

**this week's
news**

global:

- **Pro-life movement tries to recover from hopes "dashed" by Supreme Court decision.** — See page 3.
- **More than 100 teachers and language students are sought for China.** — See page 3.
- **Katie Neal recovers from brain tumor to continue ministry in China.** — See page 8.

national:

- **SSB President Jimmy Draper suggests early retirement "window" for 188 employees.** — See page 5.
- **BWA increases war on hunger and initiates study of racism.** — See page 2.

state:

- **Churches shouldn't overlook retirement needs of staff.** — See page 5.
- **Fred Shultz of Knoxville leaves business world for life of seminary student.** — See page 6.

MOVING? Cut out and mail address label and new address to **Baptist and Reflector**, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024.

Interfaith director to study Freemasonry

By David Winfrey
Home Mission Board
For Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The director of the Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department will take a three-month leave to produce a study comparing Masonic lodge teachings with Christian doctrine.

Gary Leazer, director of the department since 1987, will be personally responsible for researching and writing the study, said Darrell Robinson, HMB vice president for evangelism. "He can involve others as he sees fit."

Leazer, who has been with the interfaith witness department since 1979, has a doctorate in philosophy of religion from

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Southern Baptist Convention voted for the study during its meeting in July after messenger James "Larry" Holly made a motion to form a committee to determine whether Freemasonry is compatible with Christian doctrine.

The report will compare arguments by Holly and other Mason critics with responses by Mason advocates, Leazer said. After each debated point, Leazer will offer an analysis of both sides, he said.

Leazer said he hopes to find whether modern Masons agree with the interpretations offered by Holly and other critics of Masonic

writers from the 19th century.

"Most of these (anti-Masonic) writers have used Albert Pike, Albert Mackey, and others who basically are writers of 100 or so years ago," Leazer said.

"Modern (Masonic) writers have not been given the opportunity to respond, and I'm going to give that opportunity," he said. "It's going to be a balanced, objective, scholarly study."

Leazer added he's been inundated with about 100 offers of information or assistance from Masonic opponents and supporters since the study was requested in early June.

"I appreciate it, but I get snowed under having to answer all these letters and phone calls and

I have a hard time getting my study done," he said. "That's why I want a three month study leave."

During the HMB's July board of directors meeting, a trustee noted Holly had sent several mailings concerning Freemasonry to all board members and suggested Holly address the board.

Chairman Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Church, Hixson (Tenn.), however, opposed the idea, adding, "We have had more publicity over this than starting churches and winning souls."

Phillips promised board members they would get an opportunity to review Leazer's report before it was presented to next year's Southern Baptist Convention in Houston.

Holly, a Beaumont, Texas, physician, has contended Freemasonry is a religion antagonistic to Christianity and of pagan and ultimately, satanic origin.

Since the subject arose, Freemasonry and the board's study have been among the most debated topics on the letters to the editor pages of several state Baptist newspapers.

According to a poll by the Baptist Sunday School Board, 14 percent of Southern Baptist pastors questioned were or had been members of a Masonic lodge.

Masonic lodges in the United States have some 3.5 million members. □

Pastors' retreat planned at Camp Carson

The 36th annual Pastors' Retreat, sponsored by the Evangelism Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will be held Aug. 24-27 at Camp Carson in Newport.

Dallas evangelist Jay Strack, first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will lead Bible study from the book of Matthew.

Don Long, pastor of Chamberlain Memorial Church, Chattanooga, will serve as camp pastor. Long is president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Other speakers include D. L. Lowrie, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; Herb Brisbane, TBC Missions Department staffer; and Aubert Rose Jr., an evangelist from Benton, Ky.

Bucky Phillips, minister of music at Hilldale Church, Clarksville, will direct music during the retreat. He will be assisted by accompanist Jeff Slaughter of Nashville.

The camp's recreation activities will be led by Archie Fendley,



LONG



PHILLIPS



ROSE



STRACK

minister of recreation/activities at Central Church, Bearden, in Knoxville.

Cost of the camp is \$65. A \$1 registration fee should be sent to the TBC Evangelism Department, Clarksville revival

ment, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024 by Aug. 20. The remainder of the fee is payable upon arrival at camp.

For more information, call (615) 371-2058. □

Army of youth leads crusade

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — An Army of youth, not associated with the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division of nearby Fort Campbell, descended on Clarksville last week to fight a spiritual battle which was won every night at crusade meetings.

The army included a 225-man

and woman contingent of soldiers recruited by the Kelly Green Evangelistic Association from seven states. They were joined by about 125 local teens inscripted by Cumberland Baptist Association, sponsor of the effort.

Their battlefield was arcades, fast-food restaurants, public swimming pools, riverfront park — a popular gathering place of teens,

and even bars, which they declined to enter. They also visited residents in their homes.

Daily battles culminated at Clarksville Memorial Stadium where about 2500 gathered each night and a total of 201 people made initial commitments to Christ during the six-day effort.

The youth contingent won over 350 victories as they led Clarksvillians to a newfound faith.

The "army" was the key to the "victory," according to Verlon Moore, chairman of the association's executive committee, and pastor, Hilldale Church, Clarksville. Youth "soldiers" were hosted by the association's members in their homes.

Their uniform was a T-shirt bearing the label — "Frontliners." Each member can quote Psalm 35:1, which calls for Christians to fight for God on the frontline.

Frontliner Kenny Hatley of Brookside, Ala., came with 24 youth from Sharon Heights Church to wage "spiritual warfare," he said. "We're here to win — Army of youth, page 7

Search Committee, DOM group meet

Directors of missions from associations across the Tennessee Baptist Convention met July 9 with the Search Committee seeking an executive director/treasurer.

The associational missions leaders met at the invitation of the committee. Purpose of the meeting, according to Chairman Howard Olive, pastor of Monte Vista Church, Maryville, was to gain input and suggestions from the DOMs.

It was the second such meeting scheduled by the Search Committee. Members met June 16 with representatives of Executive Board employees and the TBC in-

house liaison committee. All employees earlier were allowed opportunity to list characteristics they thought desirable for the position.

D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director/treasurer for three and a half years, resigned in May to become pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Texas. He will work through the Executive Board meeting on Sept. 4.

Deadline for submitting resumes and nominations to the Search Committee was July 10. Any additional nominations could be considered later if no recommendation is made by the com-

mittee from those already received.

Olive heads a committee of eight with TBC President Ron Phillips in an advisory capacity. Phillips is pastor of Central Church, Hixson. Other members are M. B. Howard, Covington; Leonard Markham, Hendersonville; Clint Oakley, retired pastor from Memphis; Paul Moody, Erin; Gary Anderson, Dunlap; Don Givens, Chattanooga, and Jerry Oakley, Springfield.

As Executive Committee chairman, Jerry Oakley named the committee which unanimously picked Olive as chairman. □

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BWA council boosts aid fund, looks at racism

By Wendy Ryan
Baptist World Alliance
For Baptist Press

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica — The Baptist World Alliance's general council approved a goal of more than doubling its worldwide relief and fellowship assistance fund during the council's July 4-12 meeting in Montego Bay.

A \$4 million BWAid goal has been set for 1992-93, up from the current year's goal of \$1.5 million.

The increase includes \$2 million to fight hunger from drought in southern Africa that is the worst in living memory, a resolution passed by council members states, with Zimbabwe being the hardest-hit. The resolution warns "millions of God's children are at risk of imminent starvation and death."

Racism worldwide also was a key topic during the general council meeting, as the BWA's newly appointed Special Commission on Baptists Against Racism held its first meeting. "It is to the credit of the BWA that our (Baptist)

community throughout the world has decided not to run, but face the pain" of racism, one commissioner member noted.

Another member stated, "We want to do more than produce a paper. We want guidelines for local churches to use to attack this disease."

The commission is to bring proposals for action to the general council's August 1993 meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The general council's Montego Bay meeting was its largest-ever, with 530 registrants representing 45 Baptist unions and conventions on six continents. The Baptist World Alliance represents an estimated 70 million people in 200 nations.

BWA vice president Cora Sparrow of northern California challenged the fellowship regarding racism, asking, "Are we playing church? Will we make pious pronouncements with pious clichés that say all the right things that require little of us?"

Sparrow urged the BWA to "make the unexpected happen.

We must be on the cutting edge."

Washington pastor Wallace J. Smith in an address defined racism as "an evil endeavor which locates the blessedness of God not in justice, mercy, or righteousness but in the texture of one's hair, the thickness of one's lips, and the color of one's skin."

Racism places salvation not in confession and repentance and grace but in phony anthropologies, fallacious genetics, and delusive sociologies," Smith said.

The Special Commission on Baptists Against Racism heard papers and reports on racism worldwide and its effects as well as on efforts by Baptists against racism in their communities. Former President Jimmy Carter is the commission's honorary chairman but was unable to attend the meeting.

The 25-member commission includes three Southern Baptists: Harold C. Bennett, outgoing president-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee; Richard Land, executive director of the Christian

Life Commission; and Russell Begay of Arlington, Texas, American Indian field staff member of the Home Mission Board.

The commission was created by Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary, after the California riots over the acquittal of police officers accused of beating motorist Rodney King. But Lotz assigned the commission with the broader scope of examining racism worldwide.

The BWA general council approved a 1993 operating budget of \$1.3 million and an offering to be taken among BWA member churches once every five years.

The \$4 million BWAid goal, beyond the \$2 million to be devoted to famine relief in Africa, includes \$280,000 for Bibles, books, buildings, and seminary efforts in the former Soviet Union; \$300,000 for Bibles in Cuba, Eastern Europe, Serbia, Burundi, and Chile; \$100,000 for reconstruction in war-ravaged Liberia; and funds for long-term human needs projects in various countries. □

Blended family called unique church challenge

By Lindo Lawson
Sunday School Board
For Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — By the end of the 1990s the "blended family" — husband and his children from a previous marriage, wife and her children from a previous marriage, and perhaps one or more children from their union — may be more typical numerically than any other type of family in the United States.

Blended families represent only one of many family-related issues posing challenges for ministry to Southern Baptist churches in the remaining years of the 20th century, according to Dixie Ruth Crase, professor of child development at Memphis State University in Memphis.

Crase, a Southern Baptist, led a session on family change in America during the July 4-10 Discipleship Training Leadership Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Churches need to consider ways to help couples contemplating remarriage to anticipate problems, especially those related to the children, Crase said.

"Don't expect instant love be-

tween stepparents and stepchildren, or stepsiblings. Tolerance is often the scenario," she said.

Parenting, discipline, and sexuality may be sources of greater concern in a blended family, Crase said.

It is not unusual for a child to challenge the stepparent with, "You are not my father (or mother). I don't have to do what you want me to do." When this happens, Crase said, the "biological parent must support and/or reinforce limits."

In problem situations, a blended family lacks the longstanding emotional ties to get through the situation at hand. A traditional family, on the other hand, "can look back at other situations and see how problems were worked

out," Crase said.

In extended family gatherings, "helping people know who is related to whom can present a challenge," she said.

Regarding sexuality, Crase said one clinic specializing in incest problems reported 50 percent of its clients were stepfathers and stepdaughters.

"Adolescent stepsiblings (boys and girls) should not be left unattended," she said.

In another matter, quality child care will continue to be a critical issue for families.

