

# Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Former editor Shackelford named to edit 'Mature Living'

By Terri Lackey

NASHVILLE (BP) — After two weeks of prayer, longtime Southern Baptist journalist Al Shackelford has accepted the position of editor of *Mature Living* magazine published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

*Mature Living*, a magazine for senior adults with a monthly circulation of 355,000, is published by the board's family ministry department.

"I felt a definite, clear leadership of the Lord to accept this position and that is why I told Doug Anderson (director of the family ministry department) I would accept it," Shackelford said.

"I am relieved, excited, and ready to

start work July 1."

Shackelford, dismissed in July 1990 as vice president for public relations and director of Baptist Press of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, said he has been unemployed for 23 months. He has held several part-time, temporary positions.

Anderson offered Shackelford the job June 3 with encouragement from board President Jimmy Draper but Shackelford said he was unwilling to accept it until he felt God's clear direction.

"I appreciate the confidence of Doug Anderson and Jimmy Draper in offering me the job but I wanted to be sure it was the Lord's will in my life. There have been many days in my life where it was good to be able to go back and

say, 'I'm here because I felt the definite leadership of the Lord.'"

Draper said: "We are excited to have someone of Al's expertise and ability to minister in this strategic area of senior adults. It is my prayer that the years ahead for Al will be filled with satisfying and fulfilling ministry."

When information became known that Shackelford was considering a job offer from the board, Draper said he heard from a number of SBC leaders, including members of the Executive Committee, expressing support of Shackelford for the position.

Anderson said Shackelford "is the candidate of choice for this position because of his Christian commitment, sense of God's leadership, his age, perspective, and his proven track record in Christian journalism. I believe Al will be deeply loved and respected by the readers of *Mature Living*."

Shackelford said he believes his experience and his age (he turned 60 June 14) will help him "be more sensitive to the needs" of Southern Baptist senior adults."

"I can identify with this group and I look forward to working with them," he said. "Many senior adults face unemployment through mergers, retirement, or career changes and I hope my recent experiences will help me be sensitive to their needs."

Shackelford said he believes senior adults of today are more active and more interested in ministry than they

were a generation ago. He said he plans to address new senior adult issues and trends in the magazine and focus stories on churches where senior adults are making an impact in their community.

Shackelford, a 35-year employee with state conventions and SBC agencies, said he "feels comfortable" accepting the role as editor of *Mature Living*.

"I started my first job with Southern Baptists in 1957 editing a magazine (*The Beam*) with the Radio and Television Commission. So the cycle has come around again."



SHACKLEFORD

*'I can identify with this group — and work with them.'*

Shackelford left the Radio and Television Commission in 1961 to become technical director for the public relations office at the Baptist General Convention of Texas. From 1965-76, he served as editor of the *Indiana Baptist* and director of public relations for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. He began editing Tennessee's *Baptist and Reflector* in 1976, leaving that position in 1987 to become vice president for public relations and director of Baptist Press for the executive committee.

## Tennesseans work in Iowa

A West Tennessee church recently joined forces with a Baptist Student Union group to assist in establishing a new work in Knoxville, Iowa.

A 39-member team from University of Tennessee, Martin, and First Church, Martin, discovered there were Southern Baptists in Knoxville, Iowa, but that the nearest Southern Baptist church was about 30 miles away.

Leading the team were Adam Hall, BSU director at UT-Martin, and Elwood Doss, minister of music at First Church, Martin. Three members of First Church — Jeannie Ayers, Barbara Castleman, and Linda Page — went with the team to coordinate the meals.

certs. The "Visions" puppet team, also a ministry of First Church, performed for the children.

Hall reported it was a time of challenge as students often shared for the first time on a door step how they came to know Jesus Christ.

As a result of the survey and crusade, nine people joined the family of God, Hall said. Among those who came to know Christ were three people who one student led to the Lord.

Hall said he hopes to send students back to follow up the visit. First Church, Winterset, will be the mother church of the new mission when it is established, Hall added.

Funding for the trip was raised by the BSU team.

## Search Committee begins assignment

The Search Committee seeking a person to be the next executive director/treasurer for the Tennessee Baptist Convention met in Brentwood June 16.

It was the first meeting of the group since it was appointed May 28.

The committee met at the Baptist Center and heard suggestions from about 40 staff persons and institution leaders. Howard Olive, committee chairman, said the day was spent listening to department directors and others expressing their views on the kind of person needed for the position.

Olive, pastor of Monte Vista Church, Maryville, was elected chairman by the committee members after they were appointed by Executive Committee chairman Jerry Oakley, pastor of Springfield Church.

The TBC staff liaison committee, which set up the meeting with the Search Committee, asked all staff personnel to write their personal ideas to assist in making up a profile. These

suggestions were compiled for the committee.

Next meeting for the Search Committee is scheduled for June 29 in Nashville. Cutoff date for receiving resumes is July 10. The committee stressed that candidates will not be considered until after that date.

D. L. Lowrie, executive director/treasurer for three and a half years, resigned recently to become pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Texas, in early September.

Others on the search committee include: Leonard Markham, vice chairman, pastor of Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville; Don Givens, secretary, St. Elmo Avenue Church, Chattanooga; ex officio, Gary Anderson, First Church, Dunlap; Paul Moody, Erin Church, Erin; M. B. Howard, Oak Grove Church, Covington; Clint Oakley, retired Memphis pastor; and Jerry Oakley (no relation) ex officio. TBC President Ron Phillips, Central Church, Hixson, is an advisor to the committee. Howard is a layman.

Resumes of nominees for the position should be sent 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 unopened and that recommendations without a resume would not be considered.

Recommendations also can be sent to Olive at his church office: Monte Vista Baptist Church, 1735 Old Niles Ferry, Maryville, Tenn. 37801.

Tennessee Baptists may be interested in the process for selecting an executive director/treasurer.

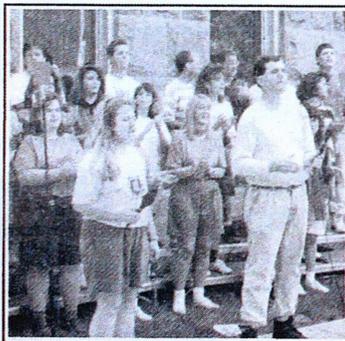
The selection procedure is outlined in the current Personnel Manual, Tennessee Baptist Convention:

- The Executive Committee or a subcommittee of the Executive Committee, appointed by the chairman of the Executive Committee, shall serve as the search committee for the executive director/treasurer.

- The chairman of the Executive Committee shall publish the position vacancy in the *Baptist and Reflector* and invite nominations with resumes to be received by a set date.

- The search committee shall review all resumes received within the given time limit and select up to five for research, interviews, and evaluation based upon specified qualifications.

- The Executive Committee shall recommend a nominee to the Executive Board.



**SINGING IN IOWA** — A BSU team from University of Tennessee, Martin, traveled to Knoxville, Iowa, not Tennessee, to help establish a new Southern Baptist work in a town where none exists.

Team members led in a week-long crusade. John Shaull, pastor of First Church, Winterset, Iowa, was evangelist.

The Servant Singers, a college ensemble which is a part of First Church's music ministry, provided con-

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## Editorials

# Recording the present necessary for understanding it

The role of convention messengers, visitors, and the state Baptist paper becomes all the more important in light of the truth that the 17,900 official messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis are but a tiny fraction of the Southern Baptist family.

In last week's paper and again this week, we are trying to carry the message, to make an honest and interesting report to Tennessee Baptists. We were represented by 1450 messengers, but each one voted his conscience — and that convention lasted only three days.

What did we do?

We have carried the news about the major events — messages, reports, voting on business, music, elections, resolutions, and motions. The plethora of news sometimes inundates us and gives us complete saturation.

Important decisions on several matters were made and we reported them.

Some messengers and many Baptists who stayed at home were not pleased by the convention. Others were. The fact is that the majority of Southern Baptists present and voting made mostly clearcut and decisive verdicts.

Writing a week prior to the June 9-11 SBC, Editor Jack Brymer of the *Florida Baptist Witness* made some interesting observations:

"Many of the changes taking place [in the Southern Baptist Convention] are good. Some are not. But good or bad, these changes have come at a cost of considerable conflict . . ."

"These changes and the resulting conflict have spilled over into our families, churches, and denomination. Never in the history of the SBC has there been such change. It is truly a historic time in the life of Southern Baptists."

Brymer discussed changes in the past thirty

years that have enhanced the growth and Christian stature of Southern Baptists. Most were bought with a great price.

"For more than a decade now," he wrote, "it has been the responsibility of Baptist state papers to report on the changes taking place in Southern Baptist life.

"Like our counterparts in the 'secular' press, we too, have been accused of such things as fanning the flames of controversy, antagonizing the conflict, and promoting a cause. As a consequence, we have suffered a decline in circulation of more than 300,000 subscribers across the Southern Baptist Convention.

"It is much too early to know whether or not the changes taking place in the SBC are good or bad. And reporting those events which are the result of change is not always pleasant or easy. It is, however, necessary so that we might eventually understand them."

It is so in Tennessee as in other states. What we report on is more important than merely informing

our constituency. We are recording history — so that we can eventually understand it.

Most informed Tennessee Baptists realize that criticisms of the state paper (and of any other reporting agency) come almost consistently equal from two sides of the fence.

Trying to please everyone results in no one being pleased. However, there is a corollary. News does not carry a guarantee that it will be pleasing. News accurately reported is unembellished fact.

That leaves us with the correct way of reporting news. When we try to report in order to please — we will never have a believable integrity.

We believe, however, that there are yet Tennessee Baptists who want the news accurately reported, and who are willing to accept gracefully those facts though they may be unhappy. News is not always joyful.

Read it and weep is an old axiom for bad news. When all the news is good, as it should be, we won't need to weep. — WFA

## Shackleford deserves new post

Almost two years to the day when Al Shackleford was dismissed from his Executive Committee (SBC) post as vice president for Baptist Press, "Cicero" will begin work as editor of *Mature Living*.

The former editor of the *Baptist and Reflector* has had a distinguished career in Baptist journalistic enterprises, and it is fitting that he will be able to continue in this ministry.

As editor of the essential Baptist publication for older (mature) Baptists, Shackleford will bring more to the post than skills of the trade. He brings

integrity matched with an unflinching spirit.

His innovative style touched Baptists in Indiana and Tennessee when he edited those papers. He was able to lift both to high circulation figures.

