

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

this week's news

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Memphis youth 'change world' in Mexico

By Tim Yarbrough
Brotherhood Commission

CIUDAD VICTORIA, Mexico — For Maria Luisa, a sanitary latrine can mean the difference between life and death.

Like the dozen or so residents of a row of squatter's homes in this section of Ciudad Victoria, Maria sees a latrine built by Southern Baptist youth as a Godsend.

"I'm very grateful for this group," the 19-year-old mother of two said of members of a World Changers crew working near her home. "Without them, I wouldn't have this service."

Maria, whose husband, Teodoro, 24, works odd jobs in crops and construction, is expecting another child in a few months.

"They have risked their lives by coming from so far away to help me," she said. "I'm sure their fathers and mothers are worried about them."

The "Hand Saws" and "Short Cuts" crews working on latrines were part of 55 youth and adults who participated in the first foreign World Changers missions project June 9-18. World Changers, sponsored by the Southern

Baptist Brotherhood Commission, is for high school youth.

Among them were 33 members of First Church, Memphis. The volunteers were John Bailey, leader of the group; Ann Cameron, Charles Cameron, Carole Eady, Jeff Murray, Sterling Severns, Rosann Williams, Amy Briggs, Kelle Griffin, Lesley Cavender, Andy Mynatt, Katie Blumer, Angie Hensley, Jim Weatherby, Vincent Vignale, Cary Lowe, Scott Lowe, Torrie Arnold, Daniel Eady, Jared Kinney, Julia Reynolds, Jeffrey Murray, Jenny Johnson, Mandy Garrigan, Amy Wilson, Suzanne Patterson, Emily Patterson, Kelli Cameron, Amy Jewel, Diana Gabriel, Ben Drumel, Chris Fowler, and Suzanne Griffin.

Bailey, minister of youth and recreation at First Church, Memphis, said the Mexico project helped his youth see "what the world is really like."

"When you're actually working on families' homes — actually latrines — you get a feel for what real missions is about. It puts you in contact with the people," Bailey said. "They'll know better how to



MEMBERS OF FIRST CHURCH, Memphis, share a New Testament with Maria Luisa and her 20-month-old daughter, Ana Karen, during a World Changers project held in the Moderna area outside of Ciudad Victoria, Mexico. They are, from left: Joe Frausto, a Texas pastor; Katie Blumer, 16; Ana Karen and Maria Luisa; Amy Wilson, 16; and Andy Mynatt, 15.

pray ... and have a better appreciation for missionary work around the world."

In addition to completing 20 latrines for squatters, each family was presented with a New Testament. At a special worship serv-

ice held on the final day of work, nearly all of the community's adults accepted Christ as their Savior.

"The people are so eager to hear the Gospel," said Bracky — Memphis youth, page 2

FMB, WMU leaders discuss future relationship

By Susan Doyle
Woman's Missionary Union
For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM — Representatives from Southern Baptists' Foreign Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union met July 27 for a discussion about the past and future relationship between the two entities.

The dialogue came at the request of FMB trustees who voted in June to meet with WMU leaders to discuss the 104-year relationship between the FMB, a mission-sending entity, and WMU, a mission-supporting entity. The dialogue included four WMU leaders and four FMB leaders.

The three-hour dialogue ended with two agreements: that John Jackson, FMB trustee chairman, initiate dialogue with leaders of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and that the FMB and WMU continue the dialogue. The CBF is an organization of Southern Baptist churches formed in protest to the Southern Baptist Convention's current leadership and direction.

Much of the discussion centered on the perceptions surrounding recent actions taken by both the FMB and WMU.

FMB leaders asked pointed questions about WMU's relationship with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

WMU has been asked to consider providing some missions education materials tailored for the Fellowship, FMB leaders were told. However, the decision to produce those materials has not been made, WMU leaders said.

WMU has not been asked to initiate or promote a missions offering for the Fellowship, contrary to rumor, the WMU leaders said.

Concerns about the FMB's relationship with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship were raised by the WMU leaders. Jackson was asked by the WMU leaders to initiate a dialogue with Fellowship leaders and, specifically, to underscore the FMB's willingness to appoint people as career missionaries who have been involved with the Fellowship.

Pointed questions were asked by WMU leaders concerning the replacement of FMB President R. Keith Parks. Parks will take early retirement effective Oct. 30 after a 38-year career in foreign missions. He has cited philosophical differences with trustees in his retirement decision.

The WMU leaders urged the appointment not be a politically motivated appointment. Instead, they asked that FMB trustees seek someone with a history of career missionary service.

The group agreed to continue the dialogue by sending representatives to each other's board meetings beginning with the WMU executive board meeting in January 1993 and the FMB trustee meeting in February 1993. They each agreed to send seven representatives — five trustees and two staff members.

Both WMU and FMB leaders agreed healing within the controversy-torn Southern Baptist Convention will only be possible if such discussions continue.

Representing the FMB were Parks, Jackson, and trustees Karen Gilbert and Phyllis Randall. Gilbert is the board's recording secretary. Randall chairs the trustee mission personnel committee.

Representing WMU at the request of national WMU President Carolyn Miller were national WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien and board members Virginia Caughman of South Carolina and Gerry Dunkin of Texas. Miller also attended. □

In July

TBC giving holds steady

Tennessee Baptist churches gave \$2,281,134.62 through the Cooperative Program during July.

D. L. Lowrie, Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director/treasurer, said the total was \$60,269.73 less than the July total for 1991. However, giving to the CP budget goal is still \$767,366.44 more than last year at the same time.

CP receipts thus far in 1992 amount to \$18,740,900.68, or 4.27 percent increase for nine months.

Budget giving by the church-

es is \$2,477,319.32 under budget needs. The budget was dramatically increased at last year's TBC session in Memphis.

Lowrie also said designated funds given through the TBC office by churches amounts to \$574,000, or about 2.7 percent of the budget figure. That would lower the budget shortfall to 8.97 percent.

Overall, July was under last year's July total, but healthy enough to keep the nine months' total above last year at the same time. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen is the editor.
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Relocation no longer an issue, says Crews

Baptist Press

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — After nearly six years as president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, one question continues to pester William O. Crews: Do you still plan to sell the Mill Valley campus and move to a new location?

"The answer is 'no,'" he tells visitors. "We're here on this lovely 150-acre campus overlooking the San Francisco skyline and we intend to stay."

Crews regrets the two and a half years spent in limbo when the school considered moving.

"We were land-rich with 150 acres of prime real estate in Marin County, one of the highest income areas of the nation, so yes, we did consider selling out," he said. "We spent tons of time looking for sites, plus meetings with 100 or more developers. It was frustrating, because I thought the land issue could be settled quickly."

"Also, recruiting new students suffered from our uncertainty," he

said. "But that's over. We're here to stay."

After many delays, the seminary is selling 24 single-family home sites, plus space for a 30-unit condominium. Water lines and all the improvements are in place.

Golden Gate expects to net \$10 million from the sales for permanent endowment.

"Endowment is critical because living expenses here are 54.4 percent higher than anywhere Southern Baptists have seminaries," he said. "For example, we could never pay our faculty enough to afford a house in this area. Hopefully, the day is coming when we can subsidize home-buying with something like interest-free loans, payable when the home is later sold."

Since coming to the seminary in 1986, Crews said he believes his greatest accomplishment is achieving financial stability.

When Crews arrived, the seminary was accumulating an

annual deficit of \$300,000.

"Frankly, we were budgeting on hope — hope we could sell out and relocate," he said. "When that didn't materialize, we got realistic. Although it meant a reduction in services and staff, we cut our

budget \$1 million a year. Now we're in the black; we ended 1991 with a balance of \$160,000 rather than a deficit." Final figures are not in but the seminary expects to end the 1992 fiscal year with another surplus. □

California 'institution' retires

Baptist Press

FRESNO, Calif. — A California Southern Baptist institution, Polly McNabb, associate editor of *The California Southern Baptist*, retired July 31 after 43 years of service with the state paper.

McNabb's tenure — which spanned seven editors — was the longest of any California Southern Baptist Convention employee and one of the longest among Southern Baptist editors.

A native of Missouri, McNabb was a school teacher before being invited to serve as secretary at First Southern Church, Bakersfield, Calif. She subsequently was hired as assistant to the editor of *The California Southern Bap-*

tist, Floyd Looney.

A later editor, Elmer Gray, reported McNabb's arrival in "Heirs of Promise: A Chronicle of California Southern Baptists, 1940-1978."

"The name of Miss Polly Anna McNabb appeared as a staff member for the first time in the August 11, 1949, issue," Gray wrote. "She began as assistant to the editor with a variety of responsibilities from secretarial work to editorial assistance."

Having interrupted her college work upon moving to California, McNabb later enrolled at California State University at Fresno. She changed her major from education to journalism and earned 30 hours of credit beyond a bachelors degree.

McNabb was named acting editor of *The California Southern Baptist* after Looney resigned in 1961 to accept a position with the SBC Annuity Board. She served in that capacity until J. Kelly Simmons, a former editor in Colorado and Arizona, was elected to succeed Looney as editor.

In 1962, after a dozen years as assistant to the editor, McNabb was promoted to associate editor and advertising manager of the paper.

Simmons served less than two years before he died in February 1963 following a bout with cancer. McNabb continued to serve as associate editor under ensuing editors J. Terry Young, 1963-71; Don McGregor, 1971-1973; Elmer Gray, 1974-1983; Herb Hollinger, 1983-1991, and Mark A. Wyatt, 1991-present. □

Memphis youth 'change world' in . . .

— Continued from page 1

Bickerstaff, 29, leader of a group of youth from Crabtree Valley Church in Raleigh, N.C. "I think building latrines opened the door for us to come talk to them about Christ. They saw us being willing to help them and do things for them."

In a remote mountain village more than 50 miles away, another World Changers crew worked to complete 13 latrines. The area,

known in Mexico as a "huizachal," or small mountain community, has mostly been forgotten by the government's social service agencies.

It's no wonder. On the first day of work the vehicle carrying members of the "Toe Nails" work crew was unable to make the trip. Crew members had to walk five miles to get to the village.

After a week working in the village, grateful residents slaughtered two "cabritos," or baby goats, and prepared tortillas for a feast, said John Hasteley, Southern Baptist representative to Mexico. "The whole community was involved in the work . . . there is a deep sense of community there."

The work of World Changers helped improve "some basic health needs" of the people, he said. "We've been concerned here

for some time about the outbreak of cholera . . . and one reason is the lack of toilet facilities."

Following a distribution of New Testaments to families in the mountain village, the people were interested in starting a weekly Bible study, he said.

As the World Changers crew prepared to leave the community, tears welled in the eyes of several villagers. "We thought everyone had forgotten us . . . then you came," Hasteley quoted one as saying.

The language barrier posed little problem with youth who expressed themselves through smiles and hugs.

