

this week's news

global:

- **Billy Graham is diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.** — See page 2.
- **Meet Sam James, the Foreign Mission Board's new vice president.** — See page 3.
- **Missionaries in Haiti, including Tennessean Mark Rutledge, report on life following coup.** — See page 10.

national:

- **Cindy Waugh of First Church, Franklin, offers suggestions for families at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.** — See page 8.

state:

- **Why do nearly 1350 children compete in state Bible drills each year?** — See page 7.
- **Ron Herrod, pastor of Central Church, Oak Ridge, reports on work in Russia and Romania.** — See page 6.

Study shows strong Baptist presence

By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

NEW YORK — An extensive demographic study of churches and church membership in the United States shows Southern Baptists strong in numbers of churches, numbers of adherents, and geographic presence.

Southern Baptists are among the 133 Judeo-Christian church bodies reporting an overall total of 255,173 churches with 137,064,509 adherents in a study based on the 1990 U.S. census and on data supplied by the participating church bodies.

Results of the study were unveiled July 7 by sociologist William McKinney on behalf of the sponsoring Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies (ASARB) at a news conference in New York. McKinney is

dean and professor of religion and society at Hartford (Conn.) Seminary.

The study reports Southern Baptists with 18,940,682 adherents (full members, their children, and other regular participants), up from 16,281,692 adherents reported in the 1980 study. Southern Baptists remain second in size to Catholics, with a reported total of 53,385,998 adherents.

Martin Bradley, chairman of the study's operations committee and director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's corporate planning and research department in Nashville, said Southern Baptist totals, as well as those for some other groups, do not match official membership records. Figures from the study generally are higher because of the inclusion of persons who participate but are not considered full

members.

Southern Baptist adherents are reported in 2514 of the 3105 U.S. counties. County totals may reflect persons who live in one county but worship in another, Bradley noted.

"Only United Methodists (2965), Catholics (2965), and Assemblies of God (2575) are more geographically extended," Bradley observed.

In numbers of churches, Southern Baptists lead with 37,922, followed by United Methodists (37,238) and Catholics (22,441).

Bradley said Southern Baptists are most dominant in numbers of adherents in Mississippi and Alabama, where about three of every ten persons are identified as Southern Baptists. They are strongly dominant in ten other states: Virginia, North Carolina,

South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Georgia, and Texas. While Southern Baptists dominate in numbers and land area in Texas, Catholics are noticeably strong in the state, especially in south and southwest counties, he added.

McKinney said the study is "the closest thing we have to a census of American church groupings. For the first time we have good data on independent and Jewish congregations and estimates of black Baptists. As a result of ASARB's careful work, we are able to obtain a religious profile of any county in the United States."

McKinney cited data he believes will be useful in outreach and church planting.

For example, more than 70 percent of the population of six states — Membership study, page 2

Clinton-Gore ticket first for Southern Baptists

By Art Toolston
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Bill Clinton's selection of Al Gore makes history with two Southern Baptists atop a presidential ticket.

But the pro-choice views of Clinton and Gore are likely to spark controversy with the fiercely anti-abortion conservative leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Clinton, the 45-year-old Arkansas governor with ample delegates to claim the Democratic National Convention nomination July 15 in New York City, announced his vice presidential running mate selection of Gore July

9. Gore, 44, is Tennessee's junior senator and an unsuccessful Democratic candidate for president in 1988.

Clinton is a member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, the city's largest Southern Baptist church. His wife, Hilary, and daughter, Chelsea, 11, are members of Little Rock's First United Methodist Church.

Gore and his wife, Tipper, are members of Mount Vernon Church in Arlington, Va., outside Washington, where they were baptized in 1980 and their fourth child, Albert III, 10, was baptized in June 1991.

In Tennessee, the Gores attend New Salem Missionary Church in

Carthage, a non-SBC congregation, according to the senator's Nashville office. Gore's father, Albert Sr., is a member of First Church, Carthage, an SBC congregation. His mother, Pauline, is from a Church of Christ background but often joins her husband at First Church there.

Clinton's home church in downtown Little Rock has "led the state for many, many years in total dollars" given to the Cooperative Program, said Jimmy Sheffield, associate executive director of the Arkansas State Convention.

Gore's home church in northern Virginia, founded in 1928, has 250 members and averages 80 to 100

in Sunday worship. "We're a small church, a local church where Jesus is Lord and we're all family here," said Steve Vornov, Mount Vernon's pastor since August 1991.

Mount Vernon is the closest church to Gore's Arlington, Va., home and the senator and his family usually walk the three to four blocks to attend worship services, Vornov said.

Gore, author of a new book, *Earth in the Balance*, is a contributor to the Spring 1992 issue of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board quarterly, *Search*, on environmental issues. Mrs. Gore is contributor to a new Sunday School Board youth discipline

— Clinton-Gore, page 2

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PRACTICING FOR THE STATE Youth Bible Drill held July 6 were, from left, Matthew Nunley, Laager Church, Gruetli-Laager, Southeast Region; Sara Boyer, Prospect Church, Hollow Rock, Northwest Region; Suzanne Millsaps, Mount Olive Church — South, Knoxville, East Region; Lori Bradley, Northport Church, Newport, Northeast Region; Andrew Duncan, Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville, Central Region; Trae Silliman, Turkey Creek Church, Savannah, Southwest Region; Andrea Mabrey, Memorial Church, Livingston, North Central Region; Kelley Huffstetter, Bethel Church, Greenfield, At-large; and Lorelei Bynum, Pleasant Hill Church, Flintville, South Central Region. Sara Boyer was the winner.



RECEIVING ENCOURAGEMENT from Johnnie Hall, TBC Discipleship Training Department Director, and Nelle Elder of Nashville, are entrants in the State Youth Speakers' Tournament, from left, David Lambert, Oak Street Church, Maryville, East Region; Jenny Hefner, Liberty Church, Covington, Southwest Region; Debbie Watkins, Delano Church, Delano, Southeast Region; Karen Joyner, First Church, Huntingdon, At-large; Wendy Settles, Inglewood Church, Nashville, Central Region; Emily Vincent, Eastwood Church, Cookeville, North Central Region; Chablis Patrick, Bethel Church, Greenfield, Northwest Region; April Griffin, Cave Hill Church, Newport, Northeast Region; and Chelsea Parks, Shelbyville Mills Church, Shelbyville, South Central Region. The winner was Wendy Settles.

- Wm. Fletcher Allen is the editor.
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Membership study shows strong Baptist . . .

— Continued from page 1
are church. Those are Utah (80 percent), Rhode Island (77 percent), North Dakota (76 percent), Alabama (71 percent), Louisiana (71 percent), and Mississippi (70 percent).

In contrast, the study indicates four states have fewer than a third of the population on church rolls. Those are Nevada, Oregon, and Alaska, each with 32 percent, along with Washington, with 33 percent.

The 137 million adherents counted in the study represent 55.1 percent of the total U.S. population, up from 112.5 million or 49.7 percent of the total U.S. population in 1980. The 1980 study, however, included 22 fewer church bodies.

Among the participating church bodies, the 15 denominations with adherents of one million or more

account for 81.6 percent of the reported adherents.

Other bodies among those having the largest number of reported adherents are the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (1,142,016), American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. (1,873,731), Assemblies of God (2,161,610), Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (1,037,757), Christian Churches, and Churches of Christ (1,213,188), Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (3,540,820), Churches of Christ (1,681,013), Episcopal Church (2,445,286), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (5,226,798), Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (2,603,725), Presbyterian Church (USA) (3,553,335), Southern Baptist Convention, United Church of Christ (1,993,459), and United Methodist Church (11,091,032).

The 22 groups with adherents of

100,000 to 999,999 accounted for an additional 4.9 percent. Another 80 groups reporting adherents account for 1.2 percent. Eleven groups reported only church locations but were unable to estimate adherents. Black Baptists; Congregational Christian Churches not part of any national body; independent, charismatic churches; independent, non-charismatic churches; and Jewish adherents are not denominations or fellowships but account for 12.2 percent of the adherents in the United States.

The 54 bodies participating in 1990 but not in 1980 represent a total of 25 million adherents. The largest among the new participants are the estimates for black Baptists (8.7 million), Jewish estimates (6 million), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (5.2 million), the

Presbyterian Church (USA) (3.6 million), independent, non-charismatic churches (1.2 million), independent, charismatic churches (.8 million), the National Association of Free Will Baptists (.3 million), and the Wesleyan Church (.3 million).

The 1990 study does not include 32 denominations that participated in 1980, some of which merged with other bodies.

The study, "Churches and Church Membership in the United States 1990," is copyrighted by the ASARB and includes a color map of major denominational families by counties of the United States.

Funding for the project was provided by a grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., of Indianapolis, 17 of the participating denominations, and from the Glenmary Research Center. □

Clinton-Gore ticket first for Southern . . .

— Continued from page 1
ship training product expected to be released later this year. She helped write one of 12 topics to make up "Trauma Center Plus," a facts worksheet and discussion starter for youth and youth ministers. Her topic, "Media — Standards to Gauge By," discusses issues bombarding youth through the media.

The abortion issue, meanwhile, confronted Clinton once again when he named Gore to the Democratic ticket.

The National Right to Life Committee issued a news release with legislative director Douglas Johnson complaining: "Clinton apparently dropped his preferred (v.p.) candidates because they support minor limits on abortion, such as a 24-hour waiting period. It is evident that Clinton is captive to the extremist pro-abortion groups."

The news release targeted Gore's record on the abortion issue, charging, "since becoming a senator and presidential hopeful, he has embraced the entire pro-abortion agenda." As a congressman from 1976 to 1984, however, Gore "voted pro-life 84 percent of the time," according to the Right to Life statement.

Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission Executive Director Richard Land issued a statement about Gore's selection but did not specifically mention the abortion issue. Land could not be reached for additional comment July 10.

Land, in his statement on Gore's selection, noted: "The Christian Life Commission has no desire to imply support for, or opposition to, any candidate in the presidential campaign. The commission deals with issues, not candidates or parties. Having said that, I may observe that Gov. Clinton's choice of Sen. Gore as his running mate presents Southern Baptists with the unique phenomenon of a national ticket composed entirely of Southern Baptists — a prospect

that will clearly have significant appeal."

In a nudge of the Bush administration, Land continued, "It should certainly give pause to those, particularly in the Bush campaign, who have been tempted to take Southern Baptist voters for granted. I suspect that many Southern Baptists will require clear differences on substantive values issues to vote against two from their own denomination."

The Southern Baptist Convention, in its annual meetings, has passed five resolutions since 1980 opposing abortion except to save the life of the mother.

"I'm very much pro-life," said Vornov, Gore's pastor at Mount Vernon Church, "but I'm pastor to every person in the church."

Rex Horne, Clinton's pastor at Immanuel in Little Rock, who came to the church two years ago, said members "have not been overtaken" with the media attention Clinton has received as a presidential candidate nor the charges he has weathered, such

as an extra-marital affair. "Our people for 12 years have gone to church with Bill Clinton," Horne said.

"Politics aside, just person to person, he's a likable person, a warm, friendly person (who) knows how to make people feel at ease," the pastor said.

Vornov, Gore's pastor who hails from a Jewish background in New Jersey, said he has "enjoyed having him (in the congregation) very much. He always listens very attentively (to the sermons). I can make eye contact with him. Every preacher wants someone who listens."

