

■ this week's news

global:

■ Peace is declared by leaders of European Baptist Federation and Foreign Mission Board after disagreements over Ruschlikon Seminary in Switzerland. — See page 2

■ A local 'Dream Team,' so named by Chilean Baptists, uses 'full-court' strategy in Chile. — See page 7

national:

■ SBC Education Commission and state Education Committee launch pilot project on state Baptist schools. — See page 5

■ Singles at conference give \$30,600 for victims of Hurricane Andrew. — See page 5

state:

■ Executive Board thanks Lowries for 'impacting Tennessee' at farewell banquet. — See page 6.

■ Churches in McDonald and Tellico Plains note sesqui-centennial anniversaries. — See page 6-7

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

Lowrie offers TBC concerns, counsel

In its Sept. 4 meeting, the Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, elected James Porch of Tullahoma as its executive director and D. L. Lowrie gave his last report to the group prior to going to Lubbock, Texas, to become pastor of First Church.

Reports of major actions of that session were given in the Sept. 9 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, but because of a close press deadline readers were promised additional information in this week's issue.

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In other actions, the Executive Board approved the 1992-93 budget of \$27,159,322. The budget, which must be approved by messengers at the state convention in Gatlinburg in November, is a reduction of \$1.1 million.

In presenting the budget, Bobby Turner of Knoxville, noted budget cuts and asked for an affirmative vote on a "reasonable budget." She got that approval

after some discussion. "It is a sound, attainable, realistic budget," she said.

Bill Palmer, president of Harrison-Chilhowee Academy, distributed a letter from Jane Ellison, chairman of the HCA board, which asked that the budget decrease be kept at the same percentage as for the college. David George, chairman of the Education Committee, said there had been a thorough study and that the situation at the academy "cannot continue." He said that now is the time to "force a decision" on the convention's financial commitment.

The allocation was reduced in the new budget by \$112,460 to \$279,527. In addition to reductions in the colleges' budgets as noted in last week's issue, CP allocations to Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes and Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, among others were also trimmed.

The complete budget to be recommended will be published in the paper prior to the convention.

In his report, Lowrie spoke early in the meeting.

He said his remarks would be addressed to the "larger body, all Tennessee Baptists," not just the board members. "Let me share some concerns and some counsel," he said.

"I am concerned that in our denomination at this time some want us to make a choice between missions and evangelism/church growth." He illustrated with an event in another state. A strong church with strong overall missions program called a strong young pastor with growth and evangelism at the top of his agenda.

At first all was well, but it soon became obvious, Lowrie said, that missions was not high priority with the pastor; he seemed to grow suspicious of what the missions organizations were doing.

He began to get resistance from the leaders. Before long, Lowrie said, the church had to make a decision, apparently about the pastor. But it was in reality a decision between missions and evangelism. "A church should never have to make such a decision," Lowrie said. "Neither is an option. You cannot have a great missions church without giving of yourself.

"It seems to me that denominationally some want to force us to make that kind of decision," he said. "I caution you not to do that. These are different arms of the same body. Don't let anybody force you to make that kind of decision.

"Our convention has always been strong in missions and evangelism. They go together, they are not enemies. You can't do New Testament evangelism without missions, you can't do missions without evangelism." — Lowrie offers, page 2

Tennesseans continue disaster relief work

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — "The immediate, emergency, temporary needs have pretty well been met," said Cameron Byler, on a three-day hiatus in Nashville from directing Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief in south Florida. Tennessee Baptists have served since Aug. 29 following the strike of Hurricane Andrew.

Plans are for the disaster relief unit from Tennessee and volunteers to close down feeding operations Sept. 28, announced Byler, Tennessee Baptist Convention Brotherhood Department director. Volunteers are still needed to serve until then. About 4736 meals were served on Sept. 13 by the volunteers, now working in one location — Glendale Church in South Miami.

Of those meals, about 2600 were distributed by Red Cross trucks and 2300 were given out to individuals, explained Byler, denoting the continued need of residents.

Supplies of requested food, baby items, and building materials, like that sent by First Church, Tullahoma, noted Byler, are often received directly by their fellow Baptists because Baptists are working within the emergency network. Those who are not may learn their work was later destroyed when houses are condemned and torn down or work didn't meet with "strict" building codes, added Byler.

Plans are now being laid to

meet those codes at Glendale Church by working with a Florida contractor who is a member of the church, Byler noted. He hopes rebuilding the church will be a Tennessee project.

The church's sanctuary was destroyed. "We needed a bigger one, but we didn't want to get it that way," said Pastor Joe Coats.

Coats has been leading his congregation to minister to the black community by distributing items passed on by the Tennessee unit,

said Byler.

Needs are for volunteers and money, which will be sent to the Florida Baptist Convention after extra expenses incurred by the Tennessee unit are covered, said Byler.

About 200 Tennesseans have worked, serving meals and doing construction work, said Byler. They have distributed almost 119,000 meals — about 90,000 from the main unit near Glendale Church and 29,000 from the

Hardeman County Association disaster relief unit based at First Church, Florida City.

Charles Pratt, director of missions, Haywood Association, reported he worked with about 300 Baptist volunteers from different states who made up most of the volunteers in Florida City.

Ninety percent of the homes were destroyed in Florida City, which is a poor community, he described. One business had — Tennesseans, page 2



TENNESSEE DISASTER RELIEF workers prepare to serve lunch to victims of Hurricane Andrew at the site of the Tennessee Baptist Convention relief unit near Glendale Church in south Miami. Tennessee volunteers have served there since Aug. 29.

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Europeans, FMB leaders pledge cooperation

By Mike Creswell
For Baptist Press

HAMBURG, Germany — European Baptists and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board have declared peace.

Leaders from both sides signed a ten-point pact, during a Sept. 11-12 meeting, which pledged future cooperation, partnership, and joint ministry throughout Europe. The signers, who met at a hotel outside Hamburg, Germany were seven European Baptist Federation leaders and six Foreign Mission Board representatives, including three board trustees.

The "Hamburg Agreement" is intended to end the breaking of fellowship that resulted from the Foreign Mission Board's defunding of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, last year.

As the leaders reviewed events leading up to the defunding, "both parties increasingly recognized the extent of the damage caused by the decision, but they experienced by the grace of God

forgiveness in Christ and reconciliation," the agreement stated.

European Baptists indicated their intention to work both with the Foreign Mission Board and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the organization of Southern Baptist "moderates," which now has at least eight missionaries, all former Foreign Mission Board missionaries, assigned to Europe.

FMB leaders reconfirmed an earlier trustee vote to the effect that the EBF's partnership with the CBF "would not adversely affect relationships with EBF." The Europeans said they would discourage competition in developing relationships with both bodies.

Both sides that "wherever possible" requests for career personnel and projects involving volunteer personnel in Europe should be arranged in consultation with Southern Baptist missionaries and European Baptist unions and/or the European Baptist Federation.

The session marked the first time since the Ruschlikon defunding that both sides have sat down together to discuss future work.

The European Baptists wanted to wait until the Foreign Mission Board had elected a new regional vice president to take part in discussions. FMB trustees hurried the election of Samuel M. James as vice president for Europe, Middle East, and North Africa so the discussions could take place sooner, said John Jackson, FMB trustee chairman.

EBF leaders "heartily endorsed" the election of James, the agreement stated, recognizing in him "the kind of attitude to mission and Christian spirit which should lead to cooperation."

James, a 30-year veteran of Southern Baptist foreign missions, replaced Isam Ballenger, who took early retirement earlier this year. A search is on for an area director for Europe to replace Keith Parker, who also took early retirement.

James attended the Hamburg meeting with Don Kammerdiener, FMB executive vice president, and Hal Lee, associate to the area director for Europe. Kammerdiener will become interim president on Nov. 1, following the

retirement of President R. Keith Parks on Oct. 31.

FMB trustees Jackson, Skip Smith, and Bill Blanchard again told the European Baptists that the trustees have no "global agenda" to impose "fundamentalist" standards on Europe — an allegation made by Ballenger and Parker when they announced their retirements in a controversial press conference.

The agreement will be considered by FMB trustees at their Oct. 12-14 meeting and by the European Baptist Federation's executive council at its Sept. 28-Oct. 1 meeting.

A high point in the Hamburg session came on the morning of Sept. 12, when Jackson and Smith again apologized to the Europeans for how the Ruschlikon defunding was handled. The European leaders then expressed forgiveness. Trustees had spoken separately about this with European Baptist leaders earlier this year and expressed regret. But both sides agreed at Hamburg the time was right for a more complete reconciliation. □

Lowrie offers TBC concerns, counsel

— Continued from page 1

Of a second concern, he said, "I know I'm, like a voice shouting in the wind on this one. But I am concerned with how we will do our work. Will we follow a political methodology or the principles of the Kingdom of God?"

"Those two are not the same. The principles of the political methodology are of this world. The principles of the Kingdom of God are of the world to come and we have the privilege of living by them in time. I am not naive enough to believe that political maneuvering has just started in recent years.

"It has been around since the Garden of Eden in some form, but in my opinion, following political procedures and principles is a threat to the Kingdom life of any Baptist body."

Lowrie said, "The political principles are man-centered, while God's Kingdom principles are God-centered. Political principles have me seeking a place for myself. Kingdom principles have me seeking a place for my Lord and my brother. One has me seeking to become a lord, the other has me seeking to become a servant.

"Building with things that last comes with Kingdom principles; political structures build things that burn in the fire," he said.

He offered two "words of counsel."

He said, "There needs to be a recovery of the art and practice of forgiveness. Without forgiveness there is no way to work in the Kingdom."

Since we are sinners, sometimes we will disappoint each other, Lowrie told the group. "But to relate to each other, we must be assured that when we fail each

other, there is forgiveness. That's not optional.

"That's freedom," he said, "and all that's required of me is that I am real, committed to Christian forgiveness. Much could be solved in Baptist life if a good case of forgiveness were to break out, and we buried some things and left them at the Cross."

Lowrie said Tennessee Baptists must seek a shared vision in order

to work together. Shared vision must come from all of us. "We need to go back to our basic document, the New Testament," he said.

Why did New Testament churches in Tennessee put together a Tennessee Baptist Convention?, Lowrie asked. "What is that vision we seek together? We must have a passion for working together. We must be a people

with a prayerful and sensitive spirit.

"With the New Testament in our hands, an awareness of what's around us, an openness to each other, we can discover such a vision as God directs to us. But without it, we're destined for mediocrity — or at the worst, extinction. You can't live long without the vision. I challenge you to find it." □

Tennesseans continue aid

— Continued from page 1
reopened by the time he left Sept. 5, he added.

