

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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For executive director

Maryville pastor to lead TBC search

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

In a Brentwood meeting May 28, Howard Olive, pastor of Monte Vista Church, Maryville, was named chairman of a committee selected to seek a successor to D. L. Lowrie, Tennessee Baptist Convention's executive director/treasurer.

Olive was chosen to chair a committee of eight named by Jerry Oakley, pastor of Springfield Church, and Executive Committee chairman. Eighteen of the 19 Executive Committee members were present for the Baptist Center meeting.

The called meeting became necessary when Lowrie recently gave his resignation to become pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Texas. He has served as the convention's top executive since May 1, 1989 — and had been executive director-elect since Jan. 1 of that year.

Recommendations must be received by Olive not later than July 10. Lowrie's resignation is effective the day after the Sept. 4 meeting of the Executive Board in Brentwood.

Others appointed to the committee by Oakley:

Gary Anderson, pastor of First Church, Dunlap; M. B. Howard, retired layman, Oak Grove Church.

Covington; Leonard Markham, pastor of Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville; Paul Moody, pastor of Erin Church, Erin; and Clint Oakley, retired pastor from Memphis.

Oakley will serve ex officio with voting power, as will Don Givens, pastor of St. Elmo Avenue Church, Chattanooga, since he is president of the Executive Board. Ron Phillips, TBC president and pastor of Central Church, Hixson, will meet with the committee in an advisory capacity.

The entire search group comes from the Executive Committee. Chairman Oakley said the Search Committee is comprised of a cross-section of members representing all of Tennessee Baptists.

The Search Committee met immediately after the called session to elect leaders. Besides Olive, members chose Markham as vice chairman and Givens to be secretary.

The committee asks that those who nominate persons for the executive director/treasurer position send recommendations with complete resume to Chairman Howard Olive, Executive Office, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024. Olive emphasized that all nominations

would be forwarded directly to him and that recommendations without a resume would not be considered. Recommendations also can be sent to him at his church office: Monte Vista Baptist Church, 1735 Old Niles Ferry, Maryville, Tenn. 37801.

In Lowrie's official resignation message during the called meeting, he expressed appreciation to all Tennessee Baptists for cooperation. He said God's call to work in Tennessee was certain and sure. "I also felt his leadership very plainly as we sought his guidance in this present move," he said.

"It is with a sense of God's direction that I submit my resignation to you," Lowrie said. "It is with thanks and appreciation to you for these three and a half years, and to all Tennessee Baptists. I pledge my prayers and continued interest for the convention. I will always think of and be close to Tennessee Baptist work."

Under Executive Board bylaws, if a successor for the position is not in place prior to Lowrie's departure, Bill Wilson, Convention Ministries Division director, would assume authority until an interim executive could be named by the Executive Board.

New look coming

It's on the way!

In January we shared with readers that the *Baptist and Reflector* staff was engaged in an in-house study of the paper.

We promised readers a new look.

The study involved a weekly planning and designing session. The staff has been hard at work developing new ideas for making the paper easier to read and more attractive to subscribers.

On July 1 we plan to introduce a paper that has been designed according to those guidelines — easier to read, more attractive. The design has been carefully crafted — with the reader in mind. The price stays the same.

The intensive study and re-designing has two purposes. First, we want to reward readers with a product that reflects the vibrancy and life found in Tennessee Baptist churches. The "forward march" idea is evident, inculcating the best of what we are with the freshness exhibited by active and busy Baptists.

Second, we hope the new look will help persuade more churches and individuals to subscribe to the official and only Tennessee Baptist newspaper. We want our readers to share with other Baptists the excitement expressed in the lives of missions-minded people.

So be prepared. Your July 1 *Baptist and Reflector* will not look the same. When the mail arrives, that faithful newsjournal will be dressed according to the times, but the same excellence in journalism will be maintained. The paper staff wants to "reflect" the good news we Baptists have to share — in a bright and potent package. — Editor

Committee conducts mail ballot on N.C. churches

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee is conducting a mail ballot on a motion to declare two North Carolina churches "not in friendly cooperation" with the SBC over their stances affirming homosexuality.

The ballot, mailed May 22 to the Executive Committee's 77 members, addresses Pullen Memorial Church in Raleigh for approving a marriage-like "union" of two homosexual men and Olin T. Binkley Memorial Church in Chapel Hill for licensing a homosexual man to the Gospel ministry earlier this year.

CP giving dips slightly in May

Cooperative Program income predictably was down slightly last month, because May was a month with five Sundays. Gifts from the churches to the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program on May 31 will be included with June giving.

Total monthly giving reported through last Friday (and a few reports on Monday) totaled \$1,825,142.59 — or \$217,447.19 less than May 1991.

As a result, total gifts for the year thus far amount to \$14,192,278, some \$33,111 above last year. This reflects a gain of 0.23 percent.

For Executive Committee action on the proposed motion to be official, use of a mail ballot first must be approved unanimously, according to its bylaws. Both the question of the mail ballot and the four-paragraph motion were part of the May 22 mailing.

"I think it's a great first step," said Executive Committee member T. C. Pinckney of Alexandria, Va., a vocal advocate of a firm anti-homosexuality stance by the SBC.

Pinckney said he hopes the Executive Committee also will initiate a change in the convention's bylaws "to make it crystal clear that ... a church

which condones the practice of homosexuality is not in sympathy with the purposes and work of the Southern Baptist Convention."

The Executive Committee's eight-member bylaws workgroup is scheduled to meet prior to the committee's June 8 meeting before the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis.

According to the introductory paragraph of the motion proposed in the mail ballot, "The Southern Baptist

— Committee, page 5



VOLUNTEERING IN PENNSYLVANIA — Alan Berry, center, of Franklin works with two members of the delegation from the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan to prepare signs for a souvenir stand in Harrisburg, Pa., headquarters of an exchange hosted by Southern Baptists in nine states. Berry's church, First Church, Nashville, provided a van which Berry used to transport government officials. A retired businessman, Berry said he wants to help Kazakhs establish economic stability. See page 5. — Photo by Marty Croll

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Editorials**Seeking an executive director is no easy job**

God often shows his people that no one of them is indispensable. He knows the gifts we have and the willingness with which we use them.

When D. L. Lowrie became executive director/treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in May 1989, it was known that his tenure would not last forever. There would be others to follow, just as he had followed others. And there would be more search committees, seeking candidates with the needed gifts.

That's where Tennessee Baptists are now. Another search committee is beginning the quest for Lowrie's successor, a gifted person, a leader. He has resigned effective in September, and the committee has been selected.

The task of the committee is awesome. Responsibilities invested in a new leader also are awesome. But there are qualified, godly, servant-leaders "out there" and God will lead as much as we let him lead.

The Search Committee promises to involve Tennessee Baptists in the search. They will have opportunity to identify the kind of leader Tennessee Baptists need, and a profile will be developed.

What kind of person do Tennessee Baptists need for these explosive but promising times? The lifestyle should be uniquely shaped, patterned after the Master's. Optimism based on strength of character and wisdom is needed. Reluctance to face issues is not.

We need a Baptist statesman, a courageous leader with a compassionate heart and belief in sound doctrines. Our next executive must love people enough to be a personal evangel for Christ, like his predecessors. He must be available but unob-

trusive, hard working but given to engage in proper relaxation.

Business acumen is needed, as well as the ability to motivate and innovate. The nominee should be adequately educated in college and seminary. If the person is a layman, on the job training and experience should be equivalent to seminary study.

Age should not be a major factor, but the new leader should be young enough to have at least ten or twelve years of vigorous, robust service remaining. The choice should be a good administrator.

Should the next executive be a Tennessean? That would be valuable, but not absolutely necessary. If God's choice comes from "outside," the committee will know it. Should the search be confined to the one hundred members of the Executive Board? This group should not be overlooked — because of the experience factor, but the search should be broader than that.

No horizon should be unexplored. The best candidates from the Volunteer State are qualified to stand alongside the best of the rest. Likewise, evidence can be found for quality outside our boundaries. The committee should find someone who understands Tennessee and Tennessee Baptists — or who has willingness and the heart to learn.

Lowrie leaves a convention that apparently is turning the corner in economic stability. The new Baptist Center is paid for. The economy has helped Cooperative Program giving to increase slightly above last year's level. He has worked hard to solidify our Baptist foundations and to strengthen relationships within the state convention.

There are dozens of desirable qualities for this exceedingly important position, but several are imperative:

The nominee should be a Bible believer, a person with a shepherd's heart, a Bible student, a person who puts Christ first in life and belief and worships the only true God, a person who weeps over the lostness of people, a person who knows and believes in Baptist doctrines, who understands the needs of people and puts people before programs, a person who prays unceasingly.

We encourage the Search Committee to seek prayer support from the people, and we encourage the people to pray for the work of the committee. When man's will is put before God's will, disaster results.

The committee knows the need, and will develop a profile with criteria to match. We affirm each committee member, and at the same time suggest they continue to seek input from convention employees (who after all, work closely with the executive director).

The present hour in TBC life demands sterling leadership. We are faced with our own ImpactTennessee goals, plus the hoped-for completion of Bold Mission Thrust and all its implications for missions, ministry, and education.

The committee should work diligently and with proper concern for time. If the goal is to choose an executive prior to September, three months is all that is left. More than likely, the committee will decide not to be stampeded to a quick time-frame.

We pledge our support and prayers for Chairman Howard Olive and the entire search group. The responsibility is awesome; the selection will affect the convention for a decade or more. Notwithstanding the urgency of responsibility, we have an awesome God. — WFA

Helping poor can unify Southern Baptists says Carter

By Pat Cole

LOUISVILLE (BP) — Former President Jimmy Carter, in an address to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's graduating class, urged fellow Southern Baptists to find unity by focusing on needs of poor people.

The Southern Baptist Convention will never heal its rift through theological or philosophical debate, Carter told 238 graduates of the school at its May 22 commencement. "But I think all Baptists, regardless of ultra-conservatism or extreme liberalism or "fundamentalists" or "moderates," can find common ground in dealing church by church, believer by believer, minister by minister with the poorest among us whom we now rarely know."

Southern Baptists used to be known as "dynamic missionaries for Christ," Carter said. However, in recent years, when he has identified himself as a Southern Baptist, "It's treated as something of a joke," he said, adding the denomination is now associated

with schism and division.

