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Baptist and Reflector

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SSB reveals organizational restructuring

By Linda Lawson
Sunday School Board
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — In a series of announcements about the continued restructuring of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, President James T. Draper Jr. named nine people who will direct divisions and departments.

He also announced the retirement of eight long-tenured employees from middle- and upper-level management positions, effective on dates ranging from Sept. 1 to Nov. 1.

The organizational structure and nominations to nine of 18 positions that report directly to vice presidents of the board's four operational areas were affirmed June 25 by the board's trustee executive committee and general administration committee. They were announced June 26 to employees. Official approval awaits action by the full trustee board, which meets Aug. 17-19 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Three will be nominated as division directors. They are: Harry Piland, 63, director of the Sunday



PILAND

School division for 14 years, will become director of church growth and Sunday School; Roy Edgemon, 57, director of the Discipleship Training department since 1978, will become director of discipleship and family development; and Roland Maddox, 55, a Memphis-based businessman, member of Bellevue Church, Cordova, and former trustee of the board, will direct the newly created church program support division.

The newly created marketing research department will be directed by Doug Anderson, 47, director of the family ministry department since 1982. Jim Shull, 51, director of the procurement



MADDOX

and administrative services department and a 22-year employee, will lead the production services department.

Four department directors will continue in their present positions: Van Simpson, 49, director of the information systems department since 1974; Richard Bell, 53, director of the property management department since 1986; Steve Lawrence, 48, director of the human resources department since 1980; and Larry Haslam, 52, director of Glorieta Baptist Conference Center since 1973.

Employees retiring are: Dessel Aderholt, 62, director of publishing analysis, a 33-year employee; Martin Bradley, 64,



EDGE-MON

director of the corporate planning and research department, 38 years; Andy Dodson, 53, director of the distribution services division, 27 years; Jimmy Edwards, 54, vice president for marketing and distribution, 23 years; Johnnie Godwin, 55, vice president for general publishing, 22 years; Bill Graham, 57, director of the book store division, 30 years; Ken McAnear, 58, director of Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, 35 years; and David Turner, 56, director of business development planning, 33 years.

Draper said those retiring have accepted a retirement option commensurate with their years of — SSB reveals, page 2

this week's news

global:

■ Tennessee team leaves for Chile July 11. — See page 10.

national:

■ ATS notifies Southeastern Seminary of two-year probation. — See page 3.

■ Educators seek ways to blend faith and discipline. — See page 3.

■ Ethnic churches grow faster than pastors and leaders. — See page 5.

state:

■ Letters to the editor address new position of Al Shackleford, homosexuality, and a recommendation concerning the position of TBC executive director. — See page 4.

■ Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis, presents advice for life and a bit of humor in new column. — See page 5.

■ "Should a minister ever walk away?" asks Aubrey Hay of the TBC Church-Ministers Relations. — See page 8.

■ Pastors Roy Fisher, Ken Castleberry, and Calvin Metcalf present views originally appearing in their church newsletters. — See page 9.

■ Jim Williams recovers from heart surgery — See page 12.

Tennesseans join in Mississippi River ministry

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

Tennessee Baptists are joining forces with six other Baptist state conventions to meet the challenging needs which exist in the region along the Mississippi River.

The need for such ministry became painfully apparent after a report was published by the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission, a presidential committee appointed to study the economic and social problems in the 219 counties along or near the Mississippi River in Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana, said Jere Phillips, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Missions Department.

The report showed the needs but did not demonstrate what churches and other organizations could do to address those needs, he said.

Among the commission's findings were:

- 75 percent of employed Delta residents lack basic reading skills and therefore cannot be trained for technical jobs;
- About one-half of the 792,000 rental housing units in the Delta region are dilapidated beyond repair;
- 15 counties have infant mortality rates higher than Chile, Cuba, and Malaysia; and
- The poverty rate, according

to the 1980 census, was 20.9 percent in the Lower Mississippi River Delta region, compared to 12.4 percent in the U.S. and 17 percent in the Appalachian region of the country.

In Tennessee, 21 counties with a population of more than 1.3 million people are in the Lower Mississippi River Delta region, said Ray Gilder of the TBC Missions Department.

Tennesseans are dramatically affected by the poverty in the region, Gilder said, citing the 1980 census which indicated only 52 percent of the people, age 25 and older, in that region had a high school education. For African Americans, the figure dropped to 38 percent, he added.

Another significant statistic is that in 1990, 47 percent of the births in Shelby County (Memphis area) were illegitimate, Gilder said.

Phillips stressed the Tennessee area includes the entire region of West Tennessee, not just the counties along the Mississippi River.

Tennessee associations which will be involved in the ministry include: Beech River, Beulah, Big Hatchie, Carroll-Benton, Crockett, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson County, Hardeman County, Haywood, Madison-Chester,

Shelby County, Shiloh, Weakley County, and Western District.

Phillips noted that state missions directors from the seven states met last August for a

preliminary meeting to address the needs of the region.

The missions directors concluded a national convocation — Tennesseans join, page 2

MISSISSIPPI RIVER MINISTRY
Building Bridges of Hope and Change

Mississippi River Ministry Region
comprised of portions of seven states bound together through their ties to the Mississippi River

about your newsjournal

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Printed on Recycled Paper

FMB trustees elect James for European post

By Robert O'Brien
Foreign Mission Board
For Baptist Press

EL PASO, Texas — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees unanimously elected Samuel M. James, a 30-year missions veteran, to lead Southern Baptist work in Europe and laid the groundwork for a September dialogue with European Baptist leaders.

Trustees, meeting June 22-24 in El Paso, also voted to discuss issues of concern between the board and the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, and announced a retirement package for board President R. Keith Parks.

In other action, trustees voted to begin mission work in Aruba, an island off the coast of north-west Venezuela in the Netherlands Antilles, and appointed 32 missionaries and reappointed two others.

They also passed a resolution congratulating Southern Baptists and Foreign Mission Board staff and missionaries for a job well done in reaching new levels in giving to the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and in overseas baptisms and church starts. The resolution noted that trustees "are grieved that there is a perception that 1991 was less than a banner year for Southern

Baptists and the Foreign Mission Board."

James, 60, area director for East Asia since 1985, was elected as vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, effective July 1. He succeeds Isam Ballenger, who took early retirement, along with Europe area director Keith Parker, in protest



JAMES

of what they termed the trustees' "global agenda" to enforce theological orthodoxy overseas.

Ballenger's and Parker's action followed a controversial decision by trustees to defund the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Trustees voted unanimously at the June meeting to "affirm that we have only one global agenda and that is evangelism that results in churches." They said they "do not have a global agenda to export any perceived controversy to any Baptist body with which we partnership."

In related actions, trustees confirmed "the general tone" of a visit and a letter from board leaders to European leaders in May. They said they "desire discussions with the European Baptist Federation to develop

future partnership" on the basis of "mutual trust, happy cooperation, and equal partnership in all our relationships."

Trustees also "unreservedly and unequivocally" expressed agreement with the Dorfweil Statement adopted by European Baptists last January in the wake of the defunding of the Ruschlikon seminary. The statement, voted at a meeting in Dorfweil, Germany, said future cooperation will call for mutual respect, spiritual freedom, moral integrity, genuine consultation, and reciprocal sharing between Southern Baptists and European Baptists.

Foreign Mission Board trustees said affirmation of the Dorfweil Statement "is not a new policy, but a new expression of principles we have historically supported, do now support, and will continue to support."

The motion on Woman's Missionary Union reaffirmed the Foreign Mission Board's "deep appreciation for its long-time relationship with Woman's Missionary Union and for the enormous support this relationship has brought to the cause of foreign missions."

But it asked FMB President Parks, board chairman John Jackson, and trustees Karen Gilbert and Phyllis Randall to "arrange for a dialogue with their

counterparts at WMU and discuss ways in which this long-time relationship may be strengthened." Gilbert is the board's recording secretary. Randall chairs the trustee human resources committee.

On the subject of relationships with overseas Baptist bodies, trustees affirmed "the right of all, repeat all, national bodies to work with other missions entities without jeopardizing their partnership with the Foreign Mission Board." That would include the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which has already begun to launch missions work in Europe.

Parks' modest retirement package was recommended "at his own request and consistent with his lifestyle of sacrificial service," according to a motion passed by trustees, who took note of the "meritorious service" of Parks and his wife, Helen Jean.

Trustees said the package closely parallels benefits received by Baker James Cauthen, former FMB president, whom Parks succeeded in 1980.

Parks' package includes the gift of a 1990 Ford, provided by the FMB, which he has driven for two years; a retirement reception; dedication of an upcoming book on the FMB's 150-year history to him and Mrs. Parks; a book of letters of appreciation from persons around the world; and expenses for him and Mrs. Parks to attend the annual Southern Baptist Convention meetings and missions week at the Southern Baptist conference centers for life "unless he were to be employed by another mission-sending agency."

Parks will also receive the normal FMB staff retirement benefits — a lump-sum gift of \$100 for each year of service (\$3800), plus medical and life insurance and a pension. □

Tennesseans join in Mississippi River

— Continued from page 1
should be held to bring "pastors, laity, and denominational workers together to expose the needs of the region and present working models of ministry," Phillips said.

The Convocation on Mississippi River Ministry will be held Aug. 7-8 at Eudora Church, Memphis. The meeting will be sponsored by the missions departments of the seven state conventions, Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, and Brotherhood Commission.

The purpose of the Mississippi River Ministry is to commit Southern Baptists and their resources to provide ministries, evangelization, strengthening of existing churches, and starting of new churches in the region, Phillips said.

SSB reveals organizational . . .

— Continued from page 1
service to the board, pending trustee approval.

Draper said the restructuring process guided by employees through four task forces reduces both the number of levels of management and the number of positions at middle and upper levels.

Draper also distributed an organization chart of components to employees, noting that additional structural changes likely will be made as vice presidents work with division and department directors in their areas.

The new structure is headed by Draper and four vice presidents of operational areas — Michael Arrington, corporate services; Gene Mims, church growth and pro-

grams; Charles Wilson, trade and retail markets; and E. V. King, finance and administration.

Within the structure are created three independent strategic operating units — church growth and programs, Baptist Book Stores, and trade publishing. Draper said marketing, sales, customer service, accounting, purchasing, and some other services will be decentralized to give strategic operating units needed accountability. The position of director of the marketing division is being deleted.

"For the positions yet to be filled, we will be looking both inside and outside the Sunday School Board for the best qualified people to lead us into the 21st century," said Draper. □

pi River Ministry is not intended to become a "social Gospel."

"Our desire is to meet human needs in the name of Christ," Phillips said, acknowledging that it could become a bridge for evangelization and church starts.

For additional information on the Mississippi River Ministry, contact Phillips or Gilder at (615) 371-2031. □

New writers make comment on Sunday School lessons

Along with a new look, *Baptist and Reflector* readers will find new Sunday School lesson commentators in this issue of the newspaper. All three writers are graduates of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

James Hutson, pastor of First Church, Rockwood, will write about the Life and Work Series of lessons.