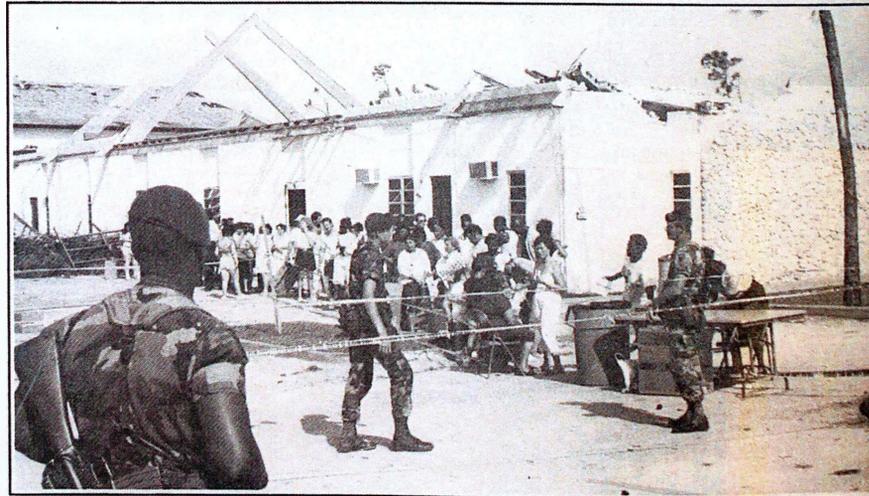
Pratt was proud to report repairs to First Church, Florida City, had reached the tar paper stage. He asked for prayer for David Cobb, pastor, and his wife,

who worked in the school sponsored by the church.

Byler explained long-range future plans. "Now we're moving into the intermediate long-range recovery stage," he stated. During this stage, which may begin as soon as the middle of October and last from three to six months,

building teams and materials will be needed, he reported. He projects opportunities will exist for three years.

Those wishing to volunteer should contact the TBC Brotherhood Department at (615) 371-2025. □



FEDERAL TROOPS stand guard at Glendale Church in Miami, where hurricane victims lined up to receive food, clothes, and other assistance from Baptist volunteers. The church's sanctuary, in the background, was destroyed.

17 SSB employees named to management roles

By Linda Lawson
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Seventeen employees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board have been named to management positions in the office of church growth and programs, according to Gene Mims, vice president.

Church growth and programs, the largest of four areas of the board created in a recent restructuring, houses units which produce literature and other products and services for Southern Baptist churches.

Mims is responsible for the work of four divisions — church growth and Sunday School directed by Harry Piland, discipleship and family development directed by Roy Edgemon, church program support directed by Roland Maddox, and worship and music, which presently has no director.

In the worship and music division, which includes the Genevox Music Group and the church music ministries department, Mims said a nationwide search is under way for a division director. He said persons currently employed by the board also will be considered.

"We are looking for an outstanding individual who has

church and denominational knowledge, a ministry and business background, and one who will inspire our present music staff to do its greatest work," Mims said. "This person must be recognized by Southern Baptists as a music leader and must be accepted by employees within the Sunday School Board as the kind of leader who can take worship and music into the next level for the 21st century."

Within the worship and music division, Mims named Mark Blankenship to become full-time director of the Genevox Music Group, the board's trade publishing unit. Blankenship, 49, has been interim director since September 1991 while continuing to hold a management position in the church music department.

Wesley Forbis, director of the church music department, will continue in that role, though the name will change to church music ministries department.

In the church growth and Sunday School division, which includes the former Sunday School division and church administration department, Mims announced four management appointments:

- Billie Pate, associate division director, will continue in that role.
- Joe Stacker, director of the

church administration department, will direct the church growth leadership department.

■ Louis Hanks, manager of the youth curriculum section, will become director of the youth-adult department, replacing Max Caldwell, who is retiring.

■ Cos Davis, manager of the preschool program section, will direct the preschool-children department, replacing Muriel Blackwell, who is retiring.

Mims named an associate director, two department directors, and three section managers for the discipleship and family development division, which includes the former discipleship training, family ministry and student ministry departments, and the section responsible for Centrifuge and Crosspoint camps in the church recreation department.

In the church program support division, Mancel Ezell, director of the church media library department, will direct the newly created church program services department. Allen Adcox, senior manager of the inventory management/distribution system section, will direct the new business support services department. A director for the marketing services department will be named at a later time.

The current managers of the black church development, language church development/new work, and Hispanic development sections — Elgia Wells, Peter Kung, and Tito Fafasuli — will continue in their posts and report to Mims.

Mims said he expects to announce the structure below departments and personnel for most of the remaining management positions by the end of September.

"We're working as fast as we can to fill these positions with the best qualified people," Mims said. □

Porch has Baptist roots

James M. Porch, who was elected executive director of the TBC Executive Board Sept. 11, is a native of Pelahatchie, Miss. He has been pastor of First Church, Tullahoma, since 1977. He takes office Nov. 1.

Married to the former Martha Lynn Sullivan of Nashville, he is 51.

Porch made a profession of faith at Pelahatchie Church in 1952. He was ordained there in 1960.

He is a graduate of Mississippi College and earned M.Div. and Th.D. degrees at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

His pastorates include Concord Church, Yazoo County, Miss.; Friendship Church, New Orleans; Calvary Church, Bogie Chitto, Miss.; Northside Church, Clinton, Miss.; and First Church, Tullahoma.

He also has worked as instructor in church history at Mississippi Baptist Seminary for seven years, and was adjunct professor of Old Testament and Church History at Motlow State Community College, Tullahoma.

Porch has led several conferences at Glorieta and Ridgecrest Conference centers. He has served in associations each place he has held pastorates, and was moderator of Duck River Association 1977-80. He currently serves on a committee in the same association.

He has served as vice president and president of the TBC Executive Board. He has been on

several TBC committees and preached the convention sermon in 1987. Porch was chairman of the education committee of the Executive Board 1990-91.

He was chairman of the Program, Personnel, and Planning Task Force, TBC, which was appointed in 1985 and worked for four years. That committee studied and implemented reorganization of the board and led in construction of a new conference center to compliment the Executive Board Building in Brentwood.

He has been involved in TBC partnerships with Venezuela and Michigan where his church at Tullahoma has built a dozen churches over the past decade.

Porch has written extensively and has had two books published by Broadman, in addition to many articles, devotionals, and Sunday School lessons.

His wife, Lynn Porch, is the daughter of the James L. Sullivans of Nashville, and is a graduate of Mississippi College with a masters degree in education. She is currently chairman of the mathematics department at Tullahoma High School where she has taught for several years. Her father is retired president of the Sunday School Board in Nashville.

The Porchs have two children. Scott is a student at Carson-Newman College and Terri Lynn is a student at Tullahoma High School. □

Postmark housing requests by Oct. 1

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Hotel reservations for the 1993 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting should be mailed Oct. 1, according to convention manager Richard P. Rosenbaum Jr.

The meeting will be June 15-17 in Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center.

"New this year will be an at-

tempt to assist groups of 50 or more who wish to stay in the same hotel," Rosenbaum said.

Requests for group housing forms should be directed to the Housing Information Office, SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce Street, Suite 750, Nashville, Tenn., 37203, telephone (615) 244-2355.

Individual housing request

forms are available from the offices of state Baptist convention executive directors and in the September issue of *The Baptist Program* magazine, Rosenbaum said. Rosenbaum is SBC Executive Committee vice president for business and finance.

The forms provide complete instructions for filing. They also list hotels in the 8000-room Southern Baptist block, their rates, and distances from the convention center.

Requests postmarked Oct. 1 will receive priority. The SBC housing office will begin filling the requests Oct. 15. The housing office will assist in finding rooms for others after requests postmarked Oct. 1 have been filled.

Registrants may not submit more than one request per person. The housing office's computer will cancel all copies of multiple requests by the same individual. In a further attempt to discourage duplicate reservations at multiple hotels, hotels will be requiring advance deposits when confirmations are mailed. Rosenbaum said registrants should not send deposits, however, until notified by their hotels.

The convention's block of 8000 rooms is spread among 39 Houston hotels. The Hyatt Regency will serve as SBC headquarters, with the Westin Galleria Hotel as WMU headquarters.

Disabled persons and others with special needs should contact the SBC Housing Information Office. □

State CP gifts fall

Gifts through the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program during the month of August fell below budget needs, according to Bill Wilson, TBC interim executive director/treasurer.

Wilson reported gifts from Tennessee Baptist churches amounting to \$1,495,042.25, a loss of \$459,948.82 from the same month last year.

August had five Sundays which usually spells an average or below average month in giving. Wilson said that September receipts during the first week of giving indicate a good month for CP giving.

Total CP gifts through the churches thus far this budget year total \$20,235,942.93, which is an increase of \$307,417.62. This is an increase of 1.54 percent. The Tennessee Baptist Convention's budget year begins in November. According to Wilson and D. L. Lowrie, who resigned as executive

director to become pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Texas, September and October need to be banner months to bring the 1992 budget close to budget needs.

Budget needs for ten months amount to \$23,575,800; giving the TBC a \$3.4 million shortfall at the beginning of September. Last November messengers to the state convention in Memphis voted a budget in excess of \$28 million, with a major increase coming from the floor.

At this time in the budget year, giving is 14.17 percent below budget. With designated gifts factored in, Wilson said, the figure is 11.5 percent under budget.

Overall, he said, Tennesseans are giving generously to Cooperative Program needs, and, "We have reason to be optimistic." He asked TBC staff members to continue careful monitoring of spending. □

Action taken on lawsuits

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Five lawsuits seeking \$10 million in damages filed against the Southern Baptist Convention, Tennessee Baptist Convention, and a Chattanooga area association will be dismissed, according to a court order sought by the plaintiff's attorneys.

The civil lawsuits were filed in connection with an earlier conviction for child molestation of a Chattanooga church's minister of music and youth. Donald McCary was convicted and sentenced in April to 72 years in prison.

In targeting the SBC, TBC, and the Hamilton County Baptist Association, the lawsuits alleged "vicarious liability" (legal liability for McCary's actions), "negligent retention and/or supervision" of McCary as an employee of Central Church of Hixson in Chattanooga, and "negligence."

SBC legal counsel, Nashville at-

torney James P. Guenther, told Baptist Press "orders of non-suit" have been submitted by the attorneys for the plaintiffs. Guenther said it probably would be a few more days before the judge actually signs them, which officially removes the SBC, TBC, and the association as defendants.

Guenther had predicted the three entities would be dismissed from the lawsuit because of the particular church polity of the Southern Baptist Convention where each entity is autonomous and independent. The SBC, Guenther explained, does not ordain, certify, or defrock ministers or select, supervise, or discipline them for local churches.

Dismissing the SBC, TBC, and the association from the civil lawsuits still would leave the local church and McCary as defendants in Hamilton County Circuit Court. □

■ 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. □

Cooperation needed

Admittedly, I write out of frustration and fatigue concerning the concept and reality of "control" in Baptist life today. All too often words are spoken and written about people who are considered to either have control or want to gain control of Baptist organizations. Control is becoming prerequisite before worthwhile efforts can be done.

