, at (214) 828-5138 or 333 North Washington, Dallas, Texas, 75246-1798.