

Baptist and Reflector

September 2, 1992

VOL. 158 ■ NO. 36

STATEWIDE EDITION

this week's news

global:

■ Radio-TV Commission says it can offer almost immediate access to millions of Russian TV viewers. — See page 10.

national:

■ Alabama Convention accuses a Baptist retirement center agency of violating bylaws with indebtedness. — See page 2.

■ "Conservatives" in convention meet in Memphis — See page 5.

state:

■ Pastors experience deliverance, realignment at annual retreat. — See page 3.

■ Anonymous donor enables Carroll-Benton Association Baptists to purchase land for planned congregation. — See page 4.

■ A mission team from Newport serves in Adrian, Michigan. — See page 9.

Tennessee relief units serving stricken states

Brotherhood seeks 1000 volunteers

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Reporting by cellular phone from the Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Unit in Glendale, Fla., Curtis Fowler of Knoxville said, "We'll need everybody we can get."

The unit arrived Saturday afternoon in response to Hurricane Andrew which struck Florida and Louisiana last week. A unit from Hardeman Association is working around Miami/Dade Community College and a unit from Carroll-Benton Association is in route.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention childcare disaster relief unit, which left Aug. 28 with 12 workers, is working near the Knights of Columbus Hall in Houma, La. Workers plan to stay there until Sept. 3 or 4.

Fowler reported after arriving they immediately set up feeding operations in the city which is about 35 miles south of Fort Lauderdale and fed 700 Saturday evening.

On Sunday, the Tennesseans fed 1600 and expect the need to increase as the Red Cross begins distributing the meals prepared by the unit, he reported.

Fowler told the Baptist and Reflector the unit had just served lunch prepared in the unit to Marilyn Quayle, wife of the Vice President. "She said it was great," said Fowler.

He stated he just met a family

Moral renewal needed, Bush tells evangelicals

By Tom Strode
Christian Life Commission
For Baptist Press

DALLAS — Moral renewal matches any other issue in the United States in significance, President George Bush told a largely evangelical Christian audience of about 5000 persons at the closing session of the recent National Affairs Briefing.

The nondenominational, two-day event, a repeat of a 1980 meeting largely credited with giving national exposure to what became known as the Religious Right, was organized by Southern Baptist layman Ed McAteer. The program included several pastors, evangelists, and lay persons from the SBC as participants.

A recurrent theme in the meeting at the Dallas Convention Center was the need for conservative Christians and others with — See page 2



CARLA WHITAKER and her 11-year-old son Matthew stand in front of what remains of the South Dade Church gym. The Florida church building weathered Hurricane Andrew in better shape, although the steeple was toppled.

which hadn't eaten since the storm struck.

The workers with the Tennessee group are "shuttling" between food preparation and roofing jobs, he described. The unit also has distributed 100,000 lbs. of ice in just one evening and a day, he added.

About 30 volunteers are currently working with the Tennessee group, Fowler explained. A group of 11 from Johnson City, 21 from the Lake City area, six from

Springfield, six from Maryville, four from Clinton Association, seven from Cumberland Plateau Association, five from Haywood Association, and two from Woodmont Church, Nashville, are in route.

Contact with the Florida group was impossible by phone or HAM radio. Cellular phone connections were possible only for a few minutes.

The Brotherhood Commission issued an appeal on Monday for 1000 volunteers for the Labor Day

weekend to work in Florida.

Harold Crane, Florida Baptist Convention church extension office, reports the main need now is for building materials. Volunteers need to bring chain saws for clean up and basic construction tools to begin roofing work.

Workers need to come self sufficient; bringing water, bedding, food, etc. Those interested should contact the Tennessee Baptist Convention Brotherhood Department at (615) 371-4045. □

FMB trustees name interim president

RICHMOND — Foreign Mission Board trustees named Don Kammerdiener to become interim president of the board after R. Keith Parks retires Oct. 30. Kammerdiener, a 30-year missions veteran, has been executive vice president since January 1990.

A native of Kansas City, Mo., he has administered day-to-day operations in that role.

Meanwhile, the search for a new president has narrowed to ten candidates, according to a progress report from the committee chairman Aug. 19. Joel Gregory, pastor of First Church, Dallas, told FMB trustees that the 15-member committee is actively considering about ten persons.

Interviews with candidates have not been conducted, he said, and the committee needs a "three-to-six-month corridor" to complete the search. He said that probably rules out an announcement at the Oct. 12-14 trustees meeting, but that one could be made at the Dec. 7-9 meeting.

The search committee was scheduled to meet again Aug. 28-29 in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. More than 60 nominations have been received. Six names are at the top of the list, Gregory said,

but others are being considered.

Gregory said additional nominations are welcomed and would be considered.

Trustees adopted a motion that the new president must be elected by a 75 percent majority. Current FMB manual policy does not specify the percentage necessary.

Bill Gothard, director of the family-oriented Basic Life Prin-

Porch is nominee

Search Committee reports

Friday is the last day in office for D. L. Lowrie, executive/treasurer for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The Search Committee which has been seeking a successor to Lowrie will recommend the name of James Porch to the TBC Executive Committee on Thursday.

Porch is pastor of First Church, Tullahoma, and has served on the TBC Executive Board for several years. He is in his final year on that board. Porch was chairman of the Task Force which helped implement TBC staff reorganization and the building of the Baptist Center, which was completed in 1989.

Lowrie resigned in May to become pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Texas. He has served as executive director/treasurer for three and a half years, succeeding Tom Madden who retired.

The Search Committee, headed

by Howard Olive, pastor of Mont Vista Church, Maryville, will recommend Porch to the Executive Committee tomorrow at the regular fall meeting. The Executive Board will be called into special session Sept. 15 to vote on the nomination if the nomination gains Executive Committee approval. The board has its regular meeting Friday.

All meetings are scheduled to be held in the Baptist Center, Brentwood.

Other members of the Search Committee include Leonard Markham, Hendersonville; Don Givens, Chattanooga; Jerry Oakley, Springfield; Paul Moody, Erin; Gary Anderson, Dunlap; M. B. Howard, Covington; and Clint Oakley, Memphis. Howard is the lone layman on the committee. TBC President Ron Phillips, Hixson, serves with the committee as an advisor. □



KAMMERDIENER

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Moral renewal needed, Bush tells . . .

—Continued from page 1

a Biblical world view to take part in a battle to save the family and the country from secularism.

Religion, morality, and the family will continue to be themes of his campaign despite attacks from critics, Bush said.

He is "not going to be dissuaded by the critics who call family values a cliché, who say that family values have no place in our national debate. I will ignore those who would rather not talk about a moral revival in America because I believe it is as important as any other challenge that we face."

When he speaks "of family values, of restoring a little moral and religious fiber to our nation's diet, my opponents accuse me of mouthing slogans," he said. "Leave out the election — it is fundamental that we restore and strengthen the American family."

"And so I believe now that the world has become more like America, it is time for America to become more like herself," said Bush, who earlier had described the victory of freedom over tyranny behind the former Iron Curtain.

That means "strengthening the American family and, yes, it means increasing our faith in God," he said.

While he twice acknowledged the NAB was to be a nonpartisan meeting, Bush said he would make "one political comment."

"I was struck by the fact that the other party took words to put together their platform but left out three simple letters: G-O-D," he said. "My party's platform is different. We are proud to celebrate our country's Judeo-Christian heritage unrivaled in the world."

A standing ovation, one of several during his speech, greeted Bush's comment.

(The next day, Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton, a Southern Baptist, said Bush was making such statements for "political purposes," according to the *Washington Post*.)

("The implication that he has made that Democrats are somehow godless is deeply offensive to me, to Senator Gore, and to all of us who cherish our religious convictions, but also respect America's tradition of religious diversity," Clinton said.)

Bush again called for a constitutional amendment "allowing voluntary prayer" in public schools. He is asking Congress to pass his G.I. Bill for Children, which would provide vouchers for parents to use in choosing either a public, private, or religious school for their children, Bush said. He also reaffirmed his pro-life views.

The next day, President and Mrs. Bush attended the early worship service at First Church, Dallas. They were introduced by Senior Pastor W. A. Criswell, but the president did not speak.

At the NAB, the crowd appeared to remain around 1500 to 2000 persons the first four sessions. For the final session, it appeared the arena was about half full.

Though he admitted in the opening session he expected a capacity crowd for Bush's speech, McAteer, president of the Religious Roundtable and organizer of the 1980 NAB as well, said later the enthusiasm of the crowd and the caliber of the speakers and their organizations made it a success.

At the start of each session, McAteer announced the meeting was nonpartisan and the positions

voiced by the speakers were "not necessarily those of the National Affairs Briefing." The purpose of the NAB was "to convey knowledge and information to God's people," McAteer said. He also announced Clinton had been invited to speak but had turned down the offer.

Some speakers, such as Don Wildmon of American Family Association and Los Angeles pastor E. V. Hill, directly endorsed Bush. Christians have no choice after comparing the parties' platforms, Hill said.

Christians should base their voting on moral principles rather than denominational affiliation, geographical identification, and other considerations, Southern Baptists Richard Land and Adrian Rogers told the final session.

Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, and Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis, made their comments during the same session in which President George Bush spoke to close the two-day event at the Dallas Convention Center.

Their comments held meaning especially for Southern Baptists, as well as Texans, in attendance. Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton, and his running mate, Al Gore, are members of Southern Baptist churches. Bush, whose legal residence is in Texas, is an Episcopalian. Vice President Dan Quayle is a Presbyterian.

"I'm a sixth-generation Texan," said Land, who spoke about an hour before the president. "I've been a Southern Baptist since I was six years old and was im-

mersed in a church in Houston, Texas.

"Don't vote your geographical origin. Don't vote your denominational affiliation. Don't vote your pocketbook. Vote your values. Vote your convictions. Vote your beliefs."

"If a candidate wants your vote, let them earn it the old-fashioned way," Land said. "Let them work for it. Let them make commitments, and then cast your vote based on your beliefs and convictions."

The solution to problems such as abortion, pornography, alcohol, and valueless sex education, Rogers said, is with men and women of God "who will lift truth to her feet."

"No politician can save us," Rogers said. "Who can we elect who will get us out of the mess we're in? Nobody. If we'll get right with God, a little child can lead us out."

"I don't know whether we're going to win this election or not," Rogers said, "but I want to tell you four things that burn in my soul. It is better to be divided by truth than it is to be united in error. It is better to be hated for telling the truth than to be loved for telling a lie. I had rather ultimately succeed with truth than temporarily succeed with a lie. It is better to stand alone with the truth than to be wrong with the multitude."

Who was he referring to when he used the phrase, "whether we're going to win this election or not?" Rogers was asked later.