Hutson, a native of East Tennessee, graduated from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, before continuing his education at Southern Seminary.

Out of 35 years in the pastorate, Hutson has spent 25 years in Tennessee.

Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville, Pastor Leonard Markham will comment on Bible Book lessons.

The Knoxville native holds a bachelor's degree from Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky.; and master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Southern Seminary.

Along with two Kentucky churches, Markham has served as pastor of Ball Camp and West End churches in Knoxville; First Church, Elk Valley; and First Church, Sweetwater.

In addition, Markham is active in local association, pastors' conference, and convention work. He is currently vice chairman of the search committee for the Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director-treasurer.

Writing for the Convention Uniform Series is H. Garrison Coltharp.

Coltharp has been pastor of First Church, Jackson, since 1989. Before moving to Tennessee, he held pastorates in Kentucky and Indiana.

A native of Kentucky, Coltharp graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1970 from Murray (Ky.) State University. He continued his education at Southern Seminary, earning master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees. □

Educators seek ways to blend faith, discipline

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector
For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Southern Baptist educators were reminded education and values go hand in hand during a national conference at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Nearly 600 people attended the Conference on Integrating Personal Faith and Professional Discipline, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Education Commission and the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

The three-day conference capped a five-year training emphasis for the Education Commission. Thirty-six people from Tennessee's four schools — Belmont University, Carson-Newman College, Union University, and Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy — attended the conference.

A host of speakers challenged educators to find ways to integrate their faith with their particular disciplines.

"I'm convinced that education simply cannot be divorced from values," said Ernest L. Boyer, president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, based in Princeton, N.J.

"A church-related school or college must above all help students not only get credentialed, but discover a divine meaning for their existence.

"I do not suggest a program of indoctrination, nor do you. Rather, the goal should be to create in every classroom a climate that makes honorable the quest that encourages the search for deeper meaning, one in which professors are models for their students as they themselves integrate faith and learning," Boyer said.

Noted scholar Warren Bryan Martin, senior fellow for the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching at Princeton, told educators, "Now, even more than before, church-related institutions are confronted by timeless questions, raised to new levels of complexity by

leaders of today's society.

Martin observed that if Baptist institutions are to be strong contributors to today's dialogue, they must marshal their resources and begin at home.

Martin challenged educators to "test yourself and your colleagues, not just on Monday morning but every day to determine that your school, college, or university has a growing center of faith and knowledge, a spiritual core that is as alive and vital as is the institution's commitment, expressed through research and scholarship, to the growing edge of new knowledge."

James Taylor, president of Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky., urged his counterparts to tout Southern Baptist education.

"Too little is said about our Baptist colleges, universities, and schools. Too much is made of the exception and not enough made of the rule, said Taylor, outgoing president of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

Two other Baptist college presidents spoke of the challenges

and struggles in integrating faith and discipline.

Thomas E. Corts of Samford University observed, "Our faith is still in conflict with our culture." The greatest hope of Christians to bridge that conflict is the Christian college and university, Corts said.

Bob R. Agee of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee observed the key to ensuring Baptist colleges and universities maintain a distinctively Christian environment is an emphasis on incorporating the issues of faith and disciplines into faculty development activities.

"The painful reality is that merely putting a professor in the classroom who has appropriate academic credentials and who is an active member of a Christian church does not guarantee that Christian education is going to take place," Agee said.

Agee suggested the Education Commission and Baptist colleges and universities make the faith and discipline emphasis a topic of long-term consideration.

"It will enrich our personal and

professional lives and make us more effective at what we do. It will take us miles down the road toward offering education that is genuinely Christian in substance and content. I know of no greater need in our institutions," he concluded.

Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Education Commission, underscored the need for Baptist faculties to incorporate their personal faith within their disciplines.

"There is no substitute for professors who integrate their faith into their professional work," Walker told Baptist Press.

Walker said the integration of faith and discipline is the key for tomorrow's educational institutions.

"If Baptist faculties successfully integrate faith and discipline, we will emphasize the distinctiveness of Baptist institutions and will challenge our constituency," he said. — Also contributing to this story were Herb Hollinger of Baptist Press, Larry Brumley of Mercer University, and Tim Fields of the Education Commission. □

CLC's Land decries Supreme Court decision on prayer

By Tom Strode
Christian Life Commission
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court's decision prohibiting prayer at a public school graduation was decried by representatives of the Southern Baptist Convention's religious liberty agency as a denial of religious expression.

In a June 24 opinion by Justice Anthony Kennedy, the court ruled, 5-4, that a Rhode Island school board coerced student participation in religion and thereby violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment when it enlisted a Jewish rabbi to offer an invocation and benediction at a junior high commencement.

"The outrageous Supreme Court decision in the *Lee v. Weisman* case is one more giant

step in the encroachment of the secular state upon a religiously pluralistic society," said Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"Once again, the court has confused secularism with religious pluralism," Land said. "A public school from which voluntary religious observance is 'segregated' does nothing to promote pluralism or tolerance of the religious diversity of our nation. Who could have imagined that while the walls of separation between the secular state and the people's right to freedom of religious expression are coming down on one side of the former Iron Curtain, they continue to be erected on its supposedly free side?"

Land promised a "fight for the freedom for religious expression guaranteed by the First Amend-

ment to the Constitution until we prevail."

The court's concern was not balanced, CLC general counsel Michael Whitehead said.

"The Kennedy majority worries that the objector or dissenter will get the message the state is approving of religion," Whitehead said. "The majority does not seem to worry that the average student may get the message that our legal system finds religion to be not just irrelevant to public life but illegal to practice in public school. What other subject is treated as too dangerous to discuss? None. Religion alone has been made the super-obscenity.

"We wish the court had agreed that this commencement prayer was such a place where students could witness religious expression. But we will hold the court to its promise that government must accommodate religious expression."

The decision did not ban all graduation prayers, however, Whitehead said.

"Fortunately the decision is limited to the specific facts in this case," Whitehead said. "School officials made the decision to have prayer, made the invitation to the rabbi, and otherwise controlled the prayer and the program. This case does not prohibit student-initiated, student-led prayers, or religious expression at commencements or other school functions.

Justice Antonin Scalia, who wrote a sharply critical dissent, acknowledged the court's opinion does not prohibit all religious exercise at graduations.

Prayers "will be able to be given at public-school graduations next June, as they have for the past century and a half, so long as school authorities make clear that anyone who abstains from screaming in protest does not

necessarily participate in the prayers," Scalia wrote.

The CLC had filed a brief asking the court to not only uphold graduation prayer but revise its two-decade-old Establishment Clause standard, known as the Lemon test. The Baptist Joint Committee, whose relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention was severed by messengers earlier in June, joined a brief asking the justices to rule the prayers in the case unconstitutional and to maintain its current standard.

BJC general counsel Oliver Thomas said, "Weisman is a school prayer decision, pure and simple. It should not be interpreted as mandating a naked public square or banning religion from public life. The court has simply reiterated that it is none of the business of government to sponsor and promote religious exercises in public schools.

"It's unclear what prevailing

legal standard will be used in other Establishment Clause cases," Thomas said. "Whether it's a coercion test or Lemon, we can take heart a majority of the justices still take Mr. Jefferson's wall (of separation between church and state) seriously."

President George Bush expressed disappointment with the decision.

"While we must remain neutral toward particular religions and protect freedom of conscience," Bush said, "we should not remain neutral toward religion itself. In this case, I believe that the court has unnecessarily cast away the venerable and proper American tradition of nonsectarian prayer at public celebrations."

Kennedy was joined in the majority by Justices Blackmun, O'Connor, Souter, and Stevens. Joining Scalia as dissenters were Chief Justice Rehnquist and Justices Thomas and White. □

Southeastern placed on probation

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. has received notice from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) that the Commission on Accreditation has placed the seminary on probation for two years. ATS indicated the school had failed to show the conditions cited in the June 1991 "show-cause" order had been remedied.

President-elect Paige Patterson received the communication from ATS during his second week of transition with President Lewis A. Drummond. Patterson said while this action was not unexpected, nevertheless it was "not a particularly pleasant welcome" to the school.

Patterson was pleased to note that in their adopted statement,

ATS provided explicit continued approval of the seminary's degree programs during the period of probation. "We are grateful that our students can be confident of continuing recognition of their academic and professional endeavors by the academic community.

"The complete satisfaction of the accrediting agencies remains in the priority position for the immediate future. Obviously, many other things have to be done, but this is paramount," said Patterson.

Patterson indicated the accreditation agency has not requested anything of the seminary that is unconscionable. "Furthermore, every expectation which has been stated is reasonable and able to be accomplished by the school within the two years granted."

God's Plan of Salvation

GOD LOVES YOU — "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" (John 3:16).

BUT YOU ARE A SINNER — "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVINCTS YOU OF SIN — "And when he is come, he will reprove the world... because they believe not on me" (John 16:8-9).

YOUR RESPONSE IS TO REPENT OF SIN — "For I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matthew 9:13).

AND TO TRUST IN CHRIST

AS SAVIOR AND LORD — "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:9-10, 13).

GROW IN CHRIST by following through with baptism and uniting with a church. You will find new Christian friends and grow in your new life in Christ. — *Sunday School Board*

about letters to the editor

- Make it concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length.
- Name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Include address and phone number.
- Avoid personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone.
- Send original copy. Form letters and "open" letters will not be published.
- Only one letter in a three-months period per writer.
- If letter does not conform, it will be returned.

Baptist Beliefs

by Herschel Hobbs
Baptist theologian

Christian Citizenship

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers, for there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." — Romans 13:1

Christians are citizens of two kingdoms: the kingdom of God and the nation of which they are a part. They are to be good citizens of both. Our prior loyalty is to God. But unless a nation's laws come between us and God, they should be obeyed. If we disobey such we should be prepared to bear the penalty for it. "Damnation" (v. 2) should read "judgment." To disobey good laws is to disobey God.

"Ordained of God" does not mean that He approves of every form of government or all of its acts. It means that God has ordained the institution of government to produce a well-ordered society. "Rulers are not a terror to good works, but to



HOBBS

the evil" (v. 3). Only lawbreakers need fear governmental powers. Even if Christians disobey laws contrary to their Christian convictions, they should suffer as Christians, not as criminals (1 Peter 4:14-16).

Note "sword" in verse 4. Policemen wore swords as today they wear guns or clubs. Also the sword was used in capital punishment for Roman citizens who were beheaded.

Note that rulers are called "the minister of God to thee for good" (v. 4a). "Minister" in verse 4 translates *diakonos*, used also for Christian servants. In verse 6 it renders *leitourgos*. It was used of public servants and of priests serving in the temple.

Christians are to pay their taxes (vv. 6-7). And they are to obey laws, not out of fear of punishment, but out of a Christian conscience (v. 5). □

Appreciates help

I would like to express my appreciation to the Tennessee Baptist Foundation for financial assistance for my seminary education. While attending Union University in Jackson, I was not aware of the Foundation. After graduating from Union I learned of the Foundation and its scholarship program from a friend. I moved to California to attend Golden Gate Baptist Seminary and during the past three years I have received two scholarships from the Foundation. I am in my final year at seminary and will soon graduate with my M.Div. degree.

