

40

Executive Committee inaugurates Chapman

By Art Toolston and Lonnie Wilkey
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — In a new era of leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention, the SBC Executive Committee inaugurated Morris Chapman as its president-

treasurer during sessions Sept. 21-23 in Nashville.

That new era will be shaped by at least two studies the Executive Committee endorsed. One study, initiated by new SBC President Ed Young, will take a sweeping look at SBC foreign and home evangelistic outreach, theology, structure, and funding as the convention approaches its 150th year in 1995.

And Executive Committee members authorized Chapman to conduct a study to determine the need for a new national publication.

Chapman, a former SBC president, succeeds Harold C. Bennett, Executive Committee president-treasurer since 1979.

At his retirement dinner, Bennett voiced strong affirmation for the SBC: "I respect the convention. I have committed my life to the convention. And I assure you here tonight that I stand by our convention. I believe with all my heart God is not through with Southern Baptists and God is going to bless the work of our convention in the years yet ahead."

Chapman, in his inauguration service, acknowledged the Executive Committee at times must make tough decisions but pledged to "always seek the highest good for the convention it serves. We will seek always to honor the name of our dear Lord Jesus."

"Truth and trust are the foundations to the integrity of the Executive Committee and its very

existence," Chapman said, promising to "seek to earn and maintain the confidence of the Southern Baptist family."

In his first address to the Executive Committee as SBC president, Young said, "I have not and never will be a status-quo kind of guy," then outlined plans for a national task force to "examine where we have been, where we are, and where we need to be."

He announced 18 co-chairmen who will lead nine special study groups and then as a task force to make suggestions and recommendations to the denomination. Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. will serve as overall chairman of the study.

— See Executive, page 2

this week's news

national:

■ SBC president names leaders for SBC study committees. — See page 2

■ Annuity Board plans no rate increase through first six months of 1993. — See page 10

state:

■ Lamar Ball continues pastoral ministry at age 70 in Shiloh Association. — See page 3

■ Jackson mission team works with Navajo Indians in New Mexico. — See page 3

■ HMB appoints Tennesseans to mission roles. — See page 3

■ Whiteville church sends aid to Louisiana hurricane victims. — See page 4

■ Tennesseans continue relief efforts in Florida. — See pages 6-7.

Workers needed in Florida sun

Want a ten-day vacation in Florida?

You can have that vacation all expenses paid — if you are willing to stay the ten days and work on the feeding line at Glendale Baptist Church in South Miami.

From 50 to 60 volunteers are needed urgently to help other Tennessee volunteers supply food for victims of Hurricane Andrew through the month of October.

Call the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Department in Brentwood if you want to volunteer — and be ready to supply the pertinent information: Give your name and address, telephone number, Social Security number, the dates you are available, and the airport from which you want to fly.

Call as soon as possible to (615) 371-2025.

The national office of the Red Cross will pay airfare and housing for volunteers who can work on the food lines for ten days. Food will be supplied also. Those who wish to drive will be reimbursed standard allowable mileage costs.

Cameron Byler, TBC Brotherhood director, said Monday that the need is urgent for teams to work on the food lines through October. Volunteer units from Tennessee and Kentucky have been asked by the Red Cross to stay on line with Florida Baptists. Other Baptist units have been released and the three groups are feeding all the people.

Eleven Baptist units were involved the first days of hurricane relief. Hurricane Andrew is the 28th disaster answered by Tennessee Baptist volunteers since founding of the unit in 1978.

Byler said an estimated 60,000 to 75,000 people still need to be fed in the South Florida area. "We will work closely with the Red Cross to provide at least 25,000 meals per day with our Tennessee unit. This is a vital phase of recovery," he said. □

Relief efforts turn corner in Florida

By Barbara Denman
For Baptist Press

MIAMI — One month after Hurricane Andrew cut a swath of destruction across south Florida, the area is slowly showing signs of healing.

Perhaps the most visible sign that rescue efforts have turned the corner toward recovery is seen in nature itself. Trees that four weeks ago stood barren of bark and life now sprout green buds of health.

Seeing that God can bring new life amid devastation has brought new hope to Southern Baptist relief workers. "The trees are amazing to me, said Debbie West of First Church, Eustis. "They have been tortured, yet there's life on the tree. It shows God is working through it all."

Other signs that life is returning to normal in south Dade County include:

■ Potable water is available now throughout the area.

■ Electricity has been restored except in 89,000 homes in an area hard hit by the storm.

■ The military, which at its height numbered 28,313, has been cut by a third to 19,802.

■ All but three Southern Baptist disaster relief mass feeding units have left the area after serving nearly four million meals.

Walking hand-in-hand, Florida Baptists, aided by fellow Baptists from throughout the country, are entering "phase two" of their relief efforts.

According to Cecil Seagle, director of the Brotherhood department of the Florida Baptist Con-

vention, phase two of the recovery will become "proactive instead of reactive."

"In the past we've had to react to emergencies, providing vital necessities such as water, ice, hot food, and groceries.

"Now we're looking at the long-term needs. In this phase, we will be able to identify and project needs by location and name. From the project list we can search for people across the Southern Baptist Convention who can meet specific needs."

Perhaps the most significant change in the long-term relief effort is that help will be shifted away from the feeding sites and to the local church.

Each of the 33 congregations significantly affected by the hurricane — See Relief, page 2

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

900-00410-0127
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400
NASHVILLE TN 37203

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee



RIVERDALE CHURCH, Murfreesboro, broke ground Sept. 20 for its first building. Constituted in 1990, the church began as a mission of New Hope Church. There have been 105 additions since constitution. On a ten-acre site on Warrior Drive, the church plans to begin construction soon for a worship center in the first building phase. From left, Bob Dowdy, retired pastor of New Hope; Franklin Boyce, New Hope deacons' chairman; Jimmy Carman, Riverdale deacons' chairman; Tommy Pitts, Ray Gilder, TBC Missions Dept.; Joseph Orman; James Powers, Concord director of missions; Bill May, and Randy Sledge, pastor. Orman, Pitts, and May are building committee members

about your newsjournal

- Wm. Fletcher Allen is the editor.
- Subscribe to the **Baptist and Reflector** for one year and receive 51 copies. Family or individual subscription — \$7.50, clubs of ten or more subscriptions — \$7.25, church (more than 50 percent of families) — \$6.50. Send check/money order to address listed below.
- To contribute a news item, call or write Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor; or Connie Davis, assistant editor.
- To advertise — Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor.
- For billing and subscription list questions — Betty Williams, bookkeeper.
- For information about trial subscription plan for churches or association edition — Lonnie Wilkey, Connie Davis, or Susie Edwards, administrative secretary.
- For information about local church edition — Connie Umstead, news assistant/church pages coordinator.
- For production answers — Mary Nimmo, production assistant.

