

Baptist and Reflector

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Southern Baptist CP drops from May '91

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program total received by the Executive Committee for May took a big drop compared to a year ago, according to Harold C. Bennett, Executive Committee president-treasurer.

The May 1992 total was \$10,680,560 compared to \$12,415,289 the same month a year ago or a 13.97 percent decrease. Designated gifts also suffered compared to a year ago: \$15,961,706 to \$19,608,602, an 18.6 percent decrease.

"I'm disappointed," Bennett said in response to the report.

After eight months of the SBC fiscal year, CP gifts are \$3,245,506 behind the comparable period in 1990-91 which is a 3.39 percent drop. Designated gifts for the fiscal year also are short compared to the previous year: \$105,601,581 compared to \$107,083,976 or a 1.38 percent drop.

The monthly CP basic operating budget requirement for the SBC is \$11,725,856 or, for the eight-month period, \$93,806,848.

Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, world hunger, and other special gifts.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting ministry and missions through state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention.

James Sullivan says:

Christians must cope with criticism

NASHVILLE (BP) — The mark of a mature Christian is not whether he receives criticism but how well he handles criticism he receives, James L. Sullivan told participants May 29 in the 101st anniversary celebration of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"Christians are always vulnerable to criticism if their lives count for anything," Sullivan told more than 1500 employees, retirees, and guests who attended the annual anniversary day service. Sullivan was president of the church programs and publishing board from 1953-75.

He said everyone is subject to criticism — even Jesus Christ — who was the target of untrue charges he was a drunk, a glutton, and son of the devil.

"They tried to weaken him by criticism," Sullivan said.

Publishing houses such as the board are especially vulnerable to criticisms caused by typographical errors and other problems in the editing and printing processes, he noted.

Sullivan recalled an incident when he was president that the printing of a book was stopped when it was discovered that the title, *Why I Believe in Immortality*, instead was printed, *Why I Believe in Immorality*. In another instance a Sunday School lesson titled, "Paul Pleads for a Slave," was distributed as "Paul Pleads for a Shave."

"Most criticisms are sincerely given. It is well that we analyze them. It is

well that we handle them in the best way possible," Sullivan said.

When a person criticizes one or two things about another, the one criticized should listen and try to learn from it, he said. But "when someone criticizes everything, the problem is in them."

In many instances, Sullivan said, criticism "gets emotions so high that judgment ceases. People operate with their feelings instead of their brains."

"If we can get folks who disagree together and talk dispassionately, in many instances we'll find both sides are wrong. Folks ought to find the truth through dispassionate discussion," Sullivan said.

He also called for patience in dealing with criticism, reciting an experience years ago when, as a pastor, a woman called him daily to complain the basketball uniforms worn by girls at a local high school were immodest.

After many days of conversation that seemed to go nowhere, the woman said to Sullivan, "What if Jesus were to come again and catch those girls in those uniforms?"

Exasperated, Sullivan replied,

Carter leads BWA study on racism

WASHINGTON (BP) — Former President Jimmy Carter has agreed to serve as honorary chairman of the Special Commission of Baptists Against Racism being formed by the Baptist World Alliance.

In a letter of acceptance to the BWA, Carter, a Southern Baptist, said he is pleased to have his name listed and sent "warm, best wishes to fellow Baptists who are working to eliminate social discrimination."

Carter will head an international committee of Baptist leaders from the United States and other countries, many of which are currently embroiled in racial and ethnic conflict.

In inviting Carter to serve as commission chairman, Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary, told him "there is no Baptist anywhere in the world who has more visibility and courage and is known to be against racism than Jimmy Carter."

The special commission on racism is being appointed by the BWA general secretary to study the causes of racism, the Biblical answer to racism, and what Baptists can do to help defeat racism. The commission will be expected to make a report and recommendations for worldwide Baptists when the BWA general council meets in August 1993 in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The impetus for the commission was the recent Los Angeles riots but "it is also continuing conflicts in the former republics of Yugoslavia and the former USSR, South Africa, and the Middle East," Lotz said.

"It is time that Baptists around the world make a strong statement against racism by word and deed," he said.

"Madame, has it ever occurred to you that when he comes again, he may catch you in the bathtub?"

"I cut her off and now I had no contact," Sullivan said. "My job was to bring comfort and I failed her. I failed my church and its mission."

"Most criticism is sincere. It can actually bring a blessing to our lives if we try to deliver excellence in everything we do," he said.

Earlier, Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. said when he became president in August 1991 Sullivan wrote him a six-page letter outlining his administrative philosophy in 44 points.

Even Christ was victim of criticism

In the letter, Sullivan told Draper that in leaving the pastorate of First Church, Euless, Texas, to lead a Southern Baptist agency he was stepping down. The highest position in the denomination, Sullivan wrote, is the pastorate.

Other points in Sullivan's letter addressed truth, conflict, and organization.

"Good organization is like digestion. When it's working, you're not aware of it. When it's not working, you can hardly think of anything else," Sullivan wrote.

"Take your work seriously, but yourself, never," Sullivan admonished Draper.

Employees celebrating anniversary milestones in their careers were recognized. Bonnie Bradley, a merchandise assembler clerk in the distribution services division, was cited for the longest tenure, 40 years.

Tennesseans go to SBC

Many Tennessee Baptists are attending the Southern Baptist Convention sessions in the Hoosier Dome at Indianapolis this week, most of them as messengers from their churches "back home."

They will experience firsthand reports, music, programs, drama and routine, and voting on business matters. Some of them will report to the churches.

There will be a full report of the June 9-11 SBC activities in next week's issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*. Other meetings also will be reported. The *Baptist and Reflector* editorial staff will render a full report: Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor; Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor; Connie Davis, assistant editor; and Connie Umstead, editorial assistant.

Look in next week's issue for convention news and other news about Tennessee Baptists in Indianapolis, including photo essays. — Editor



DANDRIDGE GROUNDBREAKING — Pastor Don Frazier, front, leads members of French Broad Church, Dandridge, in breaking ground for a new 7200-foot educational and fellowship building. The construction of the building is the culmination of three years of planning and fund-raising by members of the 111-year-old church which overlooks the French Broad River, in full view of the Great Smokey Mountains. Assisting in the groundbreaking were building committee members, from left, Roy Williams, Kolner Bures, Pat Williams, Katheline Hurst, Greg Williams, Johnny Edwards, contractor, and Herman Drinnon.

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Editorials**Some suggestions on conducting SBC business**

When this issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* reaches most Tennessee readers, the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Indianapolis will be over, or almost over.

Messengers will have returned home or spent extra time for vacationing. Actions will have been taken which affect all Southern Baptists in some way — business and financial — including budgeting, missions and institutions reports, sermons and music, election of officers, resolutions, motions, and recommendations. We will know who the elected officers are, and the outcome of discussions on Masonry, and representation on boards, and action proposed against two North Carolina churches.

Some actions will not be pleasing to everyone and some will please. We plan to report on major actions immediately.

In preparing for a Southern Baptist Convention, it is wise to be flexible. Few sessions end according to schedule. There are surprises occasionally, but more than likely there will be few at this convention.