"Those who hold common values," he said. □

Retirement centers crisis confronts Alabama

By Mark Boggett
For Baptist Press

MONTGOMERY — Alabama Baptist Retirement Centers has "threatened the financial integrity" of the Alabama Baptist State Convention with plans to build a nursing home in Dothan, according to Troy Morrison, convention executive secretary-treasurer.

In an unprecedented action, the convention's State Board of Missions has voted to recommend to the annual convention in November the following steps:

- To request ABRC consider no new projects for one year.
- To escrow the convention's 1993 budget allocation to ABRC.
- To conduct an independent audit of ABRC financial records.
- To appoint a five-person committee to study the feasibility of ABRC's ministry.

The board, by 73 of the 74 votes cast, adopted the recommendations after deciding ABRC, a convention agency, violated state convention bylaws by incurring an indebtedness without convention approval.

ABRC officials denied the agency violated any bylaws and that the convention had suffered any exposure of liability. ABRC President M. P. "Pat" Harrison said after the Aug. 11 meeting ABRC had not been given the opportunity to explain the complex legalities of the Dothan project.

At the meeting, ABRC officials responded to the charges by issuing their own set of recommendations and agreeing to the moratorium, but asking the convention to continue to fund ABRC at a level that would avoid interruption of the ministry.

The ABRC also recommended the convention provide funding for a complete audit "in cooperation with" ABRC's own auditing firm and the convention hire a nationally recognized firm to do a feasibility study of ABRC operations.

ABRC's set of recommendations was not acted on by the executive committee.

The immediate source of contention has been ABRC's plans to develop the nursing home facility in a joint project with Flowers

Hospital, Inc., of Dothan.

According to Harrison, ABRC's original plans — to build on property given by First Church of Dothan — were altered because ABRC could not get federal funding for the project.

Then when the state convention raised concerns over its potential liability, Harrison said ABRC "did the next best thing," asking Flowers Hospital to relocate the site and build on Flowers property. The agreement provided a way to preserve the hard-to-obtain "Certificate of Need" issued by the state, Harrison said. In the view of ABRC officials, the arrangement also shielded ABRC and the state convention from liability on the debt.

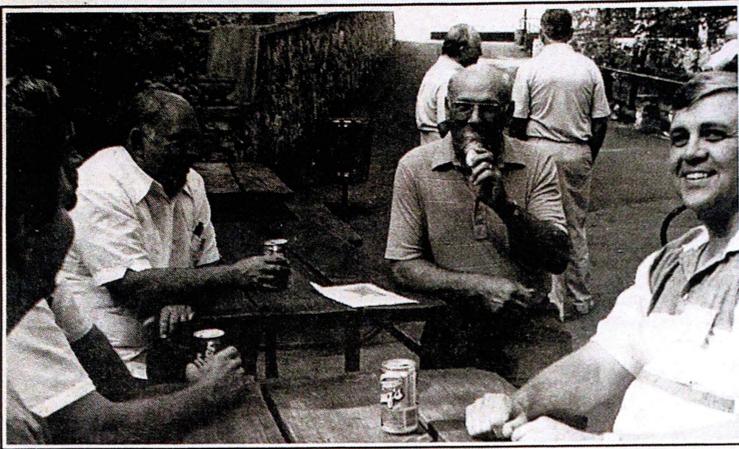
But the state board of missions' executive committee, still concerned about indirect liability and about ABRC incurring a debt without convention approval, appointed a special committee to study the bylaws question. That committee presented its motions in meetings Aug. 10-11 in Montgomery.

The original motion, presented

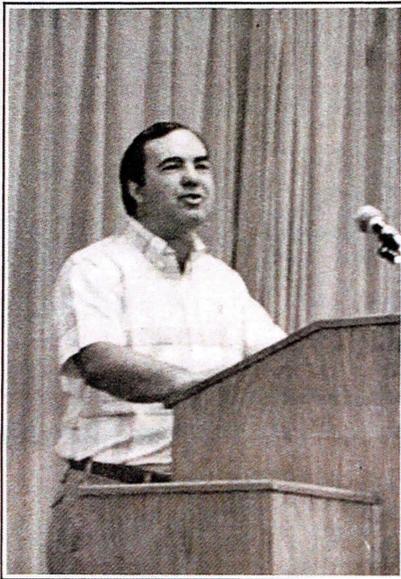
by Leon Ballard, chairman of the four-person committee and pastor of First Church in York, claimed ABRC's "Development Agreement" with Flowers Hospital violated convention bylaws by "exposing ABRC and the convention for an amount to exceed \$4.5 million for a facility totally owned by Flowers Hospital and built on land owned by Flowers Hospital with provisions for a 20-year lease agreement."

Mentioning a pledge made to the people of Houston County to build the nursing home, ABRC, in a proposed resolution during the August meeting, stated "the overall integrity and reputation of the state convention would be adversely affected by a failure or refusal to honor the prior pledge regarding a new nursing home facility in Dothan."

But Morrison, as well as other members of the 19-member executive committee, maintained the agreement could expose the state convention to liability for the debt. □

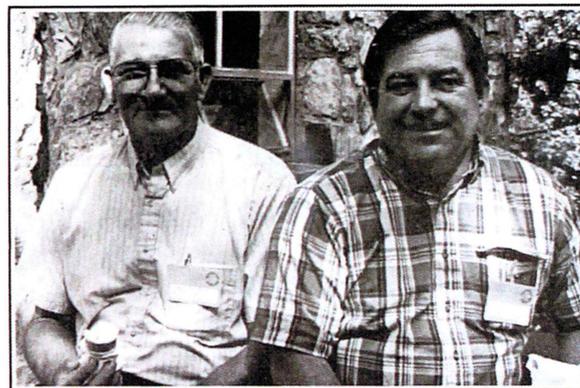
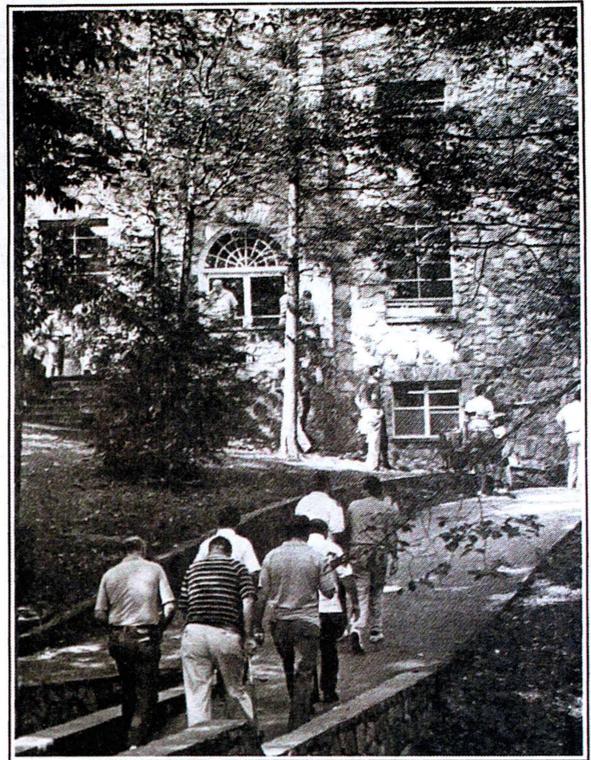


SGFT DRINKS and ice cream cones provide refreshment during relaxing times. Carl Bond, left, director of missions for Giles County Association; Earl McCosh, Dandridge; and John Segree, First Church, Estill Springs 'refresh.'



GARY AKINS, speaks to pastors on Wednesday morning. Akins is pastor of Northside Church, Chattanooga.

STOKELY CHAPEL is the scene for many inspirational messages during the annual Pastors' Retreat.



BOBBY KAIL, Crossland Avenue Church, Clarksville, and Dennis McMahan, Piney Grove Church, Hornsby, take a break between chapel sessions.

Meeting at Camp Carson

Retreat provides renewal, refreshment

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
Baptist and Reflector

Last week pastors from across the state gathered at Camp Carson near Newport for the annual Pastors' Retreat.

The road into the camp passed a tent revival where a sign proclaimed "deliverance" in capital letters.

About halfway up the hillside, the visitor passes a house advertising "realignment." Both signs bear messages for weary pastors. They were, during the week, delivered from daily routines. They were able to recharge as individuals and as a group, and they had opportunity for realignment from the bumpy schedule of the pastor's life.

Jerry King and Billy Hines of the TBC Evangelism Department, put together a program that featured stirring speakers, time for relaxation, free exercise, and good food. Plenty of rest? That depended on how long your friends wanted to stay awake and

talk.

Speakers included Jay Strack, Texas evangelist; Don Long, pastor of Chamberlain Memorial Church, Chattanooga, and president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Pastors' Conference; D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director; Aubert Rose, evangelist from Benton, Ky.; and Herb Brisbane, black church starter strategist, Memphis.

Gary Akins, pastor of Northside Church, Chattanooga, spoke on Wednesday morning, explaining that the relationship between Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus portrayed a miniature of Jesus working, suffering, and ministering in the world.

Strack led six periods of Bible study, taken from the Beatitudes as found in Matthew. Rose gave four messages based on growth in the church through Sunday School.

Bucky Phillips, minister of music at Hilldale Church, Clarksville, led the singing and gave several solos. Jeff Slaughter,

pianist from Brentwood Church, Brentwood, was the accompanist.

It was Lowrie's last message to a Tennessee Baptist conference or meeting. He leaves on Friday to become pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Texas.

Some quotes from speakers:

I don't want to be a Republican or Democrat, conservative, fundamentalist, moderate. I just want to be a Jesus man. I love the Holy Spirit, but I want to be a Jesus man. — Strack.

Grace is love when love is undeserved. Mercy is grace in action. It is a sentiment with a service. — Strack.

We all love the great ones of the past. But God will not raise up Vance Havner or any of the others. What he plans to do, he will do through us. We are all he has for today. — Rose.

If Jesus doesn't control your church, it's not the right kind of church. — Rose.

If God calls you to a place, he alone will call you elsewhere. Don't quit! The greatest antidote

for discouragement is spiritual activity for the spirit. — Long.

Southern Baptists are called to be peacemakers. God has called us to punch holes in the darkness. There is only one thing darkness can't stand — it is light. — Strack.

It is all right to die in the streets for truth, but don't die in the church for little molehills. — Rose.

When we think we have to be better each Sunday, we begin to quote the "great ones." But we must keep the focus on Christ. There is danger in making the window so bright the people can't see the Light coming in. — Akins

We are like the churches of Revelation. We have lost some things we need to rediscover: vision, joy, reverence of God's house, fellowship, concern. — Long. □

'God has called us to punch holes in the darkness.'