According to a June 29 article in *The Washington Post*, Clinton attended Park Place Church in Hot Springs, Ark., as a boy but said he became "an uneven churchgoer" as a student at Jesuit-operated Georgetown University in Washington and a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University in England and through his 1976 election as Arkansas attorney general.

But, he told the newspaper, he

began feeling a deep need to return to church when he began making decisions affecting millions of people.

At Immanuel, the pastor, W. O. Vaught, became a father figure for Clinton, whose father died in an auto accident before he was born. Clinton told *The Washington Post*, "I think he (Vaught) instinctively knew that I needed him, and maybe in ways that I wasn't aware of. He was guiding without being judgmental." Vaught, pastor of the church 38 years until his 1983 retirement, died of bone cancer Christmas Day 1989.

Clinton voiced sadness over the theology-political controversy among Southern Baptists in a July 7 interview with public TV's Bill Moyers.

"As you might imagine, I'm pretty much on the side of the moderates in the fight," Clinton told Moyers. He said the controversy has "affected the lives of pastors I know, and families I know, and churches that I know."

Billy Graham battles Parkinson's disease

Baptist Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Billy Graham is "in the early stages of Parkinson's disease," according to a statement released by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

The statement was a response to a recent news article on Graham's health in the *Charlotte (N.C.) Observer*, said the evangelist's media relations director, A. Larry Ross.

The BGEA statement said Graham, 73, learned about three years ago he is in the early stages of Parkinson's during a routine checkup at the Mayo Clinic.

"His early manifestations were a mild tremor that causes difficulty in handwriting and some difficulty in gait and in descending steps without a rail," the statement noted.



GRAHAM

"Both symptoms improved significantly with a modest amount of medication. Otherwise, he is in excellent health and will continue his normal activities, such as crusades and writing, for the foreseeable future.

"His doctors expect him to live

a normal life, with a reduction of schedule — which they were urging him to reduce long before he discovered he had the beginnings of Parkinson's," the statement added.

1991 was Graham's busiest in many years, including a preaching tour of North Korea and an evangelistic crusade in Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium, the release said.

Graham "is determined to give his crusades first priority in the next year with meetings planned in Portland in September, Moscow in October, and Germany in May 1993 — which will be extended by satellite throughout Europe," the statement said. "He is also focusing his attention on completing his memoirs." □

James feels 'divinely called' to new European work

By Marty Croll
Foreign Mission Board
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Sam James hopes he doesn't sound pompous by suggesting he has been "divinely called" to make a difference in troubled Southern Baptist relationships in Europe.

James, the Foreign Mission Board's new vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, brings experience as a skilled listener. He also brings a history of getting things done during a 30-year career in foreign missions.

Europe is not his only challenge. James must also be concerned about Southern Baptist advances into the Middle East and North Africa, including seedbeds of Muslim fundamentalism where little Christian witness exists.

But his position is pivotal in Europe, as every day reveals accelerating mission opportunities. To be effective he must accommodate the explosion of opportunities for the Gospel in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union — against a backdrop of frayed relationships with European Baptists.

"There's a lot of pain, a lot of hurt, among our missionary force, European Baptists and our constituency in America," said James, of Liberty, N.C. "And it's too important a region to lose the opportunity to fulfill the potential we have in that part of the world."

Since 1985 James has been the mission agency's area director for East Asia, overseeing the work of some 500 missionaries in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao. After an aggressive campaign in East Asia to start churches and lessen missionary involvement in institutions, James says he's never been happier. Some missionaries in the region have resisted the changes that altered ministries they felt called to do; some have resigned; others continue to work through their feelings. But James says he has watched God do miracles among many missionaries and Asian Baptists.

Many Foreign Mission Board trustees want to see changes in Europe, too. One thing attracting them to James is his success at helping missionaries focus on starting churches in Asia. "In the long run, he's brought about a major shift," said trustee Hoyt Savage, the Las Vegas pastor who chaired the search committee that recommended James for the vice presidency.

In recent years Europe has been a flash point of contention between opposing Southern Baptist views. Many Foreign Mission Board trustees characterize the area as an example of slow church growth and mushy doctrine. Others counter that European Baptists express a strong and vibrant faith — culturally different, but no less effective than Southern Baptists.

James plans to listen to what everyone there has to say before he does anything. "Whatever we do in Europe has to arise from within our missionary force in Europe and our (European) constituency," he cautioned.



JAMES

Trustees acknowledge good things are happening in Europe, especially as communism has fallen. Statistics show it takes an average of 12 European Baptists to produce one baptism, while it takes 39 Southern Baptists to produce a baptism in the United States. The European Baptist Federation, a fellowship of more than 11,000 churches in 32 unions, claims more than 750,000 members. The federation's seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, has trained many Europeans for the Gospel ministry.

German Baptists, numbering some 85,000 members, gave \$5 million last year for mission work in Eastern Europe. This

represents a per-member rate about ten times higher than Southern Baptists give to the Lotie Moon Christmas Offering, said Winston Crawley, interim regional vice president before James was elected. During the same time Germans gave \$600,000 for work in former East Germany and asked Southern Baptists to send two missionary couples to start churches there.

But recently many European Baptists have questioned how involved they want to be with Southern Baptists. Last fall trustees voted 54-27 not to send a promised gift of \$365,000 from their 1992 budget to fund the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland. Trustees, who said board staff had not properly communicated their views to Europeans, claimed the seminary had strayed from Baptist orthodoxy. Seminary leaders denied that.

Bewildered Europeans reacted with hurt and anger. In a special December meeting in Richmond, two European Baptist leaders told trustee representatives they had broken a long partnership arrangement. They questioned what would become of European working relationships with Southern Baptists. Isam Ballenger, James' predecessor, and Europe area director Keith Parker retired early as tension deepened. They said trustees were enforcing "a global agenda" of theological orthodoxy on Baptists overseas.

Trustees respond that their only global agenda is evangelism that results in churches.

"I haven't been instructed in any way, and there are no conditions laid down to me for my election" as vice president, James said. But he adds: "Trustees will have to give me the privilege of being honest, open and genuine. I will have to develop relationships that transcend what individuals might say. That will make me believable and trustworthy."

One of James' earliest official appearances in Europe might come as he attends a proposed September meeting between missionaries, board trustees, and European Baptists to discuss future work together.

"It may be that my training, my experience, and my commitment to world missions all has come to a place where I'm able to be used in a crisis situation like this," James said.

Savage said God so clearly affirmed James as the man for the job committee members almost felt they had to get out of the way and let it happen. "We really need someone who's a strong people person," Savage said. James, an experienced pastoral counselor, dealt "with some very difficult and touchy situations as he came on them in Asia and the Pacific."

In electing James July 24, trustees departed from a 30-year trend of choosing regional administrators who have worked in the same region.

Life in Gaza takes toll on Southern Baptist missionaries

By Marty Croll
Foreign Mission Board
For Baptist Press

GAZA — It was just like any other day at the Baptist compound in Gaza, the tiny strip of land along the Mediterranean Sea between Israel and Egypt.

Inside, a Southern Baptist doctor tended his patients while 20-year-old Arab nursing students read life science textbooks.

Just outside the window, Israeli soldiers brandished automatic weapons while they angrily raced after a group of Palestinian youths who had hurled stones at them.

Seething violence — rooted in a decades-old conflict between Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews — has weakened Southern Baptist impact in this fenced-in, Israeli-occupied territory 25 miles long and five miles wide. When they're not confined by all-too-frequent curfews, Baptist representatives warily avoid sniper fire and stone fights.

Life in Gaza has taken a toll on the Southern Baptist workers. They are asking for reinforcements just to keep their nursing program alive. As Palestinians have struck out at their Israeli military rulers, lawlessness has become standard.

"It's pretty fantastic we're maintaining anything at all at this

point," said Dona Fitzgerald of Bartlesville, Okla., chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist representatives in Gaza. Fitzgerald and her husband, Dean, a physician from Tulsa, Okla., came to Gaza in 1978.

"If we hang in there, maybe things will get better," she said.

Eleven Southern Baptist workers are assigned to Gaza now, down from 22 in 1985. Five teach in the School of Allied Health Sciences. One nurse educator will go to the United States on furlough this summer and plans to work in continuing education when he comes back next year. Another plans to leave next March for good.

Remaining workers will have to shut down the nursing program if they don't get new personnel. The Baptist program, one of only two nursing programs in Gaza, has produced some of the territory's best nurses, Fitzgerald said.

"It's a very difficult place to live and it's questionable how long some of (the workers) should stay," said Dale Thorne, area director for Southern Baptist work in the Middle East.

Living in Gaza is like "living in a cage with 750,000 angry people," he said. "You never know when your car windows are going to be broken out as you drive down the street ... and if you could get caught in crossfire between the army and demonstrators. Those

kind of things are very frightening — just the fear there all the time of what might happen to you."

Still, Thorne wants Southern Baptists to send two nurses and a business manager to Gaza. The representative assigned as a science teacher has had to fill in tending to finances for the other workers.

Circumstances make it difficult to teach nursing. Electricity and water are sometimes shut off, books are hard to come by and travel is often impossible for days at a time. Fourteen students will graduate with the current class next March.

Life in Israel has continued to modernize and improve since Israelis seized the Gaza Strip from Egypt 25 years ago. On the other hand, Gaza seems frozen in time. Passing into Gaza, a visitor sees broken-up roads, donkey carts, and masses of people milling about on roadsides. The most significant changes: a growing Palestinian refugee population and escalating violence.

Palestinians in Gaza are Arabs whose ancestors lived in Palestine before the nation of Israel was established in 1948. During the months of conflict that gave birth to Israel, they fled into Gaza where they and their descendants live in refugee camps to this day. Since December 1987 they have been fighting back through the

"Intifada," a movement using harassment of occupying soldiers, work shutdowns and killings of Israelis and Palestinians suspected as sympathizers.

Southern Baptists are the only Christian organization maintaining an outreach in Gaza. A lone Baptist church struggles along. Its last pastor now attends seminary in the United States.

Earlier this year Southern Baptists' reading room library, the Center of Culture and Light, was

robbed and burned. The largest of three library facilities in the region, it probably will reopen this summer.

Fitzgerald urged Southern Baptists to pray that the workers will know God's purpose in the nursing school's future; the library will open without violence and the Baptist church will find a pastor.

"We feel our work here is not done," Fitzgerald said.

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 CONVINCS 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

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Thanks Tennesseans

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

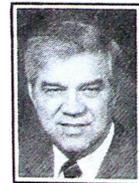
■ team talk

By D. L. Lowrie
TBC executive director

Team effort led to GSMO record

Bethlehem Church in Weakley Association made my day on June 25. This will come as a surprise to them. When their treasurer sent their gift to the Golden State Missions offering, it pushed our gifts over the \$1 million mark, and over our goal for the year. This is the only financial goal we have met since I have been in this office. My heart leaped with gratitude!

It has been a team effort. The Woman's Missionary Union of Tennessee led the way in promoting the offering. Hundreds of good pastors added their words of encouragement. Then thousands of concerned people gave their offering through their churches. None of the gifts measured real large, but when we put them together, they became a significant contribution to the work of the Lord in this state. This is the way it is with an effort.