The only control about which we need to be concerned is that Jesus Christ has complete control of each of us. Now, with the matter of authority settled in his Lordship, we can get on with our responsibility of cooperating with each other (Matthew 28:18).

Especially in relation to Tennessee, why should cooperation be preferred over control? Lost people need salvation through our witness. Children and families need care through our ministries. Youth need an education through our institutions. Inactive church members need to be reclaimed through our outreach. Under-motivated church members need to be encouraged to strive toward full potential through our examples of leadership and involvement.

Through the freedom of cooperation, not control, partnerships in missions are formed so that Tennessee Baptists can take the Gospel, as our first priority, across this state, all over Michigan, throughout Chile, and to the entire world (Matthew 28:19-20).

In love and with truth, let's work together.

Ken Altom, pastor
First Church
Cookeville 38501

Camps are great

I have been privileged to be a part of Special Friends camp at Linden for the past few years. These camps at Camp Linden and Camp Carson each year are funded by our State Missions Offerings. I urge every member of every Tennessee Baptist church to support this offering. I am so thankful for the counselors, mostly high school students. They do such a good work with the retarded people. You can be very proud of these young people.

Miracles happen at Special Friends camp.

John Tinsley
4225 Kenosha
Memphis 38118

Shifting funds

Cecil Sherman, coordinator for the "Cooperative" Baptist Fellowship, met in Knoxville on Monday, April 13, 1992, in an apparently secret meeting. Although the Pastors' Conference met that morning, no announcement was made and no invitation issued publicly. Cecil Sherman said that night, "This meeting is designed to give you some knowledge of who we are and what we are up to." I have a tape of the meeting. I will mail your readers a copy upon their request.

The following are quotes from Sherman: "Lots of people look at me and what I think they are saying is, 'I'd like to believe that that organization could amount to something but I don't know whether it can or not. If it could amount to something I might be willing to get knocked around in my church a little bit and move a little money over.'"

"I wish that I did not have to ask you to take money away to give money to us. Consider shifting some of your money from the Regular Plan (97.76 percent goes back to the SBC) to Ventures, or to Vision. This is what we need."

While denying that the CBF is a new denomination, Sherman responded to the question, "What would constitute a new denomination?" Quote: "We get a sizable number of missionaries. We have a separate tract of literature. We regularly convene in a separate meeting from the SBC. If that would happen, that would constitute a new denomination. If you keep on shifting more and more money away from the SBC to what is now called the Fellowship, that would be a new denomination."

Jim Stroud
4917 Western Ave.
Knoxville 37921

Grateful for paper

I am grateful that the *Baptist and Reflector* utilizes all sources of information to help us stay informed. The Sept. 2 issue reported that at a meeting at Bellevue Church in Memphis plans were made to continue the quest for control of state conventions.

State papers have always been at risk when taking the courage to report objectively events in Southern Baptist Convention life. This same issue reports Baptist leaders downplaying the importance of Southern Baptist relationships in order to support election of particular leaders who support a certain agenda.

It is sad that the religious right cannot extend understanding of human values to include prejudice, poverty, public education, poor stewardship of the environment, and a fair economy, as deserving equal attention as pornography and abortion.

SBC resources have been cap-

Message for Tennessee Baptists

During the past 15 years I have been privileged to be involved in the Tennessee Baptist family through a local church — the First Church of Tullahoma. Now I have been given the opportunity to be a servant of all Tennessee Baptists. That is my desired relationship to God's people in the churches across this great state.

We, together under God, need a shared vision. What does God desire for us to accomplish together? Now, with open hearts and receptive minds we must seek the direc-

tion of the Holy Spirit. Prayer, fervent, and continuous intercession, must become our obsession. Through prayer God can reach into our hearts and plant the seeds of His shared vision for us.

Thank you, Tennessee Baptists, for the opportunity to serve you. Thank you for the great outpouring of affirmation through telephone calls, personal letters, and other personal contacts. I ask for your continuous prayers.

Your servant,
Jim Porch
(TBC executive director)

tured. Positions too often have been given as spoils of a war. What happened to the days when the word "pastor" was interpreted as one who is a servant? What happened to the message of "binding up the broken-hearted and setting free the captives?"

Is it too late for Southern Baptists to learn from our mistakes, or must we continue to relive them again?

Caby E. Byrne
1605 Linden Ave.
Memphis 38104

■ Thank you for the compliment. The *Baptist and Reflector* tries to report evenly news that is vital to all Tennessee Baptists, believing that is what they want. — Editor

Litmus testing

T. J. Walsh's letter in the Aug. 26 issue stated that "we must refrain from imposing a political litmus test as a measure of one's faith." Yet we have had a political litmus test in place for centuries. It's called the Bible by which all faith is measured.

This letter also infers that those who didn't like the Clinton/Gore article were trying to limit the flow of information. When in actuality they were concerned that our state paper had made a bad decision in printing this story because Albert Gore is a Southern Baptist, which could be construed as an endorsement. So much for making up our own minds as this letter stated.

After watching the Democratic convention and hearing Bill Clinton and Albert Gore endorse gay rights, abortion on demand, and a litany of other abominations, I question whether these gentlemen are Southern Baptists and could pass the Biblical litmus test.

Had this test been applied 30 years ago, school prayer would not be a campaign issue today. Had it been applied in the early seventies, 4000 babies would not be murdered every day. If candidates would strive to pass this test our nation would not be in such moral decay.

Southern Baptist Convention leaders have stood firm on Biblical principals, morals, values, and ethics for decades. They've not been afraid to stop the distortions of the Gospel by

valueless, liberal wolves in Southern Baptist clothing. Thank God for a political litmus test.

Actually there's only a litmus test based on principal. If you can endorse a party void of principal, forget any political test. You fail anyway.

Darrell W. Lingerfelt
1050 Rosier Rd.
Lawrenceburg 38464

Urgency of voting

For weeks it seems almost every conceivable slant on the political race has been voiced in the *Baptist and Reflector*. Add one more!

We live in the greatest country in the world and have two of the greatest privileges: the freedom to worship as we choose, and the right to vote without fear of reprisal. Unfortunately, far too many Christians in this country do not take advantage of either privilege.

We not only have the freedom to vote, I believe as Christians, we have an obligation to vote.

This may well be one of the most critical elections in history for Christian values. On that basis alone, I call Christians to vote their Christian conscience Nov. 3.

May every Christian look to the Bible for its teachings on the issues of this election, and com-

pare them to the candidates stand on those issues. Let not the media, the pollsters, nor party affiliation determine your decision. Base your decision at the polls, not on personalities or party politics, but on God's Word. Let the Holy Spirit be your guide, as you study the candidates and the issues so vitally important to us all, and you will not err when you vote.

Vote, Christians! You have until Oct. 3 to register. And may he be victorious at the polls! Romans 13:1.

David Newell
10280 Dayton Pike
Soddy-Daisy 37379

Judging actions

I must answer some statements from the Sept. 2 issue. One writer said some Baptists find Christian values better reflected in the Democratic Party. This is their right.

It is not judging a person to judge their actions. We judge actions every time we make a decision, right or wrong. It was said that God gives us the right to make our own decisions, that morality cannot be legislated. God gives a woman the right to shoot her husband, but we have laws against it. Because abortion is legal, it is not necessarily right. God is not bound by a Supreme Court decision.

One writer said apparently Mr. Bush and Mr. Quayle agree with pro-choice. It is not apparent to me. They were asked a "loaded" question by "ultra-liberal" news media. They only said they would stand by their child. Any father deserving the title would do the same.

Clinton and Gore did not invite everyone under their tent. According to reports, Clinton told delegates from Minnesota, who were pro-life, that they did not belong in the Democratic Party, that they should go to the Republicans. You probably did not see this on TV. You may not have seen their signs, but pro-choice Republicans were shown on every shot.

Henry G. Harris
379 Oakland Rd.
Clarksville 37040

TBC president supports Porch

As president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and advisor to the Search Committee for Executive Director, I want to express my support for Dr. Jim Porch, our new executive director/treasurer. I believe sincerely that Jim can work with all Tennessee Baptists.

(1) I support Jim Porch because morally and spiritually he is above reproach.

(2) I support him because theologically he holds to the Baptist Faith and Message.

(3) I support him because he has served faithfully as a pastor in Tennessee for 15 years.

(4) I support him because his church, First Church of Tullahoma, gives 17.75 percent to

the Cooperative Program.

(5) I support him because he has led his church to build 12 other churches through our Michigan partnership.

(6) I support him because educationally he has an earned Ph.D. from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

(7) I support Jim Porch because the Spirit of God believes that he has the vision and leadership to do the job. I like Jim Porch personally, and will help him every way I can.

I appeal to all Tennessee Baptists to rally around Jim Porch for our great mission together.

Ron Phillips, pastor
Central Church Hixson,
Chattanooga

Pressing upward toward the goal — Part 2

The Apostle Paul is dealing with the basis for godly living in Philippians, chapter 3. He gives some warnings and talks about commitment. He writes about being in right standing with God, and his longing to know Christ in the power of his resurrection.

Then he says, "It is not a fact that I have already secured it or reached perfection, but I am pressing on to see if I can capture it, the idea for which I was captured by Christ Jesus. Brothers, I do not think that I have captured it yet, but here is my one aspiration. So forgetting what is behind me and reaching out for what is ahead of me, I am pressing onward toward the goal, to win the prize to which God through Jesus Christ is calling us upward."

What is God saying to us through Paul's vivid words? What could Tennessee Baptists find here that would substantiate our faith, give us a fresh start?

In last week's issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, editorially we used other words of Paul about Christ's plan for Christians. That is for us to realize we are "individually members one of another," which is a kind of spiritual "rubbing together"

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

As an example of this in the editorial, Part One, we discussed how well Tennessee Baptists have come together in finding ways to help Florida and Louisiana. We are good at volunteering in such emergencies, and even mesh easily with those from other places in working together for a common goal.

It doesn't always work that well at home. We seem to know each other too well. Last week as the Executive Board acted on plans, budgets, reports, and recommendations, we demonstrated that sometimes we apparently don't want to "rub together" and don't intend to do so.

Those who have helped so eagerly in hurricane disaster relief have given all of us an excellent example of ministering without

counting the cost. We need to nurture that kind of *koinonia* here in Tennessee.

We need each other. The oldtime revival song, "Give Me That Old Time Religion," reminds us that it was good for Paul and Silas, and therefore "it's good enough for me." Is the cooperative spirit "good enough" for Tennessee Baptists? Or do we want to pay a bitter price for not being willing to "forget what is behind me and reach out for what is ahead of me?"