I have discovered that some of my fellow students' home states don't have a Baptist Foundation to help them with the cost of their education. Thanks to the Cooperative Program and to the many people who have given money to the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, I am receiving a quality Christian education. I hope Southern Baptists in other states can follow Tennessee Baptists' example of helping those who desire Christian education and training.

Kimberly Cain
GGBS No. 446
Mill Valley, Calif., 94941

Praises hiring

I want to take this means of congratulating former *Baptist and Reflector* editor Al Shackleford on his selection as editor of *Mature Living*. Al is one of our finest Baptist journalists and I am confident that he will provide dynamic leadership for the senior adult magazine.

I would also like to publicly commend President James Draper of the Baptist Sunday School Board for the board's fairness and objectivity in choosing Shackleford, who was released as head of Baptist Press in 1990.

Such balanced hiring decisions and appointment practices by the SBC's current leadership will do much to build credibility and promote peace in our convention.

Rayburn W. Ray
2429 Melbourne Dr.
Nashville 37214

Exclusion hurts

I write concerning Pullen Memorial Church and the issue of homosexuality. I do not agree with Pullen's joining of two males in a "wedding like" ceremony but I don't know why they did it. The Bible also says "Judge not that you be not judged." I will not judge them.

Pullen is being condemned because homosexuality is said to be a sin. I agree. However, Baptists seem to over-emphasize sexually-related sin such as adultery, divorce, and homosexuality above other sin.

I Corinthians 6:9-10 and Galatians 5:19-21 list those who will not inherit the kingdom of God. Homosexual offenders are only one group in the list. Others include the greedy, drunkards, slanderers, swindlers, and those

who have hatred and envy and those who cause dissension and discord. Homosexuality concerns only a very small part of Southern Baptists. The other groups fill the ranks of Southern Baptist churches. Southern Baptist churches have a reputation for infighting and splitting due to dissension, slander, hatred, and discord. The offenders may be Sunday School teachers, deacons, and even ministers. If those churches were excluded, many churches would go.

An Illinois pastor was reported to have said that at this time homosexuality is the only issue in the exclusion of churches, but eventually other issues may be included. I believe he is right and that this is only the beginning of the exclusion of churches. Up to now, the "fundamentalists" dealt with controlling Baptist institutions, but now they are attempting to control individual churches through exclusions based on homosexuality. Next may come exclusion of a church with a woman pastor. A Memphis association has already done it. Then exclusion for women deacons and then only God knows. The time to stop is now. We need healing and not exclusion.

Tony McGuire
3327 Wexgate Rd.
Knoxville 37931

Wants layperson

I have been an ordained Baptist minister for fifty years. I have been actively involved in Baptist life at all levels for most of that time.

I have some knowledge of Baptist denominational life and a real concern for it.

I am writing regarding the search for an executive director.

I believe the search committee is composed of very capable persons of integrity and wisdom. The convention is fortunate.

I think the time limit for people to make suggestions is too brief. I have served on a search committee. The people of the convention need more time to respond. No other consideration should take precedent over the rights and privileges of the people.

I suggest a break with the past. I think it is in the best interest of the convention to elect a layman as executive director.

Jerry Clower during the SBC gave good reason for such a suggestion. He said laypeople have had enough of political bickering and strife.

Many laymen have lost confidence in a convention ruled by the clergy.

We preachers have played fast and loose with the laymen's money. An assembly of ministers is not the best place to go for financial advice.

There are more laymen than ministers. Surely there are some willing to lead us as executive director if given the opportunity.

I challenge the search committee to lead the Tennessee Baptist Convention to take a step toward greater executive ability, better financial management, and

renewed confidence and participation on the part of our lay constituency.

W. E. Darby
Box 1203
Brentwood 37024

Need for classes

Nowadays, we have more buildings and facilities, more comfort and physical attractions to entice people to Sunday School and church. It is possible to have a legitimate need for more class rooms, for more space, and more convenience. That need will be created by proper arrangement of existing classes. The average church will likely have oversized classes and a few undersized ones and none of them practicing much outreach and evangelism.

Churches with evangelistic fervor are ignited by the fire from Sunday School classes. The younger the class membership, the better. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and he won't depart from it."

Sunday School classes with intent and purpose of enlisting each member in participation is the most logical means of creating a need for more classrooms. You won't run out of conversion prospects "adding daily such as should be saved." Adding people to the church means adding power to do many things, financially and in taking care of church needs.

Ben F. Davis
1305 Sharon Circle
Chattanooga 37405

Now at peace

Until June 6-7, I was seriously concerned by the apparent trends of the Southern Baptist Convention. I was brought up short by realizing I was again making the mistake that I have made many times before of trying to handle problems that the Lord God can

More SBC views

The following views came from response cards which were given to Tennessee Baptists at the SBC meeting in Indianapolis by the paper's staff.

"I thought this was one of the best conventions I have attended. The spirit was one of unity and love. The business was done in a proper manner and I felt Dr. Chapman was fair to all sides. We had some great and exciting reports from our seminaries and agencies which gives encouragement for the future. The Lord really blessed — Mike Keenum, Boulevard Church, Memphis

"The convention was very good. It was gratifying to see that we are still a people of the faith our denomination was organized for in the beginning." — Bettye Parrott, Sunnyside Church, Kingsport.

Each year, to get a broad representation of views on the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, *Baptist and Reflector* staffers distribute response cards to Tennessee messengers. These responses are the final ones — until next year's convention. — Editor □

and will solve in his own way in his own time for the good of his Kingdom.

One who would allow his son to die as a sacrifice for my sins is both caring enough and in control, and powerful enough that He does not need me to solve his problems. I do not know what occurred at Indianapolis for the matter is in far more competent hands than mine. I am sure that the Lord God can and will take any corrective action that is beneficial to his kingdom and that none shall prevail against him.

There has seemed to be a trend toward a hierarchy in the way of the priests, scribes, and pharisees of Biblical times or the popes, archbishops, and bishops of the Vatican of more recent times. Both have been filled with man-made interpretations of the truth of God. I do not know what needs to be done or if anything needs to be done. I am sure that anything that needs to be done will be done and without any action from me. I am now at peace in the Lord as He has promised.

William O. (Bill) Lintz
2522 Edge-O-Lake Drive
Nashville 37217

team talk

By D. L. Lowrie
TBC executive director

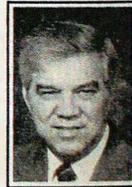
Is spiritual awakening on the way? Is there any evidence that God is about to visit his people again in revival?

I participated in the Southern Baptist Prayer Conference preceding the SBC in Indianapolis. I am glad to report that there is some credible evidence that God is beginning to move.

A renewed interest in prayer is the first piece of evidence. There are more American Christians praying for a spiritual awakening now than there has been in my lifetime. It is not just among Baptists, but reaches across denominational lines.

Our leaders in the New England states report unusual movements of God in that part of the country. Believers of all denominations are beginning to humble themselves before the Lord in prayer.

Two executive directors shared with me about the moving of God among their churches. They believe that revival is on the way.



LOWRIE

I believe that we could be close in Tennessee. There is a lot of discouragement and brokenness across our state. There is an increasing awareness that only God can solve our problems. This kind of spirit always precedes revival — especially when it drives God's people to prayer.

If you are not regularly beseeching God to visit his people in revival, let me encourage you to begin today. If God is going to move, I know that you want to be a part of it. □

Look at what's good about Southern Baptists

Though our freedom and autonomy get in the way sometimes, and cause us trouble, there are many good things about Southern Baptists. It is better to "accentuate the positive" and "eliminate the negative" as often as possible, and "don't mess with Mr. In Between."

The terms used above are from a song of the 1950's, and form a short parable. There is a great chasm separating positive and negative — and the "in between" area sounds like "lukewarm."

As we, the *Baptist and Reflector* staff, present to Tennessee Baptists this new look in our July 1 issue, we pledge to accentuate the good things about Southern Baptists. Placing great emphasis on the work of the churches and the commitment of individual Baptists will continue to be a primary goal.

Achieving this goal will be a week-to-week effort, and we will need assistance from our readers. We believe Tennessee Baptists are perceptive — and able to judge good news and features. Just as a congregation is often referred to as the "great" choir of the church, we refer to our readers as a corps of reporters.

We have tried always to stress the good things about Baptists. And we will try even harder. There will be "bad" news, of course. This is life. We point out some good things about Southern Baptists and Tennessee Baptists in this first issue of the new design:

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ We are people of the Book, God's Holy Word. There has been quibbling about who believes the message of the Bible best or most. But Southern Baptists truly are people of the Book. That designation is sometimes used in derision by some who don't know Southern Baptists — but it is a name we claim gladly.

■ We are followers of Christ Jesus, the Son of God and the Risen Lord. We strive to make him Lord of our lives, accepting his Holy Spirit as our guide and helper.

■ We are children of the Lord God Almighty, the only god, the creator and redeemer. We love him — and He loves us and sent his Son to save us from our sins, offering us eternal life.

As Southern Baptists, we display attributes which distinguish us as Baptist believers. Without formal contract, we adhere to certain beliefs, factors, and ideals:

■ Among Southern Baptists there is a determination and commitment to do better things using better methods. Constant reviewing and renewal are a part of our signature.

■ We honor our heritage and history, but we are not bound by that part of history which is less than the quality we know as best. Our heritage includes men and women who were and are among the best servants — pastors, musicians, hymn writers, missionaries, pray-ers, evangelists, educators, theologians — and just plain lay people.

■ We are missions-minded, blessed by God with superb and self-sacrificing missions leaders.

■ We are believers in and practitioners of

sound Biblical faith and practice.

■ We are faithful stewards in small and great places.

■ We use the Baptist Faith and Message not as a creed and not for coercion, but as a clear statement of our best understanding of who we are and what it means to live as Christians and Baptists.

■ We are recipients of the liberating genius of God's grace and mercy, and beneficiaries of his salvation.

■ We have discovered what good things can happen when we cooperate with God in developing great plans and programs for missions, evangelization, education, and healing — through seminaries, missions agencies, colleges, Sunday Schools, discipling, and feeding people. We reach far beyond our homes, streets, cities, nations — in obedience to the Great Commission.

■ We support and renew our camps, boards, commissions, publishing houses.

While Southern Baptists' record is not unblemished, that record also bears up well under the glare of world scrutiny. The faults and failures are easily identified and scorned.

In these few paragraphs we have tried to illustrate some good things Southern Baptists have done — and some things that mark us as travelers who seek the "upward Way." If we achieve these, plus the other goals we have, there is hard work ahead of us.

We pray that the day is not past when Southern Baptists are recognized as people who try to do good — rather than becoming known as tepid, sluggish, quarrelsome, worldly "do gooders."

