

■ **this week's news**

global:

■ **European Baptists try to fill gap left in churches losing members who were Americans stationed in Europe by military.** — See page 3

■ **Frederick and Sandra Shultz of Knoxville will serve in Middle East and north Africa for Cooperative Services International.** — See page 6

■ **Lobelville pastor David Emert and his wife Pamela are appointed by Foreign Mission Board to Ethiopia.** — See page 6

national:

■ **Texas Baptists issue letter supporting Cooperative Program.** — See page 3

■ **Theologians must share blame for church's failure to reach young adults says accrediting agency head.** — See page 2

state:

■ **Potential messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention may pick up registration cards.** — See page 3

Porch named convention executive director Succeeds Lowrie Nov. 1

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
Baptist and Reflector

James M. Porch, pastor of First Church, Tullahoma, was elected executive director/treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention on Friday.

Porch, named by the TBC Executive Board, succeeds D. L. Lowrie who last May offered his resignation to become pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Texas. Lowrie has served for three and a half years.

Porch will take office on Nov. 1. Bill Wilson, director of the Convention Ministries Division, had been named recently to serve as interim executive director until Porch takes office.

The Mississippi native was chosen by a Search Committee named in May after Lowrie's resignation. Jerry Oakley, pastor of First Church, Springfield, and chairman of the Executive Committee, named the committee which selected Howard Olive, pastor of Monte Vista Church, Maryville, as its chairman.

The committee chose Porch, also a member of the Executive Board, from among four finalists, and recommended him to the Executive Committee at last Thursday's regular meeting.

His resume was given to board members at their Friday meeting with the recommendation that a

vote be taken at a called meeting Sept. 15.

Wallace Parham of Chattanooga moved that the vote be taken Friday — and the board approved the motion.

In accepting the position, Porch said the TBC needs a broad umbrella. "I believe sincerely in the possibility that we as a state convention can pull together.

"The vote indicates there is work to be done. I am fully aware of what you've decided. Believing in my heart it is God's will, I accept the position of executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"I pledge my love, energy, and heart to all of you."

Porch referred to the close vote which elected him in a secret ballot. Broken down into numbers, the 54 percent vote showed 43-36 in favor, with one abstention. Several members of the 100 member body were absent.

His salary is to be \$72,000, slightly more than base, but lower than Lowrie's current salary.

Lowrie made his last report earlier in the meeting. He reported increases in the three missions offerings — foreign, home, and state, over last year. He also said the August Cooperative Program giving total was 14 percent under the 1992 budget needs. He gave an optimistic outlook for September and October.



OUTGOING TBC Executive Director D. L. Lowrie is flanked by newly-elected James Porch, right, and Don Givens, chairman of the TBC Executive Board.

Paul Moody chairman of the Central Administrative Committee, reported on the sale of land owned by the TBC on Peytonsville Road on I-65 south of Franklin. The property, given to the TBC several years ago by the state WMU, was sold for \$300,000 and the net amount of \$277,800 was placed on deposit. A subcommittee of the Central Administrative Committee will continue a study of the feasibility of establishing an adult retreat center.

Other major items acted on by the Executive Board:

Approval of the 1992-93 budget,

which reduces last years goal by \$1.1 million. The new budget, which must be approved by the State Convention in November, is \$27,159,322, and includes reductions for the four educational institutions (Belmont University, Carson-Newman College, Union University, and Harrison-Chilhowee Academy) of \$428,423. Percentage-wise, the academy takes the biggest cut.

Wendell Boertje, chairman of the Convention Ministries Committee, reported on new guidelines for the supplement program for associational directors of mis-

— See page 2

Relief workers preparing for long Florida stay

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief workers in south Florida are preparing for the long haul though some have worked 12 days without a break to relieve suffering inflicted by Hurricane Andrew.

Cameron Byler, Tennessee Baptist Brotherhood Department Director, reported 8550 were fed Sept. 3 by Tennessee Baptist volunteers. Those volunteers need relief themselves, in the form of substitutes, he added.

Volunteers are desperately needed because of the growing number of residents learning of the ministry, volunteers moving into the area, and the number of meals being distributed by the Red Cross, he explained.

Volunteers without any experience may serve a minimum of three-four days. They should be at least 18 years old, Byler detailed. HAM radio operators are needed. All volunteers will need additional directions from the convention, he

explained.

Byler estimated the feeding project will continue for another two-three weeks.

Food is not currently needed because the "link" of assistance agencies has been completed, said Byler, so food is being provided to the Baptist mass feeding units. Building supplies are needed, including roofing shingles, 20 gauge tarpaper, roofing nails with plastic collars, three-quarter inch plywood, not pasteboard, and chainsaws. Supplies for babies are also needed. All gifts should be clearly designated for Tennessee Baptist Convention, Glendale Baptist Church, Richmond City.

The Tennessee Baptist Aviators Fellowship is on standby to assist in the delivery of assistance to Florida.

Workers in Louisiana were requesting food last week. For an update, contact the TBC Brotherhood Department.

The main TBC unit is located near Glendale Church, in Richmond City, a Miami suburb just north of Homestead, the hardest

hit area. A feeding unit from Hardeman County Association and one from First Church, Bemis, is serving near First Church, Florida City, about five miles south of Homestead.

Southern Baptist mass feeding units from Tennessee and nine other states "are doing 80 percent of the feeding down here," said Byler.

In two weeks since the disaster volunteers in Florida and Louisiana have served over 800,000 hot meals to victims. The Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Childcare Unit returned Sept. 4 from Houma, La. Fifteen Tennesseans provided childcare to about 15 children each day and distributed food, diapers, and other items for young children, said Jim Ellis of Flag Pond. The unit served five days.

The Tennessee volunteers in Florida numbered about 140 Sept. 4. Those near Glendale Church were helping repair its plant, reported Richard Sims, a HAM radio operation from Woodmont Church, Nashville. The church,

which has about 3500 members, had several buildings damaged, Sims explained. Ice is also being distributed, he added.

Tremendous needs remain, described Sims. Electricity is still unavailable except by generators and water is precious. People are sleeping in trucks and other vehicles or in tents so they can remain near their property.

"We cannot afford to forget them. In some cases everything is gone," said Sims.

Volunteers are still locating people who haven't had any help at all, noted Byler. One community of 600 Hispanics were just discovered Sept. 3, he said.

"In this area there's just total destruction of homes. It looks like it's been bombed out," he described.

For more information, Tennesseans should contact the Brotherhood Department at (615) 371-2025. □

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PUBLISHER: Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board. **Board of directors:** Jerry Oakley, chairman; Gary Anderson, vice chairman; Mickey Basham, Wendell Boertje, David George, Gary Gerhardt, Don Givens, M. B. Howard, John Langlois, Joe Littlefield, Leonard Markham, Earl McCosh, Paul Moody, Clint Oakley, Howard Olive, Ron Phillips, Frank Samuels, Bobby Turner, and Emerson Wiles, Jr.

OFFICE: Baptist and Reflector, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027. Mailing address: P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. Phone: (615) 371-2003. FAX: (615) 371-2014.

MEMBERSHIPS: Southern Baptist Press Association

POSTMASTER:

- Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024.
- Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780). □



Educators blamed for church's appeal failure

By Pat Cole
Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Theological educators must bear some of the blame for the church's failure to appeal to a generation of young adults, the head of the nation's primary accrediting agency for theological schools told a Southern Baptist seminary chapel audience.