Can we press on toward the goal, the prize to which God has called us upward, through Christ? In one of his last messages to the Executive Board, outgoing executive director D. L. Lowrie said the foundation is laid and the future holds the best days for Tennessee Baptists.

Various opinions were stated, and views and feelings were expressed during the nominating process when James Porch was presented to the board as nominee for executive director. The discussion was not always calm. Disparate feelings remain strong.

Yes, the vote for Porch was close. Even the Executive Committee, which approved the Search Committee's recommendation, was not unanimous. But his nomination cleared three groups.

Porch, in telling of his personal spiritual pilgrimage left no doubts about his salvation, his commitment to serving Christ, or his devotion to ministry, evangelism, and missions. He has never supported any Baptist group other than his church, his association, his state convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

But, as with all of us, there is the perception of "baggage." That term means that there is something disagreeable in one's past. Any nominee would bring baggage. And some didn't approve of the Search Committee makeup.

Leading the Program, Personnel, and Planning Task Force in reorganizing the Executive Board staff and constructing the new building

in Brentwood apparently left Porch with baggage that is hard for some to forget or forgive. The debt on the new building, which caused strain on the budget, is part of that, even though that debt has been erased because of a gift of \$1.7 million from Baptist Hospital, Nashville, as it severed most of its TBC ties.

Rehashing grievances and perceptions will not enable Tennessee Baptists to reach out for what is ahead, to press on toward the prize of the upward call. We need each other.

There is a golden window of opportunity opening for us. We have strong partnerships with Michigan and Chile. We have a heritage of being God's people on mission. Our people are missions-minded and they work hard at evangelization and ministries.

We should not risk thinking so small that we cannot reach for the course that God has for us. Tennessee Baptists cannot afford to miss opportunities for such service. We are in a tenuous situation. It will take courage, wisdom, grace, and forgiveness for us to succeed.

In the Old Testament, there are references to God's people being laughed at by the pagan neighbors when they did not act as God's people. We must find ways to cooperate for the good of our mission. The work of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, including the churches, the associations, the institutions, the Baptist Center staff — all, is at stake.

Whether James Porch is successful as executive director depends more on the people than him. He can be a strong leader if we are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Tennessee Baptists have God-sized and Christ-given assignments that are unfinished. How we respond to the challenge will be how this generation is remembered.

Let our course be true and upward. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves." (Romans 12:10) □

one word more
by Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Loving the enemy

I didn't like Hans, Erich, Paul, or the two Heinrichs — or any of the others. I didn't like them because of who they were — and where they came from.

It was like this. We were at war with Germany, Japan, and their allies, and I was a lad whose brothers were busy fighting that war. They were defending the world against the evil powers.

It was there on the farm that I met the strangers.

They were assigned to our farm because they had chosen to work instead of spending the war's duration behind bars and fences.

When I first heard they were coming, I was skeptical, and grew more doubtful — until something strange happened.

Hans, Erich, Paul, the two Heinrichs and Herman were easy to dislike, especially for a family that had two sons and brothers in the Armed Forces.

They came each morning — very early and waited for work assignments. You see, they were not to be allowed to handle any powered machinery or vehicle. The government made that rule because no one knew just how dangerous these enemies were.

They laughed easily. They were not afraid of Americans. They were not ashamed to be prisoners, they said, because they didn't believe in what the Nazi government was doing.

Herman had a big bushy mustache, so we called him Stalut. That was the only time he showed violent emotion.

Fritz was the youngest, and acted the part. He winked at my

sister. He had been a tank driver in one of Rommel's Panzer divisions in North Africa before he was captured. Paul was the oldest. At 67, he had

been fighting for six years when he was made prisoner in Italy — and never had time to learn any English.

Erich was a family man, always joking with any of the children who would talk to him. We wondered why — and then one day he showed us photos of his family with two beautiful children. Herman made my Dad a pocket knife out of scrap iron and bone.

Well, strange things happen. Those men, far from home in an alien and enemy land, were treated as real people by a Christian family. We talked about their families and my brothers. We played football with them after work, ate watermelon together, swapped language lessons, and on the last day they were with us, we served them a bountiful dinner.

Something strange had happened. Call it a spiritual experience in a very unspiritual circumstance. □



ALLEN

TBC joins with commission for missions project

By Tim Fields
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist Education Commission and the Education Committee of the Tennessee Baptist Convention are launching a year-long pilot project designed to inform Tennessee Baptists of the missions and evangelism emphases and activities of the four TBC supported educational institutions.

The project entitled "Education

is Missions" will highlight missions-related programs and activities at Union University, Jackson; Belmont University, Nashville; Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; and Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour.

According to Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission, the pilot program will serve as a model for a national

scipleship and family development division.

"This generous response is typical of single adults," said Cleary. "Churches that reach out and integrate singles into their total ministries know of their leadership, commitment, and stewardship."

Liza Bolzmann, a single adult from Miami, attended the Ridgecrest conference to get away from the stress of the disaster. Her townhouse had suffered severe damage and Bolzmann is living temporarily with her mother. However, she counted herself lucky because "I have insurance and I have a job." □

emphasis.

"The 71 Southern Baptist-related educational institutions are vitally involved in direct missions and we want to inform all Southern Baptists of this fact," Walker said. "What we learn in working with the four Tennessee schools will help us design a national campaign."

"The Education Commission will be working with the Tennessee schools in an intensive public awareness campaign to let Southern Baptists and others know that when they support Southern Baptist educational institutions, they are providing a solid foundation for present and future missions and evangelism efforts," Walker said.

Walker said another goal of the project includes informing prospective students and their parents that Baptist-related educational institutions are equipped to provide an educational curriculum and actual mission project experience for missions-related careers.

For example, students studying Spanish at Union University will be participating in a missions trip to Honduras in January, and Belmont University students and

faculty are participating in exchange programs with schools in the former U.S.S.R. republics and in China.

Carson-Newman is a leader in working with Cooperative Services International Education Consortium which allows students and faculty to enter countries where missionaries are not allowed, and Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy is sharing the Gospel of Christ with students who come to the high school from many foreign countries.

David George, pastor of Immanuel Church, Nashville, and chairman of the Education Committee of the TBC executive board, said the committee voted to participate in the "Education is Missions" project because "it is important for Baptists to understand that missions requires education and education supports missions."

"We need to see how all our work fits together to carry out the Great Commission," George said. "The Great Commission includes teaching along with going and making disciples. Strong Baptist schools will produce missionaries along with churches and members who can support missions." □

Singles give to hurricane relief

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Offerings totaling \$30,603.28 to aid victims of Hurricane Andrew were contributed by single adults attending three Southern Baptist Labor Day Weekend Single Adult conferences.

Offerings were given by participants in conferences at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist conference centers, and St. Louis. All money will be channeled through Southern Baptist agencies for relief efforts in Florida and Louisiana, according to Tim Cleary, conference coordinator in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's di-

Lowries honored with gifts, farewell words from board

The Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention honored D. L. and Alice Lowrie at a banquet last Thursday, the evening of their last full day as Tennessee Baptist leaders. The Lowries left Brentwood the next day for Lubbock, Texas, in his new role as pastor of First Church. He had been TBC executive director for three and a half years.

Theme of the banquet was "Impacted Tennessee." Bill Wilson, in-



EMERSON WILES presides at dinner — Story and photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen

terim executive director, joined Jerry Oakley, Executive Committee chairman; and Nashville pastor Perry Michel, in brief

messages.

Michel, pastor of Belmont Heights Church and chairman of the committee which recommended Lowrie for the TBC position, said Lowrie had done his best to reflect Christ as the Light of the world. He said Lowrie was a participator for that Light in the work of the TBC.

Speaking to the board members, Wilson said he recognized, as did they, "all the wonderful gifts this couple has brought to us." He added, "D. L. has walked the walk and talked the talk, and has reflected the Lord in his life." He said Tennessee Baptists would always remember "the spiritual content of their work among us."

Oakley said Lowrie came to this work "when we were hurting financially. We couldn't have gotten through these times without the leadership he brought," he said. "We were leaking but he knew how to bail." He said to Lowrie, "You have brought us to the point of recovery."

Board members provided the Lowries with a book of letters and a collection of mementos from Tennessee. They also gave them a specially made desk clock and a check.

"My being obedient to God's Spirit cannot hurt you," Lowrie said in referring to his resignation. "It will help you. We have put into place some things that will enable this Executive Board to move out. The staff has never been more ready. You can be encouraged with the future as you leave the work to those who work here.

"The needs have never been greater, but the opportunities also have not been greater," Lowrie



DON GIVENS, center, president of Executive Board, presents Lowries with gifts from board members.

said. "It has been our pleasure to be out in the country churches many times where things are different — real, genuine, unpretentious.

Lowrie added, "I've sensed God in a special way. That's where Tennessee pastors are. Of course that is the gift of diversity."

He said he remembered a

friend telling him that "this kind of work will make you tough, hard, bitter — if you don't stay close to God, spend more time on your knees, and in God's Word."

"I've tried that," Lowrie said, "and I'm a better leader because I've walked with you. I've never aspired to be an executive, but I have always aspired to be a man of God.

"You never get everything fixed, but I have enjoyed all of it. I have faith and optimism and hope for the future of the Tennessee Baptist Convention."

Others on the program were Emerson Wiles Jr., board secretary, master of ceremonies; Ron Phillips, TBC president; and Don Givens, board president. Music was furnished by Julian Suggs, TBC music department; Leanne Robbins, and Ron Alley. □



ALICE AND D. L. receive the clock from the TBC Executive Board.

Rural church observes sesquicentennial

MC DONALD — Lennie Mae Holden, 84, remembers when services at Antioch Church, McDonald, met once a month, "if weather permitted," she said. "In bad weather it was hard to get here. Our transportation was to walk."

Traveling today to southeastern Tennessee near the Cherokee National Forest, the visitor can easily imagine the rural life of long ago. Although new stately homes perch on the rolling hills near the church, one can easily identify the homesteads which are scattered sparsely along Old Alabama Highway.

Holden recalled hardships and good times for those gathered Sept. 6 on the occasion of the church's sesquicentennial. She remembers when Sunday School study was only held during the summer. Her mother set an example for her by studying Sunday School quarterlies at home during the rest of the year, she noted.

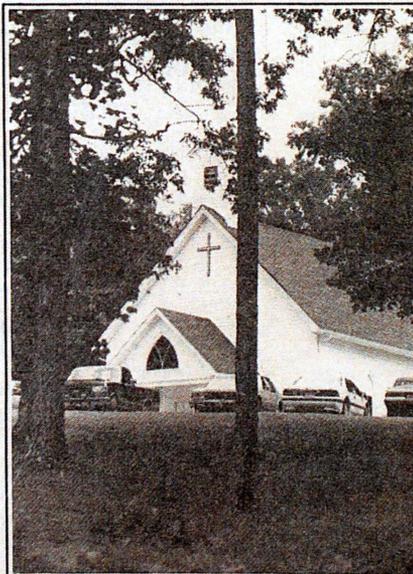
Over the past 70 years Holden has been a member of the church, she has seen periods when few gathered at the church and others

when the church was filled. "But I've seen many souls saved here," she added.

