



# Mississippi River ministry . . .

- Wm. Fletcher Allen is the editor.
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 ty percent of Americans who live in multi-family housing are not Christian, he reported. In eight years, 50 percent of Americans in metropolitan areas will live in multi-family housing, he added. These and other needs can be found in the entire western region of the state, said Phillips. The convention is committed for the "long-haul" of the Mississippi River Ministry, he added. The biggest challenge now is to communicate the need and develop programs for the large number of volunteers he expects.

"If we can expose the need, the volunteers will be there," he said. "We've never not done a project for lack of volunteers."

However, volunteers must come from churches whose members are extroverted, noted Herb Brisbane, TBC black church growth specialist.

"I know it looks bad," he said, noting the immorality, poverty, despair, and spiritual vacuum existing in the targeted areas.

"Let's roll up our sleeves, turn the pages of our lives and let people know what Jesus is all about," said Brisbane.

The ministry will be a chance for wounds between blacks and whites to heal, suggested Margaret Perkins, black church specialist, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC. It can be a ministry of dispelling fear and distrust, she said.

Rio Grande River Ministry  
 The Mississippi River Ministry



**JUDY CUMMINGS**, of First Church, Ripley, and **Sam Watkins**, pastor, First Church, Toone, visit during the convocation.

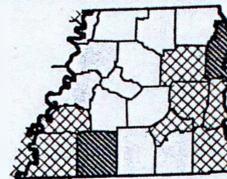
will parallel the Rio Grande River Ministry led by Texas Baptists for 24 years. Jack Calk, a director of missions on the Texas border, noted some may question the need for another program, but the Rio Grande ministry is a project rather than a program. Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood are on-going programs, he explained.

The project has involved 250,000 volunteers who have built 543 churches, 65 health care clinics, and led 100,000 people to salvation experiences, stated Calk. Also gifts to the state missions offering have doubled, he added.

"Actually, the state missions mentality has made a turnaround because of the ministry," said Calk.

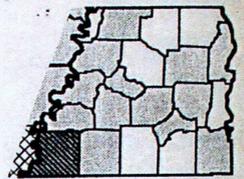
Unfortunately, Southern Baptists have a philosophy that "mis-

## Tennessee portion of region



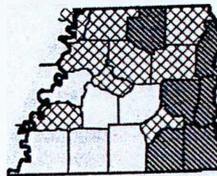
**PERCENT UNCLAIMED, 1990**

- 50.0% to 71.9%
- 40.0% to 49.9%
- 30.0% to 39.9%
- 0.0% to 29.9%



**POPULATION PER SBC CHURCH, 1990**

- 5,000 to 6,829
- 2,500 to 4,999
- 1,000 to 2,499
- 349 to 999



**PERCENT WHITE, 1990**

- 89.9% to 99.6%
- 75.0% to 89.9%
- 50.0% to 74.9%
- 13.7% to 49.9%

ble. The churches have the responsibility, resources, and reason, detailed Lowrie.

The resources certainly aren't at the convention, he stated. They're not in most associational offices, and not "always in the big and prominent and prosperous churches."

"Let's be the instrument that brings the needs and the churches together," concluded Lowrie.

The ministry is an "answer to prayer" for Shelby County Association, said John McBride. "Most churches (in Memphis) have moved east. . . . left the problems, and the problems have gotten worse. I'm not being critical of our churches. They are following the Lord's leading as they know it. . . . But most people don't know that we Baptists are the leading denomination in this country. Why? Because we're hidden," McBride explained. □

— See page 6.

sions is always somewhere else, but . . . that's okay. If they'll help us we'll help them."

### Churches are answer

"There's something about the river culture that creates spiritual need," noted D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director.

God's "kingdom strategy" to meet that need is to use the churches, said Lowrie, referring to the book of Ephesians in the Bi-

## Hixson church, SBC, TBC subjects of lawsuits

By Art Toolston  
 Baptist Press

**CHATTANOOGA** — Five lawsuits seeking a total of \$10 million in damages have been filed against a Baptist minister, the Southern Baptist Convention, and three other Baptist groups in connection with the minister's conviction for child molestation earlier this year.

Named in each \$2 million civil suit are Donald McCary, minister of music and youth at Central Church of Hixson in Chattanooga for 17 years until his arrest; the church itself; the Southern Baptist Convention; and Hamilton County Baptist Association.

Attorneys for the church and the SBC voiced certainty their clients would be dismissed from the suits, filed in Hamilton County Circuit Court by attorneys for five boys each identified as "John Doe." Four of the boys were involved in the prosecution of McCary.

McCary was indicted last November then convicted in April of 13 counts involving aggravated sexual battery, assault, sexual battery, rape, and statutory rape of the boys, who were 12 to 15 years of age at the time. McCary was given a maximum 72-year sentence and is in the county jail awaiting transfer to a state prison. In targeting the church, the

SBC, the Tennessee convention, and local association, the lawsuits allege "vicarious liability" (legal liability for McCary's actions), "negligent retention and/or supervision" of McCary as an employee, and "negligence."

The church's attorney, Richard Bethea of Chattanooga, said he is "absolutely confident the church will be exonerated."

"The church simply did not know any more than the parents of the children knew" of McCary's alleged abuse of five boys from the church, Bethea said. "This came as an absolute shock to everyone."

Ron Phillips, pastor of the church the past 13 years, is current chairman of the board of directors of the SBC Home Mission Board and president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Attorney Bethea said, "At no time did anyone ever report to the pastor or any other church official any concerns that Mr. McCary may be engaging in the conduct that resulted in his arrest and prosecution."

"Central Church took immediate steps to deal with this situation when they were made aware of Mr. McCary's conduct at the time of his arrest," Bethea added. "They cooperated fully with law enforcement authorities and were, in fact, praised by law enforce-

ment authorities for their attitude of cooperation and assistance in Mr. McCary's prosecution."

James Guenther, SBC general counsel, predicted the SBC will be dismissed from the suits as will the Tennessee convention and local Baptist association.

The suits contend McCary was "employed and/or under the direction and control of" the church and the other Baptist bodies.

"We've probably had a dozen of these cases where a plaintiff has undertaken to show that the SBC controls a minister," said Guenther, who has handled SBC legal

## Kentucky tops SBC attendance

Baptist Press

**NASHVILLE** — Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, and Texas were the top five states in number of messengers who attended the Southern Baptist Convention's June meeting in Indianapolis, according to figures released by registration secretary Lee Porter.

Kentucky churches sent 1631 messengers to the convention, for 9.08 percent of the total 17,956 messengers who attended the annual SBC meeting.

Tennessee's 1533 messengers were 8.54 percent of the overall total; Georgia, 1529 messengers,

affairs since 1966. "Plaintiffs have never been able to show that we do" control any minister.

Guenther explained the SBC does not ordain, certify, or defrock ministers or select, supervise, or discipline them for local churches.

Added Bethea, "The Southern Baptist Convention, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and the Hamilton County Baptist Association, as any Baptist knows, have no legal authority over the independent and autonomous churches that choose to participate in those associations." □

8.52 percent; North Carolina, 1507, 8.39 percent; and Texas, 1287, 7.17 percent.

Also in the top ten states were South Carolina, 1176 messengers; Alabama, 1131; Florida, 879; Indiana, 858; and Mississippi, 817.

Other states' messenger totals were Missouri, 798; Ohio, 734; Illinois, 731; Virginia, 691; Louisiana, 585; Arkansas, 503; Oklahoma, 486; California, 182; Maryland, 151; Michigan, 115; West Virginia, 84; New Mexico, 62; Arizona, 60; Kansas, 60; Iowa, 39.

Other totals were Puerto Rico, 4; District of Columbia, 2. □

# College leaders disapprove of NOBTS degree

By Herb Hollinger  
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — An undergraduate degree program to start this month at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has drawn strong criticism from state Baptist colleges and universities and a request to the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee for intervention.

Thirty-one Baptist college and university presidents have asked the Executive Committee to intervene in the New Orleans proposal because, college presidents allege, it conflicts with the seminary's program statement.

Harold C. Bennett, Executive Committee president, has agreed with the colleges' protest and has written New Orleans Seminary's president, Landrum P. Leavell II, expressing his opinion the action will violate the seminary's program statement. Bennett told Leavell in a July 20 letter that the matter will be on the agenda of the SBC Executive Committee meeting in Nashville, Sept. 21-23.

Bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention give the Executive Committee a "watchdog" responsibility in matters of program statements of the various SBC agencies.

SBC seminaries traditionally have offered graduate-level degrees such as the master of divinity, master of religious education, and master of music education.

Some have offered associate degrees for students who did not have undergraduate-level degrees but these have been mainly awarded to students interested in church-related vocations.

New Orleans will begin a bachelor of arts and bachelor of general studies degrees when its fall term starts Aug. 25. The programs are for seminary students age 25 and older, the first of their kind offered by any SBC seminary, according to New Orleans officials.

"We're filling that void between associate's and master's level work for older, non-traditional students who are involved in ministry," Jimmy Dukes, director of admissions, registrar, and director of the School of Christian Training at New Orleans, said in a special summer edition of the seminary's *Vision* publication advertising the new programs.

Presidents of the 31 Baptist colleges and universities sent a letter June 25 to Leavell asking the seminary not to implement the bachelor degrees. Earlier, on June 22, James W. Edwards, president of William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss., sent a letter evidencing concern about the new program and seeking dialogue with New Orleans about possibly having baccalaureate programs offered by William Carey on the seminary campus.

A number of letters were ex-

changed between Leavell and Edwards in the ensuing weeks. Finally, in a July 9 letter to Bennett, Edwards and Robert L. Lynn, president of Louisiana College in Pineville, asked the Executive Committee to intervene in the dispute "in stopping a violation of the SBC program assignment for New Orleans."