"Child care can be looked at in terms of cost, convenience, and quality," Crase said. "Ideally, quality should come first. Realistically, many first consider cost and whether it's on the way to work."

Churches must address today's dysfunctions

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — If Southern Baptist churches hope to be relevant to needs of their members and people in their communities, they must address abuse, alcoholism, workaholicism, divorce, eating disorders, co-

dependency, and many other dysfunctions common in today's society.

"In the jaded world we live in, I'm afraid we're not seeing people as Jesus saw them," Roy Edgemon, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training department told a group of pastors attending the July 4-10 Discipleship Training Leadership Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. "Jesus saw people. He didn't see them as units of service — barbers, mechanics, shop owners. He saw the individual."

He cited statistics to illustrate the multitudes of Americans struggling to survive day by day. For example, one in three girls and one in four boys will be sexually abused by age 18. Suicide is the third-highest killer of teenagers. Incest touches one in five

Americans. Eleven million Americans are alcoholics and their addiction impacts 26 million family members. Baby boomers are ten times more likely than their parents to be treated for depression. One in four children lives in a single-parent home.

During the week-long conference, Discipleship Training department personnel conducted national training launches for the first materials produced by the department for churches to use with support groups.

Church members represent the first focus for support groups in churches, Edgemon told Baptist Press. However, churches also should reach out to their communities to help people identify their dysfunctions and move beyond them.

"This can help revitalize churches into looking at their role and mission in the community," he said. □

Keith Parker joins CBF

Baptist Press

THALWIL, Switzerland — Keith Parker has joined the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as coordinator of its mission program in Europe.

Parker, former Europe area director for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, assumed his new position July 1, according to an announcement from Jimmy Allen, who co-chairs the fellowship's global missions ministry group.

The Fellowship, an organization of "moderate" Southern Baptist

churches formed in protest to the Southern Baptist Convention's "conservative" direction, now has six mission workers in Europe and expects to have 20 by mid-1993, Allen said.

In a prepared statement, Allen said, "The Parkers will set up a basic operation within Europe to receive and work with any new missionaries (missionaries) that will join the CBF Europe team." The Europe office will be in Thalwil, Switzerland, near Ruschlikon. □

Analysis

Court stings pro-life movement with Roe decision

By Tom Strode
Christian Life Commission
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court's mixed-bag ruling in the recent *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* opinion provided a rude awakening for the pro-life movement.

After five appointments to the high court by pro-life presidents the last 11 years, there still are not enough votes to overturn the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion. Though it upheld most of the provisions of a Pennsylvania abortion-restriction law, the Supreme Court also reaffirmed *Roe* as law by a 5-4 vote.

"Pro-life America's hopes that *Roe* will be reversed next year have been dashed by so-called pro-life justices," said Michael Whitehead, general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "Reversing *Roe* will

require another, real pro-life justice to help Rehnquist, White, Scalia, and Thomas, who remain committed to stopping the convenience killing of pre-born babies."

The approval of all but one of the restrictions in the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act was not a surprise but most observers expected it to happen without the court ruling on the constitutionality of *Roe*. Instead, the court, led by Ronald Reagan appointees Sandra Day O'Connor and Anthony Kennedy, and George Bush appointee David Souter, specifically upheld *Roe*.

"Pro-life America is increasingly weary with a court that continues to do an excellent imitation of a youngster on his first trip on the high-diving board in dealing with the abortion issue," said Richard D. Land, the Christian Life Commission's executive director. "They tip-toe out to the

end of the board, looking cautiously from side to side, sometimes even curling their toes over the end of the board and gingerly bouncing up and down but they just can't summon the nerve to jump. Now three justices are crawling back down the ladder. It's well past time to take the plunge."

Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry said in a written statement, "Three Reagan/Bush appointees have stabbed justice in the back. Bush had better do his homework next time."

While the CLC's Land and Whitehead voiced disappointment, a Southern Baptist ethicist said he is uncertain if *Roe* should be overturned and if such a decision would be more beneficial.

"Restrictions can and should be placed on the practice of abortion," said Raymond Higgins, assistant professor of Christian

ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"I do think that a step-by-step approach is the way to go about this, even though it may not conform to the ideals that we strive for. I think what we are seeing is that if we will take slow, positive steps that changes actually can be made. But when we take these large steps that society is not willing to take at this point, the law gets thrown back in our face," said Higgins, an associate with the Baptist Center for Ethics.

The majority said in its opinion *Roe* should be reaffirmed because, among other reasons, it had not proven unworkable, women had ordered their lives the last two decades around the freedom to have abortions, and the country would lose confidence in the court if it struck down the '73 decision.

Justices Harry Blackmun and John Paul Stevens joined O'Connor, Kennedy, and Souter in supporting *Roe*. The same five also struck down the Pennsylvania law's spousal notification provision.

O'Connor, Kennedy, and Souter, however, joined Chief Justice William Rehnquist and justices Byron White, Antonin Scalia, and Clarence Thomas in upholding the other restrictions. Those provisions include parental consent for minors, with a judicial bypass procedure; information about abortion and fetal development for the woman; and reporting requirements for abortion providers. Also banned were abortions after 24 weeks and sex-selection abortions.

While Land said he was pleased with the court's support of these restrictions, he was "perplexed" by its rejection of spousal notification. □

HMB trustees elect Larry Martin; fill eight staff positions

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Larry Martin, director of missions for the Greater Boston Baptist Association, unanimously was elected Home Mission Board vice president for ministry by HMB trustees.

Martin assumes his responsibilities Sept. 1, succeeding Paul Adkins who is retiring after 23 years with the Home Mission Board. Adkins received a plaque

and a standing ovation from trustees during their July 15 meeting.

During Martin's nine years in Boston, the association tripled its number of churches and developed an extensive use of volunteers in ministry. In his new role, Martin will oversee chaplaincy, church, and community ministries, special ministries, and volunteers.

Martin, a Kentucky native, previously was director of missions

for the Greater Detroit Baptist Association and as a pastor in Kentucky.

Eight other people also were elected to fill vacant staff positions during the summer meeting.

Martin King, director of public relations and marketing for Community Hospital in Anderson, Ind., was elected director of public relations and development. King is also a journalism instructor at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. King succeeds Jim Newton, who left the HMB in May for a post with World Vision International.

In related action, board members dissolved the office of planned giving which was created but never staffed. The board voted to add development to the public

relations director's responsibilities.

The board also approved a change in the Mega Focus Cities program, moving the unit from associational missions to the executive office. Mega Focus Cities is a strategy to help associations in the nation's largest metropolitan areas reach the cities for Christ.

Hugh Townsend, who has been assistant director of the metropolitan missions department since 1990, was elected national manager of Mega Focus Cities.

George C. Pickle, chaplain at Brotman Medical Center in Culver City, Calif., was elected director of health care chaplaincy and pastoral counseling.

Carlos A. Ferrer, accounting

and finance administrator at the Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary in San Antonio, was elected controller.

In other action, the board requested permission to use money from the Cooperative Program capital needs allocations for new Home Mission Board offices to be completed in 1995.

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee must approve reallocation of the money.

The board sold its offices near downtown Atlanta for \$14.5 million in 1990, planning to use receipts from the sale to buy land and construct a new facility. But the cost of the new building is now estimated at \$16 million.

Jews protest HMB's 'wall'

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Plans for Southern Baptist churches to dedicate Wailing Walls this fall have stirred complaints from the American Jewish Committee, which calls it a "manipulative use of Jewry's holiest site."

The Wailing Wall is part of the "See You at the Pole," a Home Mission Board-sponsored youth prayer emphasis planned for Sept. 16. "See You at the Pole" is an attempt to gather youth at their school's flag pole before class to pray for their peers.

This year, churches also are asked to establish a Wailing Wall. The wall would be a place where youth could put pictures of their

friends in crises. The wall would serve as a reminder for youth to pray for their peers.

The American Jewish Committee's statement said "The Western Wall has profound meaning for Jews within the specific context of Jewish history and Jewish experience. To lift it out of that context and use it to promote witness to another faith is abusive and offensive."

Home Mission Board officials said there was no attempt to reflect negatively upon the Jewish faith.

"We see the wall as place of prayer, a sacred place," said Bob Banks, HMB executive vice president. "Our purpose is to lead young people to pray for the crises in the lives of their fellow students. We also will want youth to share how their faith has helped them deal with crises in their lives."

Banks noted the youth Wailing Wall is an in-church event and is not meant to select people from another religious group for direct evangelism.

"The roots of our Christian faith come out of the Old Testament and are reflected in the New Testament," Banks said. "We have deep respect for Jewish history and faith. It is the foundation of our faith." □

CSI needs more than 100 volunteers in China

Cooperative Services International isn't looking for a few good people for work in China; it's looking for a lot.

The Southern Baptist aid agency has requested more than 100 teachers and language students for China this fall. Qualified people may serve in a number of capacities:

■ Summer teams. CSI is sending 55 volunteers for a six-week term this summer in what has become an annual event. Volunteer teams will lead training courses for English teachers from Chinese middle schools and universities.

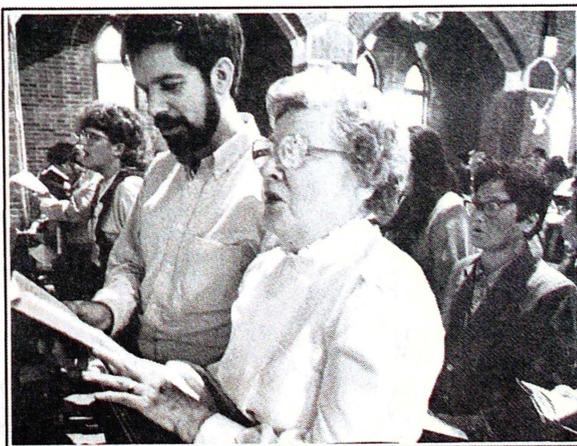
■ Longer-term volunteers. Southern Baptists interested in working in China as long-term volunteers — six months to three years — may contact Glenn Prescott, International Service Corps associate director, or Pat Parrish, CSI administrative assistant, at (804) 254-9418.

■ Career personnel. CSI also has openings for people who want to work in China longer than three years. CSI's Richmond office at

(804) 353-0151 has details.

CSI seeks experienced elementary, junior, and senior high school teachers, university Eng-

lish teachers or others with degrees in English, English as a second language, or English literature. □



CHARLIE WILSON worships at St. Paul's church in Nanjing, China, with Sue Todd, one of the Southern Baptist teachers in the vast nation. Wilson serves as educational resource coordinator for Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization that sponsors the teachers. (See page 8 for additional stories on China.)

Clarence Petty dies

Clarence Petty, who served as pastor of several Chattanooga-area churches for 70 years, died July 10 in a local hospital. He was 89.

The Chattanooga native was ordained by Eastdale Church and first served as pastor of Apison Church, Apison, where he was a member. Petty's funeral service was held at Apison Church, with Pastor Richard J. Blaylock officiating.