"Not being able to communicate verbally makes it tough," said Suzanne Patterson, 18, of First Church, Memphis. "But it also makes it more satisfying." □

Student chosen for Chile service

Karla Vandergriff, a recent graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, has been selected to represent Tennessee Baptist Student Union as a semester missionary to Chile, Aug. 1-Dec. 5.

Vandergriff will teach English as a second language to fourth and fifth graders at El Sembrador Church/School in Temuco. Other responsibilities will include organizing sports and recreational activities for the school children and assisting the school pastor in weekly chapel services.

A May graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Vandergriff received her bachelor of arts degree in speech communication and English. She is a member of Inskip Church, Knoxville, and is the daughter of Juanita and Carl Vandergriff of Knoxville.

While a student at UT, she served on the Baptist Student Union Executive Council as well as the drama team and participated in three SPOTS (Special Projects Other Than Summer) mission trips. □



VANDERGRIFF

Salvation plans in Spanish and English

El plan de salvacion

Dios nos ama. "Mas Dios muestra su amor para con nosotros, en que siendo aun pecadores, Cristo murio por nosotros" Romanos 5:8.

El pecado nos ha separado de Dios. "Por cuanto todos pecaron, y estan destituidos de la gloria de Dios," Romanos 3:23.

Dios nos llama al arrepentimiento. "Pero Dios, habiendo pasado por alto los tiempos de esta ignorancia, ahora manda a todos los hombres en todo lugar, que se arrepientan;" Hecho 17:30.

Dios nos asegura Su perdón. "Si confesamos nuestros pecados, el es fiel y justo para perdonar nuestros pecados, y limpiarnos de toda maldad" 1 Juan 1:9.

Confiese a Cristo como se Señor y Salvador. "Pues la

Escritura dice: Todo aquel que en el creyere, no sera avergonzado . . . porque todo aquel que invocare el nombre del Señor sera salvo" Romanos 10:11, 13. □

How to Become a Christian

Acceptance. Everyone wants to be accepted — to feel "in." You probably know what it takes to be accepted by friends. But have you ever thought about what it takes to be accepted by God?

Consider what the Bible teaches:

1. God loves you. — John 3:16; 10:10.

2. You are a sinner in need of forgiveness. The Holy Spirit makes you aware of your sin. — Romans 3:23; 6:23; Hebrews 9:27.

3. God wants to forgive you. — Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18.

4. You must turn away from your sins. — Luke 13:5; Ephesians 2:8-9.

5. You must place your faith in God's Son, Jesus Christ. — Acts 20:21; John 14:6.

6. You can receive Jesus Christ through prayer. — Revelation 3:20.

Through prayer, you can: Admit to God that you are a sinner and that you are turning from your sins. Believe in Jesus by thanking him for dying on the cross and rising from the dead for your sins. Commit your life to Jesus by asking him to come into your life as your Savior and Lord.

After you have received Jesus Christ into your life, tell a Christian friend and follow Christ in believer's baptism and church membership. — Baptist Sunday School Board □

FMB trustee chairman plans talks with CBF leaders

By Mark Wyatt
The California Southern Baptist
For Baptist Press

FRESNO, Calif. — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's trustee chairman says he "will be happy to sit down and talk with" Cooperative Baptist Fellowship leaders to "clear up misperceptions" about how foreign missionaries are appointed.

"Rather than continue the controversy, I want to heal relationships," John Jackson, pastor of First Church, Fairfield, Calif., told *The California Southern Baptist*, newsjournal of the California Southern Baptist Convention.

Although no timetable has been set, Jackson said he expects to talk soon with leaders of the CBF organization of SBC moderates.

Jackson was asked to initiate talks with CBF leaders during a July 27 meeting he and other FMB trustee leaders had with leaders of the Woman's Missionary Union about the past and future relationship between the FMB and WMU.

Jackson said the talks with WMU leaders are intended to "further the longstanding relationship we've always had." Noting that the FMB is "dependent on WMU for much of our budget," Jackson said the possibility WMU may begin "raising funds for CBF places in jeopardy our relationship."

"We do not wish to control nor exercise any power over WMU. That's not our responsibility," Jackson said. "We are deeply concerned about any decisions that would jeopardize our longstanding relationship. We don't want to see any deterioration of our longstanding love relationship."

Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director, voiced gratitude for the dialogue, saying, "It was helpful to have a forum to discuss troublesome issues such as Ruschlikon and to express our prayerful concern regarding their selection of a new FMB president." (A Baptist seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, was eliminated by FMB trustees from this year's budget; FMB President R. Keith Parks has announced his retirement in October over philosophical differences with trustees.)

"We are also pleased," O'Brien said, "that there will be ongoing discussions in which we can deal with complex problems in our convention together. It is imperative that we keep missions lifted above a political agenda and we jointly commit our influence and resources to that end."

Jackson told the California paper on the issue of SBC-CBF relations: "I don't think I'm a knight in shining armor to alleviate all the problems between the SBC and the CBF. I do have a responsibility to resolve misunderstandings and assure them

we will send candidates if they qualify like anyone else."

Jackson rejected the notion FMB trustees are refusing to appoint missionary candidates from churches which support the CBF.

"We do not appoint churches, we appoint members of churches," Jackson said. "Most of the FMB trustees don't know who is from a CBF church," he continued. "We go through the process. The trustees really have no idea whether a candidate is from a CBF church."

Jackson said "the process" involves FMB missionary personnel recruitment staff, called "consultants," who screen prospective missionaries and present candidates to trustees for consideration. But the FMB chairman said candidates are not automatically appointed.

"There's a number of people in the churches who could not be appointed" for a variety of reasons, Jackson said.

Churches "might want to send some people we would not send, theologically," Jackson said. But, he added, trustees "are not dominated and controlled by where

candidates come from. What we're interested in is that the consultants bring us names of individuals, not names of churches. Everybody would be considered based on their qualifications."

Jackson said FMB trustees have not taken a position that the CBF is a denomination, although some Southern Baptist leaders view it as such.

But Jackson noted one action taken by the CBF which he said suggests the group is more than just a fellowship: "The very fact they have established their own mission sending organization says they are" a convention.

Still, Jackson said FMB trustees will consider all qualified candidates for missionary appointment.

"We have a mandate to appoint Southern Baptists. If they (CBF) became a convention we could not appoint them," Jackson said. "As long as they have the capacity to vote at the convention and they are considered Southern Baptist, we have to consider them."

"The convention determines what is a Southern Baptist church," Jackson explained. "The

convention has never said CBF is not Southern Baptist."

In an interview with the FMB news office, Jackson reiterated that "even though we've been accused of having a global agenda to transmit the SBC controversy overseas, we have no global agenda other than evangelism that results in churches.

"As I told the WMU leaders, the proof will be in the pudding. If we have a global agenda to transmit controversy, the trustees made a mistake in electing me chairman. I don't have a global agenda and I have no desire to disrupt the Foreign Mission Board's philosophy of working with overseas partners as equals through cooperation rather than coercion.

"But nothing is an island unto itself," Jackson said. "Anything can happen. The controversy may spill over into the overseas arena as a byproduct. I can't speak for every individual but the board as a whole has no agenda to cause that. I don't think there was an agenda to transmit neo-orthodoxy from Europe to the United States either, but it got here as a byproduct." □

Patterson appoints seven professors

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Signaling a time of "adjustment" and "wonderful potential," Paige Patterson, new president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, has announced seven new faculty members at the Wake Forest Southern Baptist Convention-related seminary.

Six are former faculty members at Criswell College, where Patterson was president before taking Southeastern's helm.

Patterson said one of the new professors, Daniel Akin, also is being named to the permanent position of dean of students. On the faculty, Akin will be an adjunct professor of church history. Akin was dean of students at Criswell College.

The other six new teachers will serve under presidential appointments for one year, Patterson said.

Keith Eitel, new professor of missions, also will be an adviser to Patterson on accreditation and an assistant at the seminary's Drummond Center for Great Commission Studies.

Akin holds an undergraduate degree from Criswell College in Dallas, a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Eitel was dean of undergraduate studies at Criswell College. He holds an undergraduate degree from Dallas Baptist University, a master of arts from Baylor University, and a doctor of missiology degree from the Faculte de Theologie Protestante in Ovest Afrique. Eitel is a candidate for a Ph.D. degree at the

African institution.

Scott Tatum, new visiting professor of preaching and pastoral ministry, is a retired faculty member from Southwestern. He holds an undergraduate degree from Baylor and master's and doctorate degrees in theology from Southwestern.

Other new faculty members formerly on Criswell College's faculty are:

■ Gerald Cowen, professor of pastoral theology. Cowen holds an undergraduate degree from Mississippi College and master's and doctorate degrees in theology from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. He has done additional studies at Regent's Park College in Oxford, England.

■ Paul Carlisle, assistant pro-

fessor of pastoral theology will teach counseling. Carlisle holds an undergraduate degree from East Texas Baptist University and master of science and doctor of education degrees in counseling from East Texas State University.

■ David Lanier, associate professor of New Testament. Lanier holds an undergraduate degree from North Georgia College, a master of arts from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and master of divinity and Ph.D. degrees from Southwestern.

■ Gary Galeotti, professor of Old Testament. Galeotti holds an undergraduate degree from Oklahoma Baptist University and master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern. □

HMB plans lay renewal reunion

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — A reunion to mark 20 years of the church lay renewal movement in the Southern Baptist Convention will be Oct. 28 to Nov. 1 at Toccoa, Ga.

Currently, 18,000 people are lay renewal volunteers, said Doyle Pennington, liaison for the Home Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission which jointly sponsor the renewal activities.

The church renewal process includes lay renewal weekends and lay ministry weekends. An average of 600 renewal events are held each year, Pennington said.

Lay renewal weekends are designed as inward journeys for churches to evaluate their roles, Pennington said. Lay ministry weekends help churches focus outward on responsibilities in their communities. Both events are led by lay people who share testi-

monies and lead in church services.

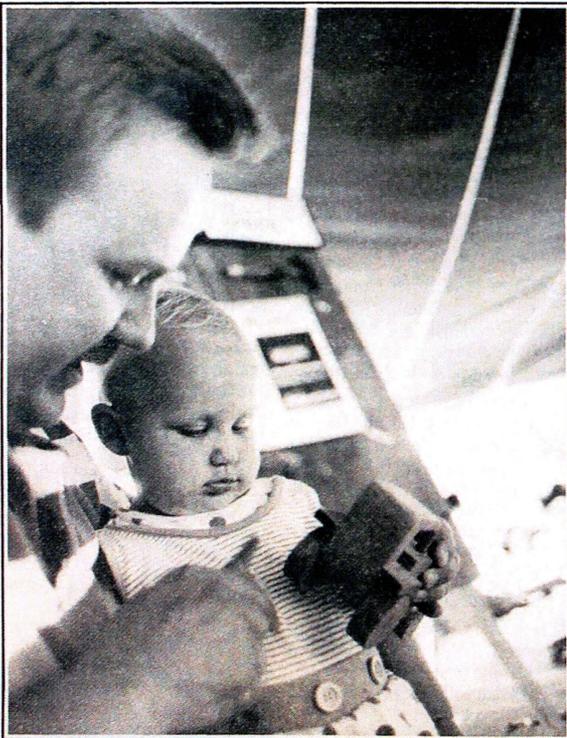
"The process is designed to awaken the laity and help them express their faith in Christ with a deeper commitment to his lordship individually and in the church," Pennington said.