Shackleford is a hard worker, diligent to his assignment, and a man of faith and courage. Through the struggles of dismissal, he has remained true to God and his church.

We salute the Sunday School Board for putting an important publication in the hands of a capable editor. We salute Al Shackleford for accepting a giant task with his usual aplomb. — WFA

## State Baptist newspapers could face steep rate increase

WASHINGTON — State Baptist newspapers could face a 50 percent increase in their postal rates if Congress fails to accept a proposal to delay the increase.

The House Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government approved an appropriations measure June 10 that would provide only \$200 million of the \$482 million needed for the non-profit mail subsidy, known as "revenue foregone." But the bill, approved in a closed meeting, includes a temporary shield from a non-profit postal hike in 1993.

Postal rates for non-profit mailers

like Baptist state newspapers reflect only the cost of handling that class of mail. Revenue foregone reimburses the U.S. Postal Service for the overhead expenses.

Edward Roybal, D-Calif., chairman of the subcommittee, proposed that the Postal Service, rather than non-profit mailers, pick up the \$282 million difference in the amount needed and the amount appropriated.

Neal Denton, executive director of the Alliance of Non-profit Mailers, cautioned members of the non-profit community from taking solace from Roybal's proposal.

The shield is temporary — only providing protection for one year — and does not yet have the approval of the full Appropriations Committee, Denton said. He predicted the proposal would face opposition during the committee's consideration of the bill, scheduled for June 25.

Even if the proposal is approved, non-profit publications would be extremely vulnerable next year, he said. Denton said his alliance would prefer a permanent solution to the revenue foregone problem, which has persisted in recent years.

In the last two years, President Bush has proposed budgets that would have severely cut revenue foregone, but Congress has taken steps to prevent rate increases for most non-profit mail. Bush's 1993 proposal for revenue foregone is \$88 million less than the subcommittee approved.

Offering his best guess, Denton said Roybal's proposal probably will survive the House committee, forcing the Senate to make the difficult decision. Therefore, the revenue foregone battle for non-profit mailers will be won or lost in the Senate, he added. — ABP

## New look premiers next week

The lineage of the *Baptist and Reflector* can be traced back to 1835, 157 years ago. Much of its history has exemplified good journalism aimed at informing Tennessee Baptists and keeping subscribers aware of events in Tennessee Baptist life.

Another important step is underway as the current staff attempts to provide readers with the best Baptist newspaper. The July 1 issue will have a new look — and style, as we embark on a distinctive and exciting era in the life of the paper.

The efforts are not planned for garnering awards or pleasing anyone except Tennessee Baptists. Many of the plans will be revealed next week — others will come to pass in future weeks.

Next week, readers can look for:

- A new layout design, planned for easier reading, and more pleas-

ing to the eye.

- A column written by Fred Wood, retired pastor of Memphis, and beloved Tennessee Baptist author. We hope the weekly message will help Tennessee Baptists pray and laugh and study together.

- Thoughts and ideas gleaned from pastors' columns in church newsletters. These will be grouped under the banner of "Tennessee Sampler."

The paper will continue other regular features, including three Sunday School lessons, occasional Bible emphases by Herschel Hobbs, and letters. Keep reading. We hope all subscribers will like and enjoy the "new look" and new emphases in the paper every week. The price stays the same for now.

— Editor

## FMB committee seeks names

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — The committee searching for a new Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board president has received 31 names and would like more, according to committee chairman Joel Gregory, pastor of First Church, Dallas.

Gregory said the committee, which met June 10 in Indianapolis, urges missionaries and other Southern Baptists to continue sending names and background material on candidates to succeed FMB President R. Keith Parks. Parks, 64, will retire Oct. 30 after a 38-year career in foreign missions, including almost 13 years as president. He has cited philosophical differences with trustees in his retirement decision.

Responding to rumor reports that certain candidates already have an inside track for the job, Gregory said: "No choice has been made — not even a preliminary choice. All 15 people on this committee have no agenda. No decision has been made. The field of active candidates has not even been

narrowed and probably won't be until late summer or early fall."

Interested Southern Baptists should mail comments, recommendations, and biographical data on potential candidates to Joel Gregory, chairman, FMB presidential search committee, 1707 San Jacinto, Dallas, Tx., 75201 or transmit them via fax to (214) 969-7757.

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# Nashvillian Bill Cox becomes transplanted Hoosier

By Connie Davis

INDIANAPOLIS — Bill Cox suffered pain every time he walked at the end of his year-long commitment to Crossover Indianapolis. But his knee injury wasn't as important as the pre-convention evangelistic blitz he coordinated.

Cox, of Nashville, noted churches are still reporting statistical results, but the resulting professions of faith — estimated at 1000 — are just one of the measurable results of Crossover Indianapolis.

"It's been a glorious experience for me in my retirement years to be able to work with a program where so many people were saved," said the retired Baptist Sunday School Board staffer.

Volunteers saturated downtown sidewalks, neighborhood streets, church parking lots, and even a suburban Wal-Mart with the Gospel prior to the convention in Indianapolis.

Southern Baptists volunteers have

assisted Baptists in convention sites with evangelism efforts since 1989 in Las Vegas. This year's effort included street evangelism, door-to-door surveys, block parties, simultaneous revivals, and a rally.

But these volunteers working primarily the week before the June 9-11 convention weren't the first to participate in the effort, reported Cox. Groups from across the country came last year to conduct door-to-door surveys to prepare for Crossover Indianapolis.

One group was a 12-member group Cox led from First Church, Donelson, where he is a member. He was glad for the support. He had just accepted the job of coordinator for Crossover Indianapolis.

The Home Mission Board, which he has served since his retirement in 1990, had asked him to lead the effort after he worked with Crossover Atlanta and helped publicize Crossover Indianapolis at the 1991 convention.



**REALIZING CROSSOVER INDIANAPOLIS IMPACT** — Bill Cox, second from right, of Nashville, discusses results of Crossover Indianapolis, which he coordinated to James Blackerby, left, Indianapolis pastor; James Abernathy, second from left, interim director of missions, Metropolitan Association, Indianapolis; and Alvin Reid, right, director of evangelism, Indiana Baptist Convention.

Since then he has spent much of his time in Indiana. During May and June

he lived there. His wife, Catherine, has been very supportive, but "anxious for this to be over," said Cox. Although basically funded by the board, Cox admitted he was glad to pay some of his expenses. A musician, Cox has set aside any gifts received from churches and royalties from recordings for just such efforts as Crossover Indianapolis, he said.

The "beautiful part" of the experience was the response of Indiana Baptists, said Cox. Of the 1300 volunteers, about 1000 were Hoosiers, he noted.

The Metropolitan Baptist Association of Indianapolis reports a 68 percent increase in baptisms this year though several months remain, said Cox, and that report doesn't reflect the final crossover impact.

Cox plans to continue work as a HMB Mission Service Corp. volunteer after knee surgery, which was successful, he reported June 18.

His assistant, Ellen Abernathy, also postponed surgery to complete work, he added. "The Lord just let me be a part of it . . ." he said.

## Smothers adopts 'dalmation dog lover' evangelism

INDIANAPOLIS — Beverly Smothers touts the "dalmation dog lover plan" and "lawn discussion method" of evangelism for neighborhoods like the one she visited as a part of Crossover Indianapolis.

The evangelism effort drew 26 Tennesseans, making up the second largest state group behind Kentucky Baptists. Volunteers, including about 1000 Indianans, totaled around 1300.

Smothers, director of church and community ministries, Holston Association, said the experience was like visiting "yuppies in Mayberry," referring to the small town featured in the "Andy Griffith" TV show.

The family who owned a dalmatian was easy to approach because she admired the beautiful dog, Smothers explained. That family became one of four families Smothers and her partner, a

member of a local church, identified as prospective members of the church.

"They were just nice people — maybe its the Midwest," said Smothers. Everyone they visited willingly answered questions from a religious survey and accepted spiritual materials, she reported. About 50 percent were Catholic, she added.

Families were outside working on their lawns and gardens that Saturday morning, she explained, leading to her other conversation ice breaker — lawn work.

"You can't have it all planned out," she noted. One exception is prayer, she added, which helps her deal with her fear.

"I dread the fact that I might be rejected," she admitted.

One lady was "brusk" at first, but

responsive when she was able to discuss her job as an air traffic controller as a personal stress factor. The question about stress was a survey question, explained Smothers. The survey was a helpful tool, she said.

Smothers dealt with rejection as a volunteer in the evangelistic effort prior to the 1989 convention in Las Vegas, where about 50 percent of those approached repelled the visitor, she noted.

But the results always outweigh any downside, she continued.

She and her partner didn't report any professions of faith, but one of them shared their testimony with six of the 12 families visited.

Smothers is committed to volunteer again. "You don't just always want to do things that are extremely comfortable for you."

## Franklin orchestra plays for Vice President Quayle

Members of the church choir and orchestra of First Church, Franklin, were delighted to be invited to perform for Southern Baptist Convention messengers in Indianapolis recently — but they didn't know they would have "extra" duty.

It all turned out well, according to Denny Dawson, the church's minister of music. In fact, the "extra" duty turned out to be a serendipity.

The choir was scheduled to provide inspirational music during a 1 p.m. spot on Tuesday, and again at 3 p.m.

Ernest Mosley, executive vice president for the SBC Executive Committee and a member of the Franklin choir, learned on Saturday prior to the convention that the Tuesday morning choir (First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas) did not have an orchestra for that session.

No need to panic — except that Vice President Dan Quayle was scheduled to address the convention at 8:50 a.m., and White House protocol requires an orchestra for such occasions.

Mosley turned to Dawson for help. He called Dawson, who, along with Jim Gray, the church's orchestra leader, agreed to provide the live

music for the vice president.

Music was "faxed" to First Church Saturday night. The orchestra and choir rehearsed the next day, learning

to perform the required ruffles and flourishes. They were all set.

But on Monday night in Indianapolis, at a rehearsal with White House per-



**PLAYING FOR QUAYLE** — First Church, Franklin, orchestra members, including pianist, Diane Dawson, and from left, Owen Brown, Jeff Chandler, Dan Gosling, and Ron Cobb, play during the convention. The orchestra accompanied the church's choir and played for the vice president's entrance.

sonnel, the Franklin group learned the wrong music had been sent to them. Correct music was faxed from Washington.