Southern's 169th commencement was moved off campus to the Kentucky Center for the Arts in downtown Louisville to accommodate the crowd of 2250 people. The graduates included Dan Ariail, Carter's pastor at Maranatha Church, Plains, Ga., who received the doctor of ministry degree. Carter is a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Maranatha. Carter's wife, Rosalynn, and several other members of Maranatha attended commencement.

Carter decried discrimination that exists against poor people:

"Discrimination because of race, because of religion are very important but I think the main discrimination that afflicts us, and indeed the entire world these days, is the discrimination of rich people against poor people.

"Who are rich people?" he asked. "Everyone in this room is a rich person. A rich person is someone who has a home, who has a family, and knows where they are, who has a modicum of education, a decent chance for a job, enough to eat, some degree of health care, some hope for the future. You believe that the police are on your side. You believe if you make a decision it will make a difference at least in your own life."

Carter emphasized poor people do not just live in Third World nations but "they also live next door to us . . ." Jesus treated poor people as his neighbors, he noted. "He reached out to those who felt discrimination, to the abandoned, to the scorned, to the despised, and to those who suffered from an illness like leprosy that a whole society believed was caused by the sins of the leper."

However, churches have done little to help the poor, he said. "I'll tell you this and you won't like it: Politicians

do a lot more to end discrimination against the poor than churches do."

Political candidates compete to find the best solutions to social problems, Carter said, asking, "Where is the competition among the churches to eliminate the suffering of the poor?" Churches usually are more concerned with matters like budgets, attendance, and the size of radio and television audiences, he said.

Yet Carter said he bears more responsibility than most people for the plight of the poor since he has held political offices that have given him more opportunity to help. "I would be the last one to hold myself up as a model," he said. "I have been guiltier than you have."

Poor people are wrongly stigmatized as being lazy and without ambition, Carter said. As a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, he said he has helped build houses alongside poor peo-

ple who "are just as intelligent, just as hardworking, just as ambitious, and love their kids just as much as I do."

During the past six months, he has helped initiate a project through the Carter Center at Emory University to aid poverty-stricken areas of Atlanta, Carter said. These communities are in the part of Atlanta "that the Chamber of Commerce doesn't want to talk about," he said.

"For the first time in my life, I have to admit to you, I have been trying to learn about a whole broad community of people who are totally different from me. I don't mean just racially but totally different from the wealthy status of my life."

In these communities, young boys get esteem from their peers by owning a semiautomatic weapon, said Carter. Pregnancy among sixth-grade girls is not uncommon, he said, noting "pimps and drug pushers" exploit them.



CARTER SPEAKS — Former President Jimmy Carter addresses students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's commencement service.

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Author disagrees with SSB's decision on book

By Art Toalston

NASHVILLE (BP) — According to Ed Decker, his book *What You Need To Know About ... Masons* has been banned in Baptist Book Stores.

However, Bill Graham, manager of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's bookstore division, said, "I don't call it censorship."

Graham said the book, released earlier this year, was never ordered for all 62 Baptist Book Stores and, for a time, was stocked by only three stores. "We don't stock everything that is available," Graham said, noting countless books are on the market. But Baptist Book Stores will order the book if it is requested by a customer, he said.

Johnnie Godwin, SSB vice president of general publishing, wrote in a letter to the publisher of Decker's book, Harvest House in Eugene, Ore., that an analysis of the book pointing out "inaccuracies and implications" led to a decision not to carry it.

Godwin cited a Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission five-page response to Decker's book mailed to state Baptist convention leaders. The Brotherhood mailing took issue with the book's references to the commission's "Royal Ambassadors" program for boys.

In his novel, Decker, an Assemblies of God church member, cites parallels between Masonic rituals and RA initiations in a 1988 edition of *Royal Am-*

bassador Ceremonies, Dramas, and Recognitions. Decker contends Masonic rituals will have "a familiar spirit" to boys in later life, making them far less wary of joining a Masonic lodge.

Decker, who contends Freemasonry is occultic, has issued a 17-page response to the Brotherhood mailing. He concludes by claiming, "The fumes of hell are seeping into the SBC on the winds of Freemasonry, and devout Baptists are not going to let this issue die."

James Williams, Brotherhood Commission president, issued a statement to Baptist Press noting, "In the content and curriculum of Royal Ambassadors there is no intention to involve boys in the rituals of Freemasonry. Beyond leading boys to Christ,

Williams said, the RA program "is built upon our desire and assignment to: 1) teach missions; 2) involve boys in missions activities; 3) help boys develop a sense of personal ministry; 4) lead boys to pray for and give to missions; and 5) undergird the work of the church and denomination."

Williams added, "A large majority of active male missionaries cite Royal Ambassadors as a primary influence on their call to missions."

The Brotherhood mailing regarding Decker's book notes that a 1990 edition of the RA ceremonies booklet no longer contains two of the initiations Decker targeted.

Graham said among Sunday School Board criteria for stocking a book are its consistency with Scripture and with programs of the SSB and other de-

nominal entities and whether it promotes fellowship within local Southern Baptist churches.

"Baptist Book Stores do carry some books on Freemasonry," Graham said. "However, the selection varies among stores since books on this topic are not among the standardized stock nationwide."

Decker, in an interview with Baptist Press, said, "I don't apologize for the book" or for pointing out similarities between Masonic ritual and several RA ceremonies.

The aim of the book is being achieved, he said. "I've had hundreds of letters, most of them from Baptist men, who have read the book and said I'm getting out of Freemasonry, I'm serving Jesus Christ and him alone."

Draper restructures senior executive team

NASHVILLE (BP) — A restructuring of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's senior executive team and formation of a transition team to implement further changes were announced May 18 by President James T. Draper Jr.

The changes are part of recommendations from four employee teams who conducted research and developed reports and proposals presented May 5-6 to the senior executive team.

Instead of a president and three executive vice presidents overseeing

operations, finance and administration, and corporate planning, research, and denominational relations, Draper said he will recommend to trustees in August a restructured senior executive team including himself and four others with titles yet to be decided.

Gene Mims, executive vice president for corporate planning, research, and denominational relations, will lead the church growth and programs area. Michael Arrington, executive vice president for operations, will head corporate services. E. V. King, executive

vice president for finance and administration, will lead finance and administration.

Charles Wilson, assistant vice president for business, will become a member of the senior executive team and will head trade and retail markets.

"We told trustees when they approved the senior executive team level we might expand that. What we're actually doing is expanding it by one," Draper said.

Decisions about what components will be located in each of the four areas are being finalized and will be announced in coming weeks, he said.

Division of the board into four major areas, Draper said, was the recommendation of the organization options team made up of eight employees and chaired by Billie Pate, associate director of the Sunday School division.

Other teams were people resource, chaired by Doug Anderson, director of the family ministry department; external customer, chaired by Aubrey House, marketing specialist in the marketing planning and promotion department; and communications strategy, chaired by Joe Denney, director of the video/audiovisuals department.

The process was carried out under the theme "Building Our Future." More than 30 employees were involved

Southeastern modifies faculty selection process

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Although electing Paige Patterson as the school's new president topped the agenda of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's board meeting May 14, trustees used the special called meeting to give themselves a greater role in selecting faculty and to authorize the seminary's president to choose chapel speakers.

Both issues, held from last March's trustee meeting, have been long-running points of contention between trustees and faculty. The board's action May 14 appears to have settled the dispute, although Russ Bush, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, told trustees the school's teachers "don't want you to adopt this."

The new faculty selection process modifies a proposal tabled at the March meeting which reduced faculty participation in selecting new professors to an advisory role.

Earlier procedures gave faculty an opportunity to virtually block election

of persons they opposed. That impediment made it difficult for seminary administrators and trustees, who since 1988 have become more "conservative," to employ professors over the objections of more "moderate" faculty members.

Attempts to circumvent the process led to charges of violating the seminary's policies and its commitment to "shared governance" among trustees, administrators, and faculty and led in part to scrutiny from the seminary's accrediting agencies.

The modified proposal adopted without opposition May 14 is similar to the tabled motion although it permits additional faculty input. It makes clear, however, that "full consent between all parties is desirable, but lack of consent is not sufficient grounds to halt the process."

It also notes that in "the rare, special case where an exceptionally qualified individual becomes available to the school, the president in consultation with the vice president for

academic affairs/dean of the faculty, and the area faculty may move more rapidly than normal ... in order to secure the opportunity of interviewing this potential candidate."

"This school has been bogged down by reasons of policy and sub-policy and procedures," said president-elect Patterson. "It is practically an impossible situation. This is an effort to simplify. ... I'm interested in what faculty thinks but to build a great school there have to be some presidential prerogatives."

He also said the new procedure is "much more in accord with (practices) at the other five (Southern Baptist) seminaries."

EC recommends against accrediting agency

INDIANAPOLIS — For the second consecutive year, the Southern Baptist Education Commission will recommend against forming a new Baptist accrediting agency to serve the denomination's seminaries and colleges.

That will be part of the Education Commission's report to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis June 11.

However, three recommendations from the Education Commission to the convention call for better training of seminary trustees, better understanding by trustees and administrators of how to work with a school's governing documents, and renewed emphasis on

the Southern Baptist heritage of denominational schools.

A fourth recommendation would affirm trustees and administrators of Southern Baptist seminaries "for their efforts to carry out their mission in a manner consistent with Southern Baptist theological heritage" and for maintaining "a responsible role and relationship" with existing accrediting agencies.

The Commission also will report adoption of a resolution last March that calls on accrediting agencies to "avoid creating pressure or the appearance of pressure designed to affect the theological posture of the educational institutions." — ABP



READY FOR CELEBRATION — Fulani women prepare food for a baby-naming ceremony in the village of Sabon Gari, Nigeria. The mobility of the Fulani, the largest nomadic people in the world, is being increasingly restricted by nations and economics. But this makes the Muslim Fulani group, which numbers as many as 14 million people in 18 African countries more accessible to Southern Baptists and other Christians working to spread the Gospel. The Fulani are the focus of the June 5-6 Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization

Our Readers Write

Missions is alive

Missions has always been the heartbeat of the Southern Baptist Convention. If you want to know how the convention is doing just look at missions. If you want to know how a local church is doing, just look at the involvement with missions.