"There has been no indication of a recognition on the part of the seminary administration of this violation," the two presidents said in the letter. "Therefore, we are

## CLC asks Bush, Clinton to clarify positions

By Tom Strode  
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission is pressing President Bush for clarification of his position on homosexual rights. At the same time, it also is asking Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton to specify his public policy stance on the issue.

Bush recently signaled a willingness to allow homosexuals to serve in his cabinet, while Clinton, a Southern Baptist, has expressed public support for civil rights protection for homosexuals.

"We took these actions in light of recent disturbing comments from the president and vice president and in light of Bill Clinton's seeming endorsement of homo-

sexual rights," said James A. Smith, the CLC's director of government relations.

"We ask that special actions be immediately taken by the SBC Executive Committee ... to deal with this unprecedented violation of the SBC program statement.

In his July 20 letter to Leavell, Bennett said "it is my judgment that the program statement does not authorize the six Southern Baptist seminaries to offer bachelor degrees. I therefore

believe the bachelor degree program of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is in violation of the SBC program statement."

Bennett also acknowledged in his letter "there may be other seminaries which offer similar degrees."

Since the matter is scheduled for the September Executive Committee meeting in Nashville, Leavell indicated to Baptist Press he did not plan to make further comment until then. □

order affirming the traditional family and opposing civil rights based on homosexuality.

Land asked the president two questions intended to clarify Bush's public policy position:

- Will you veto any bill granting civil rights protection to homosexuals or having the same effect, including lifting the prohibition against homosexuals in the military?
- Will you implement the executive order on the family issued by President Reagan in September 1987? If so, provide your definition of the family for policy purposes.

"While some evangelical leaders and organizations have been willing to accept private assurances from the White House on these questions, we believe that only a public policy commitment will clearly indicate what President Bush will do in the future on homosexual rights," the CLC's Smith said.

In his letter to Clinton, Land said, "Many Southern Baptists are deeply troubled by your position on homosexual rights."

He asked the Arkansas governor questions similar to those asked Bush:

- Will you, as the 1992 Democratic platform says, sign a bill giving civil rights protection to homosexuals or having the same effect, including lifting the ban on homosexuals in the military?
- Will you enforce or rescind President Reagan's executive order on the family? If you plan to implement it, define family for policy purposes.

The questions were asked in response to "numerous requests from our constituents," Land told Clinton.

Not only does the Democratic platform support homosexual rights, but Clinton has endorsed a national homosexual rights law on at least one occasion. Clinton expressed support for such legislation at a May fund-raiser attended by about 600 homosexual activists in Los Angeles, according to *USA Today*. In the same appearance, Clinton said he would reverse the ban on homosexuals in the military.

"It's clear that if Gov. Clinton is openly embracing homosexual rights, most Southern Baptists will find it difficult to support his candidacy in spite of his religious affiliation," Smith said.

Meanwhile, leaders of the two missions are pleased with progress thus far and both are looking to the day when the missions are reconstituted as churches. □

## TBC churches begin anew as missions

— Continued from page 1

And, though the approaches have been different, the bottom line is growth and a new excitement at both churches.

Leaders from both churches and the Tennessee Baptist Convention feel the concept of churches being "reborn" is a good approach for struggling congregations.

"It's a viable option for churches," said Charles Earl, director of missions for Holston Valley Association. "It gives them new life with new leadership and it changes the mindset from negative thinking to something

positive," he said.

Earl's counterpart in Bledsoe Association, J. C. Lewis, agreed. "Reforming as a mission has proven to be very workable in the case of Bledsoe Creek," he said, adding that disbanding as a church and restarting as a mission "could be considered by other churches struggling for survival."

Virgil Capellen was pastor of Bledsoe Creek when it looked as if the church would have to close. Capellen, who planned to leave the church because of health problems in his family, led the church to form as a mission under Indian Hills. With assistance from the TBC Missions Department and its director, Jere Phillips, the remaining members were able to see what needed to be done. Two members from Oak Grove Mission, at the expenses of the TBC, came down and explained how it worked in their case.

The church needed a transfusion of new leadership, Capellen said.

Each of the people involved cited new leadership as a primary key for restarting a church.

"You have to infuse the church with some leadership as well as money to get them back on their feet," Earl observed.

The TBC's Phillips observed some churches get to the point where they have no one to teach Sunday School but the pastor. Plus there are no leaders to meet needs

in music and other areas, he added.

A sponsoring church must be willing to send people over who see beyond themselves and are dedicated to putting their lives into the work of the mission, he said.

Phillips also observed that in order for the relationship to work there must be a willing attitude on the part of the target church to come under the sponsorship of another body.

'A sponsoring church must be willing to send people over who see beyond themselves and are dedicated to putting their lives into the work of the mission.'

Lewis agreed. "I admire the members of Bledsoe Creek for being willing to become a mission and to lose some control of their church," he said.

At Bledsoe Creek, Stacey said the members feel that reverting to mission status kept their church alive.

"They're thrilled. We're working together, praying, and seeking God's will," he said.

At Oak Grove Mission, the older members have enthusiastically accepted the outside help, said its pastor Mark Dance.

"The small group that was left is glad to see life here now," he said.

Dance observed the move has

## Youth gathering set for Memphis

More than 3000 youth and youth workers are expected to gather at Mid South Coliseum in Memphis Aug. 29 from noon until 6:30 p.m.

The theme for the meeting is "Marching on Memphis." Southern Baptist evangelist Jay Strack of Dallas will be guest speaker.

Music will be provided by DeGarmo and Key, Ron Collins, and Brad Lee Dennington, a contemporary Christian pop artist and member of Leawood Church, Memphis.

Seminars will be offered for youth ministers and workers.

There is a cost for admission. For ticket information, call Rusty Branson at (501) 873-4579.

■ about letters to the editor

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

Thanks offered

I have just re-read your personal column. "Unplanned walk." Thank you for a look inside your spiritual journey.

I am proud of our editor and the

■ Baptist beliefs by Herschel Hobbs Baptist theologian

Tremendous words — third in a series

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

Because I believe these four words I believe that the Bible is God's holy, inspired, inerrant Word.

The Greek word for "Bible" as one volume is biblos, book. Biblia (little books) is also used, referring to the 66 little books which comprise the Book.

These little books were written over a period of 1500 years in places ranging all the way from Babylon to Rome. They have as authors people ranging from kings to peasants. Not a one of these knew he was writing a part of what one day would be called the Holy Bible. Yet when gathered into one Book they tell a complete story. You cannot say this about any other set of books. The only logical explanation is that they had a common author — God, through his Holy Spirit (II Peter 1:21).

Paul said, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (II Timothy 3:16). Or it is "God-breathed." Some hold that which is Scripture is God-breathed, but that all the Bible is not Scripture. But Paul did not say that. "All" is without the definite article — "every single part of the whole of Scripture is God-breathed." And a God of truth does not breathe error!



HOBBS

paper. I really appreciate the genuine warmth and openness.

Thank you for the fair reporting of the Baptist news. I respect you as a professional, but even more as a follower of Christ.

Paul S. Moody, pastor  
Erin Church  
P.O. Box 410  
Erin 37061

Who we are

I was particularly pleased to read your recent article on "Look at what's good about Southern Baptists." I urge you to continue this type of commentary as well as calling us to be who we are as a denomination, a place with room for diversity among those who call ourselves Christians of the Baptist persuasion.

Jeanette Blazier  
1900 Lamont  
Kingsport 37664

Can we do less?

Most of God's people know the great truths of the Bible and attempt to make them a part of their daily living. However, the central truth of the Bible is one not easily practiced: God is love, and those who would be most like God must try to love as he loves. During his incarnation Christ put love above all else and asked that his disciples love one another.

Long ago Christ loved seven churches in what was then called Asia. He sent special messages through the angels of those churches as an evaluation of their representation of him. He could approve of only two of the churches and commended them on their good work. However, he did not withdraw from the other five but continued his love in hope and divine patience that they would change their ways and avoid certain doom.

Can we who love him do less?

W. W. Bass  
715 West Ellis Street  
Jefferson City 37760

God's little miracle

Mandy Moore's need for a rare transplant (liver-small intestine) united many different people together for one common goal, to achieve a miracle for Mandy. But God allowed Mandy to be a miracle to so many people. She was God's "Little Miracle." What is a miracle? A miracle is defined as: "an event that appears unexplainable by laws of nature and so is held to be supernatural or an act of God. It is a person, thing, or event that excites admiring awe."

Mandy was a miracle in touching so many people. In her short lifespan of 23 months she caused people to work together, she had a positive influence on hundreds of people. We must ask ourselves, in the years we have been given in this life, what kind of influence have we had on others?

Mandy was a miracle in showing us how to live. Life was difficult for Mandy. She had many

complications but she was a fighter, her little body could only take so much physically, but in spirit she never gave in, she had a strong will and determination to live amidst her difficulties. She taught us that we need to face our own difficulties in life with the desire and determination to press on against the odds. Mandy taught us not to be quitters even though life may be difficult we must have the determination to keep on, keeping on.

As a Christian I am thankful that amid our sorrow at the death of Mandy we can know an underlying strength through our faith that sustains us. As we remember Mandy for all the many ways she touched our lives, may we remember her as "God's Little Miracle."

M. Pierce McIntyre, pastor  
Brook Hollow Church  
678 Brook Hollow Road  
Nashville 37205

■ Many Tennessee Baptists were aware of Mandy's fight for life, and prayed for her and her family for many months. Her story was told in the *Baptist and Reflector*, April 22 issue. Steve and Kathy Moore, her parents, are members of Brook Hollow Church. — Editor

Attention-getters

Your "news" story concerning two Southern Baptist nominees for high office was indeed perceived as an endorsement. Your apology simply strengthens that perception, in my opinion, and I thoroughly agree that the article should have never been published.

Recently the two candidates have succeeded in getting the attention of Southern Baptists through the media in an effort to garner votes. It is purely a political move, and nothing more. These men may be members of Southern Baptist churches, but

their walk does not jibe with their talk.