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

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

MEMBERSHIPS: Southern Baptist Press Association

POSTMASTER:

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



Printed on Recycled Paper

Executive Committee inaugurates . . .

— Continued from page 1

Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston, acknowledged the sweeping study "is fraught with risks but filled with faith." SBC agencies need to "forget about turf, forget about politics. We need to dream again the dream God has laid on us as Southern Baptists."

Young noted no funds have been allocated for the committee and that "every person will be on their own financially."

Executive Committee members voted unanimously to affirm Young's plan.

The study of a possible national publication developed from a motion at the SBC meeting in Indianapolis for a monthly publication primarily of Baptist Press releases. The Executive Committee's administrative subcommittee determined to study the possibility of a national publication with a broader scope of information than only news. Chapman told Baptist Press.

All options would be considered, Chapman said, including a subscriber-based circulation.

He said he did not view the proposed publication as being in competition with state Baptist papers. "I do not see it as competitive with any periodical in Southern Baptist life. That would not be the purpose of it."

Young taps chairmen for SBC study

By Linda Lawson
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Leaders of nine groups to study Southern Baptist theology, women's ministries, the family, inclusion of other churches in denominational evangelization efforts, and other issues have been announced by SBC President H. Edwin Young.

Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston, named Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. as overall chairman of the process to "glance at the past and study the present, in order to plan, pray, and dream toward the future."

Young said he will work with the co-chairpersons to enlist nine others to serve on each group, including a representative from a Southern Baptist agency, institu-

The Executive Committee voted down a recommendation from the administrative subcommittee to study the agenda, purpose, and character of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and evaluate its effect on the programs, ministry, and general welfare of the Southern Baptist Convention. The CBF is an organization of Southern Baptist "moderates" who have been dissatisfied with the direction of the SBC.

The recommendation was simply a request to study the CBF, said North Carolina layman Bill Horton who offered the motion. "It does not call for a declaration of war on the CBF although a state of civil war has been thrust upon us," he said.

Horton said the Executive Committee must face up to the challenge presented by the CBF. He cited Texas, North Carolina, and Virginia as states where the CBF has made strides. As a result CP giving in these states has decreased by more than \$2 million, he said.

James Morton of California spoke against the recommendation. "If we make the study, what would we accomplish?" he asked.

Bill Harrell of Georgia agreed, noting, "It is time to go on, do our business, attack the job at hand, and let others do what they want."

New Executive Committee

President-Treasurer Morris Chapman, when asked to respond, said that "in our polity" those with an opposite view have a right to exist. "I hope we spend our time leading those churches with a spirit of cooperation," he said.

The recommendation failed by a voice vote.

In budget-related actions, Southern Baptists' Foreign and Home Mission Boards and 17 other convention-related entities have requested \$8 million more from the Cooperative Program to do missions and ministry during the 1993-94 budget year.

The agencies requested a total of \$148,202,053, up 5.7 percent or \$8 million over the current SBC Cooperative Program budget.

Final deliberations over the 1993-94 Cooperative Program budget recommendation to the 1993 SBC meeting in Houston will come during the Executive Committee's upcoming February meeting.

The largest requested increases were from the Christian Life Commission, 29-plus percent; Radio and Television Commission, 13 percent; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 12 percent; Historical Commission, 11.8 percent; and Brotherhood Commission, ten percent. Other percentage increases ranged from one percent to eight percent.

In other business, concerns over New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary's new baccalaureate program were assigned to the presidents of the six SBC seminaries for a recommendation during the Executive Committee's meeting in February.

More than 50 students have enrolled at the seminary to pursue the baccalaureate degree, which has been criticized by a number of state Baptist colleges and universities as violating convention-assigned programs of SBC seminaries.

Addressing a motion from the 1992 SBC in Indianapolis that the Executive Committee charge the Woman's Missionary Union for its meeting hall expenses, the Executive Committee opted to maintain its long-standing practice of providing the space at no charge.

At the same time, the committee instructed its staff to study the present policy of paying a portion of the cost of the Pastors' Conference meeting space.

According to figures compiled by Richard P. Rosenbaum Jr., Executive Committee vice president for business and finance, the committee paid \$169,945 to help underwrite Pastors' Conference costs from 1988-92 while WMU costs totaled \$20,000.

tion, or seminary with assignments related to the group's topic. All participants must agree to pay their own expenses.

Young released in a Sept. 24 news conference a document outlining job descriptions of each study group, along with the names of the co-chairpersons. The document noted the descriptions are "written in general terms to provide direction, but also to give freedom to each group to work toward its assigned task in the most effective and efficient manner they feel possible."

The description of the theological study group, which Young said was written by co-chair Timothy George, specifies the group is to "develop and to articulate theological directions and parameters for our common mis-

sion as Southern Baptists.

George, dean of the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., will work with Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in leading the study.

A second group, "cords and stakes," was given a two-fold assignment: 1) to "reach out to like-minded local churches in America and abroad in order to invite them to join Southern Baptist efforts in reaching America and the world for Christ;" and 2) to study the degree to which recommendations of the SBC Peace Committee have been implemented. Co-chairs will be Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham, Ala., and Jerry Vines, pastor of

First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., and a former SBC president.

The women's ministries group has been asked to "identify strategies and methodologies for mobilizing the enormous spiritual gifts and resources of women in the Southern Baptist Convention." Co-chairs will be Sarah Maddox of Brentwood, and Susie Hawkins, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Young said he plans to name a representative from Woman's Missionary Union to work with the group.

The family group assignment specified five areas to focus greater attention on the family.

Co-chairs are Charles Page, pastor of First Church, Charlotte, N.C., and Stephen Davis, pastor of First Church, Russellville, Ark.