■ 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. □

■ team talk

By D. L. Lowrie
TBC executive director

As I write this final article as Executive Director, my heart is full of personal feelings. There is much gratitude to God for allowing me the privilege of serving his good people. There is much gratitude to the churches that have opened their hearts to me. There is much gratitude for the pastors who have spoken words of encouragement, given their prayer support, and led their churches to give to the Cooperative Program.



LOWRIE

God has been good to us and we need to bless his name! There is also much gratitude for the leaders I have worked with. The officers of the convention and the board have been supportive and helpful.

What I feel for the staff of the TBC goes deeper than gratitude. They have been my family in so many ways. No state has a more willing-hearted, dedicated staff.

What are my concerns for the convention? My greatest concern is that the unloving, unprofitable division that has characterized some conventions will be kept out of Tennessee.

There is no compelling reason for Tennessee Baptists to divide into parties. The natural geographical division of the state gives all of the variety needed in a state convention.

You do not have an institution that is not ready to serve the purposes of the convention. The diversity among us should be celebrated. It is a part of our strength.

My other concern would be that the state convention recover a vision for the future. Your staff is hard at work on this. Any organization that is going to survive in the future must be vision driven.

Tennessee Baptists will always be in my heart and in my prayers. Thank you for these wonderful years we have shared together. □

Spiritual awakening

I am a retired Southern Baptist preacher of 52 years and I am very concerned about a spiritual awakening of God's saved people. Please listen to Dr. Edwin J. Orr's recorded tape on the Spiritual Awakening of the 20th Century, and what Texas Baptist churches are doing in prayer for an awakening.

This need must be promoted before we are dead as a nation as well as a deceased denomination.
Carl W. Hunter
1822 Woodhaven
Elizabethton 37643

Impressions

Political partisanship does not belong in our denominational life. Therefore, I must protest the actions of Baptist leaders who chose to publicly endorse George Bush and the Republican Party by leading in the National Affairs Briefing recently in Dallas.

The meeting featured President Bush, Pat Buchanan, Adrian Rogers, and Richard Land, among others. The appearance of SBC Baptist leaders on the program may have given the impression of representing Baptist views and values because they are prominent and visible.

Some Baptists find their Christian values better reflected in the Democratic party. I hope our denominational leadership will reconsider their public partisanship.

Melanie M. Dover
113 Chapelwood Lane
Franklin 37064

Teach, not legislate

I did not read as an endorsement the recent news article on presidential candidates. However, if it had been about the other political party, those same letters of objection may not have been written.

About the letters of objection, I would ask, where is your Scriptural authority to judge a candidate's walk? The other party candidates have stated they are pro-choice (at least for women in their own families) and I would point out that all four candidates have stated clearly they personally oppose abortion.

I would add that all four have stated clearly they oppose the homosexual lifestyle. Bill Clinton and Al Gore are professed Christians. Were the writers questioning that?

Some are confusing the words "choice" and "rights." Elsewhere in that edition was an article about inquiries to the presidential candidates by the SBC/CLC. In it James Smith indicates that endorsing "individual rights" is the same as condoning an "individual's choice." This simply is not so! Affirming "rights" does not mean condoning "choices."

God gave Adam and Eve a "choice" to make, and since they were created in his image, the capability (i.e. "right") to make the choice. He has continued to

give man the right to make choices throughout history, including the choice of accepting his Son as our personal savior.

The Great Commission given to Christians in Matthew 28:19-20, in part, is to "Go ye therefore, and teach ... Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." It is not the task of Christians to legislate morality and we are shirking our teaching duty when we try to do so!

Clyde Pedigo
Rt. 1, Box 63K
Kingston 37763

Making a choice

In a recent letter, the unbelievable statement was made, "I know of no one in America who is pro-abortion." Has this writer never viewed the obnoxious crowds who wave pro-abortion signs and shout obscenities to the efforts of Operation Rescue people who are attempting to save the lives of unborn children? There is no difference in the two terms, pro-choice and pro-abortion. The bottom line of both terms is: giving women permission to kill their babies.

Before 1973, a woman could decide to abort her child, and she alone would bear the guilt, but after Roe versus Wade was

passed, a whole nation becomes guilty. Every time a child is aborted, each one of us who are citizens of this nation bear the sin, and considering the millions aborted since 1973, can any of us even imagine the enormity of our guilt? It's a staggering thought!

In the coming election, we have opposing platforms: One is definitely anti-Christian, the other is pro-Christian. As followers of Jesus Christ, we have but one choice. In my opinion, our economy is closely tied in with our moral standards, and we will stand or fall, accordingly. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." - Psalm 33:12a.

Norma Cox
Rt. 2 Box 190
Holladay 38341

Views shared

I commend you for the article about Bill Clinton and Al Gore. They are two fine young men. I think your article did them justice and was unbiased. I thank God that we have committed Christians editing the *Baptist and Reflector*. I praise God we have a team of committed Christians running for the nation's highest office.

I don't expect everything to be enacted that they are talking about but I am thrilled with their

enthusiasm. I agree with their stand on abortion and apparently from what Mr. Bush said and Mr. Quayle said about their families in certain circumstances, they must basically agree.

Mrs. Bush was nearer right than any of them: it should not even be an issue in this election. This should be a thing to be decided by the lady. In most cases it might be a sin against God, but God said vengeance was his, and he did not command me to take any action or pass any judgment in this regard.

Like Jesus has taught us, Clinton and Gore are reaching out in love inviting every element of our society to enter the tent. They are not inviting just the righteous, the ones who do not need a physician, but the sinners as well. That includes me. They are not self-righteously saying to any group, "You stay out, you are not as good as I am." They are saying all are welcome.

I have known about family values all my life. The year 1992 will not be known as the year George Bush and Dan Quayle invented family values, it will be known as the year they found out about them.

A. C. Lock Jr.
2906 Skyway Drive
Memphis 38127

Association dedicates mission site



A SITE FOR ANOTHER Southern Baptist Church in Carroll-Benton Association was dedicated by about 60 members of churches Aug. 3. A gift from an anonymous donor made the purchase possible of land near Interstate 40 and Birdsong Road. Ron Darby, photo below, center, gives debt-free deeds to Jim Humphreys, chairman, association mission development, while S. Ray Jones, left, association moderator, watches. Members are in prayer for a church which will sponsor the new congregation.



one word more
by Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

It's time to answer the question — who cares?

Who cares?
The three-year-old carelessly lets the muddy-pawed puppy into the freshly-cleaned kitchen and there's a trail of paw-prints on the floor.
Who cares?
She waits in vain for him to ask her to the senior prom and there is no call. Who cares?
The family planned a picnic for Saturday and Dad had to work. Who cares?
Thousands, perhaps millions of people will starve this year in Somalia. Who cares?
The drunk driver crossed into oncoming traffic and sent a family of five into eternity. Who cares?
The little girl disappeared from the front yard almost in a few seconds — two years ago. Who cares?
Caring for others is not peculiar to Christians — but it surely is a God-given gift that we can use to help.
The examples cited are not foreign to us. Every Tennessee Baptist family probably has experienced one or several. Some are trite — and perhaps humorous. Others are devastating.
But in each case — there is a need for response, and the response is nurtured by caring. The beloved Christian song, "Do You Really Care?" provides for us a stimulus for straight thinking and quick action. We must care about others.
"Who cares" is typified by a shrug of the shoulders and a nervous laugh. It is a whimsical and laconic retort to a need that isn't be-

ing answered.
The Week of Prayer for State Missions is scheduled for Tennessee Baptists on September 13-20. The goal for the Golden State Missions Offering is \$1.05 million. The theme is "Who Cares?"
Larry Kirk of the TBC Missions Department has supplied our churches with a simple but profound sermon outline to match our theme of caring. Too often, with that nervous laugh and shrug of the shoulders, we assign the solution of the need to someone else. The truth is, all of us must care.
Kirk's outline asks and answers age-old questions:
Why should I care? Because the needs are so great, because others care, and because God cares.
How do I show I care? By accepting my accountability before God, and by sharing.
What are the results of caring? People's needs will be met, our offering goal will be met, and God will be glorified.
Check these Bible texts that demonstrate human need and divine provision: Psalm 142:4, Luke 10:34, John 3:16, and I Peter 5:7.
The population of Tennessee is 4.9 million. There are 799,940 resident members of Tennessee Baptist churches. There are 2,931 of those churches. Tennessee Baptists minister to 22 language groups through 166 kinds of ministries. There are at least 2.5 million lost people in Tennessee.
The goal of \$1.05 million for state missions is a good goal, and will be used wisely and with compassion. The Week of Prayer will help churches and individuals to take time to

pray for missions right here in Tennessee, in our neighborhoods.
To meet those needs, allocations have been made in the Golden State Mission Offering to match them. There are allocations for ministry, for outreach/growth, for new work thrust, and for leadership development. There is even a small allocation to help provide new churches and missions with subscriptions to the *Baptist and Reflector* while they are young.
Funding will be available for developmentally disabled adults, for new work loans and new church sites, for student scholarships, and for prison ministries. Disaster relief will be supplemented, student summer missions will be undergirded.
And these are only a few — if we meet the goal.
Even more important than the physical act of funding is prayer. During the week of prayer September 13-20, special needs will be emphasized. More than that, Tennessee Baptists' Woman's Missionary Union has supplied each church with a prayer calendar for the entire month!
Personal involvement is the third pillar in this caring structure. We can enumerate and categorize the needs, we can give from the generous heart — but prayer really does change things. The best way to help is to be on mission.
The prayer calendar will keep these needs before us, and will express to God that we are serious in our caring and doing. Remember — and participate: September 13-20, Week of Prayer for State Missions. □

Rocks and a spring

The spring was a pleasant place to drink your fill of cool, refreshing water.
It was a natural source. The little stream of pure liquid tumbled almost lazily from the hillside. It was never dry. Even in the hottest span of sizzling summer days, we could visit the spring nestled in the shade, bend down with cupped hands and drink from a source of renewal.
Down from the hillside flowed the little creek — which we often called the "branch." It was shallow, usually clear, and also lazy.
But it was not pure and clean. We played in it. Crawdads lurked under monolithic slabs of petrified wood, and an occasional snake slithered along the muddy bank.
No doubt forest animals used the branch for a water source. We saw deer tracks, and often the paw trails of 'possums, rabbits, raccoons.
At times we hurtled through the air on stout wild grape vines, from one side of the branch to the other. Far away from the "civilized" world, we could yodel the Tarzan call, and sent the startled birds flying.
We did not know it then, but we

Anti-lottery rallies stir Georgians

By James Dotson
For Baptist Press

GAINESVILLE — Conventional wisdom once held a Georgia lottery was inevitable but opposition leaders say the tide is turning.
That was the consensus at a recent rally — one of 21 being held throughout the state — by Baptists Organizing Lottery's Defeat, one of the strongest efforts fighting the constitutional amendment on the Nov. 3 ballot to make a state-run lottery legal.
The rally at First Church in Gainesville drew more than 1200 people to hear reasons why a state lottery is not only a bad idea on moral grounds but also violates fundamental fiscal and tax-policy principles.
Georgia Baptist Convention

President J. Truett Gannon led off the evening stating a lottery would place the government in the same business that is currently a felony if practiced by a private individual. Not only is it gambling, he said, but the odds of winning are worse than almost any other form of gambling.
"They're only saying give us your money and every now and then we'll give one of you just a tad of it back," he said.
J. Emmett Henderson, executive director of the Georgia Council on Moral And Civic Concerns and the educational speaker at all of the rallies, refuted various lottery proponents' arguments.
The facts, he said, show lotteries have not worked in any state where they have been touted

as the answer to financial problems — including the savior of education as pledged in Georgia.
In Florida, he said, Gov. Lawton Chiles has called the lottery a "gigantic hoax" on the people, with its promises of aid for education unmet in reality. Administration and promotion costs eat up much of the profits, Henderson said, and money that does reach education is of little value because other appropriations for education somehow get reduced.
"Lottery will not make you rich," Henderson noted. "If you buy a lottery ticket a week, (the odds indicate) it will take you 184,615 years to win the ultimate million-dollar lotto jackpot. That is 190 times as long as Methuselah lived." □



were close to the Garden of Eden. And we were close to time's end. What makes us overlook the presence of Omnipresent?