Our nation's greatest problem is the fact that it is not rightly related to God. The real "news" is that President Bush continues to stand firm, and his party's platform is the only one which is pro-life. Some additional news is that there are forces hard at work right now trying to change the party's stance. We need to support our President and pray that he will be strong and very courageous.

Jenine R. Riddle  
3015 Cotton Cross Drive  
Germantown 38138

Vote for Christians

I and I hope all Southern Baptists have a problem with an article that appeared in the July 15 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, in which the headline read "Clinton-Gore ticket first for Southern Baptists."

I cannot comprehend how any Bible-believing Christian, much less a Bible-believing Southern Baptist, can support the policy of the Clinton-Gore ticket. To be a Southern Baptist infers that you believe in the inerrancy of the Holy Scripture, which teaches, the sin of the alternative lifestyle (lesbians and homosexuals) is not to be tolerated. You should love the sinner but condemn the sin. Mr. Clinton and Gore openly support proponents of this alternative lifestyle which is contrary to all Bible teaching.

Mr. Clinton and Gore are full-fledged supporters of the pro-choice movement which in itself is a tool for the murder of the unborn.

Rather than putting this in the form of a statement, I would rather ask the question, "Can a born-again Christian vote for or

support any political candidate whose view directly contradicts the Holy Bible that we profess to believe in without error and the God that we profess to worship.

Danny Webber  
4926 Highway 211 N.  
Dyersburg 38024

For annuity

Thank you for the strong (July 22) editorial support of adequate compensation and proper retirement planning for our pastors and other church staffers.

Someday, an old preacher or his widow will point back to that editorial and say, "As a result of those words, my church made a change. Today I am secure and comfortable."

Paul W. Powell, president  
Annuity Board, SBC  
2401 Cedar Springs  
Dallas, Texas 75221

Lauds volunteers

In recent weeks, God has blessed mightily the distribution of food and other items in the Commonwealth of Independent States through Project Brotherhood.

Many sacrificial monetary gifts have been received from Southern Baptists and others who represent the full spectrum of ages and means. And the blessings have continued with countless examples of in-kind contributions of medicines, inoculations, packaging materials, and other items from business persons who recognize the importance of this opportunity to minister and witness in a nation so newly receptive of the ministry and message of Christ.

Perhaps the greatest sacrifice, however, came from persons in Tennessee who literally gave themselves as volunteers who went to Moscow and elsewhere in the country to repack and distribute these items.

They include Mark A. Lassiter and Roger R. and Juanita Jones, Germantown; Pat and Linda Lawson Still, Nashville; Bob Noah, Millington; John L. Gatti, Collierville; Bill Griffith, Cookeville; and Lawson W. Newman, Gene T. Vincent, Eddy and Linda Childers, Eleanor C. Griffin, Dewey B. Middleton, Judy Carley, and Tom Ferrell, Memphis.

I hope you will join me in thanking them for their willingness to serve, and for the opportunity to walk through this newly-opened doorway with bread — and with the bread of life.

Thanks are in order also to the *Baptist and Reflector* for its coverage of Project Brotherhood since its inception.

James D. Williams  
President,  
Brotherhood Commission  
1548 Poplar Avenue  
Memphis 38104

How to become a Christian

Have you ever wondered what the phrase "born again" means? In the Bible a man named Nicodemus approached Jesus at night. He was curious about Jesus and the kingdom of God. Jesus told him: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Nicodemus responded, "How can a man be born when he is old?" (John 3:4).

Nicodemus was a highly moral man who obeyed the law of God. He was a respected leader of the Jewish community. No doubt he was a fine man. Yet something was lacking. Like Nicodemus, many people today confuse religion with new birth in Christ. Phrases like "I pray regularly," or "I believe there is a God," often are confused with a real new-birth experience.

New birth begins with the Holy Spirit's convicting a per-

son that the person is a sinner. Because of sin, we are spiritually dead. For this reason, spiritual birth, as Jesus described it, is necessary. God loves us and gives us spiritual birth when we ask him for it.

The Bible states that all people are sinners (Rom. 3:23). Jesus died on a cross to save sinners. To be born again means that a person repents of sin, trusts Christ as Savior, and professes faith in Christ. Jesus told Nicodemus that everyone who believes in (places faith in) Christ will not perish (John 3:16). Jesus is the only one who can save us (John 14:6).

To believe in Jesus is to be born again. Confess your sins and ask Jesus right now to save you. "Whoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21). Then ask a Christian friend or a pastor to help you grow in the decision you have made. □

— Sunday School Board, Nashville

# Freedom of religion, press, walk hand in hand

A great journalist once wrote of his experiences on an extended journey inside the Soviet Union in the 1960s. He explained in detail interviews held, people he met, the austerity of the economy, the fractious situation in government, and the drab conditions that prevailed.

He told about the culture from pre-Communism that still prevailed in isolated places of the nation. He spoke of the vastness of the Siberian wilderness, the splendor of pristine woodlands, the faces of common folk.

He wrote of the grandeur of Moscow and some of the ancient cities. And then he underlined the most visible differences between the Communist state and the free world.

It was the silence, he said. Sitting in his hotel room one blustery winter night, he was overwhelmed with the silence. He said it was not just the silence of a slow-moving industry, nor the lack of fuel which stilled even the few automobiles.

It was, he said, the silence of a people not free. He elaborated that the silence was made even more pervasive by the absence of a free press. Truth was stifled. News was managed and manipulated. Journalists and others in the news work force were intimidated, controlled.

It was brutal, he said, that silence caused by people not free, a press not free.

Baptist journalism always works better when it performs unencumbered — as a free press. Just as our nation's newspapers and other news media operate freely as they report news, so should it be for religious newsmagazines.

Freedom of religion, a constitutional right of conscience in the United States of America, has a happy partner in a free religious press. Such a press is strong, adheres to its mandate, and addresses issues while it reports the news.

The *Baptist and Reflector*, born in 1835 with a Nashville pastor as editor, is one of the six oldest Baptist papers in America. Its history is lengthy, its record worthy of faithful readership, and its heritage rich.

Sunday, August 23, is being observed by many Tennessee Baptist churches as *Baptist and Reflector* Day. As noted in a previous issue, churches interested in observing this special day, could order extra copies of the August 19 issue for distribution to church families. Thousands of copies are being sent out for this purpose, in addition to the regular editions.

Some of our staff members will be speaking to congregations on that day, and other churches are using staff members on different dates.

There are enough Baptist churches in Tennessee to spark countless ingenious ideas for Bold Mission Thrust, for Impact/Tennessee, for missions, for evangelism, for teaching and preaching the Gospel, for reaching the people.

As the churches combine into a mighty river of Christian's faith across Tennessee, the *Baptist and Reflector* stands poised to tell the story of Tennessee Baptists at work for the Living Lord.

R. B. C. Howell, the paper's founder, was not afraid of launching out. His successors also proved to be courageous. That kind of heritage can embolden the weakest of us.

We may forget that God calls men and women into every walk of life, to be his people — his salt and light — wherever. Not only pastors and church staffers, he calls us all. And so he calls some into areas as fearsome as "wordsmiths."

We want every Tennessee Baptist to be a reader of the paper. And we want to help each reader.

As readers expect us to present the news fairly and honestly — we want them to read it also without personal bias. However, neither expectation is likely to be met all the time — because we are human.

We encourage Tennessee Baptists to "serve the Lord with gladness," and we will serve with them — sharing the news of what God is doing among his people in Tennessee. □

one word more  
by Wm. Fletcher Allen  
editor

## A smaller world

Much ado is being made about this being the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus setting sail for gold and spices and finding, in his way, the Americas.

Note that I did not allude to his "discovery" of these islands — because others were already living here. He merely found them for the European world — and announced that "discovery."

And now, in 1992, we celebrate that 500th anniversary. It was fitting that the Olympic Games were held in Barcelona this certain summer. That Spanish seaport is the city from which Columbus set sail.

So back to Barcelona in 1992 come hundreds of American athletes — and thousands from around the world. They each had a story. They each had goals, desires, purposes.

Some went to try to become famous — or rich. Some went to bring pride to their nation. Some went for the joy of it. The gold and silver and bronze medals were awarded to the winners. But were they?

I will always remember seeing Pyambuu Tuul jog across the finish line that August evening — finishing the Olympic men's marathon in a bit more than four hours. He was almost last.

The frontrunners had run the course two hours faster. They got the gold, the silver, the bronze.

Pyambuu Tuul, the construction worker from Ulan Bator, Mongolia — what did he get?

Picture this. He approached the finish line that evening with only one runner behind him. The other 110 runners had long ago finished. He paused, bowed to the race officials, smiled, and crossed the line. He thanked his friends, his benefactors, his country.

He had been blind for twelve years as the result of an explosion. A New York track club had brought him and other disabled runners to New York last year for some special events. He also received a cornea transplant. He ran in the New York Marathon — and decided to represent Mongolia in the Barcelona Olympics.

Ah, Christopher, you should have seen Pyambuu. You would have realized that the world which challenged you so terribly is much smaller now. A once-blind runner from Mongolia could compete in your city — and be gracious enough to remember those who had helped him.

It's true, you know. "Once I was blind, but now I can see," is the message for us to share. We are all explorers of sorts — and we all need the great Navigator. □



ALLEN

# Tennesseans explore clinical ethics in hospital setting

Seven Tennessee Baptists recently took part in a summer intensive in clinical ethics sponsored jointly by the Vanderbilt Divinity School, the Center for Clinical and Research Ethics at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and St. Thomas Hospital.

Fifteen ministers from a variety of denominations participated in the training at Vanderbilt Hospital July 27 — Aug. 1.

The purpose of the conference was to help equip ministers to recognize, understand, and deal with the kinds of ethical issues that arise in the hospital setting.

The training included attending teaching rounds with physicians and residents in five areas of the hospital: medical intensive care, pediatric intensive care, neonatal intensive care, surgical intensive care, and the bone marrow transplant unit.