For the Tuesday morning session, the Wichita Falls choir had asked a Norfolk church orchestra to perform with them. Their bus was late — and guess what? The Franklin orchestra filled the gap again, providing the 30-minute concert music by sightreading.

It was a busy time for the Franklin choir and orchestra — and the leaders. But they were consistent with the true Tennessee spirit — they just kept on volunteering.

They played for the convention and they filled in for others, and they played for Vice President Quayle. Yes, they enjoyed the unforgettable experiences, and "a good time was had by all." Mosley, dressed in a tuxedo as a choir member, had to sit on the platform all morning as a convention official.

Years from now, some of them may be saying, "Yes, we played for the Southern Baptist Convention in 1992 — but let me tell you the rest of the story." — Wm. Fletcher Allen

# Motions to limit severance packages, salaries referred

By Brenda Sanders

INDIANAPOLIS — Motions to limit severance packages and annual salaries of employees of Southern Baptist Convention agencies were among the 24 motions presented by messengers to the SBC annual meeting.

Eighteen of the motions were referred by the Committee on Order of Business, with convention approval, to various SBC entities for further consideration.

Two motions to place limits on compensation packages for employees who leave SBC agencies were referred to "every institution of the Southern Baptist Convention." The motions were presented by Bobby McFalls of West View Church in Sanford, Fla., and Fred Minix of Good News Church in Alexandria, Va.

Another motion that would limit annual salaries of all SBC employees to no more than \$100,000 also was referred to all institutions of the convention.

Two motions were referred to the SBC Annuity Board. The first asks the board to reduce the cost of its annual medical deductibles for individuals and families participating in the convention's group health insurance plan.

The second was jointly referred to the Baptist Sunday School Board for consideration. It urges the formation of a study committee to look into the possibility of providing disability coverage and pastoral care for pastors recovering from "stress burnout."

Referred to the Foreign Mission Board was a motion presented by messenger Doyle Smith of First Southern Church in Great Bend, Kan. He received sustained applause from messengers throughout the convention arena when he moved that Keith Parks be asked to remain as president of the

## Musicians consider joy of ministry

INDIANAPOLIS — Southern Baptist church musicians focused on "Joy for the Journey," hearing messages on personal significance and how to reverse burnout during a two-day conference preceding the convention's annual meeting.

About 225 gathered at Northside Church for the sessions, which were sprinkled with special interest sessions and numerous concerts.

Gary Fenton, pastor of Dawson Memorial Church, Birmingham, Ala., spoke on "Success or Significance," offering three basic principles for having joy on the journey.

First, Christians must claim the promise that every believer is called to be significant. Then, believers must

FMB until 1995.

A motion jointly referred to the SBC Executive Committee and the Foreign Mission Board encourages SBC churches to take an offering the week of July 4 for the next three years to provide funds for evangelizing areas of the world "formerly closed to the Gospel because of communist governments."

Seven motions were referred to the Executive Committee:

- to devise a method for messengers not in attendance at the convention's annual meeting to vote on SBC business;

- to investigate the possibility of beginning a monthly publication of Baptist Press news releases to be available to all Southern Baptists;

- to make a provision in the SBC budget for every church to conduct annual Metro Sunday School Enrollment Training clinics;

- to begin the SBC annual meeting on Monday evening and conclude on

## Committee affirms relationship

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee affirmed its historic relationship with Woman's Missionary Union, an auxiliary to the SBC, stating their action was based on the WMU constitution's preamble.

The preamble specifies WMU will collect mission funds "to be disbursed by the Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention" and disclaims "all intention of independent action."

The action came in response to a motion at the February meeting of the Executive Committee by Gibbie McMillan of Baton Rouge, La., asking the Executive Committee to recommend that messengers to the 1992 SBC "invite Woman's Missionary Union to initiate legal steps to become an agen-

cy of the Southern Baptist Convention rather than remain as an auxiliary to the Convention."

As an agency, WMU would have its trustees elected by SBC messengers and would be subject to all guidelines and policies of SBC agencies.

McMillan opposed affirming the historic relationship with WMU. "This is nothing at all like the motion I originally made," he said. "My original motion was to the entire SBC, not just the Executive Committee. The convention needs to vote on it."

During an earlier session of the administrative subcommittee, several Executive Committee members questioned whether a May 18 dialogue with leaders of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of "moderate" Southern Baptists, constituted "independent action."

WMU also has issued an invitation to meet with SBC leadership as part of a new self-study, according to a May 19 Baptist Press article.

"We felt we did not want to create a problem or jump on a potential problem before it occurred," said C. Ray Fuller, an Illinois pastor and administrative subcommittee chairman. "It behooves us to be very concerned about not overstepping our relationship."

During a business session, the W. Hines Sims award was presented to Hugh T. McElrath, the V. V. Cooke professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. — Eddy Oliver

Wednesday evening (as opposed to the current schedule of beginning the meeting on Tuesday morning and concluding Thursday afternoon);

- to furnish the SBC Book of Reports free of charge to all messengers;

- to require the Woman's Missionary Union to pay for the cost of their annual meeting site from their own funds, rather than from Executive Committee funds; and
- to limit future nominees for SBC office to individuals from churches that give at least ten percent of their budget to the Cooperative Program.

A motion urging the SSB to print all Scripture references in Sunday School literature in the King James Version of the Bible was referred to the SSB.

Another motion referred to the SSB as well as the SBC Stewardship Commission suggested a lesson on stewardship be included in SSB Sunday School

literature on a regular basis, every fifth Sunday in a month.

A motion that was referred to the six SBC seminaries requested that no Southern Baptist seminary be allowed to award an "earned degree" on the master's or doctoral level to any student who has not first earned required prerequisites for the degree from a fully accredited college or university.

A motion referred to the SBC Christian Life Commission asks the commission to purchase video tapes "showing the truth about the horror of abortion and the glory of new life" and make the tapes available free of charge to SBC churches.

A motion for the SBC president to be "fair to all who did not vote for him or do not agree with him" was ruled out of order because rules of the convention already govern the conduct of the president.

Also ruled out of order was a motion to name W. A. Criswell, senior pastor of First Church, Dallas, "president emeritus" of the SBC. The Committee on Order of Business determined the motion was presented in the nature of a resolution and also seeks to name a person to an office that does not exist.

## Williams presents first-year report

INDIANAPOLIS — The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission is "poised on the cutting edge of mission advance" but will require preparation, commitment, and togetherness "to claim God's future," said the commission's first-year president.

James D. Williams, addressing his first National Brotherhood Breakfast as leader of the agency, said the agency's position in world evangelization resembled that of the Hebrews as recorded in the first chapter of Joshua.

"With the promised land before them, it was no time for the Hebrew people to be wishy-washy. The demand was for a single-minded devotion to God," Williams said.

The Brotherhood Commission, like the Hebrews, will have to make what Williams called "proper preparation" for the days ahead. Williams noted "major steps" are already being taken. Those steps include development of plans to increase product sales and program enrollment, expansion of volunteer enlistment, and strengthening of the agency's financial base.

## 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.

25 — Cindy Foust, Union University, and Donna Nesbitt, Carson-Newman College, who are working on church construction in Chile.

26 — Safety for the BSU team as they travel home from Chile.

27 — That the perfect peace of God will keep missionary Marilyn Graves' heart and mind on Jesus Christ as she observes her birthday today in Concepcion.

28 — Retired missionary Kate Carter of Johnson City who will be observing her birthday today.

29 — Praise God for the salvation of Erika Matus who has accepted Christ after many years and will soon be baptized.

30 — The salvation and health of Corina Concha.



KNOXVILLE TRIO — From left, Robin Osborn, Linda McKaig, and Shannon Newman of Calvary Church accompany their choir at the convention in Indianapolis.

# Messengers approve statements on religious liberty

INDIANAPOLIS — Southern Baptist Convention messengers stepped into the public fray over moral values at their meeting, taking a strong stand for religious liberty at home and abroad.

With little discussion, messengers to the 135th session of the SBC in Indianapolis June 9-11 adopted 15 resolutions on diverse issues ranging from evangelizing America's urban centers and mobilizing resources for evangelizing Eastern Europe to autonomy of the local church and Christian involvement in voluntary associations to the distribution of condoms in public schools and fetal tissue experimentation.

"Given our polity, resolutions are the means through which the Southern Baptist Convention speaks its mind, its will, its heart, and its convictions," said resolutions committee chairman R. Albert Mohler Jr., editor of *The Christian Index*, newsjournal of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

A resolution on religious expression in public schools affirms recent U.S. Supreme Court actions that "recognize and enforce" the free exercise of religion for students in state-funded schools. No specific cases were cited in the resolution but it states recent high court decisions indicate a shift toward accommodation of religious expression in public schools.

On the matter of religious freedom for all human beings, a resolution calls on President George Bush to exert influence as leader of the Persian Gulf War effort to pressure Middle East nations to provide genuine religious freedom for their citizens and foreign guests. It specifically points to the denial of religious liberty by the governments of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Egypt.

A resolution on evangelizing America's cities affirmed "ministries which reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of America's urban centers" and called on Southern Baptists to include ethnic leaders in developing mission and ministry strategies. It also called Southern Baptists to prayer for healing in America's cities and for revival throughout the nation.

A resolution on language and words used for God is meant to counter the trend in some churches and organizations of referring to God in impersonal, alternative, or gender-neutral terms, Mohler said.

"We affirm that God is not male, that he has no physical body, and bears no physical gender," Mohler acknowledged. "Nevertheless, he has intentionally and pervasively named himself as Father and to reject God's

own name for himself is unspeakable arrogance."

Noting urgent response is needed, a resolution on Eastern Europe and former Soviet bloc nations asks Southern Baptists to move quickly in responding to emerging evangelistic opportunities worldwide as countries open up to the outside world and create a "positive environment" for evangelism.

On autonomy of local Baptist churches and general Baptist bodies, a resolution affirms the doctrine of autonomy but notes the "respective responsibility to maintain the integrity and Scriptural discipline of every Baptist body in terms of faith, practice, membership, and programs, thus protecting the witness and purity of the church and denomination." It also calls for "comprehensive preservation of historic Baptist polity" and "mutual accountability."

A resolution on Christian involvement in voluntary associations, which avoids specific mention of Freemasonry, urges Southern Baptists to refrain from membership or participation in any organization with secret teachings, oaths, or mystical knowledge contrary to the Bible and the practice of Christian faith.