Ethnic churches growing faster than leaders

By David Winfrey
Home Mission Board
For Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Southern Baptist ethnic churches are being started faster than the number of pastors

Just for today
by Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

"You look like my third husband," said the young lady to a handsome bachelor. "How many husbands have you had?" he asked. She smiled sweetly and replied, "Two."

Take this truth with you today

Never overlook any chance to better yourself. All around you lie opportunities for self-improvement. Try to upgrade yourself constantly through reading, observing, listening, and helping others. You'll be amazed at the results!



WOOD

Memorize this Scripture

"But grow (go on growing) in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18a).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me remember that you want my life to be better today than it was yesterday. Show me how I can move forward toward discovering the wonderful things you have for me. □

being trained to lead them, say workers in language church development.

"There are many opportunities out in the field but we just don't have enough ethnic leaders to respond," said David Terry, associate to the director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's language church extension division.

From 1980 to 1990 the number of Southern Baptist congregations increased six percent but language Southern Baptist churches increased 147 percent, he said.

In Texas, about 200 of the state's 890 Hispanic churches are without pastors, said Jimmy Garcia, coordinator for ethnic missions for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"The growth of congregations is outpacing our ability to provide leaders," said Joshua Grijalva, president of the Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary in San Antonio, Texas.

The lack of ethnic leadership across the convention can be attributed to a number of reasons, from inadequate financing to poor recruitment efforts.

Terry added that any organization growing as fast as Southern Baptist ethnic congregations is likely to have similar difficulties. "When an organization is growing and young, it is needing leaders," he said. "You just don't have as many people."

Others say some ethnic Christians reject the call to pastoral ministry because it means giving up a more financially promising career elsewhere.

Oscar Romo, director of the

HMB's language church extension division, noted that accepting a full-time ministry position in an ethnic congregation is sometimes akin to taking an oath of self-denial.

"We have to get people who are highly committed to what we do, whose commitment comes before their own well being," he said.

More ethnic Christians might accept a call to serve God if they could combine it with their secular career, said Jose Hernandez, a director of ethnic leadership development in the HMB's language church extension division.

"Traditionally, we have placed a limitation on God's calling" to be full-time, Hernandez said. "When a dual ministry person can stand equal to a full-time ministry

Arkansas Baptist editor dies

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — J. Everett Sneed, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist* newsmagazine for 20 years, died June 26 at his home in North Little Rock. He was 61.

Sneed had been editor of the *Arkansas Baptist* since May 8, 1972. He carried the publication to an all-time high circulation of 73,205 in 1980. He was scheduled to take early retirement in October.

A native of Batesville, Ark., Sneed graduated from Arkansas College. He also held degrees from Baylor University, Waco, Texas; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and the University of Heidelberg in Germany.

Prior to assuming the ABN editorship, he had been pastor of

person, that's going to be a new day in Southern Baptist life."

Romo notes that bivocational pastors often are less well-received in the community than their full-time counterparts.

"To many groups, this is the man of God, and God should be able to take care of him," Romo said. "That's why it's been very difficult to sell the idea of bivocational ministry."

Garcia said many small ethnic churches lack trained pastors because they are reluctant to send leaders away to seminary.

To bridge the gap, Southern Baptist seminaries now sponsor ethnic leadership development centers, offering theological training in the language of those being trained, Terry said. □

two churches in Commerce, Texas, director of missions in Batesville, and director of Christian social ministries for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

He was past president of the Southern Baptist Press Association and the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas.

Funeral services were scheduled for Wednesday, July 1, at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. Burial will be in Batesville.

Memorial gifts may be made to the *Arkansas Baptist* newsmagazine.

Sneed is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen Maynard Sneed; daughters Chere Sneed and Mary Catherine Sneed, both of North Little Rock, and a grandchild. □

one word more
by Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Considering coming Independence Day

In just a few days, many Americans will pause to celebrate Independence Day. There will be various kinds of celebrations — some will miss the mark entirely.

Little community groups will gather to remember sacrifices of the first American patriots. Politicians will renege. Children will shoot off sparklers and ride bicycles on parade around the block. Military demonstrations will be reminders of the price of freedom.

I can't resist saying something about a favorite subject, about my country.

I say with pride that I am native born, a citizen by rights of the United States of America. I make no apologies about that. I do regret actions of some citizens, but those actions are as they are because we are in a free nation.

Lexington and Concord and Bunker Hill mean something to me. The lives of the first Tennesseans and South Carolinians and New Yorkers — mean something to me. So do Yorktown and Kings Mountain and Valley Forge.

Old Glory flowing in a stiff breeze still thrills me, and singing the "Star Spangled Banner" gives me courage for today and hope for the future.

To people of other lands, this nation is an enigma. It puzzles all of us sometimes. But there has never been another one like ours. Never has a nation done so much for the world while still struggling with its own adolescence. The sky is blue and the sun shines in other places. There are snows and rains and deserts elsewhere.



There are taller mountains. Rivers flow and the grass is green in other places. But in America there is something else — some things we are still trying to perfect — independence, liberty, justice, freedom, the right to pursue happiness, opportunity.

On Independence Day, 1992, I assert with pride my love for the United States, and reaffirm my allegiance to it, with a commitment to make it better. There is much about us which is not good, there is more that is. I count this citizenship and heritage second only in value to citizenship in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Give me America: "Rhapsody in Blue" and "White Christmas" "The Streets of Laredo," "How Great Thou Art," "Surrey with the Fringe on Top," "Stardust," "This Land is My Land," and "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

"By the rude bridge that arched the flood, Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,

"Here once the embattled farmers stood, And fired the shot heard round the world." — Emerson

At Carson-Newman

Tennessean overcomes tragedy to serve as SGA president

By Coryell Ladouceur
Carson-Newman College

JEFFERSON CITY — Five years ago Kerry Steelman never dreamed of becoming Carson-Newman College's Student Government Association President. In fact, Steelman, was not sure he would make it to college.

But a tragedy five years ago forced the son of Fred and Becky Steelman to change his outlook on life. Steelman's father is pastor at Red Bank Church, Chattanooga.

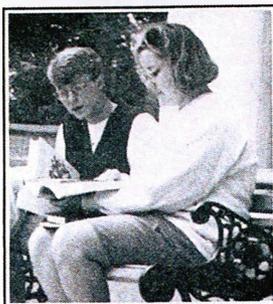
June marked the fifth anniversary of a near fatal accident that left Steelman struggling to survive. He and two friends were traveling near their hometown of Soddy-Daisy when their truck careened out of control. Steelman was thrown 150 feet onto the pavement, breaking his back and both legs, fracturing his skull, and cutting all the tendons in his left hand. The vehicle's other occupants escaped injury.

Steelman was rushed to the hospital where his condition worsened. To the bewilderment of his doctors, he lapsed into a coma,

eventually developing pneumonia. It was not until three weeks later that a resident doctor finally discovered Steelman was bleeding internally. Although he knows only what his family has told him about the weeks he spent in intensive care, Steelman realizes he owes his life to that intern. "I had been bleeding internally for quite a while," Steelman said. "He noticed it and saved my life."

This is the first time since the accident that Steelman has been able to talk about his ordeal. "Last year there was no way that you could have gotten me to even mention it," he said. "For the last four years this date would come around, and I would be so frustrated by all that had happened to me and how unfair it seemed that I coped by shutting it out. It's now a lot easier. I've come to realize how much I have accomplished."

Before the accident Steelman was heavily involved in sports. He played varsity basketball and baseball. "Sports were the only thing that I had done my whole life. I was really too involved in



KERRY STEELMAN, new SGA president of Carson-Newman College shares his story with Coryell Ladouceur.

sports in high school. Now I have limitations on what I can do," he said.

Ironically, it was his limitations that led Steelman to Carson-Newman College. He admitted that before the accident he was not planning to go to C-N despite strong family ties. His brother, Barry, is a former SGA president and his sister, Allison, worked as a C-N admissions counselor after

her graduation. "The reason I didn't want to go to C-N was because Barry and Allison had. More than likely I would have ended up at C-N somehow, but I don't think that I would have had the drive that I do now," he said.

The accident was a big factor in Steelman's change of attitude toward C-N and other aspects of his life as well. He found hope in the prayers of his fellow church members, and instead of feeling that he was living in his family's shadow, he began to see their support as an essential part of his recovery.

According to Steelman, one positive thing about the accident is that it brought his family closer together. With help from his sister, Steelman realized that attending Carson-Newman would help him capitalize on his new-found motivation.

Even though his brother had been SGA president, Steelman never thought about tackling the position himself. "Up until two weeks before the election I didn't want to be SGA president," he admitted. He then had a sudden

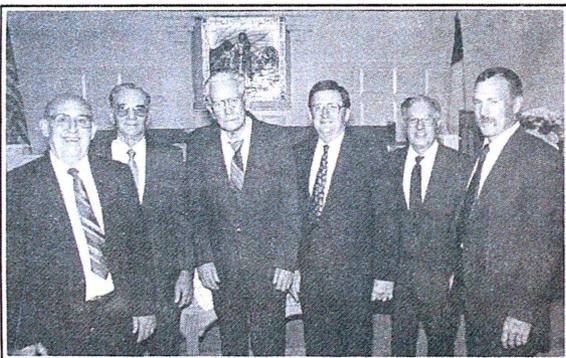
change of heart. "I felt that I could do a good job. I knew I could be an SGA president who could work with the students."

Steelman wants to be the type of president that will listen to the students' concerns and try to get something done. "I'm going to make sure that the students' voices are heard on this campus," he resolved.

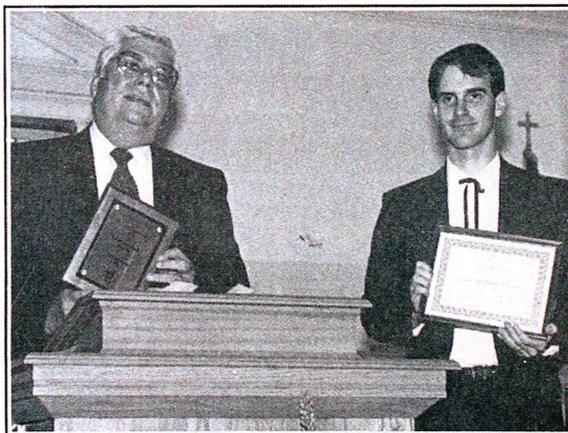
Serving others is something Kerry Steelman now enjoys, but five years ago it was a different story. "I used to be very conceited," he acknowledged. "The accident has changed all that."

Recently this C-N senior who was himself testing the boundaries of life only five years ago helped a friend through the death of a loved one. "I was able to be a comforter," he explained. "Whenever I am able to do that, it makes some of the things I've gone through worth it. Now it gives me joy to make someone else happy and to serve someone else. That's the complete opposite of what I used to be, and that's exciting!" □

Zion Hill turns clock back 100 years to celebrate heritage



FORMER PASTORS joined the Zion Hill celebration. From left, Robert Prince, William Whitlow, Homer Farris, Paul Woodford, Verl Masters, and Gerald Ackerman.