C. Ben Mitchell, director of biomedical and life issues for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission was a participant and leader in the pediatric intensive care unit.

"Rounding with the doctors gave the participants a unique and needed perspective on clinical ethics. It was almost universally the highlight of the week," said Mitchell.

"A hospital is a small self-contained community with its own culture and sub-culture. Viewing it from inside a world-class research center like Vanderbilt is an exciting and awesome experience," he added.

In addition to rounds, the group also heard lectures from Gary Brock, Director of Pastoral Services at VUMC, Ellen Clayton, Assistant Professor of Law and Pediatrics, renowned heart transplant surgeon William Frist, Joseph Hough, Dean and Professor of Ethics at the Vanderbilt Divinity School, and Richard Zaner, Ann Geddes Stahlman Professor of Medical Ethics at VUMC.

Eric Cassell was the key note speaker for the conference. Cassell is Clinical Professor of Public Health at Cornell University Medical College in New York and has recently published *The Nature of Human Suffering and the Goals of Medicine* (Oxford, 1991).



TENNESSEANS PARTICIPATING in a recent seminar at Vanderbilt University included, from left, Brad Look, Judy Gray, George Pope, Keith Hayworth, and Jeff Fryer.

Tennessee Baptists participating in the intensive training included, Bradley Cook, member of First Church, Nashville; David Foster, pastor of the Bellevue Community Church, Nashville; Chaplain Jeffrey Fryer, Middle Tennessee Medical Center, Mur-

freesboro; Chaplain Judy Gray, Imperial Manor Nursing Home, Madison; Keith Hayworth, pastor of Fairfield Church, Morristown; Chaplain George Pope, Jesse Holman Jones Hospital, Springfield; and Mitchell. □

## Union offers graduate studies

Union University will offer three courses this fall toward the master of divinity degree.

The courses, offered through the Seminary Studies program, will begin Sept. 14. Seminary Studies is a joint effort of Union and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Courses offered are "Introduction to Old Testament," taught by Joel Drinkard; "Formation for Christian Ministry," taught by Phil Jett; and "Community Context for Church Ministry," taught by Wayne Day.

Classes will meet Mondays for 13 weeks until Dec. 7. Students may have their credits transfer-

red to any one of the six Southern Baptist seminaries and may graduate from that institution.

Costs for the program includes a \$10 application fee payable at the time the student mails in his application and a \$500 matriculation fee when the student registers for class. Students taking six hours or less will be charged \$75 per hour.

The deadline for pre-registration by mail is Sept. 7. Regular registration and the first day of class is Sept. 14.

For more information write or call John Adams, Union University, Jackson, Tenn., 38305, (901) 668-1818, ext. 243.

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

### Start with a smile

Will Rogers gave this advice to investors. "Buy good stocks at a low price. When they go up sell them and make a profit. If they don't go up, don't buy them."

### Take this truth with you

We don't know what the future holds but we do know who holds the future.

### Memorize this Scripture

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

### Pray this prayer

Our Lord: The world is facing many problems today but this has always been true. Help me to realize the most important thing is not my problems, but the resources I have with which to meet them. Amen. □

# River City church 'floats in flood' of poverty

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — August in Memphis is nearly tropical. It drives residents near the river out of their small homes.

## Tennesseans on river ministry:

■ "If Jesus is where the poor are, why isn't the body (the church) where the head is?" — **Tim Cox, pastor, Brinkley Heights Church, Memphis, and Shelby County Association coordinator of Urban Allies**

■ "It's wonderful to give (money), but you need to have the blessing too." — **Betty Summers, First Church, Camden**

■ "I know some people who are needy. I drive on by, but I'm going home and rectify that. . . . People say, 'I'm not helping those people because they're not helping themselves,' but Jesus didn't teach that." — **Betty Smith, First Church, Paris**

■ "We've (church members involved) become aware of a whole different culture . . . and that these needs have faces." — **Jeanne Billington, Second Church, Memphis, and food pantry coordinator, Urban Allies, Shelby County Association**

■ "The definition of need in Germantown is far from what it really means. . . . Midtown Memphis is not like Germantown and to make the transition was like a slap in the face" — **Dave Drinnon, Germantown Church, Germantown, Home Mission Board summer missionary**

■ "The world would say they aren't worth the investment," — **D. L. Lowrie, Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director**

■ "We have been lulled into thinking the poor only exist on foreign soil. The poor are all around us." — **Herb Brisbane, black church growth specialist, Tennessee Baptist Convention**

■ "Some people work hard every day and still need a helping hand. . . . All welfare recipients are not lazy." — **Wilbur Hawkins, president, Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission, Memphis**

■ "This (meeting) is the greatest thing since we set up the partnership with Michigan," — **Barney Anderson, First Church, Camden, and coordinator of volunteers, TBC Northwest Region** □

The homes are so small in northwest Memphis their contents often spill out around them, like the people. They are the poor of this river town.

Hope is at a premium in these communities. Families must find food, clothing, housing, and jobs. They must resist crime, addictions, racial conflicts, gangs, poor education, and family violence.

Some find hope at a small church not much bigger than some of the homes.

When Tim Cox visited Brinkley Heights Church for the first time, he wore a suit. That's what visiting preachers did, he thought.

The congregation of about ten didn't seem to notice the heat that summer day. The church didn't have air conditioning. The windows didn't open. But it was unsafe to open them in that neighborhood, Cox learned later. He eventually gave up his jacket, he explained.

That was three years ago. Cox, who was associate pastor of a church in a South Memphis community, became pastor of the inner city church and began a pilgrimage that changed him and is transforming others.

Cox spoke at the Convocation on Mississippi River Ministry.

"It was the culture shock of my life to be inside the city," said Cox.

The work is like that on a foreign missions field, he described.

On a recent Sunday he was stopped by several in the congregation before the worship service. During a prayer time he shared some of the requests for prayer. One family had a 12-year-old relative who had committed suicide. A man had a leg injury. The family was struggling as they kept children of relatives.

"They're not down-and-outers; they're up-and-outers," said Cox. Most are working as hard as they can, he added. They receive supplemental government aid, but they're only one pay check away from "disaster," he added.

The "disasters" come like a flood from the Mississippi River. A food pantry started at the church gave 95 families in July a three-day emergency supply of food.

Karen came to the food pantry for help, said Cox. She and her husband and three children lived in a trailer house. One of the volunteers met with Karen. A phone call later she was approved to receive help. Before she left, Cox counseled with her.

Karen came back to the church, but not for food. She wanted to work in the food pantry.

She and Cox were helping a lady carry some food to her car, explained Cox. Then Karen spoke to the lady.

Just a few weeks earlier she had come for help there, said Karen. God touched me, she explained. Soon the two women stood in the parking lot crying.

Cox said he had hesitated to speak about religious things because it was the first visit of the lady. He was learning so much, he added.

The story doesn't have a happy ending, said Cox.

Karen's husband lost his job. Cox went to visit them. They were gone.

"I didn't know how desperately in need they were. . . . I expect I could get some good counsel to get over this, but I know in my heart I need to care more."

**Memphians are hungry**

Jeanne Billington couldn't agree more with Cox. She met Karen at the food pantry. "Needs have faces," she said.

Billington is coordinator of the food pantry project for Urban Allies, which linked Brinkley Heights Church with Second Church, Memphis, where Billington is a member.

Since April 15, when the pantry was opened, she has coordinated the effort and about 30 volunteers working three days a week.

"Ninety-eight percent (of the needy) are not the ones who work the system. We can't give up on them because of the ones who do," said Billington.

Pantry workers are compassionate and thrifty. The needy are referred by the Department of Human Services office right across the street and by other aid organizations to distribution points like the pantry. The Metropolitan Interfaith Association provides a screening process and a food bank.

She is proud of her church's response, especially since it is without a pastor. Members tutor children one morning a week. They have repaired the church's leaking roof, repaired some homes in the community, and led Backyard Bible Clubs and several youth outings.

**A change of view**

Dave Drinnon is thankful for the help from churches. The member of Germantown Church, Germantown, worked at Brinkley Heights as a Home Mission Board summer missionary.

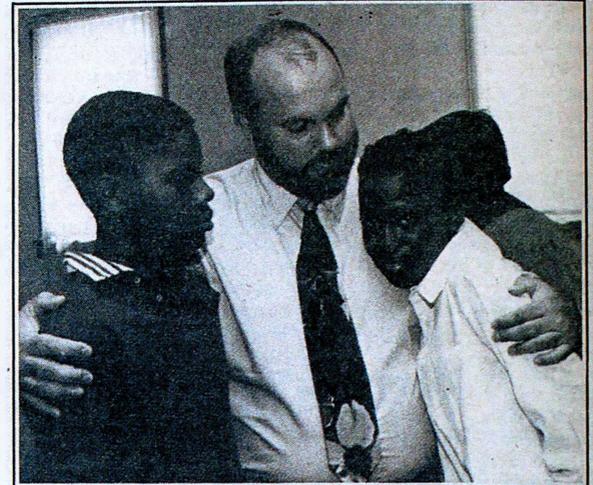
After being raised in the progressive suburb of Germantown, Drinnon admitted he was sheltered from what he discovered this summer in the inner city, describing it as a "foreign country at our own back doorstep."

People are not educated about the needs in our own cities," he reported.

The guys he got to know this summer and Drinnon talked about a lot of things. He won't forget one conversation soon, he said.

The teens asked him if he took his girlfriend to his bedroom. Drinnon discovered they had never learned the Christian view of morality.

The Baylor University student said many of his views have changed because of his mis-



▲ **TIM COX HUGS** Mike Mitchell, left, and Cortez Threlkeld after the service in which they made professions of faith.



◀ **SUMMER MISSIONARY** Dave Drinnon prays with Catherine Benjamin before a service at Brinkley Heights Church.



▶ **JEANNE BILLINGTON, left, and Youlanda Maglero** pack a box in the church's food pantry. — Photos by Connie Davis

sonary work. He learned people were turned away from hospitals because of a lack of insurance. He saw the reality of alcoholism in the form of vomit on the floor of a home.