What are some things we would like to change about SBC meetings?

- We still insist that we do not need Barry McCarty nor any other paid parliamentarian. If you like a regimented meeting, free of friendly attitudes and cooperative spirit, keep one. If you like for Baptists to feel "at home" in the meeting, devoid of the straight-arm approach, get rid of it.

We maintain, as we have for at least seven years, Baptists would be better served by using

Baptists hit hard

Southern Baptist parliamentarians — well-qualified and fair. Any number of them can be found. Baptists who are conscientiously fair regardless of which "side" they might be on.

Having a paid non-Baptist parliamentarian is counter-productive. Such a person is perceived as an enforcer and ordinary messengers feel intimidated. If that is not the purpose, then let's use Baptists again.

- Have open elections for the top positions. We don't know the results of this week's elections, but at least there was no presidential choice made by a few on a Caribbean cruise.

Open elections mean just that. Since "conservatives" control the convention, there need not be fear that others might win an election. There is no opportunity for a "dark horse" or last minute charge. We would like to see a half dozen nominees debate for each post.

- Begin a thorough review of the Peace Committee Report in its entirety. We voted on the report five years ago. It was supposed to be a healing force among us. It has been used sparingly and selectively. As Baptists tend to do with many good movements or recommendations, we use what we like and ignore the rest.

Two years ago, Charles Fuller, Peace Committee chairman, said the report was not meant to be a "creedal supplement," but it was intended to be taken as a whole. He also said the committee felt there was no need for "any statement of faith other than the Baptist Faith and Message (adopted in 1925

and revised in 1963 by SBC messengers)."

Now, we will be selective and quote two sentences from the "Conclusions" portion of the report:

"First, the hostility must cease within the heart of each of us. That brings peace." This is the heart of the matter.

- Cessation of inviting politicians or government figures to speak to Southern Baptist Convention messengers. While their lifestyles may be compatible with ours, or similar, their presence gives the appearance of political endorsement. And while many Southern Baptists would delight in hearing these politicians, they should be heard in another setting.

Southern Baptists are a dissimilar people. Our backgrounds are different, we come from diverse cultures and life situations. But we do hold certain doctrines and matters of heritage in common. Our belief in the Bible is one of the most solid agreements we have — no matter what some may charge.

The larger we grow in numbers, the more diverse we become. It may be inevitable that we have been infected by the disease of largeness. It would almost be a miracle if we could hold on to our former spirit of cooperativeness and fellowship as we grow. However, that seems to be lost.

The next few years — perhaps four or five, may tell the story of the Southern Baptist Convention's demise or of its miraculous rebirth. God only knows, but all of us will be role players. — WFA

Leader says religious persecution remains in Russia

By Matthew Brady

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Although government persecution of religious beliefs is declining in the former Soviet Union, a new kind of persecution is on the rise, according to a leading Russian Baptist who is completing doctoral studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

A year ago, Sergei Nikolaev spoke prophetically about changes in his country. This year he has a word of caution for those who believe the old Soviet Union has passed away.

"This is completely dismissing the situation," he said. "Changing the name and color does not mean changing the essence."

Nikolaev, senior pastor of the Temple of the Gospel in St. Petersburg, Russia, has returned to Southwestern Seminary with his family.

Nikolaev said new freedoms his country is enjoying have multiplied opportunities for evangelism — and opportunities for persecution.

"Before, it was black and white. Now it's more colorful and it's more

Seminary Extension has new mission statement

NASHVILLE (BP) — Seminary Extension personnel of the Southern Baptist Convention have announced the office's new mission statement.

"We are changing with the times and found it necessary to rejuvenate our mission statement, Doran McCarty, SE executive director, said. "It is now concise and to the point — 'Seminary Extension serves people seeking to perform Christian ministries in their communities by developing and providing appropriate educational opportunities, resources, and experiences.'"

SE is an arm of the six Southern Baptist seminaries founded in 1951 and provides theological education with non-traditional methods.

difficult to recognize who is who," he said. "Nobody will openly persecute you but there are hundreds of new ways to show you that you are a bit different than they are."

Since forming the Temple of the Gospel three years ago, Nikolaev said he has endured death threats, anonymous phone calls, and troublemakers in his church. Increasingly, the source of his trouble has been the Russian Orthodox Church.

Nikolaev's church occupies a former Orthodox cathedral. Three years ago it was in ruins. No one wanted it. But now that his church has renovated the building, Nikolaev said the Orthodox want it back.

"Everybody comforts you and says, 'No, no, don't worry. Everything will be all right.' But you know, when they announce on the radio that 'tonight we are going to exorcise the devil out of the church which belonged to us,' it's a strange feeling.

"It (the Orthodox Church) is associated with the government authorities and slowly the Orthodox Church is going to be a state church and on its way to triumph the Orthodox are going to press everybody who is not Orthodox," he said.

Nikolaev said he believes that could be more dangerous than past persecutions because "it seems like religious freedom." But he added, "It is a privilege for some, which will be lost for many of us."

The political changes also have created food shortages. Nikolaev estimated thousands, perhaps millions, of his countrymen are starving. His city, St. Petersburg, is "living by the donations of foreign help," he said. Much of that help is coming from Scandinavian Christians who funnel their aid through the Temple of the Gospel. Those donations allow the church to feed soup, sandwiches, and milk to approximately 500 people each day. Last year the church fed 300,000

people.

Despite the persecution and hardships, Nikolaev said his church is "the fastest growing in Europe." Last year the church baptized more than 500 converts age 16 or older. The church already has baptized more than 300 this year. With Sunday worship averaging 1800, "the building is already too small," he said. "The Lord is really good to us and makes miracles in our midst."

Although his church and many others are growing rapidly, Nikolaev said supporting pastors and missionaries financially is difficult for the churches. Part of his mission in the United States is to raise money for these workers.

"We have good young people ready to go ... ready even to sacrifice themselves but, of course, we need to support them," he said. "I could not send anybody who has a wife and two children and say, 'Well, you are going and I will pay you 250 rubles a month.' That's impossible to survive on — two

and a half dollars, you know."

Nikolaev said he believes the door to evangelism in his country will not remain open much longer. More than sugar, butter, and bread, he said his country needs the West to teach free enterprise and a new way of thinking about business. If the present anarchy continues, "the military will take over," he said.

"There is no limitation of anything. If you kill people in the street, nobody will stop you. You can do whatever you want, steal, rob, whatever your imagination can conceive," he said.

"People are suffering. The army and all the military complex is very unhappy. They have united and are getting stronger. I am afraid there could be another coup," he said. "We pray the Lord will have mercy upon our country."

Nikolaev and his wife, Helen, have four sons: Vladic, 21, a student at Dallas Baptist University, Ilia, 16, Jacob, 9, and Phillip, 8. They will be in the United States through December.

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Lottie Moon offering total rises about 2.5 percent in 1991

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Lottie Moon Christmas Offering receipts for 1991 totaled about \$81.4 million dollars — an increase of about 2.5 percent over 1990 for the annual Southern Baptist foreign missions offering.