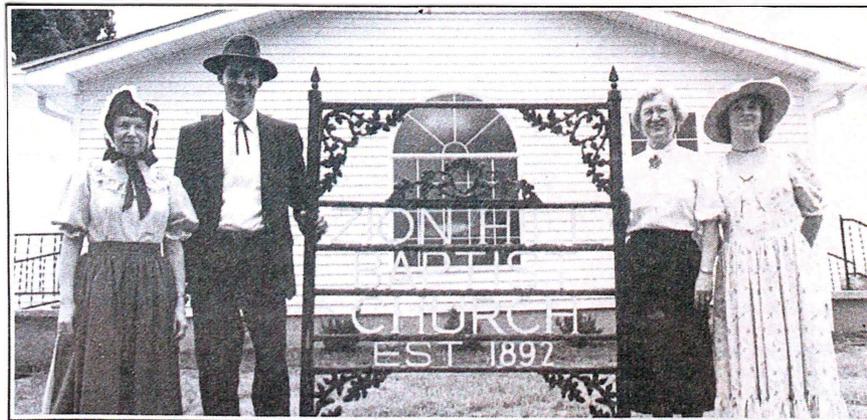
DYER ASSOCIATION Director of Missions Joe Naylor presented plaques to Pastor Kenneth Skelton on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society and Union University.

Members of Zion Hill Church, Friendship, observed the church's 100th anniversary in June by dressing in "old fashioned" clothes.

The church was established as a result of a brush arbor meeting in 1892. Church members chose the name Zion's Hill, meaning God's heavenly throne. The "s" was later dropped.

The church's present building was constructed in 1938 and has been remodeled and expanded several times since. A parsonage was built in 1986.

The church has had 35 pastors in its history, with many of them as Union University students. The current pastor is Kenneth Skelton. □



DRESSED UP IN attire of the 1890s are Pastor Kenneth Skelton and members of the centennial committee. From left, Cathy McCanless, Virginia Smith, and Kaye Chipman.



► GOING STRONG at age 88 are Naomi Briggs Vickers, left, and Iva W. Smith, both members of Zion Hill Church since 1916.

Members arbitrate, support missions across years

NIOTA — Like many Tennessee Baptist churches, the name of Mount Harmony Church in Niota was chosen by folks with a dream. The congregation had just left a less than harmonious situation.

Two groups in Mount Pleasant Church, Niota, disagreed. The group which formed Mount Harmony wished to send money to missions work. As of 1992, Mount Harmony has given to missions for 150 years. Its members celebrated that fact and other traditions at a sesquicentennial and homecoming June 14.

Located in a pastoral area between Sweetwater and Athens in East Tennessee, the church building itself reeks history. The sanctuary was built in 1856 and is believed to be the oldest in McMinn County still being used as a church.

On June 14 it was filled to its capacity of about 200 — twice the average worship attendance — from as far away as Texas to celebrate, remember, and greet old friends.

Attending a big gathering at Mount Harmony was not unusual for long-time member Judson Dougherty. The church has long been a center of community activity, he said. As a child, he attended the public school that met in the church building, he added.



HELPING CELEBRATE the sesquicentennial were, from left, June Stephens, chairman, historical committee; Besie Webb, a member for about 50 years; Annie Mason, a member for 82 years, and Pastor Stanley Hammonds. — Photos by Connie Davis

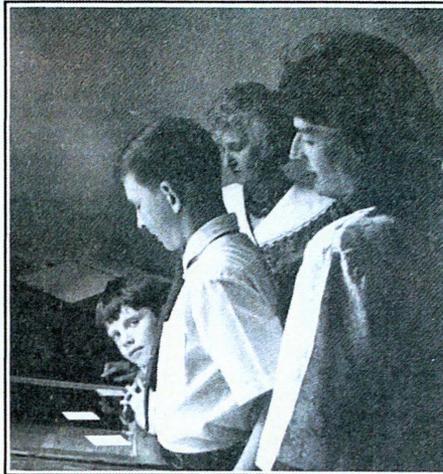
During the special morning worship service, Director of Missions Roy Fowler noted an unusual tradition of Mount Harmony. According to its records, as early as 1881 the congregation was serving as arbiters for fellow congregations in disharmony.

Fowler commended the church's love for missions, which is the reason for the church's longevity, he added. "A church

lives or dies by its love for the cause of Christ in missions," said Fowler.

Mount Harmony Church committed in 1943 to give ten percent of its funds to Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program, the missions distribution program. Today it continues that tradition, noted Pastor Stanley Hammonds.

Also committed to the *Baptist and Reflector*, the congregation heard the first editor of the news-



◀ **VIEWING ARTIFACTS** of the church are, from left, Wesley Irons, Andy Bryant, June Stephens, and Susan Bryant.

journal, E. E. Folk, speak in 1898. Displayed in a sesquicentennial historical center at the church was a copy of the *Tennessee Baptist and Reflector*, dated July 10, 1858.

Special guests attending that day include Annie Mason, 96, a member for 82 years, and Bessie Webb, 68, a member for about 50 years. Deacon emeritus Roy Mason, who has served the church as a deacon for 49 years, attended. Former pastor Tom Fritts, who was pastor 1953-54,

preached during the service. He is currently pastor of a church in Humble, Texas.

"We are whatever history gives us," said June Stephens, sesquicentennial historical committee chairperson. "We become our history."

Others who led in the celebration were Alta Gambill, chairperson, luncheon committee; and Herschel Sheriin, chairman, grounds committee — Connie Davis □

Middle Tennesseans send shoes, repair house for new friends

One almost has to have a reason to visit Copper Basin Association. But Baptists in Concord Association have found many reasons.

Over the past three years Baptists in Concord Association have delivered about 2000 pairs of shoes, 75 bikes for Christmas gifts, clothing, 300 packages of disposable diapers, and toys. This summer several projects, including a \$5000 construction project, will be led by the association.

'We're not looking for any recognition from this.' — James Powers

The Middle Tennesseans are helping the Copper Basin Crisis Center, the center for work of Copper Basin Association.

Located in the southeastern corner of the state, Copper Basin is one of the smallest Tennessee associations. It covers less than half of Polk County.

The Association is plagued with unemployment. A mining and chemical production plant, the area's largest employer, began a cutback in the 1970s that abolished 3300 jobs, reported Director of Missions Al Patterson. Today only about 300 are still employed there, he added.

The partnership between the two associations is natural, said Concord's Director of Missions

James Powers. Rutherford County, south of metropolitan Nashville, is experiencing steady economic growth, he reported. Thus, the county's Baptist work directed through Concord Association is "blessed financially," he noted.

In May, Powers, three pastors, and two other men spent the weekend helping ten men from Copper Basin assist a family forced from their home by a fire. The family, including a man, his wife, and 12-year-old daughter, had been living in a trailer which was not equipped with a phone, electricity, or water.

The family began visiting the center after the man lost his job several years ago. The daughter became a favorite of Al Patterson and his wife, Margaret, who run the center. The center provided the family with food, said Patterson.

Since the work on the house began, the family has shown an interest in the faith of the men working, he added.

The group repaired some of the structure and the floor, noted Powers. The group will continue to work on it until it is finished, he added.

"We're not looking for any recognition from this. The only reason we're doing this is we are ministering to Jesus through ministering to this family," said Powers. — Connie Davis □

Summer missionaries span globe

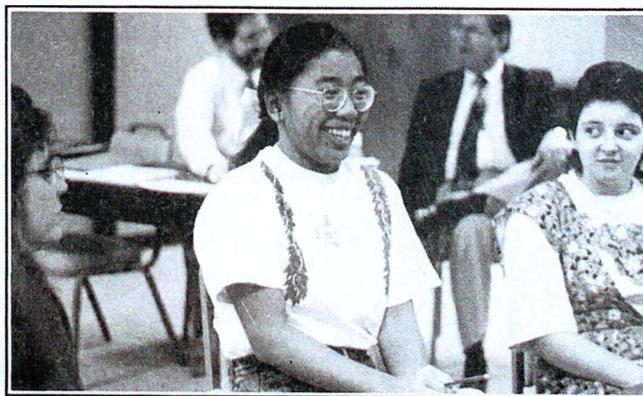


◀ **ANSWERING A** question posed by a seminar leader about goals for the summer is, right, Joshua Horne, Mt. Juliet, while David Drinnan, Germantown, listens. — Photos by Connie Davis

BRENTWOOD — Thirty-seven summer missionaries funded and directed by Tennessee Baptist Student Unions are serving in ten states other than Tennessee and in Kazakhstan, Commonwealth of Independent States, and in Chile. Eight Tennessee students are serving as a part of the Chile-Tennessee Partnership. Eleven of the students are remaining in the state.

In addition, 27 are serving under the direction of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department and five for the Sunday School Department. They are all serving in Tennessee.

About 50 students from Tennessee and other states who will work in the state gathered June 1-3 for training at the Baptist Center. □



◀ **GETTING TO KNOW** other summer missionaries assigned to Tennessee are, from left, Candi Sellers, Knoxville; Jada P. Rufa, Kamuela, Hawaii; and Kristi Bible, Midway.

Should a minister ever walk away?

By Aubrey Hay
Church-Ministers Relations
Tennessee Baptist Convention

The minister had been accused falsely by a church member for improperly using funds. The accuser had mentioned it to some concerned church members, who had in turn passed along the information. It was now general knowledge in the church and community. Some of his friends were horrified that such a charge could be leveled at the pastor. Others silently enjoyed the fracas. They had long felt he was not the pastor they needed.

The minister and his family were embarrassed and hurt, and his reputation was being damaged. He was being tried by gossip and innuendo. No charges had been proven; none even formally made, and yet, he was already convicted in the minds of some. He faced a dilemma. He loved the church and did not want it hurt. His family, angered and embittered, insisted he defend himself.

And yet he knew an open church trial would split the church, and there was no guarantee he would be vindicated. He decided to save himself, his family, and the church, from going through a messy trial.

The pastor resigned. He was now a minister without a church and had no prospects. He discovered that he is now damaged property. Even some minister friends shun him. Some feel his resignation without a hearing was an admission of guilt. Search committees who received his resume rejected it because he was a minister without a church. The few that made contact discovered that he left the church under a cloud of suspicion, and were unwilling to give him benefit of the doubt.

Looking back on his decision, he

came to feel he had made a wrong choice. He began to feel bitterness toward the church he left and churches in general. He felt he had given a great deal to protect the ministry of the congregation and they had allowed him to become the scape goat. He regretted that he did not stay and fight.

What should he have done?

His desire to protect the church was noble, but the decision to walk away was probably not the best decision for him or for the church. Leaving without an attempt to clear his name would be looked upon as an admission of guilt. While those who knew him well would always maintain his innocence, others would not be so charitable.

Walking away leaves nothing settled, even though it may relieve the tension of the moment. The problem is still there in the form of the accuser who may use the tactics against someone else.