Allen
Children do not always see God as do adults. There is a simple, overwhelming, all-knowing innocence when children commune with God in nature. There, in our favorite sanctuary, the giant hardwoods vaulted to the sky and established cathedrals unseen by grownups.
And even then in quiet wonder, we put together the purity of the spring and the marvel of the aged rocks. We gladly accepted God's infinity and the brief duration of one day of splendor. There is no conflict.
My father said the rocks were once parts of tall trees. I could not imagine the length of time utilized in the making of those slabs. But there you could see the ribs of age — marking them in stone just as they had been marked as they reached up to the heavens.
What is an eon? What is a year?
The source of that pure spring offers himself as Living Water, a supply which quenches our thirst forever. The maker of those petrified slabs offers himself as the Rock of Ages — whose time is eternity as well as an all-sufficient anchor.
I learned both truths from the One who is Truth — as I grew in years. Or did I know it then — as a boy suspended in time? □

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

Start with a smile
The judge was giving his decision concerning alimony in a divorce case. He said, "I have decided to give your wife \$200 per month." The husband said, "That's fine, Judge, and I'll try to give her a few bucks myself every once in a while."
Take this truth with you
Some people never get the point. Either they are so dull they misunderstand or they are so self-centered they interpret all of the facts in their favor. What do you do with such a person? Be as kind as you can to him, but be most important, be sure you are not so "stuck on yourself" that you think the world owes you everything. The world doesn't owe anyone a living, nor does it owe anyone special favors. If we have been blessed with special favors, God has done it in order that we might help others who are weaker.
Memorize this Scripture
"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves" (Romans 15:1).
Pray this prayer
Lord, help me to realize that I should not expect everyone to bow and scrape for me. Rather, help me to do all that I can to make someone else's burden a bit easier to bear. Let me be aware of the needs of others and seek to be a comfort to those who are in distress and a strength to those who need help. □

'Conservative' leaders meet in Memphis

Associated Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Baptist leaders from about 15 states met here Aug. 20 to learn how to extend "conservative" control to the state convention level.
The Memphis meeting was hosted at Bellevue Church by pastor Adrian Rogers, three-time president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Rogers delivered an address to participants, who reportedly numbered about 50.
The meeting was organized by two state-level strategists — Perry Ellis of Dallas, executive director of the Texas Conservative Fellowship, and T. C. Pinckney of Alexandria, Va.

All the "major state conventions" were represented, said Pinckney, member of the SBC Executive Committee. He described the meeting as a strategy-sharing session, "an exchange of lessons learned."
"In the actual meetings, there was never discussion of how we should go about making changes in, say, Oklahoma or Alabama," Pinckney explained. "It was more of: 'What has worked for conservatives in Virginia, what has not worked for conservatives in Virginia.'"
Pinckney described Rogers' address as inspirational. "It was inspiring to me; it probably wouldn't have been inspiring to

many 'moderates.'"
Among the how-to strategies shared by the state leaders were: electing sympathetic state convention officers, influencing denominational appointments on the national and state levels, picking and instructing convention messengers from local churches, and influencing Baptist business on the associational level.
Pinckney declined to predict what effect the Memphis session will have on the fall meetings of the Baptist state conventions. "The results will vary considerably from state to state."
Ellis did not respond to a request from ABP to discuss the Memphis meeting. □

Children give money, 636 chocolate bars for Russians

For Baptist and Reflector

BARTLETT — The 630 children who attended Vacation Bible School at Bartlett Church, Bartlett, studied about needs in Russia and then responded.

The children gave \$1309 and 636 chocolate bars to Project Brotherhood, a relief project of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

The children gave generously, some emptying piggy banks so they could donate, reported leader Nancy Easley, who directed the project.

One first-grader gave the money he had saved for a new fishing rod, she reported. A second-grader gave \$50 from his savings account and a third-grader urged his mother to give so those Russian children could have Bibles, she continued.

The children learned about the needs from a fictionalized story written by Easley about a child

named Uri and his family. The story describes some of the changes facing residents of the new Commonwealth of Independent States. Parents also were given information about the VBS project.

One child urged his mother to give so the Russian children could have Bibles.

Easley gleaned her information from Tim Bearden, a church member and staff member of the Brotherhood Commission, in nearby Memphis. Bearden was a part of the assessment team which visited Russia for Project Brotherhood.

Members of Bartlett Church were aware of the needs and had previously collected 26 boxes of



SECOND-GRADER Jordan Easley, front, presents a check from Bartlett Church, Bartlett, Vacation Bible School in the amount of \$1309 for Project Brotherhood to Brotherhood Commission vice president Douglas Beggs, second from right. Others involved in the presentation were, from left, Tim Bearden, Brotherhood Commission, and Nancy Easley and Brenda Steinman, Bartlett Church.

food for Project Brotherhood.

Following the church's lead, the children responded. They were given an incentive to donate to

Project Brotherhood — the class giving the top amount was rewarded with an ice cream party. However, Easley said, the ma-

jority of the offering was coins so she believes it came from children rather than parents.

Brenda Steinman, codirector of the VBS, expressed her hope other churches would choose specific missions projects for VBS because "it helps the children feel a part of missions."

Project Brotherhood has distributed food to about 35,000 Russian families in Moscow. More than 40 other related projects have been approved for eastern Russia and Central Asia in coming months.

Contributions for Project Brotherhood should be clearly designated and mailed to Project Brotherhood, Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn., 38104, or to Baptist World Alliance, 6733 Curran St., McLean, Va. 22101. — Julie Rybolt Wilkerson, Brotherhood Commission

Tennesseans help treat Venezuelans



PATSY JOHNSON of Grace Church, Nashville, entertains children while their parents see the doctor at a clinic in Venezuela.

Sixty-six Tennesseans were among 108 health care volunteers who recently returned from mission work in Maracaibo, Barquisimeto, and several smaller cities of Venezuela.

The teams treated 13,437 patients and encountered 3648 decisions for Christ.

The health care teams were coordinated by Nashville physician Dewey Dunn, a member of Woodmont Church, Nashville. It was the 12th trip Dunn has coordinated in Venezuela.

"We saw more patients than on any of the other previous trips to Venezuela," said Dunn's wife, Bobbie. The members split up and also worked in Churuguara, Coro, and Corora.

Two churches provided more than half of the volunteers from Tennessee — Germantown Church, Germantown, 29, and Grace Church, Nashville, 14.

John Jackson, associate pastor at Germantown, observed it was "a great experience" for the volunteers from his church.

"Many of our people came back with a new appreciation of how we have been blessed," he said.

Jackson said the volunteers witnessed "unbelievable" poverty. "It made our people appreciate the little things we take for granted," he observed.

A highlight of the trip for Jackson, who served as spiritual counselor for his team and as a dental assistant, was the worship experiences shared with the Venezuelans, especially the services without translators.

"We couldn't understand the words, but the language was one," Jackson said.

Members of Grace Church, Nashville had similar experiences.

"All of us came back feeling we received much more than we gave," said Patsy Johnson, wife of Grace Pastor Fred Johnson.

A highlight for Johnson was after telling a Venezuelan doctor about Jesus Christ, that doctor accepted Christ as her Savior.

"It's incredible how the power of God worked time and time again," she said, adding, "If God calls you, he equips you."

Johnson noted the teams "did so many things we didn't think we could do. We did so only through the power of God," she said.

While the teams went over for health care, the primary purpose was to share the Gospel, Johnson noted.

She is a firm believer in missions. "Because I've been given so much, I too feel I must give," she said. — Lonnie Wilkey

Nashville youth 'change world'

By Bonnie Brewer
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Twenty-three youth and eight adults from Nashville joined 170 other volunteers from eight states in a "World Changers" work project in Canton, N.C. Aug. 1-8.

The workers, from Grace Church and Westwood Church in Nashville, became World Changers by participating in a Brotherhood Commission missions project for high school age youth. They did repair work on houses for needy people.

"It's wonderful," was repeated over and over by the men and women who owned houses which received windows, roofing, insulation, and paint.

Volunteers worked on crews led by chiefs with construction experience. Evenings were spent in crew meetings and a worship service led by Chuck Maxwell, a contemporary musician from

Jackson. The workers stayed in a high school.

Regina Suggs, 17, of Grace Church, said she enjoyed "fellowship with others my age and learning that we all have Jesus in common." Other workers said they were glad to learn how to work as a team and enjoyed spending time with the homeowners.

"The worship services in the evening were inspiring," noted Brock Brewer, 17, Grace Church.

Nashville leader Kevin Hale summed up the experience by stating, "Helping others is what it's all about."

To qualify for World Changers, youth completed ten sessions of missions education study and a local missions project. More than 1500 World Changers worked in 12 projects this summer. □

Study on prayer held in Knoxville

T. W. Hunt, a consultant on prayer for the Sunday School Board, Nashville, will lead the conference, Experiencing the Power of Prayer, Sept. 12 at Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville. The conference is hosted by Knox County Association.

Hunt is LIFE consultant for prayer in the Discipleship Training Department and coordinator of Bold Mission Prayer Thrust for the board. He will address three areas of prayer — gaining discipline of individual prayer, mystery of intercessory prayer, and prayer as an instrument of change.