When the financial books closed May 31, Southern Baptists had sent \$81,358,723 — about \$2 million more than the previous year — to support foreign mission work throughout the world.

Receipts for 1991 fell about \$2.6 million short of the \$84 million goal. The shortfall means missionaries will have that much less money to spend on capital needs, such as cars and houses overseas. The goal was projected to finance 46 percent of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's \$184 million budget for 1992.

Still, the total is good news for missionaries and mission planners. Some feared economic recession and denominational squabbles might seriously cut into Lottie Moon giving in 1991. The 1990 offering marked the first year since 1937 that Lottie Moon receipts dropped below the previous year's total, and the first year since 1932 that both Lottie Moon and Cooperative Program giving decreased compared to the previous year.

Most of the Foreign Mission Board budget comes from Lottie Moon gifts and offerings through the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified giving plan. For the first eight months of Southern Baptists' 1992 fiscal year, Cooperative Program receipts have dipped about 3.4 percent below the total for the same period last year.

Faced with the prospect of decreasing revenues, mission board trustees approved only about a half-percent increase in spending over 1991.

National youth prayer rally set

ATLANTA (BP) — This year's "See You at the Pole," a nationwide youth prayer rally at school flag poles, is set for Sept. 16, and Southern Baptist churches will receive participation commitment forms in June.

Last year, 180,000 youth participated in the first national rally which is held

14-year-old's wish comes true at camp

Fourteen-year-old Reth Muth told his sponsor last year after All Nations Camp, "I wish I could stay there forever."

Muth's sponsor, Roxie Cassidy, who became acquainted with Muth at Edgefield Church, Nashville, decided his experience was worth repeating. So, with Cassidy's help, Muth will attend camp again this year, reported Madge Larabee of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department.

All Nations Camp is July 13-17 at Camp Linden, Linden. It is for ethnic children and youth, ages 8-16. Male counselors also are being recruited for the camp.

Activities will include drama, music, puppetry, clowning, swimming, canoeing, and Bible study.

The cost of the camp is \$65. Some partial scholarships are available. Registration is due July 3.

Those interested should contact the Missions Department at (615) 373-2255.



PRESENTATION — Doyle Neal, right, director of missions, Beech River Association, presents a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to Pastor Mike Moore.



FOR THE FUTURE — Pastor Mike Moore, left, assists Fred Todd in placing a time capsule in front of the church as Fred Gilbert looks on. The capsule will be opened in the year 2012, said Moore. Items in the capsule included a church history and an audiotape of the sesquicentennial service. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey

'Train still moving' at Bear Creek Church

PARSONS — Members of Bear Creek Church in Parsons celebrated 150 years of heritage May 31.

Former pastor Wade Carver compared the 150 years to a train which just left the station. A few passengers were on board. As time passed, more passengers got on, while others unboarded when they reached their final destination, Carver said.

"That train is still moving. It does not matter what's been done in the past, but what are we going to do in

the future," he challenged.

Pastor Mike Moore reminded members of their proud heritage. "If we stay true to Him, He will continue to bless us as a fellowship," he said.

Bear Creek is the oldest Southern Baptist church in Decatur County, according to the church history which was given to each member.

The church is older than the town of Parsons where it is located and Decatur county. When it was established the community was known as

Partinville and was in Perry County. Decatur County was not established until 1845.

The church's first two buildings were constructed from logs. The present facility was built in 1945. Several improvements have been added to the building since then, including a baptistry and other renovations in 1991.

Members gathered momentos of the historic occasion and placed them in a time capsule, buried outside in front of the church.

BWA addresses property threat to church in Russia

WASHINGTON (BP) — Baptists in St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) who have completed a first phase of reconstruction of their Temple of the Gospel Church now fear they could lose the building originally owned by a branch of the Orthodox Church known as "Old Believers."

The building was abandoned by the government in 1930 because it was already in a bad state of repair. The

Baptist community under the leadership of pastor Sergei Nikolaev saw its promise and gained government permission to obtain the building and renovate it. "When we convened a press conference to announce what we intended to make out of the old building, the journalists laughed," Nikolaev recounted.

Now the Orthodox want the church building back, a sign of growing tensions between the Orthodox Church and Baptists.

Numerous Baptist volunteers from the United States and other countries helped St. Petersburg Baptists tackle the renovations. More than 1700 people, including some 40 foreign guests from ten countries, participated in services to celebrate the renovations in January.

Several BSU students from Tennessee, along with Rodney Wilson of the TBC's Student Ministries Department, were among the volunteers.

In response to news about the church, the Baptist World Alliance has appealed to the mayor of St. Petersburg, Anatoly Sobchak, to do all in his power to assure Baptists their freedoms will be defended and their building will not be taken back.

In a letter to Sobchak, Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary, appealed to Sobchak on the grounds of religious freedom and justice. Lotz told the mayor that since the 16th century Baptists had "suffered from oppressive state churches that have unjustly used religion to force people in a certain mindset."

"As Baptists we have fought and died for religious freedom," Lotz said. "We have always defended religious freedom and are opposed to any type of state church mentality which demands adherence to state religion. We believe that freedom is best protected when it is given to everyone."

before school starts and includes prayer for youth issues, said Dean Finley, Home Mission Board youth evangelism specialist.

"See You at the Pole" is a student movement to carry out the Biblical mandate, based on Joel 2, to do something about crisis in a culture, Finley said.

The crisis, Finley said, includes alcohol and drug abuse, sexuality, suicide, and crime. He noted one out of three teenagers is a heavy drinker, 3.3 million alcoholics in America are teenagers, half of the one million teenage pregnancies in the nation end in abortion, 5000 teenagers die each year by suicide, and 28 percent of America's serious crimes are committed by people under age 18.

"See You at the Pole" is not a demonstration, a protest, or a patriotic rally, Finley said. It is a united declaration of a Christian's dependence on God as a solution to the crisis facing teenagers, he said.

In addition to youth meeting at the flag pole, churches are asked to dedicate a "Wailing Wall" for youth during their Wednesday services on Sept. 16. The "wailing wall" will include pictures of local students as a reminder for youth to pray specifically for their friends.

Also, youth are asked to wear T-shirts with a Christian message.



FLINTVILLE CELEBRATION — First Church, Flintville, recently celebrated its 125th anniversary. Participating in the event were, from left, James Austin, Nashville, former interim pastor; Joe Mayberry, director of missions, William Carey Association; Pastor Eric Taylor; Glenn Hester, Centerville, former pastor; and Joe Vann, chairman of deacons.

Our Readers Write

Newsorthy reporting

I am a Southern Baptist missionary located in the Philippines just north of Manila. My husband and I have received the *Baptist and Reflector* for the past three years while we have been in partnership with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The newspaper has been appreciated as it has kept us aware of events in the United States that concern our denomination.

I especially commend the paper for the priority given to reporting about missions overseas. I know this helps keep missions in the forefront for everyone. It also helps us to pray, because we tend to get so little news from around the world once we are on the field outside the United States.

Please thank the Tennessee Baptist Convention for this gift.

Diana Clark
PO Box 7506
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Philippines 1300

Thanks churches

Many churches in our great convention have helped Auburn Baptist Church of Auburn, Nebraska.