His plans for the future may change, he admitted. "I know Jesus Christ is the answer, but we can change the society we live in," he said. He will try to use the political system to do that, he stated.

**His heart grows**

Just like the other workers, Cox seems to be energized by the ministry despite the sorrows he bears for others.

The congregation, which has grown to about 30, includes black, white, and Asian people. They practice an "open faith" which en-

courages displays of both affection and anger, but is non-discriminatory, noted Cox. People passing by even attend services and are welcomed, he observed.

When the members asked to start some ministries at the church, Cox explained they didn't have the money. Someone suggested stronger churches might help them, which was the birth of Urban Allies, he explained.

Because of funding from the Tennessee Baptist Convention for Urban Allies, Cox is serving fulltime.

"They've taught me a lot of things," said Cox.

"Some people ask, 'Isn't this just social ministry?' I believe evangelism starts with relationship." □

# Bledsoe Creek members celebrate past, new start

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

**BETHPAGE** — The 125th anniversary of Bledsoe Creek Church truly was a celebration.

Just one year ago it looked as if the Bledsoe Association church would not see its 125th year.

One year ago ten people in church was considered a good attendance and the church was struggling financially, said J. C. Lewis, director of missions for the association.

But under the leadership of then Pastor Virgil Capellen, the remaining church members voted to disband as a church and form again as a mission under the sponsorship of Indian Hills Church in

Gallatin (See story on page 1).

While this was going on at Bledsoe Creek, Kenneth Stacey, a member of Indian Hills, was called into Christian ministry.

After Indian Hills accepted the sponsorship of Bledsoe Creek, they unanimously called Stacey to become pastor of their new mission.

When Stacey arrived at Bledsoe Creek last November there were four people there, excluding his family and one other couple from Indian Hills.

Slowly but surely, enrollment has picked up over the past eight months.

In just three weeks, the church gained to 26 present in Sunday

School and has hovered around the 30 mark for several weeks. On Aug. 9, the day members celebrated not only their anniversary but their new beginning, Sunday School attendance reached 41. Counting guests, almost 150 people helped to mark the event.

Not only have people returned to church, but the church also has begun to reach people for Christ as evidenced by baptisms in recent weeks.

"We have led some folks to the Lord," Stacey acknowledged.

The baptisms were important in more than the obvious way. They have shown the older members the potential in their community and has encouraged them," he said. "The people here are anxious for the church to regain its status as a light in the community," he added.

In addition the church held its first Vacation Bible School in several years. The VBS enrolled about 50 children and had an average attendance of 35.

Shortly after Stacey arrived the church voted to give ten percent of its gifts to the Cooperative Program and home missions. The people at Bledsoe Creek have a giving heart and they're good strong Southern Baptists, Stacey said.

The new pastor is grateful to Indian Hills Church and Pastor Jack Goodwin for their moral support.



**STANDING BESIDE** An old-fashioned well pump nearly as old as the church, these members are glad to see the rebirth of Bledsoe Creek Church. From left, front row, Virginia Overton Law, Hazel Williams, and Emily Tuttle; back row, Ruby and Clyde Tuttle, Pastor Ken Stacey, Phillip Tuttle, and Clyde Tuttle.



**J. C. LEWIS**, right, director of missions for Bledsoe Association, presents a plaque to Pastor Ken Stacey on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society in observance of the church's 125th anniversary.

## Texas couple brings new life to Holston Valley mission

**CHURCH HILL** — A young Texas couple has brought a new vitality to an East Tennessee church which was on the verge of closing two years ago.

Mark and Janet Dance left San Antonio last August when he accepted the pastorate of Oak Grove Mission in Church Hill, a congregation under the sponsorship of Oak Grove Church, Mount Carmel. (See story on page 1)

The mission, formerly Carter's Valley Church, had dipped to about ten members before Oak Grove assumed sponsorship.

By supplying leadership, along with retired pastor Bruce Hullette as an interim, attendance had increased to about 38 weekly when Dance arrived.

Since then, Sunday School attendance has climbed to an average in the 60s each week. On Aug. 9, there were 78 in Sunday School, reported Charles Earl, director of missions for Holston Valley Association.

Dance credited the growth to a congregation ready for a challenge. "I have been challenging them and they respond. Their response refreshes me," he said.

The congregation has caught Dance's excitement and enthusiasm about his ministry. "I like being here and the people sense that and have a spirit of anticipation," said Dance, a 1991 graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Earl gives credit to the mission's turnaround to both Dance and Oak Grove in Mount Carmel. Mount Carmel was willing to give up some of its members to provide leadership for the mission and also helped them financially, Earl said.



**TEXANS MARK AND JANET Dance** have brought new life to Oak Grove Mission in Church Hill.

Oak Grove Pastor John Compton (who has since become pastor of First Church, Dickson) said they prayed for ten men and their families to go to the mission. "That gave the new church immediate quality leadership," Compton said.

The church then organized a mission council to work with the mission and led in paying off the mission's debts and did some work on their building. They also

received assistance from the Tennessee Baptist Convention for the pastor's salary.

"We took the liabilities, provided them workers, and now they're growing," Compton observed.

Earl noted a key factor was finding the right pastor. "It takes a special kind of person who must be willing to start at the bottom and grow a church," he said.

And, Dance has proven to be that pastor. He is leading the church's growth through tried and proven Southern Baptist growth principles. "We're going to grow by starting new classes, evangelizing, and discipling," he said.

Growth has been particularly evident among youth. When Dance arrived there were one or two junior high students. Now there are about eight senior high students and two youth Sunday School classes, which because of their growth, will be moved to a member's home in October due to a lack of space at the church.

"It has not been phenomenal growth, but it's been enough to keep us excited and we have seen people saved," Dance said.

Dance is modest about his role in what has happened during the past year.

"To pastor a mission church that already has land and a building is good. We don't have any excuse not to grow," he said.

The church will soon make some physical changes to the

Indian Hills assigned four of their deacons to serve as a committee for Bledsoe Creek. The church's other four deacons serve as a committee for Rocky Creek, their other mission.

"I have a good nucleus at Indian Hills I can call on," Stacey said.

The turnaround at Bledsoe Creek happened in time for members to celebrate their heritage while taking a good look at its future.

Located on five acres of land near Bethpage and Westmoreland, Bledsoe Creek was an im-

portant church in the area for a number of years before declining gradually in recent years. Lewis said.

The Bledsoe Association DOM noted there has been "a new, invigorating change at the church."

The members of Bledsoe Creek are excited about the changes. They worked hard in recent weeks making some improvements to the church's facility, Stacey said.

"We have a new beginning here with an old base," Stacey said, affirming. "The Lord wants a church here."

building, including remodeling the downstairs where Sunday School classes are held. Church members are also looking to the day when they can reconstitute as a church, Dance added.

In the meantime, he is having "fun."

One of his thrills has been seeing the "survivors," the members who remained from the original Carter's Valley congregation, will-

ingly accept the church's new status.

"The older members are genuinely appreciative. They were here for years with nothing going on.

"They aren't survivors anymore. This has become fertile soil and they have waited a long time to see this happen," he said

### Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership — August



24 — Missionary Mary Jo Geiger of Vina del Mar who is experiencing severe health problems.

25 — The continued follow-up of professions of faith by the churches as a result of our partnership efforts.

26 — Missionary Karen Wright of Puerto Montt as she makes plans to be married next year.

27 — That Centro Bautista Church in Puerta Varas, that has just moved from mission into church status, will experience growth, both spiritually and numerically.

28 — Praise God for what he is doing in the lives of our Tennessee volunteers as they serve him in Chile — and for the positive impact our partnership is having upon our churches!

29 — Missionaries Stephen and Mary Burke ask us to pray for the development of mission points in northern Chile. This area is strongly influenced by numerous satanic groups.

30 — Missionary Clara Brincefield as she makes preparation for the annual Bible Exposition in September to be held in a mall in downtown Temuco.

31 — Missionary Betty Coy on her birthday. She and her husband, Frank, conduct conferences on family-life and marriage. Pray they will be effective in this vital ministry.

# TBCH provides clothes, 'good feelings' for children

Preparing children for the school year can put a major dent in the family budget. Imagine the total cost for clothing, shoes, and school supplies for a family of more than 200 children.

It seems overwhelming, yet the task of outfitting dozens of youngsters is exactly what the staff members of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes are facing this August.

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*"It just helps so much for our children to have something that is personally theirs — something that has not been worn by anyone else."*

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The need to give the children quality clothing is so important. Greg is one example of the many boys and girls who come to the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes with the clothes on his back and little more. His jeans were frayed at the knees and the seat — not so much because that's the style, but because they were just plain worn out.

Using money from the TBCH clothing fund, his housemother took him to the department store. The 12-year-old helped pick out some school and play clothes, along with two nice shirts for church.

Greg proudly carried the sack of new clothes back to the TBCH van. It was the first time he had ever had something bought just for him.

"New clothing is so important to our children," explains Jerry Blasingame, regional director of the Franklin TBCH campus. "We don't want them branded as 'Home kids' because of inadequate clothing. It's important that they feel good about themselves, and part of that is having a nice appearance."

Blasingame, along with the other TBCH regional directors — Burl McMillan of Chattanooga, Jim Henry of Johnson City, and Gene Gafford of Memphis — are juggling budgets and donations to outfit more than 200 children for the return to school. It's a



*A NEW OUTFIT for school brings a smile to the face of this teenage resident of the Children's Home. Each boy and girl brought into the ministry is provided with clothing for church, school, and play. — TBCH photo by Jim Veneman*

yearly task that consumes the major portion of each campus's clothing budget.

"We're doing what we can, though," says Gene Gafford. "It just helps so much for our children to have something that is personally theirs — something that has not been worn by anyone else."

School supplies are another pressing need. All of the campuses could use school backpacks for the children. Also

in short supply are colored markers, three-pronged folders with pockets, five-subject notebooks, colored pencils, poster boards, and typing paper.