In a Sept. 1 convocation address

Arkansas picks Henderson

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Trustees of the *Arkansas Baptist News* magazine selected 11-year Baptist journalist Trennis Henderson as the newspaper's editor in a unanimous vote Sept. 1.

Henderson, 33, managing editor of Missouri Baptists' *Word and Way* newsjournal, will succeed the late J. Everett Sneed who died June 26 after 20 years as the Arkansas paper's editor.

Greg Kirksey, trustee chairman and pastor of First Church, Benton, Ark., said the first factor in the selection process of a new editor called for a Southern Baptist journalist who would be fair.

Henderson, who will assume his new post Oct. 20, said, "I am com-

mitted to providing objective, balanced news coverage which contributes to the growth, encouragement, and unity of Arkansas Baptists as we seek to faithfully serve the Lord together."

Henderson voiced gratitude for the trustees' unanimous vote, saying it "culminated a positive process which reflects the Lord's timing and leadership."

"I look forward to the enriching ministry and challenges which lie ahead," he said.

Henderson has been *Word and Way* managing editor since 1985. He joined the paper's staff as associate managing editor in 1982. □

The study, he said, is probably the first of several that will "paint a bleak picture" of this age group's commitment to church life.

"We have not made the case with this generation for participation in organized religion, and we in the seminaries must bear some of the responsibility for the ill-focused quality and unconvincing appeal of much of the church's pastoral leadership," said Waits, a United Methodist minister and former dean at Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta.

Graduates of theological schools have complained their training did not prepare them for the practical aspects of ministry, Waits noted. "We have tended to dismiss their remarks on the grounds that such comments lacked academic respectability. Perhaps what our graduates have been (saying) is for us to better equip them for making the case to a generation that seems yet to want to believe, but sees organized religion as an unimaginative conveyance of the deeper truth and meaning for which they yearn."

In response, some schools have begun to reassess their mission,

he said.

"But I doubt if any faculty or institution has yet probed deeply enough the shape of the new culture, the values and habits of this current generation, and the requirements of leadership to relevantly address the changes that now confront us."

"For the most part, theological education and the church have been timid in their engagement of the culture and slow to envision new strategies for coping with its needs," Waits said.

In an era when political leaders are proclaiming a "new world order," the church and theological schools should help shape "a culture which embodies the instinct for humaneness, compassion, and love that is the heart of the Gospel," he said.

During the convocation, the seminary installed David S. Dockery as the eighth dean of its school of theology.

Dockery, who has been a New Testament professor at Southern Seminary and at Criswell College in Dallas, came to the deanship from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, where he was general editor at Broadman Press. □

Porch named executive director for TBC . . .

— Continued from page 1

sions and associates and a statement of intent concerning unfunded liabilities relating to DOMs.

Both measures were approved after long and thorough debate. A motion to delay the voting until a later meeting was defeated, though some members felt they had not had enough time to digest the materials.

Lowrie and Boertje answered questions about both matters. Lowrie said, "Tough financial times sometimes call for unpopular measures." Lowrie explained the TBC staff was already under guidelines which dictate reduction in some health benefits for retirees in the future. The vote was nearly unanimous.

David George, chairman of the Education Committee, explained the necessity of bringing the education institutions' portion of the budget in line. Last year's messengers in Memphis approved an increase of about \$1 million,

from the floor, to equalize the three colleges. Their portion will be equal in the new budget, but reduced by \$105,321 each to \$1,650,034.

Discussion of the Search Committee's recommendation lasted for two hours. Porch answered questions from the body after giving testimony of his Christian pilgrimage. Several board members spoke.

Other members of the Search Committee include Leonard Markham, Hendersonville; Don Givens, Chattanooga; Gary Anderson, Dunlap; Jerry Oakley, Springfield; Paul Moody, Erin; Clint Oakley, Memphis; M. B. Howard, Covington; and Ron Phillips, convention president from Hixson, observer.

Other details of the Executive Board session will be reported in next week's paper. Because of

Labor Day, the *Baptist and Reflector* was printed earlier than the usual schedule. □



BOARD MEMBER Jerry Sutton of Nashville visits with new TBC Executive Director James Porch following his election.



TBC EMPLOYEES bid farewell to D. L. and Alice Lowrie following a chapel service Sept. 3 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

Solution to "The Life of David" puzzle printed in last week's issue.

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European churches grow despite military cuts

By Mike Creswell
For Baptist Press

WIESBADEN, Germany — As American soldiers head home by the thousands from post-Cold War Europe, they take with them the need for English-language churches in some areas.

Five English-language Baptist churches in Germany have closed during the past year because of the "drawdown" of U.S. military forces.

But an ambitious church-planting effort begun several years ago has resulted in the starting of seven new churches, reaching mostly English-speaking internationals.

The churches are affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (EBC) based in Wiesbaden, Germany, a fellowship of 60 English-language churches with close Southern Baptist ties. EBC staffers are Southern Baptist missionaries; most pastors are missionaries or have Southern Baptist backgrounds.

The convention is seeking experienced Southern Baptists to start English-language churches in dozens of cities in Western and Eastern Europe, said missionary John Merritt, EBC general sec-

retary. Leaders hope to assemble a "strike team" of such workers who could move quickly to a site to start work or continue ministry when openings occur.

The churches that closed were smaller congregations whose members were mostly U.S. military personnel. But launching of the seven English-language Baptist churches in Bulgaria, Italy, Germany, Portugal, and Hungary in the past year has offset the losses.

Congregations in several other areas are nearing church status. Ongoing surveys of dozens of European cities will determine top-priority locations for other new English-language churches.

The European convention's latest church-planting push caps a decade during which 18 English-language churches started across Europe. Of that number, 15 were begun in major cities to reach international English speakers. Only three targeted American military personnel.

Increasingly, EBC churches have begun reaching out to English speakers in Europe with no U.S. military connections.

Up to 350,000 American troops were in Europe during the Cold

War. But since the breakup of the Soviet Union, U.S. troops there already number fewer than 220,000 — with more cuts to come. By 1995, fewer than 100,000 American soldiers will be in Europe, military leaders say.

A spot-check of EBC churches reveals a convention changing rapidly to accommodate a rapidly changing continent.

■ In Frankfurt, Germany, about 60 percent of Bethel International Baptist Church's members relate to the U.S. military. But in 1991 the church added the "International" to its title to show it wants to reach non-military English speakers, pastor Tom Hill said. Already members include English-speaking Russians, Romanians, South Africans, Sudanese, British, and others.

The church also wants to reach English-speaking Germans and Muslims from the Middle East, said Hill, formerly a missionary and staff administrator at the Foreign Mission Board. Frankfurt is fertile for such outreach; one of every four people is a foreigner.

■ Nurnburg (Germany) Baptist Church feels the pinch as military families depart, said Southern Baptist missionary pas-

tor Wes Crenshaw. Remaining military members feel unsettled because they "don't know when, where, or if they're going," he said. Result: More members are unwilling to make long-term commitments to the church. Thirty percent of the members are non-military.

■ Immanuel Baptist Church in Madrid, Spain, has lurched from a 90-percent military membership to having just a single military family — in a single year. Attendance averages about 70 Sunday mornings, with more than 15 nationalities represented, reported missionary pastor Michael Hester.

"Someone joins the church or accepts Christ about every Sunday," Hester reported. Finances also have improved. A year ago the church was \$3000 in debt; now debts are paid and \$4000 is in the bank.