Petty is survived by two daughters, three grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. □

■ about letters to the editor

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- Name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Include address and phone number.
- Avoid personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone.
- Send original copy. Form letters and "open" letters will not be published.
- Only one letter in a three-months period per writer will be published.
- If letter does not conform, it will be returned. □

Camp is worthy

It was my pleasure last month to assist my brother in delivering several RAs from his church, Pleasant Grove in Maryville, to Camp Carson Assembly for their first experience with the excellent training program afforded by the TBC. When I was a boy, for every year I was eligible, I attended the

camp and returned thereafter as a counselor — it was a time that I shall never forget and the value of the Christian training I received is inestimable.

Those weeks made a significant difference in my life and set me on the road toward my full-time ministry today as a composer and editor of church music for one of our country's leading music publishers. Without the influence of the men of God with whom I associated at RA camp, I wonder if my life would have been the same.

This year as I returned to Camp Carson for the first time in decades, I was shocked to learn there would be less than three dozen campers! What a loss to our children! What a tragedy that our churches are apparently ignoring a great opportunity to develop minds, hearts, and bodies of our young men! At a time when our young people are subjected to so much of the awesome power and influence of Satan and all his forces, what does this say of the leaders of our churches?

I understand that many churches cite the scheduling conflict of VBS as the primary reason their boys do not attend. It is sad that such an insignificant conflict cannot (or will not) be avoided... may God have mercy on us all for not seeing to it that our boys are given every possible opportunity to experience the love of our Lord through this most excellent program.

Hugh S. Livingston Jr.
1648 Ramsey Street
Alcoa 37701

True integrity

True integrity is what I am talking about here — a person's being who he says he is and who he really appears to be... something that is often missing among leaders today.

I am talking about the "modest retirement package" for Dr. Keith Parks recommended by the Foreign Mission Board "at his own request and consistent with

his lifestyle of sacrificial service." While this action by the board may be viewed from several points of view, it speaks volumes to the credit of our leader of the Foreign Mission Board who has always been involved in missions in response to God's call and not for personal advancement or gain. The modest retirement package, matching that of his predecessor who retired 12 years ago, only reflects the giant of a spiritual leader that Parks has been.

Whether wronged or not, whether fired or not, does not change the reaction of this man who knows the value of the Lord's money being spent for the cause for which it was sacrificially given — missions around the world, not to store up earthly transient treasures for himself. He has served his Lord faithfully through the years.

He has challenged our convention to greater mission efforts. He is not perfect. He is not above accountability. However, he is above violating his character and integrity on the occasion of his retirement when he might have allowed himself the advantage of inordinate personal gain. He chooses the high road — again! I am not the least bit surprised by his request. That's the kind of man he is.

David Al Myers
Hamilton County Bapt. Assn.
508 N. Market St.
Chattanooga 37405

Correct measures

I read Tony McGuire's letter which said we should not have judged Pullen Memorial's decision to unite two practicing homosexuals. If that were the only passage on the subject I would have to agree with his conclusion in regards to Pullen Memorial: But, that is not the only passage on the subject. I Corinthians 5:12 says that we do judge those within the church. Jude 3 says we are to "contend earnestly for the faith."

■ Baptist beliefs

by Herschel Hobbs
Baptist theologian

Paul the Pioneer

"Yea, so have I strived to preach the Gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation." — Romans 15:20

Strictly speaking an apostle was a sent forth one (apostolos). Its Latin equivalent is *mittere* whence comes "missionary." So an apostle was a missionary who planted the Gospel in pioneer areas.

As Paul wrote Romans he contemplated a visit to Rome on his way to Spain (15:24). "Round about" (v. 19) means "in a circle." He had planted churches from Palestine around the northern part of the Mediterranean unto Illyricum on the Adriatic Sea, a part of modern Yugoslavia.



HOBBS

Now he looks toward Spain. In Paul's day Spain was considered the western end of the world. The Romans spoke of the Straits of Gibraltar as *Ne Plus Ultra*, no more beyond. Since Columbus' day the "Ne" was dropped, so *Plus Ultra* means "more beyond." It seems that Paul literally wanted to fulfill Acts 1:8.

As long as there is one person in the world who has not heard the Gospel we are to keep going to the ends of the earth. For *Plus Ultra* — there is still "More Beyond." □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership — July



23 — Praise the Lord for the response of Tennessee Baptists to the Chile/Tennessee Partnership! Ask Him to continue calling out those whom He would have serve in Chile.

24 — Chile Prayer Coordinator, Teresa Gamboa de Herrera, and missionary Laura Francis Snow as they lead the prayer thrust in Chile.

25 — The Lord to strengthen the lay leadership of Chilean churches.

26 — Protection from serious diseases and incapacitating accidents for our missionaries.

27 — The building needs for the Baptist School of First Baptist Church, Concepcion.

28 — That missionary Terri Baer of Vina del Mar, will stand firm in the Lord and be enabled to rejoice in Him.

29 — Wisdom for missionaries in scheduling activities so that too much is not undertaken.

30 — New leadership to be found and trained to work with women and children's missionary organizations.

31 — The Central Coast Associational Pastor's Wives Group as they meet today in Vina del Mar.

So, at the very least, there are times and situations where Christians are to judge the actions within the church that are contrary to revealed Scripture.

We must look at all the Bible has to say about a subject in order to arrive at a balanced Biblical view on a particular subject. In this case there are some situations we are instructed to judge those within the church... and Pullen Memorial has to be Biblically judged and chastised.

Ed Engle
1610 LeConte Rd.
Knoxville

Praises students

Headlines in our local newspaper this week read, "Carson-Newman leads nation in summer missionaries." The article went on to point out that C-N was also a national leader in spring break missions, and record numbers of students and faculty continue to go overseas to help and to share the Gospel as well as serving in numerous ways to minister in our community.

For those of us who have seen first hand the dedication of our students and their leaders and who have participated with them in mission trips, this was nothing new, but it is exciting to know that the news is spreading and that even a secular newspaper would consider it noteworthy.

In the midst of my gratitude, it occurred to me that all of us should rejoice that our young people are dedicated to sharing their faith, but this dedication didn't happen accidentally.

Some have spent their energies criticizing Carson-Newman and other fine schools. Many quietly have continued to do what they've always done — just by word and example telling the Good News

New Hope sell foreign rights

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — New Hope, a publishing arm of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, has sold the rights to publish a British edition of *Faithful Witness: The Life and Mission of William Carey* to Inter-Varsity Press.

This agreement represents the first time WMU or New Hope has sold foreign rights to any of its books.

"WMU established the New Hope imprint to reach people beyond our organization with the missions message," said Karen Simons, chairman of the New Hope administrative team.

Faithful Witness was written by Timothy George, dean of the Beeson Divinity School of Samford University in Birmingham and was released in January 1992.

The book was written to mark the 200th anniversary of Carey's departure from England to go to India as one of the first modern-day Protestant missionaries. He is one of the founders of the "modern missions movement." □

and inspiring others to do the same. Let the record show that C-N not only stands for believing the Bible but living it out and sharing it!

Diane Jordan
2874 Lake Forest Circle
Talbot 37877

A private matter

In regards to articles on Roe vs. Wade in the July 8 edition of your paper, I have a comment to make.

I've been in the Baptist church all my life, and I still believe the abortion issue is a private matter for a woman, and does not belong in the church, state, or government.

Brenda Keck
Knoxville 37924

■ team talk

By D. L. Lowrie
TBC executive director

Churches give half of gifts to charity

According to some recent statistics released by our government, the less you have the more you give. I had often suspected this.

The report said that millionaires gave 3.8 percent of their income to charity in 1990, but persons who earn less than \$10,000 per year gave 5.5 percent. On the average neither group came close to the Biblical tithe, but the lower income group came a lot closer than the high income group.

The report said that while income went up 116 percent over the last decade, charitable giving actually went up 156 percent.



LOWRIE

The figure that concerned me most is that only 54 percent of the charitable giving was done through the churches. It seems to me that most of our charitable giving should be done through our churches.

When it is done through our churches, the Lord gets the glory. When I give my money through my church, it loses my identity.

When it is done through the church, the church, the body of Christ, is enabled to increase its impact in the world. I believe in the local churches.

But there is another side to this! If 54 percent of all charitable giving is done through the local church, then the church has a heavy responsibility.

I once knew a church that had a \$2 million budget, and less than \$2000 dollars in that budget for local benevolences. I know some churches that have large budgets, and spend all of the money on themselves. They have a good staff, beautiful buildings, and expensive programs — but nothing for the poor and little for the Gospel to the world.

Is it true of churches that the less you have the more you give? □

Annuity invests now for later needs

The Baptist church pastor should be strong, wise, compassionate, witty, theologically sound, lover of the Bible — and devoted to the call from God.

He should be an exponent of Biblical family values and one who loves the church people. He must care deeply for lost souls.

What else? The pastor and other committed Christians should practice all these things and more.

Beyond that, church members must realize that church workers are fragile. The pastor and church staff members are not guaranteed exemption from problems of health, disability, crippling illnesses.

Yes, they are fragile. They do get sick, and they do have extended hospital stays. And they do have car wrecks and other kinds of accidents. They do grow old — and they do retire.

How are the churches caring for the pastors and staff members?

Too often we forget these needs of our faithful shepherds and leaders. We call them to our churches to lead, teach, preach, disciple, and do countless other tasks — some of which are ours. How do we care for them?

Southern Baptist churches have one of the best resources available for answering these questions. The SBC Annuity Board has the assignment.

The widows too are sometimes neglected. Eleven of every twelve pastors' wives will be widows, because of life expectancy. Of the 25 longest term annuitants receiving Annuity Board checks, 21 are widows and only six receive more than \$100 a month. One widow in Tennessee has received a monthly check for 54 years. Paul Powell, Annuity Board president, says the only way to be certain you don't outlive your money (which can be

disastrous), is to prepare for old age while you work. That is where the Annuity Board helps. The secret of a good retirement plan is to start early, contribute at least ten percent each month, and let it grow with compound earnings.

Total assets for the Annuity Board amount to \$3.5 billion involving 21,987 annuitants. Last year more than \$100 million was paid out on retirement and relief benefits — and an equal amount paid out in insurance benefits. And yet — the Annuity Board receives no Cooperative Program dollars for operations.

That should tell us there are some excellent

Everett Sneed — compatriot

When you are one of a fraternity of less than three dozen, attrition by death is extremely traumatic. And, if it is a close-knit group with kindred passions and purposes, it is debilitating to the survivors.

While they may not feel they are in a life-threatening situation, there is a reason to believe the spark of fellowship is greatly diminished.

John Everett Sneed, perhaps the most scholarly and humorous among us, died June 26. He had not given us any warning, so while he may have been prepared, we were not.

If we had ever had an election for such, Everett Sneed easily could have been elected "most gracious," "most reliable," and "most eloquent" from among Southern Baptist state paper editors. His mind was keen, his wit sharp and quick, his spirit gentle and forgiving

On a trip to Israel last November, he ac-

commodated his fellow travelers with much-needed snippets of that humor — and also gave convincing testimony to the Christ in a simple but masterful message on the shore of Galilee.

On that trip, as in life generally, Everett Sneed was a genuine compatriot who made the rest of us more comfortable because he was around.

Was he really a scholar? Try Southwestern Seminary, Baylor University, University of Heidelberg, Germany (a doctor of philosophy degree in Biblical theology).

When he was named editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* in 1972, some journalists winced because he wasn't known as a journalist. We "looked around" and he had learned to be one.