The fall reunion will include Bible study led by Ron Barker, Home Mission Board associate director of associational evangelism, and discussion with Reid Hardin, HMB director of lay evangelism.

The reunion will be at the Georgia Baptist Assembly.

A separate youth track will begin Oct. 30 and continue through Nov. 1.

To register or for more information, contact the HMB lay evangelism department at 1350 Spring Street, NW, Atlanta, Ga., 30367-5601. □



AMY MATHIS, 2, and her father, Wade, examine a toy truck crafted from wood during the Jericho missions festival at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. Mathis, a businessman from Covington and his wife, Carole, brought their two children, Amy and Drew, to the fourth annual "Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival" at Ridgecrest July 11-17. Under a tent in the parking lot, people seeking a "hands-on" mission experience built toys, nativity sets, lecterns, deacons benches, a pulpit, and other furniture for Canaan Church in Queens, a borough of New York City. Carole smoothed the rough edges on a belt sander and Amy tested the finished product. The Mathises are members of Oak Grove Church in Covington.

■ 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. □

■ an occasional word
By Lonnie Wilkey
associate editor

Wins and losses

The world loves a winner. As the Olympic Games continue in Barcelona, Spain, that is especially true. Millions of eyes are focused on what our USA teams are doing.

The so-called "Dream Team," the American basketball team comprised primarily of professional players, has captured the hearts of many people because not only are they winning, they are beating their competition by large margins.



WILKEY

Is that what the Olympics should be about?

And, what about the swimmer who finishes fourth and does not even earn a bronze medal or the sprinter who does not qualify for the medal round? Are those persons "losers?" I think not.

In my book anyone who competes in the Olympics is a winner, whether they earn the gold medal or finish last.

Life should not be judged solely on "wins" and "losses." We may think we have lost something, only to discover later we were actually winners.

A good example is our Christian witness.

We may share the message of Christ with someone for weeks or months with no apparent success. But one year later, or even longer, that person could accept Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior because of the "seeds" we planted. We may not even know about the "victory."

But, fortunately for us, God knows the "final score." □

Likes style

I have read my July 1 and July 8 editions of the *Baptist and Reflector* and wanted to write and commend you for the new format. I like it very much and find it to be easy to read, informative as always, and something Tennessee Baptists should be proud. I know, as a former Tennessee Baptist, I am proud of it. I am pleased to be able to receive the *Baptist and Reflector* through the generosity of First Church, Greeneville, where I had the privilege of serving as pastor in the early 1970s. Keep up the good work.

John W. Tresch Jr.
Dean of Studies
Bluefield College
Bluefield, Va., 24605

Thank you

From Michigan to Tennessee — Thank you! Thank you for the wonderful and blessed opportunity given to my wife Pam and me to be a part of your RA Congress. As you may be aware — half of the RA Congress Missions Offering was designated for our ministry in Michigan.

Almost two years ago I took a very bold step of faith. I left very stable employment and became a Mission Service Corps Volunteer. The HMB assigned me as State Brotherhood Coordinator in Michigan. As an MSC Volunteer, I am responsible for raising all of our financial support. I was told it would be a difficult task in Michigan. God continues to honor our faith and trust in him. And even though we have only raised \$460 a month in committed support, he continues to meet our needs in a unique way. This is possible because of people like you. Your leaders' hearts are open to the leadership of the Holy Spirit and needs are met as a result of it. You are to be commended for your part in meeting real needs in the life of the Vann family.

To go beyond the Missions Offering, I express appreciation on behalf of Michigan Baptists for all you mean to us as a part of God's family. Just last month I had the opportunity to work along side Tennessee Baptists in numerous projects which we called the Detroit Connection. It seems everywhere I go all across our state, I bump into Tennesseans.

We praise God for you and do pray he will bless you for your commitment, generosity, and giving. We are a changed people because you have continued to give.

Cameron Byler and Bob Davison have really impacted my life through their commitment and dedication and I praise God for them.

Thank you for being a vital part of the Brotherhood Ministry in Michigan as well as to Michigan Baptists. I thank God for everyone who has stood with us with prayers and support.

Wayne, Pam, Melissa, and Vanessa Vann
9854 E. Clements Circle
Livonia, Mich., 48150

Not judging

I am writing in response to the letter "Exclusion hurts" in the July 1 *Baptist and Reflector*. The writer implied that Pullen Memorial Church was treated unfairly by Southern Baptists because of their affirmation of and practice of homosexual marriages.

The writer quoted Matthew 7, "Judge not that you be not judged," and then proceeded to

take the gavel and judicial robes and pass a verdict on other churches. I am tired of hearing Matthew 7 quoted out of context every time someone is held accountable for a wrong committed.

In the same passage, verse 6 states, "give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you."

Although Jesus told them to "judge not" he then proceeded to tell them to use discernment about spiritual matters or else suffer consequences. I don't believe we are judging but using discernment when we will not tolerate homosexual lifestyles and marriages in our churches.

I do not believe we are judging when we make a blanket statement about the rest of the churches in the convention permitting their ranks to be filled by sin-laden people.

Gary Jared
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Banners spread God's Word, Tennessean says

By Linda Lawson
Sunday School Board

GLORIETA, N.M. — Making banners for a worship service is not an arts and crafts activity but an avenue to "awaken people to the reality of who God is," the coordinator of the banner ministry at Bellevue Church, Cordova, said.

Carolyn Higginbotham, who since 1986 has directed the banner ministry in which 100 banners highlighting names of God in the Bible have been researched and created, led a conference on banners in the worship service during the Church Music Leadership Conference July 11-17 at Glorieta

(N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

At Bellevue, the banners are used in large numbers in major productions, but they also are used in smaller numbers to support the theme of a worship service. Nine women are involved in the Biblical research, design, and construction of the banners. One hundred men have been enlisted as banner bearers.

"This is a spiritual ministry," said Higginbotham, who with Minister of Music James Whitmire has written a book, *Banners in the Worship Service: Making His Praise Glorious*, published by Convention Press of the

Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

For the banner designers, "this is their way of being able to share with the people who the Lord is, according to his Word," Higginbotham said.

After a name of God is chosen, such as Lamb of God, Shepherd, Man of Sorrows, or Emmanuel, the designer does careful Biblical research into the name. Every detail of the banner is planned to communicate a Biblical truth.

"We do not fill up our banners with 'stuff' just to make them pretty," she said. "Everything has a meaning."

Noting they have found that banners make the greatest impact on children, she said, "We don't want anything on these banners that would be a stumbling block to anybody."

"Banners are a statement about God rooted in the truth of his Word. We have pledged our banners will show the mighty name of God," Higginbotham continued.

For maximum impact, Higginbotham said banners should be used selectively and not displayed on a long-term basis.

"Banners are tools used to stimulate people toward worship of our one true God," she said. "They are not idols to be set up in your church and not touched."

She suggested placement of a banner ministry under a staff minister such as the minister of music.

Banners can be made as cheaply or expensively as resources allow, said Higginbotham, who noted that banners are a faith ministry of Bellevue. "God remarkably has provided the money," she said. □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership — August



- 8 — Volunteers Polly Cole of Union City and Creely Wilson of Brentwood as they serve today in Chile.
- 9 — Missionary evangelist Vic Bowman today as he celebrates his birthday while on furlough.
- 10 — Praise the Lord for the positive experiences he provided the Acteen Activator team that served in Santiago last month.
- 11 — Pastor Lionel Sanchez and the members of the Baptist church in Diego de Almagro — that revival will continue to spread and that the church will become a powerful witness even through difficult circumstances.
- 12 — Students beginning their second semester in the Theological Institute in Temuco. Ask the Lord to illumine their minds and give them a hunger and a thirst for Biblical truths.
- 13 — Wisdom for the Chilean Baptists as they consider restructuring their convention.
- 14 — Traveling mercies for Tennessee WMU team as they prepare to return to the states tomorrow. Also, that the seeds they planted in the hearts of their Chilean sisters will be harvested in the Lord's perfect timing.
- 15 — Missionary Rebecca Boston on her birthday as she serves in Santiago as a home evangelist.

■ Baptist beliefs
by Herschel Hobbs
Baptist theologian

Tremendous words — first in a series

"In the beginning God..." — Genesis 1:1

Shortly before his death I recall reading an interview with Arthur Compton, noted American physicist, by a Chicago newspaper. In it he said, "In the beginning God" are the most tremendous words ever penned."

I have often said that if a person really believes these first four words in the Bible the rest of the Bible is easy to accept.

It is true of the creation of the universe. "In the beginning" (Hebrew) means "In head," the start of all things. "God" (Elohim) means puffer forth of power, infinite power. "Created" means where nothing existed, something came into being. "Heavens [plural in Hebrew] and the earth" denotes a seemingly boundless universe.

When the proved facts of



HOBBS

science (not evolution, only an unproved theory) and an accurate interpretation of Genesis 1 are laid parallel, they agree. In Genesis 1 "day"

(yom) appears as (1) twenty-four hours; (2) from dawn to dusk; (3) of the entire time of the creation act, they agree. It is not how much time God needed, but how much he used. He could have done it in a split second or in eons of time. Time is no element with God; he is eternal present.

Because I believe the first four words in the Bible I believe in divine creation. □

Language Missions Day honors ethnic work

Baptists, like all caring Christians, should no longer be accused of being exclusive.

Baptists move and change home addresses. Baptists travel, here in the homeland and across the globe. The marketplace has become international and lower travel costs mean that Baptists rub shoulders with people of all races and who speak scores of different languages. We are not able to be exclusive, nor should we be so. We have met many people who are "different."

Sunday, August 9, is Language Missions Day. For Southern Baptists it means we need to celebrate and reach out to ethnic Americans. Is the world cosmopolitan? Yes. The 25th modern Olympic Games, now being played in Barcelona, Spain, is host to athletes from 172 nations.

Barcelona provides a dramatic backdrop for the old world. But the athletes and visitors from all over the earth are living illustrations of how old must blend with new.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Is our nation cosmopolitan? Yes. The United States of America is one of the most diverse in population.

No place is this more evident than any of our large cities. And the melting pot idea is becoming a way of life for most of us. Terry Sharp, TBC Missions Department, notes that the 1990 census reveals that eighty-two counties in Tennessee showed ethnic growth. "In fact, the ethnic population grew in many counties where overall population diminished

in number," he reveals.