Today missions is doing well. Today new missions are alive. And, today strong churches still work with missions. One such church is from Tennessee, helping a new mission in Georgia. Pastor Emerson Wiles is leading his church into action. First Church of Fayetteville already has made two trips to Georgia to work on a new structure. The "Glory of God" is alive within this Baptist congregation. The story does not end here. Emerson and his congregation are planning a third trip back to Jordan Lake Mission here in Marietta.

My dad always taught that action speaks louder than words. Praise be to God for people led by a spirit of action. Praise be to God for they are a people who take "The Great Commission" as something they believe and do. Thank you Tennessee Baptists, for Fayetteville First Church. Under such leadership the Southern Baptist Convention will continue to act upon "The Great Commission." Actions do speak louder than words.

*Members of the congregation
Jordan Lake Mission
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Marietta, Ga. 30062*

New beginning!

Recently I attended a meeting where some of those who had been to Texas to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship meeting gave their impressions of the meeting.

Each person gave their view of the meetings they attended. In each report there was an expression of the spirit of the meeting. The word "free" was used several times. I heard no criticism. If it was there it was suppressed in the reports.

However, my own impression is that this Fellowship is experiencing what John in Revelation writes was missing in the seven churches. The group seems to have a love for their fellowman that I hope and pray will never change. It is a new beginning, and we can expect this in new things, but I believe this will be a distinct and different group and love will continue.

May God help all of us to renew the feeling of "first love" and surely God will bless us as Revelation promises.

Jesus, being a unique person and being who He is, is worthy of our obedience to his command that we love another.

*Dorothy Blake
923 Beverly Drive
Alcoa 37701*

God forgive us

I hope when the Lord returns and we all stand before him to give account, He will forgive us for the mess we have created in recent years in the SBC. I pray He will not say to us (as He did to the church at Ephesus), "You have lost your first love!"

However, He may feel that it is a shame that:

We spent much time, energy, and money battling among ourselves while a lost world died and went to hell.

We spent \$100,000 for a public relations campaign to improve the image of the SBC.

Many pastors had to omit the name "Baptist" when opening new works on pioneer fields because of negative public opinion.

We laity did not take a more pro-active role in preventing or settling the vicious power struggle that fostered distrust within the SBC.

Many career missionaries felt abandoned, confused, and frustrated by infighting among "mission-minded" brethren back home.

With 15,000,000 God-loving members (many of whom are willing and qualified to serve the Kingdom), the same people were reappointed to SBC boards and commissions based on group affiliation.

We aligned ourselves with theological-political parties just like carnal man.

God forgive us. If taking sides is necessary, let me take God's side!

*D. J. Krahwinkel Jr.
7012 Neubert Springs Pk.
Knoxville 37920*

The kiddy band

In 1939, at Central Avenue Church, Memphis, Miss Lola formed a kiddy band, and invited four-year-old Bob Williams, who lived down the street from her, to join. Bob and his family weren't attending church very much back then, but the idea pleased Bob and he joined.

In May of this year, Bob Williams, music missionary in Honduras, heard that Lola Mae Autry was coming to Camp Bagope with a work team and the name struck a bell. Although the two haven't seen each other in over 50 years, Bob's recollections of that little band were so vivid that he arranged to travel from Tegucigalpa to Camp Bagope to meet with Miss Lola.

Bob discovered a vivacious 76-year-old widow who is still actively serving the Lord even while he's been using his musical abilities as a music minister and missionary. The young woman who gave him his first taste of music went on to marry a preacher and moved to Mississippi. Today she teaches Sunday School, conducts three choirs at her church, and participates in volunteer foreign missions.

While many faithful Christian workers

will have to wait until eternity to see the fruits of their labor, Miss Lola agrees that the reunion between teacher and pupil was a pleasant experience. "There were 20 boys and girls in that little band," Miss Lola said. "Now I know how one of them turned out."

*Myra Shofner, press representative
Honduran Baptist Mission
Apartado 373
San Pedro Sula, Honduras*

Need for pastors

You recently ran a letter from Ray Reynolds that asked for volunteer pastors for Europe to help start English language churches in 40 major economic and political centers. This is a great and rewarding cause, but there are few retired pastors with enough income to support themselves in expensive Europe, or the air fare to get there. I know, for I am one.

I met Ray in a Paris church in 1990 and went to Jurbiise, Belgium, at his request in 1991. Pastoring an integrated military church with Belgians, Germans, English, Koreans, and others was a little like what I think heaven could be. I left when SBC missionaries finished language school and arrived on the scene.

Not only are the new works underfunded but the 62 old ones are becoming financially stressed by the military drawdown. Many will need "volunteer" pastors soon. Only a handful of the pastors are SBC missionaries. Most are over 60.

It is common now for churches to send one or more of their staff to Europe for a week of revival, which does both Europe and the staff member some good, so why not make it a point to fund a willing retired pastor who can stay three months or longer? That is what Europe desperately needs now. The churches

Pre-SBC prayer conference set

NASHVILLE (BP) — A two-day National Prayer Conference with general sessions and special-interest seminars is planned June 5-6 prior to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Indianapolis.

The sessions are open to all Southern Baptists and will provide annual training for Bold Mission Prayer Thrust state coordinators, said T. W. Hunt, prayer consultant at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

The prayer conference will be at the Hilton at the Circle in Indianapolis, 1 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, June 5, and 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. June 6.

have furnished apartments and available cars but little left for pastor salaries. Thanks for your consideration and prayers.

*Ralph H. Lee
1844 Nandina Dr.
Maryville 37801*

We need leaders

Why do our SBC leaders pick a politician to speak at our convention?

We have some of the greatest ministers, many with honors. I believe our convention should be based on a spiritual level since it's work is for Christ.

Our objective should be how to reach the lost. That is why we so gladly give our money through the Cooperative Program and I am so proud to be a part of a Southern Baptist church which gives 22 percent of our offering through the CP, because our goal is to be a part of winning the whole world to Christ.

Our politicians may be Christian but the Bible says, "By their fruits ye shall know them." How many have we heard talking about asking God's leadership in running our country. So I wonder how much influence they will have on our messengers to the convention.

I could suggest some great spiritual ministers we have been honored to have in our church. One in particular is Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis.

Let us get on with our Father's business, using our ministers who know what our mission is. Let politicians try to lead our country, which they will never do unless we get enough leaders who will depend on God to lead them out of the trouble we are in.

*Juanita McCrobie
420 State St.
Cookeville 38501*

Speakers for the conference include Wallace Williams, executive director/treasurer of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey; Newton Carey, pastor of True Vine Church, Oakland, Calif.; Larry Thompson, pastor of Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, Ala., and chairman of the Watchman National Prayer Alert; Bob Dixon, executive director of Texas Baptist Men; Terri Willis, associate director of the International Prayer Strategy Office at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board; James T. Draper Jr., president, Sunday School Board; and Hunt.

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

God is moving His people to prayer. This has become obvious in recent days.

We have just concluded our annual training time with associational leaders across the state. I had the joy of meeting the associational prayer coordinators. This meeting has been a special joy year after year. The reports were encouraging.

Diane Jordan, the coordinator for the churches in Jefferson Association, reported that 12 of their churches now have some form of intercessory prayer ministry. Gregory Frizzell is the coor-

dinator in Shelby Association and they are moving forward in an aggressive attempt to involve every church.

In some of our associations pastors are meeting regularly for prayer. Others reported prayer meetings that are reaching across a whole community and involving several denominations. This could be a sign that revival is on the way. Earnest prayer always precedes times of awakening.

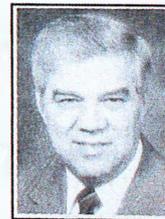
It is not too late for your church to develop an intercessory prayer ministry. There are some resources available from our offices and your associational office also will have resources to help you.

As your prayer group meets, you will want to add the name of the TBC Search Committee. It is an awesome task to search for the spiritual leader of this great convention.

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership — June

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

- 4 — Missionaries Jan Huckaby and Jean Janes who serve at the Baptist Academy in Temuco. Both are celebrating birthdays today.
- 5 — Volunteers Sarah Bedenbaugh of Antioch and Kathy Sharp of Smyrna as they share Christian truths with children at the Baptist Academy.
- 6 — Tennessee volunteers as they prepare for worship services tomorrow.
- 7 — Missionary Karen Wright on her birthday today.
- 8 — Volunteers Charles Holloway Jr. of Lyles and Charles McGee of Nashville as they teach children at the academy.
- 9 — Traveling mercies for the volunteers as they return to Tennessee.
- 10 — The Southern Baptist Convention as it meets in Indianapolis, and the report which will be given by the Foreign Mission Board.



LOWRIE

Tennesseans, Kazakhs bridge remnants of Cold War

By Connie Davis

NASHVILLE — "Tennesseans lived up to their heritage as "The Volunteer State" as they ignored former political barriers and hosted 25 citizens of Kazakhstan, a part of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The Tennesseans enabled many Kazakhs to experience their first visit to the United States.

While their president was meeting with President George Bush, the Kazakhs were meeting city officials in Knoxville and Nashville, including Gov. Ned Ray McWherter.

The May 10-25 visit was the second Kazakh-American festival, a reciprocal exchange following a visit last summer of about 300 Americans to Kazakhstan under the direction of the Pennsylvania/South Jersey Baptist Convention and other Christian aid organizations. Tennessee was one of nine states which hosted festival participants.

Pat Wright, a Loudon elementary school teacher who directed the group visiting Tennessee, noted both Kazakhs and Americans were nervous about the exchange.

Political barriers may have fallen but other barriers remain, noted Wright. Although a few churches remained open in the republic during the twentieth century, atheism and anti-Americanism was promoted by educational and political institutions.

However, Wright was so emotionally moved by the friendship he was shown in Kazakhstan last year, he was sure the exchange would work. When the Kazakhs and their hosts met, said Wright, an "instant friendship" was formed. "The Lord had prepared hearts," he added.

First for many of the Kazakhs included visiting a Baptist church, participating in a hot dog roast, a hay ride, and a soccer game against Americans.

Understandably, shopping was a top priority for those who brought dollars with them. Also government officials and businessmen wanted to make business contacts.

While meeting with Nashville Chamber of Commerce President Mike Rollins, Barmakbai Dzhasymbaev, deputy head of city administration for the capital city of Alma-Ata, explained Kazakhstan's transition to a market economy will be softened by the abundance of natural resources from the vast region two times the size of Texas.