Archeologist, pastor, teacher, theologian, humorist, friend — we "looked around" again and he was gone. It wasn't that we liked him because we didn't know him. We loved and respected him because we knew him. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

one word more
by Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

No softsoaping

There is an old saying that actions speak louder than words. And we have heard that spoken sermons are not nearly as meaningful as those that are lived. "I had rather see a sermon than to hear one any day," is another attention-getter.

"I can't hear what you are saying because what you are doing is so loud," is a similar axiom.

Jesus told us to work — for the night is coming. He also told us not to be fearful about tomorrow. He asked the Father to send laborers for the harvest.

How do we live out what we have taken as a lifestyle — and how do we continue in the discipleship process?

From a speech by Mayor Harry Mitchell of Tempe, Arizona, and reported in *Perspective* of July/August 1992, hear this:

A rabbi and a soapmaker were walking and talking about their professions. The soapmaker challenged the rabbi: "What good is religion? We've had religion for thousands of years and still we have poverty, crime, hunger, and violence. Just what good is religion?"

The rabbi didn't respond until they came upon a group of very dirty children playing in a mud puddle. "What good is soap?" the rabbi asked. "We've had it for thousands of years and still children are dirty. What good is soap?"

"But rabbi," the soapmaker protested, "soap isn't any good if you don't use it."

"Precisely!" the rabbi responded. "And neither is religion."

Walking and talking, being and doing, running the race, living the lifestyle of Christ — these are the measures of costly discipleship, and washing with spiritual soap. □

HMB authorizes recall of bonds

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The church loans division of the Home Mission Board plans to recall \$24 million in high interest bonds officials claim are costing the agency more than \$1 million a year.

HMB board members voted during their July 15 meeting to authorize the recall of the bonds, which have an average annual yield of 10.58 percent.

The bonds, which were made available between 1985 and 1990, were issued to raise money for church loans, said Bob Inlow, director of the HMB church loans division.



ALLEN

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

Start with a smile

The young man said, "Let's get married, dear. I don't want to wait until I'm 40 and have wrinkles, bags under my eyes, and a big bulging stomach." She replied, "If that's the way you're going to look at 40, let's forget it."

Take this truth with you today

If we knew too far into the future, it would probably "scare us to death." A preacher friend once jokingly said, "When God called one to preach, he didn't tell me about all this foolishness that goes along with it." We must live in the eternal present because that is all God has revealed to us. If we live today well, and with God's help, the future will be "AOK" when it comes.

Memorize this Scripture

"What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee" (Psalm 56:3).

Pray this prayer

Lord, grant that I shall be so thrilled with the excitement of living today victoriously that I shall have no need to become frustrated about "ten years from now." May I know that my future prospect is glorious if my present is committed to fellowship with the living Christ. □

Trustees consider retirement plan

By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board will be asked in their Aug. 17-19 meeting to approve an early retirement "window" for employees who qualify with a specified combination of age and tenure.

President Jimmy Draper said the proposal, which has been affirmed by the trustee board's general administration committee, would provide a one-time voluntary retirement incentive for any of the 188 employees who qualify. Employees must be at least 52 years old and their age and years of service must total at least 77. Qualifying employees would have from Sept. 1 to Oct. 15 to consider the option and could retire as late as Nov. 1.

The announcement came as a part of ongoing work to restructure the board for more efficient operation and followed the June announcement of eight long-tenured employees retiring from middle- and upper-management positions.

The restructuring process, guided by task forces of employees from throughout the organization, reduces both the number and levels of management and the number of positions

at middle and upper levels. More than 1000 of the board's 1915 employees have provided input through task forces, surveys, and focus groups thus far, Draper said.

He said structural changes are designed to simplify the process and make it easier to make decisions and accomplish work. This will give employees greater personal accountability and encourage greater initiative.

The early retirement window recommended to trustees "is a voluntary retirement opportunity," Draper said. "No one will be forced to take it. Every attempt will be made prior to Oct. 15 to inform those employees who qualify for the plan should the restructuring adversely affect their positions. My hope is that we will be able to place in other positions any employees whose jobs are eliminated."

Early retirement reductions in monthly benefits would not be applied in this instance, Draper wrote to employees in a July 7 letter. Employees under 62 years of age who choose this option would receive a benefit enhancement based on their projected Social Security benefits to age 62. Those between 62 and 65 would receive a benefit enhancement based on their projected Social Security benefits until they reach age 65.

Knoxvillians give up business for missionary service

By Kim Gruesser
New Orleans Seminary
For Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Knoxville businessman Fred Shultz had made it. He had 27 years of expertise in key management positions for one of the nation's largest companies, as vice president of two banks, and owner of a computer consulting firm.

Now that his children had their own families and his future was secure financially, it was time to begin enjoying some of life's pleasures with his wife. He had earned it — right?

Popular opinion would agree, but following Christ does not always mean doing what is popular.

"Many people feel Sandy and I

have given up everything we have worked hard for in life. We feel just the opposite. The more of ourselves we give to Christ, the more of life he gives back to us," said Shultz, who was a member of Beaver Dam Church, Knoxville.

Now students at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, Fred and Sandy Shultz' sentiments reflect many second-career students' view of their call from Easy Street. Preparing for the challenges of becoming foreign missionaries, the Shultzes reject the idea they are losing anything by following a different path to the future than the one they had planned for so many years.

"For 27 years I helped people extend the life and effectiveness of their computer systems," Shultz said. "Now God has called us to tell people about Jesus and how they can come to a life-saving experience. God is not having us throw away our business background and experience. He is simply asking us to use it as a means to his end, not as a benefit just for personal gain."

A native of Dayton, Ohio, Shultz's own life-saving experience happened while on a Christian Business Men's retreat in 1976. In 1977, his wife came to know the Lord, and by 1985 God's calling to full-time Christian service became apparent. In June 1990 Shultz's employees were shocked when he told them he planned to leave the company they had built



FORMER TENNESSEAN Fred Shultz and his wife, Sandy, compare notes in their apartment at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. After a year in school, the Shultzes are now preparing to serve with the Foreign Mission Board.

together.

After his six-month notice to his company, the Shultzes finalized their plans to attend seminary. There was never any doubt God's call meant eventually a foreign mission field. Shultz was impressed to move from his home in Knoxville and enroll at New Orleans Seminary after his first visit in August 1990.

"I'll never forget the expression on my roommate's face the morning I knocked on his door at the dormitory and introduced myself. I think he felt as if his father was moving in with him," Shultz said.

Six months passed before his wife could join him in New Orleans but he wasted no time immersing himself in opportunities to serve the city's needy. For the Shultzes, the prospect of becoming foreign missionaries at this stage in life created an urgency to get involved in opportunities for Christian service.

The same day he began as a seminary student Shultz, 49, joined the staff of New Orleans Rescue Mission. As a chaplain he encountered numerous occasions to lead people to the Lord, counsel those addicted to drugs and alcohol, provide a pair of shoes for someone without, serve food to the hungry, and disciple new Christians.

In addition to spending 10-15 hours per week at the rescue mission, time was set aside weekly during their first year at seminary for tutoring children from inner-city schools who struggle with the fundamentals of learning.

Their concern for others found another avenue for expression through the local church ministry of Eastview Mission Church in New Orleans. Discipleship Training and bus ministry gave the Shultzes opportunities to interact with not only an unchurched community but also with a church family.

"I believe helping each other become a better person, citizen, and disciple of Christ is what life is about," Shultz said.

But the Shultzes are quick to note that although their lives now

center on serving others, for them, the blessings received have been far greater than those shared. Also, the intensity for giving is balanced with times of enjoying the many opportunities New Orleans offers for recreation and fellowship with other Christians.

The Shultzes recently heard from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board concerning a possible place to serve. The news confirmed their decision to leave all they had worked for in 27 years as part of God's plan, that their years in the business world were effective training and preparation time for the mission field.

"God has blessed Sandy and me in many, many ways. Allowing us to have our own company for almost ten years was a tremendous blessing," Shultz said. "The company provided many opportunities for me to develop skills in performing on-the-job witnessing. These skills will be beneficial as God leads us to new mission fields."

With Shultz's experience in the computer industry and his wife's skills as a special education teacher, the couple soon will begin their new life by starting a computer consulting business on a foreign field. Now, however, their measure for success is not based on where they stand in the corporate world but where they stand in God's plan. □



FRED SHULTZ, a former Knoxville businessman, witnesses to a homeless man in front of the New Orleans Rescue Mission.

Southern Seminary students learn life lessons in Appalachia

By Marv Knox
Kentucky Western Recorder
For Baptist Press

BEREA, Ky. — Seminary students from Tennessee and across the south and east have traded their ivory towers for mountain "hollers."

And, by their accounts, they're getting a life-changing education.

Forty-eight students from 17 denominations are participating in the summer program of the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center.

They're spending weekdays studying on the campus of Berea College in Berea, Ky., examining the culture, religion, economics, and politics of the region, which includes parts of 13 states from Mississippi to New York.

On weekends, they're moving out into the villages and onto the small family farms of Appalachia, getting a firsthand look at life in one of America's most culture-rich, money-poor regions.

The purpose of the program is "to introduce students to the possibility of ministry in the Appalachian region or to ministry in a multi-cultural, multi-denominational situation," Bill Leonard, the center's academic dean for the summer and head of the religion department at Samford University, said.

Thirteen participants are students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where Leonard taught church history until January. They recently set aside their books to talk about their experiences.

"We've had the opportunity to be with people from diverse backgrounds," Lea Alexander of Bamberg, S.C., explained. "My truth is one facet of truth; we can combine our perceptions. And we can expose and work through our preconceptions of both this region and people from other denominations."

"It's also a chance to deal with rural issues," said Stacey Buford of Chattanooga, a member of Spring Creek Road Church there. "In seminary, we often focus on urban problems and the rural area almost is ignored."

But ignoring the region is impossible for students in the center's summer program. The weekend visits bring Appalachians "up close and personal."

Students break into small groups to study Appalachian farming, small churches, or community action, Leonard explained. They also examine those issues from the inside, living with

Appalachian families for at least ten days.

Even students who weren't sure about how that placement would work said they've found room to fit into the local society.

"I was apprehensive about what I could do. My background is media," Rick Forest of Clarksville, confessed. "But I wound up at Appalshop, a non-profit media collection that helps document and explain the region."

David Dillard of New Castle, Del., said he feels comfortable working with Save Our Cumberland Mountains, "a grassroots organization that works on everything from

landfills to companies moving to Mexico and leaving large numbers of people unemployed."

Aside from the "work" of the field placement, the students learn from their weekend hosts, Buford noted. "We sit and listen to people's stories and hear where they are," she explained. "Rather than come in with our seminary training and talk to them, we listen."

"The people are strong," Terri Farless of Ft. Valley, Ga., confirmed. "I sat with a family through a thunderstorm and saw their faith."

"I was surprised to see how much Appalachian people are do-

ing" for their communities, Jon Buford of Birmingham, Ala., said. "There are many grassroots organizations helping people. It's something you don't see elsewhere."

Leonard called the Appalachian Ministries Education Resource Center "a new way to network" among ministers. It allows ministry students to learn from each other and from resources unique to a particular region, he said.