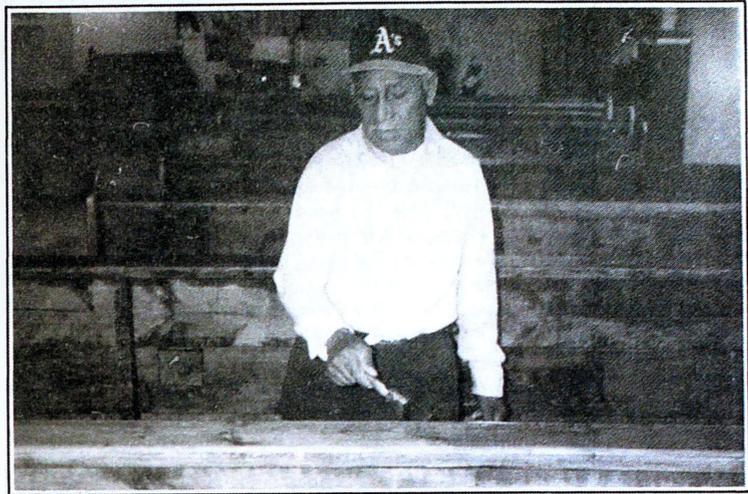
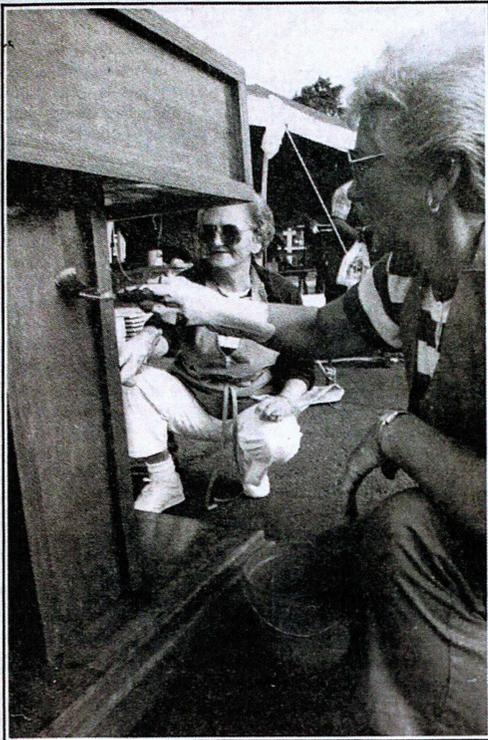
Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. and will cost \$2.50. The study will be held from 6-8:30 p.m.

Make reservations at Central Church, 6300 Deane Hill Dr., Knoxville, Tenn., 37919, (615) 588-6586. The deadline for reservations is Sept. 9. □



HUNT

From Glorieta to Mexico — with love



A PULPIT, PEWS, Lord's Supper table, deacons' benches, and even toys were made by volunteers, including, photo to left, Tennesseans Marjorie Gofarth, right, and Catherine Howard. The materials were delivered Aug. 14-15 to Good Shepherd Church in Prayedis, Mexico, by Tennesseans M. B. Howard and Bob Avery. Members of the Mexican church, photo above, help install the furniture which is very valuable because of the lack of wood in Mexico. The four Tennessee volunteers are members of Oak Grove Church, Covington.

PowerSource of Knoxville World's Fair reunites

For Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Few musical groups have ever had such a unique audience. Come to think of it, the group itself was not commonplace by any means.

The group was called PowerSource. These young adults from all over the country, including several Tennesseans, performed for several million visitors at the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville.

GA meets pen pal

For Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — A dream came true for Knoxville Girls in Action Jennifer Jones when she and pen pal Tiffany Stallings met in person for the very first time this summer. Stallings is the oldest daughter of Sam and Connie Stallings, Southern Baptist missionaries in Koronalal on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines, where they work with T'boli people.

For Jennifer, this real life mission adventure began a year and a half ago while working on her Girls in Action (GA) advancement work. One of her assignments was to write a letter to a missionary kid.

"My first letter to Tiffany was pretty basic," said Jennifer. "I asked her about the weather, her hobbies, her family, and what life was like in the Philippines." Tiffany answered the letter, and the two have kept in touch ever since.

Did Jennifer ever imagine meeting her pen-pal face to face? "I thought it was possible," she said, "since I knew the Stallingses would be spending their furlough

PowerSource was the vocal performing team that took the stage five times daily at the Southern Baptist Pavilion. There were 20 of them, all full of life and, by all appearances, tireless.

This summer, ten years later, PowerSource gathered again and found they hadn't lost commitment, and not much energy.

Their energy amazed audiences and a *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

writer ten years ago. The reporter wrote, "The power behind PowerSource seems to work like an Eveready battery, always there when you need it." The writer explained the "battery," according to members of the group, "is charged with the power of God, a force that helped them maintain freshness and vitality" in more than 1000 performances over eight months.

Those performances centered at the Baptist Pavilion in which fair visitors viewed multimedia presentations and the Ken Medema musical, "Love, You Spoke a Word." PowerSource also performed a collection of pop selections and Broadway show tunes.

in the Memphis area, but I figured that the chances were slim." But the odds increased greatly when the Stallings family decided while in Tennessee to travel to Knoxville to attend a meeting on home schooling.

The Joneses invited Tiffany's family to stay in their home and agreed to care for the younger children, Natalie and Bethany, while Tiffany and her parents attended the meeting.

"It was also a special experience for Jennifer's younger brother and sister to have a relationship with people who spend their lives on the mission field," said Jennifer's mom, Tricia. "Their mission studies in the future will be much more meaningful."

The Joneses are members of Grace Church in Knoxville where Jennifer's dad, Dave, serves as minister of music. The Stallingses, who are natives of west Tennessee, were featured in the December 1991 issue of *Accent*, the magazine for Acteens. □



POWERSOURCE MEMBERS, from left, front row, Mickey Daniel, Keith Martin; back row, Roy McNeil, Judy Moeller, Jenny McLemore, Jennifer Mathewson, Jay McCluskey, and Jerry Stone, pose for a picture during their reunion.

Child abuse rampant: doctor

■ training events across the state

Listed below are scheduled events and host. All phone numbers are in the (615) area code unless specified. All events are subject to change.

September

- 4-5 — **Campus Presidents' Council**, Baptist Center, Brentwood — Student Ministries Department, 371-2056.
- 8, 9, 10, 11 — **Stewardship Preaching Conference**, West Jackson Church, Jackson; First Church, Nashville; Lyons Creek Church, Strawberry Plains; and Memorial Church, Hixson; respectively — Cooperative Program/Stewardship Department, 371-2018.
- 11-12 — **Discipleship Spectacular**, Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville — Discipleship Training Department, 371-2053.
- 12 — **Orientation for Missions Volunteers**, Baptist Center, Brentwood, Partnership Missions/Telecommunications Department, 371-2027/2028.
- 14-15 — **Regional Sunday School/Media Library Leadership Training**, First Church, Memphis — Sunday School Department, 371-2033, Church Media Library/Recreation Office, 371-2054.
- 17, 19 — **Loudon Association Fall TACMO Banquet, Sullivan Association TACMO Workshop**, First Church, Loudon; Litz Manor Church, Kingsport, respectively — Church Media Library/Recreation Office, 371-2054.
- 19 — **Church Media Library Leadership Banquet**, First Church, Elizabethton, — Church Media Library/Recreation Office, 371-2054.
- 19 — **Children's Choir Leadership Clinic**, Meridian Church, Jackson — Church Music Department, 371-2040.
- 21-22 — **Regional Sunday School Leadership Training**, Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, and Colonial Heights Church, Kingsport — Sunday School Department, 371-2033.
- 21, 22, 24, 25 — **Associational Deacon Training Conference**, Hardeman Association, Trinity Church, Bolivar; New Duck River Association, association office, Shelbyville; Indian Creek Association, Green River Church, Waynesboro; Shiloh Association, Gravel Hill Church, Ramer, respectively — Discipleship Training Department, 371-2053.
- 22 — **Sevier County Association TACMO Meeting, Holston Association TACMO Banquet**, Sevier County Association office, Sevierville; Central Church, Johnson City, respectively — Church Media Library/Recreation Office, 371-2054.
- 23-25 — **Senior Adult Conference**, Grand Hotel, Pigeon Forge — Discipleship Training Department, 371-2053.
- 24/25-27 — **TALL (Tennessee Adult Leadership Lab)**, Camp Carson, Newport — Brotherhood Department, 371-2025.
- 25-26 — **Mission Pastors' Retreat**, Baptist Center, Brentwood — Missions Department, 371-2043.
- 25-27 — **State Student Convention**, First Church, Cookeville — Student Ministries Department, 371-2056.
- 26 — **West Tennessee Church Media Library Regional Clinic**, Union University Jackson, — Church Media Library/Recreation Office, 371-2054.
- 26 — **Sweetwater Association TACMO Meeting**, association office, Madisonville, — Church Media Library/Recreation Office, 371-2054.
- 26 — **Saturday Music Skill Shop**, First Church, Elizabethton — Church Music Department, 371-2040.
- 28-29 — **Regional Sunday School/Media Library Leadership Training**, Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville — Sunday School Department, 371-2033, Church Media Library/Recreation Office, 371-2054.
- 29 — **Church Communication Seminar**, Baptist Center, Brentwood, — Public Relations Office, 371-2015.

By Frank Wm. White
Sunday School Board
For Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — If church workers and ministers aren't seeing child abuse with children they come in contact with, it may be they aren't looking, according to a trauma center doctor and Sunday School worker.

"There are abused children in your church. There are child abusers in your church and there can be child abusers teaching in your Sunday School," said James Mullen, a trauma center doctor at Sharp Memorial Hospital in San Diego, Calif., and member of Bethel Church in Escondido, Calif.

Mullen was attending a Sunday School Leadership Conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center July 25-Aug. 1.

In the past 17 years, Mullen said, he has worked in preschool, children's, and youth Sunday School areas and has discovered child abuse with all three age groups.

He said the problem is not limited to southern California but is a national problem.

In his church, Mullen has called police and child welfare authorities to come into the church when child abuse is noted. "The church must be willing to work with authorities," he said.

Laws dealing with reporting child abuse vary by states and it is important to know individual state laws, said Belvin Cox, a preschool Sunday School consultant at the Sunday School Board who led a session on child abuse.

"Don't wait until you encounter a problem to find out the legal guidelines for your state," Cox said. "You need to know before you get to that point."

Most states require that child abuse be reported by any person who suspects it or becomes aware of it. "It is a legal matter and must be handled as such," Cox said.