A resolution on the Cooperative Program affirms the importance of preserving the unified funding channel as the "primary means by which the convention provides financial support for its entities." It further calls on SBC entities to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest occasioned by participating in organizations, programs, or meetings that "compromise" CP support.

A resolution on the Boy Scouts of America encourages the organization to "maintain its historic commitments and to continue its proper work among the boys and young men of America." Scout groups in various parts of the country have come under fire for refusing to admit into membership homosexuals or persons who do not believe in God.

With the issue before the U.S. Congress, a resolution on fetal tissue experimentation urges Congress to sustain President Bush's moratorium on using fetal tissue from induced abortions in federally funded transplantation research. It also opposed the "unethical practice of using fetal tissue from induced abortions in experimental research, whether privately or publicly funded."

A resolution on morals in TV programming urges Christians to register dissatisfaction with broadcast and

cable program content, stating "much of television programming encourages immoral behavior."

On euthanasia and assisted suicide, SBC messengers took a stand against such practices and called on the medical community to find "more effective pain management" and to provide comfort for those facing death.

A resolution on keeping the Lord's day urges churches to teach the importance of "the proper use of the Lord's day to strengthen families and give proper recognition to God as creator."

Messengers also adopted a resolution expressing appreciation to the city of Indianapolis for hosting the 135th session of the SBC.

Resolutions submitted on senior adult action for morality, metro Sunday School clinics, and Sunday School curricula were referred to the Baptist Sunday School Board. A resolution on endorsing a federal balanced budget amendment was referred to the Christian Life Commission, and a resolution on adequate insurance for church staff members and families was referred to the Annuity Board.



**RESTING BETWEEN SESSIONS** were David Tydings, Grainger Association director of missions; Sarah Tydings; Vern Powers, retired, Tennessee Baptist Convention; and Linda Taylor, Knoxville Baptist Book Store employee.

## One Word More By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

I've had to back away from writing this story several times, but the pain does not lessen with delay. Putting it on paper, I realize, does not signify the finality that often wedges its way into our lives.

There is nothing final about laughter. It's time to write and I find the good memories outweigh the world's pitiful whimpers.

I can't explain how six years of knowing someone intimately can affect a person forever. But sometimes it does. My best friend of youth is gone from this earth, but the images I hold dear are eternal.

Oh, how he made me laugh! And it was mutual; we might have been called the laughers.

I walked into a strange new school one January day, right into Mrs. Gandy's class of outrageous boys. I heard that the roomfull of scamps andurchins had been so mischievous the principal had separated them from the girls.

Leslie Rhodes was the one who stepped up to welcome me, risking some quizzical looks from his compadres and perhaps some snickers. I was the "new kid."

Quickly and unintentionally we began walking the same paths. We discovered some mutual relatives on my step-mother's side. We were kin.

We soon began "spending the night" with each other. My folks liked him — and his did me. We may have kept each other out of real trouble. His grandparents, who lived just down the road from him, adopted me as theirs when I was around.

I liked his bicycle, a real "sporty" model. He shared it with me, actually letting me solo. Many afternoons we rode it together after school to his

home, laughing all the way. Sometimes we would stop for a while in some school mate's yard for football on the grass.

We camped out one night underneath the moon, right between two super electrical towers just to hear the power hum. When I lost my ID bracelet in the hayloft, he searched as long as I.

He taught me tennis — on his backyard court (which later was plowed up for vegetables). We went to Boy Scouts together, and sat together in the lunchroom making everyone laugh at corny jokes and youthful silliness. He revelled in the openness of our farm and was "at home" in my favorite places.

We discovered girls, dated together, gave each other the best of counsel on the art of loving someone special. We walked the aisle together at church, were baptized the same cool night.

He made the football team; I, the skinny one, tried baseball and joined the "glee club." When he learned I had found the very special girl, the only one, he gave me the best advice ever. "Keep her," he said, "and love her."

Years and wars caused us to go our ways and we never saw each other much except for those six wonderful years. The accident that snuffed out his life did not snuff out memories. Even now, even now when there is some uproarious moment to cherish, my mind speaks to me. "Do you remember when you and Leslie ..."



ALLEN

### Letters page is well-read; write good ones

One of the privileges held by *Baptist and Reflector* subscribers is that of writing letters. A longstanding tradition, letter-writing enables readers to share views, express ideas, address issues. Our weekly "mail call" is one of the best-read features of the paper.

Guidelines are valuable for letter writers — and ours are reasonable. Specific guidelines are printed regularly on the letters page. Some general rules are helpful also:

Accuracy is important. The letter is meaningless if the writer doesn't have factual information. Brevity also is a key to a well-written and well-read let-

ter — be concise. Short letters get preference. Give other writers opportunity for expression; letters are limited to one per three-months period.

Don't address more than one subject, and let that point be worthy. The letter should be responsible and clear, encouraging and informative. Attacks on persons will not be tolerated. All letters are subject to editing for length. Home address and phone number must be included. Unsigned letters will not be read or used.

Remember that letters are a reflection of the writer. — *Editor*



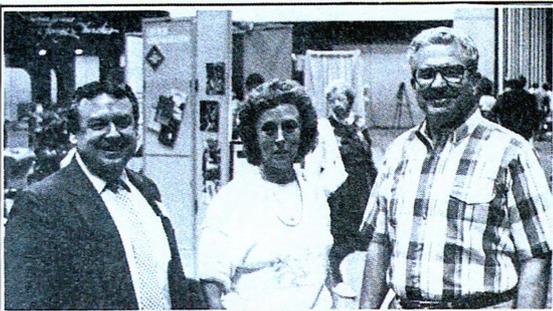
SHARING AN AMUSING thought are Gary Anderson, left, pastor, First Church, Dunlap, and Bill Bargiol, director of missions, Big Emory Association.



◀LORETTA AND MURRAY MATHIS, Third Church, Murfreesboro.



MARGARET AND AL PATTERSON of Copper Basin Association.



VISITING IN THE exhibit area are, from left, Frank Blevins, First Church, Bluff City; Ruth Ruble, Judson Church, Nashville; and Tal Thompson, director of missions, Holston Association.

## More Tennesseans in Indy



### Bold Believers In A Broken World

For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:12



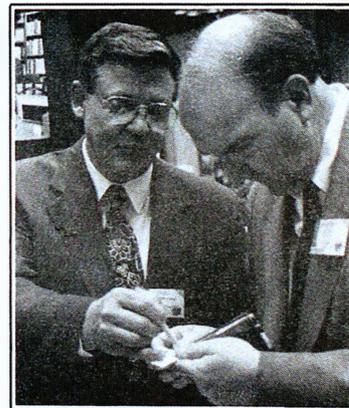
GIBSON COUNTY ASSOCIATION pastors Dennis Lunsford, left, Antioch Church, and Wayne Rowan, Oakwood Church, visit.



GEORGE WILLIAMS, seated, of Beech Park Church, Oliver Springs, is surrounded by, from left, Joyce and George Gilbert, Northwest Church, Knoxville; Jimmy Stroud, Third Creek Church, Knoxville; and Vada Williams.



CHURCH SECRETARY Louise Matthews, of First Church, Oliver Springs, joined a crowd of other Baptist Book Store shoppers in the exhibit hall before convention meetings began.



UNION UNIVERSITY staffer Paul Veazy, left, confers with Walter Taylor, director of missions, Knox County Association.



◀AT THE CARSON-NEWMAN booth were, from left, pastors Ken Elkins, Fairfield Glade Church, Crossville; Tom and Edna Earle Madden, Southside Church, Shelbyville; James Porch, First Church, Tullahoma, and Dan Haskins, Homestead Church, Crossville.



MEETING AT Union University's dinner were Linda and Fred Clift, left, Friendship Church, Beech Bluff, and James and Margaret Smith, First Church, Bethel Springs.

# Tennessee Baptists reflect on 1992 SBC meeting

Staff members of the *Baptist and Reflector* handed out response cards to many Tennessee Baptist messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis June 9-11.

Here are some impressions from those response cards:

"Convention actions proved us to be people of the Book. I'm thrilled that our denomination is taking strong stands on current moral issues." — **James J. Smith, pastor, First Church, Bethel Springs.**

"I am pleased with the business that was transacted, although I am disappointed in the two North Carolina churches that set church polity that contradicts Scripture. Mainline Southern Baptists have maintained Biblical integrity in a rapidly changing society." — **Charles Pratt, director of missions, Haywood Association.**

"Great! Good spirit and cooperation. Morris Chapman did a good job as moderator. The Pastors' Conference was excellent, enriching, uplifting." — **Doyle Wallace, First Church, Morristown.**

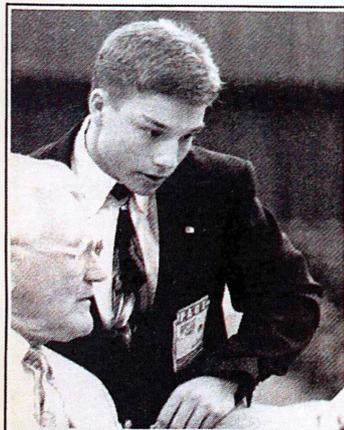
"The best convention I ever attended. There was a real spirit of fellowship and love among the brethren. Even controversial issues were dealt with in the Spirit of Christ and with respect to those of differing views. Morris Chapman displayed great leadership ability." — **Kenneth Basham, pastor, Maple Springs Church, Medon.**

"I believe the Lord's will is being done. I believe the love of brothers is coming together, and will prevail as we look to Jesus." — **Judy Basham, Maple Springs Church, Medon.**

"Tiring." — **Rusty Griffin, First Church, Memphis.**

"A good meeting. Speakers were great and the music tremendous. A good spirit seems to have prevailed." — **Sarah Tydings, Blue Springs Church, Bean Station.**

"This was one of the best conventions I've attended. The speakers were very good. Vice President Quayle did a super



**PAGE AT WORK** — John Highsmith, a member of Tusculum Hills Church, receives instructions from SBC registration secretary Lee Porter during the recent SBC meeting. In addition to serving as a page, Highsmith also spoke during the annual Brotherhood breakfast. Highsmith was the national winner of the 1992 Jerry Clower National Baptist Young Men Missions Speak Out.

job. The musicians were uplifting and the spirit of fellowship was great." **David Tydings, director of missions, Grainger Association.**

"I was impressed with the choirs and special music. It was good to see and hear our vice president. The speakers were great." — **Mary LeVeda Walker, Second Baptist Church, Chattanooga.**

"A surprisingly calm meeting. I expected some of the debate to be rough. My hat is off to Morris Chapman who handled the proceedings in a fair, calm, and professional manner. The Lord has not left the SBC!" — **Mark Mangrum, pastor, First Church, Whiteville.**

"The SBC meeting was great. We are moving back to our main cause of soul winning and revival. As an evangelist, I am seeing revival in our churches and among our youth." — **Floyd Lammersfeld, Long Heights Church, Gleason.**

"Mostly placid and predictable, with some inspiring moments aside from the messages and music — in particular, the CLC report and the message of Dan Quayle. I hope the suggestion to end the convention on Wednesday evening is successful — we need more consistent participation." — **Roy Fisher, pastor, First Church, Donelson.**

"I was saddened to see no positive steps to reach out to disenfranchised lifelong Southern Baptists. Instead, a resolution was passed imploring SBC entities to have nothing to do with Baptists who are doing other things in addition to those through the Cooperative Program. Worst of all were actions which showed contempt for the WMU, the heart of our missionary zeal." — **C. Kenny Cooper, pastor, Bellevue Church, Nashville.**

## Religious educators urged to help others find 'gifts'

INDIANAPOLIS — Religious educators were exhorted to help Southern Baptists find their spiritual gifts for effective Christian service on the eve of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"We've got to destroy the notion that 'everyone's gifted but me.'" said Ken Hemphill, new director of church growth for both the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and Home Mission Board, during the meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association.