Dzhasymbaev described the economic impact of the breakdown of the Soviet Union in terms of a chain. Kazakhstan, which was one link of that chain, must build its own chain, he observed. Without help from investors

Committee conducts mail ballot . . .

— Continued from page 1
Convention is a noncreedal association whose standards are those embodied in God's Holy Scripture. The Scripture clearly and unequivocally declares that homosexuality is a sin against God."

The motion specifies the return of funds received by the SBC from Pullen and Binkley churches since Oct. 1, 1990, the start of the previous fiscal year. According to the SBC business office, Pullen has given \$557.50 in Cooperative Program and foreign and home missions gifts during that period while Binkley has given \$175.85 for the CP.

The motion notes, "... it is totally inappropriate for the Southern Baptist

from other countries, the people who have endured hardship since President Gorbachev's regime will lose faith, he said.

Despite economic trials, Kazakhstan is committed to a democratic system, reported Dzhasymbaev. It has most to fear from its tradition. Islam, which might lead to the autocracy of other Islam-dominated nations, he added.

Dzhasymbaev said he enjoys one result of the political transition — freedom to express himself without recrimination.

East Tennesseans nurtured those new experiences, discovering the Kazakhs fit right into life in Loudon County, the hub of activity for the Tennessee exchange. "They are as country as they can be, just as relaxed as we are," described Wright.

Tennesseans also gained from the exchange. They learned Kazakhs are

Group publishes pamphlets on SBC controversy

By Greg Warner

FORT WORTH (ABP) — The struggle for control of the Southern Baptist Convention, thought by many to be over, may instead take a new direction — one that leads straight to the SBC's 38,000 local churches.

A group of SBC "moderates" is hoping that a series of pamphlets aimed at Baptist laypeople will inspire a grassroots movement to "reclaim" the Southern Baptist Convention from its new "fundamentalist" leaders.

The group, led by Houston millionaire John Baugh, has formed a new organization called Southern Baptist Denominational Relations Information Inc., chartered in Tennessee. Baugh held a press conference May 1 in Fort Worth, Texas, to unveil details of the new strategy.

"Largely, laypeople neither understand the causes (of) nor possible solutions available to end the ungodly conflict that is wracking their denomination," Baugh wrote in an April 22 letter announcing the organization.

The idea is to capitalize on the trend among churches toward establishing denominational relations committees, which usually are responsible for leading a church to decide how it will participate in — and fund — denominational endeavors.

To convince churches not to support current SBC leaders, the organization will distribute a series of simple, brief pamphlets that Baugh says will show the damaging effects of a decade of "fundamentalist" control of the Southern Baptist Convention and will advise churches on what they can do to reverse the direction.

Patrick Anderson, a Florida layman involved in the new organization, said

Convention to receive gifts of money from local churches which do not adhere to these (Biblical) standards and are therefore not in friendly cooperation with this convention nor sympathetic with its purposes and work."

The motion also states, "... the Executive Committee also fervently prays that these churches will respond to the teachings of Holy Scripture by rescinding their actions related to avowed homosexuals." And the proposed motion voices prayer "for God's saving grace and healing power in the lives of homosexuals" and for redemptive ministry to homosexuals.

closer to family and friends than most Americans, he noted. Several Kazakhs got homesick during the exchange.

Kazakhs also have retained native song and dance traditions, noted Wright. "It doesn't take a lot of entertaining or fancy things to please them," said Meriam Fox of Loudon.

Educators in the group visited nine Loudon County schools. One school held an assembly for all students where concert pianist, 10-year-old Alibek Alpiev of Kazakhstan, performed. Students and Kazakh youngsters also joined forces in several soccer matches.

Kazakh businessmen, who were directed by the Loudon County Chamber of Commerce, reported they were treated like colleagues rather than visitors by commerce officials and area businessmen.

Wright also involved fellow members

of the group's efforts "will in very simple terms express to Baptist laypeople the changes that have occurred in the denomination — and they are dramatic changes, but they are only felt by people intimately aware of Baptist heritage and history.

The organization already has produced its first publication, a 16-page handbook for denominational relations committees titled "Reclaiming the Heritage," which was distributed at the general assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Fort Worth April 30-May 2. According to the handbook's cover, the publication "defines the problem and offers solutions

of First Church, Lenoir City, in the effort. In addition to opening their homes, some members of the Acteens group for teenage girls got involved. When they learned an orphan brought only one set of clothes with her, they took her shopping and added to her wardrobe.

Virginia Palmer, a retired teacher from Farragut who also was a part of last year's festival, noted Kazakhs won't trust Americans easily because of ingrained distrust. Some of the Kazakhs reported being punished by the Communist Party, added Fox.

Nevertheless, friendships were begun and stereotypes were altered. One Kazakh commented the Americans met were unlike Americans previously viewed on video tapes of American movies, said Fox. She accepted the statement as the highest form of a compliment, Fox added.

for consideration by mainline Southern Baptist laypeople."

Critical to the strategy is convincing churches to divert contributions from normal Southern Baptist funding channels, such as the Cooperative Program. "In effect, by redirecting their financial resources from one agency or organization to another, the local church can virtually starve the political machinery of the New Age Fundamentalists," the handbook says.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which offers churches funding channels to bypass the Cooperative Program, is not mentioned in the handbook or other materials.

One Word More By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

The older I get the more I appreciate old things. I don't think it's coincidental that I have become an antique buff in recent years — especially old books.

Trips to far away places linger in my mind long after the return. The pyramids of Egypt are literal monuments to memory — some of them were there in splendid profile when Joseph and Mary fled Herod's wrath and went south to safety.

However, they are manmade. That makes them very young when compared to God's creative genius.

In the current issue of *National Geographic Magazine*, an article extolls the beauty and pristine properties of the Baikal lake in what was formerly the Soviet Union, over in the east — Siberia.

In addition to all that can be said or written about Baikal, the most fascinating fact is that scientists say it is the oldest lake in the world.

Newspapers last month heralded yet another accomplishment of science. An article informed us of something almost unfathomable about the "mist of creation."

It seems that a NASA satellite scanning "the most ancient region" in the universe has found the relics of the big bang explosion, called "epic" by scientists.

As mankind stretches the mind beyond heretofore known limits — I get excited, especially when there is no new threat to humanity and no land discovery over which men would fight and die.

One researcher said the find "is going to change our view of the universe and our place in it." Another astrophysicist agreed, saying this is the biggest news "since the discovery of the big bang itself, definitely Nobel Prize material."

What did the scientists do that resulted in this great find? They directed NASA's Cosmic Background Explorer satellite to make a complete radio-wave map of the sky "as it appeared in the moments after the big bang, some 15 billion years ago, long before stars and galaxies began forming."

The result of that sweep and mapping? Scientists could record "the oldest and largest structures in the universe: hot and cold cloud-like regions" and the "clouds were formed only about 300,000 years after the big bang itself . . ."

Said one scientist, "That's as close to the start as we can possibly look. Beyond this, there's nothing. This is a picture of creation."

But there is something. Somehow I like this explanation better, from Genesis: "Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light."

Ah, the wonders of God — and how He establishes them! That is really old.



ALLEN



BAPTIST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



LEADERS — Stephen Reynolds, chief operating officer, and Joseph Powell, president.

Another in the TBC series

Bassinets and X-rays, laundry, meals, surgery — Baptist Memorial in Memphis has excellence in health care

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

MEMPHIS — One of the world's two dual-head, nuclear medicine gamma cameras to use slip-ring technology, is now operating at Baptist Memorial Hospital Medical Center here.

But it is not unusual for Baptist Memorial to claim a national "first," as this camera surely is. It is the first hospital in the United States to have air conditioning — and the first to utilize computer programming.

Most Tennessee Baptists won't understand the description of the camera, but this one is "state of the art," and is exceedingly valuable in the hospital's nuclear medicine section of Radiology Services.

Baptist Memorial also is the largest private hospital in the world, treating about 50,000 patients annually. Flagships of the health care giant are the 1366-bed medical center in downtown Memphis and a 604-bed unit in east Memphis.

A medical staff of 1428 is recognized as one of the finest in the nation, and includes practitioners in most medical and surgical specialties and subspecialties. When there is a unique need or a case that stumps most medical experts — Baptist Memorial is the place to go, according to many Memphians as revealed in surveys.

The hospital has almost 7200 employees and generates a payroll of more than \$160 million.

Baptists of three Southern states have a hand in Baptist Memorial Hospital Medical Center. In July of 1912 Baptist leaders worked together to birth a 150-bed non-profit hospital — and they called it Baptist Memorial.

Now it is the parent for 13 other corporate hospitals comprising more than 1400 beds — in Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi.

They are located in Ripley, Covington, Huntingdon, Union City, and Germantown, Tenn.; Forrest City, Cherokee Village, Osceola, and Blytheville, Ark.; and Booneville, New Albany, Oxford, and Southaven, Miss.

There are eight smaller medical clinics in the Memphis area, which provide health care on a seven-day-a-week basis.

A review of 1991 statistics reveals other compelling facts about the hospital and its many services — normal and specialized at Baptist Memorial:

- Beds — 1970
- Bassinets — 90
- Births — 5627
- Length of stay (excluding newborns) — 8.3 days
- Emergency department visits — 53,839
- Surgical operations — 36,253
- X-Ray exams — 229,762
- Laboratory procedures — 1,899,818
- Pounds of laundry — 16,901,050
- Patients' meals per day — 3040

One of the most revealing figures descriptive of the hospital's Christian ministry involves the amount of charity, bad debts, and other uncompensated care. Excluding Medicare and Medicaid allowances, in 1991 this amounted to \$68.2 million.

Almost 800 students were involved in nine educational programs — including nursing (582), residents, interns, radiologic technology, diagnostic medical sonography, nuclear medicine technology, phlebotomy, radiation therapy, and respiratory therapy. Most of the nurses join the medical staff at Baptist Memorial upon graduation.

The hospital is completely self-supporting, and is owned by the Baptist conventions of Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas. Each of the

three state conventions elects nine trustees for the hospital board, choosing three each year.

Charles Baker, senior vice president at Baptist Memorial, explains that the hospital is wellknown for being a leading center for diagnosing and treating cardiovascular disorders — including cardiac transplantation.

Neurosurgical and orthopedic service are among the best at any non-specialized hospital. The comprehensive epilepsy care center is one of only eight in the United States.

At Baptist Memorial East, several miles east of downtown Memphis, more than 5600 babies are born each year.