The other five groups and their chairmen are:

Multi-ethnic advisory group, George Harris, San Antonio, Texas, and James Semple, Dallas;

Reaching the world, Charles Fuller, Roanoke, Va., and Jim Henry, Orlando, Fla.;

Reaching America, Frank Pollard, Jackson, Miss., and Fred Wolfe, Mobile, Ala.;

Reaching children and youth, Dwight "Ike" Reighard, Fayetteville, Ga., and Rodney Gage, Fort Worth, Texas; and

Cooperative Program and special offerings, Ralph Smith, Austin, Texas, and C. B. Hogue, Fresno, Calif. □

Relief efforts turn corner . . .

— Continued from page 1

ricans will be assisted by an assigned member of the Florida Convention. The 11 staff members serving in this role will visit daily their three assigned churches.

The staff liaisons will have five responsibilities:

- To assist the pastors in any way, especially in coordinating the flow of volunteers and construction projects.

- To oversee distribution and acquisition of food available to the congregation and community.

- To distribute financial assistance earmarked to provide subsidies for families, salary grants for staff, and building grants and

loans, as well as assisting in the acquisition of supplies, materials, and equipment.

- To assess evangelism needs as churches attempt to implement community surveys, conduct outreach, and acquire Bibles.

- To initiate church-to-church linkages with other Southern Baptist Convention congregations.

Other aspects of phase two include:

- Miami Association has assumed responsibility for warehousing and distributing foods and commodities.

- Three mass feeding units, Florida, Kentucky, and Tennessee, will be stationed at three

Florida churches, Cutler Ridge, Florida City, and Glendale, preparing meals for the Red Cross to take out in the community.

Already, many needs have been met. During one meeting, the staff field liaisons discovered that rice and beans needed in the Hispanic community were in short supply. The next day 40,000 pounds of rice were trucked in and delivered to the Hispanic churches for distribution.

Requests for Bibles, folding chairs, and hymnals have also been received and met daily. □

After 45 years Ball still loves preaching

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

SAVANNAH — After 45 years as a pastor Shiloh Association minister Lamar Ball still loves "every minute of preaching."

Only three years ago, the 70-year-old Mississippi native had contemplated retirement. He had plans to do interim pastorates and



BALL

to conduct revivals.

Instead, Ball accepted the pastorate of Northside Church in Savannah, a church whose attendance had dwindled to less than ten people. Only 35 people were attending Sunday School.

The church also was struggling to meet its financial obligations, Ball said.

Ball accepted the church without pay with the understanding he would receive a salary when the church's finances improved. Because the church is still in mission status, Ball received a salary supplement from the Ten-

nessee Baptist Convention's Missions Department, for which he is grateful.

Ball learned of the need at Northside from Edwin Alexander who has since retired as director of missions for Shiloh Association. After a time of prayer in Alexander's office, Ball decided to become pastor of the church.

Acknowledging he went to the church "to feel it out," Ball said he dedicated that ministry to the Lord. "People started coming and we began to grow," he said.

At the time of the decision Ball was no stranger to Savannah or the association. Most of his ministry has occurred in the area. Pastorates in the association include Clear Creek Church, Selmer; Southside Church, Savannah; and First Church, Crump. He also has been pastor of churches in Hardeman and Lawrence counties as well as Mississippi and Missouri.

"I had a good rapport with the people of Savannah," said Ball, who lives in Adamsville. "I thought I might help the church."

From the very beginning of his ministry at Northside until now Ball has told the congregation, "What is built around Ball leaves when Ball leaves; what is built around the Lord will be here when he comes."

Ball and his wife, Joan, acknowledge that the Lord has indeed blessed their ministry at Northside.

Several professions of faith for Christ have been made during the last three years and new families have joined the church, providing much needed leadership.



JOAN BALL has played an important role in her husband's 45-year ministry. Here she teaches a Discipleship Training class at Northside Church. The Balls have been married for 48 years. They have five children and seven grandchildren.

The church is now averaging between 50 and 70 people each week, Ball said.

What's more, the church's finances also have shown drastic

improvement. When Ball joined the church it had a \$50,000 debt on its facility. The debt has now been reduced to \$38,000.

The church also is giving to mis-

sions through the Cooperative Program and special offerings, Ball reported.

Improvements have been made on the church facility and members are looking forward to a building program when the current debt is retired.

"It's amazing what the Lord has done here. The people have given liberally and when they have been asked to do something, they have done it," he said.

Ball was ordained to the ministry in 1947. He was licensed to the ministry in 1941, but was drafted soon afterwards and spent time in the military during World War II.

The long-time Tennessee pastor has fond memories of his ministry. "Seeing souls saved and people grow, mature, and witness will stir your heart and move you," Ball said.

"If I were to die today, I have had a good time serving the Lord," he maintained. □

HMB appoints Tennesseans, missionary

ATLANTA — Tennessee natives Rick Burnett and Blane DeLoach were appointed as US-2 missionaries by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in August, while Lesley Vance was appointed to service in the state.

A US-2 missionary is a college graduate who works in home missions for two years.

Appointed to serve in Oakgrove, Ky., Burnett will be an evangelism US-2 missionary. He is a graduate of Mercer University in Macon, Ga., and plans to attend



BURNETT



B. DELOACH



S. DELOACH



VANCE

seminary after US-2 service.

Burnett has served as a summer youth assistant at Meridian Church, Knoxville and as youth director for First Church, LaFollette.

A native of Jackson, DeLoach and his wife, Sarah, will work in weekday ministries in Detroit. He is a graduate of Union University in Jackson. DeLoach served as a summer missionary in Detroit and St. Louis, Ill. He will leave a position as youth director at Friendship Church, Beech Bluff, to go to the mission field.

Coming to serve in the state, Vance will be a church planter strategist in Livingston.

Vance is a native of Jackson, Miss., and a graduate of Mississippi State University in Stark-

ville. She plans to attend graduate school or seminary after US-2 service.

Dobbins to address state historians

NASHVILLE — The Middle Tennessee Chapter of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society will meet Oct. 14 at noon in the private dining room at the Gabhart Student Center of Belmont University. The cost for the meal is \$4.25 per person. Parking and shuttle service will be available behind Belmont Heights Church. The public is invited.