■ In Budapest, Hungary, an English-language congregation already has an average weekly attendance of 50 to 60 people, said pastor Frank Zedick, a Southern Baptist volunteer. Zedick retired after serving as pastor of Grace Church in Durham, N.C., 11 years.

The Budapest group meets at International Baptist Lay Academy, a European Baptist Federation-sponsored school. Begun by Southern Baptist volunteer Lewis Krause a year ago, it is thought to be the first English-language congregation started in Eastern Europe since the region shucked communism.

Switching to an international ministry has drawbacks. Members often have less training than

those from Southern Baptist backgrounds, especially in stewardship and Bible teaching. Also, EBC churches still have rotating memberships as international members complete assignments in Europe and move. A church may lose a third of its members in a year through normal attrition.

Yet the churches traditionally have had a higher ratio of baptisms to members than Southern Baptist churches in the United States. EBC churches also give to missions causes, such as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, at rates several times the per capita giving of Southern Baptists. Lottie Moon giving soared 21 percent in 1991, to almost \$102,000.

EBC leaders eagerly anticipate what their proposed "strike team" of experienced Southern Baptists can accomplish in starting churches in Europe.

"Church planting is a part of who we are and what we do," declared convention leader Merritt.

Potential volunteers should not assume work in Europe will be just a vacation, counseled Ray Reynolds, missionary and EBC church-planting consultant.

Life in Eastern Europe can be downright demanding. "Comforts are often limited," he warned.

Those interested in the church-planting ministry should contact John Merritt or Ray Reynolds at the European Baptist Convention office: 60 Sonnenberger Strasse, W-6200 Wiesbaden, Germany (telephone 011-49-611-523016, fax 011-49-611-590883). □

Texas pastors endorse CP, convention

By Toby Druin
For Baptist Press

DALLAS — A letter and statement of "convention support" signed by more than 150 Texas Baptists has been sent to all Texas Baptist pastors urging Cooperative Program support.

The documents also question channeling of funds to organizations such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and urge pastors to bring messengers to the state convention in Corpus Christi Nov. 9-10 to elect new convention leadership.

Though specifying the statement "reflects no organized nor politicized group," Phil Simmons, pastor of North Richland Hills Church, Fort Worth, one of the framers of the letter and statement, said they would support San Antonio evangelist Rudy Hernandez for convention president and others to be named later for vice presidential slots.

C-N hosts lectures

Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, will celebrate the 200th anniversary of William Carey and the modern missionary movement Sept. 14-15 as part of its annual T. B. Maston Lecture on Baptist Heritage.

R. Scott Walker, pastor of the oldest Baptist church in the South, will lecture at two chapel services to be held at First Church, Jefferson City. The lectures are open to the public.

Walker is pastor of First Church, Charleston, S.C. He is the son of Southern Baptist missionaries who served in the Philippines.

The "Common Statement of Convention Support," signed by 153 people, mostly pastors, describes the Cooperative Program as the "historical, traditional, and foundational method in the Southern Baptist Convention for support of missions and evangelism."

It contends the CP has been eroded by the formation of different groups such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the organization formed in protest to recent developments in the Southern Baptist Convention and which has been receiving an increasing amount of mission dollars for its own programs.

The statement signers affirm their commitment to the Cooperative Program and call on Texas Baptist convention leadership and churches to:

■ Promote a harmonious and mutually cooperative spirit ... that will bring us to a spiritual awakening.

■ Promote and support the Cooperative Program ... as the foundation by which Southern Baptist churches do their work of missions and evangelism.

■ Maintain the historical and traditional process of funding in the Baptist General Convention of Texas Cooperative Program budget.

■ Promote and support the various institutions of the BGCT and to maintain the historical and traditional relationship with said institutions.

"Increasingly widespread concern has been noted, through general conversations, that BGCT budget items have been or will be directed outside the traditional

channels," states the letter, signed by four Dallas-Fort Worth area pastors — Simmons; Gary Miller of Sagamore Hill Church, Fort Worth; Danny Souder of Northlake Church, Dallas; and Ronnie Yarber of Gross Road Church, Mesquite. □

SBC giving needs strong September

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program funds received by the Executive Committee dropped nearly eight percent compared to the same month a year ago, according to Harold C. Bennett, the committee's president-treasurer.

The August 1992 figure, \$11,210,624, is 7.85 percent below the same month in 1991, \$12,165,114.

"This decline of \$954,489 is deeply regretted," Bennett said. "That means the Foreign Mission Board received \$477,000 less from the CP in August than it would have received. Also the Home Mission Board's income was reduced by \$186,600 and our six seminaries by almost \$194,000.

"My hope remains firm. My concern is that Southern Baptists will see that world missions is as important as local church causes or state mission causes. I hope September will be better," Bennett said.

With just one month to go in the SBC fiscal year, Cooperative Program receipts for the year-to-date are 1.2 percent behind the previous year. As of Aug. 31, the 1991-92 CP totals are \$127,842,615 compared to \$129,399,470 in 1990-91.

The monthly basic operating budget is \$11,725,856 and the year's budget is \$140,712,282.

Designated gifts remain a bright spot in the SBC fiscal picture with August gifts 10.47 percent ahead of that month a year ago. August 1992 designated gifts were \$2,524,083 compared to August 1991 of \$2,284,771. For the year-to-date, designated gifts are up 3.13 percent: \$126,243,899 compared to \$122,410,610 in 1990-91.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conven-

tions and the Southern Baptist Convention. Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions, the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions, world hunger, and other special gifts.

State and regional conventions retain a percentage of Cooperative Program contributions they receive from the churches to support work in their areas and send the remaining funds to the Executive Committee for national and international ministries. □

TBC registration cards available

Registration cards for the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention have been mailed to directors of missions across the state.

The convention will meet Nov. 17-18 at the Gatlinburg Convention Center in Gatlinburg.

Registration will begin at 2 p.m. on Nov. 16 at the convention center.

Questions about the number of messengers allotted from one church may be directed to Dan

Farrell, TBC Registration Secretary, at (615) 373-2255. A pastor is not automatically a messenger and should be voted on by the church along with other messengers.

Any color card except white will be accepted at the registration tables. Only one name should appear on a card.

Registration cards also are available from Farrell, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. □

Chattanooga minister brings personalities to life

By Ruth Robinson
For Baptist and Reflector

It only takes about 30 minutes for Millard Hooper Jr. to change personalities.

When he enters the church door he is a soft-voiced man with bright blue eyes and a quiet smile. A few minutes later he is a raging prophet or a sad-voiced apostle telling his story.

Hooper, minister of education and evangelism at Bartlebaugh Church near Chattanooga, has developed a series of character studies which he started out presenting at his church and is now taking to other churches.

His transformation from 20th century to first century is accomplished primarily through makeup. Clyde Hawk, a retired member of Bartlebaugh, has become adept at changing Hooper's appearance, using professional crepe hair and attaching it with spirit gum, which is easy to remove.

Hooper's wife adds other features with an eyebrow pencil

and paint. A skin-colored cap makes him bald. His basic costume is a loose white robe.