Baptist Memorial has an extensive rehabilitation service center, specializing in an assortment of treatments recognized throughout the Mid-South.

While the hospital and its affiliates are wellknown for providing excellence in health care, the Christian concepts of healing, teaching, and preaching are

vital in the overall basic ministry.

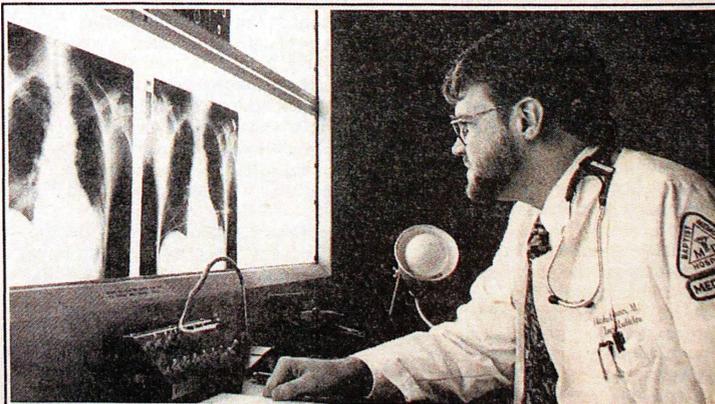
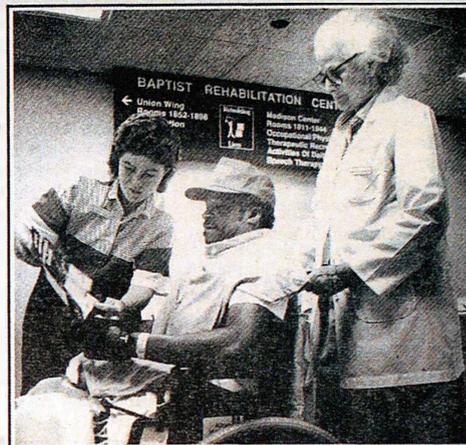
The department of pastoral care, otherwise dubbed "the chaplaincy corner," includes a corps of seven Southern Baptists and several assistants whose concern is the spiritual wellbeing of each patient — and family.

David Drumel, former pastor of Union Avenue Church in Memphis, heads the group. Their ministry is extensive.

Joseph Powell, current president in a line of distinguished leaders at Baptist Memorial, is proud of the medical center's heritage and its growth and reputation among the best in the nation.

He stresses the link with the three state Baptist conventions — and seems especially proud of the Tennessee ties. "We are all called to minister to the patient medically," he said, "but we also approach with sincerity the healing of mind and spirit. Our ministry is completed in this way."

THERAPY — Recreational therapist Lisa Griggs shows rehab patient Soloman Kimbrough map of new Rehabilitation Center; RN Wade Little assists.



VITAL WORK — Dr. Michael Dunn, internal medicine resident, views chest X-rays.

Union students experience life in the inner city

By Tracey King

JACKSON — Rioting ... violence ... poverty. These are common words used to describe life in an inner city. But a group of Union University students, who spent a week in the inner city would probably add a few more words to that description. Words like hope, love, and caring.

Eleven young men and women devoted their '92 spring break to missions. They traveled as a SPOTS (Special Projects Other Than Summer) team to East St. Louis, Ill., where they ministered to community youth. The team worked with Chet Cantrell and Marci Hill, a 1990 graduate of Union, at the Christian Activities Center, a mission project sponsored by the Home Mission Board.

East St. Louis is not rural West Tennessee. Described as "the country's most miserable city" by ABC newsman Ted Koppel, the area is plagued by debt, gangs, and poverty. In 1991 East St. Louis was ranked the fourth poorest city in the United States, and that same year it recorded the highest homicide rate in the country, Cantrell noted.

"But the most crippling problem facing East St. Louis is monumental debt," Cantrell said. "There is little money available for fire and police

protection, and the school system is facing bankruptcy. Since 1985 there has been no public sanitation service. The city is in crisis," he observed.

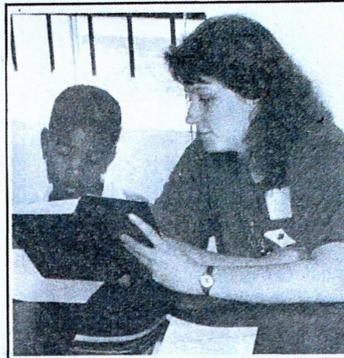
The Christian Activities Center is an oasis in a desert of desperation. It is a place where kids can play, study, and relax without the threat of dope dealers and gang members. The center opens after school hours and offers recreational activities, tutoring, and Bible studies to youth from age five to 18. Last year the center averaged 187 kids per day.

With only two full-time missionaries and three part-time staffers at the center, Cantrell looks forward to the help he receives from the Union teams.

"The SPOTS teams are always a tremendous boost," he said. "I've never seen such a committed group of young people. The Union students are always spiritually and mentally equipped to work with our kids."

Union first sent a team to East St. Louis in 1990. Marci Hill was part of that group. After graduation she returned to the city as a summer missionary and she has never left.

"I love what I'm doing," she said. "It's hard work, but the center is well-respected in the community. Parents seem to appreciate what we're trying to do for their kids."



BIBLE STUDY — Beverly Hudson of New Harmony Church, Paris, reads the Bible to a youngster at the Christian Activities Center in East St. Louis, Ill.

In addition to working with the youth, the SPOTS Team also provided much needed manual labor. Lawn work, trash collection, and house cleaning took up most of the day. One of the most satisfying projects for the group was digging trenches to stop flooding in the center.

"Chet told us every time it rained the center would flood," explained Cathy McElroy, a junior and member of First Church, Lebanon. "We worked

all week digging ditches to route water away from the building. On Friday it rained, and our trenches worked.

"God let us see that what we were doing, no matter how insignificant, did make a difference to the kids at the center," McElroy said.

Heather Wallace, a senior and member of First Church, Bruceton, was astonished by the poverty she witnessed, but blessed by her experience.

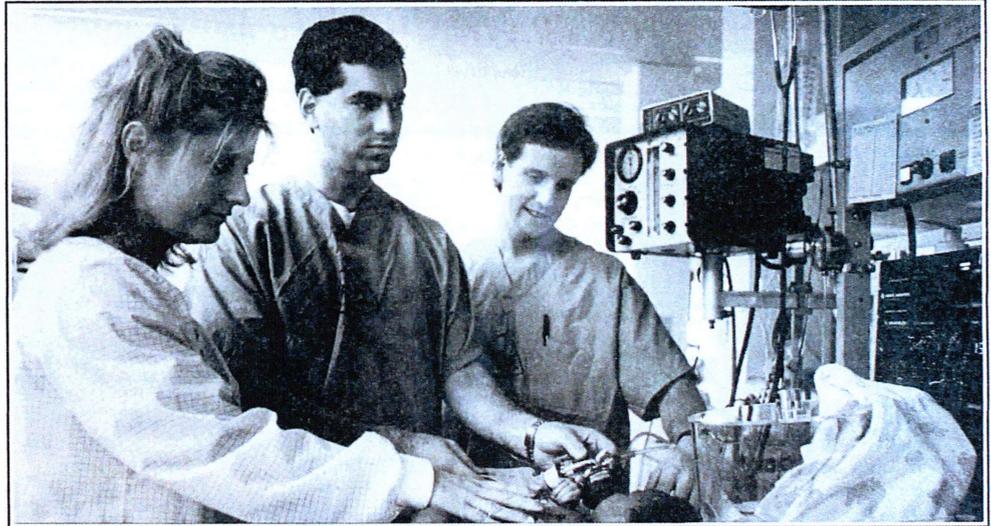
"Many of the children were cross-eyed because of malnourishment," she remarked. "But these kids weren't just starving for food — they were hungry for love and attention. It was an incredible opportunity to share a part of myself with them and to share the love of Jesus with them."

Other members of the East St. Louis SPOTS team were Craig Clayton, Brownsville Church, Brownsville; Rob Brandon, First Church, Sylvester, Ga.; Ron Sloan, First Church, Millington; Brett Smith, First Church, DuQuion, Ill.; Bill Groce, First Church, Gleason; Laura Gardner, Holy Church, Crump; Beverly Hudson, New Harmony Church, Paris; Oliver Dossman, English Fellowship Church, Ecuador; Pam Honeycutt, Keeling Church, Covington; and Tim Wheat, Union University campus minister.



TESTING — Blood technologist Bonnie Campbell tests blood in pathology department.

NEW LIFE — Respiratory therapist Marci McKinney, right, and Jimmy Martin work with baby at neo-natal intensive care unit. Hospital administrator Terry Gunn, center, also is involved.



Chaplains provide 'that special kind of caring'

MEMPHIS — As living proof that it actively cares about holistic healing, Baptist Memorial Hospital has seven Baptist chaplains in its pastoral care ministry.

These seven are augmented by an assistant chaplain and four associates. The department of pastoral care is headed by David Drumel, who has been at the helm for two and a half years after serving as pastor of Union Avenue Church here for several years. Drumel and his cadre of ministers combine to forge an innovative and caring system of spiritual support for patients and their families.

Drumel's background includes 25 years in the pastorate, and he is quick to establish that he had no background in clinical counseling. "We don't do clinical counseling," he says, "we have professionals for that."

Employing the theme "God in a working place," Drumel and the other

chaplains meet three times weekly at breakfast. They are proud of the hospital's three-fold mission of healing — spiritual, physical, mental.

The chaplains are sensitive to the physical needs of the patients — but they also know patients need quiet time. They provide a brief printed devotional thought each day, called "Take a Moment," placed on the hundreds of breakfast trays.

The chapel and prayer rooms are open 24 hours, and there is a Dial-a-Prayer plan available in each room. Drumel provided a grief and loss seminar recently and plans for two more this year.

"That Special Kind of Caring" is a booklet for patients, with special prayers to suit each illness. Physician specialists write the devotional prayers for patients — including terminal cases.

One of Drumel's dreams is to



DAVID DRUMEL

establish an endowment for the department. It would provide funding for special emphases. According to Drumel, the philosophy of the group is "to have a Christlike spirit and let that show through as the love of God — to patients and employees."

In addition to Drumel, staff chaplains include Richard Callaway, Charles Covington, Michael Davis, Richard McDade, and George McFadin. Lloyd Barker is an assistant chaplain, and Paul Lambach, Doyal Long, Gary Owens, and Mike Roberson are associates.