And, as always, donations of basic toiletry items are welcome. Needed are shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, tooth brushes, and soap. For the teenagers, there are needs for items such as deodorant, disposable razors, shaving cream, and hair spray.

Each of the four TBCH regions has a special clothing fund for children. Donations may be mailed directly to each campus. Please indicate on the check that the money is to be designated for the Clothing Fund. The addresses are:

**TBCH Northeast Tennessee Region**  
P.O. Box 5206  
Johnson City, TN 37603

**TBCH Southeast Tennessee Campus**  
6623 Lee Highway  
Chattanooga, TN 37421

**TBCH Middle Tennessee Campus**  
P.O. Box 519  
Franklin, TN 37065

**TBCH West Tennessee Campus**  
6896 Highway 70  
Memphis, TN 38134



## **Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes**

A ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention  
Dr. Gerald L. Stow, Executive Director/Treasurer

Central Office, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood TN 37027  
615-371-2000; Toll-free in Tennessee 1-800-624-8591

# TenneScene ■ the people, their work

## ■ the work

■ The Vacation Bible School held by Speedway Terrace Church, Memphis, for the first time in five years, drew a high attendance of 139. Five children made professions of faith, reported director Ray Ware.

■ Eight members of Speedway Terrace Church, Memphis, did missions work in Belize for a week in August.

■ Graceland Church, Memphis, held Vacation Bible School, which drew 217. Seventeen spiritual decisions were made and \$150 was given for the Cooperative Program.

■ An Acteen Activator Team from Beverly Hills Church, Memphis, worked in Gulfport, Miss., Aug. 9-15. Team members were Julie Rhea, Wendi Weldon, Carol Crawley, and Janet Mitchell.

■ A 26-member group from Brownsville Church, Brownsville, participated in a 12-day mission tour to Brooksville, Fla. The group performed a musical drama in a number of churches and conducted a Vacation Bible School for a congregation in Brooksville. Five children made professions of faith.

■ A revival will be held by First Church, Minor Hill, Aug. 30-Sept. 2. D. L. Lowrie, executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention, will lead the services.

■ Old Bethlehem Church, Rutherford, will hold revival Aug. 28-30. The evangelist will be Don Edwards, youth minister, First Church, Milan.

■ Participating in the Tennessee/Michigan Baptist Partnership were a nine-member team from Georgetown Church, Georgetown. The missions team helped members of Ludington Baptist Chapel, Ludington, Mich., lead Backyard Bible Clubs and

Vacation Bible Schools there July 26-Aug. 2. The team also did repair work on the congregation's building.

■ A Divorce Recovery Workshop will be held by Calvary Church, Knoxville, Sept. 13-Oct. 18 weekly, 4-6 p.m., Tony Connors, pastor to single adults, will lead the sessions.

■ In July, 41 members of Ebenezer Church, Knoxville, did missions work in Downingtown, Penn. They conducted Vacation Bible School and did repair and cleanup work at Thorndale Church.

■ Pine Haven Church, Jamestown, held a Vacation Bible School which drew 85 and resulted in one profession of faith and a missions offering of \$100.

■ Riverside Association held its annual Missions Day Camp in July at First Church, Byrdstown, reported Susie Paris, association Girls in Action director. About 50 children participated from five churches.

■ The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Baptist Student Union will host a reunion Oct. 24. Social activities will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the BSU and dinner will be served at 7 p.m. The cost is \$7.50 per person. For reservations and information, call Jim Moore at (615) 266-5121.

■ The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools awarded Union University, Jackson, accreditation for the master of education program. The program has been in place at Union and has been a candidate for accreditation since the summer of 1990. The university graduated its first student from the program in May of 1991.

## ■ the churches

■ First Church, Sweetwater,

will hold revival Oct. 11-15. Speakers include Calvin Metcalf, Don Garner, and Henry Linginfelter.

■ Calvary Church, Knoxville, will help students arriving on campus of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The program is named Operation Contact '92 and will be conducted Aug. 22-23.

■ A groundbreaking ceremony will be held Aug. 30 by First Church, Goodlettsville, for a Christian Life and Educational Center. The facility will include a gym with racquetball courts, recreation rooms, and classrooms. The event will be held following morning worship service.

■ A homecoming celebration will be held Aug. 30 by First Church, Sparta. Activities will include a covered dish meal at noon.

■ First Church, Paris, will observe the 159th anniversary of its founding on Aug. 30. Following the morning service a "dinner on the grounds" will be held.

■ The sesquicentennial of Shady Grove Church, Tellico Plains, will be celebrated Aug. 30. A covered dish meal will be held at noon. Music will be provided by the Homebound Singers from Powell, Brentley Quartet from Maryville, and Nunley Quartet from Cleveland.

■ Cane Creek, Tellico Plains, will observe homecoming Aug. 23. The Harmonettes will sing.

## ■ the people

■ Ron Hogsed has been called as pastor of Cherokee Mountain Church, Jonesborough.

■ James Edward Brown, former director of Appalachian Outreach at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, was ordained to the ministry on Aug. 2 at



WENDELL L. BOERTJE, minister of music at Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville, spent July at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., as visiting professor of church music.

Rutledge Church, Rutledge, R. R. Turner, retired professor of Carson-Newman College, preached the ordination sermon. Brown and his wife, Colleen, will study at Boston (Mass.) University.

■ James Locke, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, was ordained to the Gospel ministry on Aug. 2 by First Church, Mount Juliet.

■ Highland Church, Pulaski, ordained David Loop as a deacon on July 19.

## ■ the leaders

■ Mike Headrick, minister of music and youth at Radnor Church, Nashville, has moved to serve in the same role at Bethel Church, Greenbrier.

■ Chuck King has been called to Higher Ground Church in Sullivan Association, as assistant pastor. He is a graduate of Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky. His experience includes serving 12 years as a youth director and 11 years as a pastor. He

was most recently pastor of Cedar Grove Church, Kingston.

■ Don Dillingham is serving as minister of education at First Church, Mount Juliet. Formerly he served churches in Nashville, Cleveland, and Morristown.

■ Range Hills Church, Memphis, has called John Shamblin of Russellville, Ala., as minister of music and youth. In addition to serving the church, Shamblin will attend Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.

■ Lakeview Church, Selmer, called Ricky Cartwright as minister of youth.

■ Tommy Ferguson has been called to Radnor Church, Nashville, as youth and outreach director. The church also added three people to the staff to serve on an interim basis. Janice Brown is serving as college and career director, Shirley Richardson as music coordinator, and Jerry Hyder as junior high director.

■ Ron Gardner, formerly minister of music and youth at Airport Boulevard Church, Mobile, Ala., began ministering July 5 at Bayside Church, Harrison, as associate minister of music. He will work with Minister of Music Mark Blair. He will specifically work with the youth and children's choirs.

Bruce Deming, the church's minister of education and senior adults, recently celebrated his fifth anniversary at the church.

■ The congregation of Second Church, Union City, recently honored Jerrell G. White for eight years of service to the church as pastor. He resigned to accept the pastorate of First Church, Fredonia, Ky., effective Aug. 1.

■ David Allen is now serving as pastor of First Church, Crossville.

# Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

## Call to excellence

By Pete Mullins, pastor  
East Athens Baptist Church, Athens

In Matthew 5:47 Jesus asked a thought-provoking question. He asked, "What do ye more than others?" We live in a day where most people try to measure their lives by someone else's. We need a better "measuring stick!" I believe the Lord calls his people to a life of excellence. We should not be satisfied being average. We should not be satisfied being like everyone else! When you get sick, you don't want an "average" doctor; when you need legal counsel, you don't want an "average" lawyer; when our nation is at war, we don't want an "average" leader. In times of crisis, we don't look for common men, but we look for uncommon men! What do ye more than others? As believers, let's be committed to excellence

for the glory of our Lord.

I believe as Christians, we should be committed to excellence in our work lives. In Colossians 3, Paul tells us we should "Go about our work as though Jesus is our foreman and God is our paymaster." The Bible tells us to do our jobs as unto the Lord! A Japanese leader made a comment that American workers are lazy and overpaid. That made us angry. I'm afraid he was correct in regard to many in our land today. There are far too many who want to do as little work as they can get by with and get as much pay as possible. That is not God's way. When America sought to put God out of the picture, that took care of the "work ethic" as well. Christians ought to be committed to excellence on the job in order to be good witnesses for our Lord. Give a day's work for a day's pay and please him.

Christians should also be com-

mitted to excellence in the area of our moral life. We live in a day of gross immorality. Many professing believers are little different than the rest of our society. We must show the world that Jesus has made a difference. In fact, you aren't saved if he hasn't. Paul said, "If any man - any person - be in Christ, he is a new creation." Let's be committed to living a moral life so others can see Jesus in us.

I challenge you to be committed to excellence in your marriage. One-half of all marriages today end in divorce. One Christian psychologist has estimated that not more than 5-10 percent of all married couples really enjoy a good relationship. Let's make Jesus the head of our households and be committed to excellence. Let's consider the Lord's question: "What do ye more than others?" □

## New beginnings

By Jerry Tracy, pastor  
First Church, Manchester

What a beautiful morning it is! As Barbara said this morning, "It looks like everything has been washed." It surely does. And because of Calvary and the Resurrection, we have been washed as well. I found myself yesterday cleaning up my study at home, and this morning my office. It does seem like something very good has happened to make me want to clean. It reminds me of new beginnings.

Would you like some new beginnings? Maybe to return to having a daily quiet time with the Lord. I know your leisure time is tight, so why not carve out some special time for you and Jesus. Maybe you might want to start attending Sunday School again. Your class would welcome you back, and,

who knows? You might grow from studying God's Word. I know I do. Maybe you might want to start visiting people for your class and church. Your contact might make a tremendous difference in someone's life. You might even want to start tithing. Remember the challenge and promise of God in Malachi 3:10: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

I am convinced that Jesus is alive and his will is the very best for each of us. Stay in tune with him through his word, his spirit, and his church. □

# Bible's King James version retains loyalty

By Mark Baggett  
For Baptist Press

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** — Rumors of the death of the King James version of the Bible appear to be greatly exaggerated.