We wrote to every pastor in the convention asking them for one (1) dollar. Many responded with what we asked for. But to our surprise many more responded with much more. Of course, we also asked that they put us on their prayer list. We know that because of their prayers we are experiencing growth and blessings we cannot explain.

We want to thank everyone who responded in any way.

Our building is debt free. We have started a mission in Falls City, and have been able to buy them a small building.

We still have needs since we are very small but we know our God is faithful in all things.

Be assured that we pray weekly for every church in our convention.

Floyd I. Butts, pastor
Auburn Baptist Church
PO Box 33
Auburn, Neb. 68305

Peacemakers

In the book of Matthew Jesus is quoted as saying, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God."

In the current two big struggles in SBC life, abortion and "fundamentalist vs. moderates," I don't hear anyone who

makes the sound of a peacemaker. I can only conclude our leaders have little interest in being children of God. If they're not children, what are they?

Another fundamental question here, I think we can all (maybe most of us) agree there are many Godly persons on both sides of these issues. The Bible says the Holy Spirit will guide us in all truth. What's gone wrong here? Was there ever such a person as the Holy Spirit or has God withdrawn him from a disobedient church? I can only conclude the later.

The convention in its great wisdom selected a Peace Committee. The report reminded me of the great difficulty of getting the giant panda bear pregnant and what she brings forth at birth. First, we have the giant SBC, then we labor long and hard selecting the committee (getting the panda to accept her mate), then they labor long and hard after many months produced, like the giant panda, almost nothing. The huge panda produces a baby which is measured in ounces.

Someone has said the report was not intended to say anything. If that's true, then the committee did a fantastic job.

Claude Nicks
3117 McGavock Pk.
Nashville 37214

Making peace

Alexander Maclaren, a Baptist preacher, first president of the Baptist

World Alliance, in a great sermon on the text, "Blessed are the peace makers: for they shall be called the children of God," (Matthew 9) made this statement:

"There is much that we are all bound to do to carry the tranquilizing and soothing influences of Gospel principles and of Christ's example into the littlenesses of daily life.

"Any fool can stick a lucifer match into a haystack and make a blaze. It is easy to promote strife. There is a malicious love of it in us all; and ill-natured gossip has a great deal to do in bringing it about.

"But it takes something more to put the fire out than it did to light it, and there is no nobler office for Christians than to seek to damp down all these devil's flames of envy and jealousy and mutual animosity. We have to do it, first, by making very sure that we do not answer scorn with scorn, gibes with gibes, hate with hate, but 'seek to overcome evil with good.' It takes two to make a quarrel, and your most hostile antagonist cannot break the peace unless you help him. If you are resolved to keep it, kept it will be."

Oh, how I pray that all God's children (Matthew 5:9) would heed — beginning with me, our pastors, and all who write, speak, preach, or go public in any way.

Roy Gilleland
1715 Warfield Dr.
Nashville 37215

Tennessean blends law, theology into one ministry

By Lonnie Wilkey

Tennessee native Oliver S. "Buzz" Thomas has successfully blended two distinct vocations into one ministry.

As associate director and general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a religious liberty organization based in Washington, D.C., Thomas is able to use his experience as a Baptist minister with his knowledge of law.

"It's been a perfect marriage of two disciplines," said Thomas, who was reared in Maryville. His parents, D. K. and Elma Lee Thomas, still live there and are members of First Church.

Thomas holds law degrees from University of Virginia, Charlottesville, and University of Tennessee, Knoxville, along with master of divinity in Biblical studies degree from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

His ministerial experience includes a stint as youth minister at First Church, Maryville, and a pastorate in Louisiana. Thomas still preaches on a regular basis.

Thomas became interested in church-state law while attending seminary.

"I learned Baptists were a most instrumental force in achieving religious liberty in this nation," he said.

Joining the staff of the BJC in 1985 was "a natural step. I felt a sense of calling," he recalled.

The "perfect marriage" of Thomas' background in law and theology has given him an advantage when discussing church-state issues.

Very few people in the nation are a member of the American Bar Association and an ordained minister, he said.

"Being a minister and a lawyer allows me to speak to church-state issues with more credibility than if I were just a lawyer or just a minister," he said.

Thomas observed the church "is very much in the world" as evidenced by more church-state litigation today than ever before.

Thomas' expertise has been helpful especially to Tennessee Baptists.

He wrote a major portion of the brief for the Tennessee Baptist Convention in the Bemis Pentecostal Church vs. State of Tennessee case in 1987.

The case involved several Baptist churches in Jackson that were declared Political Action Committees (PACS) because they placed ads in local papers opposing a liquor referendum.

The churches won the case in the Tennessee Court of Appeals, but it was overturned by the Tennessee Supreme Court. Thomas led an effort to have the case tried before the U.S. Supreme Court, but the high court chose not to hear the appeal.

The ruling against the churches means if individuals or churches spend more than \$200 to oppose a referendum they must register with the state of Tennessee as a PAC.

"It's unfortunate that the Tennessee Supreme Court went the wrong way in that decision," Thomas said.

In another Tennessee-related matter, Thomas chaired a committee of



THOMAS

lawyers which convinced the Internal Revenue Service to change its regulation which required church agencies to file tax returns.

That action happened after the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes won a case against the IRS in 1986. The TBCH had been required to file a tax return because the IRS said it did not

fit the "exclusively religious" clause in its law, Thomas said. After the TBCH won the case, Thomas and the committee of lawyers led the effort to have the IRS remove the "exclusively religious" clause.

And though the BJC no longer receives Cooperative Program funds, Thomas said the religious liberty agency is committed to serving Tennesseans and all Southern Baptists.

In 1991 messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention voted to cease funding of the BJC and assign religious liberty concerns to the Christian Life Commission.

The BJC, which now represents ten Baptist bodies, still receives funds from Southern Baptists through individuals and church gifts, Thomas said.

"The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs is committed to serving Southern Baptists in any way we can with no strings attached.

"We do not just work for those who have us in their budgets. We serve all churches," Thomas pledged.

CBF contributions show increase in April

ATLANTA — The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship received contributions of \$593,660 in April — 60 percent more than the previous month and 72 percent more than April 1991.

According to figures released by the Atlanta-based organization, the April total is the second highest month on record, behind the \$732,445 received in January 1992.

Since Jan. 1, the Fellowship has received \$2,164,491. That is an increase of 65 percent over the \$1,309,724 received during the first four months of 1991.

Three months into the year, the Fellowship is on target to meet the 1992 projection of \$6.6 million established by its finance committee. Last year the Fellowship took in \$4.5 million.

About two thirds of the money collected by the Fellowship supports Southern Baptist agencies and institutions, while the remainder funds Fellowship-supported efforts, such as the organization's newly launched missions effort.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was established last year by Southern Baptist "moderates" displeased with the current leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Fellowship's three giving plans allow churches and individuals to bypass traditional Southern Baptist funding channels, such as the Cooperative Program, and to withhold funds from SBC agencies of which they disapprove.

Approximately 950 Southern Baptist churches contribute to the Fellowship.