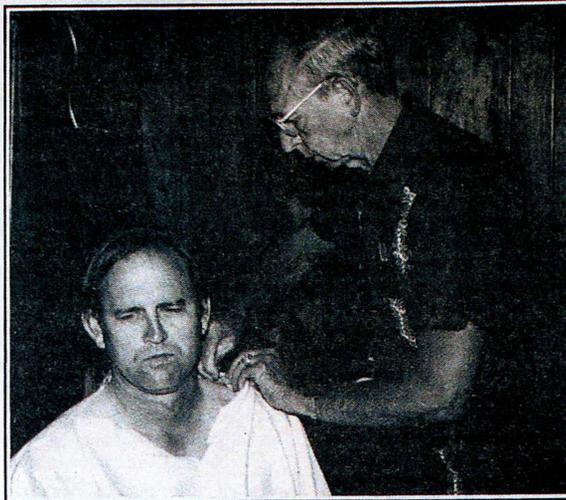
His characterizations are based on the Bible and he always goes back and re-reads the Biblical passages before a performance. They run from 25 minutes to an hour.

"Elijah is the most boisterous," Hooper said. His portrayal of the apostle John is as a 96-year-old man returning to the church after his exile on Patmos is over.

He does Paul as a prisoner in Rome just before his execution, with a chain around one ankle and the other end of the chain in his hand.

"One time when I did Paul I made a mistake and used a log chain," he said. "I was contained. It ran around a staunchon in the chair, no one realized it, and I could not move."

Hooper got into drama several years ago when the church did a program on the disciples, including presenting each disciple in costume.



THE MAKEOVER of Millard Hooper from a 20th century man to first century man is directed by Clyde Hawk.

"I decided that was a good way to make characters you read about come alive to people, especially young people," he said.

"We are usually so traditional that sometimes it is good to be different. You already know the story. It's not new; it's just a new



HOOPER DRAMATIZES the apostle Paul. — Photos by Ruth Robinson

way put on it." — Robinson is retired religion reporter for the Chattanooga Times, and a member of First Church, Chattanooga. □

Love for missions weaves volunteers together

By Jo Ann Spieth
The Corydon (Ind.) Democrat

CORYDON, Ind. — Forty-two persons, between the ages of seven and 70-something, journeyed to Indiana from Tennessee this summer for a week-long missions trip at First Church, Corydon.

"It was encouraging and inspiring to see a group of people united together in a common cause, serving the Lord through mission

work," said Bradley W. Smith, pastor at the Corydon church.

But then, what else would you expect of people from the Volunteer State?

Among those making the trip were United Parcel Service drivers, a banker, homemakers, a construction company owner, a Kodak retiree, college students, a home security system installer, school teachers, a computer pro-

grammer, and various ages of youth.

What's the common thread among these people? The Parkway Church in Goodlettsville, north of Nashville.

"The church has been doing trips like this for about 14 years," said Ken Bush, minister of education — or "stuff and things" as he put it. He has been at the 1000-member Parkway church for seven years.

Most of the volunteers used their vacation time to make the trip.

"Some of our members do this every year," said Bush.

Parkway's missions trips have taken members to the eastern Kentucky mountain town of Pippa Passes, an Indian reservation in Sena, N.M., and, last year, to London, England.

Corydon became a possible destination last year when Bush met a friend at Sunday School Week of Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

That friend was Jeff Deasy, minister of music and youth at the Corydon church. Deasy and Bush first met while attending Belmont University in Nashville from 1976-78. They also worked together on the staff of Parkway. Soon the planning began.

"The Lord's blessed our church in a lot of different ways," Bush said. "We're just trying to share that with others."

The folks from Tennessee shared in many different ways while in Corydon.

Their first evening in town they helped the Corydon church with a festival.

Backyard Bible classes, conducted by the missionaries, were held at various homes throughout the week.

"Most of the kids come again at night (to Vacation Bible School)," said Brandie Killeen, 17, of Whites Creek. This was her third mission trip.

"I've grown to love these people up here," she said.

Volunteers not teaching morning Bible classes were involved in more strenuous work like replacing the roofs at the parsonage and the church.

"Somehow we've gotten in the roofing business. We hate it, but we do it," Bush said with a laugh.

A handicapped-accessible bathroom was installed at the church and some electrical work was done.

"We brought a lot of our own supplies," Bush said, "simply because we knew what we needed. The church here provided the building supplies."

The entourage slept at the campground at a nearby Baptist church.

Members of that church prepared breakfast for the workers each morning and cooked three suppers for them.

"They (Graceland) feel like they're part of this mission, too," said James Moore, the pastor at Parkway. "They've been very

gracious working with us and providing for us."

Asked about the volunteers, Smith replied, "It's hard to express in words. It goes a lot deeper than a roof on the parsonage and church."

"The effects (they've had) on the church (in Corydon) are far reaching," he said. "People here are talking about doing something like this in the next few years. It's been a sense of challenge for them: 'If they can do it, why can't we?'"

Smith said the volunteer work "freed up finances" that can now be used for ministry-related activities.

Some of the 300 members of the Corydon church also pitched in with the work.

Because of bonds formed, the two churches will take a missions trip together next year but a reunion will take place sooner than that. The youth group from Corydon have already visited their new friends in Goodlettsville.

The theme song for the week, "I'm on a Journey for the Lord," talks about a trip that leads to heaven. For the 42 volunteers, their journey happened to include Corydon. □

Day marks Kelley's tenure

Sunday, Aug. 9, was a special day in the history of Clymersville Church, Rockwood, and Pastor Charles Kelley.

The day marked Kelley's 25th anniversary as pastor of the church. He is the only pastor the

church has had since it was established in 1966 as a mission of First Church, Rockwood.

Under his leadership the church has grown to a membership of 383.

Total receipts for 1991 were \$63,988 while \$8497 was given for mission causes. In the same year the church baptized 23 converts.

The theme for the celebration was "A Man Called Charles ... A Place Called Clymersville."

Howard M. Hicks of Crossville, a charter member and former deacon in the church served as master of ceremonies. Several members shared memories of their pastor. Kelley's son, Greg, a recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and an ordained minister, also participated in the celebration.

A "money book" was presented to the pastor as a token of love and appreciation.

The celebration committee consisted of members Gene Lawson, Evelyn Cole, Margaret Fritts, Eva Jean Smith, and Allen Reed. □



KELLEY

Hymnal in braille depends on response

The Sunday School Board is polling Southern Baptists to determine the marketability of a braille edition of the new Baptist Hymnal.

The board is working with Charles Couey, a blind member of Park Avenue Church, Nashville, to provide a words-only edition.

The edition would be five volumes, but loose-leaf enabling people to pull needed hymns. Each would cost about \$175.

If 250 people express an interest in buying the edition, the Sunday School Board can produce it, reported Dan Johnson of the SSB Church Music Department.

Those interested should respond by Sept. 30 by calling Ray Gilder, Tennessee Baptist Convention, (615) 371-2044, or writing him at P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024. □

Union hosts pastors' meetings

JACKSON — The West Tennessee Pastors' Conference has chosen "That the Man of God may be Thoroughly Furnished" as the theme for 1992-93.

The conference meets the first Tuesday of each month at Union University.

The 1992 conference schedule and programs follow.

■ Sept. 10 — "Thoroughly Furnished ... in Fellowship," Pastors' and Wives' Appreciation Banquet;

■ Oct. 6 — "Thoroughly Furnished ... in Counseling," Page Walley, clinical director, Quinco Mental Health Center;

■ Nov. 3 — "Thoroughly Furnished ... in Teaching," Jackie Kay, pastor, Bartlett Church, Bartlett; and

■ Dec. 1 — "Thoroughly Furnished ... in Praise," Bob Hull, West Tennessee Ministers of Music. □

Individual members one of another — Part 1

one word more
by Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Paul writes in his Roman letter some words that seem to have special meaning for Baptists. Romans 12:4-5 read this way:

"For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."