The department also provides parking for clergy, has special services when needed (holidays, national emergencies), and works with support groups for special illnesses.

Each staff chaplain has to be Southern Baptist, have 14 units of CPE, and a seminary degree.

Tennessee students receive degrees from Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Approximately 240 students, including 19 from Tennessee, received degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary during commencement exercises May 23.

The seminary awarded degrees to graduates from its schools of theology, Christian education, church music, and church social work. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was commencement speaker.

In another ceremony later that day, Boyce Bible School, a division of Southern Seminary, awarded diplomas and certificates to 40 graduates. Boyce, founded in 1974, provides ministerial training to persons who do not have college degrees.

Tennessee students, along with information on their home towns or churches and degrees, are listed below.

Andrew Bumpas, Big Rock Church, Big Rock, master of church music; Angela Claire Dennison, Nashville,



BUMPAS



DENNISON



GALYON



HAENER



JOHNSON



KELLY



MIKELS

master of divinity; Timothy B. Galyon, Valley Grove Church, Knoxville, master of church music; Rob Haener, Union Avenue Church, Memphis, master of divinity;

Jeffrey Alan Johnson, Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville, master of church music; Greg Kelly, Clymersville Church, Rockwood, master of divinity; James "Mike" Mikels Jr., Valley Grove Church, Knoxville, doctor of ministry; William Judson Reasons, Woodmont Church, Nashville, master of divinity; and Kenneth M. Tramel, Shop Springs Church,

Lebanon, master of arts in Christian education.

The following graduates did not provide additional information to the office of communications at Southern Seminary:

Donnie L. West, Carthage; Joel Alan Emerson, Kenneth Robert Standley, William A. King, and Jeffrey L. Knight, Nashville; Anthony H. Daniels, New Tazewell; Jerry L. Rimmer, Knoxville; Terry W. Stallard, Powell; Hershel Don Yancy and Raymond D. Wheeler, Memphis; and William Charles Trent, Rogersville.



REASONS



TRAMEL

Anderson accepts Tennessee position

E. S. "Andy" Anderson, who originated the Sunday School Growth Spiral, will be joining the staff of the Sunday School Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Aug. 1. He will serve part-time as growth specialist.

Anderson, who will retire from the Baptist Sunday School Board July 31 as growth promotion specialist, will assist the TBC department in meeting goals associated with IM-PACT Tennessee, a plan of missions, ministry, and education for Tennessee Baptists.



ANDERSON

Greer Ruble, department director, reported the first major meeting Anderson will attend will be the Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting in Gatlinburg in November. His work will include consulting with groups and individuals.

Tennesseans cited for Royal Ambassador work

MEMPHIS (BP) — Sixteen Southern Baptists, including two with Tennessee ties, will receive the third annual Awards of Merit presented by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission's International Legion of Royal Ambassador Leaders at the National Brotherhood Breakfast in Indianapolis June 10.

The ILRAL supports Royal Ambassador work around the world and its Award of Merit is the highest RA leadership award given by the Brotherhood Commission.

Royal Ambassadors is the Brotherhood Commission's missions education program for boys in grades one through nine.

"The Award of Merit is given to those outstanding RA leaders whose commitment to missions education is exemplary," said Brotherhood Commission president James D. Williams. "Such leadership is the backbone of missions education, and ultimately, the seeds of mission work."

The Award of Merit was begun in

1990 to recognize RA leaders around the world for their lifelong commitment to missions education for boys.

Among this year's recipients are Roy J. Gilleland Jr., 77, Nashville, retired

Brotherhood director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and Southern Baptist missionary Wade Watts, 36, of Trujillo, Peru. Watts is a former member of Highland Heights Church, Memphis.

Deaf Baptists slate June 19-21 meeting

The annual Tennessee Baptist Conference of the Deaf to be held at Belmont University in Nashville is for anyone who is deaf or interested in the ministry, noted Madge Larabee of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department, sponsor of the event. Families also are invited.

The June 19-21 gathering will begin with worship on Friday evening, June 19, at 7:30 p.m., and end with lunch on Sunday, June 21. The university's swim-

ming pool will be open Saturday afternoon for registrants.

The fee includes five meals and two nights lodging. Cost is \$45 per person with graduated fees for children.

Those wishing more information should contact Larabee at (615) 373-2255.

Tour Egypt — Israel

Join my wife and me on a trip to the Holy Land, July 30-Aug. 17, 1992. Emphases will be Biblical, cultural, and archaeological. For a brochure and further information call Dr. Jack Corvin, Prof. of Old Testament and Archaeology, Ferrum College. Telephone (703) 483-7685. (college credit possible)

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

People . . .

Paul Daniel Beach of Memphis graduated May 16 with an associate of divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Stephen R. Fehrman, pastor of First Church, Collinwood, recently received the diploma of pastoral ministries from the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute in Nashville. The institute is the correspondence arm of Seminary Extension, operated by the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

John Tullock, Belmont University, Nashville, professor of religion and former department chairman, has retired, effective at the end of the current school year. An accomplished writer, Tullock is author of the textbook *The Old Testament Story*, which is used at Belmont and other colleges and universities. Tullock's retirement plans include continued writing; teaching part-time at Carson-Newman College, his alma mater; and supply preaching.

Churches . . .

Children age five through the fifth grade are invited to participate in "Adventures on Son Mountain," the Vacation Bible School to be held June 15-19 at Calvary Church, Knoxville. The school will include Bible lessons focusing on the book of Proverbs, games, crafts, and snacks. For more information, call (615) 523-9419.

Members of First Church, Gruetli-Laager, will celebrate homecoming June 14.

T. C. Thurman will be special guest speaker at the homecoming celebration at Willingham Memorial Church, Ridgely, June 7. Luncheon will be followed by the music of The Gant Family and Ray and Gaye Wilson at 1:30. Michael O'Guin is pastor.

Members of White Oak Church, Chattanooga, will celebrate the church's 60th anniversary June 21. All former pastors and members are invited to attend.

A centennial celebration and dedication of remodeled church facilities will be held June 14 at Zion Hill Church, Friendship. Anyone with information about former pastors Raymond Morgan, William B. Whitlow, Charles Reginald Maraman, W. F. Bateman, John Henderson, and J. H. Miller should write to Mrs. Jimmie Smith, Rt. 1, Box 6, Friendship, Tenn., 38034.

The congregation of Only Church, Only, will celebrate homecoming June 7.

Leadership . . .

Bill Taylor has been called as temporary education director at Parkview Church, Jackson.

Piney Grove Church, Maryville, called William F. Hart as pastor. Hart is a graduate of University of Louisville (Ky.), and served churches in Owensboro, Ky., and Lexington, Ky., before coming to Tennessee. He most recently served First Church, Seymour.

John Kurtz, pastor of Mount View

Church, Antioch, recently resigned. Kurtz, a ventriloquist, will direct his time to special church programs. He will also continue his work through Pioneer Missions Inc., which he leads to assist churches in areas lacking traditional Southern Baptist work. It is funded through private donations and designated Cooperative Program funds through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board Mission Service Corps.

Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, recently honored Samuel D. Dean, Clinton. During commencement exercises, Carson-Newman President Cordell Maddox conferred upon Dean an honorary doctor of letters degree in recognition of his accomplishments and service on behalf of Christian education.

Hobson Pike Church, near Mt. Juliet, recently called Bill Hawkins as pastor. A native of Georgia, Hawkins is a recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He is married to the former Trudy Ingram of Selmer.

Don C. Perry completed 25 years as minister of music and education at First Church, Erwin, with his retirement in May. The Indiana native was elected minister of music and education emeritus.

First Church, Cleveland, recently called Bill Evans, as interim summer youth director. The church also called four summer interns to work with youth at Camp Cherokee. Mack Hall will be camp intern, assisting the caretaker. Janelle Cox will work in

visitation and equipping youth to visit others. Stan Gibson will lead Bible studies, assist in visitation, and work in a camp tennis tournament; and Shannon Brown will work in music and recreation.

First Church, Gallaway, pastor Tim Hobbs has resigned to go to First Church, Branch, Ark., as pastor.

The following men have been called to the listed churches as pastors: Skippy Rowland, Shady Grove, Somerville; Scott Campbell, South Madisonville, Madisonville; Wayne Blankenship, Welcome Valley, Pulaski; Al Mahan, Faith, Smithville; Ernest Mullins, Russellville, Russellville; Buford Marshall, Mountain Valley, Whitesburg; O'Dell Davidson, Catherine Nenny, Whitesburg; and Jon Rogers, New Victory, Jonesborough.

Northside Church, Chattanooga, called Steve A. Merrell as minister of music after Gary Wilson resigned the position after seven years. Merrell was minister of music and youth at First Church, Jasper.

Missions . . .

Members of Woodland Park Church, Chattanooga, left May 16 for a volunteer mission trip to Jamaica. The group is working at the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf. They returned May 30.

Another volunteer team from the church will go to Brazil in July to do construction work on a Bible institute building in Abaetetuba.

Ruth and Warren Harris, missionary associates in Peru, are in the United States on their first furlough. They are staying in the missionary residence owned by Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, until November.

Missionaries to the Philippines Samuel and Connie Stallings, who are Tennessee natives, are in the states on furlough. They are living at 507 Tennessee Street, Bolivar, Tenn., 38008. He is from Bolivar and she is the former Connie Davis of Covington.

Revivals . . .

Revival was held recently at New Providence Church, Clarksville. Pastor Philip Dougan led the services in which there were five professions of faith and 35 other recorded decisions. Steve Shirk served as music director.

Jerry L. Glisson, pastor emeritus at Leawood Church, Memphis, led revival May 3-6 at Rosemark Church, Rosemark. There were two additions to the church as a result of the revival.

Middle Tennessee ministers to meet

Franklin Paschall, retired pastor of First Church, Nashville, will be guest speaker at the June 25 meeting of the Middle Tennessee Ministers' Conference.

Nashville Association will be the host association and will provide special music.

A fellowship time begins at 10:30 a.m. at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville. The program will begin at 11 a.m.

For additional information, contact Gary Shockley, president of the ministers' conference, at (615) 647-5088.



CUMMINGS



HUSK



STRONG



TAYLOR



WAFLER



WILLIAMS

NOBTS graduates students with Tennessee ties

NEW ORLEANS — Six students with strong Tennessee ties were among the May 15 graduates of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Three students received master of divinity degrees — Randall M. Cummings, George F. Husk, and Diana Taylor.