About 350 of those churches have the Fellowship in their budgets, while another 600 churches send designated gifts from individual members. — ABP

House vote fails

WASHINGTON (BP) — An attempt by Congress to overturn a ban on federal funding of transplantation research using tissue from induced abortions apparently will fail.

On May 28, the House of Representatives approved lifting the moratorium but fell 12 votes short of the two-thirds required to override a promised veto by President George Bush. The May 28 vote was 260-148 in favor of the conference report on the National Institutes of Health reauthorization bill (H.R. 2507).

Lexington members celebrate '150 years of faith'

By Brenda Robertson

LEXINGTON — Not all of God's miracles are flashy and big. Some of them just happen.

First Church, Lexington, is one of those kinds of miracles, said Gregory Frizzell, who grew up in the church and is now pastor of Georgian Hills Church in Memphis. He came home recently to speak at the old-fashioned homecoming service that culminated the church's sesquicentennial.

Indeed, it must have felt neither flashy nor big in January 1842 when seven people gathered in a house to organize the church. Scarcely could they have imagined that almost 100 times that amount would show up 150 years later to celebrate the church's steady growth and witness.

"We've really had a great time learning about the history of the church," said Billy Belew, who served on the church's sesquicentennial committee.

He wrote three skits — one of which dealt with the church's function as a hospital for Union forces during the Civil War — to help members learn about how the church got to where it is today.

Some members dressed up in 1800's period clothing to mark the occasion. Others looked at church memorabilia dragged out of attics and storage closets and dusted off for the special day. Everyone gathered for a dinner of barbecue and a potpourri of covered dish offerings.

Youngsters even got in on the

nostalgia of the day by taking rides in horse- or mule-driven buggies.

The church has had 22 pastors in its history but only five since 1902.

"When you come here, you don't expect to move," said current pastor Hoyt Wilson, who came in 1978. "I think the longevity of the church's pastors says something about its stability and its welcome nature."

Wilson said he intends to be around 50 years from now to unlock a time capsule created for the sesquicentennial. Church bulletins, photographs of the deacons and church staff, computer disks of membership directories, a videotape of various sesquicentennial activities, and a "virtually uncirculated" 1992 penny were put in the capsule.

Rather than bury the capsule, the sesquicentennial committee decided to house it in a pretty wooden cabinet enclosed in glass and keep it in the pastor's study.

The town of Lexington was only 20 years old itself when First Baptist was founded in 1842, three years before the Southern Baptist Convention was even organized.

"We've come a long way since then. Haven't we?" asked Frizzell, looking around the congregation at faces of people who taught him about the Bible and how to live a moral, exemplary life. "I believe the same God that brought us this far has far, far more in store for us in the future." — Robertson is a reporter for *The Jackson Sun*, reprinted with permission.

Southern Baptist work grows in Indonesia, missionary shares

By Connie Davis

"My name is sin," said the young Indonesian man in practiced English when asked his name by missionary Tom Barron.

Dosa, who was about 20 years old, had approached the American on the streets of Kupang, Indonesia, to practice his English. The young man explained his statement when he realized Barron was interested, Barron told a Nashville congregation recently.

He was known as Dosa, a name he coined from four former names he had used. He explained his life of crime had excluded him from his family. He had been away from his home and family for a year.

Barron asked him if he knew God loved him and would like him to have eternal life. After talking about an hour, they parted, but not after making plans to meet again.

Dosa missed their appointment. When he finally contacted Barron, he explained he had been beaten by an enemy and hospitalized.

Dosa had changed, observed Barron. He had not retaliated against his enemy, even to protect himself. He visited church and soon made a public profession of his faith. He moved home. Since then, Dosa also changed his name. Now he goes by his given name — the name of a famous Indonesian evangelist, reported Barron.

The Gospel can change people, confirmed the veteran of 23 years of missionary work in Indonesia.

Barron and his wife, Hazel, returned to Indonesia June 8 after a six-month furlough in Nashville. Mississippians by birth, the couple have furloughed several times in Nashville, the home of son, Tom Jr., and daughter, Becky, a Belmont University student. Woodmont Church hosted the couple and Becky in one of his missionary homes.

The United States and Indonesia share a common characteristic — both have large Moslem populations, noted Barron. Moslems in Indonesia make up the largest population in one nation. Although 85 percent of the population, the majority of Moslems are "most responsive" to the Gospel and tolerant of Christians, he added.

Barron described his approach to life and work in Indonesia as a "faithful" rather than "fantastic" attempt to continue work by Southern Baptists begun in 1952. At that time, Baptists were unknown to Indonesians. Today nationals number 30,000 and direct Baptist work.

Missionaries assist two full-time workers in ministries including a seminary program, two hospitals, medical center, publishing house, model farm, Baptist foundation, and student work.

"If you persist day in and day out, that wins people," said Barron.

The Barrons will return to the islands making up the state of Nusa Tenggara Timur to try to start churches. Only one church of about 50 people and its five missions serve the area which is home to three million people, he reported.

Their strategy must be through church members who relocate to an area needing a church. Church starting when done solely is illegal, but is allowed if viewed as assistance to an Indonesia church member, Barron explained.

The couple also hopes to focus on several people groups still living in tribes or clans who practice an animistic religion. They hope to get acquainted with the chiefs of these tribes, said Barron.

They return to Indonesia because they "have confidence in the Gospel," he concluded.

West Tennessee pastors elect Winfield

JACKSON — Jerry Winfield, pastor of First Church, Bolivar, was elected president for the 1992-93 West Tennessee Pastors' Conference recently at Union University. Serving as other officers: vice president, Ronnie Wilburn, Meridian Church, Jackson; secretary/treasurer, Bill Robbins, Allen Church, Brownsville; and music director, Wayne Perkins, First Church, Kenton.

The West Tennessee Pastors' Wives' Fellowship elected as president, Dayna Street; vice president, Wanda Moore; secretary, Hazel Boothe; treasurer, Bertha Lou Meade; program chairman, Pasty Connerly.

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership — June



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

- 11 — Miguel Vegar who is enrolled in the Theological Institute preparing for the pastoral ministry.
- 12 — Missionary Mary Jo Cooke who is celebrating her birthday today and is preparing to begin furlough in Charlotte, N.C.
- 13 — The spiritual needs of Miguel and Jose Sanzana of Pucon.
- 14 — Improved health for Pastor Guillermo Candia of Pillanleibun, South Chile, who has lost his eyesight and ability to walk.
- 15 — The salvation of Manuel Sanchez and also for the husband of Lina Farfan in Temuco.
- 16 — Tennessee missionary Richard Bray, an evangelist in Curico, on his birthday today.
- 17 — Missionary Terri Baer as she leads a ladies Bible study today and every Wednesday in the Poblacion Argentina Mission of Quilpué.

One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Mostly Christians attended the rally of some 11,000 in Nairobi, Kenya, that day. Three of the participants stand out.

One was a taxi driver and erstwhile terrorist, now a seeker. One was a woman who came to the meeting for spiritual fellowship.

The third one was Festo Kivengere, Anglican bishop from Uganda, and well-known evangelist and Bible teacher.