It was not best for the church because there was no clearing of the air, no determination of guilt or innocence. It may leave the church in conflict because the matter never got the exposure it needed. The thing the minister wanted to avoid, a church fight, may occur anyway. Even if an open conflict is averted by his walking away, the matter may smolder and find its way back into the fellowship.

There is no opportunity for redemption in walking away from a conflict if the minister is really innocent; no clarification of the issues, with opportunity for confession and forgiveness to be

made. The minister may have had to leave anyway, but at least he could have set the record straight, and salvaged his own self esteem, and that of his family. He was falsely accused, and there is nothing Christian about his not saying so.

The real reason he walked away

Although it is not possible to know the reason for another person's action, a quick decision to walk away may be symptomatic of other factors disturbing him. The ministry can be a stressful occupation and he already may have been on the verge of quitting. He may have lost his will to struggle with the normal difficulties of ministering and the accusation offered him the opportunity to bail out.

In his mind he has a reason. He is falsely accused and he knows it, and he is satisfied that God knows it too. If he is put on the shelf by the church he is committed to serve, it was through no fault of his own. He can now be free of the burden without the accompanying guilt.

Furthermore, he may welcome the martyr role. He is persecuted for righteousness sake. He may have lost, but he has won. His desire to spare the accuser and the church may be a smokescreen to cover his own retreat from the ministry.

Emotionally, he may be thoroughly spent. He may not be equal to the stresses of another church war. He may be burned out! His quick retreat may be the only way he can prevent a total emotional collapse. He had rather

face the idea that he is guilty as accused, than the possibility of what would happen to him when the storm broke in full force.

How should we react?

It is apparent that the one reaction should be to refrain from judging. It was said of Jesus that "a bruised reed he will not break." No one on the sidelines can possibly know why the minister walked away, but the last thing he needs is a panel of judges adjudicating his reasons. He already has been tried without a hearing — that was his decision.

What he needs now is love and acceptance from his peers. Churches which find themselves

facing an issue with the pastor similar to this example should insist that the truth be known. The truth is often painful but to make a decision based on a lie is also painful, and violates the teachings of our faith. Let the accuser and the accused have their say. Give room for the redemptive power of God to work. If in the course of the process, any acknowledgment of wrong doing is made, leave the door open for forgiveness and reconciliation. Christians are in the business of reconciliation and redemption. The laboratory to test the tenants of our faith is in the church, and the subjects are our own people. □

New SSB products touted as family ministry tools

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptists looking for ways to make the convention-wide "Families Touching Families" emphasis a reality may find help from a new line of products recently introduced by Broadman Supplies.

The "Family Touch" line includes greeting cards, postcards, bookmarks, and two-year pocket planners all built around Christian themes and specifically targeted to families, single adults, and senior adults. The product line is a joint project of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry and audio/video and church supplies departments.

"We wanted to provide people with a practical tool they could use to give expression to the

things we are trying to teach through our family ministry events and publications," said Doug Anderson, director of the family ministry department.

With input and approval from Sunday School Board personnel, the product line was designed and produced by Graphic Services America, a Memphis-based company.

The "Family Touch" line is grouped into three collections: families, single adults, and senior adults. Each collection includes eight different card designs, and the related postcards, bookmarks, and two-year planners share common design elements.

All "Family Touch" products cite Scripture taken from the New International Version of the Bible. □

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Not pictured Becky Land and Jean Norman



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Aubrey Hay

■ the leaders

■ **Bobby Lockwood** has been called as associate pastor, minister of education, to Parkway Church, Knoxville. He is a graduate of Tennessee Temple University, Chattanooga, and has served on the staff of several Southern Baptist churches.

■ **Johnson City native Sherrill Gibson** recently arrived as minister of music and education at First Church, Erwin. He replaced **Don Perry** who retired after 25 years of service at First Baptist. Gibson is a 1976 graduate of Tennessee State University, Nashville, and a 1990 graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He has served churches in Tennessee, Florida, Kentucky, Indiana, and West Virginia.

■ **Herb Hester** will begin service as pastor of Colonial Church, Memphis, July 12. Hester, most recently pastor of First Church, Lake Worth, Fla., is a graduate of University of New Mexico in Albuquerque; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and Luther Rice International Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla. He has also served churches in New Mexico and Florida.

■ **Jim Growden** has resigned the pastorate of Madison Heights Church, Madison, to become pastor of Hillcrest Church, Nashville. He will also be employed by the Sunday School Board in the literature distribution section.

■ **Roy Marshall, Corinth, Miss.**, is now serving as pastor of Forty-five Church, Moscow.

■ **Gary Smith**, formerly interim pastor at Ridgeview Church, Knoxville, began serving as pastor of Beech Grove Church, Oliver Springs, June 28.

■ **Ira Singleton, Dyer**, recently completed service as pastor of Bethel Church, Yorkville. Singleton is pastor emeritus of First Church, Caruthersville, Mo. He is available for interim pastorates and supply preaching. He may be addressed at 1123 S. Main, Dyer, Tenn., 38330.

■ the churches

■ **Members of Russwood Church, Springville**, celebrated their annual homecoming and dedicated a new eight-room Sunday School addition and parsonage June 28. **Otis Hinton**, pastor at Temple Church, Paris, was guest speaker.

■ **Jerry Summers** will lead revival July 12-17 at New Hope Church, Palmersville.

■ **Members of Glenwood Church, Nashville**, celebrated their church's 40th anniversary June 21.

■ **Members of Beech Grove Church, Louisville**, are enjoying a new \$1.275 million family life center. The 28,000 square foot, three story building, provided 17 new classrooms, a fellowship hall, basketball court, walking track, and modern kitchen. It will house the children's, youth, nursery, college and career, and puppet ministries. **Bob McCullough** has been pastor of Beech Grove Church for 32 years.

■ **Inglewood Church, Nashville**,

will hold revival services Sunday-Wednesday, July 12-15.

■ the people



GEIGER

■ **Prescott Memorial Church, Memphis**, recently honored **Cassie Geiger** on her 90th birthday. She has been a member of the church for 58 years.

■ **Michael W. J. Kopulos**, formerly associate pastor of First

Church, Millersville, recently graduated with a master of divinity degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

■ **Diana Carroll**, professor of home economics at Carson-Newman College, has been recognized by the national Kappa Omicron Nu Home Economics Honor Society for her work as adviser of Carson-Newman's Kappa Beta Xi chapter since 1977.

Kappa Omicron Nu is an organization to encourage excellence in scholarship, research, and leadership, and promote professional responsibility for the public good.

■ the work

■ **A team from Gibson County Association** will travel to Superior and Lewistown, Mont., July 10, to lay brick.

■ **The youth of Crieveewood Church, Nashville**, will be in Louisville, Ky., July 11-19 working at East Church. They will help plan, supervise, and implement a day camp for first-third graders.

■ **A group of 13 volunteers from East Commerce Church, Lewisburg**, will be in Wallingford, Conn., July 10-17 to lead worship services and a mission Vacation Bible School.



BROWNSVILLE CHURCH EXPANDS — Taking part in a groundbreaking ceremony in May for the sanctuary of Allen Church near Brownsville, are, from left, **Bill Robbins**, pastor, **Mary Jane Williams**, **Bill Timbes**, **Eddie Martin**, contractor, **Betty Powell**, **Betty Dedmon**, **Bobby Hooper**, chairman, building committee, **Guy Lovelace**, and **Lonnie Robinson**. The new building, to be located next to the church site, will seat 280, include five Sunday School classrooms, and expand the kitchen and fellowship hall.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

As announced in last week's issue, here is the first "Tennessee Sampler," a compendium of thoughts and views gleaned from Tennessee Baptist church newsletters. Most of these brief articles will come from weekly columns by pastors and other church staff members.

With each one we will include the name of the writer and the church affiliation. The *Baptist and Reflector* does not necessarily concur with the views expressed.

Our staff regularly reads several hundred church newsletters weekly. — Editor

'Easy-believism' rampant today

By Roy Fisher, pastor
First Church, Donelson

Church members can be counted, but how few can be counted upon (Vance Havner)! In days when easy-believism is rampant, it would be well for each of us to examine our commitment to Christ. Is it one of loyalty? Faithfulness? Obedience? Love? In one sense, we don't have a choice, if we really belong to the

Lord. Being committed to Christ in the New Testament sense will mean that He is Lord! And that means of everything: He is Lord of all, or not Lord at all. Believer, does your life reflect such a commitment of time, talents, and treasure? If not, determine to do something about it. The blessings will be yours!

God saved us to make us holy, not happy. Some experiences may not contribute to our happiness, but all can be made to contribute to our holiness (V. Havner). We do know that "all things work together to those who love God" (Romans 8:28). Life is not a bed of roses. All sunshine makes a desert! Maybe some of those things we complain about have been allowed by God to conform us to the image of his Son. Ask: "Lord, what can I learn from this happening? How can it be used in my life?" Beloved, we may be surprised at the richness of the grace of God toward us in Christ Jesus.

The early church grew by addition (Acts 1:41,47); by subtraction (death of Ananias and Sapphira); by multiplication (Acts 6:7; 9:31); and even by division, for people had to take sides for or against as our Lord had declared (Luke 12:49-53); and the result in the

long run was gain, not loss. One serious malady of the church is infantile paralysis - too many babes who never grow (V. Havner). Beloved, let's allow the Lord to work through our lives in reaching others for Christ.

Spiritual awakening, like judgment, begins at the house of God (V. Havner - *Seasonings*). May we continually be open to the Holy Spirit's ministry both within our lives and the church. May the Lord be glorified!

Christians exhibit 'militant mentality'

By Calvin Metcalf, pastor
Central Church, Fountain
City, Knoxville

There is a militant mentality among some Christians that becomes more fight than witness. They are forever creating paper enemies which they feel must be defeated. Ministers of this mentality convince their people that certain folk are out to destroy their religious beliefs.

Attacking such folk allows such ministers to emerge as "heroes" and "defenders" of the faith. It doesn't matter if the accusations are factual or imaginary. The end

results are the same. A religious "champion" is being created by innocent, unsuspecting folk. It happens because many people are more impressed with a king than a suffering servant. As this happens, the devil is pleased. He laughs because the real enemy who inspires hate, jealousy, and a contentious spirit is allowed to go unchallenged.

There is certainly a place for fight in our faith, but let it be against the principalities and powers of evil and not among us moral beggars who are searching desperately for some spiritual bread.

Summer can lead to 'over-exposure'

By Ken Castleberry, pastor
Dalewood Church, Nashville

School is out and summer has arrived. Summer is my favorite time of the year. I love the sun, the grass, the trees, ball games, and all the fun that accompanies the season. Perhaps you have similar feelings about this wonderful time of the year.

Yet, there is an inherent danger that comes with summer. It is a hidden danger that can be easily

overlooked. It might be compared to over-exposure to the sun. For years, we thought that sunbathing was great for a person. We spent hours in the sun, getting as tanned as we could get. But then it was discovered that ultraviolet rays of the sun damages the skin and can even cause cancer. What seemed like a great idea was revealed to be dangerous.