Ray Dobbins, executive director of the Tennessee Association of Churches, will speak. □

Jackson youth work with Navajo Indians

Early in the spring of 1992 a mission trip was planned and coordinated by Cathy Hoover, Baptist Women's President of the Hillcrest Church, Jackson, with Dirk Lynch, a nurse practitioner working as a tentmaker with the Navajo Indians in the Gallup, New Mexico area.

The idea of working with a Native Indian congregation originated with Mary Lister, an active member of the Baptist Women organization after she accom-

panied this same mission group to Rochester, N.Y., last summer to work with home missionaries, Rusty and Becky Sumrall.

Twenty people representing Hillcrest Church in Jackson (nine women, eight teenagers, and three children) participated in the two-week trip. The group conducted a Vacation Bible School at Fort Wingate Church. Two Navajo pastors, Harry Natoni and Nathaniel Noble, along with tentmakers, Dirk and Phyllis Lynch,

assisted the mission group in making personal contact with the Navajo children and their families and sparking their interest in attending VBS.

Members of Hillcrest Church donated \$2400 to this mission effort and supported the group with their love and prayers. Joe Franklin of Humboldt, interim pastor of the church, led the entire church in a prayerful dedication of the group prior to the trip.

The rewards of this trip for the people who participated were: the friendships gained with the Navajo children and their families, the salvation of two Navajo boys in the youth department, the emotional bonding and solidifying of the friendships among members of the mission group, the experiential education the group received about the Navajo culture and people, the blessings of giving of our time, money, and love to the Navajo people and the Anglos we met, said Brenda Collins a member of the church who participated on the trip.

After returning home Hillcrest Church purchased two Bibles and mailed these to the two Navajo youth who made professions of faith. □



HILLCREST MEMBERS who worked with the Navajo Indians in New Mexico were, from left, back row, Brandon Dikes, Cathy Hoover, Bambi Hoover, Mary Lister, Virgie Gable, Georgia Stubblefield; middle row, Bridget O'Brien, Jennifer Knipper, Brad O'Brien, Dorothy Hart, Brian Collins, Pauline Collins, Brenda Collins; front row, Donna Mullins, April Hoover, and Katie Collins.

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership — October



- 1 — Praise God for the effectiveness of the Tennessee WMU team in Temuco in August.
- 2 — Missionaries Bill Clark and Archie Jones on their birthdays.
- 3 — Traveling mercies for ladies who will be attending the associational WMU meeting in Loncoche.
- 4 — Spiritual growth and revival for the church in Lican Ray.
- 5 — The youth in Chile who are lost in drugs and alcohol.
- 6 — Missionary Mark Driggers and retired missionary Gerald Riddell on their birthdays.
- 7 — Praise God for breaking down communication barriers for our volunteers, and for the bondedness Chileans and Tennesseans are experiencing.

Whiteville church ministers to Louisiana victims

For Baptist and Reflector

The day after Hurricane Andrew hit Louisiana on Aug. 26, Randy Freeman of Whiteville called his pastor, Mike Mangrum.

Freeman, owner of New Castle Trucking Company, wanted to donate transportation to help hurricane victims.

Service organizations in Hardeman County probably were making plans to send help to hurricane victims, they speculated. Mangrum contacted those he knew of, but they didn't have disaster relief plans, he discovered.

Someone should help them, decided Mangrum. He and Freeman agreed Louisiana seemed the logical destination for any delivery from this southwest Tennessee community.

What was needed? Mangrum called Art Accord, director of missions in the Houma, La., area, the site of most of the state's destruction.

Accord reported residents were receiving food and water, but they needed cleaning supplies and furniture.



AFTER UNLOADING THE TRAILER Pastor Mike Mangrum, right front, gives Director of Missions Art Accord the check collected from Hardeman County for disaster relief.

But would people give enough to make a trip worthwhile, Mangrum wondered. First Church, Whiteville, has about 200 members. Would residents of Hardeman County help, he asked himself.

Three days later a tractor trailer rig was filled with gifts from residents, including area church members, and businesses.

Freezers, refrigerators, beds, couches, chairs, dryers, small appliances, clothes, medical supplies, linens, and baby needs were given. Also \$1200 was given to cover expenses of the trip. It was designated as another gift, explained Mangrum.

On Sept. 6, just 11 days after the disaster, 11 members of First Church left Whiteville bound for

Houma.

Their reception set the tenor of the experience, reported Mangrum. As the truck entered the area, residents flagged the vehicles down, thanking the group for remembering them.

The convoy was directed by emergency personnel to a warehouse, where the group unloaded the gifts.

A freezer was immediately taken to the Houmas Indian Reservation, about 20 miles southwest of the town. The residents had food which was spoiling, explained Mangrum. He also learned most of the structures on the reservation were destroyed.

"Most of the people in this area are either sugar cane workers or fishermen," said Mangrum. Their livelihoods will be severely restricted as a result of the hurricane, he reported. Waterways are clogged with debris and marine life is dead. Several years may pass before oysters can be harvested from the bayous, he added.

Unlike Florida, which suffered mostly from wind damage, Louisiana was damaged by water

which carried mud from its swamps and bayous, Mangrum noted. One residence the group visited, a trailer house, sat in water which rose above its windows during the hurricane, they were told by the family. When the water receded, about nine inches of mud and debris was left.

The group won't forget soon what they viewed, said Mangrum.

The effort by First Church, Whiteville, resulted in several ministries, he stated, even in Tennessee.

While loading the trailer, volunteers learned Florida victims of Hurricane Andrew had moved to Tennessee a few miles from the church. The family had moved to Whiteville to live with relatives after losing most of their belongings in the hurricane.

"We quickly unloaded some of the furniture, food, and baby supplies and took it to this family," said Mangrum. They insisted on paying us with watermelons.

"We must not forget the people next door to our churches who also are hurting and needing our help," he noted. □

State disaster relief volunteers detail efforts in Florida

For Baptist and Reflector

Tennesseans have responded to the Aug. 24 assault of Hurricane Andrew on Florida and Aug. 26 hit in Louisiana. The number of volunteers is not yet tallied by the Tennessee Baptist Convention Brotherhood Department. Work still continues by the TBC Disaster Relief Unit in south Miami.

Some volunteers who have returned report on their work.