"Paul himself insisted that all are gifted," said Hemphill, former pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va., basing his remarks on Romans 12:1-8.

"I believe God gifts churches through their members," Hemphill said. "Because of this, not all churches can or should be alike, nor prioritize the same things."

The conference theme, "Empowered for Ministry," was bolstered by several speakers who encouraged the educators to empower others for the kingdom's work.

Keener Pharr of Church Growth Priorities of Chattanooga, formerly of the Baptist Sunday School Board, said, "Enthusiasm for God's work expresses itself in commitment to our calling and the confidence we can do that work with his promise of divine support. As Scripture says, 'And lo, I am with you always.'"

The association approved a recommendation to move the annual meeting

"The climate was cool. The sessions were calm. The bookstore was crowded. The music was celestial. The homosexuality issue was handled Christlike. Dan Quayle's speech showed character. The primary emphasis was 'crossover' and not conflict." — **Mark Hearn, First Church, Seymour.**

"I enjoyed the spirit of unanimity and kindredness of purpose. Our focus seems to be in leaving the infighting and getting back to doing battle on real issues — for the hearts of people." — **Dale Ellenburg, pastor, Poplar Heights Church, Jackson.**

"A good productive convention. Although disagreements continue to exist, there was a good spirit overall, as seen in messengers. Tennesseans were evident — including our *Baptist and Reflector* staff, doing the usual efficient work." — **George W. Gilbert, pastor, Northwest Church, Knoxville.**

"I was thrilled to see that Southern Baptists can have different opinions but still work out differences in Christian love. God's Holy Spirit was very evident in all sessions. The spirit of unity was present again. I trust this will also be true in our Tennessee Baptist Convention." — **Reed Wright, pastor, Maple Street Church, Cleveland.**

"There was an excitement and expectancy. Thank God for where we came from and where we are and where we are going, even the hard times that help us become more like him. To God be the glory." — **Al and Margaret Patterson, director of missions (Al), Copper Basin Association.**

"The city, the Hoosier Don, the people, made for a great place to meet. Charles Stanley wrapped up a good con-

vention with a great message which all need to heed. We need to pray as we never have. I was impressed with the spirit of Morris Chapman and his love for the Lord and Southern Baptists." — **Charles D. Williams, pastor, Berclair Church, Memphis.**

"Sessions were orderly and the spirit was positive, due in large to Morris Chapman's gracious style of presiding. The outcome of the presidential election has become one of the most predictable elements of the SBC — a contrast to the intensely competitive elections from a few years ago. As usual there were some questionable motions. Witnessing the retirement of denominational statesman such as Harold Bennett, Lloyd Elder, and Keith Parks was sad. Censuring the churches that support homosexuality may open the door for future moves to dictate to local churches on doctrine, polity, or other matters." — **Ken Story, pastor, Germantown Church, Memphis.**

There was a genuine effort to permit all messengers to introduce motions and resolutions — and to speak. Foreign missions night was a high with the flags from countries where we serve, testimonies of missionaries, and the challenge by Dr. Keith Parks. Though we had a great Foreign Missions Christmas Offering, there was much soul-searching and renewal to our cooperative mission effort, especially with new doors open to us. — **David Cooper, First Church, Bolivar.**

My impression is that Southern Baptists are at the turning point and are now ready to put emphasis on the main issues of missions and evangelism. I was impressed with the manner in which messengers cooperated. — **Jack C. Parrott, Sunnyside Church, Kingsport.**

to another date on a trial basis. Lawrence Klemppauer, chairman of the study committee and vice president for student services at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, said a majority of the membership participating in a mail survey suggested scheduling the meeting at another time than in conjunction with the SBC.

In other action, the organization elected new officers for 1992-93 as recommended by its nominating committee.

New officers include William R. Comer Jr., Louisville, Ky., president; Bill Taylor, Dallas, president-elect; A. Joel Harrison, Atlanta, vice president; and Larry Perkins, Marietta, Ga., eastern vice president.

## Messengers elect Tennessee Baptists

INDIANAPOLIS — Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention elected members to fill trustee positions for SBC agencies and boards during their annual meeting June 9.

Two Tennesseans also were tapped to represent the state on the Committee on Committees — James R. Stroud, Third Creek Church, Knoxville, and Don Hill, Calvary Church, Kingsport.

Tennesseans elected as trustees were:

John Wallace, First Church, Morristown, Executive Committee; Jack C. Parrott, Sunnyside Church, Kingsport, Foreign Mission Board; A. Ray Newcomb, First Church, Millington, Home Mission Board; Philip Glisson, Leawood Church, Memphis; Bruce Robinson, West Lonsdale Church, Knoxville; Mary Margaret White, First Church, Humboldt; and Jack Stewart, Manley Church, Morristown, Baptist

Sunday School Board; Glenn Weekley, First Church, Hendersonville, Annuity Board; Richard D. White, First Church, Franklin, Southern Seminary; Adrian Rogers, Bellevue Church, Cordova, Southeastern Seminary; John Nanney, Meridian Church, Jackson; Betty Pettey, First Church, Donelson; and William Lovell Jr., Brentwood Church, Brentwood, Southern Baptist Foundation;

Jackie Kay, Bartlett Church, Bartlett, Christian Life Commission; Harold C. Fry III, Germantown Church, Germantown, Radio and Television Commission; and Wayne Bayles, Poplar Heights Church, Humboldt; Lloyd Brown, College Heights Church, Gallatin; and Hoffman C. Harless, Crieveewood Church, Nashville, American Baptist Seminary Commission. — **Lonnie Wilkey**

## Camp of Champions

# Four days of friends, fellowship & fun mark special camp for Children's Homes

To many of the boys and girls at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, the best part of summer is yet to come. The ministry's annual Camp of Champions is scheduled for Aug. 9 - 12 at Camp Shocco Springs in Talledaga, Ala.

The special camp offers the only annual opportunity for all of the TBCH residents, houseparents and social workers to gather together for a time of fellowship. Vans and car-loads of children will travel to Talledaga, Ala. from the main campuses of Chattanooga, Franklin and Memphis; from the Boys Ranch in Millington; and from the group homes in Burrville, Johnson City and Kingsport.

"The children look forward to this every year," said Cliff McClendon, assistant director of the camp. "At camp, everyone is the same. There's no competition with kids who are from 'normal' homes. So, it's a great time of reassurance for the children to be with others who have much the same problems."

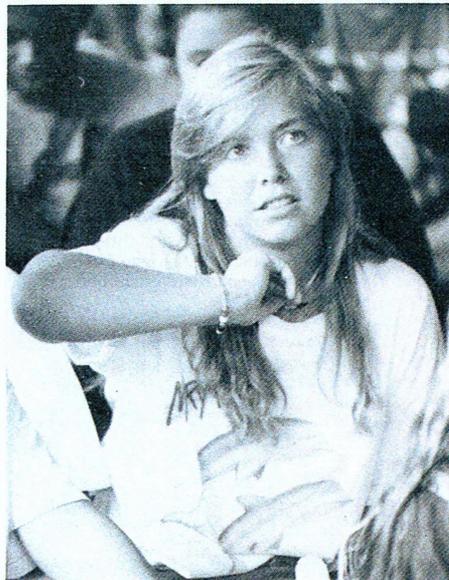
Dr. Gerald L. Stow, TBCH executive director, inaugurated the camp as a time of fellowship and spiritual revival for the children and staff members. Kay DeKalb Smith is leading the music.

The children begin each day's activities with Bible study, led by volunteers from across the state. Directing the studies are Bill Dockery, Tami Fraley and Helen Orr. The afternoon hours are reserved for fun and games, directed by Mark Vigus.

Each day concludes with an evening worship service. This year, Bro. Ivan Raley, pastor of Grassland Heights Baptist Church, returns for his second year as camp pastor. He says that the annual camp is a special time for him.

"This was an outstanding event for me to participate in last year, and I'm very honored they asked me back," he said. "By eating with the kids in the dining hall, and hiking and swimming with them, I got to know a lot of the children personally. It gave me a chance to see this ministry up close.

"The Children's Homes isn't just about caretaking, although they do a good job of it.



Bible study begins each activity-packed day of the TBCH Camp of Champions. Above left, Mary Swinford participates in a mid-morning group discussion. At right, a BSU summer missionary encourages his young team in the afternoon tug-of-war challenge.

It's also about character developing. Each child is supported and loved and allowed to build new life in Christ."

Raley also is inspired by the houseparents he has met during camp.

"The houseparents deserve a tremendous amount of credit for what they do," he said. "They welcome eight children into their lives, and each with some tough emotional luggage. The houseparents certainly need our

prayers and support as they help these children day in and day out."

The TBCH summer camp is an important part of the ministry's total program of providing a loving, Christian environment for the children. For many of the boys and girls, this will be their first camp experience.

The Camp of Champions is funded through individual scholarships for the children. The TBCH Board of Trustees heads the annual challenge of raising the

scholarship money. Each child is sponsored by a \$75 scholarship.