The Missions Department, says Sharp, works with twenty-two language groups, sharing the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. Language Missions, which we celebrate August 9, includes work with International Friends, conversational English, refugees, migrants, and the deaf.

Much of the quality and diversity inherent in American people springs from its ethnic people — and the different language people. Five centuries ago an Italian sailor who learned his skills from Portuguese explorers sailed a Spanish ship across the Atlantic. People still immigrate to America.

They come, as did those of earlier days, for different reasons — to escape war or religious persecution, hunger, injustice, oppression; to seek freedom, fame, fortune, and opportunity.

As "heirs of the faith" expressed by Southern Baptists, these new Americans for decades have created and renewed, enriched and empowered the Southern Baptist denomination. Their example of commitment, dedication, and servanthood has created a caring people.

As Southern Baptists we worship and study the Bible in 101 languages and dialects. More than 6125 language/culture congregations/units, with about 500,000 members, are affiliated with Southern Baptist associations, state conventions, and the SBC.

On Language Missions Day as we celebrate and reach out, we need to:

■ Rejoice — Thank God for what He is doing among language/culture people living in

the United States.

■ Pray — An all-night prayer vigil, common among many ethnic churches, could set a special mood of worship.

■ Worship — Plan a Language Missions Day celebration.

■ Share — Determine the need for an ethnic ministry or congregation locally and help your church to meet that need.

More than 100 million Americans identify themselves as language/culture people, speaking in 636 languages and dialects. One half of a percent are members of Southern Baptist churches. We must meet the challenge to witness, minister, start churches among language/culture people — and include them in the family. As heirs of the faith, we need to give that heritage to others. □

A great offering

The exciting news found on page 8 of this issue lends opportunity for all Tennessees Baptists to give thanks to God and praise Him for his generosity and love.

We have learned that the 1992 Mother's Day Offering for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes smashed the goal of \$1 million. At the Friday tabulation, the total had reached \$1,098,090.

To tell the story of God's blessings, TBCH leaders opted to amplify the good news by advertisement. We share the enthusiasm that the goal has been surpassed and express deep appreciation to all Tennessee Baptists.

God is honored by the devoted and expert care given to children who have been helped and sustained by Tennessee Baptists through the TBCH.

We join with the children in saying, "Thank you, Tennessee Baptists," and thank you to all who serve in caring for the children. □

one word more
by Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Unplanned walk

The assignment for Day Three in Unit Three of Henry Blackaby's *Experiencing God* seemed simple enough. I scanned the week's pages in the workbook and Day Three looked inviting.

"I want you to set aside at least thirty minutes for a time to 'walk with God,'" Henry wrote. The choice of location was to be mine. The idea was to find out more about God. The more I know him and experience his love, the more I will love him.

He reminded me, through the written instructions, that Adam and Eve walked with God. They knew him pretty well.

When Day Three came, I was too busy to spend thirty minutes of peace, calm, and soul-searching.

Saturday morning was normal. Up early, out on the roads, back to mow the lawn and do some odd jobs around the house, a visit to the favorite antique mall, back home.

I managed to avoid extra work for a little while and slipped out to the patio. It seems peaceful there, and I was in between chores.

It was not "in the cool of the day" as when Adam and Eve walked with God. Sitting down, I really didn't know why I had chosen to be there.

In just a moment, everything around me became still. It was as if the hustle and bustle of Saturday morning had been brushed aside by Christ, the keeper of storms, as when He calmed the Galilee.

I was in another world, an ethereal world. If there were noises about me, I did not know it. Cardinals glided in to the feeder hanging from the tulip tree's lower limb. They were joined by chipping sparrows, merrily chirping in a contented, soft melody. The skies were July's own blue.

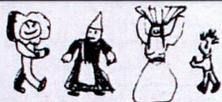
Underneath their blazing crowns, shadows played across the bright reds and subtle pinks of the zinnias. There was a gentle zephyr sighing through the dogwoods.

I prayed. Yes, God, I do know why You called me to this quiet place, so close to the thunder of traffic — but yet so far away. Close to You. You looked at Your creation and said of it all, "It is good." It still is. The unplanned thirty minutes passed quickly. I remember all the birds singing and eating together — no quarreling, no pushing others aside to be first. I did worship, and I did experience God, and I do know that He loves me. □



ALLEN

Heirs of the Faith



CELEBRATE LANGUAGE MISSIONS DAY AUGUST 9, 1992

just for today

by Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Two newlyweds were speaking. One said, "I always feel better after a real good cry." The second one asked, "It sorta gets things out of your system, eh?" The first girl replied, "No, it gets things out of my husband."

Take this truth with you

What method do you use for getting people to do what you want? The matter of proper motivation is one of the most important things in the world. Putting is the poorest way to motivate people to act for us. Why not be genuine and approach that person "eyeball to eyeball" with your requests. You'll feel better if you ask for things in a dignified way. Also, you'll probably come nearer getting them!

Remember this Scripture

"For the love of Christ constraineth us" (II Corinthians 5:14).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me always to keep my actions worthy of Jesus Christ. Forbid that I should stoop to any method of doing things that is not in harmony with the fact that Jesus loves me and I love him. Also, help me to love people and use things rather than loving things and using people. □

Teach children Baptist history, Brown says

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — As here-and-now thinkers with a limited concept of time and space, children might seem like the last candidates for learning history, especially Baptist history.

"History can become real, even to young children," contended Robert Brown, editor of children's materials in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training department. He led a session on teaching Baptist history and heritage to children during the July 4-10 Discipleship Training Leadership Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Unfortunately, the worst

method of teaching history, using disconnected dates and places, also is the most common, Brown said.

With children, history should be couched in stories about people and should be connected with something in the present.

For example, he said family reunions represent excellent opportunities for children to learn the history of their families.

"They allow children to have a sense of connectedness to many generations and see they are part of a big family," Brown said.

Visiting cemeteries also provides unique learning opportunities for children.

"Kids are fascinated with tomb-

stones and the fact that these are people who once lived," Brown said. Also, as they see 19th and early 20th century graves of children, adults can talk with them about the many diseases that claimed children as victims.

Building a bridge from the past to the present must be considered in effectively teaching history to children, he said.

With Baptist history, "you don't just start with the idea that Baptists made a significant contribution to religious liberty" in America. Stories of people such as Thomas Helwys, Roger Williams, John Clarke, William Screven, John Leland, and others can help lay a foundation.

Telling stories of historical figures to children needs to be done with awareness of their limited understanding of time and chronology.

"Long ago and far away may be the best that can be done with young children," Brown said.

"I believe children need to recover a sense of their history, a proud heritage of contributions Baptists have made to America," Brown said.

He cited as a resource a newly revised book, *Heroes of Freedom*, by Margaret Williams and Rob Sanders, released this summer by the board's Convention Press.

The book tells the stories of 13 Baptist heroes in England and America. □

Central opens crisis center

Central Church, Oak Ridge, has begun a Women's Crisis Center in Anderson County. The center, located on East Division Road, is designed to help women in crisis pregnancy situations, those who are abused, and/or those who have post abortion syndrome.

Center volunteers recently were trained by Pat Job, director of Knoxville's Crisis Pregnancy Center, and Stephen Hodges, associate pastor and counselor at Central Church.

Services include free pregnancy tests and counseling. Referrals are made for medical care, legal aid, professional counseling,

social services, housing during pregnancy, adoption agencies, and emotional and spiritual support. The 24-hour hotline number is (615) 483-0099.

The basic purpose of the center is to be "an emergency room" for women in any kind of crisis. All of the services of the center are free.

Emily Herrod, director of women's ministries at Central, is director of the center.

The center is funded totally by donations from concerned individuals. For more information about the ministry, contact Central Church at (615) 483-7495. □

Knoxville BSU teams practice sports evangelism in Zambia

By Craig Bird
Foreign Mission Board

LUSAKA, Zambia — Elbow-to-elbow basketball.

A finger-feast of "something like hominy with peanut sauce and something like turnip greens and a drink like nothing you've ever tasted (or want to taste)."

Singing and dancing with African Christians. Air so clear the sunsets go on forever. Air so acid-polluted it makes your nose bleed. Victoria Falls — a natural wonder. A massive strip mine — a natural disaster.

A hospital shutting down its leper colony, but expanding its AIDS-counselor training program.

One nosebleed ("I've never had a nosebleed!") and 18 coughing spells later, the reality of life in a developing country came home to all the visitors.

"A developing country can't afford to worry too much about the environment, I guess," said one.

Two weeks later the smells and sensations were entirely different.

While conducting two days of basketball clinics at a Salvation Army secondary school and hospital in Chikinkata, the two teams were surprise guests of honor at a traditional feast during a visit to a village.

Plans for a short visit to a village followed by a picnic at a nearby waterfall were short-

thusiastic reception. The mixture of coarsely ground cornmeal, water, sugar, and several unidentified "roots and spices" mostly stayed in the Americans' cups. "This is usually kept until it ferments but, of course, we throw ours out if it turns alcoholic," their hosts explained.

"It baffles me to find that people with less seem to give more," Kevin Thompson, a member of Inskip Church, Knoxville, said afterwards. "We were told it would be rude to give them anything but our thanks since we were guests. Yet they seem thrilled to be able to go to all that trouble and expense to feed a bunch of total strangers!"

Geoffrey Bowden from Antioch, a member of Central Bearden, in Knoxville, was asked to preach to the 50 villagers after the meal was concluded.

Leanne Brooks, a member of Central Church, Fountain City, felt going to church with Zambian believers was the best of the best. "I really enjoyed learning how Zambians worship — because they do it with all they have," she said.

Like most Americans, the Tennesseans had to confront the extremes between rich and poor. Angie Edwards, a member of West Main Church, Alexandria, was struck by "the very rich driving around in new Mercedes while the very poor live in shacks and their children are obviously malnourished."

But sports and evangelism dominated the trips. The teams played exhibitions and gave clinics at six secondary schools, as well as the University of Zambia, before thousands of people. Four team members were inter-



GEOFFREY BOWDEN, center, a member of Central Church, Bearden, in Knoxville, along with John Robinette, left, and Bill Crosland, talk with Zambians about basketball and Christ.

viewed on the television program "Good Morning Zambia." Each Sunday and sometimes during the week they spoke in Baptist churches.

One change was an alteration in the level of aggressiveness on the court.

"When they first started playing the national teams they were all so polite, but they figured out in a hurry referees interpret things a little differently over here," Turner said. "Pretty soon both teams learned to play Zambian style — which means lots of contact and banging around."

The adjustment was successful. "I just love Americans," one fan said at a game in Lusaka that raised \$1380 for the Baptist Convention of Zambia's drought relief program. "They smile and shake your hand before the tip-off, beat you by 40 points, then smile again and talk like best friends after the game is over."

"Sports" was the adjective. But "evangelism" was the focus.