We could easily double this contribution. All we need is for every church to join the Golden State Missions Offering team. Hundreds of our churches still do not participate in this worthy effort. This offering is doing more to enable the beginning of new churches than anything else we are doing. Let me encourage you to become a member of this winning team. □

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

I especially commend your paper for the priority it gives to reporting about missions overseas. I know this helps keep missions in the forefront for leaders and others. It also helps me to pray, because we tend to get so little news from around the world when we are living outside the U.S.

Please thank Tennessee Baptists for the gift of the subscription.

Diana Clark
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Mrs. Clark's letter of concern and appreciation can be multiplied many times over. Missionaries seem to want to know about missions in other places — and about Southern Baptist news in general. Tennessee Baptists have opportunity to help other missionaries receive the paper by airmail — thus making the news current. Contact the *Baptist and Reflector* office in Brentwood. — Editor

Keep praying

After all your help, Tennessee Baptists, we are thrilled to tell you that a Lakota Sioux pastor named Mike Merival is living in the parsonage at Sharps Corner and has been called as pastor. His wife Jimmy is pianist and organist.

After three years of living as missionaries on a reservation, we are slowly adjusting to city life again. The Lord hasn't given Bill a call to a church yet.

We saw many pastors in the Dakota Fellowship and Northern Plains with little or no insurance coverage and in isolated places where their wives couldn't find a job with health benefits. Thank God. He is so great and will take care of us.

The Sioux at Sharps Corner depended on the kindness of God's people for much of their wardrobe and linens and we hope you will continue to supply those needs for them.

We could not have grown from five to 50 in three years without your help and we thank you from the bottom of our heart. We have come back home awaiting our next field of service. Pray for us.

Bill and Marge Ellsworth
3 Frederick
Belleville, Ill. 62223

Grateful for camps

I want to say a word about our Baptist youth and children's camps at Camp Linden and Camp Carson sponsored by the Discipleship Training Department. For several years youth from the various churches my husband has pastored have gone to Linden for this camp. I have had the pleasure of teaching on the staff in the youth section with Mary Allen.

Having been there, I want to recommend this camp to all our churches. We don't realize what a valuable resource we have! The camp is wonderful — our youth always come home revived, with assurance that they are not alone as they live for Christ each day. It offers so much quality — and you don't have to go far to get it!

Pastor, youth and children's worker, consider these great camps. Our youth are so excited about attending again this year. They know a good thing when they see it!

Brenda Parsons
1873 Kimbrough
Covington 38019

Likes CBF

On a recent Wednesday night members of our church who had attended the Southern Baptist Convention gave a report to the church. It was not a happy report. They were particularly disturbed by the political atmosphere which prevailed and by the lack of respect shown to Dr. Parks. I guess you could say they felt like aliens in a strange land.

Their report stood in stark contrast to the one given by members who attended the General Assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship a few weeks earlier. Their report was filled with glowing accounts of the worship, mission emphasis, music, break-out sessions, etc., but they were most impressed by the atmosphere of love and spirit of cooperation. They couldn't say enough about the genuine fellowship they enjoyed with other Christians from all over the USA.

Having experienced this fellowship myself, I am excited about the future of the CBF. I am also happy that Tennessee Baptists will soon be able to enjoy this fellowship here at home. Free and faithful Baptists from across the state will gather at Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville at 7:30 p.m., July 24, or organize a state chapter of the CBF. We will

worship, dialogue, and fellowship. We expect it to be a happy as well as a historic gathering.

Bill Savell
1019 West Broadway
Maryville 37801

No politicians

We, the deacons of First Church, Rockwood, voted at our regular monthly meeting in May to send this resolution to you opposing the invitation of politicians to speak to the Southern Baptist Convention in annual session. We especially deplore this during an election year.

Although we feel a simple greeting from a home state politician would be proper, anything more than this greeting sends the image throughout America that the Southern Baptist Convention endorses the politician and his party. We believe this gives undue recognition to politics as opposed to honoring our Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe that discerning our Lord's will should be foremost in every situation including politics. We are not opposed to any specific politician. But with abundant religious speakers to choose from throughout our convention, we feel that it would be much more appropriate to give this time to them, rather than allow our annual meeting to be construed as a political rally.

We have no other motive but to see our Lord glorified.

Ken Broyles, chairman
First Church
P.O. Box 54
Rockwood 37854

Seeking pastor

Our church is located in a military community in north-eastern Italy. A pastor search committee has been formed, and is seeking an individual who, in accordance with the Lord's will, desires to be the spiritual leader of our congregation. Our pastor

resigned effective June 30.

We are a congregation of 70 members, with an average attendance of 125. The average age of the church members is 26 to 28. Our budget for the current year is \$52,000. Aviano Baptist Church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English language), which is aligned with the European Baptist Federation and the Baptist World Alliance. We give to the Cooperative Program. Our church is founded on traditional Southern Baptist principles and doctrine, though many members have other than Baptist backgrounds.

Inquiries should be addressed to:

Donald F. Thompson
PSC 54 Box 1474
APO AE 09601

Seeking director

The Executive Director Search Committee of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention is seeking recommendations for the position of executive director.

A letter of recommendation along with a personal profile of the person recommended may be sent to the address below. Recommendations will be received through Sept. 1.

Larry Creamer
Search Committee Chairman
P.O. Box 291
Fort Atkinson, Wis. 53538

Pastor for Homer

Faith Baptist Church of Homer, Alaska, is seeking a full-time pastor. Candidates who feel God is calling them to work in Alaska, are asked to send a resume plus a taped video of a regular Sunday service, during which they preach a message, to the address below:

Lowell Krise, chairman
Faith Baptist Pulpit Committee
P.O. Box 1405
Homer, Alaska 99603

What is a furlough? missionary asks

What is a furlough? We have ended our second one and still haven't come up with an accurate definition. It surely hasn't been the extended vacation that our Chilean friends thought we were having! An MK (missionary kid) once said that furlough is a lot like driving through a car wash — maybe it is!

It's something you look forward to for a long time: It's hugging parents, brothers and sisters; it's visiting relatives, meeting a new nephew. It's updating old friendships and making new ones.

It's speaking to Southern Baptists about the ministry we share. It's catching up on the latest electronic novelties. It's having a physical, two unexpected surgeries, thanking God

for his care and for insurance.

It's living out of a Nissan and a suitcase for 28,000 miles. It's eating at Wendy's, Ryan's, Taco Bell, and Red Lobster! It's trying to communicate in English.

It's standing in awe in a sanctuary where thousands meet to worship, trying not to be resentful remembering those in humble house churches overseas. It's realizing again the diversity in God's Kingdom. It's trusting him to provide for our needs.

It's learning we aren't indispensable but privileged to be God's servants in Chile!

So we have enjoyed this "whatever it was" and are ready for "work" again. As we packed our things to ship

overseas, some personal, most for our work, we thought of each of you. We thank God for the time shared and wish in many cases it could have been more. We thank Him for your supportive spirit and thoughtful concern. It has been a blessing to meet so many wonderful folks in churches where we have shared the challenges of God's work. Thank you; you have encouraged us!

As we "go down, please hold the ropes" by involving yourself, your church, Sunday School class, or prayer group in praying for world missions. Pray for our Chilean Baptist friends and their needs.

Steve and Mary Jo Cooke
Casilla 474-11
Santiago, Chile

Change necessary, but not always radical

There is more than one definition for the good word "change." It could mean "to make different in some particular." It could mean "to make radically different," or "to replace with another."

The new design for the *Baptist and Reflector* is by choice — we have tried to give it a changed appearance.

We used all three of the definitions listed — but not to their fullest. For example, the front page masthead is radically different, other parts of the paper are different to some degree — but we have not replaced the paper with another.

We appreciate our readers' patience in waiting for the new design. In January we announced that a revised look was in the offing. Since then, the staff has spent several hours each week in putting together some needed changes as we expanded on our features and readability.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

First comments are gratifying. With varying degrees, readers have expressed approval of the "overhauling" process. Timeworn processes and designs eventually need thorough study and sometimes a severe rebuilding.

We have begun that, and these first few

issues will reflect some ongoing minor changes. The staff has tried to present readers with a clean, crisp, bright, and newsy paper. News is categorized with special identification. There is a new column by Fred Wood of Memphis emphasizing Scripture, prayer, a timely thought, and humor.

From comments received thus far, we are at least partially successful. There are plans to continue the process until all the ideas involved in the half-year study are in place. The major ideas already been implemented, but as we move forward there will be others meant to compliment those being used.

Along with the new design, we pledge to continue our promise of honest reporting, writing with integrity, being open to our readers, representing all Tennessee Baptists — and fulfilling our purpose.

To attain these goals, we need three things. We need more readers — not so we can reach a lofty number of subscribers as a matter of vanity, but to reach them because Baptists cooperate better when they are informed.

We need more reporters — and they are in our Baptist churches. News from the churches about people at work is the best news for filling the pages. And we need more opportunities to visit with pastors and churches to

share ideas and just to become better acquainted.

There have been jokes about the newspaper motto of "All the news that's fit to print." Some pundit has put it another way: "All the news that fits, we print."

Neither is our singular goal. We seek to provide Tennessee Baptists with news and features and other facts they need to make proper decisions, information that enhances the Christian life, and news that explores Baptist life in homes, churches, associations, conventions, and in the workplace.

That has not changed. We want to continue providing a paper so dependable that our readers will not have to seek "a second opinion" about Baptist life and work — as some other papers would suggest.

The paper has no private agenda. The staff strives to report and record accurately under God's direction. We will never try to sway our readers' opinions. Even in editorials, the editor understands that readers make their own decisions. We try to supply them with facts needed for those decisions.

As we continue developing our new design — we feel it's necessary to reaffirm these goals to our readers.

one word more
by Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Watch the packaging

Modern packaging not only displays the best of industrial wisdom, it often subjects the "opener" to bouts of extreme futility.

Most of us have experienced the feeling of doom when working with a tight deadline for assembling a piece of furniture or a bicycle at Christmas time. We fret about the dubious rationality of the instructions — but usually we are already frustrated by having to open the box containing the parts.

Skinned knuckles and broken nails don't help us celebrate the joy of Christmas, a birthday, or an anniversary.

But the problem is insidious. It never goes away. We are victimized all through the year — and not just on special occasions.

How about cereal boxes? It seems that each one has a different way of opening — and the

instructions are composed so that the innocent user is made to doubt his sanity if he can't open the box in ten seconds.



ALLEN

The inner package provides us with an almost insurmountable task. After having no success with scissors or knives, I have resorted to using the teeth. You know, the old biting method.

And why do we have a box that's too large for the little container inside? I know the product is packaged by weight, not size, but a smaller box would be a more reliable indication as to the size of what you buy.

I have a theory about paper napkins and towels also. The folks who fill the dispensers must be paid by the numbers they can stuff into the container. Have you noticed how hard it is to get just one napkin? And you may have to tear several only to end up with a handful.

Much of what we do in the marketplace is a reflection of how we really think, believe, act. So we should be careful of our packaging.

The package we present to the world should not bear false advertising. We should live out what we believe and know is true. We should express the Savior to a lost world as the only answer to life's problems, and the way to salvation.

The product should not be so tightly packaged that it is not readily available. The life we live should not be stuffed so tightly in one mold that it tears apart when exposed to the world.

Christians must let the joy of life in Christ be dominant. What the witnesses see — is usually what they get. Don't hide it! □

Bible has answers to questions from children

By Chip Alford
Sunday School Board
For Baptist Press

DALLAS — "How do I know God loves me?"