In addition to the summer program, the center conducts winter travel seminars. It operates from Berea during the summer and from Charleston, W.Va., August through May.

Tennesseans graduate at Southwestern

Four Tennesseans were among the 180 summer graduates of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

John Newport urged graduates to focus on the kingdom of God in order to handle present and future challenges.

The kingdom calls for evangelistic outreach and authentic communities "built around Christ and agape love," not personal power, position, culture, or status, said Newport, retired vice president for academic affairs at SWBTS and special consultant to



GRUENEWALD



HUNTER



JARRETT



TURNER

President Russell Dilday.

Tennessee graduates were: C. William Gruenewald III, Browns-ville, master of arts in religious education; Rebecca G. Hunter,

Newport, master of music; Paul Daniel Jarrett, Johnson City, doctor of philosophy; and Daryle Christopher Turner, Millington, master of arts in communication. □

Army of youth leads . . .

—Continued from page 1
others to Jesus.”

On youth night of the crusade, Frontliners manned the pizza party, distributing about 400 pizzas. They also fanned out among teens during the service, were posted outside the stadium to talk with those who left early, and served as counselors after the service.

Other counselors were area Baptists. Twenty-eight of the association's 36 churches sponsored the event, reported Gary Shockley, evangelism director of the association and pastor of Cumberland Drive Church.

The crusade was the result of prayers and planning which began two and a half years ago, said Moore.

Standing in the stadium on a mild summer evening prior to a service, Moore pointed out, “You don't see any stained glass windows out here, but it is paid for by people who worship in buildings with stained glass windows.” The \$18,000 cost of the crusade was necessary, said Moore, because people who won't attend a church will attend a crusade.

The crusade effort even may result in a profit, Moore added, because of the strong support of



the churches. Profits from concessions will go to Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, he explained.

Cumberland Association Director of Missions Wesley Pitts deemed the effort a “spiritual victory” and praised Green for his organization and his approach.

“He's a man of integrity. There's no pressure exerted in any way on anyone to make any deci-

sion,” said Pitts.

Highlights of the crusade included two appearances by former Miss America, Kellye Cash, from Memphis. Crusade services are being viewed on the local cable TV channel, Pitts added.

“The largest work is before us in discipling these who were led to the Lord,” he stated. □

◀PART OF THE CROWD attending a crusade service, are, front row, from left, Tiffany Mills, Roderica Talley, Anna Belrose, a “Frontliner” from First Church, Ellisville, Ellisville, St. Louis, and Jessica Pratt.



MISS AUSTIN PEAY STATE University, Gena King, shares her faith. She is a member of Hilldale Church, Clarksville.

Pastor claims miracles after accident

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

“You're a miracle,” the doctor told Doug Plumlee. “You don't know what I'm telling you, do you?” he asked.

The 28-year-old had recuperated from his car accident and felt fine. He was even jogging again.

However, the reality of his brush with death became clearer that day with the doctor's words. He shouldn't have survived. And if he had, a normal patient at this stage of recovery — four months later — would have been in a rehabilitation center learning how to walk again, the physician explained.



PLUMLEE

Last February Plumlee, pastor of First Church, Celina, was visiting residents of the small town of about 1600. He backed his car onto the main street.

Six days later he learned he was in the intensive care unit of Nashville's Baptist Hospital recovering from a punctured lung, 16 broken ribs, a possible concussion, and brain damage. A vehicle had struck him as it entered the street.

He also learned about the miracles God was performing, he reported.

Plumlee had lived in Celina only six months since accepting the position at First Church. But being an “outsider” didn't matter to locals when one needed community support.

A resident who saw the wreck stopped to help. The man, a paramedic, saved Plumlee's life on the scene. While he was at the hospital in Celina, about 60 people gathered there for prayer. A doctor performed a procedure on Plumlee he had never performed alone. A deacon made arrangements for further treatment since Plumlee is single.

Three nurses who had just completed shifts returned to the hospital to help treat him. Despite weather conditions which canceled transport by helicopter, the ambulance made the trip in record time. The ambulance arrived just prior to further complications from a collapsed lung.

Miracles also occurred at First Church, Celina. Members gathered for Wednesday evening service to pray for Plumlee and felt an unusual bond permeate the group.

Since the accident, others have been impacted by those miracles, Plumlee reported.

It is understandable that his ministry to the sick is more sensitive. Prior to the accident, he had never been ill. He also learned the importance of friends and family to anyone who is ill, he explained.

He was surprised, though, by the response of the community.

On returning to Celina, he learned he had gained a high profile. He has visited with residents he never would have met prior to the accident. Some of his new friends have become Christians, he said.

He also has seen the church grow, said Plumlee, who is not sure what to credit for the success. Baptisms have more than doubled compared to last year. Discipleship Training has been restarted. The church also started a mission although it has less than 100 in attendance on an average Sunday.

Until February of this year, First Church was the only Baptist church in Clay County. Now about 30 Baptists are meeting at Hermitage Springs Southern Baptist Mission in the Hermitage Springs community under the sponsorship of First Church.

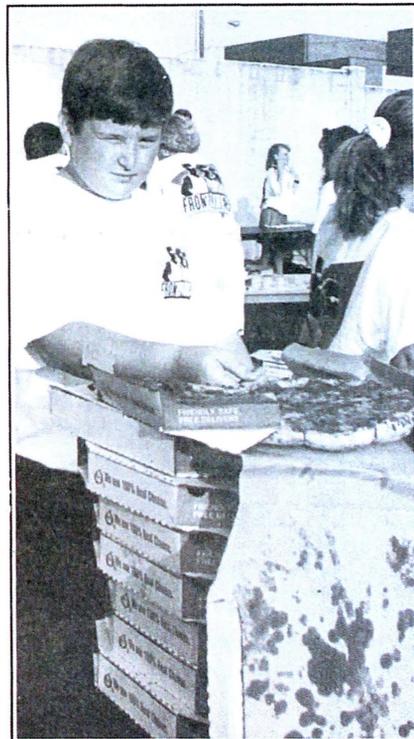
“We just saw the opportunity and responded. It was a great chance to minister and be involved,” said Plumlee.

Without the help of other churches in Riverside Association, it would have been impossible, he noted. They have donated a piano, chairs, hymn books, and arranged for the use of a building rent-free. The Red Boiling Springs Church of Christ donated theatre seats, he added.

Currently, First Church members are trying to gather funds to buy land for the mission.

Plumlee is not sure these events would have happened in spite of his accident.

“I'm not saying God caused the accident. But it opened up doors of ministry I didn't have before,” he stated. □



◀PIZZA MAN Josh Nicholson, a “Frontliner” from Hilldale Church, Clarksville, serves one of 400 pizzas distributed to Clarksville youth prior to the crusade on Wednesday evening

B. F. McIlwain plans retirement

B. F. McIlwain, director of missions for Fayette Association for the past ten years, has announced his retirement, effective Aug. 31.

A native of Trenton, McIlwain has served as pastor of Longview Heights and Calvary churches in Memphis and was assistant pastor of Boulevard Church in Memphis. He also has been pastor of two churches in Mississippi.

McIlwain is a World War 2 veteran and holds degrees from Memphis State University, Memphis, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He has held numerous positions

on the association and state convention level, including eight years on the Executive Board of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. In 1989 McIlwain was honored by Union University as Outstanding Director of Missions of the Year.

McIlwain and his wife, Rose, have three children and five grandchildren. The McIlwains plan to live in Jackson. □



MCILWAIN

Tattered coat initiates friendship in China

By Michael Chute
Foreign Mission Board
For Baptist Press

NANJING, China — Charles came to Sue Todd's apartment in China wearing a tattered peasant's coat.

The Chinese student wanted to go to church but he hoped the Southern Baptist teacher from Windsor, N.C., wouldn't be embarrassed to be seen with him dressed like that. Todd told him God doesn't care what people wear to church; he's more concerned about what's on the inside.

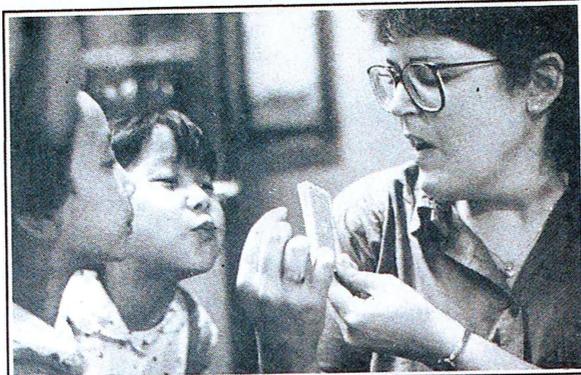
But Todd pulled a blazer out of her closet. She told Charles her son had a blazer, which was true. She didn't tell him this particular blazer belonged to her.

"He was so proud," Todd recalls. "He pressed. He stretched. He'd never had one before."

Later she bought material and had a suit made for him. He had never had a decent pair of shoes either, so she bought him a pair.

The silver-haired Todd, 72, is in her third year in China where she teaches English at Southeast

China University in Nanjing. The school's foreign language department named her its "outstanding



SOUTHERN BAPTIST teacher Katie Neal fascinates two children in China with a card trick. Five years ago it seemed Neal would never realize her dream of going to China. Doctors said she would die from a brain tumor. But she didn't, and neither did her China dream. Today she teaches at China Pharmaceutical University in Nanjing, China. She arrived there last year, the only American teacher at the school, through the auspices of Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization. — Photo by Don Rulledge

teacher" two years in a row.

But "Mama Sue" is even more popular among her Chinese students for her willingness to open her small apartment — and her heart — to them.

"I take time to talk with anyone who comes to my room," Todd says. "The students need this. They need a sounding board with someone who cares. They tell me their problems, their goals. It really keeps me busy. But that's exactly why I came to China. I feel a sense of urgency because of my age. I don't know how long I can stay."

Like other Southern Baptist teachers in China, Todd shares her faith in Jesus Christ within the restrictions placed on her in China.

She developed a strong friendship with Charles, the young Chinese student, and learned more about his family life on a farm and what motivated his drive to succeed.

His mother had been disfigured,

severely burned in a fire when she was nine months old. His 16-year-old sister and 14-year-old brother had never attended school. His family didn't have the money to pay the small fee children must pay to attend village schools. The sister made 35 cents a day picking tea leaves to help the family.

The family's hope rested on Charles. He walked two hours to primary school. He went away to secondary school. Now he was a student at Southeast China University. He wanted a good job to "fix" his mother's face and send his brother and sister to school. He also wanted to tell his village about God.

"Chinese never ask for hand-outs," Todd explains. "He was just telling me this. We're friends and he needed to tell someone. He just wanted me to understand."

But Todd wanted to help. She paid tuition costs for Charles' brother and sister to go to school. He invited her to visit his family's home. It took 15 hours by boat, four hours by bus, and a two-mile walk to reach his house.

The scene shocked Todd. The house had no floor, only dirt. Rats scurried everywhere. Charles' mother eked out a bare existence in the rice paddies. But his brother and sister had begun school the previous month. Already his sister had learned to write numbers from one to ten. She was so proud and wanted Todd to watch her.