Pastor Eulas Scoggins continued the reminiscing. "We've come from split-rail pews to padded pews; we've come from a log building to one with vinyl siding; from funeral home hand fans to air conditioning; from the horse and carriage to cars and trucks; from one service to three services a week," he said. The church has nurtured many, he added. In 1936 the young Billy Graham, a student at Bob Jones University, at that time located in Cleveland, spoke at the church.

Antioch Church is also the result of an unusual commitment by pastors. Many of the pastors have been bivocational, from J. T. Huffaker, a chimney builder, to Scoggins, who works for an appliance manufacturer.

Antioch Church viewed the past on Sept. 6, but did not forget the future. The celebration included a note burning to acknowledge the debt-free status of a purchase of 16 acres surrounding the present property. — Connie Davis □



ANTIOCH CHURCH in McDonald meets in a building which was built from 1880-85. It replaced the original building.



BURNING THE NOTE on new property of the church are, from left, James Massengale, Pastor Scoggins, and Ray Massengale Sr.

► LENNIE MAE HOLDEN shares memories from 70 years at Antioch Church.



WMU 'Dream Team' ministers in Chile

By Clara Brincefield
For Baptist and Reflector

TEMUCO, Chile — The "Dream Team" recently returned to Tennessee from Chile.

No, it was not the "Dream Team" which represented the United States in the Olympic Games in Spain; rather, it was a team of seven members of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.

The name was given to the Tennesseans by the Chileans and before their 12-day project was completed in Temuco they had lived up to the name.

What did seven ladies from Tennessee do for 12 days in South

Chile in the winter time (August is winter in Chile)? To say they conducted prayer retreats in 18 different churches and visited in ten other churches for Sunday School and worship is only the beginning of what they did.

The team, led by Carolyn Outland of Murfreesboro, brought sunshine to a damp, rainy, muddy, cold climate and their friendly smiles and love warmed the cold days. Team members Creeley Wilson and Betty Wiseman of Brentwood; Polly Cole of Union City; Deborah Tyler of Morristown; Patty Seal of Smithville; and Doris Humphreys of Huntingdon gave their testimonies and sang on a late night radio program, spoke to Bible study groups, and to students among other activities.

Some Chileans were skeptical when the project was planned last year for a group of women to come to South Chile to lead prayer retreats because it had never been done before. Many details had to be worked out including translators and transportation.

But with careful planning it was done. Two ladies from Tennessee were paired with a translator and two Chilean ladies.

A WMU rally was held to welcome the group at First Church, Temuco. Ladies from all over the association attended the meeting. The Tennessee "Dream



CHILE PRAYER COORDINATOR
Teresa Herrera welcomes the Tennessee women to Temuco.



TENNESSEE "DREAM TEAM" members were, from left, kneeling, Betty Wiseman, Carolyn Outland; standing, Creeley Wilson, Doris Humphreys, Chile missionary Clara Brincefield, Polly Cole, Deborah Tyler, and Patty Seal.

Chileans see 'fast answer' to prayer

CUNCO, Chile — The little wooden church building was filled which helped to warm the cold of the winter day. Women from the church occupied most of the hard wooden slat benches. Some young people were in the back with about two benches filled with men who came out of curiosity to the women's prayer retreat. A small kerosene heater made the cold bearable.

During the prayer time everyone had written their requests on cards and then in pairs had knelt on the cold floor to pray for each petition. We began most of the prayer retreats with the chorus "God is So Good" in English and in Spanish. Between prayer and the message there were testimonies and a time of music.

That day in the little mountain town of Cunco it was Polly Cole's time to give the evangelistic message. I was the translator of her words from English to Spanish. But the real translator was the Holy Spirit. Polly finished her message and with gentleness and sincerity extended the invitation to any who needed to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Several ladies of the church came to pray at the altar. When a tall young girl came I knew she was coming for a special reason. I knelt with her and asked her about her decision. She shared with me that she wanted to receive Jesus as her Savior. We prayed and rejoiced. After the invitation her best friend ran down the aisle to hug her and rejoice with her.

At the close of the service we all joined hands around the benches in that little wooden building and sang, "Oh, Dios es bueno, Oh, Dios es bueno" (God is so good, God is so good.) An older man from the congregation led the closing prayer. With sincere gratitude and a trembling voice he prayed, "Lord, you know how much we needed this time of prayer today in our church. Thank you for sending these women to lead us."

Many came down to the front to hug 13-year-old Patricia who had accepted Christ as her Savior. But the happiest was her Dad who came to say that was the fastest answer he had ever witnessed to a prayer. His request during the prayer time was for his daughter to be saved. Yes, God is so good!

Team" shared testimonies and music.

The following day the teams spread out to hold the prayer retreats. Most were held in buildings with only a small kerosene or gas heater or charcoal burner to warm the rooms.

During the retreats the ladies learned that there is no language barrier when born again believers join in praying for others to be saved.

Each team traveled at least one or two hours each day to get to the towns where they would have lunch with a group or family, then go to the church for the prayer

retreat. Afterwards they would participate in "once" (ON-SAY), an afternoon tea served with cakes, cookies, sandwiches, and fried bread.

The Tennesseans joined their Chilean sisters in drinking "mate," an herb tea served in a small cup with a long silver straw. As one finished the drink, it is filled again with boiling water, a little sugar, over the same tea leaves, and then is passed to the next person to drink. The Chilean ladies delighted in seeing their sisters in Christ from Tennessee join them in "mate" as they had joined in prayer.

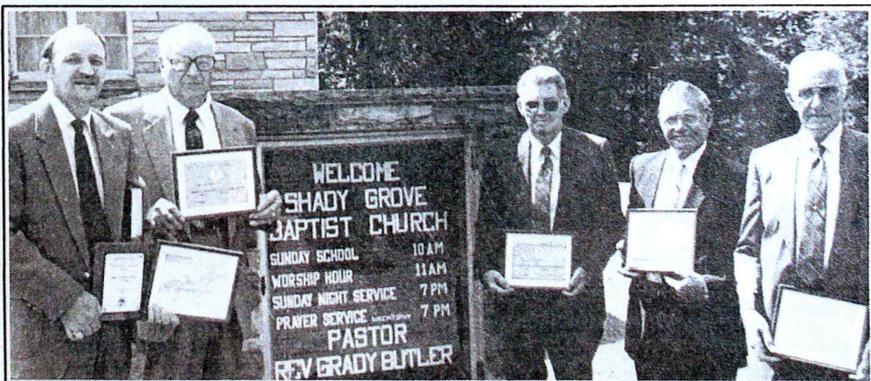
At the end of each day, the Tennesseans said goodbye to their new friends and traveled back to Temuco where they stayed at the Baptist Retreat Center. Each evening they shared experiences of the day, laughed at their cultural mistakes, rejoiced over the victories in prayer, and prayed again for the concerns of the Chilean women.

The Tennesseans' trip to Chile was truly a dream come true. — Brincefield is a Southern Baptist missionary in Temuco and coordinator of the prayer retreats in Chile.

Shady Grove celebrates 150-year heritage



SHADY GROVE CHURCH in Tellico Plains recently observed its 150th anniversary. In photo to left, Sweetwater Association Director of Missions Bennie Creel presents a plaque to Pastor Grady Butler. Members also honored Butler and former pastors with certificates in recognition of their service to the church. Below, from left, Butler, Leon Watson, Estel Wilson, Alfred Sneed, and Wesley Miller. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey



Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership — September



17 — The Bible study/prayer group for nurses in Concepcion as they meet weekly and their national retreat to be held later this month, and missionary Marilyn Graves as she participates.

18 — Georgia Mae Ogburn, retired missionary from Chile, living in Meridian, Mississippi. She has serious health problems, needs adequate care, and faces many decisions.

19 — Praise the Lord for his direction in the life of Miguel Vihar, lay leader of New Life Mission in Temuco! The mission is thriving and possibly could organize into a church by 1994.

20 — Pastor Fredy Villarroel and his wife, Gloria, in Curico as they grieve over the death of their stillborn child.

21 — Pray fervently through the 26th, for the Bible Exposition being held in a shopping mall in Temuco, and missionary Clara Brincefield as she leads in this evangelistic effort.

22 — Birthday blessings for Carol Poe, home evangelist and wife of Chile/Tennessee Partnership Coordinator Richard Poe.

23 — Missionary Roy Worley asks prayer for the first group of seven to complete the Masterlife program in First Baptist Church, Santiago, and that those who are enrolled in the new groups will be empowered by God.

Anniversary takes Pleasant Grove back in time

From the Knoxville News-Sentinel

MARYVILLE — Visitors at the Aug. 9 service of Pleasant Grove Church must have thought they had stepped back in time.

They saw members arriving on horseback, some even dressed as Union and Confederate soldiers, and the pastor dressed in a 19th-century costume accompanying the hymns on an old-fashioned pump organ.

It was all part of the 160th anniversary of the Chilhowee Association church.

The church sang old favorite hymns with the accompaniment of Pastor Jim Millsaps on the organ and banjos, guitars, and a piano.

Retired pastor C. W. Jones dies

Funeral services were held Aug. 25, in Elizabethton for retired minister C. W. Jones.

Jones was ordained by Pinecrest Church, Johnson City. He served as pastor of Antioch Church, Johnson City, and Oak Street Church, Elizabethton. He also held pastorates in North Carolina and West Virginia.

Funeral services were conducted by Larry Riddle, pastor of Oak Street Church where Jones was a member, and Ferrell Brown.

Jones is survived by his wife, Ruth, two children, and four grandchildren. □

Millsaps, a retired Air Force chaplain and a native of Blount County, has been pastor of the church since 1990. His main job, he said, was to serve as master of ceremonies.

Former pastor Dan Dunkel spoke during the morning service. "From the beginning to now and up until the future, God is still working."

"He's working to make the church what the church ought to be. This church has had a glorious past, a challenging present, and has a promising future," he said.