Mission groups, Sunday School classes and individuals are invited to sponsor a child's stay at camp through the gift of a full or partial scholarship. For more information, please contact Bill Betts at the TBCH Central Office at 1-800-624-8591, or 615-371-2000. The mailing address is TBCH, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood TN 37027.



The Camp of Champions provides plenty of opportunities for games, skits and songs. Above, social worker Susan Eller measures a camper's smile in the 'biggest grin' contest. Each day concludes with a worship service. Above right, camp pastor Bro. Ivan Raley talks with a teenager before the service begins.



**Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes**

Dr. Gerald L. Stow  
Executive Director

Central Office  
5001 Maryland Way  
Brentwood, TN 37027  
615-371-2000  
1-800-624-8591

Campuses: Chattanooga, Franklin, Memphis.  
Group Homes: Kingsport, Johnson City, Burrville.  
Alternative Homes for Unwed Mothers: Greenville, Franklin.  
Boys Ranch: Millington

# TenneScene

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

## Leadership . . .

Gene Mims, executive vice president for planning, research, development, and denominational relations at the Baptist Sunday School Board, is serving as interim pastor of First Church, Clarksville. Tommy Rowell will be interim music director during the summer.

Vann Kissel, Lawrenceburg, is the new pastor of First Church, Troy.

First Church, Jackson, has called Katherine Cothorn, Jonesboro, Ark., as director of the child development center.

Bobby Lockwood recently accepted the duties of associate pastor, minister of education at Parkway Church, Knoxville. Randy Lilly is serving as a summer college worker.

C. E. Blevins has been called as pastor of High Point Church, Ooltewah.

C. S. Knapp is serving as interim pastor of East Lake Church, Chattanooga.

First Church, Franklin, has hired two summer interns. Angie Watson, a student at Belmont University, Nashville, and long-time member of First Church, will work with the student ministry. Another church member, Amy Marler, a junior at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., will be children's ministry intern.

Tri-County Church, White House, called Jason Pettus as minister of youth. Pettus is a former youth intern at Parkway Church, Nashville.

Trevis Otey Jr. began serving as pastor of Highland Park Church, Columbia, May 31. Otey earned master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He served First Church, Trenton for more than six years.

Brian Henry is the new director of

music and youth at West View Church, Kingsport.

David Boyd has been called as pastor of Cross Roads Church, Greenbrier. He was director of evangelism at Dotson Memorial Church, Maryville.

Tim Miles began duties as pastor of Flewellyn Church, Springfield, June 7. He formerly served at Peyton Creek Church, Carthage.

Buffat Heights Church, Knoxville, called Dana Mathewson as pastor. He was formerly on staff at First Church, Pasadena, Texas. He began his service in Knoxville May 31.

## Ordinations . . .

Robbie Brush, Danny Landreth, Terry L. Moore, and Mark Pope were ordained to the deacon ministry of Lakeview Church, Selmer, May 31.

Edgemoor Church, Clinton, ordained Mike Jenkins, David Hopper, and Luther Maples as deacons May 31.

David McCarver was recently ordained as a deacon at Raleigh Church, Memphis.

Nolichucky Church, Jonesborough, ordained Marvin Ratliff June 14 to the deacon ministry.

## Hospitals . . .

Services at Baptist Hospital, Nashville, have been expanded to include the Baptist Endoscopic Sinus Center, a specially designated center for the treatment of chronic sinus conditions.

## Churches . . .

A non-denominational patriotic worship service will be held at 7 p.m. June 28 at Lincoya Hills Church, Nashville. Senator John Hicks will be keynote speaker.

Ararat Church, Jackson, members dedicated their new building and remodeled facilities May 31. The day concluded two years of planning, fund

raising, and construction. George Hill, Carroll-Benton Association director of missions and former pastor of the church, and Hyran Barefoot, Union University, Jackson, president, were guest speakers during the afternoon celebration.

The new building includes a 300-seat sanctuary, office suite, education rooms, and a music room.

J. V. Davis is pastor.

Members of Lakeview Church, Selmer, recently committed more than \$250,000 to a 13-week Challenge to Build program directed by Archer Thorpe Jr., of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Nelson Rickman, layman. Cash gifts and three-year commitments were made for the building. Construction will begin in late summer.

Members of Harmony Church, Jonesborough, were recently encouraged to take money from the Sunday morning offering plate, "invest" it, and return the dividends to be used for mission work. The \$2214 taken from the plate was returned, plus \$3972 more. Mike Oaks is pastor.

Eleanor C. Griffin and Dewey B. Middleton, Memphis, recently volunteered to work with Project Brotherhood in the Commonwealth of Independent States in a massive food distribution effort coordinated by the Brotherhood Commission. They were members of the tenth of 15 teams sent to distribute more than 570 tons of USDA surplus food to 40,000 Russian

## Carson-Newman's missionaries largest group commissioned by HMB

Forty-one Carson-Newman College's students were commissioned by the Home Mission Board to minister in cities across the nation this summer. It was the largest group from any private or state institution in America.

In addition, 51 students are serving in church-related camps, association missions, and church youth ministries. C-N students are serving in 25 states and five foreign countries.

"Student involvement in missions is a hallmark of Carson-Newman. In this day of political strife, a sluggish economy, and a national decline in the number of young people entering full-time Christian service, Carson-Newman students are responding to the needs of the world and local community in record numbers," said C-N President Cordell Maddox.

The college was also a national leader in spring break missions. During the 1992 Special Projects Other Than Summer (SPOTS), a record-breaking 141 students and faculty devoted their spring vacations to ministry in rural and inner-city poverty areas, resort beach ministries, a Baptist high school, and children's homes. Over 100 decisions for Christ were recorded during this week long effort.

C-N's fund-raising for student missions has also seen increased response. More than \$99,000 was donated to support summer and spring break missions and the 19 local outreach ministries established by the Carson-

families. They are both members of First Church, Memphis.

A volunteer youth mission team from Manley Church, Morristown, will travel to Cincinnati, Ohio, June 28 to work at Springdale Church in Backyard Bible Clubs, survey work, and worship services. They will return July 2.

A Sullivan Association volunteer mission team will be in Coro, Venezuela July 1-17 for evangelism, witnessing, and construction. Twenty-five people from nine Sullivan Association churches will participate.

Two people were recently baptized into the membership of Chalk Level Church, Camden, as a result of a revival led by a team from the Baptist Student Union at Union University, Jackson. Lamar Boothe is pastor.

## Education . . .

The first improvement in the \$50 million "Of Minds and Miracles" campaign at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, can now be seen with the completion of the campus gate. Architecture of the gate continues the design theme of current and future campus buildings with columns, black and gold railings, and steps in a fan design. More than \$30 million has been pledged to date in the campaign to finance improvements in classroom technology, increase scholarship opportunities, and fund building renovation and construction of a new student activities center.

Newman Baptist Student Union. Through its poverty relief shelter, home repair program for poverty-stricken families, senior citizen's ministry, mentally handicapped ministry, and others, the college's BSU provides students with alternative ways to participate in the local community.

Carson-Newman has recognized the importance of the Christian witness, said campus minister Jim Wilson. "It is so exciting to see these young people go rejoicing to their assignments.

"The effect it has on them will be a testimony in their own lives and a building block for future ministry."

## J. E. Williams dies in accident

Retired Shelby County Association pastor J. E. Williams was killed recently in an automobile accident. He served as pastor of three churches in Shelby County Association: Brunswick, Park Avenue, and Havenview. He also was pastor of other West Tennessee churches.

After retirement, he served as pastor at Mineral Wells Church in north Mississippi, where he was serving when the accident occurred.

Williams was active in the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Shelby County Association. He served on numerous state and associational committees.

Williams is survived by his wife, Frances, and two daughters.

## Murfreesboro church honors Coteys

More than 400 members and friends of First Church, Murfreesboro, recently honored retiring pastor H. Eugene Cotey and his wife, Jean, during a reception.

The Coteys' 31 years of service to the church were cited by Lynn E. May Jr., executive director, Southern Baptist Historical Commission, Nashville;

Ircel Harrison, director of student ministries, Tennessee Baptist Convention; and Jim Powers, director of missions, Concord Association.

Cotey, who was president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1975, has served on numerous TBC and SBC committees. He currently is on the Executive Board of the TBC.

### COTEY RECEPTION —

Eugene and Jean Cotey, center, were honored by more than 400 friends and members of First Church, Murfreesboro, recently. Cotey has retired after more than 31 years as pastor of the church. With the Coteys are Archie and Mary King. King is the retired Brotherhood director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



# 'Devote yourselves to prayer,' Stanley tells messengers

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — "Devote yourselves to prayer," Charles Stanley urged messengers attending the final session of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting June 11.

Stanley, pastor of First Church in Atlanta, said devotion to prayer is the key to discovering God's will and vision for every person.

"Any man of God who devotes himself to prayer will be able to overcome every single obstacle in life and will have no limitations in life, except those which God sets," he said. "That

man has learned to tap into the inexhaustible resources of Almighty God.

"If you and I learn to draw from within, not from without, seeking the mind of God, the Spirit of God who lives inside of us will release in you and through you every single thing you need to become, and to do what God has called you to do."

Stanley identified a problem he said many Christians face: "We limit what God can do in our lives by judging ourselves by the past or comparing ourselves with other people. We look

back instead of looking up to God.

"That's exactly what this convention's been doing for years," he continued. "Suppose we as a denomination would say, 'God, we're not going to look back, we're looking up.' What then would be the potential of the Southern Baptist Convention?" Stanley asked. "What could we do if we devoted ourselves to prayer and trusted God to provide everything we need to do exactly what he wants us to do?"

"I don't think our minds could conceive of the overwhelming, awesome results that would take place!" he declared. "There is no way we could fathom it.

"One of our problems," he said, "is we compete with one another on the one hand and compare ourselves with one another on the other hand, and we're always in this state of turmoil. God wants us to be free of competition and comparison, looking to him and set apart for his plan and his purpose for life.

"What God does in your life really has nothing to do with your education, your eloquence, your ability or talent, but it does have a great deal to do with your devotion to Christ and to prayer," he said.

"Prayer is the key to getting God's vision for your life," Stanley said.

## Executive Committee re-elects officers

INDIANAPOLIS — In an organizational meeting here June 10, the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee re-elected its three officers and heard incoming SBC President Ed Young plead for cessation of conflict and labels.