"We're not just here for basketball," Winnie Motts told a group of high school girls after one clinic. "It's just the best way to tell about Jesus. Do you think just because we're from America we're perfect Christians? That's not true. Witnessing for Christ in Africa and sharing the love I have for him is not too hard, but it isn't real easy either. All I have to tell you is: I love Jesus."

"Like most of Africa, Zambia is sports-crazy," explained Turner, former coach of both men's and women's national teams for the country and now national coordinator for basketball. "Newspapers carried stories about these Americans coming to play and government ministers came to the games. Their basketball skills drew crowds and opened the way for thousands of people to listen to a Christian witness." □



DOUG HAYES of First Church, Friendsville, draws a crowd with his "Walkman" radio. — Photos by Craig Bird.

Those were just some of the faces of Africa a group of University of Tennessee students stared into this summer during a month-long sports evangelism trip across Zambia.

Eighteen students from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville — nine men and nine women — participated in the project, which was organized and sponsored by the UT Baptist Student Union.

"These kids have restored my faith in today's youth," said Southern Baptist missionary Lonnie Turner, who put together the project. "They are globally aware and want to make a difference. This trip has disturbed them — and that is good. They've asked God some tough questions about Zambia, but they trust him to have the answers."

Each student had personal highlights (and lowlights) during the May 29-June 26 trip, but two universals were a day at a massive copper pit mine and a few hours at a small Tonga village.

The sprawling mine at Chingola provided sights — and smells — never to be forgotten. Already appalled by the damage to the ecology, the Tennessee players literally gagged on the reality of the situation.

While the men were playing the Zambian national team, a cloud of sulfuric acid, a byproduct of the mining operation, was released. Wind carried it onto the court.

circuited by traditional hospitality. Instead of greeting the Americans with handshakes and small talk, the 50 people of the Tonga settlement had prepared a feast.

Tentatively — at first — the students sampled the fare, eating with their right hands like their hosts. Mounds of buntele (a "leaf sauce" available in regular or peanut-flavored varieties), musozya made from soaked corn mixed with peanut sauce and doused with sugar, stewed chicken and n'sema (a thick cornmeal porridge) disappeared into mouths and stomachs accustomed to hamburgers and pizza.

But the final course, a drink called cibwantu highly-prized by the Zambians, got a much less en-



KNOXVILLE STUDENTS try African food. From left, Winnie Motts, John Robinette, Sandi Thompson and Kevin Thompson, a member of Inskip Church, Knoxville.

Friendsville student shares 'highs, lows'

LUSAKA, Zambia — For Doug Hayes, both the highs and the lows of the trip to Zambia by the University of Tennessee-Knoxville BSU basketball teams involved African children.

Hayes, a sophomore at UT and a member of First Church, Friendsville, had many great experiences, but three stand out the most:

"First, as we were leaving after a practice at (missionary host)

Lonnie Turner's house in Lusaka, I heard little footsteps behind me. A little Zambian girl, with outstretched arms, was bringing me a basketball we had left behind. She smiled as I thanked her. To other people that moment might have been meaningless. But I saw something in that little girl: I saw the unconditional love of a child. She could have kept that ball and we would never have missed it. But she chased me down because it was ours.

"Sometimes it's better to act like a child. As adults we get more involved in things we can get for ourselves and not what we can give to others. Like the Lord said, children — or people with childlike hearts — will receive God's kingdom.

"Then, at Victoria Falls I was standing on the farthest point on the Zambian side. No one else was around and I got down on my knees and — surrounded by rainbows and mists from spray but enveloped even more by a love for God — thanked God for letting me love him and bless him for his creation.

"Finally, at Chikankata, late

one night Christie Hamner and I were by the lake enjoying the beauty of the stars and talking. We prayed about friendship and, when we finished and looked up, there was the Southern Cross in front of us."

His worst experience happened one night while the students were watching a video of "Cry Freedom," a movie about apartheid in South Africa, at the Baptist hostel in Lusaka.

"We were watching a true story about blacks suffering in South Africa when I noticed little eyes peering in the windows from outside the television room. It was Zambian children, standing in the cold (June is winter in the Southern hemisphere) so they could watch. They couldn't even hear what was being said.

"There were 14 white Americans and one black American in the middle of those children's country living the same situation as depicted in the movie. We had so much more than we needed while they had almost nothing, just because of where each of us had been born. I felt lower than dirt." — Craig Bird □

Fayetteville church discovers 'best kept secret'

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

FAYETTEVILLE — A Fayetteville church has discovered "one of the best kept secrets" of the ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Church Music Department.

Or at least that's what department director Julian Suggs calls the summer music missionary program.

The program is designed to assist churches in summer music activities for children, youth, or adults, explained Suggs. The program is flexible and is geared to help churches with specific needs they have, he added.

Though the program has been in place since 1956, there have been fewer requests for the music missionaries in recent years. This year, only two missionaries were appointed — Mary Anne Arkus of Carson-Newman College and Jamie Wigginton of Belmont University.

The summer program benefits both the missionaries and the churches who use them, Suggs said.

West End Church in Fayetteville is one church that participated in the program this year, and those who worked with the music missionaries have become believers.

The church asked for two missionaries to help conduct a summer music camp. It's the first time the church had attempted such an endeavor, said David Brown, minister of music at West End.

The results were overwhelming as the camp averaged more than 60 children daily with a high of 72. About one-third of the participants were non-West End children, Brown estimated.

In addition to learning and performing an entire musical in only one week, the children participated in a variety of other activities, including a daily Bible study, Brown said.

Five of the children made professions of faith as a result of the camp, and one of the children's mother also made a decision for Christ.

"The Lord can do miracles if we



WEST END CHURCH children practice their musical "Basic Training: Building Blocks for the Faith" prior to their July 19 performance. The children learned 13 songs in one week during a music camp.

step back and let him go," Brown said.

Pastor Mike Johnson said he was impressed that the church was able to use the camp as an outreach tool.

Though he admitted he was skeptical at first because he "wondered what the college students could do," he soon became impressed with the quality of the music missionaries.

"Their maturity and leadership have amazed me. I would highly recommend that any church use the missionaries and do a similar ministry," he said.

The two missionaries — Arkus and Wigginton, both agree they have benefited immensely from their experiences this summer. In addition to serving at different churches, both will serve on the staff of the church music camps held at Camp Carson and Camp Linden this summer.

Arkus, a member of First Church, Rogersville, noted every church she worked at wanted something different.

"The experience I've gained this summer is so valuable," she said. Arkus has worked with ages ranging from kindergarten to senior adults. "I feel the Lord will bless and use the experience I've gained," she said.

Arkus plans to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in

Louisville, Ky., after she graduates from Carson-Newman next spring. She hopes to eventually use her musical talents as a foreign missionary. "I'm open to wherever the Lord leads me," she affirmed.

Wigginton, a senior at Belmont, currently serves as minister of music for Concord Church, Brentwood. Though he plans to continue to use his musical skills in churches, he does not plan a full-time career in church vocations at this time. Regardless, however, he feels he has benefited from his experiences.

Both Arkus and Wigginton were pleased with their efforts at West End Church. "I had my doubts that we could learn 13 songs and be able to perform a musical in one week," Arkus said. "It was God working through us," she affirmed. The children attended camp July 13-17 and then presented a musical on Sunday afternoon, July 19, at the church.

Wigginton acknowledged it "was a good camp" that touched the lives of many people. While

the kids may not remember the words to all the songs they sung, they will remember the meanings of the songs, he predicted.

"If I did nothing else this summer, this week would have been worth it," Wigginton added.

The two summer missionaries affirmed the TBC program. They agreed churches could benefit from using summer music missionaries in many ways.

Some of the activities they did during the summer included teaching adults and youth to read music, provided voice lessons, and conducted piano seminars, in addition to their work with the children at West End's camp.

"Every talent I have has been used a little bit this summer," Arkus said.

Many people do not know basic music skills such as sight reading, Wigginton observed.

Churches could "jump ahead" in their music programs if they took just one week a year to learn the basic skills summer music missionaries can provide, Wigginton said.

David Brown agreed. The music missionaries can do so many things, he said. "In one week they could push a music ministry program ahead one year," he predicted.

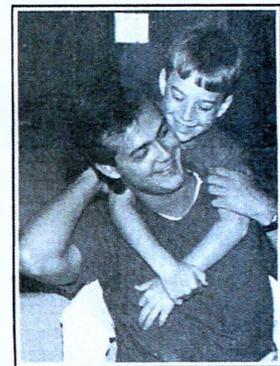
Suggs stressed the program is especially beneficial to churches that do not have full-time ministers of music.

The cost to the churches is minimal. They provide room and board for the missionaries plus an honorarium. The TBC's Church Music Department pays the missionaries' expenses and provides materials.

Churches can request one or two missionaries for either one or two weeks, Suggs said.

The missionaries are booked for the remainder of the summer, but it is not too early to begin planning for next year, Suggs said. Church leaders can write to Suggs at P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024 for more information on the program or they can call their director of missions, he suggested.

At West End Church, Brown already is planning to make his request. This year's camp has become "the first annual" event, he said. □



JAMIE WIGGINTON "horses" around with Dakota Gardner before rehearsal.

C-N student sees 'other side' of fence

Carson-Newman College

JEFFERSON CITY — Carson-Newman College student Chris Jones of Philadelphia has an understanding of college administration that most college students never will have.

Although only 21 years old, Jones has been a trustee of a private Christian school — Spartanburg (S.C.) Methodist College.

Before enrolling at Carson-Newman last fall, Jones earned an associate's degree in science at the South Carolina junior college.

Jones' service as student body president during his sophomore year at SMC secured him a position on the college's board of trustees following his graduation.

"It's certainly different for a college to have a board representative so fresh from the ranks," Jones said.

He noted he was not on the board "just to be there. I participated in meetings just like any other trustee. The only difference between me and the others was that I was serving only one term."

Jones observed SMC has had a history of appointing student representatives to its boards. There are simply some issues which only students are attuned, Jones said.

"For instance, to adults living in a nice house, eight people in a dorm quadrant with one bathroom is not a big deal. But for a freshman away from home for the first time, it's a different story," he said.

During his tenure Jones and other board members tackled such issues as athletic funding, the hiring and promotion of faculty members, and the purchase of property that became available after the board successfully lobbied the state to re-route a highway that ran through the campus.

As a member of the board's building committee, Jones voted to begin construction on several new buildings and to replace the flat roofs on other structures to make them more energy and maintenance efficient.

Though he was with people two to three times his age, Jones said the other trustees listened to his suggestions. "They treated me as just another trustee," he said.