"Sometimes I feel ugly. How can I like myself the way God made me?"

"Does God really hear my prayers?"

According to author and lecturer Linda McGinn, these are just a few examples of the kind of questions children ask about God. And while most Christian parents

are eager to provide helpful answers, many aren't sure how to explain the sometimes difficult concepts to their children, she said.

"Some adults just don't know how to relate to their children, to bring Biblical concepts down to their level. And some just don't know the Bible very well themselves," said McGinn, a Presbyterian pastor's wife and mother of three.

"But it is so important that we, as Christian parents, provide clear and accurate information about who God is and how he cares for each and every one of us. If we can communicate God's love to our children at an early age, it is something they will carry with them for the rest of their lives."

McGinn was first approached about providing help to parents while leading a women's Bible study in North Carolina. After conducting research for several months, she compiled a list of the 40 most-asked questions children have about God and how he relates to their lives.

After dividing the questions into six categories — questions about feelings, family and friends, actions, attitudes, faith and the person of God — she began developing practical, easy-to-explain answers based on Scripture verses and Biblical principles. The result was the book, "The Bible Answers Questions Children Ask: A Resource for Caring Adults," released earlier this year by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press.

"I really wanted to write a book that parents could go to when their child asks a question they don't quite know how to answer," explained McGinn while attending the 1992 Christian Booksellers Association International Conven-

tion. "For each of the 40 questions raised in the book, I give an adult response, a list of applicable Scripture verses, and the implications the issue being raised may have for older children."

Based on her research, McGinn said children most often ask questions related to their feelings.

"They want to know if they have worth and if God loves them. It all relates to their sense of self-esteem. It is so important that parents show and explain God's love to their children. That really provides a foundation they can build on for the rest of their lives."

When answering children's questions, McGinn said timing also is very important.

"If possible, spend time with them the moment they ask that question because they may never

ask it again. If parents can stop and relate the Word of God to their children's life experiences as they happen, they will begin to see that God is actively participating in their everyday lives."

When it isn't possible to provide an immediate answer, McGinn said parents should at least acknowledge the question and promise to talk later with the child about the issue.

"Sometimes a child is afraid to ask a question about a particular issue or they don't know how to verbalize what they are thinking, so they ask another related question. Determining what is really going on with your child requires taking time out to sit down and discuss issues. You really have to invest yourselves. Making the Bible real to them, that's what it's all about." □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership — July



16 — Birthday blessings for missionaries Robert Bates in Concepcion and Donna Mae Bobby in Valdivia who has just returned from furlough.

17 — Missionary Jim Dobbins who is observing his birthday today in Santiago.

18 — Traveling mercies for the Acteen Activator team which returns to Tennessee today and for a BSU team which is arriving in Santiago.

19 — Ronnie Hawkins, Memphis State BSU director who is serving as a leader for four BSU students ministering on an evangelism team in Santiago.

20 — Missionary Bob Bates who has been very ill in Chile. He is scheduled to return to the United States today for further diagnosis.

21 — Angela Potter, Eudora Church, Memphis; Don Price, Mt. Olivet Church, Mt. Juliet; Dan Russell, New Midway Church, Kingston; and Christiana Beeler, Niles Ferry Church, Greenback, as they share the message of Christ with Chileans in need of a Savior.

22 — Lesa Bray, a missionary home evangelist serving in Curico with her husband, Richard, and two daughters.

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

Start with a smile

Bobby said, "I'm glad you came to visit. Now daddy can do the trick he said he would do." The lady replied sweetly, "What is the trick?" Bobby answered, "He said that if you came, he'd climb the wall."

Take this truth with you today

Some people "drive us nuts" just by speaking to us. What do we do with them? Perhaps we should avoid them or at least get away from them as soon as possible. If this is not possible, try to learn to live with them. Maybe we ought to learn more about them so as to understand why they act the way they do. Finally, or maybe we should have said it first, we can pray for them. Try it today!

Memorize this Scripture

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to be sure I don't irritate other people as much as some people irritate me. □

Oak Ridge group sees 2500 'saved' in Eastern bloc

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

Combining diplomacy with missions, a group of 30 Baptists, including 18 from Central Church, Oak Ridge, shared their faith in the former Eastern bloc and negotiated a proposed sister/city relationship with Obninisk, Russia.

The citizens of Oak Ridge and Obninisk discovered they share many experiences — one being that both live near the site of nuclear and weapons research. A delegation, led by Ron Herrod, pastor of the Oak Ridge church, met with the mayor and city officials in Obninisk to build on that commonality.

Until one year ago, the city was closed to all but a few select Russian officials because of the research conducted there during the Cold War, reported Herrod. "We were some of the first foreign visitors," he said.

The group also met with great success in evangelistic work. In Orninisk and four other cities in Russia and Romania they witnessed about 2500 people making decisions to accept the Christian faith. The group distributed about 30,000 Bibles during the 13-day trip.

"Many of the people we witnessed to had never heard of Jesus Christ in their whole life," said Jim Russell, another member of Central Church.

With assistance from Rick Amato Ministries based in Michigan, Herrod and four other ministers led the evangelistic efforts with the aid of interpreters. They conducted an evangelistic service in a Moscow hotel. About 2000 Russians attended the meeting and about 500 made faith decisions, Russell reported.

Russians and Romanians consider Americans their friends and

were very interested in learning about Christianity, said Ruth Land, another member of the group from Central Church. The people, even the young people, are sad, she said. They need spiritual hope, said Land. "They listened and they wanted to hear more," she explained.

The time of religious freedom in these countries must be seized, reported Herrod, because it may slip away again. The country's economic infrastructure is very weak, he noted.

In Moscow's Red Square and on streets in the cities, teams from the group would sing, preach, and witness to individuals with the help of interpreters.

Several groups of scientists also

heard the Gospel. Marshall Adams of Central Church, an environmentalist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, met with two groups of peers in Orninisk. He presented a Christian perspective of science and religion to students at the Institute of Environmental and Biomedical Sciences. He also lectured at the Russian Academy of Sciences.

One outgrowth of the proposed partnership between the cities is already planned by the scientists in both countries, reported Adams. They hope to conduct collaborative research and a workshop in 1993 on the Chernobyl project, he noted.

Group members saw evidences of the Chernobyl radiation leak

when visiting an orphanage, said Land. The children there suffered from a lack of medicine and equipment if based on American standards, she said. Central Church members plan to meet some of those needs, she added.

Russell, who is an environmental engineer in Oak Ridge, noted one problem facing new Christians in the Russian cities was the need for more evangelistic churches. Churches endorsed by the former communist regime are avoided by many who have embraced the new democracy, explained Russell.

Romanians, who have had religious freedom for about two years, are starting churches, added Russell. He visited a new

church for gypsies there, he reported.

In Orninisk, he continued, a city of 106,000, only one church — Russian Orthodox — is meeting. However, city officials asked the Baptists to provide theologians to teach in their university, to help them start churches, and develop Christian curriculum for schools, Russell noted.

The experience was one of dichotomy for Russell, he said. People were saved who don't have much hope for deeper discipleship, he explained. He hopes to return to teach and assist some new Christians toward a deeper spiritual walk, he said.

"I've got a very deep desire to do missions," he explained. □

Chaplain Wilson leaves military reluctantly

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

During his youth, Americans were still reeling from World War II. When the Tennessee pastor received a request for aid from an Army National Guard unit, he

was glad to help. Twenty-seven years later, Col. Chaplain Hoyt Wilson is glad he did. He wouldn't retire if military restrictions allowed it, Wilson said.

Wilson noted most Americans of his generation believe the

stronger the military, the better the chance to retain peace in America, he said.

So it was natural for him to enroll in R.O.T.C. training while a student at Murray (Ky.) State University. When the national guard unit asked him to lead worship services, he jumped at the opportunity.

Patriotism is one reason for his investment. Also, it was a ministry, said the pastor of First Church, Lexington.

The duties of a chaplain are very similar to that of a pastor — leading worship, witnessing, visiting the sick, visiting families, said Wilson.

That's exactly what he did, but for hundreds of men. During the two-week annual summer tour, Wilson and the 12 chaplains he supervised would lead about 52 worship services in "every conceivable" environment, noted Wilson. He has led worship in soaring temperatures on a parking lot for a convoy and in a field environment. Attending were as few as five soldiers to as many as 50.

The opportunities for ministry

are vast, he added. He and his staff have distributed as many as 1600 New Testaments during a summer tour.

Wilson also has been flown by helicopter to visit a soldier or family after an accident or because of an illness or death. Although few soldiers get hurt in accidents related to military service during peace time, they experience the tragedies of life like civilians, explained Wilson. That's when chaplains can minister, he added.

He'll miss his many friends at the 30th Separate Armored Brigade in Jackson, noted Wilson. A "strong bond" exists among the soldiers, he explained.

"It's a viable ministry" which offers a "change a pace," said Wilson.

"The best training in leadership that I've ever gotten is in the military," he reported.

Wilson, who has served the guard in Columbia and Trenton in addition to Jackson, was honored by his brigade and other guard officials last month at brigade headquarters in Jackson. □



BRIGADIER GENERAL Argo, left, Commander of the 30th Separate Armored Brigade, presents a certificate of appreciation to Col. Chap. Hoyt Wilson during ceremonies honoring him on his retirement.

Work in Chile 'adventure of lifetime'

Belmont University

Where in a single night can a person fly over both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, go from summer to winter, cross the equator, while never leaving America and changing only one hour in time?

Six Baptist mission volunteers sponsored by Belmont University School of Religion found out in a recent overnight flight to Santiago, Chile.

A team of six — five students and one professor from Belmont's School of Religion — left for Chile May 29 and returned June 10. Marty Bell, assistant professor of religion at Belmont and leader of the team, described the experience as "the adventure of a lifetime."

Four team members worked with the youth at the Baptist

Academy in Temuco, leading in a week of spiritual development. The team reported several youth made decisions to accept Christ as Lord and Savior. Those working at the academy were Sarah Bedenbaugh, Chestnut Ridge Church, Laurens, S.C.; Twyla Fagan, First Church, College Grove; Charlie McGee, Harpeth Heights Church, Nashville; and Kathy Sharp, Grandview Church, Nashville.

Two team members worked with missionary Richard Poe, preaching and visiting in a revival at the Baptist church at Diego de Almagro. The week resulted in seven professions of faith and 18 rededications, with an average attendance of 40. Those who went to Diego de

Almagro were Bell, a member of First Church, College Grove; and Nathan Holloway, pastor of Wrigley Church, Lyles.

As a result of this experience in Partnership Missions, team members are more seriously considering foreign missions as an option after school, Bell remarked.

"I'm glad that Belmont, the Tennessee Baptist Convention in connection with the Foreign Mission Board, and the Baptists of Chile made this experience possible for our students. Because of this positive experience, the School of Religion is going to try to make this sort of opportunity available every year," he said. □

BSU heads named for two colleges

Elaine Pugh of Kingston has been named Baptist Student Union director at Roane State Community College and Scott Payne of Manchester will lead the BSU at East Tennessee State University. The Tennessee Baptist Convention Student Ministries Department announced the appointments, which are effective Aug. 1.

Pugh is youth and children's choir director at Riverside Church, Harriman, where her husband, Michael, is minister of music and youth.