Re-elected by the committee were Chairman David Hankins, Louisiana; Vice Chairman Fred Wolfe, Alabama; and Eldridge Miller, Oklahoma.

New committee members were introduced, including John Wallace of

Morristown, member of First Church, and president of a wholesale hardware and steel company. Wallace replaces Joe Warwick, Knoxville layman, who served two terms.

The Executive Committee report was heard in two segments during the convention, with reports on referred motions from last year's convention, budget recommendations, and other business items.

In a brief message to the committee Young, who is a member by virtue of office, said people should recognize the SBC as "a denomination whose people believe in the Book.

"I don't care what we've said about each other," he said, "we're going to be 'us.' How big will the blanket be — big enough for everybody who believes in the Book.

"I am big on God's Word, the perfect truth. At this moment, it is time to put down all the conflict. This group will not be known as the Executive Committee, but as a group of God's people. It hurts that revival is going on around the world — except in the United States. We have to do something about that."

In a pre-convention session June 8, the committee affirmed its relationship with Woman's Missionary Union. It noted that the WMU constitution preamble specifies mission funds to be disbursed by SBC boards and disclaims independent action.

## Midland Association calls Jones as DOM

Herbert L. Jones will begin service July 1 as director of missions for Midland Association, headquartered in Knoxville.

A native of Knox County, Jones has been pastor of Deep Spring Church, Dandridge, since 1986. He also has been pastor of First Church, Caryville; Greenway Church, Knoxville; and Atkin Church, Corryton. He also held a pastorate in Kentucky.

Jones has served on the executive board of both the Tennessee and Kentucky Baptist conventions.

Jones is married to the former Kathleen Henry. They have two children — Anita and Donald.



JONES

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## Drummond delivers convention sermon

INDIANAPOLIS — Orthodoxy isn't God's ultimate purpose for Christians, declared Lewis Drummond in the convention sermon June 10.

Drummond said he has contended for orthodoxy "at a high cost," but instead of orthodox Christians "need to have Christ liberate us from ourselves and set us free," he stated.

"In the final analysis, it's really not how orthodox we are but whether or not we are walking in love," he added. Love is the greatest commandment of the Bible "on which all others are based," said Drummond. "We're to speak the truth in love."

Drummond, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., until June 30 when Paige Patterson, president of the Dallas-based Criswell College assumes the role, soon will join the faculty of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.

Truth, God's truth, must be sought and defended, but in the Scripture it is usually coupled with some other "spiritual reality," he reported.

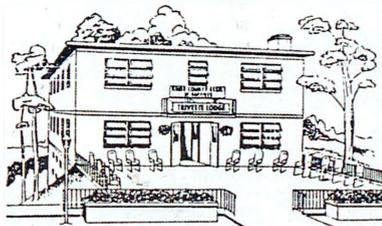
Jesus was filled with truth and grace, according to John 1:14, noted Drummond.

"People matter to God as well as truth," he contended. Relating in any other way leads to formalism, scholasticism, and legalistic Phariseeism, Drummond said.

God intended his truth to eventuate in sanctification . . . he said, which is a "setting apart" of people from the world. Instead of a deluded piety, these people can be identified by their prayer life and optimism, he suggested.

True knowledge rejects "carnal, ecclesiastical ambition," Drummond stated. — *Connie Davis*

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# Paul's appeal for Onesimus

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

The church family included the families, slaves, and dependents in Paul's day. All attended the services together in the house in which a family lived. Philemon and possibly his wife and son, as well as the church body of believers which met in Philemon's house were addressed by Paul (vv. 1-3). Greetings were sent to them also by Paul's associates (vv. 1, 23-24). Anything that affected one member affected all within the church. One of the church members (Philemon) had a slave (Onesimus) who had run away. But Paul had won Onesimus to faith in Christ while they were in prison. Now Onesimus was more than a slave. He was a "beloved brother," (v. 16). Just as in the case of Philemon, God's grace can make us sufficient to measure up to the situations involved. As a result, we learn what being a part of the church family really means.

**Thanks-worthy (vv. 1-7)**  
Philemon exemplified everything God expected of a member of the church. He was loved by others. He

had worked with Paul. He was not a sitter or a quitter. When Paul prayed, he thanked God for Philemon's commitment and love for the Lord and the fellow believers. His generosity and hospitality were well-known in Christian circles. Such generous giving had resulted in many people being saved (v. 6), the heart of Paul being made to rejoice (v. 7), and the hearts of the believers being refreshed (v. 7). Philemon was worthy of thanks. Are you?

**Request-worthy (vv. 8-20)**  
Too often when you start to make a request to some church members, they begin backing off and preparing a negative reply. Paul was not hesitant to make an appeal to Philemon for he was request-worthy. He had sufficient grace to listen to the appeal and respond positively to it. Paul, as Philemon's spiritual authority, believed he could command Philemon to respond properly. But Paul wanted Philemon to have the joy of doing the right thing without compulsion. Paul's

appeal was based upon Philemon's character, the conversion of Onesimus, the love of Christians for one another, and Paul's own age as a servant of Christ and his imprisonment.

**BIBLE BOOK**  
**June 28 Lesson**  
**Basic Passage: Philemon**

What was Paul's request? He wanted Philemon to take Onesimus back as a Christian brother. The one whose name meant profitable, but who had become unprofitable, was going to be more profitable than ever. Even though Onesimus was profitable to Paul as a helper and witness, Paul was going to send him back. He wanted Philemon to treat Onesimus as a Christian brother (vv. 12-16). Paul also suggested that Onesimus' departure might be within the providence of God so as to bring something good out of a bad situation (vv. 15-16). If Philemon was familiar with the Old Testament, he would recall Joseph's statement to his

brothers who had mistreated him, "... ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good..." (Genesis 50:20). God had saved and changed Onesimus and Onesimus was a true brother in Christ to Paul. This principle of brotherly love has destroyed slavery and continually brings pressure upon any form of exploitation among people. Again Paul requested Philemon to receive Onesimus as he would him, and he would be personally responsible for any indebtedness (vv. 17-20).

**Confidence-worthy (vv. 21-25)**  
Paul believed Philemon was worthy of his confidence because of Philemon's obedient nature (v. 21), reputation for doing more than was expected (v. 21), provision of lodging for Paul and others in his home (v. 22), and prayers regarding Paul's release from prison and visit (v. 22). There is a need today for more followers of the Lord Jesus Christ to be worthy of thanks, requests, and confidence. Such worthiness would bring greater peace and harmony within the church and more acceptance of one another in the fellowship.

# Judgment and salvation

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

There is a familiar adage that states, "The only things of which one can be sure are death and taxes." In the economy of God's creative purpose, there are other certainties. One can rest assured there will be a day of reckoning. Our lesson of last week dealt with God's redemptive favor toward the repentant people of Nineveh. That repentance was relatively short-lived. Hardly more than a century would pass until Nahum would declare the jealousy and fury of God toward the blood-letting inhabitants of Nineveh.

God's wrath toward the enemies of His purpose was no hasty reaction. It was the action of a caring God who was long-suffering. Nahum indicated, "The Lord is slow to anger..." God's judgment was measured to allow appropriate and calculated opportunities

for the people of Nineveh to turn from their treacherous behaviors.

Nahum amplified the intensity of God's judgment when he asked, "Who can stand before His indignation? And who can abide in the fierceness of His anger?" The answer is obvious — no one! The prophet presented a balance between God's judgment and salvation. One escapes this fury by living in a committed relationship to the Lord. Nahum reassured the believer of God's nature when he stated, "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him." These words struck a note of hope to the people of Judah who had suffered extreme and murderous treatment at the hands of the Assyrians. God had allowed the Assyrians to be an instrument of discipline for His people. Although other nations would

serve in similar roles, the brutality of the people of Nineveh would cease. This intervention and deliverance would be at the initiative of God.

The message of the Bible is clear. God will not let rampant hostility and sin go on forever. Although patient and long-suffering, God calls for people to live in a relationship that exemplifies His name and character. Human beings are responsible for their actions. God will not overlook sin. There will be a day of judgment. Yet, God's message of accountability is always tempered with redemptive hope.

**CONVENTION UNIFORM**  
**June 28 Lesson**  
**Basic Passage: Nahum 1:1-3:19**

During the days when this prophecy was written, important messages were delivered by runners. A runner would announce his message to its recipients by standing on a high mound often proclaiming the news of a glorious conquest. Nahum used this method when

he announced, "Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace!" The "good tidings" in this case was a message of hope. God would deliver His people from the reckless assaults of Assyria.

Years later, an angelic messenger would proclaim another message of "good tidings." On a lonely Judean hillside, shepherds would receive the message of the centuries, "Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ, the Lord." With the advent of Christ, the full disclosure of God was seen in the person of Jesus. In Jesus, God's loving purpose was unveiled. The message of the Suffering Servant was one of hope and deliverance. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

# Declare the message

By Sharon Herrington, layperson; Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage

According to Bible scholars, the book of Revelation is divided into three parts: the prologue (ch. 1-3), the body of the book (ch. 4:1-22:5), and the postlude (ch. 22:6-21). Over the past weeks our study of the seven churches has come from the prologue. This Sunday's lesson skips over the body of the book and focuses on the postlude.

After the seven churches are addressed in the prologue, "John looks up from his scroll and there before him stands a door opening into heaven. The voice like a trumpet invites him up to heaven to learn how God will bring history to a close..." writes Robert H. Mounce, author of *What Are We Waiting For?*

After the final curtain falls on the drama in Revelation 22:5, Christ steps forward to summarize and applaud the drama (ch. 22:6). Although apocalyptic writers often sealed their works for the future, John was told by Christ not to seal his works. The people of that day desperately needed to hear the message.

Christ addressed His audience after the final curtain call: "I'm coming soon, and because I am the Jesus of history (v. 16), the Alpha and Omega, it is my reserved privilege and responsibility to bestow on every person the reward his life's work merits" (my paraphrase). Writer Fred Wood observes, "We are saved by our decision concerning the Savior, but we are rewarded or punished according to our deeds."

God initiates His love to us once again in verse 17 — "... come." The evangelistic urgency in this verse seems to have two emphases. First is God's invitation for all to come to relieve thirst and to experience the water of life. Fred Wood helps us see this invitation to come occurring throughout the Bible in the following passages: Genesis 7:1; Isaiah 1:18; Matthew 11:28, 28:6; Mark 10:21; and John 1:39.