In the remaining verses of chapter 12, there is much more sound advice, the best of guidelines for righteous and productive living. The five words that lead off verse nine are real attention-getters and give pause to all of us for study and soul-absorption.

"Let love be without hypocrisy," Paul wrote. The best thing about that verse is simple. Though that might have been Paul's opinion, the words are all the more vital for those who believe in Christ as the Risen Lord. They are God-breathed.

We are all different and we have different Spirit-given gifts. We are all different, but meshed together we form the Body of Christ. We hurt and are lacking without even one part. We need each other, and as Paul wrote, we are "individually members one of another."

The spiritual "rubbing together" as we work for the Lord is spiritually enhancing to whatever the task might be. Look at it this

way, when we are split apart, we cannot be "hitting on all cylinders."

Tennessee Baptists currently are joining with thousands of other Christians in a mammoth gift-giving effort. Reports tell us that more than a million people in Florida and Louisiana may be without homes. They are also without food, water, health care, electricity, and many other amenities which have become routine for Americans — even daily delivery of mail.

Men and women from the Volunteer state are on the front lines in those two areas so devastated by Hurricane Andrew. Why are they there along with other Christians from all across the country?

Tennessee Baptists may not be able to quote many verses from Romans 12, but those volunteers are on mission — living out the meaning of Paul's words. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love," he says. "Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

When we are busy putting the Christian life into practice in daily living, we do not have time to practice hypocrisy. When we are on mission with that spiritual fervor helping people, we do not have time to plan strategies

against each other.

Relief units from state Baptist conventions were on the scene days before government was able to help. That's not unusual, however, because it is easier to "share with God's people who are in need" and afflicted than it is to cut through the red tape of government efforts.

There will be hundreds of joyful and traumatic stories about efforts to help the stricken people of Florida and Louisiana. There will be many memories brought home by the thousands of volunteers.

But the greatest story is that they went without thought for personal comfort or expense. Volunteerism is a trait for heroes, but Baptist volunteers are in a higher category. As people of the Bible, this should be our lifestyle.

So, it was not surprising when the Tennessee Brotherhood units began preparation for the trip before the rains stopped. In an era when man seems always to be suspicious of others and look for devious motives among potential helpers — it is good to know that God has people who will rush to the assistance of the hurting and helpless — without counting the cost.

Perhaps we can learn from this how to work together and love each other at home. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Leazer will lead HMB Freemasonry study, Lewis says

By David Winfrey
For Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Gary Leazer will continue to lead the Home Mission Board's study of Freemasonry despite a call for his replacement, said HMB President Larry Lewis. Lewis said messengers to the

Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis were clear: "We have no choice as to who will do the study. The convention directed the interfaith witness department to do the study."

"As director of the interfaith witness department, he (Leazer) is responsible for leading that study and assuming that it is done in a fair and thorough manner," said Lewis.

Leazer, director of the department since 1987, was criticized recently by Larry Holly, the Beaumont, Texas, physician who originally called for a comparison of Freemasonry with Christianity.

Holly, in a nine-page letter to Lewis, called for Leazer to be removed as director of the study, claiming Leazer is too prejudiced towards those opposed to Freemasonry to produce a report critical of Freemasonry.

"I am alarmed at the potential for a compromising report being produced by the Home Mission Board," the letter states.

Lewis, however, said he does not share Holly's belief that a report directed by Leazer would be compromised.

Lewis clarified the status of the report, saying that Leazer is researching the study with the aid

of the interfaith witness department staff, not preparing the report alone.

"At every step of the process, the entire staff will be assisting him," he said.

Lewis said he recognizes Holly wants a thorough report.

'I can assure Dr. Holly and I can assure all Southern Baptists that it will be a thorough and honest study of Freemasonry.' — Lewis

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

Start with a Smile

Two men were looking at a jet. "How'd you like to be up there?" one asked. "No, thank you," the other replied. "What're you afraid of? The Bible says, I'm with you always." "No, it doesn't. It says, 'Lo, I'm with you always.'"

Take this truth with you

God will be with you today, but you must use your good judgment about where you go and what you do. We are not to expose ourselves unnecessarily to danger. If we are doing God's will, however, we can count on his protection. When we become self-centered, we will soon find ourselves on our own!

Memorize this Scripture

"The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." (Deuteronomy 33: 27)

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to be concerned not about my personal safety but rather with being where God wants me to be and doing what he wants me to do. Remind me constantly today that life is either a doing adventure of creative activity or it is nothing. □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership — September



9 — Missionary Betty Hart, church programs promoter celebrates her birthday today.

10 — Monica Rubio in La Serena, who has recently made a profession of faith, but is facing chemotherapy treatment following an operation for cancer. Pray for total physical healing as well as spiritual vitality, commitment, and growth. Pray also that her husband, Tito, will make a profession of faith.

11 — Susan Andrews a home evangelist missionary who is having a birthday today.

12 — Pray for (MK) Bobby Carter, now living in Santiago and teaching physical education in elementary school. His wife is a new believer and they are seeking God's will on locating a church home.

13 — A Tennessee Baptist construction crew is needed to assist in the building of a new place of worship in Puerto Montt.

14 — Missionary evangelist Francis Smith celebrates a birthday today.

15 — Retired missionary Bill Carter celebrates a birthday in Kingsport.

16 — Fabian, a young boy in Santiago. His mother and grandparents are not in a position to take care of him. He began attending missionary Lori Spike's Sunday School class after VBS and has not missed a Sunday.

Special teacher

Rose Dupree believed in rescuing souls.

Whether they were teenagers in her high school Bible class or wastrels forgotten by the world, she believed in snatching the perishing from sin and despair.

But she did it by investing her life in theirs. And she did it with God's grace and a smile that was real. She truly had a laughing heart, caring, and earnest.

To prepare me for the loss of my mother when I was a young teen, God placed Rose Dupree in the local high school years before I would need her. No doubt, he had others in mind also.

She was strong in body, mind, and soul. Take the day Richard and Bobby carried their schoolyard disagreement into the building. She stepped in to separate them when the school bell rang, and when Richard took a roundhouse swing, she ducked and his fist plowed into the sturdy wall.

The result for Richard was a broken hand — and a smiling



ALLEN

reminder from Rose about waging peace and not war. Oh, she hugged him — and told Bobby how close he came to having a broken hand also as she shooed him out for a visit to the principal's office.

Another time she was helping the drama group prepare for a special Thanksgiving Day play — using modern settings to teach the theme. It was in rehearsal that an irresistible moment came.

As she stepped back to take a seat, I adroitly removed the chair.

Rose slid to the floor with a bump — and came up laughing.

Maybe it was because of such pranks that she devised commensurate treatment for some of us. Somehow she led us to agree to go with her to the county jail and for some witnessing.

Of course we thought, we four "innocent" boys, that she would lead the way and we would just stand by and support her with casual nods.

Not so. A few days later, she loaded us up in her 1950 DeSoto and drove to the jailhouse. We stopped. She told us again what to say and do, and pushed us out the door. No, she wasn't going in, she said, women were not permitted by the sheriff.

But, she said, "While you are in there, be strong — and I will pray for you." We survived and so did the inmates. She was still praying when we came out.

It helped then — and now — that Rose Dupree had taught us Philippians 4:13, I Corinthians 10:13, Romans 12:1-2, and Isaiah 6:1-4. She built John 3:16 into our being, that saint did. □

Tennessee pastor among appointees

A Tennessee Baptist pastor and his wife were among 32 people appointed as missionaries Aug. 18 by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

David and Pamela Emmert will live in Ethiopia, where he will work as coordinator of the Bible school in Addis Ababa. They also will be involved in outreach ministries.