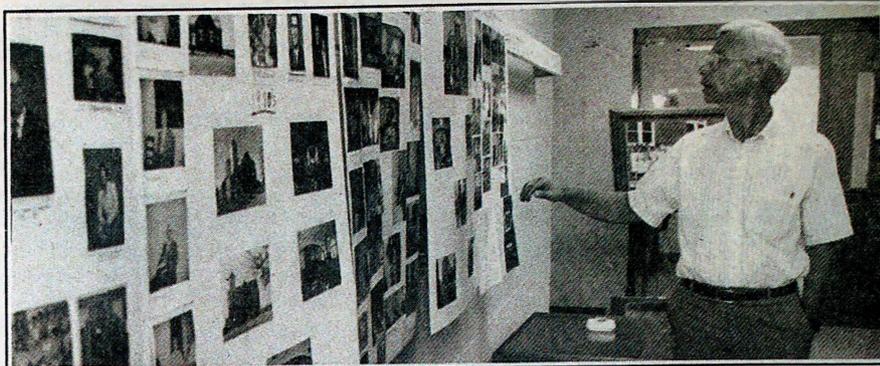
The modern church still retains links to its past. In the middle of the grove of oak trees from whence the name of the church came, sit two large limestone rocks. Millsaps described the rocks as "git-up" rocks because in the early days of the church women used the rocks to climb in and out of their buggies.

Middle Tennessee ministers to meet

Millard Erickson, research professor of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, will be the guest speaker at the September meeting of the Middle Tennessee Ministers' Conference.

The meeting will be held Sept. 24 at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville. Concord Association will serve as host association for the session. A fellowship time begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by the program and lunch.

A change has been made in the



PASTOR JIM MILLSAPS reviews the "photo hall of fame" which gives a pictorial history of the 160-year-old Pleasant Grove church in Maryville. — Photo courtesy of the Maryville Daily Times.

Nearby is a large oak tree where members used to tie their horses. It was put to use once again on Aug. 9.

In the church foyer there was a

"photo hall of fame" which was a collection of the church at work. Among the photos were pictures of weddings, funerals, youth activities, and missions work.

Church members still meet in the building which was constructed in 1911, but several building improvements have been made over the years.

In 1985 the congregation began a major building program in phases. Phase one was completed in 1990 and included church offices, a prayer garden, restrooms, fellowship hall, and a kitchen. Phase two was completed earlier

this year. It added ten new classrooms to the facility.

Two additional phases are planned — renovation of two older educational buildings and the sanctuary. No completion dates have been announced yet, Millsaps said. □

CLASSIFIED

Church pews for sale — 43 various lengths, wood grain, padded seats; \$7000 (negotiable), call Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, at (615) 883-1856.

Elders of the Old Testament

By Virginia Poehlein

Hidden in this puzzle are the names of men in the Old Testament whose ages range from 110 to 969 years.

Can you find them? Answers will appear in the Sept. 23 issue of *Baptist and Reflector*.

Abraham	Ishmael	Lamech
Adam	Jacob	Levi
Amram	Jared	Mahalaleel
Cainan	Job	Methuselah
Enoch	Joseph	Moses
Enos	Joshua	Noah
Isaac	Kohath	Seth

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

Now take the unused letters and fill in the blanks below to find something that David had never done.

Psalms 37:15

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Saturday, October 3
 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

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 See Al Denson in Concert!

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AL DENSON

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■ the people

■ **Bill Powell**, retired director of missions for Watauga Association, and his wife, Nola, have returned to their home in Elizabethton after serving for more than one year as mission volunteers in Remington, Ind. The Powells began a mission which has grown to 18 members with a Sunday School enrollment of 50. The mission recently called a bivocational pastor.

■ **Rockview Church**, Niota, will ordain **Mark Eddington** as deacon Oct. 4.

■ **Tim Turner** was ordained to the deacon ministry Aug. 30 at Parkway Church, Athens.

■ **Steve Meadows** was recently ordained as deacon at Shiloh Church, Decatur.

■ **Barney E. Crews Sr.**, was recently honored by members of Englewood Church, Jackson, as deacon emeritus. Crews and his family were charter members of Englewood when it was organized in 1950. He was recognized for his Christian leadership abilities and love for the Lord and the church.



CREWS

■ the churches

■ Homecoming will be Sept. 20 at Dickerson Road Church, Nashville. A covered-dish luncheon and singing will follow the morning worship service.

■ Members of **Finley Church**, Finley, celebrated Missions Day Sept. 6. Beverly Smothers, director of Christian social ministries in Holston Association, spoke in the morning service. Stan May, a foreign missionary serving in Zimbabwe, spoke in the evening service. May served as youth director and interim pastor when he was a student at Union University, Jackson.

■ Ground was broken Aug. 23 for a new educational, multi-purpose building for **Alpha Church**, Morristown.

■ Members of **Mount Ararat Church**, Darden, will celebrate the church's 125th anniversary Sept. 20. Tom Madden, retired Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director, will speak during morning worship, which will be followed by lunch at noon. An afternoon service will include singing and sharing of church history.

■ **Bob Mitchell**, pastor of Northside Church, Clarksville, began leading revival Sept. 13 at **Blooming Grove Church**, Woodlawn. The services will conclude Sept. 20 in conjunction with the annual homecoming celebration.

■ **Oscar Z. Fortuna**, pastor of Zion Church, Davao City, Mindanao, in the Philippines, will lead revival Sept. 20-27 at **Gracey Avenue Church**, Clarksville.

■ Revival will be Sept. 27-Oct. 2 at **Parkview Church**, Clarksville. Services will be led by Eugene Reynolds, an associational director of missions from Russellville, Ky.

■ **Jack May** will be evangelist for revival Sept. 20-23 at **Whitten Memorial Church**, Memphis.

■ Members of **South Gate Church**, Antioch, will celebrate the church's 20th anniversary Sept. 27 with a homecoming celebration.

■ A Sunday School revival will be Sept. 20-23 at **First Church**, Troy. Noel Wright will preach.

■ Revival services will be held Sept. 20-23 at **New Hope Church**, Hermitage.

■ Homecoming is planned for Sept. 27 at **Caldwell Springs Church**, Elizabethton.

■ **Terry Wilkerson** will speak during a tent revival Sept. 20-25 at **Fellowship Church**, Lebanon. **Fred VanHook** will be music director.

■ A grand opening was held in conjunction with homecoming Aug. 30 at **Washington Avenue Church**, Cookeville. Church members celebrated completion of a new educational and recreational building. Former pastors **Paul Durham** and **Sam Brooks** preached and the **Glorylanders** performed.

■ **Don Pharris** will lead revival Sept. 20-25 at **Cedar Hill Church**, Baxter.

■ The congregation of **First Church**, Algood, held a groundbreaking service in August for a new building.

■ **Gladeville Church**, Gladeville, will sponsor a Deepening the Spiritual Life Bible Conference Oct. 11-14. **Peter Rhea**, pastor of **First Church**, Decatur, Ga., will be the teacher.

■ **Dave Busby** will be evangelist for revival Sept. 20-23 at **Village Church**, Mount Juliet. **Mike Daniel** will lead music.

■ Members of **Wetmore Church**, Delano, will observe the church's 77th anniversary and homecoming on Sept. 20. **Bob Byrd** of Belmont College will be guest speaker during the morning worship service. A covered dish luncheon will follow.

■ Members of **First Church**, Linden, will celebrate homecoming Sept. 20. A fellowship meal will be served with a Gospel singing to follow.

■ Homecoming will be celebrated Sept. 20 at **Wilsonville Church**, Newport, with music by the **True Way Quartet** and a fellowship luncheon. **Pastor F. M. Blevins** and his wife will also celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary and his 53 years in the ministry.

■ Several churches in **Crossville** — **Bethlehem**, **Calvary**, **Clear Creek**, **Fredonia**, **Mountain View**, **Isoline**, **Plateau** — and **Pleasant Hill Church**, **Pleasant Hill**, will join forces for a tent revival Oct.

4-10. The tent will be located on the new church property of **Bethlehem Church** on **Potato Farm Road** approximately one-half mile from the church's present building. The pastors of the participating churches will lead the services which will begin at 7 p.m. each night.

■ Members of **Mount Zion Church**, Liberty, will celebrate homecoming with a luncheon and music service Sept. 27. The church also recently concluded revival, led by **Thurman Seber**. In addition, members recently voted to build a new educational building at a cost of \$42,000. Construction will begin in January 1993.

■ the leaders

■ **John C. Compton**, pastor of **Oak Grove Church**, Mount Carmel, since 1987, is the new pastor of **First Church**, Dickson. **Compton**, a member of the **TBC Executive Board**, holds degrees from **University of Tennessee**, **Knoxville**, and **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary**, **Fort Worth, Texas**. He is the son of **Southern Baptist missionaries** who served in **Brazil** from 1950-1974. **Compton** and his wife **Teresa** have two daughters, **Sara** and **Rachel**.



COMPTON

■ **Bill Poyner** is the new minister of music and youth at **First Church**, **Adamsville**. He will begin his duties later this month.

■ **Bill Denington**, associate pastor at **First Church**, **Bluff City**, has resigned to accept a position at **First Church**, **Immokalee, Fla.**

■ **Jim Ellis** has been called as pastor of **Flag Pond Church**, **Flag Pond**. He is a graduate of **New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary**.

■ **John Whisenant**, associate pastor at **New Hope Church**, **Hermitage**, was ordained to the **Gospel ministry** Aug. 23.

■ **Fred Cagle** recently began serving in his first pastorate at **Browns Missionary Church**, **Hartford**. He was ordained Sept. 6 at **Pleasant Grove Church**, **Newport**. The **Parrottsville** native is **Discipleship Training** director for **East Tennessee Association**.

■ **Tyrone and Phyllis Crouch** are now serving as houseparents at the **Franklin campus** of the **Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes**. **Crouch** was associate pastor of **First Church**, **Pegram**.

■ Members of **First Church**, **Lenoir City**, will welcome new pastor **Roy McComb** Oct. 1. He is coming to Tennessee from **First Church**, **Columbia, Miss.**

■ **Curtis Nelson Price**, the new pastor of **Calvary Church**, **Lebanon**, was ordained to the **Gospel ministry** Aug. 30. **Price** is a graduate of **Baylor University**, **Waco, Texas**, and **Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary**, **Lynchburg, Va.** **Price's** father, **Carl N. Price**, who is pastor of **LaGuardo Church**, **Lebanon**, participated in the **ordination** service.

■ **Wolf Creek Church**, **Spring City**, recently called **Mark Martin** as the first full-time minister of music and youth.

■ **Poplar Grove Church**, **Cookeville**. **Pastor Johnnie Lee** has retired from the active pastorate.

■ the associations

■ The **Robertson County Association Sunday School Leadership Conference** will be Sept. 22, 7-9 p.m., at **First Church**, **Greenbrier**.

■ A **pastor/deacon conference** sponsored by **Shiloh Association** will be Sept. 25, 7 p.m., at **Gravel Hill Church**, **Ramer**. **Charles Belt** of the **Sunday School Board** church administration department will lead the conference.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Doing without

Frank Evans, DOM, Robertson County Assoc., Springfield

I read of some teenage girls who loved the Lord so much they started a "do without" club in order to raise money for missions. They would add to their fund by sacrificial giving.