Cummings, a graduate of Union University, Jackson, is married to the former Judy Smith of Memphis.

Husk, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Husk of Morristown, is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and considers First

Church, Oliver Springs, his home church.

Taylor, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Jones of Greeneville, considers Central Church, Bearden, in Knoxville her home church. A graduate of University of Tennessee, she is married to James Michael Taylor of Camden, Ark.

Memphis native Stan Wafler earned the master of arts in Christian education. A graduate of Union University, Wafler considers Ardmore Church, Memphis, his home church. He is married to the former Pamela Barlow of Memphis and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Marion Wafler of Memphis.

L. Thomas Strong III of Linden received the doctor of philosophy degree. A graduate of Union University, Strong is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Strong of Linden.

Southern Baptist missionary John Luther Williams earned the doctor of ministry degree. A graduate of Carson-Newman College, he is married to the former Loretta Lee Clinton of Knoxville. The couple serve in Brazil.



BREAKING GROUND — Members of Zion Hill Church, Englewood, watch as Pastor Jimmy McCarter breaks ground for a new building. Zion Hill is the second oldest church in McMinn-Meigs Association and is the mother church of First Church, Athens. Work already has begun on the new facility.

N.C. board votes to oust Pullen, Binkley churches

ASHEBORO, N.C. (BP) — Stating "more than anything else, we must give a positive witness to the world," Kathryn H. Hamrick, president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's general board, presided over a historic session in which two **Campus ministers plan SBC meeting**

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers will hold their annual meeting June 8 at the Days Inn/Airport in Indianapolis.

"Called out of Crisis" is the theme for the meeting, which comes the day before the start of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In addition to time for fellowship and dialogue, campus ministers will hear reports from Charles Johnson, director of the student ministry department at

churches were ousted from the convention over decisions regarding homosexuals.

The action was taken in the board's regular May 19-20 meeting at Caraway Conference Center in Asheboro.

In March, Pullen Memorial Church

the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board; Ircel Harrison, state student director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and Ron Hornecker, associate professor of supervised ministry and director of the doctor of ministry program at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

The meeting will include three sessions — a morning session from 10 until noon, an afternoon session from 1:30-5, and an evening session from 7-9.

in Raleigh voted to bless the "union" of two homosexual males. The service was held March 15 with Pastor Mahan Siler officiating. In April, Binkley Memorial Church in Chapel Hill voted to license a homosexual student at Duke University to the ministry.

The two decisions set off a firestorm of reaction among Baptists in the state and nation, one North Carolina executive director/treasurer Roy J. Smith described as "without equal in my 30 years with the convention."

Officers of the state convention and its board proposed in March the financial policies be changed to exclude "any church which knowingly takes, or has taken, any official action which manifests public approval, promotion, or blessing of homosexuality." The change states "Any such church shall

not therefore qualify as a "cooperating church" as defined in Article IV, A, 3 of the Constitution of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina."

The approval of the officers' recommendation was by ballot vote, 59 to 28 with one abstention, a 67-33 percent split.

E. Glen Holt, convention president, presented the recommendation on behalf of the six officers. "The officers . . . made our decision only after serious soul-searching and fervent prayer.

"We made our decision with troubled hearts and grieved spirits, yet we bring this decision out of a deep sense of conviction," Holt said.

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Paul defends his authority

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

Many missionaries have been committed to serving Christ regardless of what the world thought. Missionaries like Bruce Schmidt and his family serve in Kenya, Africa. Most likely some have questioned the Schmidts' authority or right to take their three children to a place 100 miles from a city. Yet, when one learns of their children's involvement in the mission work, one has no doubt about their authority. It is not of man, but of God. Paul was committed to Christ.



GLISSON

Nothing could deter him from his commitment. They could attack him or ignore him, but Paul never flinched. He kept serving his Lord. How can one guard his commitment?

In II Corinthians, a church was

under attack. The members did not recognize their enemy, so they literally fought one another in the altar of the church building. They lost the battle. Satan won. That church closed its doors.

Paul said our weapons are not carnal. Even though we live in physical bodies, we are engaged in a spiritual war. Our weapons are not fists, clubs, and guns. They are prayer, the Bible, the blood of Jesus, the indwelling Holy Spirit, and our Christian testimony (Revelation 12:11). Paul knew Satan's strategy was to destroy the church in Corinth. How could Satan accomplish such a goal? — He attacked the spiritual leader. But notice, Paul said demonic strongholds could be pulled down, "wrong thinking" and every "barrier of pride" could be cast down, and every thought could be brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ when one prays (vv. 4-5). The false teachers and leaders charged Paul

with cowardice, but he did not yield. He engaged in prayer and won the victory. The committed Christian can and must pray "against" the forces of evil. Satan was defeated by Jesus in His death and resurrection (Colossians 2:13-15).

Paul was charged with weakness because the people were looking on the outward appearance. "Anyone can write a letter," they said. But Paul did not write anonymously and did not avoid visiting the church. His visit was not made with strength but with the power and authority of Christ. This power and authority were not given to demolish the church, but to build it up (v. 8). One's commitment is no more secure than the source of one's power. That power has to be the Lord.

Paul refused to compare himself with others. Even though he used the word "boast" 20 times in these chapters, he boasted only in Christ and the work he had been assigned or the

sufferings that the assignment brought. His goal was to measure up to God's plan.

One can know when he measures up to God's plan by his faithfulness to the assignment (v. 13-14), his glorification of God, (v. 15-17), and the commenda-

BIBLE BOOK
June 7 Lesson
 Basic Passage: II Corinthians
 10:1-11:15

tion of the Lord at the judgment (v. 18). Warren Wiersbe, *Be Encouraged*, pp. 115-118).

Paul loved the church members of Corinth and wanted them to love Christ alone. When a person loves Christ, he will love others and his service in the Kingdom will be a blessing. Such God-like love will prevent being gullible to false leaders, help you to know what you are teaching, and enable you to refuse to cheapen the Gospel.

The Lord will restore Judah

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

Little is known about the prophet Obadiah. The name of the author of this brief book of 21 verses means "worshiper of Yahweh" or "servant of Yahweh." The prophecy itself is a pronouncement of doom directed toward the Edomites. The prophecy ends with the reassurance that God will ultimately be the conquerer in the "Day of the Lord."



MOUSER

The Edomites had a long history of conflict with the people of Israel. This animosity was traced back to the tension between Esau and Jacob. The people of Edom were descendants of Esau and are referenced as Esau. Tensions mounted when the Edomites refused to allow Moses to lead the children through

their territory.

The occasion for the writing of Obadiah was most likely a time following the fall of the southern kingdom of Judah in 587 B.C. Prior to this, the Edomites had chosen to rebel against Jewish leadership by selecting their own king and engaging in battle with Jehoram. Consequently, when Judah was being conquered by Babylon, the Edomites aided the enemy. Their adversarial role rubbed salt in the wound of Judah's defeat. Their egotistical opposition to the people of God was the basis of Obadiah's pronouncement.

His message concerning the downfall of Edom comes from the sovereign God in the form of a battle cry, "Rise, and let us go against her for battle ... " Edom will be made small among the nations because of a haughty attitude that expressed itself in the harsh treatment of the people of Judah.

The Edomites lived in high cliff structures hewn from rock. The elevated residences seemed impregnable and were a virtual extension of the Edomite prideful attitude. This mind-set is also compared to lofty soaring of eagles. These people thought they were above defeat. The answer posed in verse 4 reflects this aloofness, "Who can bring me down to the ground?" The answer was simple — God would bring them down to an appropriate station in life. In verses 5-14, the devastation and destruction of Edom is described. The exponents of

CONVENTION UNIFORM
June 7 Lesson
 Basic Passage: Obadiah

prideful arrogance will receive appropriate and full recompense.

The prophecy of Obadiah ends with an emphasis on the "Day of the Lord."

This event is seen as near. The "Day of the Lord" will be a time of restoration for the people of God. God will deliver His people from the hands of their adversaries. It will be a time of judgment for those who have mistreated the followers of God. Historically, this meant a remnant would return from exile in Babylon as God's true people. This final phrase of Obadiah resounds with triumph, "And the kingdom will be the Lord's."

The Bible points to the "Day of the Lord." This day is more than a restoration of Jewish nationalism. II Peter declares there will be a new heaven and a new earth. Revelation indicates the ultimate victory of the worthy Lamb of God. Nothing can prohibit the reality of the "Day of the Lord" — no nation, no people, not even Satan! The words of the early church echo through the pages of history — "Maranatha! Even so, come Lord Jesus."

Professing yet inconsistent

By Sharon Herrington, layperson; Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage

At the Southern Baptist Convention Education Commission where I am employed, our staff is preparing for the culmination of a five-year emphasis on the integration of personal faith and professional discipline. Educators, faculty, and administrators



HERRINGTON

at the 71 Southern Baptist educational institutions which are members of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools have been encouraged to enhance their classroom teaching with their personal faith in a variety of ways.

Likewise, the integration of one's personal faith and his daily life and vocation is the basis for consistency in living a life pleasing to God. When we exclude God in our living and working, we set ourselves up for inconsistency or hypocrisy. Ralph Waldo Emerson said (my paraphrase), "I can't hear

what you are saying for the way you are acting!"

Interesting facts about the ancient, powerful city of Sardis include the first use of coins; prosperity from a reputation of wealth as gold was panned in its Pactolus River; a commercial influence exerted by its wool industry; and a strategic location for trade in the hub of five intersecting highways.

Writer Fred Wood skillfully points out that with all the seven churches, "Each church's spiritual condition had its analogy in the character of the community surrounding it." Wood explains that each church's life-style mirrored the condition under which the community lived. I can just hear fellow ministers affirming Wood's observations with a hearty "That'll

LIFE AND WORK
June 7 Lesson
 Basic Passage: Revelation 3:1-6

preach, brother!"

Christ's accusation to Sardis was that the church showed signs of being

alive and the members believed it was alive, but actually the church was spiritually dead. The church is made of people, its members. So when we say the church was spiritually dead, we really mean its members were spiritually delinquent. Verse 2 indicates life was still present in the Sardis church and there was hope. "Wake up ..." and "Strengthen what remains ..." Christ said. Revive the spiritual sensitivity that once was there, or suffer the warning of verse 3.