EMMERTS

Emmert has served as pastor of First Church, Lobelville, since 1990. A native of Chattanooga, he was reared in Waverly and considers First Church there his home church.

He holds degrees from Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky., and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Emmert is the former Pamela Schumeth of Dayton, Ohio. The Emmerts have one

child, Jessica Annabelle, born this year.

They will go to Rockvale, Va., in October for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

Another couple appointed by the FMB are Tennessee natives. Anthony and Janet Tench, both of Bristol, will live in Malawi, where he will start and develop churches.

Both consider Bristol, Va., their

hometown. They are graduates of Milligan College, near Johnson City. Mrs. Tench, the former Janet Ball, considers Central Church, Johnson City, as influential in her Christian growth.

Two Carson-Newman College graduates also were appointed — Keith Reynolds Jr. of Hazard, Ky., who will serve in Honduras, and Julie Hicks Johnson of Florence, S.C., who will serve in Taiwan. □



FAYETTE ASSOCIATION members recently honored retiring Director of Missions B. F. McIlwain and his wife for 45 years of Gospel ministry. He served Fayette Association as director of missions for ten years. A reception was held for the couple. Claude Hammers, left, moderator of the association and pastor of Liberty Church, Somerville, presented McIlwain with a check and a plaque.

Tennesseans tapped by CSI

RICHMOND — Frederick and Sandra Shultz have been named representatives of Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization.

The Shultzes will work in the Middle East and north Africa, where they will use their skills in development of CSI-related projects in developing nations.

The Shultzes are natives of Ohio but both consider Knoxville their hometown and Beaver Dam their home church.

The Shultzes have two grown children.

Another couple with Tennessee ties also were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board as CSI representatives.

Stephen and Pamela DeVoss will serve in east Asia. DeVoss is a former minister of youth and activities at Brentwood Church, Brentwood. □

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1992
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Sept. 14-15	First Baptist Church, Memphis	Southwest Tennessee
Sept. 21-22	Red Bank Baptist Church Chattanooga	Southeast Tennessee
Sept. 21-22	Colonial Heights Baptist Church Kingsport	Northeast Tennessee
Sept. 28-29	Central Baptist Church of Bearden Knoxville	East Tennessee
Oct. 5-6	First Baptist Church Hendersonville	Middle Tennessee (North)
Oct. 5-6	First Baptist Church Columbia	Middle Tennessee (South)

Time: Monday Night — 6:45-9:00 p.m.
Tuesday — 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Those Who Should Attend:
Directors of Missions, Associational Directors of Education, Pastors, Ministers of Education, all Staff Members, Sunday School Directors, Outreach-Evangelism Directors, General Officers, Division Directors, Department Officers, Teachers of All Age Groups, Adult Class Officers, Teachers of Deaf, Teachers of Mentally Handicapped and Music Leadership.

Special Interest Conferences Will Include:

1. Great Commission BREAKTHROUGH
2. Developing An Evangelistic Sunday School
3. Marketing Your Church
4. Trends In The 1990s
5. Sunday School and Baby Boomers
6. Bold Mission Thrust Prayer Ministry
7. Ethnic Ministries
8. Growing A Musical Church
9. Student Reach Conference
10. Deaf Ministries
11. Workers With The Mentally Handicapped
12. Increase Your Sunday School Enrollment — "Let's Talk About It"
13. Bivocational Pastors

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□ God's judgment against his people — Bible Book Series for September 13

By Leonard Markham, pastor, Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville

There is no higher calling than to be a preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In some circles preachers and preaching have been termed irrelevant, weak, and idealistic. Yet, in spite of all the critics, I stand with the apostle Paul when he said, "For consider your call, brethren; not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth; but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God." (I Corinthians 1:26-29).

Someone said, "God only had

one Son and He was a preacher." God has always used preachers to deliver His message. Micah was a country preacher from Mo'resheth and a contemporary of Isaiah. Micah, like all "ministers was a physical representation of the whole community of faith, of the tradition, of a way of viewing the meaning of life, of the dynamic power of faith, and of God Himself."

Micah's message was one of judgment against the people. Particularly, he was suspicious of the big cities and their corruption. Micah said, "If you want to know what's wrong with the country, look at the big cities," (ch. 1:3-5). Micah blamed the problems on cities like Samaria and Jerusalem.

Even today in America it seems the problem of our big cities are never ending — drug abuse, homelessness, immorality, poverty, hunger, and rioting. Many of us who live in comfortable suburbs are content to be away from the pain and death of the cities and mistakenly believe problems of the cities are not our problems.

Basic Passage: Micah 1:1-3:12

Leo Aikman, who wrote years ago in the *Atlanta Constitution*, reminds us of our common involvement in what goes on in our communities. He wrote, "People who refuse to get involved in the problems of their community are like two shipwrecked men in a lifeboat. From their end of the

boat, the pair watched as those at the other end bailed frantically to keep the lifeboat afloat. One said to the other, thank heaven, the hole is not in our end of the boat."

Micah's message also pointed out that many of the problems of society could be traced to the love of money (ch. 3:9-11). Micah was saying, "Everyone is money mad." The prophet of God takes the side of the poor because they have no one to speak for them. The issue of money is still an important concern for Christians. Jesus told us, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where

neither moth nor rust consume and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also," (Matthew 6:19-21).

As we know, the problem, in Micah's day or today, is not money. Money is neither good nor evil. A \$20 bill can be used to buy food to send to the victims of Hurricane Andrew or it can be used to place a bet in a horse race. It is the same \$20 bill. The only difference is how it is used.

Preachers of the Gospel today, like the prophets of old, need to preach the judgment of God to this materialistic society. How will the wicked man turn from his wickedness unless warned by God's messengers? □

□ Receiving God's call — Convention Uniform Series for September 13

By Gary Coltharp, pastor, First Church, Jackson

The account of the life and work of Moses is one of the Bible's most detailed personal stories. It presents Moses as one upon whom God's hand was resting from the moment he was born. The Hebrew people were suffering under the heavy hand of Pharaoh in Egypt, and at the time Moses was born an official order demanding the slaughter of all male Hebrew infants was in effect. Moses should not have lived. But, guided by the hand of God, his mother and sister devised a clever plan to save his life.

God guided the daughter of Pharaoh into position to become the agent of Moses' rescue and he was adopted by her to enjoy life as a prince in Egypt. No doubt Moses was afforded the best education available in his time. Not only that, but living among nobility Moses was exposed to leadership qualities which would later serve God's purpose as Moses became leader of the Hebrew people in the exodus.

Through all the experiences of his life Moses was being prepared and equipped for the special calling that would come from the Lord.

Three defining moments (ch. 2:11-12, 15-22; ch. 3:1-6)

In the course of our lives there are only a few moments in which our destinies are determined. So it was with Moses. Three defining moments are recorded in the passages listed above.

First, after Moses was grown he happened upon the scene of an Egyptian brutalizing a Hebrew (ch. 2:11-12). Suddenly there surged within Moses an identification with the Hebrew victim and in outrage Moses intervened to kill the Egyptian. When this became known to Pharaoh, instantly Moses became identified with his people, the Hebrews. Did Moses really just "happen" upon this scene? Or was he being guided by an unseen hand?