The majority of the girls were from well-to-do homes and found it easy to discover ways to con-

tribute to the mission fund. But for one poor girl it was difficult. One day she knelt by her bed and asked God to show her something she could do without. As she prayed, Bright, her pet spaniel dog, licked her hand. Suddenly she remembered the family doctor had offered to buy him. Tears came to her eyes at the thought of giving up her pet. Then she thought of John 3:16, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son." "I'll do it!" she said. Her pet was sold to the doctor for \$50 which immediately went into the mission fund. She missed her pet, but joy filled her heart because she had found a way to give to her Lord.

The doctor was pleased with the dog, but wondered what need had caused her to sacrifice her dog. When he heard her story he was greatly moved. In his abundance

he had never denied himself anything.

The next morning the dog was returned to the girl with this note: "Your practical Christianity had done more for me than any sermon I've ever heard. Last night I offered what's left of my life to God. I'd like to join your club, and begin by doing without Bright."

How serious are you about God's work? Have you ever sacrificed to do something special for him? Why not try it — it might bring more joy than you think! □

Changes in life

Rich Murrell, minister of young adults, Inglewood Church, Nashville

An interesting thing happened to me recently. My address changed and I didn't move! It seems that as homes were built on my street, the city of Nashville

wasn't very particular about how it assigned house numbers. So, the numbers weren't consecutive on my street. To make matters right, the city sent me a letter telling me that I would have a new address.

Now that might seem like a simple item, but the ensuing matters are extremely complicated. All mail, legal documents, drivers license — anything which contains my old address has to be changed, due to a circumstance over which I had no control. I will spend quite a bit of time the next few weeks trying to get everything in order.

It seems that circumstances in life which are important treat us the same way. Things happen over which we have no control, but we are left with the responsibility of picking up the pieces and making sure everything is all right once more. This process can be as

trivial as an address changing or as tragic as death in the family. Regardless, we have to deal with the circumstances given us.

The key for all of us is to remember that Jesus is in the life-changing business every day. From the simple to the complex, no matter what the problem, our Lord and Savior stands ready to help us adjust to circumstances which are perhaps neither deserved or desired. There are some changes in our lives which we handle quite well and others which find us sorely lacking.

The consistent part in each Christian's life is the presence of the Holy Spirit which can give us the coping skills we need to make needed changes.

Let's look to our Lord for help in making changes in our lives.

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

Samford plans study center in former U.S.S.R.

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM — Samford University officials say the Baptist-related institution is moving in on Moscow.

As part of its growing international program, Samford has acquired its own building in central Moscow for use as a center similar to its highly successful London Study Center.

The two-story building, built about 1900, is situated within three miles of Red Square and the Kremlin, the heart of the capital of the former U.S.S.R., now the Commonwealth of Independent States. It is 300 yards from two prominent metro stations for access to mass transit throughout the city.

Samford President Thomas E. Cortis, board of trustees Chairman A. Gerow Hodges, and Global Center director William R. O'Brien visited Moscow in early August to sign an agreement to develop the center.

They were aided by leaders of the Evangelical Union of Christians-Baptists of the CIS and said they received "eager endorsement" from the Office of the

Mayor of Moscow, the national Committee on Higher Education, and the Ministry of Culture.

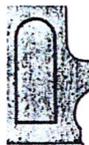
"Moscow is a whirlwind of entrepreneurial activity just now," Cortis said. "The country is so advanced in many areas but is just now awakening to the free-market system and it is eager to catch up with the way the rest of the world does business."

The Moscow Study Centre will have classrooms, computer lab, a small library, residential space for 15 students, and an apartment for a Russian/English-speaking caretaker-facilitator. Samford faculty members will alternate serving as professors-in-residence. Plans call for the center to be in use by the summer of 1993. □

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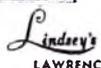
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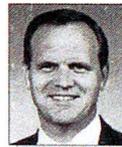
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□ Visions of a glorious future — Bible Book Series for September 20

By Leonard Markham, pastor, Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville

I've received another book stating that the return of the Lord is imminent. The title of the book is *Are You Ready for the Rapture?* October 28, 1992. Many have been and are asking the question, "Are we living in the last days?"

The answer, of course is "yes." We have been living in the last days ever since Jesus came the first time. In the book of Hebrews we read, "In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days He has spoken to us by a Son." (Hebrews 1:1-2). The Greek word used is "eschaton" from which we get our word, eschatology — the study of last things. The coming of Jesus Christ ushered mankind into the last days.

Human history is often viewed

in a cyclical fashion. Obviously, the Bible sees time in a different way. The Bible tells of God creating the world out of nothing and bringing man into existence. The Bible also reveals God as the one who will bring human history to a close. Only God knows when that time will occur. Jesus said, "But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Mark 13:32). I interpret that to mean that if Jesus doesn't know and the angels don't know, we don't know either.

Trying to speculate about the end of time is fruitless, contrary to the teachings of the Bible, and damaging to our Christian witness. While we do not know the time of the return of the Lord, we do know some things about the future age to come. The prophet

Micah shared some characteristics of God's glorious future.

First, it will be characterized by piety. Micah said, "The mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills; and the people shall flow to it, and many nations shall come, and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us His ways and we may walk in His paths.'" (Micah 4:1-2). In the age to come, a personal experience with Jesus and walking in His ways will characterize the nations.

**Basic Passage:
Micah 4:1-5:15**

A second characteristic of the future is peace. Micah said "They

shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore;" (Micah 4:3). God is referred to as, "The God of peace," (Romans 15:33). Christ is called, "Prince of Peace," (Isaiah 9:6). At the birth of Christ the angel proclaimed, "Peace on earth, good will to men," (Luke 2:14). Jesus promised peace to His followers: "My peace I give to you," (John 14:27). Jesus said true disciples promote peace. "Blessed are the peacemakers, they shall be called children of God," (Matthew 5:9). An old Negro spiritual echoes the hope of this Scripture: "Ain't gonna study war no more." Imagine a world without conflict and war. Those preparing to enter the age to

come are at peace with themselves and others because they have made peace with God.

A third characteristic of the age to come will be one of prosperity. Micah said, "They shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall make them afraid," (Micah 4:4). "Vine and fig tree" symbolize wealth. The age to come is beyond description. The apostle Paul wrote, "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man what God has prepared for those who love Him," (I Corinthians 2:9).

We are now preparing for the glorious age to come. To do so we must acknowledge Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior and surrender our lives to Him. Will you make that decision today? □

□ Responding to God's challenge — Convention Uniform Series for September 20

By Gary Coltharp, pastor, First Church, Jackson

The "changing of the guard" is often difficult for churches. When the time comes for established leadership to begin to share their leadership powers and responsibilities with the next generation and ultimately give way to the new generation of leaders, a certain amount of corporate discomfort usually accompanies the change. When established leadership is openly challenged by the new generation, damaging struggles for power often follow.

But sometimes the change of leadership is unavoidable due to the death of the recognized leader. Such was the case for the Hebrew people when Moses died. Fortunately for them, Moses had been realistic about this probability and, guided by the hand of God, he had laid the groundwork for an orderly transfer of leadership.

Moses began the process of preparing his people for a change

of leadership in Deuteronomy 30 by restating the importance of the people's wholehearted allegiance to their covenant with Yahweh as mediated through the law. Deuteronomy 31 preserves the account of Moses naming Joshua as heir apparent to the responsibility of leadership for Israel. Moses' words, both to this people and to Joshua, were challenging and encouraging. He prepared them to accept new leadership. Moses knew Joshua would achieve the goal toward which Moses had led, yet no jealousy is evidenced in the senior leader. What a positive model for the sometimes painful, but inevitable, transfer of leadership from one generation to the next.

Continuity of God's Word (vv. 1-2)

When Moses named Joshua as his successor (Deuteronomy 31:3), he did so in the confidence that God had chosen Joshua to

lead His people into the Promised Land. Thus Moses participated in the spiritual anointing of the new leader of his people (Deuteronomy 31:14ff). Also, Moses helped Joshua prepare for his new responsibilities. Moses died at the age of 120 (Deuteronomy 34:7). His epitaph is eloquently stated in Deuteronomy 34:10-12, but Joshua opens with a very simple statement remembering Moses as "the servant of the Lord" and "my servant," (vv. 1, 2).

**Basic Passage:
Joshua 1**

After Moses' death the Lord reissued his call to Joshua. In essence, God said, "It is now time for My work to move forward." Perhaps the people were wondering if their dream had died with Moses. God's work is never confined to a single personality (with the unique exception of Jesus). We

do well to keep this in mind; neither our circumstances nor our failure to cooperate with God's purpose can thwart the ultimate accomplishment of God's work. **Continuity of God's promise (vv. 3-4)**

God restated His promise of a homeland for the Hebrew people. The land would extend from the desert at the south and east to Lebanon in the north.

Continuity of God's presence (v. 5)

As God promised Moses, He also promised to be with Joshua. Those wonderful words, "I will not fail you or forsake you," encouraged God's people then as they encourage us today.

Continuity of God's challenge (vv. 6-9)

God encouraged Joshua to be brave and strong as he led the people to inherit the land. But

with His exhortation to courage and confidence, God reminded Joshua that his reason for confidence was his relationship with God and his obedience to God's commands. Joshua's success depended upon his faith in God and his knowledge of and obedience to God's will (v. 8).

Continuity of servant leadership (vv. 10-11)

As with Moses, "the servant of the Lord," and then with Joshua, the time had come to translate belief into action, faith into practice. With complete confidence in God, Joshua issued the order for the people to pack up their belongings and prepare to move. God had given them the land (v. 3); the time had come for them to possess it. We never possess God's promises until our faith is tested by our obedience. God's new leader responded to this challenge! □

□ Depending on the spirit — Life and Work Series for September 20

By James Hutson, pastor, First Church, Rockwood

This is the third lesson under the theme of *Building Your Witnessing Skills*. The two previous lessons have helped us learn about the foundation for witnessing. This is the Gospel (I Corinthians 1:3-4). Then we were encouraged to be prepared to witness (I Peter 3:15). This lesson helps us to realize we are to depend on the Holy Spirit for power and guidance as we witness.

Many people are hesitant about a verbal witness. We say we are afraid we will not know what to say, or that someone might ask us a question we are unable to answer. This lesson should help us realize God's Spirit leads us and helps us as we witness. God's Spirit brings conviction, not our eloquence or wisdom. All we are supposed to do as a witness is tell what we have experienced and leave the results up to God.

The wisdom of God (vv. 1-6)

The wisdom of God stands in stark contrast to human wisdom. You can see this best by referring to I Corinthians 1:18-2:6.