When Todd and Charles left a few days later, his mother offered the American the best gift she had: one of her five chickens. She told the woman she couldn't take a chicken because of the long distance back to Nanjing. So the woman filled a pillowcase with rice and gave it to Todd. □

She didn't die, nor did her missions dream

By Michael Chute
Foreign Mission Board
For Baptist Press

NANJING, China — Five years ago Katie Neal was a walking time bomb.

A brain tumor grew off her hearing nerve, attaching itself to facial nerves too. Doctors said she would die; it was just a matter of time. At 25 years old, she had to plan her own funeral. The plans she made as a Tulsa, Okla., teenager to go to China apparently would die with her.

But she didn't die and neither did her China dream.

It took Neal 12 years — and a near-death experience — but today she teaches at China Pharmaceutical University in Nanjing, China. She arrived there last year, the only American teacher at the school, through the auspices of Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization.

Sitting with friends around a table in Nanjing's YMCA, she sings "Amazing Grace." Few people in the room know just how "sweet the sound" is to Katie Neal. They don't realize what this 31-year-old has been through. All they can see and hear are a warm smile and a beautiful singing voice.

"I'm healthy and attribute it all to God giving me everything, even the use of my facial muscles," Neal says. "There were just two things I asked the Lord to give back to me. One was my singing voice because I missed singing. I told God I'd always use it to glorify him. The other was to have my left eye blink again. If the eye doesn't blink, it dries out. I had to use saline, which meant I couldn't see."

She's deaf in her left ear. The left side of her face has slight paralysis. She can't lift her left eyebrow and that eye "still doesn't cry," she says. But tears fill the eyes of many people who hear her story.

When she was stricken with the tumor, surgeons called it inoperable but recommended surgery anyway. They gave her even odds for dying on the operating table. If she survived she probably would spend the rest of her life in a "vegetable" state.

The doctors, Neal's family, and her friends counted on one thing: She's a fighter.

She came out of surgery a mess. She couldn't walk or talk or smile. Movements she retained were extremely slow. Through weeks of agonizing therapy, Neal learned to walk all over again. She learned to talk again after the life-support tube stuck down her throat had bruised the vocal cords. Her smile came back after tumor-damaged nerves on the left side of her face initially rendered it "cockeyed."

Basically, Katie Neal learned to live again. She fought back. Within four months the special education teacher returned to work in Ontario, Calif. Later she visited Tulsa to see family and friends. She attended a service at Trinity Church in Norman, Okla., and spoke. If she had to do it all over again she would because God glorified himself through her ordeal, Neal told the congregation.

Back in California the next week, Neal went for a routine post-operative checkup. Her brain was hemorrhaging; blood seeped out the escape-route hole left in her skull. Otherwise, pressure on the brain likely would have killed her. She needed more surgery to

stop the bleeding.

It wasn't as serious as the first operation but it was still brain surgery in the same delicate region. She went through therapy a second time, returning to work eight weeks later. The doctor scheduled her next checkup in three years.

Today Neal is a walking miracle. Few people survive this type of surgery. Fewer still rehabilitate themselves like Neal and live such a productive life. She tells everyone who will listen that her life's testimony to God. She still closes her Christian testimony with the same pledge: If she had to do it all over, she would.

Acting to save a worthy dream

The following article from the May issue of *The Commission*, the Foreign Mission Board's missions magazine, was written by Harlan Spurgeon, vice president for mission personnel. It is entitled, "A dream in danger." — Editor

Since 1976 Southern Baptists have nourished the dream of having 5000 missionaries on foreign fields at the end of this century. It is a worthy dream that is embodied in the goals of Bold Mission Thrust. It is an expression of our willingness to seek to share the Gospel with every person on earth in this century. It is a dream worthy of Southern Baptists.

This dream is in danger! A bright, amber light has been illuminated on our road to Bold Mission Thrust. The signs are warning us that this goal may not be reached unless God's people are attentive.

The total mission force is a combination of several factors. It includes those under appointment

at the end of a given year, minus those who have retired or have died or who have resigned because of health, family, or other reasons. As the size of the force increases, the numbers of those leaving the force naturally increases as well. This means the number of appointments must continue to increase in order for the total mission force to show sufficient growth.

There were 400 total appointments in 1991. This put the total mission force over 3900 for the first time in history. But it was not enough to produce the kind of growth that will result in a force of 5000 in the year 2000. To accomplish such growth, it will be necessary to move to appointing more than 500 each year at the earliest possible time.

This is a worthy goal for Southern Baptists. It is not an impossible dream. However, for it to happen, it will be necessary for us to recognize the warning and become committed to the dream.

I believe that if the following steps are taken by even a small number of faithful Southern Baptists, the goal can be achieved.

1. Pray persistently and fervently to the "Lord of the harvest that he might send forth laborers into his harvest."

2. Seek out those in your church who have committed their lives to mission service and find ways to encourage them in their quest. The board has prepared a *Nature Notebook* to assist you.

3. Check to see that invitations are extended on an ongoing basis in your church for Christian ministry, including missionary service.

4. Share helpful materials with those who are considering missionary service.

Southern Baptists have only limited time in which to accomplish the "possible dream." But the goal will slip out of our reach unless God's faithful people make the dream a priority. □

TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the people

■ **David Irby**, emeritus professor of religion, retired June 1 after 27 years of service at Union University, Jackson. Irby joined Union in 1965 as director of Union's former extension center at Memphis State University. He also served as dean of students and dean of religious affairs before returning to full-time teaching in 1972. He was chairman of the religion department from 1980-89. Irby has served as pastor or interim pastor of numerous churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. He and his wife, Marilyn, will live in Long Beach, Miss.

■ The following men were recently ordained as deacons at First Church, Hendersonville:

Steve Belcher, Steve Gaines, Dee Gay, Mark Gothard, Harry Habershear, Stan Hardaway, Tim Hayes, Richard Jenkins, Mark McDaniel, Art Mayernick, Winton Overstreet, Ron Page, Richard Rogers, Ron Tichenor, Frank Vanderpool, and Bob Wilhite.

■ **Tim Parker**, an active member of First Church, Oliver Springs, was elected national president at the National Beta Club Convention in Washington, D.C. recently. Beta Club is a high school honor society to recognize scholarship, leadership, and service. Parker is a member of the Oliver Springs High School Beta Club and also is state president. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Parker. His father is pastor at First Church. Parker is the second person from Oliver Springs High School to serve as a national officer. Four years ago Paul McDonald, son of Steve McDonald, pastor of Calvary Church, Oak Ridge, served as na-

tional secretary. No other Beta Club in the nation has produced two national officers.

■ **Lenox Church**, Lenox, recently ordained Ted Weaver and Mike Dodson as deacons.

■ **Fred M. Wood** pastor emeritus of Eudora Church, Memphis, will serve as guest professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., during the 1992-93 academic year.

■ **Lyndel Littleton** music director at Central Church, Martin, will have a handbell arrangement published by Word Music Publishing Company later this year.

■ **Bethlehem Church**, Henry, recently ordained Clyde Wilson and Frank Jackson as deacons.

■ **Elden A. Byrd**, professor emeritus at Union University, died July 12 in a Jackson hospital after a long illness. Byrd joined the Union faculty in 1961 as associate professor of sociology and was chair of that department from 1967-82. He served more than 40 churches in West Tennessee and Kentucky as an interim pastor. Byrd is survived by his wife, Garvalene, and two children.

■ **Bucky Phillips**, minister of music at Hilldale Church, Clarksville, was honored July 8 at the Governor's Schools of Tennessee in Murfreesboro for having an artistic influence on the lives of young people in Tennessee. Phillips was recommended for the award by Mike Medcalf, a 16-year-old member of Hilldale's orchestra who is attending the Governor's School for his accomplishment with the trumpet. "We are proud of both Mike and Rev. Phillips for their accomplishments," said Hilldale Pastor Verlon W. Moore.

■ the churches

■ **Music evangelist Jack Price** will present a concert Aug. 26 at 7 p.m. at Third Church, Murfreesboro.

■ **Rock Springs Church**, Greenbrier, held revival July 15-19 with services led by Belmont University students Frank Daugherty and Becky Collins.

■ **New Hope Church**, Decaturville, will hold revival Aug. 9-14 with Don Franks, pastor of Corinth Church, Darden. The church also will observe its 150th anniversary Aug. 30.

■ **Revival will be held July 26-31 at Sand Ridge Church**, Lexington. James C. Walker, pastor of First Church, Atmore, Ala., will be guest evangelist.

■ **The adults and youth of Central Church**, Oak Ridge, are planning for a crusade in Michigan. The youth will travel to First Church, South Lyon, the last week of July to prepare for the adult team which will minister Aug. 1-7.

■ **University Parkway Church**, Johnson City, will celebrate homecoming July 26.

■ **Park Road Church**, Jamestown, will hold revival and Vacation Bible School July 26-Aug. 1.

■ **Fred Wood** will lead revival at Poplar Grove Church, Trenton, during the last week of July.

■ **Jim Wilson** will lead revival services July 26-29 at Grace Church, Nashville. Wilson has led more than 400 crusades.

■ the work

■ **Blue Springs Church**, Rutledge, will be taking ten people on a mission trip to Adrian, Mich., Aug. 9-14. The team will hold Vacation Bible School in the

mornings and revival at night. Michael Driver is pastor.

■ **A missions team from First Church**, Halls, is in Indianapolis, Ind., this week at Agape Baptist Fellowship. The team is doing Vacation Bible School, puppet shows, skits, and a musical.

■ **Silver Springs Church**, Mt. Juliet, is looking for a church or volunteers to take a donated copier to a mission church in Claire, Mich., before the end of August. If you can assist, contact Pastor Russ Stephens at (615) 758-7853.

■ the leaders

■ **Gary Williams** is serving as interim minister of education at West Jackson Church, Jackson.

■ **Thomas E. Huls** recently began service as minister of education at Audubon Park Church, Memphis.

■ **Members of Alice Bell Church**, Knoxville, have called **William Palmer**, president of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, as interim pastor.



SHILOH ASSOCIATION volunteers Charlie Horton, left, Brotherhood director, and John Pippen, director of missions, joined forces with volunteers from Hardeman County to help Temple Church, Savannah, in building a fellowship hall with Sunday School rooms. Monroe Willis was the contractor in charge. He and other volunteers take vacations each year to help churches. Jetta Forsythe is pastor at Temple.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Discover the joy in sharing Christ

By Bob Palk, director of missions Watauga Association

The place was Margarita Island off the coast of Venezuela. The location was a mission point in Las Giles. It had been hot that day as we visited from door to door to invite people to pray to receive Christ. Some had responded, but now it was evening and the breeze from the Caribbean made it comfortable.

The preaching service was held outside. A few chairs and several crates were used as seats. About 40 people sat around in a circle. As we sang, a tambourine in the background kept time with the music. After the sermon the invitation was given. A man stepped forward in the middle of the circle to make public his decision to receive Christ.

Immediately a few people joined the new Christian clasping hands as they formed a circle. Soon

several people had formed other circles completely enclosing the new Christian. What an expression of joy, love, and support!