What else remained? Perhaps it was the minority of conscientious, Spirit-led Christians struggling in the death-bed church of Sardis. These people seem to exemplify Revelation 3:4.

This lesson painfully reminds me of our first full-time church — a First Baptist Church located in a predominantly black community. As pastor, my husband (and I) began filling leadership positions, building a base for Christian education with all age groups through Sunday School, Church Training, missions, and music programs. But when my husband began

reaching out to the black community, he was promptly chided about involving our FBC in any racial endeavors, which essentially meant "Don't invite them!" "They have their own churches," advised the church leaders.

Twenty years later as I drive through that little town and visit with the few faithful remaining (verse 4), I am told no youth, missions, music activities exist; only adult Sunday School is meeting. The average stay of the pastors over the last 20 years was 13 months, and young families have moved to the county seat town. This look-alive church ignored its mission field in the early '70s and now is reaping the consequences of spiritual decay, prejudice, and selfishness.

In God's measurement system the success of a church, composed of individuals, is not determined by its quantity, programs, buildings, and statistics, but by its spiritual quality. Christ would say to us church members who pride ourselves on consistency of our Christianity and who represent Him in all we do and say in our community, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto ... (the church at Sardis)."

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Oklahoma board recommends shift in CP percent, designated funds

OKLAHOMA CITY — Citing nine straight years of flat growth in Cooperative Program receipts from Oklahoma churches, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma's board of directors recommended lowering from 44.25 to 42 percent the percentage of receipts sent on to the Southern Baptist Convention. Directors also voted to change the method of changing the CP division in the future and to no longer handle funds designated to agencies not supported by the BGCO or SBC.

The recommended percentage change came after months of study by the board's Cooperative Program study committee, which compared records from 1925 to the present, looking at facts and trends. In the end, the committee determined that without a change, missions work in Oklahoma would be seriously damaged.

William G. Tanner, BGCO executive director-treasurer, said the convention's problems were caused by the oil boom/bust that wreaked havoc on the state's economy. During the boom years, he said CP giving increased 13.8 percent a year. Since then, in 1983-91, CP giving has risen only 1.94 percent a year while fixed operating costs have greatly increased. Tanner said the adjustment is necessary to avoid any more cuts in BGCO programs or personnel. No raises are planned.

Three actions were taken by the board in relation to the budget. The first rescinds a 1987 action that required the BGCO to increase its CP from .25 to one percent any time giving was up in Oklahoma. The second gives the budget subcommittee the authority to adjust CP percentage as needed; the adjustment would still have to be approved by BGCO messengers at the annual meeting. Finally, the percentage was lowered to 42 percent. All three recommendations must be approved by BGCO messengers in November.

Savage hailstorms damage Baylor University, churches

WACO, Texas — Hailstorms wreaked \$5 million damage to Baylor University facilities and severely damaged Texas Baptist churches and homes of church members in the Waco, Arlington, Mansfield, and Cleburne areas.

Baylor news director Keith Randall reported severe damage to roofs and windows of 45 buildings on the Baylor campus in Waco, including one dormitory with 400 windows broken. Autos of about 6000 students also were damaged.

At First Church in Waco, hail up to grapefruit size destroyed two-thirds of the roofs and broke 171 windows, allowing rain to damage interior walls, carpets, and furnishings, said Larry Maddox, associate pastor.

Also severely damaged was Edgefield Church near the Baylor campus, said Paul Stripling, director of missions for Waco Association.

Among the hardest-hit in Arlington near Dallas was Fielder Road Church, which suffered damage to the roofs on most of its buildings, said Lee Harris, director of buildings and grounds. Hail also broke 90 windows and damaged carpets, air conditioners, and six buses. First Church in Mansfield near Arlington suffered damage to its roof and the homes of its pastor, James Moore, and about half the church members, also received damage. In Cleburne, about 70 percent of the homes and most churches were damaged by the savage hailstorm, said Bill E. Roe, director of missions for Trinity-Brazos Area.

Louisiana evangelist candidate for SBC VP

RUSTON, La. — Louisiana evangelist Joe Aulds has announced his candidacy for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Election of officers, including a new president, comes during the June 9-11 annual meeting of the SBC in Indianapolis.

Although there are at least three announced candidates for president, Aulds apparently is the first to announce for a vice president's post. Unlike the president, who is customarily given two one-year terms, vice presidents are rarely re-elected to one-year terms although the post has been a stepping stone to the presidency on occasion.

Aulds, a native of Louisiana and state pastor for more than 16 years, could be a candidate for second vice president depending on the situation, according to Leo Lytle, pastor of Bentley (La.) Church, Aulds' spokesman. At this date, Lytle said, it has not been decided who will nominate the evangelist at the SBC meeting.

Two small church pastors honored for outstanding work

NASHVILLE — Leon "Tip" Harwood of Libby, Mont., and Ron Geiger of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., have been named the Southern Baptist Convention's outstanding small church pastors for 1992.

Chosen by a special committee of pastors and SBC program leaders, the men were selected for "noteworthy and meritorious achievement in pastoral ministry and denominational service," according to Charles Belt, consultant in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department.

The selection committee considered nominations from each state convention, Belt said. Only pastors of churches with fewer than 300 members are eligible for the award. During his five-year tenure as pastor of Libby (Mont.) Church, Harwood has led the congregation to build a new sanctuary and remodel the original building for Sunday School space. The church's Sunday School has grown from an enrollment of 47 to 180 and average attendance has increased from 32 to approximately 100.

Geiger is pastor of Riverland Church, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. During his three-year tenure he has led the church to participate in and support a Sunday School enrollment training clinic. Within a year, Sunday School attendance grew from 89 to 143, a 14 percent increase.

Two Stetson dorms to pilot extended visitation hours

DeLAND, Fla. — Two of eight residence halls at Stetson University will have

extended visitation hours in a pilot program to be initiated next fall. Visitation hours at the two residence halls will be from 10 a.m. Friday to 12:30 a.m. Monday. The dorms' occupants are largely junior and senior students, according to Stetson officials.

The changes survived discussions by the university trustees' student affairs committee and the full board of trustees. At least three Florida pastors voiced concern for extending visitation hours in even a limited number of campus facilities.

The changes are being adopted "to provide more mature students with more freedom," said Stetson President Douglas Lee. But, he said, "it is not '24-hour visitation' with all that that implies — no rules or regulations, sexual misconduct, and open access to residence halls. Such a concept of 24-hour visitation is not consistent with Stetson's standards for student conduct and safety. Stetson's moral code and standards for student conduct have not changed."

Lee noted many of Stetson's sister Baptist institutions offer older students attractive "on-campus" alternatives to traditional residence halls. Stetson is not financially able at present to construct new types of residence halls, such as apartment buildings, or to make major renovations in existing buildings.

In the pilot program, university regulations governing access to the dorms remain in force, said James Beasley, vice president and dean of campus life. All doors have 24-hour locks which can be opened only by a hall resident; visitors of the opposite sex must be accompanied by a hall escort; and overnight stays are permitted only for visitors of the same sex as the room occupant. The university is implementing a hall monitoring program for all residence halls as an added security measure, Beasley said.

Evangelicals give more to charity, Virginia university study reports

NASHVILLE — A recent study has revealed that Evangelical denominations give more money to charity than mainline Protestants.

The study, jointly conducted by the Villars Committee on Relief and Development and the Center for Survey Research of the University of Virginia, was released in March. Noted University of Virginia sociologist James Davison Hunter described the survey as "an utterly fair-minded, probing, and even path-breaking study of a central part of the evangelical life and culture, the mission of Christian relief and development — and in particular, the study of the opinions of the constituency who financially support it and in whose name it is undertaken." Southern Baptists are included in the survey as Evangelicals.

The national survey polled more than 1000 persons who would describe themselves in some sense by the term "Evangelical." Eighty-seven percent believe the Bible is "the unerring Word of God." Ninety-one percent believe "Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully Man." Ninety-five percent believe personal faith in Jesus Christ is the only hope for salvation. The sample was spread broadly across a range of Protestant denominations; only two percent were Catholic. Seventy-eight percent of the respondents said they gave at least ten percent of their annual income to charity and more than 60 percent had given to Christian relief and development agencies within the past year.

According to the survey, evangelicals attach a high priority to the problem of helping the poor around the world. When asked to rate seven different global and domestic problems on a scale of one to ten, with ten being the highest, the problem ranked most important was "helping poor people in our own cities and towns in America." Helping the poor around the world, abortion, and pornography rated nearly as highly. The environment, minority rights, and prison reform fell lower on the scale.

New Hope biography among Gold Medallion finalists

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — New Hope Press has been selected as a finalist in the Gold Medallion Award competition for *Faithful Witness: The Life and Mission of William Carey*.

New Hope Press, a publishing arm of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, commissioned Timothy George to write the book to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the modern missions movement. George is the dean of Samford University's Beeson Divinity School.

"We're excited our attempts to reach more people with the missions story has resulted in this kind of recognition," said Karen Simons, a member of New Hope's management team. "New Hope started seven years ago with the intent of increasing missions awareness. It's gratifying to be recognized by our peers even though we are relatively new to the industry."

The Gold Medallion Awards, given each year by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association, are one of Christian publishing's top honors. Finalists in the competition will be named in June.

'Call to Joy' conference for ministers' wives cancelled

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The "Call to Joy" conference for ministers' wives scheduled Aug. 13-15, 1992, in Birmingham has been cancelled. The conference was to be sponsored by *Magazette*, the magazine for ministers' wives published by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

Registration response for the conference was not as high as was necessary to make hotel and meeting facility commitments, said WMU staff involved in the decision. They cited the slow economy as the cause of the low response.

Chaplains to discuss their role in Southern Baptist life

ATLANTA — Southern Baptist chaplains and pastoral counselors will focus on their place in the denomination during a June 8 convocation near Indianapolis. The panel discussion is part of the annual chaplains and pastoral counselors meeting at Fort Benjamin Harrison on Monday preceding the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis.

Huey Perry, director of the Home Mission Board chaplaincy division, will address the topic during the morning session. The afternoon program includes a panel discussion with three chaplains and a response by Reginald McDonough, executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

The program will begin with registration at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. Pre-registration is not required but lunch reservations are requested. To make reservations, contact the HMB chaplaincy division at (404) 898-7440.