Some of the people had come as spectators; some came as drawn by the Holy Spirit to salvation.

Kivengere was the reporter who related this story.

The meeting was held not long after the terrorism in Kenya when many African Christians died at the hands of the Mau Mau, witnessing for Christ.

"As the Gospel of the grace of God was preached in this great meeting," Kivengere said, "the Spirit of God was making people respond. People were weeping. One fellow stood up, absolutely overcome.

"He was a tough fellow, Kikuyu by tribe. He was not the emotional type, but he was shaking from head to foot, weeping."

The taxi driver said, "I am much worse than a beast of a man. I have been a terrorist for the past three years. I have murdered more than sixty people. And yet somehow I feel the love of God has received me."

He bowed his head and wept uncontrollably. The people prayed, "I never expected God to receive me," he cried. "Now I know He has done so."

He paused. "There may be a woman in this crowd whose husband I helped

to hang in the bedroom — in front of her," and then came the plaintive cry, "Can such a woman forgive such a beast of a man?"

To be sure, she was there in the meeting. She walked quickly and quietly to where the man was standing, the man who had murdered her husband.

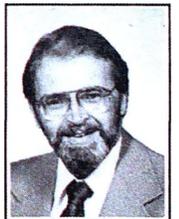
The crowd was quiet except for the weeping and praying. Heads all were bowed; no one could expect what was going to happen.

She reached out with her hand and put it in the hand of the man who had killed her husband. And she said, "I forgave you that night, when my husband prayed for you. You are now my brother."

The former terrorist and murderer who had become a wanderer and seeker — and taxi driver — became an evangelist for the Lord Christ. When he speaks of the love of God, he weeps — because he knows about that extraordinary love that takes one like him and transforms him into a child of God.

We are admonished not to hinder the transformation that God's Spirit wants to carry out in our lives. An appropriate verse, said the late Bishop Kivengere is II Corinthians 3:

"But we all with unveiled face beholding the glory of God, we are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another." Renewal is a continuous process.



ALLEN

CLC spearheads effort to get Southern Baptists to vote

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission is spearheading a major denomination-wide effort to get all eligible Southern Baptists to register to vote and to participate in the election process this year.

The campaign is nonpartisan and designed to encourage voter participation in the American political system, not in any one particular party.

The campaign was launched in time for Religious Liberty Sunday June 7 and for Christian Citizenship Sunday

June 28. It will extend throughout the summer, including Day of Prayer for World Peace Aug. 2, and into the fall general election Nov. 3.

"Churches have every right to encourage their members to be involved in the political process," said Richard D. Land, CLC executive director. "One way we can do this is by starting a campaign to register voters and then encouraging them to vote."

The campaign includes mailing the agency's 1992 Citizen Christian Awareness Guide to the 38,000 SBC churches

throughout the country and to convention leaders. The guide includes an article by CLC general counsel Michael K. Whitehead about legal rights of churches to conduct voter registration campaigns.

"Church leaders should not tell people for whom to vote but churches have every right — even the responsibility — to exhort every member of voting age, as an act of discipleship, to vote in every election," Whitehead said. "There is no 'violation of church-state separation' and no risk to your

tax exemption in urging and helping members to be able to say, 'I pray — and I vote.'"

The CLC has also produced a new Citizen Christian Awareness Campaign Manual detailing how local churches can organize voter registration campaigns. The manual was produced in what Land described as "unprecedented cooperation that has developed over the past few years between the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) and the CLC."

Parretts find 'answer to prayers' at Stoneway Acres

Stoneway Acres, a group home for eight mentally handicapped men located one mile north of the square in Lebanon, has new house parents. David and Sherry Parrett began their service as house parents for Stoneway Acres in April.

They are Mississippi natives and have lived in the Nashville area for

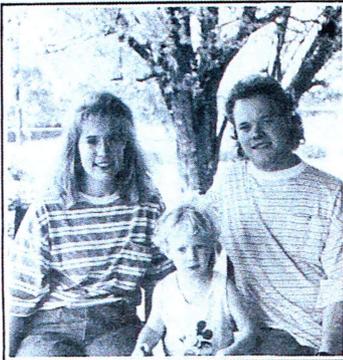
less than one year. "This opportunity is an answer to prayer," Sherry said. The couple had been looking for a ministry opportunity they could do together while rearing their two-year-old son, Caleb.

The Parretts oversee and supervise the day to day operation of the home from meal preparation to transportation. They also train the residents in self help and life care skills as well as promote and create a Christian atmosphere at the residence.

While in school in Illinois, Sherry was employed by a large state-operated group home for mentally handicapped individuals. She brings to this position a great deal of ex-

perience, insight, and understanding of this special population.

Stoneway Acres also has a new challenge. Owned and operated by Baptist Home for Exceptional Persons (BHEP) for the past two years, this ministry, when the mortgage is retired, will be given to Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Inc. to become a ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. An anonymous benefactor has pledged to match every dollar given to Stoneway Acres between now and November in order to retire the remaining \$99,000 debt and to present the ministry to Adult Homes at the Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting in Gatlinburg.



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Paul offers evidence for his authority

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

If boasting becomes necessary, we need to make certain we have the right reasons and something about which to boast. Boasting in self or in our accomplishments or abilities is not the answer. Paul felt compelled to boast because some people were attempting to lead the Corinthian church astray. Apologetically he boasted (ch. 11:1, 16) so that he might show his love for them and help them to be overcomers. Notice the things about which Paul boasted.

Heritage (ch. 11: 16-22)

Paul's critics claimed a superior heritage. They were Hebraic Jews from Palestine who had come into Corinth. Yet, Paul could say that he also was a Hebrew, one influenced by the culture of the Jews. Paul was an Israelite and had Hebrew parents. He could trace his lineage back to Abraham. His boasting in this instance covered that which had come to him. If background makes a difference, then God is the giver of that. So he could boast.

Suffering (ch. 11:23-33)

Paul's critics claimed they rendered a greater service as servants of Christ. But Paul claimed a superior service because of his calling from and surrender to Christ. His calling had caused him great suffering, and he enumerated his sufferings to show the greatness of his God to deliver him. Read again the things he suffered: painful labor to take the Gospel to the world; frequent imprisonment, flogging, and threat of death; five beatings by the Jews with 39 lashes each time; three beatings with rods by the Romans; one stoning; three shipwrecks; drifting in the open sea a night and a day; facing constant danger while traveling from robbers, fellow countrymen (Jews), and Gentiles, and false Christians; facing danger in the cities, in the wilderness, and on the high seas (v. 26); and living in unpleasant circumstances (v. 27) because of hard work, fatigue, sleeplessness, hunger, thirst, fasting, and lack of clothing in the cold winters. Paul

also had an intense care that burned within his very being for the churches he had helped establish. He felt the hurt and pain of his friends (v. 29). Thus, Paul boasted of his infirmities so others could see not him, but his Lord (v. 30). None of those things moved him; neither counted he his life dear unto himself (Acts 20:24).

One man showed his love for his invalid wife by painstakingly caring for her. Those who knew him bragged on him by saying, "What a great man." His pastor who knew his heart shared with him the need of deflecting the praise to God. Later when asked how he was able to take care of his wife so lovingly, he would give the credit to God. Soon others were saying, "What a great God he has."