Child care relief

Fifteen Tennesseans from Johnson City, Clinton, Greenbrier, Rockwood, Paris, and Kingston served Aug. 29-Sept. 4 in Houma, La., with the TBC Disaster Relief Child Care Unit. The unit is a trailer which includes toys, activities, and supplies to care for children. Care for a small group even can be conducted in the trailer.

The workers kept children the first few days whose parents were part of the hundreds of residents from as far away as 40 miles standing in long, long lines to see officials of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The FEMA

headquarters was just three blocks from the child care unit's site, the Knights of Columbus Hall, reported coordinator of the unit, Jim Ellis, pastor, Flag Pond Church, Flag Pond.

Families often had to return to FEMA headquarters, Ellis reported, and would use the child care service. Others who learned about it left children while they cleaned mud out of their homes, he added.

The children often slept during the hours spent with the Tennesseans, reported Ellis, because they were in an air-conditioned environment away from the fears generated by the disaster and the chaos of the shelters.

An average of 15 children were cared for each day, reported Ellis. The service was provided from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Tennesseans also distributed diapers, baby formula and food, he reported, which are supplies of the unit.

Ellis told the *Baptist and Reflector* of meeting one mother who lost her home in the hurricane. She was without help

because her husband was working in the Gulf. She and her children had been sleeping in a pickup truck. She used the child care service so she could continue her nursing studies, Ellis detailed.

Those who served are Charles and Wilma Sherwood, Clinton; Floyd and Helen Choate, Greenbrier; Leroy and Kay Parish, Paris; Bill and Betty Smith, Paris; Nancy and Larry Overton, Clinton; Don and Dwayne Collier, Kingston; and Vernon and Marge Derossett, Rockwood.

In Florida City

Charles Pratt won't soon forget the destruction in Florida City, which is located about five miles

south of Homestead which is south of Miami. He worked there a week after the hurricane hit.

"Everything in Florida City was destroyed," he described.

Ministry opportunities multiplied rapidly as Pratt began to coordinate Baptist efforts there, he said. The Hardeman County Association Disaster Relief Unit provided by First Church, Bemis, set up its mass feeding operation of 3000-4000 meals a day at First Church, Florida City.

Baptist volunteers made up the majority of volunteers that week, said Pratt.

Pratt also got to know David Cobb, pastor of the Florida City

church, which miraculously was one of the only buildings left standing in the city, said Pratt. Volunteers cleaned and started repair work there, he reported.

To follow through on his commitment to the church, Pratt visited with Cobb Sept. 22, who now has a mobile phone. The pastor reported the sanctuary would be totally replaced by the insurance company. The fate of the two-floor education building was still being studied, Pratt said.

Haywood Association is sending another team to do construction work on the church. "We're not going to forget them," he submitted. □

Morristown youth assist Ohio churches

A youth team from Alpha Church, Morristown, had a productive summer in Ohio.

In a joint effort with Quaker City Chapel in Quaker City, Ohio, the Morristown youth helped conduct two Vacation Bible Schools in Muskingum Valley Association.

The first VBS was held in Quaker City while the second was conducted at a mission in Batesville.

There were 145 children, youth, and adults enrolled in VBS, reported Pastor Glenn Smith of Quaker City Church. "This was great considering we have about 20 in Sunday School," he said.

During the week there were 27 professions of faith and \$134 was given to the Cooperative Program through a missions offering that was collected.

Alpha Church has connections in Ohio through its pastor, Clay

Frazier. Frazier served as pastor of two churches in Ohio in the 1960's. Smith, the Quaker City pastor, was led to Christ by Frazier more than 30 years ago.

The Alpha youth were led by Bob Gwen Cates, music and youth directors, respectively, and Ralph Livesay, John Rodgers, and Vivian Marshall. □



ALPHA CHURCH YOUTH participating in the Ohio trip were, from left, Lindsey Fawbush, Mandi Whaley, Natalie Patterson, Chris Cates, Sandra Inman, Bob Cates, Aimee Smith, Amy Ayers, Kathy Marshall, Ryan Smith (kneeling), Andy Rhea, and Randy Smith.

C-N sees record year for giving

Carson-Newman College

JEFFERSON CITY — Gifts to Carson-Newman College for the 1991-92 year reached a record \$5.3 million, up approximately \$645,000 over last year.

Gifts from foundations and businesses were up 39 percent, and non-alumni giving rose 52 percent. Planned giving, such as wills, trusts, and estates, contributed \$978,185 to the total, accounting for a 37 percent increase over last year.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention is the college's single largest donor. For the fiscal year, the convention contributed \$2,193,762, a decrease from last year. In addition, Tennessee Baptist churches provided funds for 200 scholarships this fall.

The college kicked off a \$50 million capital campaign on Oct. 17, 1991. Pledges and anticipated gifts received now total more than \$33 million for the five-year campaign. □

Feeding the starving not an option; it's a command

The hungry child cries out and someone tells the mother, the baby is hungry. The friends have been enjoying fun and fellowship when one of the couples says to the others, "We have to go now. It's time to feed the baby. A teenager tells the rest of the family, "I hope we have supper soon - I'm starving."

The fishing friends have been at it for five hours and suddenly they realize how long it has been since they have eaten, and one says it for all of them, "I don't think I can make it any longer, let's grab those sandwiches."

Expressing hunger and/or a desire for food is not unusual for us. We use hyperbole to express those pangs of what we call hunger. How little most of us know about real hunger.

However, if we are sensitive to real hunger around the world, it will help us to see that millions of people are starving and dying. Many do not have adequate income with which to provide sufficient sustenance for the family or self. Where there is drought or other natural or manmade calamities, there really is no

food.

We observe World Hunger Sunday on October 11. Tennessee Baptists are urged to participate. The theme is "Establish Justice in the Gate." In reality we should call this special day "World Starvation Sunday" because that is really what is happening. Hunger, as perceived by Americans, is a misnomer in this case.

For several years Southern Baptists have been giving about \$8 million (or a little less) annually to fill the needs of the world's hungry, starving, homeless, and displaced. We can give more even though that is a huge amount.

It is important to remember that voluntary gifts from Southern Baptists designated for hunger and starvation relief go directly to feeding the hungry, one hundred percent!