Despite slipping in sales over the last decade, it maintains a strong second place to the New International Version (NIV) and inspires a fierce loyalty among those who believe its Elizabethan English has the majesty and grandeur of the Word of God.

According to "The Story of English" (1986), the King James was the work of a committee, uses a mere 8000 words (in contrast to its contemporary, Shakespeare, whose vocabulary was some 30,000 words), and was based as much on the five previous English versions as it was on Latin and Greek. Even though it has had a sweeping influence on English prose, to say nothing of theology, there is evidence its translators were less dogmatic about their work than their defenders today.

"Why should we be in bondage to them (words and syllables)," asked the translators in their preface, "if we may be free, use precisely when we may use another no less fit, as com-mo-diously?"

As recently as this past June, however, at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Indianapolis, a messenger from Ohio proposed that the King James version be used for all Scripture reading at SBC meetings. The resolutions committee took no action on the motion by Steve Wilson, pastor of Memorial Church in Rossmoyne, Ohio, but Wilson remains convinced Southern Baptists need a standard version.

"For years we have had confrontations over the Word of God," he said. "If we are claiming that the Word of God is inspired, we are obligated to produce it. We should recommend the King

James version as a superior version.

"If there are disagreements over versions, only one can be right or neither. You have to have a standard somewhere.

"If I am in the pulpit proclaiming, 'Thus saith the Lord,' I have to have the Lord's Word in front of me. I'm not going to trust my own memory."

The issue of which Bible to use from the pulpit at Southern Baptist churches is one that cuts across political lines, although "conservative" pastors are perhaps more likely to use the King James version. In an informal poll of 40 pastors in Alabama, "conservative" and "moderate" alike, the King James ran a poor third in terms of preference to the NIV and New American Standard Bibles.

Henry Cox, pastor of First Church in Bay Minette, Ala., gives a typical response.

"To this day, I still read the King James Bible from the pulpit because most of our members still use the King James Bible," Cox said. "But I recommend to members that they invest in a more contemporary version, such as Today's English Version or the NIV and that they use others such

as the Amplified Bible for study helps. I encourage Sunday School teachers to read several versions."

Like many if not most Southern Baptists, Cox grew up reading the King James Version.

"I have a deep love for the King James," he said. "That was the only version I used growing up. It sounds like you're not really reading the Bible without the 'Thee's' and 'Thou's' of the King James.

"Yet in my schooling, I realized that the King James is a translation and when in seminary I looked at the Hebrew and Greek texts I understood what a tremendous challenge it was for the translators. Those scholars seemed to capture the various shades of meaning and syntax and usage so well. It's amazing to me how accurate the King James version is.

"Yet I know that in the last 20-30 years some of the newer versions are even more accurate because archeological discoveries have turned up manuscripts that were older than the manuscripts used by King James translators.

"This is not to say the King

James is wrong but I have tried to point out that newer versions have done better in giving us the true meaning of the original Greek and Hebrew language by using some newly discovered manuscripts that are not Biblical but that date from the time of the original Greek and Hebrew."

But Wilson believes the popularity of the newer versions is "hype."

"I've got 15 Bibles," he says, "and I attribute that to big marketing behind the newer versions. The NIV has been popular for a relatively short time whereas the King James has lasted over 400 years. I don't see how the last 30 or 40 years would make the King James less reliable."

One objection to the standard use of the King James version is that non-Christians, bred on the contemporary medium of television, cannot understand the Elizabethan prose.

"My answer to that is that there were heathen peoples throughout history who didn't speak Greek and Hebrew and yet they were converted," Wilson said. "We are

using the language that God intended for us to use when we use the King James version. He saw fit in 1611 to put his Word into that Bible."

But Cox doesn't think the translation determines the effectiveness of the witness.

"If you are just putting Scripture in someone's hands, it's not going to be as effective anyway," he said. "If you are quoting Scripture and explaining it to them, you are going to paraphrase. The message of the Gospel is what is at the heart of the Gospel."

Wilson, who said he intends to make a similar motion next year "to find out what the pulse of the convention is," scoffs at the notion that the Bible should be easy to understand.

"I don't have a problem with someone using different words to describe matters of common sense. But God intends for us to meditate on his Word and to allow him to interpret it for us, so that it will never happen that we substitute our own interpretation for his. The Bible is not some easy-to-use microwave oven for our convenience." □

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# ■ Sunday School lesson commentary

## □ God's protection and mercy — Bible Book Series for August 23

By Leonard Markham, pastor, Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville

How do we handle adversity? Surely we all faced or will face "the darker side of life." Job, who was acquainted with suffering received these words of wisdom from Eliphaz the Temanite, "man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward" (Job 5:7).

In this lesson we are introduced to one of the most influential kings in the history of Judah — Hezekiah. Hezekiah was devoted to God and was probably influenced by the prophetic ministry of Isaiah. The reign of Hezekiah is reflected in these words from God, "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength" (Isaiah 30:15). Hezekiah's dependence on God was the secret of his incredible life and reign.

Hezekiah was responsible for encouraging pure worship of God and removing the Canaanite fertility religion from the Temple of Jerusalem. He avoided the unholy alliances with foreign nations that were prevalent during the reign of his father, Ahaz. Hezekiah removed the bronze serpent, Nehushtan, which had become an object of superstitious veneration.

Yet, the reign of Hezekiah was not without its adversity and opposition. The adversity is presented in the person of Sennacherib, King of Assyria. Hezekiah resisted the demands and attacks of the Assyrian king and was delivered by a miracle (II Kings 19:35).

It seems in life where we find a Hezekiah we will also find a sen-

nacherib. The Apostle Paul who was acquainted with opportunity and opposition recognized both realities when he wrote, "I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me." (I Corinthians 16:8).

When we face our adversities, let us face them with God. Sennacherib sent a message to Hezekiah, "Do not let the God you depend on deceive you when he says, 'Jerusalem will not be handed over to the King of Assyria.' Surely you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the countries, destroying them completely" (II Kings 19:10-11). The Bible tells us when Hezekiah received the letter, he

immediately went to the Temple to pray. He spread the message before God and said, "O Lord, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Give ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; listen to the words Sennacherib has sent to insult the living God" (II Kings 19:15-16).

Hezekiah didn't tremble or fret or weep, he just took his concern to God. The Bible tells us of the miracle. "That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death 185,000 men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning, there were all the dead bodies! So Sennacherib, King of Assyria, broke camp and with-

drew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there" (II Kings 19:35-36). No Assyrian king is a match for the God of the Bible.

**Basic Passage:  
II Kings 18:1-20:21**

The Apostle Paul reminds us, "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). Earl Wilson, president of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, is fond of saying, "Ain't nothing gonna come up today that me and the Lord can't handle." Let us "take our burdens (adversity) to the Lord and leave them there." □

## □ Fulfill your ministry — Convention Uniform Series for August 23

By Gary Coltharp, pastor, First Church, Jackson

Perhaps the greatest quality of Christian discipleship is faithfulness. Earlier in Paul's ministry he had written the Corinthians, "This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy" (I Corinthians 4:1-2). Trustworthiness, fidelity, loyalty, dependability are characteristics of faithfulness.

This lesson is a study of Paul's encouragement to Timothy to be a faithful servant of Christ, no matter what may come.

**An example worth imitating**  
(vv. 10-13)

Against the backdrop of a frightening analysis of the drift of the world and the coming wave of opposition to the way of Christ (II Timothy 3:1-9), Paul reminds Timothy of nine virtues of the apostle's life worthy of imitation (vv. 10-11).

Timothy had been so close to Paul that he knew intimately his teaching, both in content and conduct. The apostle's understudy had observed the great purpose (aim) of Paul's life. He had experienced the meaning of faith from Paul's consistently courageous example.

He had tested the old saint's patience, love, and steadfastness. Furthermore, Timothy was well aware of Paul's persecutions and sufferings. Such pain can be expected by anyone who truly lives for Christ (v. 12).

**Sacred trust worth following**  
(vv. 14-17)

In contrast to those who promote "counterfeit faith" (v. 8), "impostors" who go "from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived" (v. 13), Timothy is challenged to remain faithful to the sacred truths he learned as a child from his godly grandmother and

mother (II Timothy 1:5).

Verses 16 and 17 present one of the Bible's most complete definitions of the nature and purpose of Holy Scripture. Peter wrote: "No prophecy ever came by the impulse of men, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (II Peter 1:21). Paul speaks of all Scripture as "inspired by God" (v. 16). Literally, "All Scripture is 'God-breathed' and profitable for teaching (doctrine), for reproof (it rebukes sin), for correction, and for training in righteousness" (v. 16). The purpose of Scripture is both to lead us to salvation (v. 15) and to equip us for godly living (v. 17).

**Basic Passage:  
II Timothy 3:10-4:8**

**A calling worth fulfilling** (vv. 1-8)  
When I read and meditate upon our Lord's wonderful teaching in the upper room (John 13-17), I am

filled with reverence at the intensity of each word. I have read them enough to know these words comprise the record of the last earthly teachings of Jesus. Similarly, these verses were penned by the great missionary apostle as death was clearly imminent.

First come the final instructions (4:1-5). Be faithful in your ministry of proclamation. "Preach the word!" Nothing can be more important to kingdom service than preaching the Word of God. Preaching "the Word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (I Corinthians 1:18).

Timothy is to preach the word at every opportunity. He is to reject the popular religious fads which feed "itching ears" and devote himself to "sound teachings" (v. 3). Paul's final admonition to Timothy summarizes

his appeal. "As for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry" (v. 5).

Finally, we consider one of the greatest Christian testimonies on record (4:6-8). He had offered everything he was and hoped to be to God. Now he faces death as the final offering of himself to the One he loves most and best.