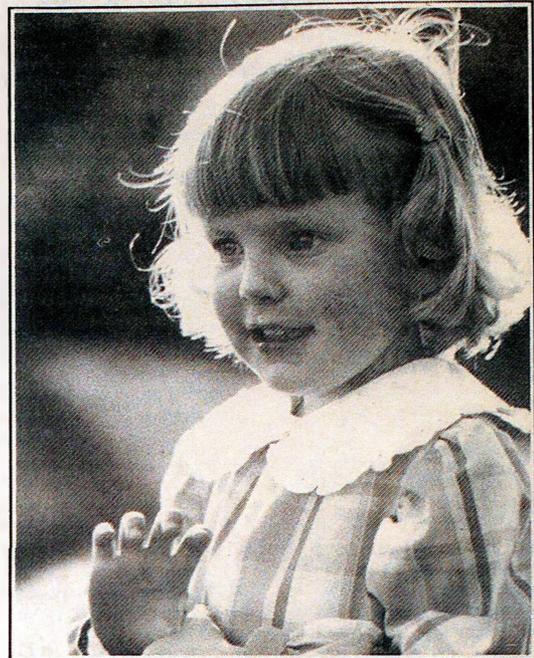


MUSIC MISSIONARIES Jamie Wigginton, second from left, and Mary Anne Arkus visit with host pastor Mike Johnson, left, and David Brown, minister of music at West End Church. The summer missionaries helped the church conduct its first music camp.

THANK YOU Tennessee Baptists

"Thank you for the Mother's Day Offering. I don't know if you know me or not. I thank you for helping someone you don't know. You are a great help and a great part of my life and what I have."

— a resident of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes



Mother's Day Offering exceeds \$1 million goal

Tennessee Baptists gave overwhelmingly to the 1992 Mother's Day Offering, surpassing the \$1 million goal by almost \$100,000.

On July 31, the last day gifts can be accepted for this year's offering, the final amount tallied \$1,098,090.

The Mother's Day Offering is the largest single offering received during the year for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. The offering accounts for almost one-third of the total budget of TBCH, the largest childcare agency in the state of Tennessee.

"Thanks to the generous support of Tennessee Baptist churches and faithful friends, we have exceeded our \$1 million goal," said Dr. Gerald Stow, Executive Director-Treasurer of the Children's Homes.

"This is a positive expression of Tennessee Baptists' compassion for hurting children," he added.

The Mother's Day Offering provides operating costs for the needs of 215-220 children in 27 cottages in nine locations across the state. It also helps provide funds for foster care, maternity care, and adoptive services.

Food, clothing, and a loving environment are just a few of the needs that are met through the offering. Most importantly, children who have experienced neglect and abuse receive a ministry of Christ's love and hope.

"I wish every contributor would see the wonderful change God's love makes in the life of one of these children," Dr. Stow said.

Bill Betts, Executive Assistant for Resources for the Children's Homes, also is grateful for the wonderful response of Tennessee Baptists.

"We give praise to the Lord and thanks to the people," he said.

The children, the recipients of Tennessee Baptists' caring generosity, too are very appreciative. They have been writing personal thank you notes which are being compiled by the TBCH central office and will be sent to churches.

One child wrote, "I thank you for the things

you've donated to TBCH. I know that God will see the kindness of your heart and I pray that when you need something that God will send someone to help you. In God's name, I thank you."

Another child wrote, "Thank you for the Mother's Day Offering. I don't know if you know me or not. I thank you for helping someone you don't know. You are a great help and a great part of my life and what I have."

The children's gratitude is comparable to the selfless attitudes exhibited by individual Tennessee Baptists and churches.

Churches used their creativity to find ways to raise money for the offering. Pastor Bill Brown of Bethany Baptist Church in Mountain City, challenged each member to give a quarter for each year of their mother's age.

Other churches challenged their people with a "mile of pennies" program where the membership was asked to contribute enough money to equal a mile of pennies — 84,480 pennies or \$844.80.

Another concept of the offering has been involving children helping children. This year the TBCH provided 27,900 coin boxes to churches who gave them to boys and girls in Sunday School, Royal Ambassadors, and Girls in Action.

The TBCH also had a pilot program in which six churches used honor/memorial envelopes along with the regular Mother's Day Offering envelopes. Individuals could give a gift in honor or memory of a loved one. There was positive response to this opportunity, Betts said.

And, churches had their own special reasons for giving.

Pastor Mike Schaefer and the congregation of Beech Grove Baptist Church in Mercer wrote the following letter and sent it with their gift:

"Please accept the enclosed check as our Mother's Day Offering in honor of Ms. Brandi Elston. Brandi is a 22-year-old who was born with Down's Syndrome. As her condition may have it, Brandi will probably never have any children of her own. So

we would like to honor her by giving \$5,000 to the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes to help those less fortunate, that they might receive a portion of God's love and many rich blessings.

"May God bless you and yours and continue to bless the work He has set forth for you at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes."

God is indeed blessing the work of the Children's Homes.

"Thank you Tennessee Baptists. You are helping to change the lives and hearts of children," Dr. Stow said.

(Advertisement)



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■ the leaders

■ John Gilbert became the new pastor of First Church, Obion, Aug. 2. Gilbert has served as pastor of churches in Michigan and Kentucky.

■ Etowah native William Frazier has been called as pastor of Antioch Church, Athens. Before returning to Tennessee, Frazier was pastor of Blackie Church, Hurley, Va. He will begin his service in Athens Aug. 9.

■ First Church, Morristown, has called two new staff members. Nancy C. Davis, formerly pastor of First Church, Vanleave, Miss., will serve as pastor and Craig Ward, a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, will be minister of youth.

■ Thomas Triplett is the new pastor at New Zion Church, Athens.

■ Kris Moore recently accepted the pastorate of New Hope Church, Decaturville. He was ordained June 28 at First Church, Parsons.

■ Bill Blankenship is serving as interim minister of music at First Church, Cookeville.

■ Andy Milam recently resigned as minister of music and youth at Avondale Church, Humboldt, to continue his education at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. David Boyd has been called to fill the music and youth position.

■ Charles Pratt, Haywood Association director of missions, is serving as interim pastor at First Church, Rutherford.

■ Southside Church, Humboldt, called Terry McDonald, a member of Smyrna Church, also in Humboldt, to serve as interim pastor.

■ Rufus Harris began serving

as pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, Aug. 1. John Adams, vice president of religious affairs at Union University, Jackson, was serving as interim pastor. Adams will move to First Church, Trenton, where he will fill the pulpit until a pastor is called.

■ The First Church, Tiptonville, congregation recently honored Pastor A. Judson Lambert and his wife, Mary, on his tenth anniversary as pastor of the church. The church gave the couple a trip to the Holy Land.

■ Eric Jackson has been called as minister of youth to Hillhurst Church, Nashville.

■ Oak Street Church, Elizabethton, recently called Bruce Hendrich as associate pastor and minister of music and education. He began his service Aug. 1.

■ Todd Stacey, a Union University, Jackson, student, is the new minister of youth at Antioch Church, Humboldt.

■ Latham's Chapel, Milan, recently called Matt Plunk as minister of youth.

■ Wayne Dowling recently began service as pastor of Poplar Grove Church, Trenton.

■ Tommy Stevens recently resigned the pastorate of First Church, Rutherford, to become pastor of Meadowview Church, Lawrenceburg.

■ Allen Farris is the new pastor of Antioch Church, Johnson City. Farris is a graduate of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary and is a former pastor of New Friendship Church, Cleveland.

■ Greenwood Church, Johnson City, recently called Lon Broyles as pastor.

■ Bill Valentine has resigned as pastor of Clear Branch Church, Erwin, to become administrator

of a rescue mission in Hendersonville, N.C.

■ Sherrill Gibson is the new minister of music and education at First Church, Erwin.

■ Green River Church, Waynesboro, called Tim Driskell as minister of education and youth. He began his duties July 12.

■ Todd Edward Brady was ordained to the Gospel ministry July 19 at West Jackson Church, Jackson. A recent graduate of Union University, Jackson, Brady is minister of youth at First Church, Bolivar.

■ the work

■ Dyer Association will host a Sunday School revival Aug. 9-14 in the gymnasium of Dyersburg State Community College. Leon Kilbreth will lead the sessions and Les Snyder will provide special music.

■ the churches

■ Revival services will be Aug. 9-12 at Cog Hill Church, Etowah. Dennis Cagle will be evangelist.

■ Members of Union Avenue Church, Memphis, will celebrate the church's 90th anniversary Aug. 15-16. The church, formed Aug. 17, 1902, by the Lenox Church, is now led by Pastor L. Joseph Rosas III. During its 90-year history, the church has started 23 Memphis-area fellowships, including Berclair, Whitten Memorial, Audubon Park, Cherokee, and Memphis Korean churches.

Anniversary events will include a carriage ride in the old Lenox neighborhood, followed by dinner in the church dining hall Saturday night. The evening will conclude with a musical medley arranged by Minister of Music Don Bennett. Former ministers and musicians

of the church, as well as members of Union Avenue's mission churches, will contribute to the Sunday program.

■ Homecoming will be Aug. 9 at Fredonia Church, Crossville.

■ Don Franks, pastor of Corinth Church, Darden, will be evangelist for revival Aug. 9-14 at New Hope Church, Decaturville.

■ Contemporary Christian artists Ken and Lois Holland will be in concert Aug. 9, 7 p.m. at Bellevue Church, Nashville.

■ the people

■ Rob Swafford, Gary Cooper, and David Jones were recently ordained as deacons at Central Church, Crossville.

■ West Jackson Church, Jackson, recently ordained David A. Jett to the Gospel ministry. Jett plans to attend Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, Birmingham, later this year. He will serve on staff at First Church, Gardendale, Ala.

■ Nnette Measels, a native of Decatur, Miss., has been hired as Baptist Student Union director/associate campus minister at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City. She will begin her duties Aug. 15. A graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., Measels served for the past five years as associate minister in education and music at First Church, Middlesboro, Ky.

■ James Perry, BSU director at Shelby State Community College, Memphis, recently received the college's 1992 Appreciation Award for his work with the BSU.

■ Rhodes College BSU Director John Argo has resigned from the Memphis school staff to attend Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

■ King Springs Church, Johnson City, ordained Bobby Bennett and Alan Smith as deacons.

■ West Paris Church, Paris, recently ordained Jim Phillips into the Gospel ministry.



MEMBERS OF Central Church, Johnson City, broke ground July 19 for a new \$2.5 million education facility. Participating in the ceremony were, from left, Frank Jarrett, representing the construction company; Bob Parrott, representing the architects; Pastor David Crocker; and Rick Coram, chairman of the new building committee.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Handling hostility

By John Holland, pastor
Salem Church, Knoxville

While traveling on the interstate recently I noticed that a car in the next lane wanted to pass the one in front of him — as rapidly as possible. He was driving very close, but the other driver had no opportunity to allow him to pass. When he was finally able to get by, he shook his fist at the slow driver and said something, though he could not be heard. I thought to myself that I had just observed one of the many hostile people in our society.

Hostility is one of the emotions people use to respond to circumstances. Have you noticed any lately? Perhaps a child did not immediately get what he wanted. A waitress did not serve food in ample time. Medical people did not give the personal attention one thought deserved. People at church did not minister in the way

another expected.