Here are a few facts about hunger and starvation:

- 33.6 million Americans live in poverty; 13.5 percent of the population; one of every seven of us.
- The poverty level is \$13,359 for a family of four.

■ 51 percent of all poor people are children and senior adults.

■ 78 percent of the poverty population are women and children.

■ One of four Americans have inadequate or no health insurance; 27 million are illiterate.

Elsewhere people are unbelievably worse off. In Somalia 25 percent of children under five have died in the past 12 months and 200 died daily in the capital city of Mogadishu. As many as 1.5 million people there are high risks for death before this year is over. And over a million have died in Mozambique this decade because of war and starvation.

At home major efforts have sent tons of food to displaced persons in hurricane-stricken Florida, Louisiana, and Hawaii. Across the oceans, 4000 or more have been killed in floods in India and Pakistan this past week. Thousands more will need food for survival.

Remember the hungry, those who are starving? Jesus reminded all disciples that we are "to do unto the least of these," our brothers and sisters. Pray and give. □

one word more
by Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Look for signs

In the days before interstate highways, traveling the roads took longer, but it was more interesting. There were things to see, towns to drive through with strange, unusual names.

Those were the days when you'd round a curve and see a sign posted high on a pine tree where it couldn't be missed - "Are you ready to die?"

The sign would quote the appropriate Bible verse, or at least give the reference.

Faster and quicker travel invokes a new kind of reference. Unless the sign is billboard-size,

the speedy vehicle passes before the occupants can read it.

Last week as we traveled I-40 west to Franklin and home - from Pigeon Forge and the Senior Adult Retreat, we saw one of these "signs" you cannot miss. Halfway up the mountain, there in the green-black of almost-night, the lighted cross reminded us of Christ's sacrifice for all people.

Earlier in the week I made a brief trip to South Florida where Tennessee Baptist volunteers are feeding hungry people and putting a roof on Glendale Church's worship house.

The devastated people, a month into recovery from the awful destruction of Hurricane Andrew, still wonder about tomorrow. Many of them wonder less about salvation now, however, because Baptists have been there - and continue to be there.

While the lighted sign on the hillside carried a mute message of the Savior's love to all who pass, the Baptist volunteers have traveled more than a thousand miles to amplify that message.

In fact, they are that message. And it is more than Baptist - the effort to spread Good News. Other evangelical groups are working just as hard.

The amazing fact is this. During September alone, at least 10,000 Southern Baptists journeyed to Florida from every state in the United States - at their own expense, to live out the Gospel.

It's a genuine cooperative spirit. Oh, there is quibbling at times among leaders on procedures and processes. But I didn't see any fighting on the rooftops where they are rebuilding, and I didn't see any pushing and shoving among Baptists to see who stands at the head of the line when glory is passed out.

When we are busy living out the commands of Christ Jesus, there is no time left to scramble for recognition. □



ALLEN

World hunger emphasis calls for 'justice in the gate'

One-sided religion and crushing hunger are as commonplace today as when the shepherd of Tekoa roared like a lion his message of the Lord to the Israelites. Like the people then, we would do well to hear the word from Amos.

The Old Testament prophet pointed out that the rich trampled upon the poor (Amos 2:7, 5:11, and 8:4), sold the needy "for a pair of shoes" (Amos 2:6), and turned "aside the way of the afflicted" (Amos 2:7). The rich turned justice to wormwood (Amos 5:7), while bribed judges perverted justice (Amos 5:12).

Amos charged that the marketplace was thoroughly corrupt.

The ephah, the container for measuring grain, was smaller than normal, cheating the consumers. The shekel, the bar for the balancing scales, was made heavier than usual, taking advantage of customers. The merchants sold chaff with wheat (Amos 8:5), impoverishing the diet of the poor.

Amos condemned the lifestyle of luxury: "Woe to those who are at ease in Zion" (Amos 6:1). The idle rich sprawled out on expensive furniture. They ate lambs, a rare item in a society which seldom ate meat. They drank wine in bowls and bathed in fine oils (Amos 6:4-6). Their lifestyle oppressed the poor and crushed the needy (Amos 4:1).

The root of injustice was shallow religion, said Amos. Piety was widespread but separate from ethics. The people gave burnt cereal and peace offerings. They made sweet sounds of worship. They held solemn assemblies. But Amos said the Lord hated their empty acts of worship, despised their feasts, and took no delight in their special prayer meetings (Amos 5:21-23).

What the Lord desired was justice! Amos shouted "seek the Lord" (Amos 5:6) and "seek good" (Amos 5:14). Unlike many of the people, Amos knew that true religion and ethics went

Life chain set for Murfreesboro

The Tennessee Right to Life organization is calling for supporters to form the Middle Tennessee Life Chain Oct. 4 in Murfreesboro.

The chain will be formed from 3-3:45 p.m. on both sides of Memorial Blvd. starting at Interstate 24 and continuing to East Clark Blvd.

Those wishing more information may contact Peggy Russo Millard at (615) 895-5553 or Suzanne Moore at (615) 890-8583. □

hand-in-hand. God-centered, authentic religion issued forth justice in the gate, the entrance to the walled city where the elders ruled on cases (Amos 5:15). Amos longed for a society where justice flowed like a spring that never went dry (Amos 5:24).

But what is justice in a hungry world? Micah 6:8 tells us that justice is at the top of the list of what the Lord requires.

Justice must include a tender heart for the poor. It must include a spirit that yearns to alleviate the personal, social, political, and economic forces which keep children hungry, adults unemployed and the aged chronically ill. Justice is respect for fair play. It is personal righteousness.

We live in a world which produces enough grain alone for

every person to have 3600 calories every day, but where 700 million people are chronically hungry. We live in a world where a single spring in France provides bottled water for the prosperous around the world to drink, but where two billion people drink and bathe in contaminated water. We live in a world which has 157 billionaires and two million millionaires, but where 100 million people are homeless.

Observe World Hunger Day on October 11. Pray that true faith and ethics will beat in the hearts of Southern Baptist people. Seek justice in your workplace, city, and state. Seek it in the halls of Congress. Support the hunger ministries of your Foreign and Home Mission Boards. □ - From the Christian Life Commission.

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

Start with a smile

A man was explaining acupuncture to a friend. He replied, "That's nothing! My boss is an old hand at that. He's been needling me for twenty years."