Reflecting back over his life Paul could find satisfaction in knowing he had fought the good fight (not only had he fought well, but he had selected his battles and fought only those worthy of his time and energy). He had finished the race and kept the faith.

There remained only the awards ceremony at the throne of God where Paul expected to receive the victor's crown. There is also a crown like Paul's awaiting all who have loved our Lord's appearing! □

## □ Proclaiming God's faithfulness — Life and Work Series for August 23

By James Hutson, pastor, First Church, Rockwood

If you would write your epitaph, what would you say? In a cemetery in North Carolina where some of my wife's family are buried, these words are found on the tombstone of her great-grandfather: "Remember friend as you pass by, as you are now, so once was I. As I am now, you soon will be. Prepare to die and follow me."

II Samuel 23:1-5 is considered to be David's epitaph. Over the past weeks we have traced David's life — his anointing to be king over Israel, his victory over Goliath, his struggle with King Saul, his sin with Bathsheba, and God's forgiveness. Now David sums up his life.

**David identifies himself**  
(II Samuel 23:1-2)

Who is David? He is the son of

Jesse who was raised from being a shepherd to be king of all Israel. He was anointed king (I Samuel 16:13, II Samuel 2:7, 5:3), chosen by God, and acknowledged by the people. He was the sweet psalmist of Israel. David did not write all the psalms, but he was author of many of them.

David was a man in whom and through whom the Spirit of God spoke. David identifies himself as God's servant being used in God's service.

**David recalls his service as king**  
(ch. 23:3-4)

Very often kings became a law unto themselves who ruled for personal gain and glory. David looks back upon his life and sees illumination — "light for the morning," beauty — "the sun rises without clouds," productivi-

ty — "like tender grass coming forth after a spring rain." David has not used his position selfishly. God had blessed him, and he had blessed others. The life we live should be a reflection of the calling we have received.

**David extols God's faithfulness**  
(ch. 23:5)

The first phrase of this verse is a reminder of David's failures. David's sin against Bathsheba, Uriah, and the nation brought great anguish. David's repentance was followed by God's forgiveness, but the consequences of David's sin would trouble his family for a long time.

David rejoices in the faithfulness of God who makes and keeps his covenants. For the Christian, our covenant with God is through his Son, the Lord Jesus.

Our acceptance with God is not dependent upon our goodness, but upon God who has promised forgiveness to everyone who believes in him.

**Basic Passage:  
II Samuel 23:1-7;  
I Kings 2:1-4**

**David charges Solomon** (I Kings 2:1-3)

"Be strong and show thyself a man" (v. 2). Manliness is not synonymous with muscles. The real test of a man is character.

"Keep the charge of God" (v. 3a). Be faithful to the truth that God has revealed to us through his Spirit, his Son, and his written Word.

"Walk in his ways" (v. 3b). The word — walk — in the Scrip-

tures most often refers to lifestyle.

"Keep his statutes, his commandments, his judgments, and his testimonies" (v. 3c). Be faithful to God's written revelation.

The result is God's blessing, that "thou mayest prosper" (v. 3d). This is spiritual health, not financial success.

**God's promise to David and his children** (ch. 2:4)

You can give your children many things, but you cannot give them your faith. Each person, including our sons and daughters, must choose to believe for themselves. We can declare God's promises by our words and our examples with the full assurance that God will be faithful to save all those who receive his Son, Jesus, as their Savior. □

## Midwest Baptists make CP appeal

Baptist Press

CHICAGO — Baptist leaders in six Midwest states have appealed to Southern Baptist churches in the region to share at least ten percent of their offerings through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' channel of support for home and foreign missions.

"The Cooperative Program is the lifeblood of these conventions," said O. Wyndell Jones, executive director-treasurer of the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship. Without the CP, Jones said, "We would just really be struggling."

The appeal for Midwest churches to boost Cooperative Program giving was adopted during a meeting of the North Central States Steering Committee of executive directors and missions and development directors for state Baptist conventions of Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota-Wisconsin.

In five of the six states, Cooperative Program giving to SBC missions and ministry during the current Oct. 1-Sept. 30 fiscal year already has been on the rise. Minnesota-Wisconsin's giving is up 13.77 percent; Ohio, up 10.22 percent; Iowa, up 9.92 percent; Indiana, up 6.29 percent; and Illinois, up 5.33 percent. Michigan, meanwhile, has experienced a 17.79 percent decline in year-to-date CP giving. About 25 percent of the U.S. population lives in the region, Jones noted. □

## Baptist choir wins gold in Barcelona

Baptist Press

BARCELONA, Spain — If they gave gold medals for Olympic music performances, First Church, Dallas, would be a contender.

The church's 176-member chapel choir and orchestra gave 12 performances during a 13-day stay in Barcelona during the Sum-

mer Olympics. By the time they left, local observers agreed their polished program had given a much-needed boost to Baptists' image in Spain, a country leery of evangelical Christianity because of centuries of Catholic tradition.

More than 200 singers, musicians, helpers, and directors from First Church made the Barcelona trek on a chartered Boeing 757 jet. A year of planning went into the venture. Total cost of the trip reached \$200,000, said Jody Mazzola, minister of education who went along as a chaperon.

The group performed a medley of American songs and Christian music Aug. 4 at the prestigious Palace of Music in downtown Barcelona before a standing-room-only crowd of more than 1500. They shared the stage with a bevy of world-class athletes, including American speedster and long jumper Carl Lewis. An active Christian, Lewis spoke of God's presence in victories as well as defeats.

Larger halls could have been rented for less money but the Palace of Music has an image of quality that Baptists in Spain need, said Southern Baptist missionary Fred Dallas, who helped plan the evening.

Only two Baptist churches exist in Barcelona, a city of five million people. And only about 70,000 evangelicals of all kinds live throughout Spain, a country of 40 million people. □

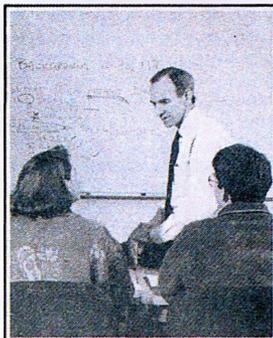
## Retired editor L. H. Moore dies

Baptist Press

SALEM, ILL. — L. H. Moore, editor emeritus of the *Ohio Baptist Messenger* and former editor of the *Illinois Baptist*, died at his home here Aug. 10. Moore, 82, had suffered the past few months from an inoperable brain tumor. Earlier this year, he and his wife, Neoma, moved from Columbus, Ohio, to Salem, Ill. He was a former Tennessee Baptist pastor.

From 1967 until his retirement in 1976, the native Illinoisan was editor of the *Ohio Baptist Messenger*. From 1957 until 1967 he was editor of the *Illinois Baptist*.

Ordained to the ministry in 1926, Moore served for 25 years as pastor of churches in Tennessee and Illinois. After retirement, Moore was interim pastor of several churches in the greater Columbus, Ohio, area. He was a graduate of Union University, Jackson. □



STEVEN SIMPLER, dean of the School of Religion at Belmont University, Nashville, talks with Belmont students about the New Testament. Simpler recently was named recipient of the Choney Distinguished Professor Award for 1992-93. The award is given annually to the person who best exemplifies excellence in teaching.

## Alaska Baptists celebrate giving

Baptist Press

KENAI, Alaska — Record-setting offering totals were celebrated when the Alaska Convention met Aug. 4-5 in this small peninsula town south of Anchorage. However, a need for pastors was underscored by Bill G. Duncan, the convention's executive director.

Alaska Baptists set new marks for special offerings during the past year, Duncan reported to a record 192 messengers from the convention's 61 churches, 24 mis-

sions, and 15 preaching points encompassing some 22,300 members.

Records were \$129,777.27 for the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions, up 13.6 percent over the previous year; \$65,844.26 for the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions, up 24.5 percent; and \$49,975.46 for the Valeria Sherard Offering for State Missions, up 5.4 percent. Alaska's gifts for foreign and home missions were among the top increases among state Baptist conventions, Duncan said. In Cooperative Program giving, Duncan noted Alaska Baptists are ahead of last year's pace by ten percent. The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified channel of support for home and foreign missions.

## Glorieta plans staff reunion

Sunday School Board

GLORIETA, N.M. — In celebration of 40 years of service, Glorieta Baptist Conference Center in Glorieta, N.M., is asking all of its former staffers to "come on home."

Plans are underway for a "Glorieta Staffers Reunion" to be held Feb. 12-14, 1993, at the conference center. Scheduled events include a reception, banquet, church service led by ex-staffers, snow skiing, and other activities.

For more information, write: Staffer Reunion, Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, P.O. Box 8, Glorieta, N.M., 87535. □

## National youth conference set

Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE — Launch of a national campaign for abstinence, training conferences, and workshops addressing personal struggles of youth ministry will highlight the fourth Youth Ministry National Conference set for April 19-23, 1993, in Nashville.

Richard Ross, youth ministry consultant at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, said the campaign urging teens to abstain from sexual relationships prior to marriage will be a cooperative venture of several components of the board and of other SBC agencies.

Youth ministry issues to be addressed in conference sessions include preparing for year-round school, the combination youth minister, and impacting the school campus. Personal struggles topics will include when is a person too old to be a youth minister and how to know when it is time to leave a church.

The conference will be jointly sponsored by the SSB, Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, and Brotherhood Commission.

A conference brochure and registration information are available by writing to Richard Ross, Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, 127 Ninth Ave. N., Nashville, Tenn., 37234. □



SOUTHERN BAPTIST physician Jean Dickman checks a child's heartbeat during morning rounds at the Baptist hospital in Jibla, Yemen. The hospital has been an isolated outpost of high-quality care for 25 years. Rising cost of health care is creating problems for the hospital. It could be forced to close if the government of the Mideast nation does not grant its request to increase patient fees for those who can afford it. — Photo by Don Rutledge

## We welcome our new readers

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