Visions and revelations (ch. 12:1-4)

Being accused of not loving the Corinthians and not being a true apostle with spiritual authority, Paul revealed his unique experience. In verse 1, visions and revelations referred to God's enablement of Paul to see what He had

unveiled. Paul had many visions of the Lord Jesus that gave directions for his life and ministry (See Acts). He was given divine truth through revelations. But the greatest experience was his being translated to heaven to see unusual sights and hear "unspeakable words" (v. 4). But Paul's life was not to be experience-related, but truth-oriented.

BIBLE BOOK
June 14 Lesson
Basic Passage: II Corinthians
11:16-12:13

Weaknesses (ch. 12:5-13)

Paul's greatest boasting was about his weakness. He lived in a body that was subject to infirmities (v. 5). And the greatest weakness was his "thorn in the flesh" (v. 7). God allowed Satan to buffet (afflict) Paul. Most likely it was a physical problem. But whatever, Paul knew that it had kept him from living in the experience and exalting himself. Three times he asked God to remove it. But God gave him something better — His grace (v. 9). And God's grace is sufficient for us. For God's grace and power show up best in our weaknesses (vv. 9, 10).

Fleeing from God

By Ron Mouser, minister of education;

The reader of the book of Jonah is provided with a direct insight to its message by the introductory phrase, "now the word of the Lord came . . ." God's intent permeates the content of this Old Testament message of missions. The prophet Jonah heard the message, but chose to ignore it. The misadventures of this fleeing prophet led him toward Tarshish and away from the purpose of God. His effort to escape God and His vision for the people of Nineveh was fruitless.

The call to proclamation and missions ministry was indeed challenging. God had intended for Jonah to go to Assyria with a message calling the people of Nineveh to repentance. The prophet wanted no part of the outreach and evangelistic emphasis. The people of Assyria were bitter enemies of the Israelites. Jonah questioned why a

Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville prophet of God would be asked to go into such a corrupt and degrading environment. His response to God's call was to turn toward Tarshish.

Aboard a ship sailing in the opposite direction from Nineveh, Jonah fell fast asleep. While he was attempting to avoid God's imperative, a terrible storm tossed the ship against breaking waves with such force it was almost broken apart. Yet, Jonah slept. His flight from God had insulated him from the harsh storms and the danger to the sailors.

The shipmates did all they could to lighten the ship to make it more seaworthy in an effort to ride out the storm. Each sailor cried out in vain to his god for deliverance. Yet, the prophet slept. The captain of the ship awakened Jonah with the question, "How can you sleep?" After casting

lots, the sailors ascertained the cause of their dilemma. The fleeing prophet was responsible.

Finally, Jonah began to show an inkling of responsible behavior with his confession, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and land." This confession and the admission by Jonah that he was running from God terrified the crew members. They felt the wrath of God was being visited upon them. The sailors sought advice from Jonah regarding what should be done to calm the seas. He told them to throw him

CONVENTION UNIFORM
June 14 Lesson
Basic Passage: Jonah 1-2

overboard and all would be well. The crew was hesitant and cried to God for understanding. Finally, they cast Jonah into the sea. Out of fear of God, the sailors offered a sacrifice as an apparent act of appeasement. As Jonah

sank into the depths of the sea, he was swallowed into the belly of a great fish where he stayed for three days.

The message of Jonah is profound. The prophet of old had a difficult time dealing with a message from God that included redemption for his enemies. Blinded by prejudice and a clouded view of nationalism, Jonah saw no need to evangelize the enemy. His encouragement to the sailors to cast him into the deep may have been his final attempt to escape from God. There was no escaping his responsibility to share the good news.

Modern day "Jonahs" seek ways to avoid the commission to make disciples. Church programs sometimes become self-perpetuating, being more concerned with cliquish cronyism than enlarging the family of faith. Wake up, "sleeping Jonahs!" Share the message with all persons without regard to race, color, nationality, social status, financial background, or intellectual capacity.

Small yet secure

By Sharon Herrington, layperson; Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage

An ongoing blessing of my life was growing up in a small church. In adulthood I am still reaping the benefits the training afforded me in that little northeast Louisiana church. Because there were few to take leadership roles, several of us young people were placed in teaching positions in Sunday School, Church Training, and Vacation Bible School. We had hands-on experience in leading missions and music groups as well. I shudder to think of myself as a 15-year-old teaching and leading in these vital areas of that little SBC church, but God often reminds me that those opportunities for service were preparation for His greater plan of ministry in my life.

How pleasing it must be for our Lord to see His people — the church — functioning in its environment as a change agent in the lives of others! He surely must take pleasure in His churches as they not only minister in His name, but also prepare others for the ministry. The small church at Philadelphia was

one of only two in Revelation which did not receive a reprimand from the Spirit.

LIFE AND WORK
June 14 Lesson
Basic Passage: Revelation 3:7-13

As we approach this study, let us remember always that the church is its members or its people. A church is only as strong and effective as its people are in their daily lives. When Christ speaks to the churches in Revelation, he essentially speaks to the individual.

Ministers tell of pastoring large churches in number which are small in spirit. The majority of SBC churches are considered small in number, but these churches are small or little only if they choose to be. God does not measure quantity, but quality! Attitudes of love, devotion to Christ, mission-mindedness, and dedication to the evangelical task are the components of a church measuring up to

God's standard, no matter what the size of membership.

Philadelphia was named for its founder, Attalus II, whose loyalty to his brother Eumenes won him the title of Philadelphus, or brother lover, according to Herschel Hobbs. Because the city was an agricultural trade center, it had the prime opportunity of spreading the Gospel.

In Revelation 3:8, Christ gave three reasons He was pleased with this church and gave it an open door of opportunity to be a missionary church to the region: (1) The church was small and, according to Hobbs, was a congregation of the lower class people, but this did not prevent their making the most of what they had. Small in number meant large in heart for this church. (2) They had "kept" the Gospel by passing it on, guarding it, and practicing it. (3) Through persecution they had not denied Christ.

The Philadelphia Christians had to contend with the Jews who were being used by Satan to try to destroy their Christian efforts, but Christ promised protection to them during their trials ahead because they had been faithful to Him and endured (v. 10). Verse 12

speaks of eternal security, for God's people will be with Him in the end no matter what happens on earth.

The church did hear what the Spirit said (v. 13) because even today in this ancient city, a Christian witness still exists.

"To every church faithful to Him, Christ presents an open door of opportunity. The open door is always there, but for the church to fulfill its purpose it should enter the door." Hobbs concludes, Christ gave the church the keys to the Kingdom in Matthew 6:19, and He has presented each church with an open door. If the spreading of the Gospel is the key, what are the vistas you see in the open door of your church? Your life?



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Leadership . . .

Tom Mayberry recently began serving as interim pastor of Garrett Church, Hohenwald.

Tim Tapp will serve as youth pastor at First Church, Elizabethton, during the summer.

Lisa Russell will serve Monte Vista Church, Maryville, as summer youth minister.