Pugh is a graduate of Roane State College and the mother of four children.

Payne has just completed a two-year term as a missionary journeyman in Bangkok, Thailand. Prior to that, he was BSU director at Motlow State Community College, Tullahoma,



PAYNE



PUGH

and BSU intern at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City. He also has served as a summer youth minister in two churches and as a BSU student missionary in Africa, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, and Nashville.

Payne is a graduate of Motlow State Community College; Austin Peay State University, Clarksburg; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He is married to Valerie Odie Payne. □

Every child is a 'winner' in state Bible drills

By Lornie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

HARRIMAN — "Attention, present Bibles . . ."

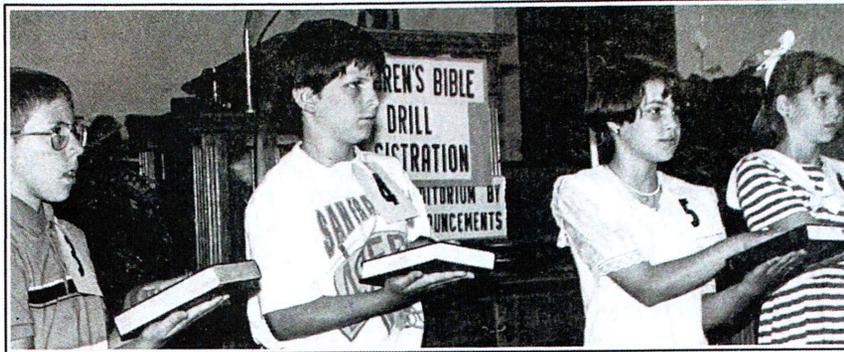
And, with those words, about 1146 Tennessee Baptist children, grades four through six, were ready to respond to the command during state Children's Bible Drills (CBD) held earlier this summer.

In all, nearly 1350 children participated in CBD either at the state, association, or church level.

Children's Bible Drill at the state level is different from drills for youth. In Youth Bible Drill, a winner is selected from each of the eight regions along with an at-large driller. For children, however, everyone who participates at the state level already is a winner.

"We do not want to put children in the position of being the very best in a group. That puts a lot of pressure on them," observed Cindy Franks, program associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Discipleship Training Department.

Awards for children are state participants (five or more mistakes), state winner (three to four mistakes), and state winner superior (two or less mistakes).



MARYVILLE DRILLERS, from left, Michael McGraw, Cade Taylor, Emily Miller, and Leslie Talbott, all from East Maryville Church, prepare to respond to a command.

"It's not the seal for being a state winner or state winner superior that is important," Franks maintained. "It's what the children know about their Bible that is important," she said.

CBD is much more than simply being able to find books in the Bible. Children must be prepared to quote verses from memory from the reference, complete verses of the Bible with only the first few words given, and find key passages, such as the Ten Commandments — and each command must be carried out within ten seconds.

"The purpose of Children's Bible Drills is to help children increase in knowledge of the Bible, develop skills in effectively handling the Bible, and begin developing memory skills," Franks said.

During the East Tennessee region which attracted about 150 drillers and for the first time was held at two locations — Trenton Street and Lee's Village churches — leaders reflected on the drills.

Children learn Scripture and the drill provides them discipline to train themselves on how to use the Bible, said Dale Finger of Oak Street Church, Maryville, who has worked with Bible drillers for about 25 years.

Gladys Manis of Calvary Church, Lenoir City, called CBD "one of the most beneficial things we have in our churches."

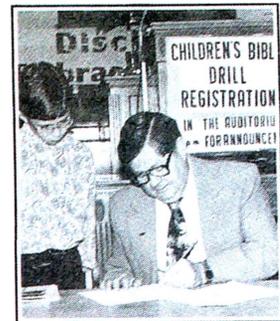
In addition to teaching children Scriptures, CBD teaches them poise and helps them gain confidence to participate before a group of people, Manis observed.

Manis agrees with the non-competitive nature of the state drills for children. "I try to stress it is a measure of what they are able to do, not what others can do," she said.

Ken Talbott of East Maryville Church has seen both his children and grandchildren go through the drills. "It teaches them how to use the Bible, plus the Scriptures they learn will be with them from now on," he said.

Big Emory Association Director of Missions J. W. Bargiol agreed. "The seeds planted will come back to bear fruit down the road," he predicted.

Bargiol also noted the drills foster adult involvement through leadership and parent participation. Sylvia Stone, whose son par-

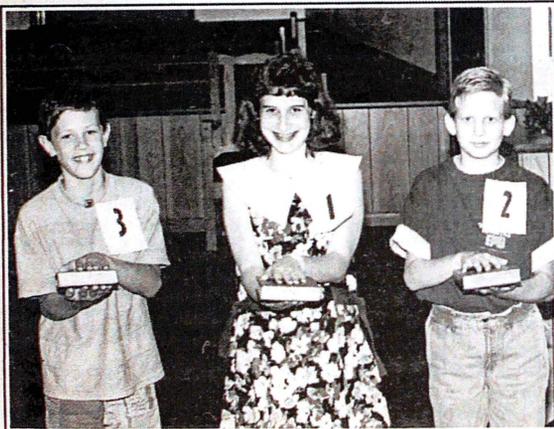


JOSHUA LANE of Bethel Church, Clinton, registers with Ken McMullen of Riverside Association.

TBC's Discipleship Training Department, has been active with Bible drills for 33 years. "God wants boys and girls to fall in love with His word," Hall said.

He observed there "seems to be a hunger for the Word now. Churches are taking more of an interest in helping boys and girls

"It's not the seal for being a state winner or state winner superior that is important. It's what the children know about their Bible that is important."



PRACTICING FOR the East Tennessee region were, from left, Jonathan Woodard, Melanie Gaspie, and Aaron Hardin of Union Church, Knoxville.

participated in the competition, said Matthew was a "winner" before he came to the state drill because of the study he did.

What's more, "I'm a winner too," she declared, noting the work required parent involvement as well. Learning the verses and the Bible is not "something you do overnight. You have to keep at it," Stone said. The Stones are members of Calvary Church, Knoxville, although they are currently attending First Church, Alcoa, where her husband, Dan, is interim minister of music.

Dale Finger and his wife, Sue, agreed. "The key is parents working with the child. It takes one on one work and the parents must be willing to sacrifice their time," the couple agreed.

The tremendous amount of work needed to participate in drills is good for the children, maintained Pastor Hartsell McCurry of Lee's Village Church.

"It teaches children discipline and commitment to the Lord. If we don't give them the word of God, their minds will be filled with things of the world," he observed.

Although the number of participants in CBD was down slightly from last year, there still appears to be a great deal of interest in Children's Bible Drills, leaders agreed.

The interest varies from each group of children, Franks observed.

She also noted demographics are a factor. In some years, there are not as many children in a particular age group, she said.

Johnnie Hall, director of the

learn the Bible."

Hall agreed with all the benefits of CBD cited by others, but he noted one more important aspect.

By helping children to learn their Bible and memorize Scriptures, "we are planning for eternity," he concluded.

Tennesseans aid Brotherhood work

Brotherhood Commission

MEMPHIS — A group of Tennesseans will soon travel to the Commonwealth of Independent States to assist in Project Brotherhood, long-term emergency relief project initiated by the Baptist World Alliance and coordinated by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Judy Carley and Tom Ferrell, both of Memphis, Roger R. and Juanita "Nita" Jones of Germantown, and Bill Griffith of Cookeville comprise the 13th of 17 teams to assist in distributing more than 570 tons of USDA surplus food to an estimated 40,000 Russian families on behalf of Brother's Brother Foundation, a non-profit relief organization based in Pittsburg, Pa.

Griffith is a General Sessions judge for the juvenile court. He and his wife Naomi are members of Bangham Heights Church, where he is pastor.

Carley and Ferrell are members of Eastwood Church, Memphis. The Joneses are members of Germantown Church, Germantown, where they are Sunday School class officers.

Children's Bible Drills — 1992 State Finals

Region	Location	Participants
North Central	First Church, Crossville	80
Southeastern	First Church, Cleveland	104
Northeastern	First Church, Rogersville	98
Eastern	Trenton Street Church	66
	Lee's Village Church	76
Southwestern	First Church, Jackson	162
	West Jackson Church	242
Northwestern	First Church, Paris	96
South Central	First Church, Winchester	91
Central	Springfield Church	131

Fifty-five associations and 290 churches were represented on the state level.

Pastor of Johnson City church leads in Sunday School work

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

JOHNSON CITY — Holston Association Pastor Kenneth Kyker of Skyline Heights Church has made a lasting impression on Greer Ruble.

Ruble, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Sunday School Department, recently called Kyker at his home to inform him Skyline Heights was the first church in Tennessee this year to achieve "standard" Sunday School status. A "standard" Sunday School is one that meets certain requirements established by the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Ruble explained.

Instead of relaxing at home watching a television show or old movie, Kyker was viewing a Sunday School growth spiral video.

"If a man is at home watching growth spiral videos, that tells me he has a desire to grow a larger church," Ruble said.

But for Kyker, anything related to Sunday School is not that unusual.

"Sunday School is very dear to me," he said, relating he has gone to Sunday School since he was a baby.

At the age of 17, Kyker became superintendent of Sunday School at his home church of New Victory near Jonesborough.

After a stint in the military, Kyker moved to Johnson City

where he joined Skyline Heights. He later became Sunday School superintendent and a deacon there as well.

In 1965 Kyker answered the call to ministry. He served as pastor of several Tennessee churches before returning to Skyline Heights 18 months ago to become pastor.

His approach to Sunday School did not change when he became a pastor.

"I believe strongly in the Sunday School as a way to reach and teach people," Kyker affirmed.

In addition to teaching and reaching people, Sunday School can also be used for discipling, training leadership, and missions. "You can do it all through Sunday School," he acknowledged.

Kyker believes pastors must be involved in all facets of Sunday School and should promote it from the pulpit.

On his second Sunday as pastor of Skyline Heights he began a pastor's class and has taught since. He does not view teaching before his sermon as troublesome. "Teaching gets me going on Sundays," he said.

As evidenced by his "home study," the Johnson City pastor also is a firm believer in training.

"I have tried to attend all the training events I could over the years," he said, strongly affirm-



PASTOR KENNETH KYKER, right, goes over records with Wilbur Laws, Sunday School director at Skyline Heights Church in Johnson City.

ing Sunday School Week at Ridgecrest, N.C., a conference center operated by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Taking workers to Ridgecrest for this training is "as good or better than a revival because it gets the workers all fired up for the new church year," he said.

The efforts of Kyker and his

Sunday School leaders have paid off at Skyline Heights.

Last year the church ranked 20th among TBC churches with a net percentage increase of Sunday School enrollment (102.65 percent) and fourth among churches with a net increase of 271 in enrollment for the 1990-91 church year.

Increased enrollment has led to

increased attendance, which, in turn, has created the need for additional space. Kyker said, adding the church is exploring the possibility of a building program.

In order to have a successful Sunday School program, a "good core" of workers is essential. Kyker affirmed. He noted that evangelism and fellowship are carried out through the Sunday School program.

"The Sunday School workers are an extension of me. I can't keep up with 830 people (present Sunday School enrollment), but if the Sunday School is organized we can do it," Kyker said.