Take this truth with you

Do you irritate others? Without intending to do it, do you get on other people's nerves? Are you "pushy"? Do you talk about yourself too much? How many times do you use "I" in your conversation? Slow down and take a good, hard look at yourself!

Memorize this Scripture

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me realize people are not as interested in me as I think they are or as I am interested in myself. Help me listen to the problems of others and also their achievements today. □

"Establish justice in the gate"
(Amos 5:15, RSV)

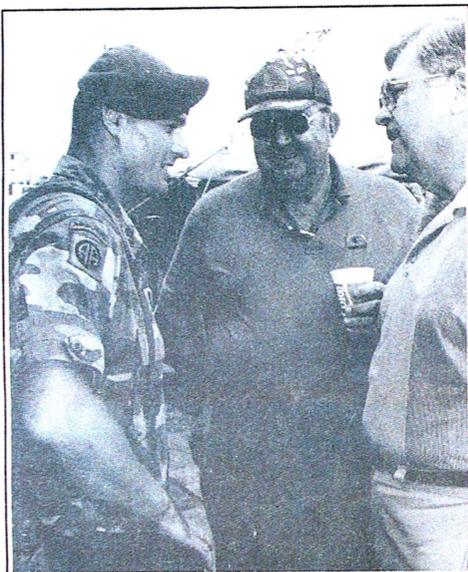
Observe World Hunger Day
October 11, 1992
Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention



COOKS AND SERVERS from Tennessee include these Baptist volunteers. From left, near serving tent, Warren Sanders, Bethel Church, Greenbrier; Debbie Keyt, Springfield; Randy Felder, Chattanooga; Ned Bridges, First Church, Columbia.



NEAR THE CLOSE OF THE DAY with much yet to be done, Tennessee Baptists take a breather. From left, Keith Brayer and Fred Smith, Monte Vista Church, Maryville; Jerry Ramsey, Northport; Howard Lee, Little Hope of Clarksville; J. M. Poe, Tony Rutherford (pastor), and Verlin Smith, Northport.



MILITARY PRESENCE offered by 82nd Airborne command is appreciated by Cameron Byler (center) and James Porch (right).

'We're sending the 30 volunteers'

Notes from South Florida, where Hurricane Andrew wreaked quick and vicious havoc during a 30-mile wide soiree across the peninsula Aug. 24:

■ Homestead residents supplied electricity by the city's power plant can expect restoration of power on or about Oct. 20. The city lost 2500 of its 4100 power poles during the storm.

■ Evidence has been found by the National Hurricane Center that Andrew spawned tornadoes. Sustained winds were gauged at 145 miles per hour with gusts up to 175 mph.

■ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimate that 20 million cubic yards of tree and shrub waste was created by the hurricane. Burn sites are set up to

remedy the situation — and chipping and mulching operations are being studied (the process is too slow to alleviate the problem experts say).

■ Curtis Fowler, at the Tennessee Baptist relief center, last weekend realized the urgency of getting volunteers to replace other units who were pulling out. "Dianna," he said to Dianna Hughes of the TBC Brotherhood Department by phone, "get us 30 workers, just 30 — we desperately need them." Dianna called him later with, "We're sending 30. They just volunteered." Prayer played a role in that little miracle.

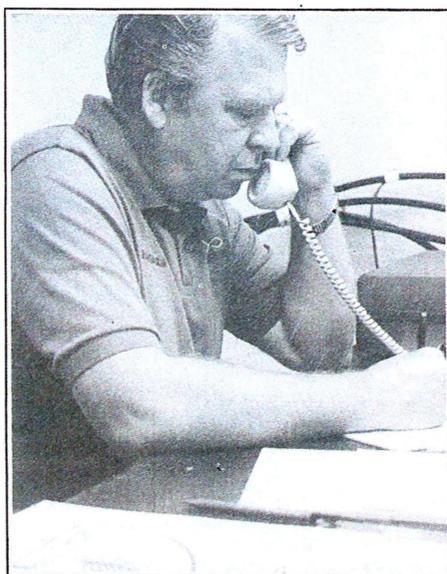
■ From an 82nd Airborne captain: "You won't hear this from the higher echelons, but you've (Tennessee Baptists) blown their

minds. They don't know how you do this relief work — you don't have people ordering others around, demanding, with strict discipline." Cameron Byler explained to him, "It's because our motivation is the love of Jesus Christ."

■ From Jim Furgerson, Brotherhood Commission relief coordinator: "If our people (Southern Baptists) could see what's being done by our volunteer units down here, they would help supply us with the equipment we really need."

■ Randy Felder, Chattanooga: "I was visiting Central Church Hixson and they were talking about the need for volunteers to work in Florida — and the Lord impressed me to join the group." □

With a sweep of his hand,



ACCEPTING AND PLACING volunteers is part of the work done by Jim Furgerson, Brotherhood Commission disaster relief coordinator.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
Baptist and Reflector

GLENDALE, Miami — Bludgeoning South Florida with enormous fury, including winds of 145 miles per hour, Hurricane Andrew introduced the lower Florida peninsula to pain and sorrow on Aug. 24.

And, in a roundabout way, Andrew introduced the people to hope — and compassion, just as did Andrew, brother of Peter — disciples of Jesus Christ. Volunteers flooded the highways south to ease that pain and to give hope to the victims. A month later, Tennessee Baptist volunteers are still there, building and feeding, and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Spending their own income, the Tennesseans joined 10,000 others who pledged to ease the devastation of Andrew. By the end of September, more than 400 Tennesseans had reached the scene.

The pain? Well, if material loss — including homes and other possessions is pain, that's a starter. There is also the pain of

displacement in every imaginable way.

Sorrow? The sorrow is born of the realization that at least 28 people died and countless others suffered physical injuries. Thousands are victims of mental exhaustion and depression.

Think of it this way. Suppose suddenly you lost your driver's license and other papers of identification. Maybe you lost your insurance policy, your birth certificate. What if your bank and grocery store were blown away, and your gas station, the electric company, were no longer there?

Could you get along without street signs, plumbing, pharmacies, telephones, schools? And what if your church building were demolished or severely damaged? What would you do if someone in the family disappeared? Can you get along without mail delivery? What about your paycheck if the company has been flattened? Is the water safe to drink — if you can get it?