Dispelling myths, Cox said child abuse is not limited to lower-income families. "It is just as likely to happen in upper-income families. You can't tell by the clothes they wear," he said.

Cox encourages workers to listen to children. "Listen with

your ears, your eyes, and your heart," Cox said.

Workers also should know warning signs of abuse such as bruises in odd patterns or in varying stages of healing. Burns, cuts, or other injuries that a child does not explain or has an implausible explanation for also may be indications, Cox said.

Abuse comes in many forms and is not limited to physical abuse, Cox said. Abuse can include neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse in addition to physical abuse.

Sunday School Board materials dealing with abuse include a chapter in *Equipping Deacons in Caring Skills*, Vol. 2 and a chapter in *Ministry with Youth in Crisis*, both published by Convention Press.

For youth, two tapes from The 24-Hour Counselor are available on abuse. "I'm Being Sexually Abused" is tape seven in the 12-tape series, The 24-Hour Counselor II. "I'm Being Physically Abused" is the second tape in the 12-tape series of The 24-Hour Counselor I. □

The Life of David

Created by Robin L. Riley, Mature Living, SSB

Look horizontally, diagonally, and vertically to find people, places, and things in King David's life. References can be found in the Old Testament.

The puzzle solution will appear in the Sept. 9 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*. □

Abigail	cave	king	Psalm	Solomon
Absalom	Goliath	Mephibosheth	robe	stone
Ahimelech	harp	Michal	Saul	victory
anoint	javelin	Nabal	sheep	war
Bathsheba	Jesse	Nathan	sin	weep
Bethlehem	Jonathan	prayer	sling	Ziklag

R O M E P H I B O S H E T H
S T O N E C S B W I G A N N
S P R U E E O O E B O B I S
H A P R U E L K E N L S L O
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E V M L O M M A R U A L V A
P I H A E I O E O A T O A B
A C S R G H N J B N H M J E
O T J O N A T H A N F A I H
R O E B I G N A T H A N L S
A R S C L H R Y E L N O E H
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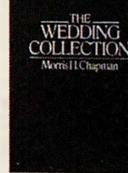
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■ the leaders

■ Changes were recently made in staff duties at First Church, Franklin. Craig Fry, minister to students, will be minister of pastoral care and assimilation, effective Oct. 1. David Bauder will work in the youth music program.

■ Perry Austin recently resigned as associate pastor of Sharon Church, Knoxville, to accept the pastorate of Lakeview Church, Clearwater, Fla. He served Sharon Church for eight years.

■ Doug Vincent is the new music and youth minister at Lucy Church, Millington. He came to Lucy Church from Willow Park Church, Memphis, where he was ordained to the ministry. He holds a master of divinity from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.

Tommy McDonald, former part-time youth director and associate pastor, recently accepted the call as pastor of Gordy New Bethel Church, Sylvester, Ga.

■ Joel C. Ammons has been called as the first pastor of Cornerstone Fellowship, organized in January in Knox County Association. Ammons, a native of Knoxville, graduated from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

■ Pat Davis, minister of Christian service at Ridgeview Church, Chattanooga, has resigned to work full-time in hospital pastoral care. He is currently employed by Erlanger Hospital, Chattanooga.

■ Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, called Steve Brown as minister of music, effective Aug. 10. He previously served in the music and education ministry at First Church, Bolivar.

■ Members of Wells Station Church, Memphis, recently welcomed Mark Allen LaRue as minister of music and youth.



FIRST CHURCH, ALGOOD, members recently broke ground for a new church facility on an eight-acre plot in Algood. Participating in the ceremony were, from left, Harold Jackson, mayor of Cookeville; David Norris, mayor of Algood; Pastor Perry Purtle; Kenny St. John, associate pastor; Bill Adams, building committee chairman; building committee members Susan Jones, Sam Gibbons, Polk Bilbrey, Rick Maxwell, Jimmy Mansell, David Adams, and Mike Casey; and Johnny Ramsey, guest speaker. The congregation expects to be in their new facility next spring.

■ Johnny Clay is the new pastor of Puncheon Camp Church, Washburn. He was ordained Aug. 2 at Mount Eager Church, also in Washburn.

■ Mitchell Springs Church, Rutledge, called Martin Roach as pastor.

■ Ted Trent is serving as interim pastor of Calvary Church, Mooresburg.

■ First Church, Caryville, recently called Larry Watts as interim pastor.

■ Rick Miller began service as pastor of Newcomb Church, Newcomb, Sept. 1.

■ Tony Billions recently became pastor of First Church, Hillsboro.

■ Eric Hodge is serving as pastor of Boynton Valley Mission in Duck River Association.

■ the churches

■ Members of First Church, Hillsboro, celebrated the 40th anniversary of the church Aug. 23

with a covered-dish luncheon and a song festival. Don Shultz delivered the message during the morning worship service.

■ The 122nd anniversary of Lucy Church, Millington, will be celebrated Sept. 20 with special activities during Sunday School and morning worship, a potluck luncheon at noon, followed by a praise and song service.

■ Revival will be Sept. 13-16 at First Church, Goodlettsville. Billy Hines, Tennessee Baptist Convention associate evangelism director, will bring the messages each evening at 7, and Bill Cox will lead music.

■ Members of First Church, Tracy City, will celebrate homecoming and the church's centennial anniversary Sept. 13. Former pastors will share highlights of their ministries at Tracy City during morning worship, which will be followed by a fellowship luncheon.

■ Etter Church, Byrdstown, is

100 years old this year and members are celebrating Sept. 6. Former pastor Dan Lawler will bring the message during morning worship. Another former pastor, Steve Sherlin, will also participate in morning worship, which will be followed by luncheon and fellowship.

■ The women of Ewtonville Church, Dunlap, will host the Second Annual Ladies Bible Conference Sept. 11-12. Guest speaker will be Marolyn Ford, Memphis, author of *These Blind Eyes Now See*. Lois Jane Huddleston, Gallatin, will bring special music. The theme for the conference is "A Woman of Prayer." For more information, call the church office at (615) 949-3141.

■ Homecoming with a theme of "The Melody of Love Continues" will be Sept. 13 at Island Home Church, Knoxville. Gordon Greenwell will be guest speaker at the 10:45 a.m. service, followed by a covered-dish luncheon. All former choir members and direc-

tors are invited to sing in the homecoming choir.

Also, the congregation will be in revival Sept. 27-30.

■ Members of First Church, Lawrenceburg, have voted to build a new multi-purpose building, which will house Sunday School space, a fellowship hall, an institutional-size kitchen, and a walk track.

■ Former members of New Heights Church, (Lockport Missionary), Lockport, Ill., who have moved to Tennessee are invited to homecoming Sept. 13. The celebration will include a fellowship meal at noon and an afternoon service.

■ The 84th anniversary of Ridgedale Church, Chattanooga, will be observed Sept. 6.

■ Homecoming will be Sept. 6 at Riverview Church, Newport.



NEWPORT TEAM members, from left, Jerry Watts, Jaime Watts, summer missionary Michael Hays, Lynn Baker, Linda Watts, Dora Lane, June Cody, Michelle O'Neil, and Ethel Freshour, gather during their trip to support the Tennessee/Michigan Partnership. The team, from Riverview Church, Newport, helped Maranatha Church, Adrian, Mich., by leading a Backyard Bible Club and doing community surveys

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Interesting trivia

By James K. Pierce III, pastor
Towering Oaks Church, Greeneville

Did you know that 70 percent of Americans own running shoes but don't run? What conclusions can we make from that? There is a good chance that of that 70 percent, a number intended to run. They belong to the Society of Comfortable Procrastinators. They heard that running is good for you; they heard that it is not too late for them to start and they even might have investigated just which shoe is the best buy given their age and size; but, they don't run.

Another conclusion might be that someone else thought it would be good for them to run, and thought that they were doing them a favor to get them the shoes. It could have been the wife who assumed anything would be

better than the couch potato she observed night after night. And, given the fact that her hubby likes sports so much, she thought he would appreciate the latest in running attire.

Come to think of it, the same thing can be said of a number of things in our possession. For instance, the Bible we own. They say the Bible is the most popular book in the world. (How many do you have in your home?) I'm sure the number of the same people who use them is about like the running shoes. While we have more Bibles than ever, I'm not sure that our knowledge of the Bible has increased that much. As a matter of fact, reports indicate that those who are churched are more Biblically illiterate than ever before.

Having a Bible that is not used is about as impressive as having the latest pair of running shoes

still in the box. While I am not a running-shoe man, I am proud to be able to say I am a Bible man. I read it, study it, and preach from it. I want you to know that I want to do everything I can as a pastor to encourage you to be Bible-oriented. The place to start is in Sunday morning Bible study. Most of you know of it as Sunday School. The pastors of your church are committed to the Bible and getting the Word out. □

Apples and carrots

By Stanley Spicer, minister of education
Spring Creek Road Church,
Chattanooga

Do you like puzzles? Have you ever tried to put a puzzle piece where it didn't fit? No matter how hard you push, or turn, it just won't fit.

Have you ever tried to hoe with

a shovel or dig a hole with a rake? Would you try to irrigate 450 acres of corn with a garden hose?

Have you ever squeezed an orange and got carrot juice? Do you make apple pie with eggplants rather than apples?

Have you ever eaten tomato soup with a fork? Do you ever decide to give your mouth a rest and eat with your ears?

Do these sound ridiculous? They should. There is nothing wrong with the puzzle piece — if you put it in the right place. The shovel, rake, and garden hose are valuable tools — when used properly. If you want carrot juice, start with carrots, and use apples to make apple pie. Soup is good, but use a spoon. Your ears are priceless, but you'll starve to death trying to eat with them.

I'm sure we would never do any of these silly things — But why do we do the same kind of things at church? We ask wonderful ushers

or greeters to be teachers. We ask great teachers to be class secretaries. We ask someone who works well with children to teach adults, or a glorious singer to take up the offering. What about asking someone who loves to deal with numbers and details to greet people at the front door. None of these are "small" or "unimportant" jobs. They are all valuable and they all need the right people to do them.

Ken Hemphill in his new book *Mirror, Mirror on the Wall* says, "When you find your true gifted identity in Christ, you will discover why you are here and how to please your Creator. This discovery brings a lasting and healthy self-image." Have you discovered your true self and purpose in your Christian life? God has called us all to do something — when we are doing it, we will feel useful and fulfilled. □

Agencies coordinate outreach in Commonwealth

By Marty Croll
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Southern Baptists' Foreign Mission Board and Radio and Television Commission hope to forge a tie to win people to Jesus Christ in the former Soviet Union.

The partnership is growing out of FMB trustees' desire to move more quickly into the Commonwealth of Independent States than the mission board's approach has allowed, said John Jackson, board trustee chairman.