Summer can be dangerous to your spiritual health! It is easy to get out of the discipline of being faithful to your personal quiet time of Bible study and prayer. The same thing is true of attendance at church. When the Lord said, "forsake not the assembling of yourselves together," he didn't add the phrase, "except during the summer months." Another crucial issue is the stewardship of our financial resources. God has called all of us to be tithers and generous givers. That is true in June, July, and August as well as the rest of the year.

I want to encourage you to be careful this summer. Don't let over-exposure to fun damage your spiritual life. Live it up, have a great time, enjoy the summer, and remember to keep Jesus in the middle of everything you do.

Kelly receives Belmont degree — six years after retirement

By Mona Collett
Belmont University

NASHVILLE — Ada Ruth Kelly had just taken the last final exam of her college career and sat in a gazebo in the center of the

Belmont University campus. Watching the activity on campus where chairs were being set up for graduation, she said, "I get chills seeing that."

Commencement is exciting for any graduate as they share the

day with friends and family. However, Kelly was the only graduate that had children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren there when the cum laude graduate received her diploma.

Now 72, she worked for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Board for 35 years, attending a total of 28 annual conventions. After retiring from her bookkeeping position six years ago, she began a concentrated pursuit of her life's love — literature. Her dream was realized when she received a bachelor of arts degree during May commencement at Belmont. Majoring in English and minoring in French, Kelly said, "Literature has been my love all my life."

During her service as bookkeeper at the SBC, she tracked \$2 billion, and enjoyed the perfection that can be achieved in calculating numbers. Compared to the unlimited potential for free expression with words, Kelly reflected, "figures don't carry the message."

Drawing from her own life experience, she substantiates words of wisdom with literature. Opening a volume of Arthurian romance, she looked up Theodore H. White's *The Sword in the Stone*. She recounted the story of Merlin advising young King Arthur that when he is restless, bored, or depressed, he should learn something new. Kelly reflects, "In my life it has been helpful to learn something new."

In the true spirit of the educational process, Kelly volunteers to help others learn to express themselves through the English language. She has developed cherished friendships working with internationals who want to learn conversational English. One of her students attended Belmont's graduation to see her teacher graduate.

Her stage of life may have been

different from other Belmont students. But Kelly says, "I have appreciated being treated like everyone else."

A member of First Church, Nashville, for more than 50 years, Kelly taught adults in Sunday School for 15 years and children in Training Union (now Discipleship Training) for 11 years. She plans to stay active in the international group in WMU and the language program.

Future plans include sharing her love of language through a literacy program. She also dreams of practicing her French in France. With determination and a record for making dreams come true, Kelly's friends and family can look forward to receiving post cards from all over the world. "I don't like to put boundaries around my life," she said.



FOUR GENERATIONS were at Ada Ruth Kelly's recent graduation at Belmont University. From left, Kelly's daughter, Rebecca Bemby; her granddaughter, Kelly Midura; Kelly, and her granddaughter, Rachel Midura.

Team leaves for Chile, opportunities arise

A team will leave July 11 for an eight-day assignment in Santiago to assist children's workers.

Team members include Andrew Barrett, Debra Camp, Linda George, Andrea Kreyer, Cynthia Loftis, Lynda and Michael Ryan, Eric Thomason, Jennifer and Earl Thompson, and Dorothy Walls. Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville; and Elaine and Jenice Pearson, South Clinton Church, Clinton.

The Partnership Missions Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention has received additional requests for missions volunteers in Chile.

Specific needs are:

- A construction team is needed to install the interior wallboard in a church in Santiago, beginning Aug. 21 for ten days.

- A four-six member team to remove the existing roof of Third Baptist Church in Santiago and

replace it with zinc metal sheeting. Other repair work also may be required. The team is needed for ten days, beginning Sept. 12.

- One team of two to four women has been requested to teach women of churches in Valdivia how to quilt. Volunteers also will be able to share their personal testimony. The assignment, beginning Sept. 24, is for 11 days.

- Twenty-five teams of one to three persons are needed to conduct an evangelistic crusade in the Vina Del Mar area, beginning Oct. 31 for 11 days. Each team

leader must be an experienced pastor, who may be accompanied by one or two laypeople who are willing to share their personal testimony.

- One team of two to three persons is needed to work with Royal Ambassadors and Girls in Action in a camp setting in Valdivia. The team is needed for ten days, beginning Jan. 24, 1993.

For information on these and other opportunities in Chile, contact Jarvis Hearn at (615) 371-2028. □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership — July



1 — Carlos, an 18-year-old who recently entered a Christian drug rehabilitation center.

2 — Cecilia and Dave Grossman, missionaries in the desert region of Arica. They are the only English-speaking family in a city of almost 200,000.

3 — Construction of New Hope Baptist Church in Arica, which has 80-100 members gathering for Sunday School in a small rental house. Present construction will soon halt due to high costs.

4 — Missionaries as they develop programs to help strengthen marriages, families, and church families in Chile.

5 — Group of ladies who meet to pray at the church of Nueva Esperanza every morning.

6 — Eighty to 90 pastors who will attend the Pastors' Conference at the seminary in Santiago today through July 10.

7 — Missionary Becky Manferd in Santiago as she celebrates her birthday today. She has a ministry of evangelism and Bible teaching through crafts.

8 — Winter sessions of Vacation Bible School being held while children are on vacation for two weeks from school.

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Elisha, successor to Elijah — Bible Book Series for July 5

By Leonard Markham, pastor, Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville

Much of our happiness in life is determined by the thing we request from God. Some people speak of unanswered prayer. Yet, the Bible is filled with many examples of individuals receiving what they were seeking. God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." (II Chronicles 1:7). Solomon's petition for wisdom was granted. God said, "Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, riches, or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life, but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you King, therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you." (II Chronicles 1:11-12a).

We need to be very careful our heart's desire is consistent with

the full revelation of God in Jesus Christ. Our desires should come out of our relationship with Christ. There is a grave warning for us to heed from the psalmist. God's Word speaks of Israel in rebellion, yet it is just as relevant for us today. "And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul." (Psalm 106:15). Obviously, we need to carefully consider what we request from God.

There was a day in the life of Jesus when He saw some disciples of John the Baptist following and Jesus asked them,

Basic Passage:
II Kings 1:1-3:27

"What do you want?" (John 1:38). It was a good question for Jesus to ask and an excellent one for His disciples to answer. What would be a worthy request for us

to address to God?

Elisha, the successor to Elijah, was a great prophet of God. His request to Elijah is a good indication of his greatness. He said, "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit." (II Kings 2:9).

The word "spirit" in this passage of Scripture means power. It is also used in this way in a following verse where we read, "The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha." (II Kings 2:15). The Hebrew word for spirit can also be translated "wind." In verse 16, the image conveyed is of wind. "Perhaps the Spirit of the Lord has picked him up and set him down on some mountain or in some valley." (II Kings 2:16b). Verse 9 indicates that "spirit" is a request to be granted by God. Elijah did not possess the power to "give a double portion of the spirit" to Elisha. The spirit can

only be given by God.

As great a prophet as Elijah was he is not comparable to Jesus Christ, the bearer of the spirit of God. Jesus said to the woman at the well, "For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit." (John 3:34). In Jesus Christ there are no limitations to the spirit of God.



MARKHAM

What do we request from God? Do we ask for fame and fortune? Or, do we follow the apostle Paul and eagerly desire the greater gifts? (I Corinthians 12:31). The greatest gift God has to give to us is the gift of Himself. God willingly and joyfully gives of His presence, power, and purpose to

those who ask. Jesus said, "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13). The question to be addressed to this materialistic and self-centered society is the priority question. What are we asking God to give to us?

Years ago, after I was called to preach, Rocky Hill Church, Knoxville, ordained me to the Gospel ministry. As great as that church was and is, they were not great enough to give me the spirit of God. Only God could place such power in my heart and life. When God called me to be a preacher, He equipped and empowered me for His service. It was true for Elisha. It is true for everyone called of God.

A question and an answer — Convention Uniform Series for July 5

By Gary Coltharp, pastor, First Church, Jackson

"O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and thou wilt not hear?" (ch. 1:2). How many times questions similar to Habakkuk's have been asked secretly by God's people. Life is not fair! Why do those who have little or no regard for God seem to get all the breaks? Conversely, why do bad things happen to God's people? Where is God in a world where underhanded, evil, and abusive people prosper at the expense of those who live faithfully for Him? Does it pay to serve God? Habakkuk was greatly perplexed and he dared to ask God the hard questions.

Unlike the other prophets of his day, prophets who declared to the people "thus saith the Lord," Habakkuk spoke with God on behalf of the people of Judah. The prophet witnessed spiritual reformation under the dynamic leadership of Josiah, the last good king of Judah. No doubt he grieved over the death of Josiah in the

Battle of Megiddo. The clouds of tyranny, strife, and lawlessness returned to Judah under the reigns of Jehoahaz and Jehoikim, neither of whom were interested in the moral and spiritual directions of the nation.

Basic Passage:
Habakkuk 1:1-3:19

David Garland comments in the *Broadman Bible Commentary*, "It was an era which reflected a general deterioration of principle and conviction throughout society... religion reached a new low." Habakkuk saw the clouds of war gathering when the Chaldeans (Babylonians) under Nebuchadnezzar overthrew Assyria and marched toward world supremacy.

Given these conditions, Habakkuk's questions are more understandable. Why does God allow the devastating ruin of

Judah to go unchecked? When will God intervene to change the tide and cause justice to reign among His people? How can a good God allow evil to destroy the very people who look to Him for help?

God began to answer Habakkuk (ch. 1:5-11), but His answer bogged the prophet's mind (v. 5). God is at work, but His timetable is beyond men's understanding. We sometimes forget that "one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." (II Peter 3:8). Furthermore, His thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are His ways our ways (Isaiah 55:8). Yahweh announced His intention to use the Chaldeans as His instrument of judgment upon Judah (ch. 1:6-7).

Instead of God's answer answering the prophet's question, it raised even more questions (ch. 1:12-17). Finally, Habakkuk

retreated to his watchtower to seek further word from the Lord (ch. 2:1). Through a vision, the searching prophet was given confirmation of the justice of God (ch. 2:3-4). In the final analysis, "he whose soul is not upright in Him shall fail, but the righteous shall live by his faith." God's purpose is moving gradually but surely toward its ultimate fulfillment. Keep the faith!

The late Clyde Francisco reminded us, "The Old Testament has no word for faith; the Hebrews did not think in the abstract ideology of the Greeks. They were a practical people who dealt in concrete terms. Faith to them consisted of a manifestation of righteousness. Yet this manifestation resulted from a trust of God." Therefore, he suggested, we will better understand chapter 2:4 as the assurance that "the righteous person has per-

manence as he abides in his faithfulness to God."