Florida native James B. Hensley has assumed the pastorate of Middle Valley Church, Hixson, Hamilton County Association. He came to Tennessee from Laurel Hill Church, Orlando, Fla. He holds a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and a doctor of ministry degree from New Orleans (La.) Theological Seminary.

Van Kisel began serving as pastor of First Church, Troy, June 7.

South Fulton Church, Fulton, has called David Hardy as minister of education and youth and Brad Repogle as part-time minister of music.

Members of First Church, Selmer, recently honored Richard Howard for 15 years of service as minister of music, youth, and activities.

Joel Emerson, a May graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., has been called as minister of music and youth to Nolensville Church, Nolensville. He began his duties June 1.

Jim Evans is the new pastor at First Calvary Church, Chattanooga.

The congregation of Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, recently honored their pastor, Doug Westmoreland, for 17 years of service to the church.

Calvary Church, Waynesboro, called Raymond Willis as pastor.

Mike McGinnis recently assumed the duties of the Eastwood Church, Ooltewah, pastorate.

Jimmy Davis recently accepted the pastorate of Walnut Grove Church, Savannah.

Archie King recently assumed the interim pastorate of Prosperity Church, Auburntown.

Mike Hickman, minister of activities and senior adults at Brownsville Church, Brownsville, resigned to accept a position at First Church, Jackson, Miss., as associate minister of activities.

The following men recently began new pastorates: Dan Hyde, Cragfont, Castalian Springs; Donny Stewart, First, Rickman; Paul Eaves, Maplewood, Cunningham; Robert English, Trinity, Jonesborough; Phil Pippenger, Goodwill, Cleveland; Wray Moore, Essary Springs, Pocahontas; Bruce Newman, Pond Hill, Niota; James Hance, Holders Grove, Cosby; and Lee Seal, Three Springs, Whitesburg.

Missions . . .

Volunteers are still needed for a health care team to work July 10-19 in Maracaibo and Barquisimeto, Venezuela. Dewey Dunn, a Nashville physician coordinating the effort, reported 110 volunteers have been requested by Venezuelan Baptists. Three more dentists and physicians and one eye doctor are needed, in addition to those able to assist the health care workers. Last year, about 2400 people made professions of faith during a similar effort, Dunn said. Those interested should call Dunn at home, (615) 383-8499, or at work, (615) 327-4751, ext. 5520.

Marvin and Anice Ogle, Greeneville, have been assigned to work in Rwanda for one year through the Foreign Mission Board's International Service Corps. Ogle will work in business administration and his wife will be involved in church and home outreach ministries. They are members of Tusculum Church, Greeneville.

Mayme Wright of Gainesville, Fla., a nursing graduate of Fort Sanders Hospital Training School, Knoxville,

will work as a nurse in Central Asia for one year through Cooperative Services International.

Timothy and Dorcas Patterson, missionaries to Honduras, have arrived in Costa Rica for one year of language study. Their address is Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos, San Jose, Costa Rica. He is from Camden.

A mission team from Speedway Terrace Church, Memphis, will travel to Kalkaska, Mich., June 12, to work in revival services and Vacation Bible School. They will return to Memphis June 20.

Jim and Patsy Parker, missionaries to Malawi, Africa, are in the states on an extended medical leave. They are living at the Berclair Church missionary home at 681 N. Perkins, Memphis, 38122. Both are Memphis natives and Berclair is Parker's home church. They are former members of Leewood Church, also in Memphis.

First Church, Kingston, will send a volunteer mission team to Young Harris, Ga., June 20-26, to do construction work at Cornerstone Church.

Churches . . .

Members of Glenwood Church, Nashville, will celebrate the church's 40th anniversary June 21 with a fellowship luncheon following morning worship. A reception for former pastors will be June 20, 4-6 p.m.

The congregation of Zion Hill Church, Friendship, will observe its 100th anniversary June 14. Former pastor Paul Woodford of First Church, Lewisburg, will speak at the celebration service at 2 p.m. Woodford also will lead revival June 12-13 at the church. During the morning worship on June 14, former pastor Gerald Ackerman of Sidney, Mont., will speak. A covered dish dinner will follow the service. Kenneth Skelton is pastor.

The Knoxville Chapter of Tennessee Right to Life will host the first Gospel Fest for Life June 20, 7-9 p.m., at Calvary Church, Knoxville. Featured performers include the Outreach Singers, Unity Sound, and Nashville recording artists The Joyful Sounds. Donations are \$4, with children under 11 admitted free. The concert will benefit the Knoxville's Tennessee Right to Life chapter in various pro-life activities.

The congregation of Memorial Church, Smithville, held a building dedication celebration with special music and a fellowship dinner June 7.

Members of Mount Harmony Church, Niota, will hold the main celebration of the church's 150th anniversary June 14. The observance will include special recognitions during the Sunday morning worship service at 11 a.m., followed by lunch and fellowship.

Vacation Bible School, "A Fantastic Journey," will be June 15-19 at Hillcrest Church, Lebanon. VBS, for ages four through youth, will include Bible study, games, and music.



TENNESSEE WRITERS — Joreen Bozeman of Memphis, left, and Carol Woodfin of Nashville attended the 1992 writers conference at Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala. They joined more than 70 writers from across the country to receive training to write WMU materials for the 1993-94 church year.

Homecoming will be June 14 at Mt. Ararat Church, Darden. Former pastor Lauren Lock will speak.

The Calvary Missionary Church, Athens, congregation will celebrate homecoming June 14.

Members of Zion Hill Church, Englewood, broke ground recently for a new building which is expected to be complete in September.

The membership of Cambria Church, Etowah, has voted to build a new 300-seat sanctuary, which will include a baptistry, choir loft, and two Sunday School rooms.

Revivals . . .

First Church, Hohenwald, will sponsor a one-night rally with Evangelist David Ring June 22 at 7 p.m. at the Lewis County High School gymnasium.

David Thorton, pastor of New Hope Church, Samson, Ala., will lead revival services June 22-26 at First Church, Pinewood, in Dickson.

Colonial View Church, Cookeville, will hold revival services June 10-14 with Joe Wiles leading the services. Following a fellowship dinner June 14, the congregation will have a special service to constitute as a church. Damon Corley is pastor.

Evangelist J. Harold Smith will lead revival June 24-28 at New Providence Church, Loudon.

Revival services will be held June 15-21 at New Home Church, Smithville. Herb Leftwich will be evangelist.

Ordinations . . .

Bordeaux Church, Nashville, recently ordained Walter Vandygriff to the deacon ministry.

John Raulston and D. W. Ross were ordained as deacons recently at First Church, Jasper.

Felix Crawford was recently ordained as a deacon of Parkview Church, Jackson.

Mt. Pisgah Church, Niota, recently ordained Bruce Layman Jr., to the deacon ministry.



OUTSIDE SERVICE — First Church, Bells, broke ground May 17 with morning services held on the site of its new educational wing. The addition will provide added classrooms, preschool department, staff offices, and library space. Participating in the ceremony were from left, Charlie Lockett, Billy Cobb, Darrell Lowery, and Pastor Jack C. Smothers.