A. The message of God's wisdom (I Corinthians 1:18-25) — The wisdom of God centers in a crucified Messiah. God's power and God's wisdom are revealed in the cross. No mere human would ever have dreamed up the cross. The message of the cross is fundamental to understanding God's wisdom. Only in the preaching of the cross will humankind be set free from bondage to sin.

B. The recipients of God's wisdom (I Corinthians 1:26-31) — God's wisdom chooses the "nobodies" — the slaves as well as the masters, the Gentiles as well as the Jews, the females as well as the males — and makes them all "brothers and sisters" in

Jesus Christ. The wisdom of God makes the Gospel available to everyone — not just a special elite.

**Basic Passage:
I Corinthians 2**

C. The preaching of God's wisdom (I Corinthians 2:1-6) — Paul's preaching affirmed the crucified Christ (vv. 1-2). The apostle Paul did not engage in rhetoric and philosophy. He preached Jesus Christ and His crucifixion — nothing more, nothing less. Paul's preaching was in the power of God (vv. 3-6). He did not preach as one who was self-reliant. Paul had the best education his world afforded, but he did not come to talk about his education or his degrees. Paul did not preach as one who was self-reliant. The message of the cross coupled with human dependence upon God and God's power pro-

duced the desired result — the conversion of those who heard him. The witness of those who believe (vv. 7-13)

A. Our witness depends on the Spirit (vv. 6-10) — For Paul, the Holy Spirit is the key to understanding. Only those who have the Holy Spirit have the "mind of Christ." Every believer receives the Holy Spirit when he receives Jesus Christ as his own personal Savior. Every believer must be certain the Holy Spirit is his constant companion (Comforter) as he lives the new life in Christ.

The word "mystery" refers to God's wisdom which has been long hidden (and is still hidden) from the worldly wise. This "mystery" is revealed to those who believe. What is this "mystery?" It is salvation only through a crucified Christ.

B. Our witness relies on the

Spirit's guidance (vv. 11-13) — Paul's preaching depended upon the Holy Spirit (vv. 4-5, 13). The conversion of the people at Corinth depended upon the Holy Spirit (vv. 4-5, 12). Our witnessing depends upon the Holy Spirit (v. 13). Without the Holy Spirit, we may be eloquent and able to impress some people, but human wisdom, however smooth and effective, will not produce genuine conversion.

Every believer is commanded to be a witness. We witness by our lifestyle (I Peter 3:8-9). We witness verbally (I Peter 3:15). As we witness, we must rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit to move upon human hearts to the place of repentance and faith. It is a marvelous assurance to realize the Holy Spirit can use our feeble efforts to bring others to faith in Jesus Christ. □

Stroope elected as head of CSI

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Michael Stroope was elected area director of Cooperative Services International Aug. 19 by trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Stroope, 40, a Texas native, will direct field personnel and administration for the Southern Baptist aid organization from a base in London, where he has worked since 1990 as its western region coordinator.

Lewis Myers, CSI's founding director and now the board's regional vice president for CSI, will continue in that role and as a member of the board's Global Strategy Group. Stroope's election frees Myers from day-to-day administration to concentrate on strategy planning.

Cooperative Services International was formed in 1985 as an arm of the Foreign Mission Board designed to reach into nations and regions where traditional missionaries do not or cannot



STROOPE

work. The organization began its work in China — still a major focus — but has since begun projects in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, some of the former Soviet republics, the Middle East, and North Africa.

CSI sponsors teachers, medical workers, business and technical professionals, and other specialists who offer their expertise in needy areas and also spread their Christian faith. It focuses on what many mission planners now call "World A" — the 1.2 billion people across the world who have never had opportunity to hear the Gospel clearly, much less accept or reject it. □

S.C. Baptists repay 'debt'

Baptist Press

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — For many South Carolina Southern Baptists, it was "payback time."

As soon as Hurricane Andrew touched land in Florida, a South Carolina team headed for Homestead, the hardest-hit area. For them, food lines offered a chance to share the love their state received in 1989 when a Hurricane named Hugo blasted the South Carolina coast.

"We went through it and we know just what they're going through," said Dave Tracey, who fought back tears while remembering the compassion shown three years ago.

After Hugo, a Baptist relief team from Tennessee rolled into Macedonia and set up a food line at Providence Church, said Gentry Ward, a South Carolina relief team member and part-time church secretary.

In the following two weeks, workers served three meals a day; more than 58,000 in all, Tracey said. That effort inspired Providence to establish its own relief team, he said.

"When that hurricane hit, we saw God's power," he said. "After we organized as a relief unit, we saw his love, his grace, and his mercy." Tracey said he looks forward to ministry opportunities after the initial flurry of activity subsides. "You wouldn't believe the number of people we had prayer with in the food lines," he said, referring to the Hugo relief effort. □

Deadline approaches for US-2 applications

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — December 15 is the deadline for applications for US-2 missionaries, a missions program offered to college graduates by the Home Mission Board.

Serving in all 50 states, US-2 missionaries work on home mission fields for two years. Assignments include resort and innovative ministries, church and community ministries, new church extension, language church extension, student work, evangelism, and internationals/seamen ministries.

Applicants must be college graduates with four-year degrees, age 30 or younger, members of a Baptist church, and in good health. Applicants will be placed in ministries according to need and personal ability.

During the two-year term of service, travel, housing, meals, and insurance are provided by the Home Mission Board or local supervisors. Severance pay of \$1200 for single people and \$2400 for married couples, if both serve as primary workers, is paid at the end of the two year service. A seminary or graduate school scholarship of \$300 per person is available from the Home Mission Board for US-2ers after they have served two years.

To request information concerning US-2 missions write Missionary Personnel, Home Mission Board, SBC, 1350 Spring Street NW, Atlanta, Ga., 30367-5601, or call (404) 898-7610 or 1-800-HMB-VOLS. □

Sunday Schools built on basics

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Churches interested in building winning Sunday Schools should do what any good football team does — concentrate on the fundamentals, said a speaker at the Nationwide Church Growth conference, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School, Home Mission Board, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"No matter what system or approach you use, the fundamentals are the key," Lisa Milne, program coordinator at Second Church, Houston, said in a seminar on in-



FOLLOWING IN her daughter's footsteps, Scottie Gilbert gives two Chinese students some pointers after a conversational English class at the YMCA in Guangzhou, China. Mrs. Gilbert's daughter, Mary Anna, died in a 1990 plane crash in China while teaching there under Southern Baptist sponsorship. Mrs. Gilbert and her husband, Clayton, went to China this summer to gather memories of Mary Anna — and to follow in her role as teacher. The Gilberts grew to love the Chinese, as did their daughter, during a five-week teaching stint. — Photo by Warren Johnson

novative Sunday School approaches.

One of the key fundamentals, according to Milne, is building a solid organization that exemplifies quality "from the group up." Success begins, she said, with a "coach" — a pastor, staff member, or lay person charged with coordinating the Sunday School, Milne said. He or she must be someone who hears the call of God, has a sense of mission and vision, and offers consistent leadership.

Using those in the church with the gift of spiritual discernment as "scouts," the coach then builds a team of teachers, Milne said.

Other fundamentals in building an effective Sunday School program, Milne said, include instilling a sense of passion for excellence in teachers and leaders, using creativity, and believing in your teachers enough to free them to do the work. □

Florida church 'repents,' grows

Baptist Press

HALEAH, Fla. — For several years Horeb Church diverted funds earmarked for Southern Baptists' missions and ministry Cooperative Program fund to cover the church's budget needs. Even so, the church's financial woes reached a point of "economic disaster," as Edwin Diaz, pastor of the Hispanic congregation, put it.

Then, in reading the Bible, it "clearly reminded me that God's missions money could not be touched because it is the very center of his heart," Diaz recounted. In a worship service last October, Diaz "asked for forgiveness and told the congregation that (Cooperative Program) money was not the church's."

Diaz voiced conviction the first thing to be done with the weekly offering is to give a set percentage

to the Cooperative Program, to associational missions, and to Florida's Maguire State Missions Offering.

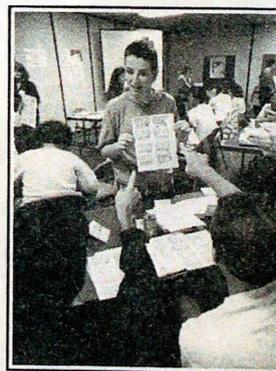
"Well, as to be expected from the Lord, two weeks later God kept his promises and we met our budgetary needs and received even more," Diaz said. "But the blessings don't stop there. We were able to bring in a full-time music director, our 20-member choir has grown to 44-plus, baptisms have increased tremendously and close to 300 people are attending Sunday services." □

Southwestern hosts Pastors' Conference

Southwestern Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas — Pastors from across the United States will take part in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's 1992 Pastors' Conference Oct. 14-16.

The conference will focus on the



LEANDRA HOPPER a student at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, demonstrates the use of pictures to teach English as a second language to international students. Hopper was one of 35 students who participated in the class during a student conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. — Photo by Jim Veneman

Sermon on the Mount and apocalyptic themes in Revelation. Bruce Corley, dean of the school of theology at Southwestern, and Calvin Miller, professor of communications and ministry studies and writer-in-residence, will lead studies of the Sermon on the Mount.

In conjunction with the conference, the Hubert L. Drumwright Lectures in New Testament will feature retired educator Robert H. Mounce. He will lecture on the topic: "Major Apocalyptic Themes in Revelation."

For additional information call the seminary at (817) 923-1921, ext. 2440, or write the Department of Continuing Education, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, P.O. Box 22207, Fort Worth, Texas, 76122-0207. Registration is \$45 per person before Oct. 7 and \$50 after. The fee includes all conference material and two meals. □

CLC asks court to hear religious freedom case

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The religious freedom of a hearing-impaired parochial school student is violated unless he is provided with a government-funded interpreter like other deaf children in public and nonreligious private schools, according to a friend-of-the-court brief filed by seven groups including the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The CLC joined the Christian Legal Society and five other groups in asking the Supreme Court to accept the case in its next term, which begins in October.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in May a school district would be guilty of establishing religion if it paid for an interpreter for James Zobrest, a student at a Catholic high school in Arizona. The court also said the free-exercise-of-religion rights of the student and his parents were violated, but the government's interest in preventing an establishment of religion overrode their religious liberty.

Because the parents' choice of the Catholic school was a private one, there is no violation of the separation of church and state, the brief argues. Even if the Supreme Court decides "such even-handed aid advances religion," its advancement would be minimal and would be overridden by the free-exercise rights of the student and his parents, the brief says.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs chose not to sign onto the brief. One of the reasons was, as BJC General Counsel Oliver Thomas described it, the brief's argument that free exercise of religion requires the government to fund such a service.

"The Free Exercise Clause has never been interpreted to require government to finance people's religious choices," Thomas said. □