As I looked on that emotional scene, I wondered if we here in the United States have lost the joy and excitement of seeing a person saved. Maybe our emphasis upon numbers and dollars has caused us to overlook that which is most important. We quarrel over insignificant matters while a lost world looks on. I remember Jesus' words: "I say unto you, likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over 90 and nine just persons, which need no repentance." □

Let go of the brake, move on

By Moncrief Jordan, pastor First Church, Jefferson City

The story is told of two boys climbing a long hill on a bicycle built for two. As they at long last

reached the peak the front rider said to his friend, "Man, I thought we would never make it to the top!" To which the other boy replied, "We wouldn't have if I had not kept my foot on the brake to keep us from rolling backwards!"

And in applying this picture to the work of the church, one might even suggest that there be a third seat on that bike that has no pedals... just a rider suggesting to the other two how to steer, when to apply the brakes, and how hard to pedal!

The fact is that one of the greatest challenges of any church is to maintain a clear vision of its own calling under God. The exact details of that challenge will surely differ. The specific means of ministry will not be the same for a congregation in the ghetto of a large city as that of one in the affluent suburb. But hopefully the calling to glorify God and creatively communicate His redemptive love to all people will

be at the heart of the ministry of every church called "Christian." □

Heavenly treasures from Jesus Christ

By Gregory Frizzell, pastor Georgian Hills Church, Memphis

Some people find it surprising that Jesus talked so much about money during his earthly ministry.

Jesus taught us to concentrate on heavenly treasures: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust corrupt and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19-20).

Jesus taught that people would be happier giving rather than receiving: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Jesus warned that material things could become a hindrance to spiritual growth: "How hard it

is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" (Mark 10:23).

Jesus declared that we do not live on material things alone, no matter how much wealth we have: "A man's life does not consist in the abundance of things he possesses" (Luke 12:15).

Jesus instructed us to have pure motives for our giving: "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men... I say to you, they have their reward" (Matthew 6:1-2).

Jesus cautioned against worry over material things, and called on us to trust God to provide for our needs: "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body than clothing?" (Matthew 6:25).

Yes, Jesus talked often about money. We need His attitude toward material things. Money was intended to be our servant, not our master. □

■ **First Church**, Strawberry Plains, recently called Henry Davidson, a retired East Tennessee pastor, as minister of music.

■ **Wilburn Simmons** has resigned as pastor of Macedonia Church, Kenton, to attend Mid-America Seminary in Memphis.

■ **Finis King** recently accepted the call as pastor of Mooring Church, Ridgely.

■ **First Church**, Dyersburg, has called Philip Long as minister of music. Long and his wife, Beth, have a daughter, Mary Katherine.

■ **Ed Jump** has been called as pastor of East Brainerd Church, Chattanooga.

■ **Tim McGhee** is the new associate pastor/minister of education at Chamberlain Memorial Church, Chattanooga.

■ **Richard Doyle** is interim pastor of First Church, Pocahtons.

■ **Don Rigsby** has been called as interim pastor of Dowelltown Church, Dowelltown.

Volunteers in remote India treat 3000 in Himalayas

By Jim Burton
Brotherhood Commission
For Baptist Press

LEH, India — An 18-member Southern Baptist volunteer medical team saw 3064 patients in northern India, one of the world's most remote areas.

The team visited 12 villages in the Ladakh region of India's Himalayan Mountains. Populated at altitudes of 9000-12000 feet with surrounding mountains reaching 23,000 feet, Ladakh is only accessible during the summer months

Polk County pastor John Willis dies

John Willis, pastor of Cedar Springs Church, Cleveland, died July 5 in an Indianapolis, Ind., hospital.

Willis had emergency heart surgery in Indianapolis while attending the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention and was never able to return home.

Willis, 69, has been pastor of the Polk County Association church for about six years. He formerly was pastor of churches in Bradley County Association and North Carolina.

He is survived by eight children and two stepchildren.

due to heavy snowfall.

"This team has been to one of the 'uttermost parts of the earth,'" said team leader Eddie Pettit, Baptist Young Men's director for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis.

There are only 130 Christians in Ladakh, a predominantly Shiite Muslim region with approximately 134,000 people. The purpose of the Ladakh Medical Project was to get a feeling for the people, build a rapport with the citizens and officials, and evaluate future projects, said officials with Co-operative Services International, a humanitarian organization sponsoring the project.

The Brotherhood Commission and the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship recruited the team of six physicians, two dentists, four nurses, and six support personnel from the United States to work with Indian medical professionals.

The Ladakh Medical Project team represented one of Southern Baptist's most experienced volunteer medical teams. Team members have participated in more than 150 overseas projects, Pettit said.

"I'm a firm believer that

medical trips like this do some good medically," said William Bowen of Athens, Ga., who was on his third trip to India. "But more than that, it leaves such a good impression on people.

"It gets the point across that we are Christians," added Bowen, who also is president of the Georgia Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship.

The team conducted basic physical exams and dispensed medicines as they surveyed the medical needs in Ladakh. According to the region's chief medical officer, Girdhari Lal Raina, health problems in Ladakh begin with malnutrition.

A short growing season creates a deficiency of fresh vegetables, Raina said. Agricultural assistance is needed to develop greenhouse applications for the stone-and-mud Ladakhi homes.

Because of the long winters,

respiratory tract infections are the second major health problem, Raina said. With winter temperatures reaching minus 40 degrees Celsius, families live in one room around a fire in a room full of smoke. "One can't fight an infection so there is cross infection," Raina said.

His third major area of concern is cataracts. Bright sun glaring off snow in winter and dust in the summer cause cataracts, Raina said.

The cataract problem may be addressed in the future by recruiting ophthalmologists to do cataract surgery clinics, Pettit said.

"The Ladakh Medical Project proves once again how lay skills can open doors of service for Southern Baptists," said Douglas Beggs, Brotherhood Commission vice president for program services. "We look forward to continuing the work in Ladakh begun by this team."

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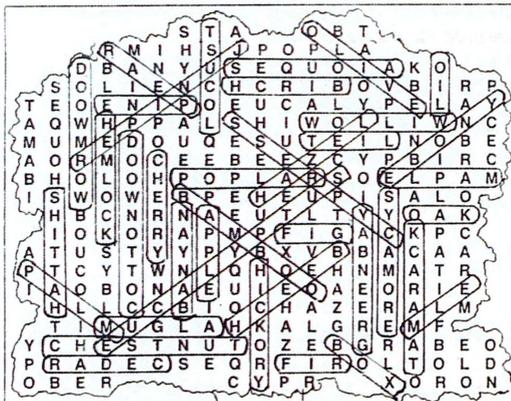
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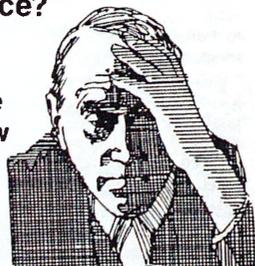
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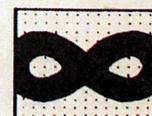
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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ The reign of Jehu — Bible Book Series for July 26

By Leonard Markham, pastor; Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville

Possibly the best commentary on this passage of Scripture is Scripture itself. The Apostle Paul wrote to the churches in Galatia, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life," (Galatians 6:7-8).

God's Word warns us that sin brings its own destruction. The Bible declares, "For the wages of sin is death," (Romans 6:23). It is inherent with the nature of sin to bring destruction and death. From the book of Ezekiel we read, "The soul who sins is the one who will die" (ch. 18:4). For those who refuse to receive eternal life from

Jesus Christ, they receive an eternal death sentence from sin.

The incomparable former pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, R. G. Lee, preached his famous sermon, "Pay Day Someday," from the Scripture passage used for this Sunday School lesson. Lee's message was descriptive and dramatic in describing the destruction of Ahab and Jezebel.

As we consider our Sunday School lesson, Elisha appears briefly in the story and Jehu immediately comes to center stage. Yet, a careful reading of the Scripture will reveal Elisha as the initiator of the revolution to bring to completion the task given to the prophet Elijah. The plan is revealed earlier in I Kings. God said

to Elijah, "Also, anoint Jehu, son of Nimshi, king over Israel, and anoint Elisha, son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah, to succeed you as prophet. Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu," (ch. 19:16-17).

**Basic Passage:
II Kings 9:1-10:36**

Another example of Elijah's prophecy (I Kings 21:19-24) being fulfilled is Jehoram's body being left in what had once been Naboth's vineyard. The manner of death and burial of Jezebel is also according to the prophecy of Elijah (II Kings 9:36-37). Thus, sin reached its inevitable goal of destruction (James 1:14-15).

Our temptation is to ignore, deny, or trivialize sin. We are like the man who is seriously ill with cancer, but refuses to go to the doctor. We pretend we don't have a problem or we treat the illness with band-aids when radical surgery is required. Bruce Larson told a very revealing story about human nature in his book, *The One and Only You*. He had gone to a hotel to pick up some friends. When he opened the door to the lobby he cut his thumb on the door knob. He went to the women at the desk and told them he had cut his thumb on their door and was bleeding all over their lobby. The women immediately got tissue and bandages and fixed his thumb. He thanked them for their efficiency, only to be told, "It's

nothing! Actually you're the third person today to cut his hand on that door." We find it difficult to believe the reaction of the women. They were dispensing band-aids and Kleenex, but no one was working to correct the cause of the problem by fixing the door.

This is the approach of many people to the problem of sin. They dispense band-aids instead of dealing with the real problem. No matter how capable and willing the physician, he can do little for us unless we place ourselves under his care. My prayer is that we will quit ignoring our sin problem and submit ourselves to the great physician for major surgery. Amazingly, Jesus has never lost a patient who came to Him for help (John 3:16).

□ Hold to sound doctrine — Convention Uniform Series for July 26

By Gary Coltharp, pastor; First Church, Jackson

Jesus began His public ministry by selecting 12 men who would learn from Him what following God's way was to be. He modeled and demonstrated the importance of a mentorship relationship in Christian life. Christ is to be the mentor of every Christian, but each of us needs a strong human model as well.

Paul had become that trusted guide for Timothy whom the apostle described as "my true child in the faith," (v. 2). The word translated "true" (RSV, NIV) means legitimate as opposed to adopted. The special relationship between Paul and his trusted spiritual protegee was the foundation upon which he gave encouragement and instruction to Timothy regarding his ministry in Ephesus.

Deal with False teachers (vv. 3-11)
Paul rather abruptly moved from his salutation and affirmation to what must have been a serious problem in Ephesus; namely, the infiltration into the

church of some who were teaching false doctrine. We cannot be absolutely sure of the nature of those false teachings, although some form of Gnosticism coupled with the attempts by some to substitute Jewish law for "the glorious Gospel of the blessed God" (v. 11) are likely suspects. For an excellent and understandable treatment of Gnosticism see William Barclay's Daily Study Bible volume, *The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*, pages 30-35.

Timothy was admonished to take a strong stand against those "myths and endless genealogies which promote speculations rather than divine training." Barclay suggests five characteristics of the heretic described in verses 3-4 and 6-7. (1) He is driven by the desire for novelty; (2) He exalts the mind at the expense of the heart; (3) He deals in argument instead of action; (4) He is moved by arrogance rather than by humility; and (5) He is guilty

of dogmatism without knowledge. Over and against these false teachers Timothy was to promote agape-love, that love which places the highest good of the one loved

**Basic Passage:
I Timothy 1:1**

above self-interest. Such love and its resultant teaching of sound doctrine are products of "a pure heart and a good conscience and sincere faith," (v. 5). No self-serving hidden agenda or ulterior motive can be tolerated in the teaching ministry of the church!