In the work place both employers and employees show hostility because each believes the other to be too demanding. You can add many examples you have personally encountered.

Jesus had to respond to hostility. Judas, one of his 12 closest companions, betrayed him. Simon Peter, a leader of the disciples, vehemently denied him. His own countrymen lied about him and caused Jesus to be crucified. The way that our Lord handled hostility toward himself is a good pattern for us to copy.

He did not meet hostility with hostility. He gave freedom to his betrayer, forgave the denier, loved his crucifiers, and prayed for God to forgive them because they did not know what they were doing. As Christians, let's be salt and light in the world so we can help to lower the level of hostility and make living a more pleasant experience for everyone. □

Casting out every fear

By John Yarbrough, pastor
Unoka Avenue Church, Johnson City

Have you ever been so afraid you couldn't move, paralyzed by an imagined presence in the darkness? Fear is the great challenge to our faith. God's Word reveals, "There is no fear in love" (I John 4:18). The Bible itself is a light from God which drives imagined fears from our hearts and replaces them with the awesome knowledge of God's love and sovereignty.

When you are filled with the knowledge of God, you have nothing to fear. With that thought in mind, will you permit his love to cast out your every fear? Give more diligence to read your Bible and attend worship this summer, and watch your anxieties melt away like a fading nightmare in the dawn of a new day. □

Don't waste your sorrows

By Ray Fullilove, pastor
Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis

The worst which could happen to us may be the experience which may bring out the best in us. The Gospel of God was that, of Jesus, "God made him to become sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God." For Jesus, it was the cross before the crown; a tomb before the triumphant power of God; the viciousness of suffering before the victory for our salvation; the pain of suffering before the proclamation of a living, supreme Savior.

The glad news of the Gospel is that Jesus is our hope of glory. As we walk in his shadow, we will win in his conquering spirit. Thus, if there be problems, we have his presence. Though there be perplexity, we have his promise. Though there be pain, we have his

power. There is nothing that we can't overcome in the power of Jesus.

What does this say to you? One, you need Jesus to forgive your sin, to fill your life, and to fire up your faith. Two, you need to come back to Jesus, to see Jesus as he is, to sense the presence of Jesus in you just as you are, and to say yes to the promises of Jesus just as he said them for you. Third, you need to commit yourself to Jesus, to be with his people, to study his Word, and to serve Jesus with your life.

What is God saying? Don't waste your sorrows! Let Jesus have them and then his light will shine, his life-giving Word will lift your spirit, and his love will change your heart. We love you and still look for you to be with us in the place where you can find serenity, service for others, and satisfaction in Jesus. □

Taking sermon notes helps congregational memory

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Some people are restless during the Sunday sermon. They doodle on the bulletin, which is discarded soon after the service.

But a growing number of pastors are encouraging their listeners to write down something worth saving: notes from the sermon.

The practice has become popular in some churches, where a high percentage of the congregation is busy taking notes while the preacher preaches.

"It seems to me that almost everybody in our church is taking notes," said Buddy Gray, pastor of Hunter Street Church in Birmingham, Ala. "The response has been overwhelming. People love it."

Gray and other pastors encourage note-taking by inserting a sermon outline in the Sunday bulletin. The outline usually lists the main points of the sermon and omits a few key words, which are written by the congregation as they "fill in the blanks."

David Dykes, pastor of Green

Acres Church, Tyler, Texas, said, "I've had parents say that even their youngest child uses the outline and fills in the blanks. It makes the children listen to the sermon."

Many pastors also print the sermon's Scriptural passages on the outline.

"It allows me to use the version I think best renders the translation," Dykes said, "and everybody's looking at the same version. Sometimes I can use the Living Bible, sometimes the Williams translation, or whatever version seems to say it best."

Congregational note-taking also helps people remember what they've heard.

Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Mission Viejo, Calif., cited a survey by the United States Air Force. "It discovered that we forget 90-95 percent of what we hear within 72 hours, if we don't write it down," he said. "If you want a statistic to depress the average pastor, that's it."

"What that means is I spend 16-20 hours preparing a message for Sunday. I get up, I deliver it

and they've already forgotten it by Wednesday. They only remember maybe five percent, unless they write it down," Warren said.

Some laypeople keep their sermon notes in a file or binder for future use.

"It's encouraging to me to go into somebody's home for supper," Dykes said, "and there in their Bible, they'll have a stack of sermon notes. They've got every blank filled in completely . . . with even stuff between the blanks. It lets me know they listened."

Other laypeople use the outlines to lead Bible studies at work or home. Warren said dozens of businessmen in his church use the outlines as a basis for Bible studies at work.

Jeff Iorg, pastor of Greater Gresham (Ore.) Church, also encourages note-taking. He grew up in Elmcrest Church, Abilene, Texas, which he said trained its members to take sermon notes.

"I came into adulthood thinking everyone took sermon notes," Iorg said.

He was pastor of a Missouri church where many people took notes for six and a half years.

Later he moved to Oregon as Greater Gresham's founding pastor under a Home Mission Board appointment.

"I preached the first couple of weeks and noticed no one was taking notes," Iorg said. "So we had a meeting and I made a comment, 'No one's taking sermon notes. What do we need to do about this?' And one of the women said, 'I don't have any idea what you're talking about.'"

Iorg began giving the church what he calls a "listening guide," similar to the outlines used by other pastors. He said about 75 percent of the people now take notes.

Some printed sermon outlines take only two panels — front and back of half a sheet of paper. Others may be on the four panels

of a full sheet folded in half.

John Compton, pastor of Oak Grove Church, Mount Carmel, said his church has eliminated some things from the bulletin to make room for the outline. "We no longer put in wedding announcements and those fancy things so that we can put in sermon notes. That's the people's choice," he said.

The outlines can vary in complexity, according to John Kramp, an editorial unit supervisor with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training department in Nashville. □

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TBC events across the state

Listed below are events scheduled across the TBC in August. Information given also includes date, location, sponsoring TBC body, and phone number. All phone numbers are in the (615) area code unless specified. All events are subject to change.

August

- 7-8 — Mississippi River Ministry Convocation, Eudora Church, Memphis, Missions Department, 371-2044.
- 8 — Church WMU Leadership Training, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, WMU, 371-2038.
- 9 — Language Missions Day in TBC churches, Missions Department, 371-2031.
- 10-14 — Special Friends Camp, Camp Carson, Sunday School Department, 371-2054.
- 10-14 — Children's Music Week, Camp Linden, Church Music Department, 371-2040.
- 11 — Bradley County Association Church Media Library Association meeting; for information, call association at 476-5493.
- 14-15 — Bivocational Music Leaders Retreat, Camp Linden, Church Music Department, 371-2040.
- 15 — Church WMU Leadership Training, First Church, Chattanooga, WMU, 371-2038.
- 15 — Bivocational Leadership Development Seminar, Oakland Church, Rutledge, Missions Department, 371-2031.
- 17 — Shelby County Association Church Media Library Association meeting; for information, call the association at (901) 756-4012.
- 17 — Long Range Planning Seminar, Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, Church Administration Office, 371-2053.
- 21 — Tennessee Brotherhood Convention, Baptist Center, Brentwood, Brotherhood Department, 371-2025.
- 21 — Bivocational Music Leaders Retreat, Camp Carson, Church Music Department, 371-2040.
- 22 — Church WMU Leadership Training, First Church, Dyersburg, WMU, 371-2038.
- 23 — Baptist and Reflector Day in TBC churches. Call 371-2003 for free papers and additional information before Aug. 17.
- 24-25 — Regional Stewardship Conference, Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, Cooperative Program/Stewardship Department, 371-2018.
- 24-28 — Pastors' Retreat, Camp Carson, Evangelism Department, 371-2058.
- 26-27 — Regional Stewardship Conference, Hamilton County Association office, Cooperative Program/Stewardship Department, 371-2018.
- 28-29 — Children's Choir and Leadership Clinic, West and Middle, Church Music Department, 371-2040.
- 29 — Church WMU Leadership Training, First Church, Donelson, WMU, 371-2038.
- 31- Sept. 1 — Madels for Metropolitan and Town and Country Regional Conferences, Two Rivers Church, Nashville, Missions Department, 371-2031.
- 31- Sept. 2 — Regional Sunday School Leadership Training Conference, West Jackson Church, Jackson; Sunday School Department, 371-2054.

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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Israel's wars with Syria and Judah — Bible Book Series for August 9

By Leonard Markham, pastor; Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville

The tragic story of Israel during this period of her history is one of moral decline and spiritual impotence. The Scripture records the decadence with brutal honesty. The reign of Jehoahaz is described in this manner: "He did evil in the eyes of the Lord by following the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit, and he did not turn away from them." (II Kings 13:2).



MARKHAM

The reign of Jehoahaz, son of Jehoahaz, was just as sinful. The Bible describes his rule with these words: "He did evil in the eyes of the Lord and did not turn away

from any of the sins of Jeroboam, son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit; he continued in them." (II Kings 13:11).

When we turn our attention to Amaziah, King of Judah, we are confronted with the continuation of false religion and a halfhearted devotion to God. We are told, "In everything he (Amaziah) followed the example of his father Joash. The high places, however, were not removed; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there." (II Kings 14:3b-4).

Israel didn't adequately come to grips with the matter of sin and guilt. Sin for Israel, as for us, is ultimately against God. King David, in a moment of great contrition, acknowledged to God, "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in

your sight," (Psalm 51:4). In the parable Jesus told of two lost boys, when one of those boys "came to his senses" (Luke 15:17), he said to his father, "I have sinned against heaven and against you," (Luke 15:18).

In Karl Menninger's book *Whatever Became of Sin*, the point is made that "from 1953 to 1972 no American president used the word sin in a public address."

**Basic Passage:
II Kings 13:1-14:22**

The Bible reminds us we are guilty when we sin against God. We are guilty when we sin against ourselves. We are guilty when we sin against a neighbor. When we treat our neighbor as a thing instead of as a person, we are guilty. Acknowledging our sin and

guilt is the beginning of the process leading to forgiveness.

The Scripture tells us, "Jehoahaz sought the Lord's favor, and the Lord listened to him ... and the Lord provided a deliverer for Israel," (II Kings 13:4-5). God did not want Israel to remain in her sinful condition. Neither does He want us to stay in our sinful condition. He has provided a way for us to receive forgiveness and be restored to our relationship with Him. I John 1:9 declares, "If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." The Bible assures us, "He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor His anger forever; He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. ... As far as the

east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us," (Psalm 103:9-12).

The key for us to receive God's forgiveness is for us to confess our sin. We must acknowledge or own up to our sin. Even God cannot help us if we refuse to admit we have a problem. God's Word tells us, "If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him (God) out to be a liar and His Word has no place in our lives," (I John 1:10).

What a wonderful discovery to know we are forgiven. The psalmist spoke for us all when he declared, "Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit." (Psalm 32:1-2).