The second defining moment came for Moses as he fled from

the pharaoh into the land of Midian (ch. 2:15-22). There he "happened" upon a priest-herdsman named Reuel or Jethro. Eventually Moses was given one of Jethro's daughters, Zipporah, as his wife. He was also given work shepherding his father-in-law's flock (ch. 3:1). Thus he became well acquainted with the wilderness of Horeb (Sinai). Coincidence or divine guidance?

Basic Passage: Exodus 3:1-4:17

The third and most important defining moment came for Moses as he was performing his shepherding duties near Mount Horeb (ch. 3:1-6). It was here at the "mountain of God" that "an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush" (v. 2) and the voice of God spoke to him (v. 4). That sovereign voice calling Moses by name warned him not to come near, but to remove his shoes as a sign of reverence. Then the

divine self-disclosure continued as the Holy One said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Moses melted in awe before the Lord and hid his face. Surely his life, like ours, appeared as utterly broken and unworthy before Holy God.

God's call clarified (ch. 3:7-10)

God had a special purpose for Moses. The Lord had taken notice of His covenant people's plight and had a plan for them and their deliverance (see ch. 2:23-25). Verses 7 and 8 reveal a God involved with His people. Notice the verbs "have seen," "have heard," "know," "have come down." God's will was expressed to Moses. God's people were to be delivered from bondage and given a homeland. God's human agent in accomplishing His will and purpose was to be the one He had been preparing for this crucial task since his personal deliverance from infant execution (ch. 2:3ff).

God's covenant name revealed (ch. 3:11-14)

Moses asked the most logical of questions in response to God's commission. "Who am I . . . Who art Thou?" God responded to the first question with the promise of His Presence, "But I will be with you." In the final analysis, none of us can claim secure identity apart from the Lord. That God would be with Moses was all he really needed.

In response to the second question, "Who art Thou?" God said, "I AM WHO I AM," (v. 14). Later in the same verse Moses is instructed to say to the people of Israel, "I AM has sent me to you." God's covenant name comes from the Hebrew verb *hazah* ("to be") from which we derive *Jehovah* or *Yahweh*. There remains great mystery in that name. Whatever the name means, surely it evokes reverence as it reminds us of divine presence and purpose in our lives. □

□ Prepared to witness — Life and Work Series for September 13

By James Hutson, pastor, First Church, Rockwood

I have been a pastor for 35 years. I have learned one of the most difficult tasks in the local church is a consistent visitation program. You can hear many excuses about why a person can't or won't visit. It seems witnessing would be a natural thing. Most people have communication skills. We talk on the job, at home, with neighbors. Most people can carry on a conversation with a perfect stranger about government, politics, and their favorite athletic team. But when it comes to being witness for our Lord Jesus Christ, we are strangely silent. The devil has done his best work at this point. Yet, in spite of our reluctance and spiritual weakness, Jesus told His followers, "Ye shall by my witness," (Acts 1:8, NASV). This lesson teaches us how to witness.

Witnessing through our lives (vv. 8-12)

These verses speak to the whole Christian community and list the great qualities of the Christian life.

Qualities of the Christian life (vv. 8-9). The first quality is unity (v. 8a). The idea here is likeness of sentiment and disposition rather than opinion. Unity is not the same as union, but unity of heart and mind is essential.

The second quality is sympathy (v. 8b). A Christian must always be willing to identify with the plans and sorrows of others.

The third quality is brotherly love (v. 8c). A Christian is to love his fellow man. "By this shall all men know ye are my disciples if ye have love one for another," (John 13:35).

The fourth quality is compas-

sion (v. 8d). The KJV reads "be pitiful." The NASV reads "kind hearted." This is a sorrow which is coupled with action. Jesus was constantly "moved with compassion" for the least, the last, and the lost.

Basic Passage: 1 Peter 3:8-22

The fifth quality is humility (v. 8e). Humility is the product of realizing our dependence upon God and comparing ourselves with the standard of Christ.

The sixth quality is forgiveness (v. 9). It is God who teaches us to return good for evil. Jesus is our example of unlimited forgiveness.

Illustrations of these qualities (vv. 10-12). Here Simon Peter quotes Psalm 34. These qualities help us live in such a way that those who witness our lifestyle

may "see our good works and give glory to our Heavenly Father," (Matthew 5:16).

Be ready to give an answer for the faith we believe (vv. 13-17)

Let us be enthusiastic for goodness (v. 13), like a patriot is enthusiastic for a cause or a fan for his team. Let us not fear suffering (v. 14). Suffering is a part of our human experience. We suffer because of disease, accidents, and disasters. When we suffer as a Christian, we show our identification and loyalty to Christ.

Let us be ready to speak about the faith we believe (v. 15). There comes a time when lifestyle evangelism must be coupled with verbal evangelism. The two belong together. Lifestyle evangelism needs verbal evangelism to give it meaning. Verbal evangelism without a corresponding

lifestyle is just a commercial. Commercial sell merchandise, but they do not produce disciples. Every believer must think, reason, and be ready to give a verbal witness of his faith. This verbal witness should be reasonable and gentle.

The supreme example (v. 18)

The sacrifice of Jesus was unique — never to be repeated. It was for sin. It was vicarious — "the just for the unjust." It was redemptive — "to bring us back to God."

We witness verbally and by our lifestyle. Being prepared to witness means being ready before the opportunity arrives. Are you prepared to witness? Then live right and "speak the truth in love." □

■ the churches

■ David Allison will lead revival Sept. 13-18 at McMahan Calvary Church, Athens.

■ Homecoming will be Sept. 20 at Lucy Church, Millington. A potluck luncheon will be held after morning worship, followed by fellowship and praise in the afternoon.

■ Colonial Heights Church, Kingsport, will host the Holston Association regional Sunday School conference Sept. 21-22. Neil Jackson, Sunday School Board growth consultant; Bill Wilson, interim executive-director and director of Convention Ministries, Tennessee Baptist Convention; will be speakers.

■ Homecoming will be Sept. 27 at Skyline Heights Church, Johnson City. Elmo and Marcia Mercia will provide special music and former pastor Ron Owens will be guest speaker.

■ The Beulah Association Sunday School Training School will be Sept. 21-22 at First Church, Union City. Mike Ray, Carl Schooling, Linda George, Linda Ray, and Ritchie Hale will be conference leaders.

■ Homecoming will be Sept. 13 at Island Home Church, Knoxville.

■ Members of Lyle Lane Church, Nashville, will celebrate homecoming Sept. 20. Eldridge Miller, pastor of First Church, Sallisaw, Okla., will preach during morning worship, followed by a fellowship meal. Bible study will continue through Sept. 23 with Billie Friel as guest speaker and Don Jacobs leading music.

■ Revival services will be held Sept. 13-18 at Bear Creek Church, Parsons. Terry Worthan, pastor of

Calvary Church, Winston, Ga., will lead the services.

■ A fellowship luncheon and afternoon music with the Faithmen, Unity, and the Lord's Missionaries will be featured at a homecoming celebration Sept. 20 at Luray Church, Luray.

■ Members of Mount Ararat Church, Darden, will celebrate the church's 125th anniversary Sept. 20. Tom Madden will speak in the morning worship service and Paul Wallace will direct music in the afternoon.

■ Homecoming will be Sept. 13 at Pine Grove Church, Wildersville. Luncheon will be served, followed by Gospel singing by the Woods Singers.

■ Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, will host a Discipleship Spectacular Sept. 11-12.

■ Homecoming will be Sept. 13, 10:45 a.m., at Shelby Forest Church, Millington. Luncheon will be served, followed by a music service.