Today's Christians are being faced with both subtle and overt pressures to incorporate false doctrine into their belief systems. George Barna, a Christian researcher, has done studies which indicate that two-thirds of American adults believe there is no such thing as absolute truth. Even more astounding is his finding that 53 percent of born-again Christians agree there is no such thing as absolute truth! (George

Barna, *What Americans Believe*, Regal Books).

New Age philosophies are being assimilated into our culture, including our churches, in frightening proportions. For example, much of the "health, wealth, happiness, and success" movement is based squarely upon New Age philosophy and is at odds with Scripture. Paul's alert to Timothy needs to be heard by all who desire to develop sincere Biblical faith.

Arm yourself in faith (vv. 18-20)

To drive home the importance of sound doctrine in the development of sincere Christian faith (that is, faith without hypocrisy), Paul again sounded like a military commander issuing orders to his young Christian soldier: "This charge I commit to you, Timothy, my son," (v. 18). "Charge" is a military term used to mean "strict order."

Paul, who began stating his orders to Timothy in verses three and five, continued the order that

Timothy "wage the good warfare, holding faith, and a good conscience." (vv. 18-19). "Sincere faith," one's authentic commitment to Jesus Christ, and "good conscience," the product of moral integrity, are the weapons of this spiritual warfare. But note this, Paul was not ordering Timothy to go out and fight everything with which he did not personally agree! "That you may fight the good fight," (NIV), employing the adjective kalos (good). Not every battle was worthy of his time, energy, and Christian involvement.

Neither are we called to fight every cause we might imagine. We must fight only the "good fights." In so living, we will not be as vulnerable to our real enemy, Satan.

Paul closed the chapter with an illustration of two individuals, Hymenaeus and Alexander, whose faith he described as shipwrecked, probably by the issues addressed in chapter one.

□ Accepting our place of service — Life and Work Series for July 26

By James Hutson, pastor; First Church, Rockwood

In our lessons on "David: Serving God," we have studied about the selection and anointing of a young boy to be the king of Israel. We examined the great victory of David over Goliath. Then we studied how David set forth a principle for all of Israel that every man in his army was important — "they shall all share alike."

This lesson teaches us about David assuming the position of King.

David's reign over Judah (ch. 2:1-7)

II Samuel 2 begins with David being anointed king of Judah. He settled with his family and army in Hebron in southern Palestine. After the deaths of King Saul and his son, Jonathan, at the hands of the Philistines, their bodies were decapitated and hung on the wall of

the Philistine city, Bethshan (I Samuel 31:8-10). Some brave men of Jabesh-gilead went by night to Bethshan and removed the bodies, burned the bones, and buried them at Jabesh.

When David heard of this heroic deed, he sent a message to the men of Jabesh-gilead commending them for their courage regarding the bodies of Saul and Jonathan. David reminded these men of Jabesh-gilead that he had become king over the house of Judah. There is no evidence to suggest the men of Jabesh-gilead rallied to David, but the seed of suggestion was planted. **Struggle for the kingship of Israel (ch.3:1)**

This verse tells us there was a war between the house of Saul and the house of David. Saul's son, Ish-

bosheth was made king over Israel. The general of his army was Abner. The Bible tells us Ishbosheth was king over Israel for two years (ch. 2:10). Both Ishbosheth and Abner were murdered (ch. 3:27; 4:6).

David claimed innocence of the death of Abner (ch. 3:26, 28), and mourned him (ch. 3:31-34). How fortunate we are to live in a country where the transfer of government is not done by murder and assassination.

**Basic Passage:
II Samuel 2:1-7; 5:1-12**

David is anointed king of all Israel (ch. 5:1-3)

The time for David to be king had come. The people of Israel were fed up with the struggle and intrigue. Representatives of all the tribes

came to Hebron and asked David to be their king. The people made a covenant before the Lord and anointed David as their king. This is exactly what Samuel had prophesied years before. No one knows how old David was when Samuel anointed him to be the next king of Israel. He was 30 years of age when he became king and he reigned for 40 years (ch. 5:4).

David's ascension to the throne represented two things. (1) It was the result of God's purpose. (2) No other major rivals were visible. David was the logical choice, as well as God's choice. One of David's first actions as king of all Israel was to capture Jerusalem and make it his capital city. Jerusalem would always be known as the city of David (ch. 5:9).

God's role in the life of David (ch. 5:10, 12)

Following is the summary of what had taken years to accomplish. The shepherd boy was placed where God intended him to be. David also realized he was where God wanted him to be.

Probably, God does not intend for you and me to be king (president). Maybe so, but not likely. But God does have a place of service for each of His children. And if we are in His place and in His will, that place is where we need to be. In God's work there are no insignificant persons and no little work. Everyone is important. Where is your place of service? Ask the Lord to help you find your place of service. □

Missionary cites Baptists' prayer

Baptist Press

HENDERSON, Ky. — Cancer patient and former missionary Kathy Lloyd has received good news in recent weeks but doctors warned her not to celebrate, yet.

First, a bone marrow biopsy taken on her birthday, June 19, indicates the cancer in her bones has been "killed." Second, a blood marker test that tracks cancer cells in the blood stream has dropped to 35, after a high of about 170. Below 31 is considered "no cancer," Lloyd said. And third, other tests indicate her heart, lungs, bladder, and kidneys have not been damaged by her cancer treatment.

The former missionary also was blessed with a shorter hospital stay than expected in June. She was dismissed after only 18 days. Doctors had told her to anticipate a four- to six-week stay.

She attributes the good news to answered prayer. Lloyd and her husband, Skip, from Granite City, Ill., resigned as missionaries to South Korea at the end of last year because of the cancer that had spread rapidly through her bones. She was given six months to two years to live. □

68-year-old enters the Gospel ministry

Baptist Press

MURRAY, Ky. — Bill Miller, 68, had a 33-year career in public education as an elementary teacher, history teacher, basketball coach, principal, and superintendent.

Then he felt a call to preach and is now pastor of Sugar Creek Church near Murray. He "kind of dreaded" telling his wife and three children "because it's such

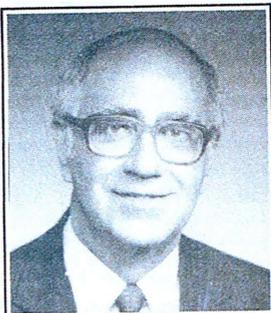
a big change and I didn't know what kind of reaction to expect. But no one seemed really surprised."

Miller, a Christian since age 13, had taught Sunday School and held other key posts in First Church, Murray, since 1947. □

Walker named top educator

Education Commission

Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission, recently received the Charles D Johnson Outstanding Educator Award which is given annually to a person who has made a significant contribution to Southern Baptist higher education.



WALKER

Walker was chosen by the administrative committee of the Education Commission for the award which was presented in June at the annual meeting of the association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

The award recognizes Johnson who was author of *Higher Education of Southern Baptists* and was chairman of the Education Commission from 1932 to 1953.

Walker has directed the Education Commission since 1978. Prior to that he was dean of students at Southern Baptist Theological

Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and was on the faculty and administration of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., for 20 years.

Walker, an authority in parliamentary procedure, has served as parliamentarian for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He is a member of Immanuel Church, Nashville. □

HMB offers census helps

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Census data and their applications to church starts, ministry, and evangelism are available from the Home Mission Board. Reports on the data are broken down by age, race, and ethnic groups and include information about households and housing values, said Orrin Morris, HMB research department director.

An 11-page census guide offers suggestions for applying regional data for more effective church planting, church growth, evangelism, or ministry. The reports, available free to any Southern Baptist church, association, or state convention, can be tailored to cities, counties, zip codes, or census tracts, Morris said.

For more information, contact Cathy Harper at the Home Mission Board's research department, (404) 898-7644, or 1350 Spring Street NW, Atlanta, Ga., 30367-5601. □

Baptist breaks ground for complex

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held July 8 at Baptist Hospital, Nashville, for a new 275,000 square-foot medical office building and adjacent new parking garage.

The new office building will house a number of physicians and their staffs. The \$26 million con-



LOUIS SULLIVAN, left, Secretary of Health and Human Services, is joined by Baptist Hospital, Nashville, President C. David Stringfield as the President's Cabinet member addressed physicians, staff members, and community leaders during a visit to Baptist Hospital. Sullivan told the group health care reform has become a top priority on the national agenda. He praised Baptist Hospital for its preventative medicine and educational programs.

struction project includes a ten-story building located at 20th Avenue North and State Street, scheduled for completion in late 1993, and a garage which will accommodate 2000 cars, slated for a November 1992 opening.

The new building is part of a multi-phase construction program totaling \$150 million, currently underway at the hospital. This includes two major medical office buildings, the North Tower, and a number of smaller projects. □

Faith keeps Laotian mother from suicide

Baptist Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — If Koy Iene Saechao were not a Christian, she admits she would have followed her Laotian customs after her husband, Fou Seng Saechao, was slain in a May convenience store robbery: She would have taken her own life.

But as a Christian, says Mrs. Saechao, mother of four children, ages nine to 14, "I will keep on until God takes me home to heaven to be with my husband again." Saechao was a deacon at Lu-Mien Friendship Church in Portland who became a Christian in the mid-1970s in a refugee camp in Thailand. □

Broadman signs for book sequel

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — It's been almost 100 years since Congregationalist minister Charles Sheldon wrote the Christian classic *In His Steps* but now the late author's great grandson hopes to bring the book's message to a new generation.

The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press recently signed a contract with Garrett Sheldon to publish his new book tentatively titled, *In His Steps: A Contemporary Sequel*. The book is scheduled for release in July 1993.

While a number of sequels to *In His Steps* have been written by other authors, Sheldon's sequel is

the first by a family member of the original author. "My great grandfather died before I was born but I grew up hearing stories about him and his book," said Sheldon, associate professor of political science at the University of Virginia's Clinch Valley College in Wise, Va. "I have written a number of academic books and I had thought about writing a sequel to *In His Steps* for years but I thought, 'How could I presume to write a sequel to a Christian classic that has sold more than 30 million copies and has been published in 15 languages?'"

Two years ago Sheldon worked up the nerve to begin the book and he completed the manuscript earlier this year. While he is calling the book a "sequel," Sheldon said it does not take up where the original book left off. "I really just took the basic theme of *In His Steps* and brought it into the 1990s by updating the characters and the story line," Sheldon explained.

Despite the changes, Sheldon said the characters in his sequel still pledge to make their life's decisions based on the question, "What would Jesus do?" □

Marriage festivals begin in September

Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE — Fourteen weekends of Fall Festivals of Marriage will be held this autumn, beginning Sept. 18-20 in New Orleans, La., and concluding Nov. 6-8 at Osage Beach, Mo.

The theme of the 1992 Fall Festivals of Marriage is "Communication and Intimacy." The conferences are sponsored by *Home Life* magazine and the family enrichment section of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department.

Festival topics include: better communications, sexuality, conflict resolution, coping with negative emotions, dealing with anger, the importance of friendship, and others.

For more information about registration and locations, call the SSB's family ministry department at (615) 251-2294. □

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