He acknowledged Sunday School is only one of several "entry points" into a church, but he holds strongly that it is "the tried and proven way" of reaching people and keeping them in church.

"Special events may help (to bring people to church), but Sunday School is the established method. It won't go out of style," Kyker predicted. □

Parents should be first role models for children, Tennessean tells conferees at Glorieta center

By Linda Lawson
Sunday School Board
For Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Asked to narrow a list of five priorities to two, most Christians choose items related to faith and family.

However, a time inventory of most families shows members spend little time together in any activity, almost none for family worship and Bible study.

"In a lot of families, we have left Biblical instruction and teaching of Christian values to the churches," Cindy Waugh told participants in a conference on family Bible study and worship in the '90s. "It needs to start at home. The main responsibility should come from the parents."

Waugh, a layperson from First Church, Franklin, led daily family enrichment sessions during the July 4-10 Discipleship Training Leadership Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

Family worship at home should not be thought of as an hour-long worship service, Waugh emphasized. Times may be as brief as three minutes, but no longer than 15.

Common mistakes parents make which may lead to discontinuation of family worship, Waugh said, include trying to cover too much material, feeling guilty when they miss a day or two, choosing boring material, or feeling every member must be present every day.

Ideally, Waugh said families conduct worship times in which older members share how they came to know Christ as their Savior. Those who are Christians can lead those who are not to

become Christians at the appropriate time.

Ideally, in a two-parent home both parents are equally committed to Bible study and worship in the home.

When one parent is unwilling to participate in family worship, Waugh listed seven suggestions to the other parent:

- Don't force the issue.
- Wait for the appropriate time to encourage involvement.
- Discover what seems to be threatening about the activity.
- Help eliminate the fear of failure.
- Don't pout or nag.
- Establish a wholesome atmosphere with your positive attitude.
- Set up a worship time and place for the rest of the family that will not be offensive to the other partner.

Waugh listed four walls of a Christian home, beginning with righteousness.

"We as parents need to be the first role models for our children," she said.

The wall of reverence should include teaching beliefs and values through a Godly lifestyle and modeling Bible study and prayer. "Help your child with Sunday School preparation," she urged.

Regulation should include discipline, establishing clear family rules, and appropriate punishments, Waugh said. And parents should communicate respect for the Lord's name, the Lord's day, and the Lord's house.

"There is a certain respect and reverence that needs to come when we go into God's house," she said. "We can be reverent without being solemn or acting like we're going to a funeral." □

In addition to family devotions which parents should strive to hold 80 to 90 percent of the time, Waugh said family worship may include seizing teachable moments with children and family activity times.

She cited resources such as the book *Families Planning for Bible Study and Worship* by Harry Lucenay, pastor of First Church, San Antonio, Texas, and published by the Sunday School Board's Convention Press.

Also, the Holman Family Worship Bible includes family worship suggestions and songs. Several SSB periodicals — *Home Life, Living with Preschoolers, Living with Teenagers, Open Windows and encounter!* — have devotional thoughts and worship suggestions. □

National meeting for the blind is canceled

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A national meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of the Blind Aug. 14-16 in Nashville has been canceled, according to the organization's president, Charles Couey of Nashville. Couey is a member of Park Avenue Church.

Low registration, Couey speculated, may have been caused by the nation's sluggish economy.

Couey said he hopes the conference will hold a meeting by next spring to increase involvement in SBC affairs of an estimated 45,000 visually impaired Southern Baptists. □

Find the trees

By D. A. Stone

Did you know that there are more than 300 references to trees and specific kinds of wood in the Bible? Find 38 different kinds of trees here, both Biblical and others, by looking up, down, for-

ward, backward, and diagonally through the maze.

The puzzle solution will appear in the July 22 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*. □

Apple	Cottonwood	Hickory	Poplar
Alum	Cypress	Juniper	Sequoia
Bamboo	Ebony	Locust	Shittah
Ban Yan	Elm	Maple	Sycamore
Beech	Eucalyptus	Oak	Tamarack
Birch	Fig	Oil	Teil
Box	Fir	Olive	Willow
Cedar	Green Bay	Palm	Wormwood
Cherry	Hazel	Pear	
Chestnut	Hemlock	Pine	



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■ the churches

■ A Sunday School revival will be held in Dyer Association Aug. 9-14 in the gymnasium of Dyersburg State Community College. Leon Kilbreth will lead the sessions and Les Synder and his sons will provide special music.

■ Revival will be held July 19-22 at Springfield Church, Springfield, with guest evangelist Leonard Markham, pastor of Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville. Fes Robertson will serve as music evangelist.

■ An old-fashioned day of preaching, singing, church history reading, and recognition of former workers was held July 12 at Pleasant Site Church in Shiloh Association in honor of the church's 125th anniversary.

■ Central Church, Martin, observed its 70th anniversary with special services June 14.

■ Members of Jolley Springs Church, Gleason, recently erected a steeple on the church.

■ Two churches in Weakley County Association began revival July 12 which will run through July 17 - New Hope Church with evangelist Jerry Summers and Pleasant View Church with evangelist Glen Stewart. Oak Grove Church, also in Weakley County Association, will hold revival July 19-23 with evangelist Don Short.

■ Members of Lakeview Church, Tiptonville, are in the process of remodeling their aud-

itorium. They recently added a new fellowship building.

■ The congregation of Pleasant Hill Church, Rives, has begun construction on a Family Life Center.

■ Members of Sunswept Church in Beulah Association recently held services in their new building.

■ Homecoming will be held Aug. 2 at Philadelphia Church, Waynesboro. Former pastor Steve Bain will speak. The Christians will perform in the afternoon following a covered dish dinner. Bain also will lead the church in revival Aug. 3-5. Doug Brown is pastor.

■ Bob and Jan Salley, Gospel recording artists from Memphis, will present a program of Gospel music July 19 at 7 p.m. at Lincova Hills Church, Nashville.

■ Bill Enoch will lead revival July 26-Aug. 2 at Hurricane Church, Lebanon.

■ A summer Bible conference was held July 13-15 at Calvary Church, Knoxville. Program leaders included Jerry Falwell, Peter Marshall, Doug Sager, Paige Patterson, O. S. Hawkins, and Rich Amato. Robert C. Burch is pastor.

■ Members of Mt. Horeb Church, Ethridge, will celebrate homecoming Aug. 2 with former pastor Doug O'Brien.

■ Homecoming will be held July 19 at Park Grove Church, Lawrenceburg.

■ Revival will be held July 19-24 at Shop Springs Church, Lebanon, with Carl Price as evangelist and Tommy Nokes leading the music.

■ Several revivals are slated in churches in Salem Association during July and August. Churches, dates, and revival speakers are: Snow Hill, July 30-Aug. 2, Forest Creekmore; First, Smithville, Aug. 30-Sept. 6, Benny Jackson; Sycamore, July 19-25, Donald Owens; Indian Creek, July 20-26, Thurman Seber; Burt, July 19-25, Gary Anderson Sr.; Plainview, Aug. 2-8, Thurman Seber; and First Woodbury, Aug. 9-14, Bill Wilson.

■ Members of First Church, Middleton, will celebrate homecoming Aug. 23. The Heaven Bound Gospel Group will present a concert.

■ Three churches in Harde-man County Association are holding revivals this month. Churches, dates, and revival speakers are: Bethlehem, July 27-31, John Ed Watkins; Essary Springs, July 27-31, Harvey Reeves; and Piney Grove, July 26-31.

■ the work

■ South Tipton County Mission has been established by First Church, Covington. Other churches in Big Hatchie Association are assisting in the new work.

■ A missions team from First Church, Franklin, will serve July 25-31 at Uptown Church in

Chicago.

■ A youth group from Parkway Church, Knoxville, is leading a missions team in Owetona, Minn. The team will return July 25.

■ The youth of Bellevue Church, Nashville, are participating in a missions Bible School sponsored by Nashville Association July 21-24 at Eastland Church and East Park.

■ A missions team from East Commerce Church, Lewisburg, is in Wallingford, Conn., this week, conducting a mission Vacation Bible School at White Oak Church, a new Southern Baptist church in the town of 60,000 people. The team will return July 18.

■ Jada Rufo, a summer missionary from Hawaii, has been called by the congregation of Broadway Church, Maryville, to work with the church's Japanese ministry. Also at the church, the youth recently completed two weeks of Backyard Bible Clubs while working with home missionaries Bill and Cindy Black of Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries in Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg.

■ Alan and Andrea Duncan, missionaries to Southern Africa, have arrived on the field. He considers Cleveland his hometown. His wife is the former Andrea Ogle of Greeneville.

■ Katrina Knox, missionary to Rwanda, is on the field after furlough. She is a native of Columbia.

■ John Robinson, Baptist

representative to Romania, has arrived on the field to begin his first term of service. He considers Waynesboro his hometown.

■ Robert and Janet Ellison, missionaries to Nigeria, are on the field. He is a native of Knoxville.

■ Raouf and Carol Ghattas, Baptist representatives to Lebanon, are on the field. She is the former Carol Brown of Murfreesboro.

■ John and Pat Gordy are now on the field in Southern Africa where he is associate to the area director. He is a native of Chattanooga while she is the former Pat Nelson of Morristown.

■ Paul and Peggy Grossman, missionaries to Burkina Faso, are on furlough in Nashville. They may be written at 1506 Clairmont, Nashville, Tenn. 37215.

■ Nancy Tallent, Baptist representative to Canada, has arrived on the field to begin her first term of service. A former staffer at Carson-Newman College, she considers Maryville her hometown.

■ James and Carole Tanner, missionaries to Zambia, have arrived on the field for their first term of service. Tanner, a native of Ripley, considers Burlison his hometown.

■ The youth of First Church, Maryville, are participating in a missions trip July 18-25 at Springdale Church, Loveland, Ohio. □

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Exercise muscles — physical, spiritual

By David Crocker, pastor
Central Church, Johnson City

In a weak moment I signed up for one of our men's softball teams. My son signed up, and I suppose I thought it would be neat to play together. I never gave actually playing much thought.

Recently Coach Fred Garrett called and said he needed me, to be able to field a team. I donned my best athletic wear and tried to look the part on the field.

But something happened on the way from first base to second base in the second inning. Trying to show those young turks I could still move quickly, I tried to get a good jump on a grounder hit to the right side of the diamond. The mind reacted quickly saying "Move!" but the legs had something to say about that idea. They said, "Not so fast!" The legs won the argument. I pulled a thigh muscle and had to leave the game.

There is a lesson to be learned here. Muscles left unused for a time do not serve us as well as those exercised regularly. We know this with our minds but have to be reminded by our muscles to be truly convinced.

It's the same with our spiritual

muscles. Use them or lose them. Pray regularly or forget how to pray. Let God speak through his Word often or his voice will fall silent. Worship and fellowship with his people faithfully or you will not have that support system when you need it.

For all its fun and nice change-of-pace, summer also has a danger of getting us out of our good routines. Don't let your spiritual muscles get flat this summer. Keep them sharp. You need them and we need you fit. □

Cobb's work ethic is good example

By Ronnie Mitchell, pastor
Graceland Church, Memphis

Most good baseball fans know that Ty Cobb had a lifetime batting average of .367. Ty Cobb has gone down in history as one of the greatest sluggers who ever played the game of baseball. One might think that one of the greatest sluggers in baseball would have had an average of 900 to 1000, somewhere closer to perfect. If Ty Cobb had gotten a base hit every time that he came to bat, he would have had a lifetime batting average of 1000. A .367 average means that Ty Cobb only hit the ball one out of every three times

at bat, and yet he is a baseball legend.