■ Herbert Higdon, Madison-Chester and Crockett associations director of missions, will lead revival Sept. 13-16 at Zion Church, Brownsville. Phillip Willis, full-time music evangelist from Baton Rouge, La., will lead music.

■ The congregation of Calvary Church, Heiskell, will celebrate the church's 50th anniversary Sept. 13. Former pastor Harold Ogle will deliver the morning sermon. A fellowship dinner will be held on the church grounds and a praise and worship service will follow.

■ Oscar Z. Fortuna, pastor of Zion Church, Davao City, Mindanao, Philippines, will lead revival Sept. 13-17, at First

Church, Saint Bethlehem. Tim Wuester will lead music.

■ A new adult class, "Partners in Practical Parenting," will begin Sept. 13 at Calvary Church, Knoxville. The class, meeting each Sunday at 9:30 a.m., will be led by David and Ann Edens and Children's Minister Tom Fethe. The class is designed to provide parents with input on encouraging, teaching, training, and disciplining their children so they will grow as Christians.

In addition, the church recently began a class called "Special Blessings" for people who are learning disabled. It also meets on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

For more information about these classes, call Calvary Church at 523-9419.

■ The congregation of Central Church, Oak Ridge, will celebrate the 50-year anniversary of the church Sept. 13 by beginning a God and Country Crusade led by evangelist Tim Lee, a Vietnam veteran who conducts his ministry from a wheelchair. Music will be led by Mike and Faye Speck.

■ The following churches in Salem Association have scheduled revivals for the upcoming weeks: West Main Church, Alexandria, Sept. 13-18, Philip Lane, evangelist, and Brad Leach, music; Shiloh Church, Woodbury, Sept. 13-18, evangelist Thurman Seber; Dowelltown Church, Dowelltown, Sept. 20-25, evangelist John Davis; Whorton Springs Church, Smithville, Sept. 21-26, evangelist Glen Denton; Auburn Church, Auburntown, Oct. 4-9, evangelist Thurman Seber; Pleasant View Church, Woodbury, Oct. 12-17, evangelist Ric Lee.

■ Homecoming and the first night of revival will be Sept. 20 at Wolf Creek Church, Silver Point. Sam Brooks will be evangelist for revival.

■ Sunday School homecoming and High Attendance Day Sept. 20 will kick off revival at Park Avenue Church, Nashville. Revival services will be led by Jim Summers, pastor of Northwest Church in Miami, who was minister of music at Park Avenue in the 1960s.

Also, the church will host a Bill Gothard Institute in Basic Life Principles Oct. 19-24. Reservations must be made by Sept. 14 by calling 297-5336. The cost is \$35 for one person and \$55 for a couple, or \$45 and \$75 after Sept. 14.

■ the leaders

■ Roger Soloman recently joined the staff of Calvary Church, Lenoir City, as minister of music. He formerly served at Cedar Grove Church, Kingston.



RONALD E. STEWART, right, congratulates his son, Todd, on his ordination into the ministry. Todd serves as minister of youth at Grace Church, Knoxville, where his father is pastor.

■ Members of Mount View Church, Antioch, recently called a new pastor, D. Clark Harrell, a native of Murfreesboro. Harrell is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He has served as pastor of Immanuel Church, Murfreesboro, and chaplain, 1st Lieutenant, United States Air Force Reserve.

Current pastor John Kurtz will deliver his final message during morning worship Sept. 27 on homecoming day, and Harrell will deliver his first message to the congregation as official pastor during an afternoon service.

■ Members of Harsh Chapel Church, Nashville, recently welcomed new pastor Danny Reed.

■ Joe Williams is the new minister of education at Lakeview Church, Selmer.

■ Poplar Grove Church, Memphis, recently ordained Associate Pastor Jerry Bradley to the Gospel ministry.

■ Al South has resigned as pastor of Sulphur Springs Church, Jonesborough, to accept the call of New Canaan Church, Somerville, Ala.

■ Bethel Church, Johnson City, called Virgil Bennett as bivocational pastor.

■ the associations

■ Cumberland Plateau Association will hold a World Missions Conference Sept. 13-16. Fifteen churches will participate in the conference. The event will be launched with a missions fair, banquet, and rally Sept. 12 at Memorial Church, Crossville.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Most of these brief articles come from columns usually written by pastors and other church staff members. They have a variety of views. The Baptist and Reflector does not necessarily concur with the views expressed. The articles are gleaned from church and associational newsletters. — Editor

Seeing people

Bill Smith, DOM, Western District Association, Paris

The story is told of a man watching an artist painting a tree trunk. Looking from the tree trunk to the painting and back again, the man finally exclaimed in disgust: "What do you mean by putting all those colors into your painting of that tree? I don't see anything but a drab old dead tree trunk standing there."

"You don't?" replied the artist, indifferently, going on with his work. "But don't you wish you could see the colors in it that I see?"

As I thought about that story, I remember the people around us whom we see every day, but don't really see them in their true beauty. We see them in their surroundings or circumstances, and we say as the one looking at the painting, "These people are just drab; really not useful in the sense of adding anything to our world."

We have a challenge to really see people out of eyes that have been touched by the Master, Jesus. It will challenge us to take the point of the Word of God and begin to softly stroke the lives of people until the beauty that only God can raise becomes evident. It will challenge us to say with the song writer of old, "Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth Thou has for me."

I hope we will see to cultivate a penetrating eyesight to see people, all people, as worthy to receive the precious Word of God and that our seeing will so penetrate our hearts that we will become people like the prophet Jeremiah, with fire in our bones. Remember beauty exists everywhere and in every life for those who have eyes to see. □

The main thing

By Rick White, pastor First Church, Franklin

Years ago a friend of mine placed a plaque on the wall of his office that read, "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing." This was to be a daily reminder to him to stay focused on his mission and purpose.

Ask almost any evangelical church member in today's world about the priority of church and most likely they will respond — the priority is winning the lost to Christ. Sounds good. But if we really believe that, then why are we not reaching more people with the Gospel?

A wise counselor friend recently helped me put the question to a new and proper perspective. We do ministry in today's world based on our core values and beliefs. That which we really believe and embrace down deep is lived out through our Christian service. We may say that we believe the priority of church should be bringing

lost men and women to Christ, but we will do it only if it represents the core value of our belief system.

The temptation of church life is to always design a new approach or program without first addressing the real issue — core value. That kind of program is doomed for failure because there is no real mission serving as the catalyst for motivation and service.

If we want to keep the main thing the main thing, then we will have to begin with a basic core value statement. Lost people really are important to God. Until that becomes a part of the fiber of our very being, chances are we will never be able to keep the main thing the main thing. If we can settle the issue and stay focused, then we will create a foundation on which we can build a strategy for bringing friends to Christ.

With the core value in focus we can now seek to build a relationship to a lost person. Why? Because they are important to God. The most effective evangelism done in today's world is not

done when we hold revivals, rallies, or special services. It is done when we communicate the Gospel on a personal basis to people we care about in the part of society where we network daily.

As we begin to think about a new beginning in church life this fall, join with me in thinking about our core values. If we really do believe that lost men and women are important to God, let's design our ministry and live our lives in order to impact them and make the difference. What would happen if every family begins to live with a genuine sense of burden and concern for one other lost family?

Take a year, build a relationship to someone who is lost. Pray for them on a regular systematic basis. At some point in the future, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, seek to share a verbal witness of your faith with them.

Jesus said, "I have come to seek and to save that which was lost." So should we. □