At their Aug. 17-19 meeting, FMB trustees voted unanimously to ask staff to consult with the Radio and Television Commission. The goal: to help Baptists in

the former Soviet region take advantage of opportunities the commission's programs are opening.

The Radio and Television Commission says it can offer missionaries and Russian Baptists almost immediate access to millions of TV viewers around the Russian city of St. Petersburg and in other areas harder to reach. RTVC President Jack Johnson, who met with board trustees, told them his agency is working through commercial TV in the region to air family-centered programs two hours a week, with plans to expand to seven hours.

The programs include a 30-minute Baptist Hour worship excerpt called "Word of Life," a

children's show, a talk show on American family life, documentaries, and music.

In one survey the commission found 8.3 percent of the 115 million-member potential audience — or more than nine million people — viewed "Word of Life." More than a third of the viewers who responded to the survey said the show influenced their understanding of religion. But so far the programs offer viewers no avenue to seek more information. Johnson asked mission board trustees to consider finding a way to lead those people influenced by the programs to Christ.

"We could say ... in a tag at the end of the program ... 'Now, if

you want more information, please write,'" Johnson said. Such follow-up goes beyond his agency's role, he added, but he suggested the mission board could recruit Russians for such an effort.

Trustee chairman Jackson invited Johnson to tell how the commission's potential viewing public exploded from 20 million Americans to hundreds of millions on both sides of the world in only a few months. The opportunity emerged when a Russian cable TV executive spotted potential in the Southern Baptist agency's strong family programs and put Johnson in contact with a station

in St. Petersburg.

"We're talking about maybe a million people being saved in a year," said Jackson in an interview. "I could blow apart just thinking about what we could do. It's a rare opportunity."

During their meetings, trustees spoke strongly about overcoming an image of undue caution in the formerly communist areas.

Under its "Green Alert" plan to take advantage of new opportunities in the former Soviet Union, the board is transferring a number of experienced missionaries to key locations to prepare the way for other missionaries and volunteers. □

Counselor analyzes families

By Chip Alford
For Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — A recent day on the job for Jim Hightower included counseling family members struggling with co-dependency, child molestation, career uncertainty, depression, and marital discord.

"I have really been reminded how 'people-intensive' working in the local church can be," the minister of pastoral care at First Church, Huntsville, Ala., said. Hightower left his consultant's job at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in June to return to full-time counseling work on the local church level.

Although he enjoys helping dysfunctional families, Hightower said counselors and churches must not ignore the needs of healthy families.

"There are a lot of families in our churches that are healthy or could become healthy with very little help. But we in the church tend to focus on (helping) unhealthy families" solve their problems, he said.

Healthy families are not perfect, Hightower said. In fact, one of the characteristics of a healthy family is that members admit

problems and are willing to seek outside help.

"One of the ideas that I've been trying to foster at my church is that seeking me out for conversation is a sign of health, not weakness," he explained. "I am never going to see the sickest people at our church, because seeking help requires a certain degree of health."

So, what is a "healthy" family?

While Hightower said there is no exact definition, he gave several characteristics of healthy families at an Aug. 10 seminar during the Bible-Preaching-Administration Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

First, Hightower said, healthy families communicate and listen to one another, recognizing the importance of "accepting a whole range of feelings and emotions."

Second, members of a healthy family respect one another.

"How do we show respect to our children?" he asked. "One way is by setting appropriate limits for them and then recognizing when a child is old enough to begin setting his or her own limits."

Another way to show respect to children is to give them privacy, both physically and emotionally, he said.

Hightower said healthy families

also affirm and support one another, develop trust, play together, eat together, share responsibilities, value service to others, and have a shared religious core.

When compiling the list of characteristics of healthy families, Hightower admitted feeling a little depressed since his family fell short in many areas.

"But I think the issue is that (healthy families) are moving toward these goals, not that we have arrived. □

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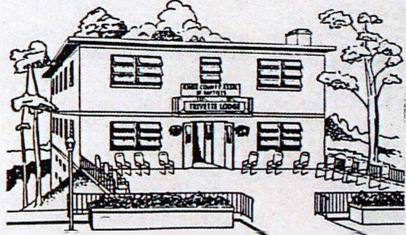
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Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership — September



2 — Wanda Dobbins was recently elected missions chairman for our Chile missionaries. This responsibility is a full-time job. Another missionary Mary Jo Geiger has taken medical retirement due to her failing health. Geiger and her husband, Bill, are adjusting to their new lifestyle in the states.

3 — Rodney Irby, who serves in Santiago, has a birthday today.

4 — Attendance at Sunday School studies of Argomedeo Church, Santiago, has dropped.

5 — Missionary Clara Brincefield is leading four hours of Discipleship Training classes today for leaders in Temuco.

6 — Joy Bates, is celebrating her birthday in the states. Bob is recovering from an illness.

7 — Missionary Dave Grossman, who was considering undergoing surgery.

8 — Retired missionary, Bill Andrews, celebrates his birthday.

■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ The fall of the southern kingdom — Bible Book Series for September 6

By Leonard Markham, pastor, Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville

The last Sunday School lesson in this series from II Kings presents the final developments in the destruction of the southern kingdom. The events described in our Scripture passage were tragic. The Babylonians left the capital city in ruins and carried into exile the majority of the population.

What a contrast is the end of the book of Kings from the beginning. One is moved by the power and glory of Solomon, and yet we are left with a picture of the daughter of Zion in ashes and crying out, "Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see. Is any suffering



MARKHAM

like my suffering that was inflicted on me, that the Lord brought on me, in the day of His fierce anger?" (Lamentations 1:12).

Yet, in the midst of this apparent hopeless situation, God provided a way for the deliverance of His people. The promise of deliverance and hope came in the seemingly incidental information concerning Jehoiachin's release. The book of Kings is closed in this manner: "In the 37th year of the exile of Jehoiachin, king of Judah, in the year Evil — Merodach became king of Babylon, he released Jehoiachin from prison on the 27th day of the 12th month. He spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat of honor higher than those of the other kings who were with him in

Babylon. So Jehoiachin put aside his prison clothes and for the rest of his life ate regularly at the king's table. Day by day the king gave Jehoiachin a regular allowance as long as he lived." (II Kings 25:27-30).

Basic Passage:
II Kings 23:31-25:30

This was the first glimmer of hope that the children of Israel would be released from their captivity. Of course, the partial fulfillment of this hope was fulfilled when the Babylonian exile came to an end (Ezra 1:1-3).

Yet, for us who are Christians, there is a deeper fulfillment of Israel's hope in the coming of Jesus Christ. We find in these last verses of Kings a vital link to the birth of our Lord. The Gospel of

Matthew gives us the genealogy of Jesus. Our Lord was a descendant of Jehoiachin (Matthew 1:12). In that passage, he is called his Greek name, "Jechoniah." The hope of Israel and the world was and is Jesus Christ.

The first few verses of Isaiah 61 are familiar to us as the verses Jesus read from the scroll at the synagogue in Nazareth. The following verses are also helpful in understanding the ministry of Jesus. We read that the coming of the Messiah is "to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion — to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair;" (61:3).

To Israel and us when we are in

the midst of a seemingly hopeless situation, we have the promise of "a crown of beauty instead of ashes." Because of Jesus Christ and His resurrection we can never consider any person, any event, or any situation as hopeless. If God could raise Jesus from the dead, can He not also perform a miracle in our lives? Someone has said, "Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible." The hope we have in Jesus Christ makes it possible for Christians to move beyond the invisible, the intangible, and the impossible. □

□ Believing God's promises — Convention Uniform Series for September 6

By Gary Coltharp, pastor, First Church, Jackson

This week we begin a new unit of study that will focus on the development of the covenant between God and His chosen people. Of all the personalities associated with the covenant, none is more significant than Abraham. Paul referred to Abraham as the father of all who believe (Romans 4), while both Isaiah (41:8) and James (2:23) referred to him as "friend of God."

Today three world religions claim Abraham as the one whose faith marks the beginning of their lineage of faith. Islam begins with Abraham and follows the line of Ishmael, son of Abraham by Hagar, Sarai's Egyptian maid.



COLTHARP

Judaism follows the line of Isaac, son of Abraham and Sarai by God's miraculous intervention. Christians understand their faith heritage from Abraham through Isaac and ultimately to Jesus the Christ, Son of God (Matthew 1:1-17). Of course, our relationship to Abraham is based on spiritual genealogy rather than a bloodline. Simple beginnings (ch. 11:26-32)

Abram's story (God changed his name from Abram, meaning "exalted father," to Abraham, meaning "father of a multitude.") See Genesis 17:1.1) begins with the simple statement that Terah had three sons: Abram, Nahor, and Haran (v. 26). Terah's family lived in Ur of the Chaldeans (modern Iraq just northwest of the tip of the Persian Gulf). When the sons were grown and married, Haran died, leaving a son, Lot, and a

daughter. Terah gathered his possessions, moved to Haran (modern Turkey), and settled there with Abram, Sarai, and Lot.

While the Bible states no formal connection between Terah's death, Haran, and the city, Haran, in which Terah settled and lived the remainder of his life, I have wondered if moving to Haran had some mystical importance to the grieving father. Maybe to Terah it was a way of keeping the memory of his son alive. More likely though, the family's move to Haran was for other reasons. One thing is clear to us now: God was involved in what was happening, prompting a course of action that would ultimately bring glory to Himself.

God calls (ch. 12:1-3)

After Terah's death, the Lord spoke to Abram. The name of God

used in these verses is the covenant name, Yahweh or Jehovah. God would later identify Himself to Moses by this sacred name, "I am that I am." (Exodus 3:14).

God's instructions were clear to Abram's mind. It was time to move again.

God promised to reward Abram's faith by blessing all mankind. Abram would be "blessed to

Basic Passage:
Genesis 11:27-12:9

be a blessing." How desperately does today's church need to reclaim this promise. For many Christians, the promise is "blessed to be blessed some more." But God's promise is that Christians are to restore lives and restructure priorities.

Faith obeys (ch. 12:4-9)

God's call upon the life of this

75-year-old man has set the stage for Abram's defining moment. Would he ignore the call and reject its demands? Would he postpone his response until some more convenient time? The Bible records Abram's response in simple eloquence. "So Abram went, as the Lord had told him." Hebrews 11:8 says, "and he went out, not knowing where he was to go." Philo, writing about the time of Christ, said, "Abraham left home so quickly to go to a foreign place that you would think God had asked him to leave a foreign place in order to go home."

Abram obeyed the call of God because he believed the promise of God. He did not wait for proof. "Thus Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as "righteousness." (Genesis 15:6, Romans 4:3, Galatians 3:6). □

□ The foundation for witnessing — Life and Work Series for September 6

By James Hutson, pastor, First Church, Rockwood

This lesson is the first in a four-part series on "Building Your Witnessing Skills."