One out of three made Ty Cobb a legend. He did not achieve perfection, nor did he even reach a level of .500, but he is still written into the records of history as one of the greatest. To become a baseball hero, Ty Cobb had to do certain things. He had to spend time in personal improvement. Practice was essential to his success. He had to continually put his uniform on and go to the baseball field. He had to continue to step up to the plate, no matter how he felt, or who the pitcher was for that day. In plain language, Ty Cobb was faithful to the task.

You might have heard Cobb's coach say something like this, "Ty, my friend, stand in there. Always give yourself completely to the work of baseball, and always know that your work is not in vain." Anyone can walk away from the field when things don't go as he or she wants them to go, but a winner stays until the season is over. Anyone can step away from the plate when he or she strikes out one time, never to return for another try, but a winner does not focus on past mistakes. Anyone can hang his or her uniform up because of the threat of defeat, but a true winner

tries again and again. Another coach writes in I Corinthians 15:58: "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor is not in vain."

We need to pattern ourselves after Ty Cobb in our outreach efforts at Graceland. We need to follow coach Paul's words. Many of us try one time and give up. Some of us feel defeated when the world does not respond to us the first time, and some have not come to the plate to bat because they feel that they can't hit the ball. God will bless your efforts! Keep trying! □

Soldier sacrifices all for friend

By John Coates, pastor
Calvary Church, Kingsport

On March 15, 1985, Wayne Alderson, a successful labor negotiator from Pittsburgh, appeared on "The Today Show." It was the 40th anniversary of the first American soldier wounded after crossing the Siegfried Line into Germany in World War II. Mr. Alderson, who was that soldier, has a permanent crease on his

head from the wound he received during the war.

Asked for his most important memory of the occasion, Mr. Alderson replied that it was of a red-headed friend who saved his life that day. Alderson had come face to face with a German soldier. The German threw a hand grenade at Alderson's feet, and then Alderson shot the German.

The grenade exploded almost instantly, sending Alderson to the ground, face down in the mud with a wound to the head. Nearby, a German pillbox began to open fire in his direction, and he knew that if the grenade had not killed him, the machine gun fire would.

But his friend turned him over so he could breathe and threw himself across his body, shielding him from the deadly fire. His friend died protecting him from certain death. With tears welling up in his eyes Alderson said, "I can never forget the person who sacrificed his life to save me. I owe everything to him. I can never forget. — I owe everything."

This is precisely what we should say about Christ, our Lord. He took our place. He died for us. We should never forget that. We owe him everything. □

Volunteers discover soup and crackers are luxury

Baptist Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — A meal of soup and crackers isn't so simple in Haiti these days.

Seven months ago, a can of Campbell's soup cost \$1.35 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital. A one-pound tin of crackers sold for \$3.

Bobby Edwards, a Southern Baptist volunteer in Haiti, now pays \$2 a can for soup. Crackers cost nearly \$6 a box.

Cooking is another matter. When Southern Baptist volunteers Mary and Ed Brentham arrived in Port-au-Prince in February, butane cooking gas was in short supply. "I didn't light my oven for probably a month just trying to save what butane we had," said Mrs. Brentham.

The Brenthams, from Belton, Texas, and Edwards, from Greenville, S.C., are in Haiti helping with a Baptist well-drilling project.

Today fuel is readily available in Haiti, "but we keep hearing rumors ... that we're not going to be able to get fuel, diesel, and cooking gas, as the embargo tightens," said Mrs. Brentham. "But who knows? You don't know from one day to the next. So you

just prepare for what might happen tomorrow."

"What might happen" in Haiti has been a question mark since a military coup last September ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Aristide, a leftist priest, became Haiti's first democratically elected president in 1990 after four decades of dictatorship there.

In protest of the coup, the Organization of American States imposed economic sanctions upon Haiti, already the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The sanctions were designed to grind Haiti's economy to a halt, partly by cutting off fuel supplies. But news reports indicate fuel is getting into Haiti anyway from several countries violating the embargo. And some observers say the sanctions are hurting only the poor.

Meanwhile, the United States and the OAS continue to call for Aristide's return to power. But the military junta is still in control

and Aristide remains in exile in Venezuela.

The military government installed Marc Bazin, a former World Bank official and arch rival of Aristide, as prime minister June 19. During the swearing-in ceremony, boycotted by most foreign diplomats, Bazin promised to give Haitians "work, lower prices, and hope that better days are coming."

The week before Bazin's installation, the value of Haitian currency fell against the U.S. dollar. The decline "has almost cut in half the buying power that people had a year ago," said Southern Baptist missionary Southern Baptist missionary Mark Rutledge, a Tennessee native.

Rutledge and his wife, Peggy, returned to Haiti June 5 after a furlough in California. The only Southern Baptist career missionaries in Haiti, they operate an agricultural project several hours

from the capital. They and Edwards left the country in November when international sanctions were just starting to take hold. Edwards, a volunteer mechanic, went temporarily to the Dominican Republic to work with missionaries there. He returned to Haiti in February when the Brenthams arrived.

"In one sense, life is going on as usual," Edwards said of the atmosphere in the capital during recent days. "The streets are busy. People are out. On the surface things seem to be pretty normal. But I've heard that in different parts of the country people are hurting (economically) more so than others."

In the rural area where the Rutledges live, the price of crops has not increased in proportion to the price of imported goods. As a result, farmers will have to sell crops their families would normally eat in order to buy needed

imported items, such as oil and rice. At the same time good rains in many areas have increased crop yields.

Rutledge hasn't been back long enough to assess what relief needs Baptists might be able to meet. Pockets of real hunger exist in Haiti, "but I've yet to be able to get a grip on it," he said.

Since the Rutledges' return, they also have been evaluating needs for additional missionaries in Haiti. "With the size and amount of work that's done and with us living in the central plateau, it makes it difficult at times," said Rutledge. "It would be good to have a person in Port-au-Prince to work on the things going on here." □

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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Elisha and the Syrian Wars — Bible Book Series for July 19

By Leonard Markham, pastor, Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville

There is no more important sense than sight. Yet, as strange as it seems, just because one has the ability to see doesn't necessarily mean he can interpret what he sees. It is possible to look intently at people and objects and never actually see them. On my desk is a wooden one word sign, "Jesus." Many people who come into the pastor's study and gaze curiously at the sign are unable to read the name in the empty spaces. You see, it is a matter of perspective.

It is possible not to see the obvious. In our Bible study lesson we are confronted with a story detailing a miracle of perspective. A Syrian army had been sent to surround the city of Dothan to take Elisha the prophet captive. Elisha's servant, Gehazi, discovered the presence of the

enemy army. He was filled with fear because he saw no possible way to escape. The servant said to Elisha, "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" (II Kings 6:15). This exchange provided opportunity for one of the most comforting and hopeful verses in the entire Bible. Elisha replied, "Don't be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them," (II Kings 6:16).

This understanding has sustained God's people through the ages. What a comfort it is to know the battles of life are not determined by the size of an army, but by an allegiance to "the Lord of hosts" and Creator of the universe.

The young servant of Elisha did not comprehend the words of the prophet. So Elisha prayed. Notice he prayed for the servant to

understand, not for the enemy to be defeated. He pleaded, "Oh Lord, open his eyes so he may see," (II Kings 6:17). The Lord opened the eyes of the young man and he saw the mountains were surrounded with horses and chariots of fire, all protecting Elisha (v. 17). Gehazi was no

**Basic Passage:
II Kings 6:8-8:29**

longer afraid. Nothing had changed except his perspective.

The need of Christian people today is to have a profound and reverential vision of God. We need to see God as Isaiah saw Him. Isaiah said, "I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted," (Isaiah 6:1). The seraphs said of God, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole

earth is full of His glory," (Isaiah 6:3). Isaiah's vision of God changed his life and his perspective.

The Bible reminds us, "In the last days ... your young men will see visions," (Acts 2:17). The church needs a powerful and holy vision of God. There is no greater force on the face of the earth than a church with vision. Proverbs tells us, "Where there is no vision, the people perish," (Proverbs 29:18). Someone has correctly stated, "Where there is no vision, the people will seek another parish."

Our perspective is so determinative of life. Do we see an enemy to fear, or do we see a God to worship? Do we see people in need of Jesus Christ or do we see people who are to be feared and avoided? In John chapter four we

have an illustration of limited vision. Jesus sat by the well while His disciples went into the city. A woman came from the city. Moments later the disciples returned. They brought food for lunch. Later the woman returned and brought people. Jesus looked up and through the fields came men and women dressed in white, their regular attire. Jesus turned to the disciples and said, "Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (John 4:35). That was a mild reprimand to the disciples! It is as if Jesus had said, "You went into the city and returned with nothing except bread. She went into the city and behold the fields are full of people coming to hear the truth!"

Tennessee Baptists. Jesus wants to know, "What do we see?"

□ Renewal of life — Convention Uniform Series for July 19

By Gary Coltharp, pastor, First Church, Jackson

The inevitable tension between God's wrath and His mercy is nowhere more evident than in Zephaniah 3. The prophet continued his stinging pronouncement of judgment upon Judah in chapter three by focusing upon the one place thought by so many of his contemporaries to be immune to judgment, Jerusalem. Assuming Zephaniah was indeed a great-great grandson of King Hezekiah (ch. 1:1), such a harsh pronouncement against his own city must have been difficult for him to make. Like a broken-hearted parent lamenting the lifestyle chosen by his rebellious adolescent child, he wrote (v. 2): "She listens to no voice,

she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the Lord, she does not draw near to her God."

To be more specific in his

charges, Zephaniah enumerated four categories of community leadership who were misleading the people toward destruction. The officials, those entrusted with top civic leadership, were like "roaring lions" as they preyed upon their subjects and took unfair advantage of their positions. Likewise, the judges, those ruling elders charged with upholding justice and protecting the weak, were described as "evening wolves," promoting darkness rather than light. Even the prophets, the very ones called to tell forth the truths of Yahweh, were themselves arrogantly living a lie as "wanton, faithless men." So, too, the priests, responsible for leading the people to reverence and to worship God, "profaned the sanctuary and did violence to the law," (NIV). Against such degenerate, Godless conditions

Yahweh's wrath would surely come. What a terrible day that day would be (v. 8).

Then suddenly, as if overcome by a fresh cool breeze on an oppressively hot, muggy day, the tone of Zephaniah's prophecy changed. From the fury of God's wrath emerged a word of hope for those who would remain faithful throughout. Perhaps Zephaniah realized the only people listening to his message and taking the Lord's word seriously were those "faithful few." Every pastor knows this experience. He pours out his heart, preaching with conviction what God has shown him to be true. His vision is of a congregation moved to new commitment because of their reawakened devotion to the Lord. He "steps on a few toes" as he calls for response. After the benediction is pronounced the masses yawn and

go home. Lagging behind is one of those faithful souls whose devotion to the things of God is abundantly evident. Through tears, that precious, tenderhearted Christian takes the pastor's hand and promises again, "Pastor, you can count on me." And the pastor knows he can.