Second, verse 17 points to our responsibility to extend God's invitation for all to come. "Declare the

Message" our lesson title says! How seriously do we take our role as stewards of the Gospel? As Herschel Hobbs points out, "It is a great privilege to be the custodians of the Gospel, but it is an infinite responsibility." Considering all God has done for us and continues to do, all His blessings on our lives and prayers He has answered, and the way He is involved with our lives at this moment, how can we sit back and idly say, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus?"

**LIFE AND WORK**  
**June 28 Lesson**  
**Basic Passage: Revelation 22:10-21**

In verses 18-19, we are warned of tampering with God's Word. Plagiarism was prevalent in the first century and commonly writers warned of altering or stealing the work of the original author. However, this wasn't just another writer's work — it was "... from God, to Christ who gave it to an angel, and who, in turn, gave it to John," Hobbs affirms.

Referring to verses 20-21, Wood in his lesson commentary asked the ques-

tion, "Can you honestly say you are looking forward to the Lord's coming?" It is certain that Christ will return quickly whether by His second coming or through our death. I admit my bags are packed, but I am not homesick for heaven just yet.

Perhaps you are broken down on life's highway waiting for your Father to come rescue you. You know He will come for you because He said He would. He's never broken a promise, but you just do not know the exact time. You must be ready for Him when He comes. Your preparedness dispels fear of the unknown of the details of how or when He will come. So in the meanwhile of life, you must celebrate the security of your future by sharing your hope with all people who come by, inviting them to wait with you. "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with (you). Amen."



Give Through the Cooperative Program

# Seminary alumni renew friendships at SBC luncheons

INDIANAPOLIS — The six Southern Baptist-supported seminaries held luncheon meetings June 10 for alumni and friends.

Reports from the six seminaries follow.

## Golden Gate Seminary

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary is enlarging its alumni program to give former students and graduates more opportunities for involvement in the life of their institution, seminary President William O. Crews told 80 people attending the alumni and friends luncheon.

"A strong, comprehensive alumni program is crucial to fulfilling the call our Lord has given us in the West," Crews said. "We want to see a highly involved network of regional alumni chapters across the country and, eventually, around the world."

In response, alumni association members attending the annual meeting adopted a new constitution and bylaws that bring the group under the responsibility of the seminary instead having to rely on its own operational funding.

## Midwestern Seminary

"Carry the light of the truth and the love of God," Milton Ferguson urged alumni of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. "Our primary responsibility is to be ambassadors for Christ, to carry the light of the Gospel."

Ferguson addressed 136 alumni and friends of the seminary during the institution's national alumni luncheon.

"Wherever you serve, carry the light of the power and presence of God who works in you and through your life," Ferguson said.

"Remember that the path will not be easy," he continued. "In fact, if you carry the light of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, there will be darkness always, at every turn, seeking to envelop that light because there is conflict between light and darkness, between truth and error. You will be challenged as you grow in your capacity to carry the light."

During the luncheon, Midwestern's 1992 alumni of the year and honorary alumni were recognized.

Alumni of the year included John W. Burns, associate director of the department of Baptist student work for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, and Tom L. Blase, a

## Evangelists hear tape from Noriega

INDIANAPOLIS — Southern Baptist evangelists heard sermons from three men representing three generations and heard a taped message from former Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega during their meeting at the Hoosier Dome.

Newly elected SBC President Edwin Young also spoke to the group.

The sermons of the three evangelists — Scott Camp, Del City, Okla.; Kelly Green, Mobile, Ala.; and Angel Martinez, Fort Smith, Ark. — were interspersed with music by evangelistic singers and a testimony by Lee Pitts, ventriloquist from Gadsden, Ala.

In his audio-taped message, translated from Spanish by Rudy Hernandez of the Home Mission Board, Noriega gave thanks for prayers which led to his salvation in a Florida prison.

military chaplain at Galena Airport, Alaska.

In a business session, Mike Haynes, pastor of First Church, North Kansas City, Mo., was named alumni association president-elect.

## Southern Seminary

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary must place a major emphasis on serving its diverse constituencies in an era of denominational change, the school's president told a gathering of alumni and friends.

"Perhaps the highest priority this year and the coming years is the constituency challenge," Roy L. Honeycutt told 496 participants at the seminary's reunion banquet.

As the Southern Baptist Convention embarks on a "decade of transition," the seminary will have to deal increasingly with the competing interests of the denomination, its graduates, and other constituencies, said Honeycutt.

The seminary also honored four graduates as 1992 Distinguished Alumni, marking the 20th year the awards have been presented.

Receiving the honor were Lloyd T. Householder Jr., retired assistant vice president for communications for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, and member, First Church, Nashville; Marjean Patterson, Jackson, Miss.; Verlin C. Kruschwitz, Elizabethtown, Ky.; and Cecil G. Osborne, retired American Baptist pastor.

During the luncheon, Howard Cobble, pastor of Severns Valley Church, Elizabethtown, Ky., was presented as the nominee for president-elect of the alumni association. Alumni will vote on Cobble's nomination by mail ballot.

The seminary's alumni association president next year will be James Graves, pastor of First Church, St. Petersburg, Fla.

## Southeastern Seminary

New Southern Baptist Convention President Edwin Young, a Southeastern Seminary graduate, made a surprise address to a crowd of 172 at the school's luncheon.

Camp told the 1000 worshipers the greatest need of our nation is "an old-fashioned, Holy Ghost revival.

"We've come to the point where we call bad, good and good, bad," the young evangelist said. "We've become a lawless nation. War is raging in the streets of our nation."

Evangelist Green said the attitude of "TV evangelism" has crept into our lives with the idea that if you obey God, He will make you healthy, wealthy, and wise. But in reality you may get a Timex instead of a Rolex; a broken Chevy instead of a Cadillac, he said.

Before we can be most effective, Green said, there must be a time of brokenness in our lives. Adversity, when properly responded to, can bring that brokenness, he said.

"I am tired of the 'us-them, you-they' terminology," said Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston. "When it comes to describing those going with God and Kingdom business, from now on, the terminology will be 'we.'"

Young, elected SBC president June 9, said, "If you look around the world, it's harvest time. I believe Jesus will return very soon. There is a time to plant, plow, and weed but now it's time to harvest.

"This is a time of revival like never before in the history of Christianity," Young said. "It's happening all over the world. Are we (Southern Baptists) in on it? It seems most Southern Baptists . . . are not even aware of it. Theologically speaking, that ought to scare the hell out of us."

Young said he is convinced there needs to be an effort like never before among Southern Baptists to pray for a spiritual awakening. Of his seminary alma mater, Young said, "Southeastern is becoming the strategic center for Biblically-based theological education."

Alumni elected 1992-1993 officers. They are Billy Cline, Asheville, N.C., president; Charles Page, Charlotte, N.C., president-elect; Terry Harper, Colonial Heights, Va., secretary-treasurer; Julian Motley, Durham, N.C., executive committee chairman; Mark Dooley, Raleigh, N.C., at-large member of executive committee.

## New Orleans Seminary

The 1991-92 academic year set record enrollments at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, both in overall enrollment and on-campus enrollment. President Landrum P. Leavell II told more than 300 persons at the annual luncheon for alumni and friends.

The luncheon was the kick-off for the seminary's 75th anniversary, to be celebrated throughout the 1992-93 academic year with several special events.

The seminary has established 21 "goals to launch us from this point into the 21st century," Leavell said.

Also during the meeting, seminary faculty, represented by Billy K. Smith, vice president for academic affairs, presented a distinguished alumnus award to Terry W. York "for outstanding leadership in denominational music ministry." York was project coordinator of the 1991 *Baptist Hymnal*. Others honored with a distinguished alumnus award were O. K. Bozeman, Foreign Mission Board missionary emeritus; and Jachin Chan, vice president of the Baptist World Alliance and president of the Hong Kong Bible Language Centre.

Alumni elected Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Brandon, Miss., president of the national alumni association, and Jim Futral, pastor of Broadway Church, Jackson, Miss., as president-elect.

## Southwestern Seminary

INDIANAPOLIS — The faculty, administration, and trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary are "pulling together and moving forward," the school's president told alumni and friends attending the National Alumni Luncheon.

Russell H. Dilday told almost 500 luncheon guests at the Hyatt Regency

Hotel that additions to the Fort Worth, Texas, seminary's faculty and curriculum mean the best days are ahead for Southwestern.

During a report to alumni, Dilday asked former students to help the seminary correct misconceptions from those who say the school is paralyzed. "Help us dispel that kind of uninformed criticism," he said.

Dilday encouraged alumni to continue supporting the Cooperative Program.

"The Cooperative Program is our lifeline," he said. "It is the basis on which we operate."

Three graduates were honored during the luncheon as Distinguished Alumni. Receiving the award were Gerald Ray, minister of music, First Church, Houston; Louie Wilkinson, retired editor of *Open Windows* devotional guide, and member of Immanuel Church, Nashville, N.C.; and Molly Wong, retired editor of *Hong Kong Baptist Press*.

New Officers are Bob Edd Shotwell, Austin, Texas, president; Roberta Damon, Richmond, Va., vice president; and Jay Chance, Fort Worth, secretary.

Newly elected Southern Baptist Convention President Edwin Young made a surprise appearance. Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston, said he "believes in Southwestern Seminary and the vision of the school. This is the greatest seminary in the SBC and the w-o-r-l-d," Young said.

Crying as he spoke, Young said he was speaking "from the bottom of my heart. Please don't say us or you or they or them from this moment on. Let's say we. Let's go forward for God and win the world to Jesus Christ."

## Speakers remind DOMS volunteers are needed

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — The secular world is beating the church in the race for volunteers.

The warning from Reginald M. McDonough, executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, was voiced during the 31st annual Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions, which met in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention's June 9-11 meeting in Indianapolis.

"An estimated 400 volunteer clearingshouses have been established around the nation. Each of these agencies wants to recruit the very best volunteers. They continually seek ways to make their volunteer programs more attractive. Churches and associations cannot rest on their laurels and expect persons to volunteer out of duty," McDonough said.

Jim Pierce, director of lay ministries of the Greater Boston (Mass.) Association, cited observations he has made of volunteers during his ten years as a Home Mission Board Mission Service Corps volunteer.

Volunteers are eager to serve and they want to have a good experience, Pierce said, noting they do not want to feel their time was wasted.



WILKINSON



HOUSEHOLDER