A witness is someone who has seen first hand an event about which he can testify, someone who has had a personal experience he can share. Every human being who can communicate in any way with someone else is a potential witness. Every believer in Jesus Christ has a personal experience. Your experience may be different from everyone else's experience, but there are common ingredients in every experience. This lesson deals with those truths which are common to every believer.

Hear and believe the Gospel (vv. 1-2, also Romans 10:13-14)



HUTSON

The Gospel was preached. The word Gospel means good news. The word preached means to declare or make known.

The Gospel was received. Those who heard the Gospel preached, received, or welcomed it in a saving way that led to conversion or salvation. This is in the past. It refers to that time when we believed in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior.

The Gospel is where we stand. This means that we find our personal and spiritual security in the Gospel. This is the present. Romans 5:2 reads, "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand."

The Gospel is the means of our salvation. As a believer in Jesus Christ, I owe my entire existence to the Gospel Paul and many others declared. This is the future. My ultimate security in death and the judgment is the Gospel of

Jesus Christ. Believing the Gospel is not an option. It is essential. You cannot be a Christian and believe anything you want.

What is the Gospel? (vv. 3-4)

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures." (v. 3). The death of Jesus on the cross was the culmination of a sacrificial system where once, as in Isaiah 53, a lamb took away the sins of the people. "The spotless Lamb of God," Jesus of Nazareth, offered His life as a sacrifice for the sins of all humankind (Hebrews 9:11-14).

"He was buried," (v. 4a). This testifies to the reality of our Lord's death. It simply says that a man died and his body was laid in the grave.

"He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures," (v. 4b). The tense of the verb "rose" in the KJV or "was raised" in the NASV declares that Jesus was raised by

the power of God and He still lives. The early church knew nothing of Easter, the annual celebration of the Lord's resurrection. They celebrated their Lord's resurrection every Lord's Day.

Who are witnesses to the Gospel (vv. 5-8)

Not only was Jesus raised, but He also appeared to Cephas, then to the 12 disciples, then to more than 500, then to James, then to all the apostles, and finally to Paul. Paul emphasized that Jesus was truly raised from the dead and seen by a large number of witnesses on a variety of occasions.

Paul's testimony (vv. 9-10)

Paul said he was unworthy to be an apostle because he persecuted the church of God. Nevertheless, he realized he was a recipient of God's marvelous grace. This grace was two-fold: grace for

salvation and grace for being an apostle.

The Gospel and our faith (v. 1)

The preaching of the Gospel is common to all the apostles. This Gospel (vv. 3-4) is the common denominator that binds our hearts in faith and hope. To deny any part of the Gospel is to have a faith different from Paul. And we can wonder whether a faith different from Paul's is a saving faith or even the Christian faith.

Basic Passage:
I Corinthians 15:1-11

I am convinced that belief in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is absolutely essential to the name, Christian. This is the personal experience that is the foundation for witnessing. □

Convention leaders field questions during Jericho

By Karen Benson
For Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — During an hour-long "town hall meeting" in August, about 150 participants of "Jericho '92 — A Southern Baptist Missions Festival" heard leaders of five Southern Baptist entities field questions ranging from the agencies' efforts to settle strife in the convention, to the discrepancy between missionaries' salaries and denominational employees' salaries, to the Brotherhood Commission's plans to involve more men in missions.

Fielding questions were: Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board; Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union; R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board; James Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission; and Baptist Sunday School Board staff member Tommy Dixon, who was representing Jimmy Draper, president.

The agency leaders were asked about any plans or strategies to "reach out to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship" and bring the CBF and the rest of the Southern Baptist Convention together.

"I've had some meetings with the leaders, myself," Lewis said. "I don't know of any way we discriminate against those (CBF) churches."

Out of a recent meeting between representatives of the Foreign Mission Board trustees and WMU executive board members came the request that FMB leaders meet with CBF leaders, Parks reported. The FMB trustee chairman is trying to arrange such a meeting, he reported. "We try to work with all Southern Baptist churches," Parks said. □

Expo '92 visitors find 'best discovery'

By Mike Creswell and Linda Fisher
For Baptist Press

SEVILLE, Spain — Baptist volunteers from the United States and other countries are spreading the Gospel among many of the millions of visitors attending Expo '92 in Spain.

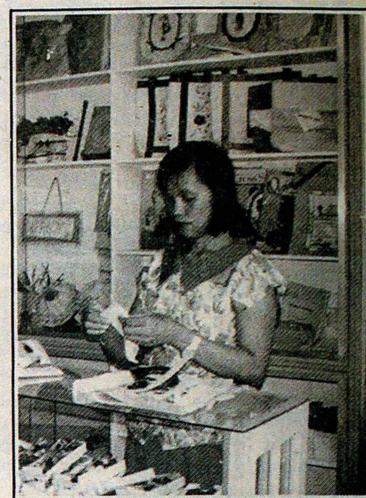
Expo is one of two world-class events in Spain this year; the other was the Summer Olympics in Barcelona. Expo may not have received as much media attention, but between 18 million and 40 million visitors will have attended by the end of its April-October run, officials say.

The mammoth world's fair covers more than 500 acres and features exhibits from some 150 countries, corporations, and organizations.

"The Age of Discovery" is Expo's theme, commemorating the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus 500 years ago. Spanish Baptists have



TENNESSEAN BARBARA MITCHELL, left, poses with students in Davao City, Mindanao, The Philippines, who are teachers and workers in the SHARE Institute. The institute is a project of the Baptist Student Union there which teaches skills to students. Mitchell is from Nashville.



A SHARE institute store markets items made by students.

adapted the theme. "The Best Discovery," their motto for the year, refers to the discovery of Jesus Christ.

Baptist efforts have reached both inside and outside Expo.

The only Christian exhibit at Expo is the \$4 million "Pavilion of Promise," a high-tech presentation of the Bible's account of creation and the life of Christ.

By Aug. 1 more than 103,000 visitors had walked through the pavilion. Almost 13,000 had registered personal decisions of commitment to Christ. Pavilion workers had handed out more than 30,000 New Testaments. □

SSB committed to winning souls

By Linda Lawson
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The real battle in the world today is the battle for the hearts and souls of people, and the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board is uniquely poised to be a positive influence for the cause of Christ, President James T. Draper Jr. told employees Aug. 21.

"The answer (in the battle) is not Bible knowledge, it is Bible understanding. And that's what we're about, helping people to make decisions based on the Word of God," Draper said.

Saying he wanted employees to know "what drives me," Draper said his life was changed concerning the urgency of spreading the Gospel in 1983 when he read the book, *Called and Committed: World Changing Discipleship* by David Watson. In that book, the author said the battle of the 20th century would be among Islam, Marxism, and Third World Christianity. He dismissed western Christianity as weak and ineffective.

After reading the book, Draper said he wondered, "Could it possibly be that the hand of God, the blessings of God are being transferred to other continents?"

To be truly effective in spread-

ing the Gospel to the ends of the earth, Draper said board employees and trustees must recognize the institution does not exist for itself, for Southern Baptists, or Christians. The board exists for the five billion people in the world struggling to survive.

Draper reported to employees on trustee actions earlier in the week approving a restructured organization and 12 persons, 11 currently employed at the board, for administrative positions. Trustees also approved a one-time voluntary early retirement window for 191 employees.

Reviewing the restructuring process, Draper said: "What I've tried to do is be open with you. I've not done it perfectly but I've tried to tell you everything I know when it's firmed up." □

Ethnic work meeting stretched into nine languages

By Frank Wm. White
For Baptist Press

ORLANDO — Reaching the people of the United States with the Gospel of Christ demands that Southern Baptists minister to diverse language and culture groups, according to speakers at the National Language Church Development Conference, in August in Orlando, Fla.

More than 820 persons attended the conference for language groups sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's special ministries department. It drew representatives from at least ten language groups in the United States and six foreign countries.

The conference included training sessions for workers in nine language groups and a multiethnic conference in English. Training was offered for Hispanic, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Greek, American Indian, Haitian, Filipino, and deaf ministry. While training was

primarily for Sunday School leadership, sessions also were provided in discipleship training, church administration, and church music.

In addition to joint worship services, groups met for worship in separate language fellowship groups on Tuesday evening.

While there are more than 500 ethnic groups in the United States, a cultural myopia "causes us to see America as becoming lily white," said Oscar Romo, director of the language church extension division at the Home Mission Board and a pioneer in language ministry. "America is a mosaic. Being an American is a concept not a culture."

Gene Mims, executive vice president for planning, research, and denominational relations at the Sunday School Board, called ethnic ministry a priority. The SSB currently publishes materials in nine languages. □

Baptist school hosts debate

By Michael J. Clingenpeel
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Republican President George Bush and Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, the Democratic nominee for president, will hold their final televised debate at the University of Richmond.

The debate, sponsored by the Commission on Presidential Debates, will be Oct. 15 at 9 p.m. Eastern Standard Time in a 10,000-seat basketball arena on the campus of the Baptist-affiliated school.

The Commission on Presidential Debates is a nonpartisan, non-profit corporation that sponsored the presidential and vice-presidential debates in 1988.

To host the event, Robins Center, the school's arena, will be transformed into "a television studio," noted university President Richard Morrill. The Commission on Presidential Debates will equip the elaborate set with

state-of-the-art production equipment trucked to the campus for one night.

A viewing audience of 160 million people worldwide is expected to tune in to the 90-minute debate.

Cost of the debate, anticipated at \$400,000 to \$500,000, will be borne by a coalition of ten to 20 sponsors enlisted by Morrill. □

Rural church aids global book project

By William H. Perkins Jr.
For Baptist Press

ABERDEEN, Miss. — A small, ambitious church in rural Mississippi is the first in the Southern Baptist Convention to serve as a receiving and shipping point for donated religious materials headed for worldwide mission fields under the BookLink program of the National Fellowship of Baptist Educators (NFBE).

"The church has authorized our participation and we are eager to do it," said Dennis Smithey, pastor of 126-member Central Grove Church between Aberdeen and Tupelo.

Central Grove members met at the church July 23 with Hal Buchanan of Tupelo, retired dean of education at Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss., and executive director of BookLink.

Buchanan, who helped found NFBE and later the BookLink program, reported that since the program was authorized by the SBC Brotherhood Commission in 1988, almost 60,000 pieces of material weighing 11.4 tons and valued at over \$137,000 have been shipped to 52 countries and five U.S. states.

BookLink also is affiliated with Books for the World, a project inspired by longtime Southern Baptist leader Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss. Books for the World helps BookLink in many ways, he said, including assistance with postage costs. □