**Basic Passage:
Zephaniah 3**

Something of this tenderness emerges in Zephaniah 3:11-13. Here the prophet recognized what the earlier prophets Amos, Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah knew. God honored His devoted people even in the darkest of times. God's remnant of faithful followers would not be put to shame by His reaction to those "proudly exultant ones."

Then came the celebration of God's remnant for the mercy of

their Lord (ch. 3:14-20). This section of Zephaniah is reminiscent of the promise of the risen Christ to the suffering Christians of Smyrna. To the angel of the church in Smyrna, our Lord had said, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10). So through His prophet, Yahweh called forth singing and shouting for the joy coming to those who remained faithful. Note this: Nowhere does God suggest that His faithful will not be touched by the consequences of His wrath on mankind. Rather comes the promise that beyond judgment there is unparalleled joy for those who will honor their covenant with God.

"At that time I will bring you home, at that time when I gather you together ...

When I restore your fortunes before your eyes," (ch. 3:20).

□ Affirming the value of others — Life and Work Series for July 19

By James Hutson, pastor, First Church, Rockwood

This Sunday we continue the story of David. Though he has been anointed to be the next king of Israel, he has not yet reached the throne. After David's victory over Goliath, he found himself facing another giant. This giant was the King of Israel, Saul, who was wild with envy and jealousy. David's popularity filled Saul with such jealousy that he tried to kill David.

For several years David and those men loyal to him lived in the hills of Judea. Finally in desperation, David, his men, and their families left Judea to live among the Philistines in the village of Ziklag. On one occasion David and his men returned to this village to discover the Amalekites had destroyed the city and taken their wives and children as captives to sell into slavery. Our

lesson today is the exciting story of the recapture of the wives and children of David's band.

David asked the Lord for direction — vv. 3-8

Sometimes we rush ahead of the Lord. Other times we drag behind. Here David showed great wisdom. The natural thing to do would be to set off in pursuit of their families. David's soldiers were so grief-stricken they talked about taking their anger out on David (v. 6). David, who had lost two wives himself, took time to seek and know the Lord's will. God told David, "Pursue, for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all" (v. 8).

The pursuit begins — vv. 9-10

David took 600 men and began the pursuit. They had not gone far when 200 of the men were so ex-

hausted they had to drop out. The 400 continued.

Help from a strange source — vv. 10-15

An Egyptian, who was a slave to the Amalekites, was found. He had been left behind by his captors because he was weak. The men of Israel befriended the slave and he led David to the ones they

**Basic Passage:
I Samuel 30**

pursued. Kindness here paid great dividends.

The defeat of the Amalekites — vv. 16-20

Everything that had been carried off by the Amalekites was recovered. The enemy was thoroughly defeated and all family members rescued.

The soldiers who had been left behind — vv. 21-25

One of the rules of combat was "to the victor belong the spoils." When the 400 men and captives arrived where the 200 men waited, they questioned the division of the spoils of battle. The 400 who fought proposed the men who had stayed behind receive only their families, nothing else.

David said no. The victory was of the Lord (v. 23). David set forth a great principle that was to become the law of the land. "All shall share alike," (v. 24). Those who stayed behind and guarded the supplies would share equally in the spoils of battle with those who had fought the battle.

Support troops are important to an army. The man on the front lines needs the support of those who bring supplies, food, and

medical care. Support troops are important in the Lord's army too. Without those who labor behind the scenes, the Lord's army would soon collapse.

There are many examples of this in the local church. Let me mention only one. Platform ministers (of which I am one), preachers and ministers of music, may get most of the recognition. But our success depends greatly upon many others who work behind the scenes. All members of the Lord's army are important. Those who are visible would do well to affirm the value of others who help bring it all together. □

WMU promotes Tennessean

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union has named Tennessee native Karen Simons as director of the Churchwide Involvement Section. Simons, who previously was Churchwide Editorial Group manager, succeeds Lynn Yarbrough. Yarbrough resigned her position earlier this month to work with Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization.

In her role, Simons is responsible for directing the work of more than 30 people whose work centers on involving the entire church in missions. A native of Greenfield, Simons has been with WMU since 1985.

Rob Sanders has joined the national WMU staff as manager of the Age-Level Editorial Group. Sanders, a native of Springfield, Mo., is responsible for the production of age-level magazines. WMU publishes five monthly magazines and three quarterly magazines for use by preschool boys and girls, school-age girls, and women. He formerly worked in the Discipleship Training department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

WMU also employed Ron Tonks of Nashville as archivist and Becky Nelson of Birmingham as products editor. Previously, Tonks was professor of history for Tennessee State University in Nashville, and an employee of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission. □

NOBTS trustees approve changes

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary approved recommendations from the seminary's administrative council, naming Billy K. Smith as provost and

academic dean of the graduate faculty and Jimmy W. Dukas as academic dean of the undergraduate faculty.

The June meeting of the trustees' executive committee on the New Orleans campus also confirmed Benjamin L. Harlan as first occupant of the fully endowed Feazell Wall Chair of Church Music.

The seminary's administrative council recommended a new administrative structure to clarify the relationship between the graduate and undergraduate work of the seminary, satisfying requirements of the Association of Theological Schools to keep the faculties, students, and academic matters separate.

The 75-year-old seminary has offered three associate-level degrees through its School of Christian Training since 1980. This fall the seminary plans to offer two baccalaureate degrees for students age 25 and older, bridging the gap between undergraduate and graduate-level work. □

Small church growth presents challenge

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Small churches seeking to break the 100-member barrier must create a climate for growth, a Home Mission Board church growth specialist said.

Such churches often plateau because they are unwilling to pay the price for further growth. Charles Chaney, Home Mission Board vice president for extension, said during a home missions conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

"We have churches today that are structured in a way that virtually makes growth impossible," he said. "It's important pastors understand that part of their role is to be change agents."

Churches, however, must be willing to accept change, Chaney said, adding change can be disturbing and can draw resistance.

Among changes necessary for growth, Chaney said, is a willingness to open opportunities for leadership and fellowship that have traditionally been dominated by long-time members.

Members also must be willing to be ministers instead of just expecting the preacher to meet all congregational needs, he said. □

Board schedules ethnic conference

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A conference for 11 ethnic groups next month in Orlando, Fla., will be the largest ethnic training event sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board and is part of the agency's new priority for ethnic work, according to conference planners.

In a denomination-wide cooperative effort, leaders from various Southern Baptist ethnic groups are promoting the National Language Church Development Conference at the Hyatt Orlando Convention Center Aug. 3-6. "Their diligent work is having results with 20-40 registrations arriving daily," said Bill Banks, director of the board's special ministries department which includes language and ethnic work.

The largest ethnic conferences conducted by the board previously have ranged about 300-400 in attendance. Already, registration for the Orlando conference has exceeded that number, Banks said. Final registration likely will go as high as 1200, predicted Gene Mims, executive vice president for planning, research and denominational relations.

For information on registration, contact the board's special ministries department at (615) 251-2702. □

SSB offers study for newlyweds

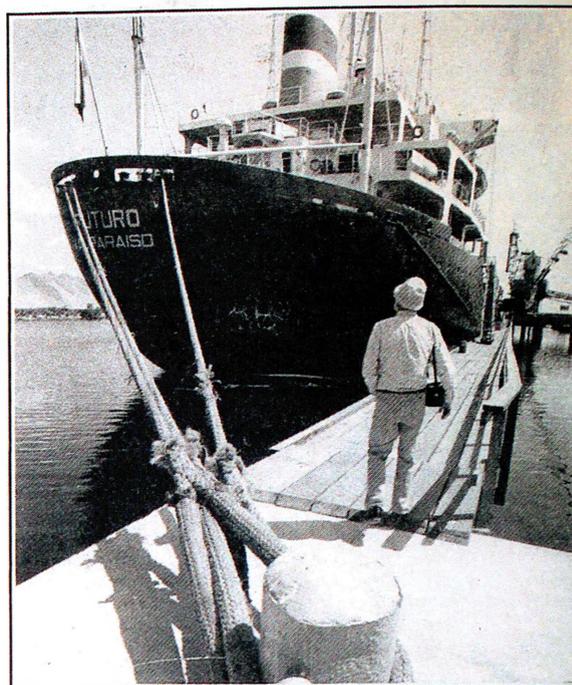
Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE — A 26-session Bible study for newlyweds that can help create new Sunday School units, serve as an evangelistic tool, or coordinate with premarital counseling will be available from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board for use in October.

The topical study can be used for an alternative Sunday morning Bible study or as a weekday study, explained David Apple, adult consultant in the board's Sunday School division. The material is being developed on a fast-track approach in response to a need expressed by several churches.

If the study is used on Sunday morning, Apple recommends that a newlywed class be created for the six-month study. "That group could stay together as a class and then move into the regular dated curriculum," Apple said.

"The point is to involve newlyweds in Bible study. This may be an opportunity to discover



MISSION SERVICE CORPS volunteers Ray and Joann Mungo have found that the world can come to them at their home in Tampa, Fla. Here, Mungo observes a cargo ship docked in the bay, where seamen who crew the ship know him not only as a chaplain but as a lasting friend. Ships from all over the world pull into Tampa, Florida's largest port. The Mungos have made friends with people from more than 90 countries without even leaving the U.S. Ministering along the docks, the Mungos have seen 150 professions of faith. — Baptist Press Photo by Ken Touchton

other newlyweds who are not attending church. It gives the church an option for this target group," he said.

He pointed out that it is not designed to take newlyweds out of their existing Sunday Bible study class if they already are attending. The study is divided into five units dealing with subjects such as understanding the Biblical foundation of marriage, communication, financial management, conflicts, and spiritual development.

Because the newlywed Bible study material was developed on a fast track, it will not be listed on the October order form, Apple said. The material will be available in book stores and from the customer service center by calling toll free, (800) 458-2772. □

SBTS develops commuter schedule

Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will inaugurate a new class schedule this fall aimed at accommodating students who commute long distances to take courses at the Louisville school. The seminary will begin offering three-credit-hour classes that meet twice weekly and will expand the number of three-credit-hour classes that meet once weekly.

"It will be possible for a student to take a full-time load by commuting to campus twice a week," said Robert Hughes, the seminary's director of profes-

sional studies. Courses that meet twice weekly will convene on Mondays and Fridays for a 75-minute period. Classes taught once weekly will meet on Mondays or Fridays for a three-hour period, including a 30-minute break.

In addition, classes that meet three days a week have been scheduled in a way which will help students who leave Louisville on weekends to serve churches outside the city, noted Hughes. These classes will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays for 50-minute periods.

Fall semester classes run Aug. 31 through Dec. 9. Orientation for new students begins Aug. 24. For more information, contact the seminary's admissions office at (800) 626-5525. □

Bozeman retires from Brotherhood

Brotherhood Commission

MEMPHIS — Karl Bozeman, national Royal Ambassador director, has retired after 24 years of denominational service, including 11 years on the staff of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Prior to joining the Brotherhood staff, he served on the Sunday School division staff of the Baptist General Convention of Texas for 13 years.

Bozeman, a Louisiana native, and his wife, Joreen, also a children's specialist, have moved back to Texas. They plan to continue helping churches train leadership and to write Southern Baptist curriculum. □



MARY MARGARET WHITE, right, layperson from First Church, Humboldt, and newly-elected trustee of the Sunday School Board, toured the church programs and publishing agency during new trustee orientation sessions in June. — Photo by Jim Veneman