□ Set your priorities — Convention Uniform Series for August 9

By Gary Coltharp, pastor; First Church, Jackson

In today's world every Christian faces a barrage of activities, assignments, and opportunities, each competing for his/her time, energy, and resources. George Barna writes, "The evidence continues to mount which suggests that while religion is important (to Americans), it is not central ... Religion — and especially Christianity — is increasingly being viewed as



COLTHARP

just one of many competing alternatives in life," (*What Americans Believe*, Regal Books, 1991, p. 29). Add to this emerging mindset the "time crunch" facing so many in today's multi-faceted world and one quickly recognizes the dilemma facing each Christian. It is a dilemma of priority. Which op-

tions will we choose from among the many? Will we succumb to the calls of the world, or will we follow the ways of the Kingdom of God? Each of us must choose and our choices will reflect the priority we have established for our lives. Paul counseled Timothy about his priorities and each of us are confronted with some critical kingdom issues.

Contentment, coveting (vv. 6-10). It is interesting that Paul, writing more than 1900 years ago, began where we live today with the issue of materialism. To properly understand these verses, we

**Basic Passage:
I Timothy 6:2-21**

must consider their context. Apparently, there were some among the false teachers who were using their positions to exploit the church for personal gain. Paul did not mince words in his evaluation

of those illegitimate leaders. They were puffed up with conceit, yet lacked genuine spiritual knowledge (ch. 3:4). Williams combines both of these terms and translates Paul's words as identifying the false teacher as a "conceited ignoramus." Moreover, they build their "ministries" upon controversy, stirring up the people then taking their money. Sensationalism has a long history among religious people. Even then Paul saw "the time coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths," (II Timothy 4:3-4).

To counter this materialistic malignancy within the church, Timothy was reminded of the true priorities of his Christian calling: "There is great gain in Godliness

with contentment," (v. 6). Our true sufficiency is in Christ (Philippians 4:13).

Feeding and fellowship (vv. 11-14)

Paul referred to Timothy as "man of God" (v. 11). Lea writes, "The term 'righteousness' refers primarily to upright conduct before human beings, and 'Godliness' describes an open and obedient relationship before God. The words 'faith' and 'love' reflect trust in God and benevolence and goodwill toward others. Timothy would need 'endurance' in order to guarantee staying power for his difficult task. He needed 'gentleness' in order to deal effectively with cantankerous heretics and wavering believers," (*New American Commentary*, vol. 34, pp. 171-172).

Once again, Paul issued the challenge to his young friend: "Keep contending in the noble contest of the faith; seize hold on

eternal life, to which you were called when you confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses," (v. 12, Montgomery). The priority of every Christian should be continuous growth and faithfulness toward maturity in Christ.

Wealth and works (vv. 17-19)

Southern Baptists are becoming more affluent. Wealth is not evil in itself, but the love of wealth is a precipitant of all kinds of evil (v. 10). Practically speaking, wealth is to be used to minister to others. In so doing, lasting treasure is secured in the world to come.

Charge and conclusion (vv. 20-21)

As for Timothy, Paul charged him to "guard the treasure" (v. 20). Literally he said, "Guard the deposit" (Lea), a bank account which contains the pure and precious truth of the Gospel, the promise of the life which is life indeed (v. 19). □

□ Seeking God's forgiveness — Life and Work Series for August 9

By James Hutson, pastor; First Church, Rockwood

This is the second lesson in a unit entitled *Ways of Serving God*. This lesson has both tragedy and renewal in it. It is a reminder of the universality of sin (Romans 3:23), and the universal availability of forgiveness when we repent of our sins (I John 1:9).



HUTSON

The adulterous relationship between King David of Israel and Bathsheba causes me to say, "Tell me it's not so." David, the man after God's own heart, often consulted the Lord before he made any move (I Samuel 23:2,4; 30:8; II Samuel 2:1; 5:19, 23). But not here! The result is the sin of adultery, murder, and destruction. David should have paused to seek God's direction before he acted. How much better we would all do if we sought God's leader-

ship and direction before we acted.

David saw a beautiful woman; he committed adultery with her; and he plotted the death of her husband Uriah to cover his tracks. David thought it was all forgotten. But God does not forget our unrepentant sin (v. 27). God's message to David (ch. 12:1-2, 4)

God sent the prophet Nathan to David with a message. I admire the courage of Nathan. David could have responded to the message in anger and had Nathan slain. Nathan told a story about a rich man who had many sheep and a poor man who had only one little lamb. When the rich man had company and needed to prepare a meal, rather than kill one of his many sheep, he seized and slew the only lamb of the poor man.

David's response to the story (ch. 12:5-6)

In anger, David said the man

who would do such a thing "shall surely die," "is worthy of death," "deserves to die," or "is good as dead." Little did David realize he was describing himself. How easy it is to pass sentence upon the actions of others and be blind to our own sins.

Nathan speaks again (ch. 12:7-9)

"Thou art the man." The sins of adultery and murder are revealed. Like the rich man with a whole flock of sheep who killed the only lamb of the poor man, David, who had several wives, took the only wife of one of his soldiers. In addition, David ordered the death of that soldier.

How would David respond to the words "thou art the man?" How would you respond when confronted with your sins? Blame someone else saying, "It's not my fault. Somebody talked me into it. I didn't know what I was doing." David's repentance (ch. 13)

"I have sinned against the

Lord." To David's credit, he honestly acknowledged his sin. He offered no excuse, no extenuating circumstances. "I have sinned." Nathan responded by saying, "The Lord also hath put away thy sin." The consequences of David's sin would haunt him the rest of his life. The child would die. One son, Ammon, would rape his half-sister, Tamar. Another son, Absalom, would kill Ammon. Absalom would try to overthrow his father David and become king himself (ch. 15-18). The plaintive cry of a heart-broken father at the death of his son are some of the most haunting words of Scripture (ch. 18:33).

**Basic Passage:
II Samuel 11:1-12:23**

The real lesson here is about forgiveness. David expressed his forgiveness in two Psalms, 32 and 51. These two Psalms share the experience of all whose sins have

been forgiven. All of us are sinners. Our sins may not be the same as David. But we are all sinners. The good news of the Gospel is that forgiveness is offered to all who will repent of their sins.

Brian Withlow in his book, *Hurdles to Heaven*, gives four parts to repentance. First is confession: "I have sinned." Second is contrition: "I am sorry for what I have done." Third is reparation: "I will do what I can to repay any damages I have caused." Fourth is amendment: "I will take all necessary steps to avoid doing the same sin again."

How about you and your sin? Have you asked God to forgive you of your sins? Are you genuinely repentant of your sins? If so, you know the sweetness of God's forgiveness. If not, why not ask God to forgive you now? □

Tennessee Baptists and the state paper

Sunday, August 23, has been designated on the Tennessee Baptist Convention calendar as *Baptist and Reflector* Day.

Now that doesn't mean the day has been set aside to "honor" the official newspaper of the TBC. It does mean that it's a day that can be used to emphasize the role the paper plays in Tennessee Baptist life.

Baptist newspapers have been serving Tennessee Baptists since 1835. The *Baptist and Reflector* is a descendant of those early papers, and has been carrying news under that banner since *The American Baptist Reflector* and the *Tennessee Baptist* were combined in 1889.

The original Baptist newspaper in Tennessee was produced by R. B. C. Howell in January, 1835, as *The Baptist*. He had come to Nashville as pastor of First Baptist Church. The paper claimed 1600 subscribers at the end of its first year of publication.

On August 23, Tennessee Baptist churches have opportunity to look more closely at this "friend" which is published weekly and visits more Tennessee Baptist homes than any other TBC entity.

It will be a time for "getting acquainted" or renewing old friendships, a day for introducing new church members to an old family member.

Make *Baptist and Reflector* Day a day for strengthening ties and establishing new connections! □

Sharing the news is almost as old as humanity.

Churches use a variety of ways to share information and news with members. It is vital that every person know what's happening — and how the individual is involved.

One method of spreading the news was employed by towns and villages three or four hundred years ago. The town crier would walk the streets telling citizens of events and happenings.

But today, Baptists share news by publishing a church newsletter. The newsletter incorporates calendar dates, messages from the staff and committees, and explanations

of plans and events that members need to know. We also tell you of how God uses individual Baptists.

How can we help?

Simple. The *Baptist and Reflector* can publish YOUR church news as a part of the weekly edition — and send that news to only YOUR church members. The church news then would reach the members along with news of other churches and events in Tennessee and around the Southern Baptist Convention.

Is this Church Page Plan economical?

Yes. Get your calculator or a sharp pencil. Jot down the expenses of publishing and mailing your newsletter each week.

Include costs of labor (office staff), paper, printing, postage (including changes of address), and incidentals. Compare that cost with the bargain of \$65 per week which we would charge.

Of course the subscription cost is not included.

We believe most churches pay much more than \$65 a week to send a newsletter. What do you think? □

What happens on August 23?

What happens on *Baptist and Reflector* Sunday?

In churches where this special day is observed, several things can happen:

1. Members will have opportunity to learn more about the paper and the ministry it provides Baptists and Tennessee Baptist churches.

2. Members of non-subscribing churches can have a free copy of the paper when the *Baptist and Reflector* staff is notified in advance. We will mail a package of requested papers to be distributed that day — or when convenient. Churches can request as many copies as needed.

3. Along with the gift copies of the paper, we will send information about subscribing individually or as a church family.

4. We will send information on other subscription plans.

5. The church will receive an explanation of how to employ the Church Page Plan which would place church news as a page specifically designed for the individual church weekly.

6. Upon request a staff member would visit with the pastor, the church leaders, and/or the congregation — when convenient to the church. □

We're all on the same team!

Observe *Baptist and Reflector* Day in your church, August 23

■ Your newsjournal reaches more Tennessee Baptist homes weekly than any other Baptist publication.

■ Learn how we can work together to share the Good News of Christ.

Clip and mail

■ If you return the coupon below TODAY, or call our office at (615) 371-2003, we will send you enough copies of the current issue for your con- allows members to get acquainted with the *Baptist and Reflector*. Do it today, and you will have the papers by August 23, *Baptist and Reflector* Day.

PLEASE SEND _____ copies of the *Baptist and Reflector* for use on *Baptist and Reflector* Day.

Name _____

Church _____

Address _____

City and Zip _____

Signed _____

What to do in the church on *Baptist and Reflector* Day

■ Call the *Baptist and Reflector* office (615-371-2003) by August 10 and order enough papers for distribution to families on August 23.

■ Ask for other information as needed — Brochures are available

depicting the paper's history and role in Tennessee Baptist life.

■ Schedule ten or fifteen minutes to tell the paper's story.

■ If you desire, set a time for a staff member to present the story of *Baptist and Reflector* ministry

to the people.

■ Order from our office envelopes for individuals to subscribe to the paper. These are free and self-explanatory. □