Following a series of woes, chapter 2 closes with the beautiful verse, "But the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him." The final chapter is a free-standing psalm calling upon God to renew His gracious work as He remembers mercy for His own. Habakkuk's faith in God was fortified through his struggle in working through his questions and doubt. He then celebrated his assurance with one of the Bible's most beautiful affirmations of faith. Read Habakkuk 3:17-19, experience his joy, and reaffirm your faith in our great God!



COLTHARP

Chosen to serve — Life and Work Series for July 5

By James Hutson, pastor, First Church, Rockwood

We begin a new series of lessons under the theme of David: Serving God. The Biblical text for these lessons over the next nine weeks comes from I and II Samuel. An overview of these books of Scripture deals with three main characters. They are: Samuel, I Samuel 1-7; Saul, I Samuel 8-17; and David, I Samuel 16-II Samuel 24.

Our lesson for today begins with the fall of Saul and the anointing of the young man, David, who was to be the next king of Israel.

Beginning of the end — ch. 13:14

Israel was gathering at Gilgal, (ch. 13:4). Of course, a gathering of Israel was met by a gathering of their main enemy, the Philistines (ch. 13:5). According to I Samuel 10:8, Saul was to wait

seven days until Samuel appeared. Evidently there was some agreement or system where Saul as king was assigned to lead the troops in war, and Samuel as God's spokesman was to seek divine guidance for conflict.

The danger from the vast host of Philistines was real. Furthermore, the men of Israel were afraid. Samuel was late, and Saul needed to do something. The longer he waited the more dangerous his position became. So

Basic Passage:
I Samuel 13:13-14; 16:1-13

Saul decided he could wait no longer. He ordered the burnt offerings and peace offerings to be prepared, and he completed the offerings. As soon as the offerings were completed, Samuel ap-

peared (ch. 13:8-10). The next verse records Saul's flimsy excuses, but Samuel was not fooled, and he pronounced God's judgment upon Saul and his kingdom. Saul's disobedience cost him the kingdom.

Waiting is not easy to do. Especially is it difficult when the enemy is gathering and our helpers are fleeing. But here Saul's impatience was a lack of trust that God's servant, Samuel, and God's power would come in time to rescue and save. Samuel announced to Saul that God was already moving to select the next king of Israel.

New king for Israel — ch. 16:1

God instructed Samuel to go and anoint the new king from the sons of Jesse. Saul and David

were the two kings of Israel chosen by God's direction. All the other kings were selected by natural succession or through the overthrow of a reigning king.

Qualities of the new king — ch. 16:6-7, 11-13b

When Samuel arrived at the house of Jesse, the young man God had chosen was not present. Samuel was impressed by the physical appearances of Jesse's sons. Seven sons passed in review. Samuel thought each one was the



HUTSON

one God would choose. But the one selected by God was out in the fields. The youngest son was sent

for, and under God's direction, Samuel anointed David to be the next king of Israel.

The primary quality for David's selection was that he was a man after God's own heart (ch. 13:14). He was a shepherd boy who was faithful in his care of the sheep, and God chose him to be the ruler of His people.

It is so easy to honor people by their outward appearances. Physical size, physical attractiveness, a winsome personality, a sharp mind — all of these are good qualities. But the quality God looks for comes from the heart. God chooses us to serve Him based on the qualities of our hearts rather than on human standards.

Brotherhood president undergoes surgery

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — James D. Williams, president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, underwent quadruple arterial bypass surgery June 19 at Baptist Memorial Hospital East in Memphis.



WILLIAMS

Doctors for Williams, 57, called the operation a success and expect full recovery after a recuperation period of four to six weeks. Before the surgery, they assured Williams the heart muscle itself is in good condition and his overall physical health is excellent.

The four-hour procedure repaired blockages near Williams' heart revealed by an angiogram June 17. The difficulty was first detected by physicians during Williams' annual physical examination two weeks earlier.

An interim management plan has been established and Williams' commitments for the next four to six weeks have been delegated to the agency's executive staff. □

'Army' prepares to capture nation, Lewis tells leaders

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — More than 300 adult leaders in the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission's Royal Ambassador program for boys have been alerted that an "army" is preparing to "totally capture" the nation.

Larry L. Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, told participants at a national training event that this "army" will "march on Washington, D.C., into every state capitol, into every courthouse" in the United States in the next ten to 20 years.

"You say, who is this army?" Lewis asked. "They are the children and youth of today. Soon they will stand in pulpits, teach in classrooms, and lead the government. I thank the Lord that thousands and thousands of them are going to know Jesus as Lord."

"How many of them will know God and are in his will," Lewis added, "will be totally dependent on the work and ministry of folks like you." Lewis' comments came during a "Royal Ambassador University" on the campus of Memphis' Rhodes College. □

SBC convocation on hunger planned

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Representatives of five Southern Baptist agencies with responsibilities for ministering to the world's hungry have called for a major denomination-wide hunger convocation in May 1993 to discuss the future of Southern Baptist work with the world's hungry.

"The purpose of the meeting is to assess where Southern Baptists are now on the issue and to identify strategies for the future," the group said in a statement. "We want to work toward a coordinated, unified strategy in this area," the agency representatives agreed.

The 1993 date was chosen for the meeting because it marks the 15th anniversary since a 1978 convocation in which current Southern Baptist strategy on world hunger was begun. The convocation will be May 6-8, 1993, at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center in North Carolina.

C. Ben Mitchell, Christian Life Commission director of biomedical and life issues was named ad hoc chairperson of the meeting. Louis A. Moore, the CLC's director of media and product development, was appointed ad hoc media coordinator.

The decision to call for the convocation grew out of a smaller hunger consultation at the CLC's Nashville office May 20. Eight representatives from the five agencies attended the meeting:

John Cheyne of the Foreign Mission Board, Nathan Porter of the Home Mission Board, Dellanna O'Brien of Woman's Missionary Union, James Williams of the Brotherhood Commission, and Richard D. Land, Mitchell, Moore, Lamar Cooper, and Mattie Lee Massey of the CLC. □

McElrath receives honor

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE — Hugh T. McElrath, V. V. Cooke professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was presented the Findley B. and Louvenia Edge Award for Teaching Excellence during the Louisville, Ky., school's 169th commencement.

McElrath, who has taught at Southern since 1948, was presented the award for his contributions during more than 40 years on the seminary faculty. One of three Baptists ever to be named a fellow of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, McElrath has written eight books dealing with hymnody and hymnology and several hymns. He also served on editorial committees for the 1975 and 1991 editions of the *Baptist Hymnal*.

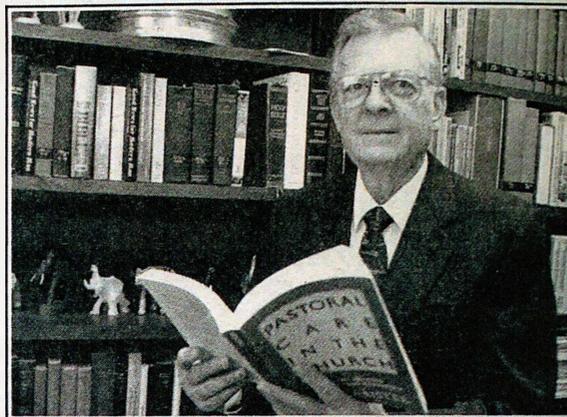
The Murray, Ky., native will retire from full-time teaching at Southern this year but will remain on faculty as a senior professor. □

Korean Baptists dedicate campus

Baptist Press

TAEJON, South Korea — The Korea Baptist Theological Seminary dedicated a new 55-acre campus on the outskirts of Taejon. The new campus for the largest Baptist seminary outside the United States provides a student center, dormitories, athletic field, classrooms, offices, and a library.

The seminary's first class of 49 students met in an old building in 1954, as Taejon began to rebuild after the Korean War. Today it has nearly 1500 students and 1800



THE THIRD EDITION of C. W. Brister's book *Pastoral Care in the Church* has been released recently by Harper & Row Publishers. Brister, distinguished professor of pastoral ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, first published the book in 1964. The book "shows how to structure a congregation's life for shared ministry both to seize the pastor's talents and to summon the gifts of committed laypersons," Brister said.

graduates. It awards diplomas, bachelor's and master's degrees, and doctorates in theology, religious education, and church music.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board provided initial funding and faculty. Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds purchased a 15-acre campus in 1967. In 1973 the Korean government recognized the seminary as an institution of higher learning, upgrading it from Bible school status. Eighty-five percent of the school's operating budget now originates in South Korea. The seminary plans to raise its total financial support among Koreans by the year 2000. □

Senate passes legislation to stop sports gambling

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate overwhelmingly has passed legislation to halt the spread of sports gambling.

The Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act passed by an 88-5 vote in June. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., prohibits the authorization and operation of sports lotteries and other forms of sports gambling by states in which such games were not permitted before Oct. 2, 1991. It also bans sports gambling on Indian lands.

Forms of sports gambling were legal before Oct. 2, 1991, in Nevada, Oregon, Delaware, Montana, and North Dakota. Some of the 32 states with lotteries have been looking also at legalizing sports lotteries and other forms of sports gambling.

"I understand that many states see sports gambling as a quick fix for budgetary shortfalls," DeConcini said, "but there are other far less destructive ways to generate additional revenue."

James A. Smith, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission director of government relations, testified in support of the bill last year before a Senate subcommittee.

"There are no winners in sports gambling," Smith said. "Gambling in general, and sports gambling in particular, is especially harmful to the poor and will entice young children into this terrible addition. In light of the growing popularity of sports gambling, it's absolutely vital Congress take away this enterprise before it's too late." □

Cornelius named to FMB position

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — David Cornelius Jr., a Southern Baptist missionary to Nigeria, has been named director of black church relations at the Foreign Mission Board. Cornelius, 47, replaces Victor Davis, who left the position to become pastor of Bethlehem Church in Richmond. Cornelius, of Texarkana, Texas, starts his new role July 1. He



CORNELIUS

will promote foreign missions in churches, recruit black Southern Baptists for missions, and work as a liaison between the Foreign Mission Board and black Baptist conventions in the United States.

"I'll help bring black Southern Baptists closer to the Foreign Mission Board, primarily reaching out and encouraging them to consider foreign missions as an option," said Cornelius. "As soon as possible I'm going to get out there and get to know them and see where we go from here." □

Kazakhs set festival

Baptist Press

DZHAMBUL, Kazakhstan — Southern Baptists will work with about 100 Christians from Switzerland, Germany, and Italy this summer to conduct the first Swiss-Kazakh Festival in Dzhambul, Kazakhstan.

The July 18-Aug. 2 festival follows the Kazakh-American festival last summer. □



BELMONT UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT William E. Trout addresses members of the university's faculty, staff, board of trustees, and alumni advancement board during a groundbreaking ceremony for the Lila D. Bunch Library. The \$2.75 million facility, scheduled for completion in the fall of 1993, will contain 62,000 square feet and will be filled with 154,000 volumes. A major gift of \$1.25 million for the library was given by Goebel G. Bunch, a member of Woodmont Church, Nashville, in memory of his late wife Lila D. Bunch.