These circumstances and others almost as debilitating provide the atmosphere in which Florida

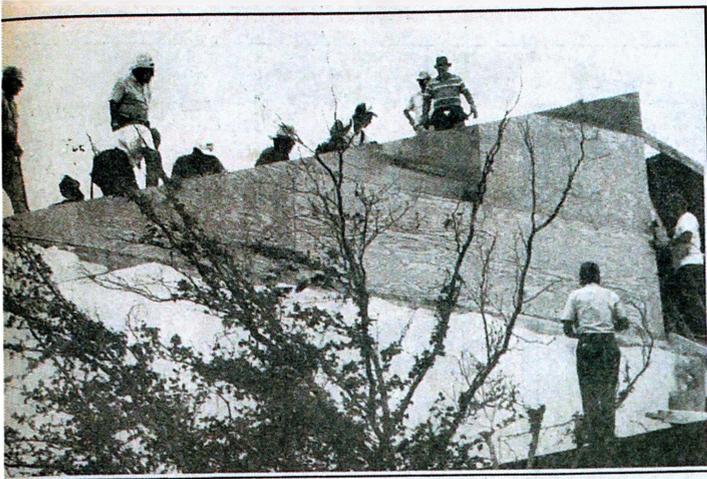
hurricane victims and their new friends are trying to survive — and overcome.

The 30-mile wide strip of crushed civilization left only remnants of a formidable infrastructure that encompassed Dade County, Miami, and south, with Homestead parked in the path of Andrew's eye.

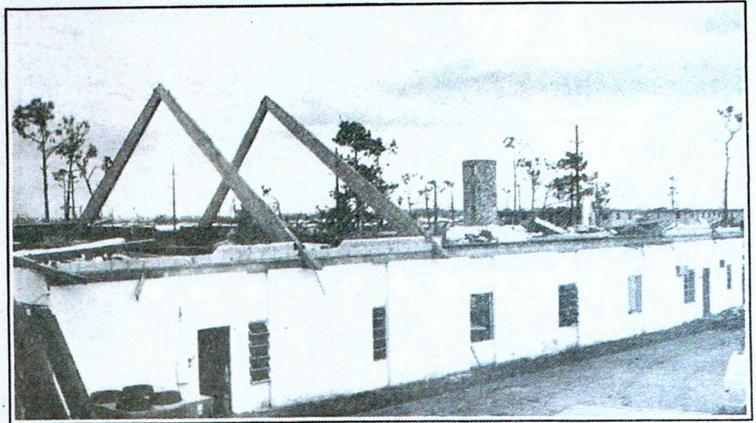
The Tennessee volunteers are situated at Glendale Church, one of Miami's largest with 3700 members. They are manning the food station and feeding 12,000 meals daily — while construction crews are hard at work with hammers and nails restoring the buildings to temporary comfort condition.

If ever there has been any doubt as to what these volunteers do — fellow Tennesseans can rest assured they are earning their "vacations."

Preparing and cooking the food, packaging most of it for distribution by Red Cross "ERVs" (emergency relief vehicles) and some for the food lines, and cleaning up the vast process — can easily amount to 12-14 hour days.



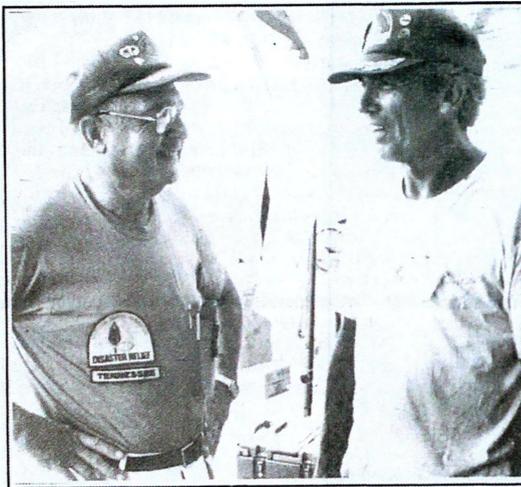
BUILDING CREWS FROM Clear Branch and Clinch River churches, Clinton Association, roofed Glendale's education building and here put up a truss for the main roof. Pastors Floyd Powell and Tom Byrge led the work.



ONLY THE WALLS remain after Hurricane Andrew slammed Glendale's sanctuary.

Food and shelter — essentials for recovery

COORDINATOR
Curtis Fowler, Knoxville, Tom Byrge, one of the building leaders, discuss needs for next day's work.



TOTAL DESTRUCTION in the Homestead-Florida City area.



he indicated the totality of destruction

The volunteers say they aren't tired — because of the compassionate touch perhaps — but there is fatigue that can only be assuaged by a day off and time to sit down and lift up the feet. Those days aren't guaranteed.

James Porch, newly-elected TBC Executive Board executive director, accompanied this reporter last week to the "frontlines" for a look at Tennessee Baptist volunteerism at work.

He was not surprised at the Tennesseans' attitude of helping, he said, but he was shocked by the "total loss of property and displacement of people." He added, "I believe God sent us here to do his work in helping rebuild the shelters, and to help restore hope and faith among the people.

"I am impressed at the superior organization provided by Tennessee Baptists and the way we are cooperating in every way to get the job done," Porch added. "I am proud to be a Tennessee Baptist."

In a ride south from Glendale to Cutler Ridge and Homestead, we saw havoc of Andrew's awesome

power vividly written across thousands of acres of desolation. With a sweep of his hand, Cameron Byler, TBC's Brotherhood director, indicated the totality of damage. He did not have to speak. Byler, who is heading up the Tennessee relief effort, is heavily involved in the total relief picture — taking part in his 49th disaster relief effort.

Having established recognition with the National Red Cross and other relief agencies, Byler is known for his acumen in organizing and prioritizing the feeding of any number of disaster victims. A member of Clearview Church, Franklin, Byler is recognized by everyone involved as "the man who gets it done."

Curtis Fowler, retired and a member of West Lonsdale Church, Knoxville, is a perfect compliment to Byler. He provides the "know-how" for putting together the minute pieces of the feeding puzzle — sometimes at a moment's notice.

Back at the Brentwood Baptist Center, the Brotherhood office has received \$90,000 in donations for

the relief effort. The office is coordinating the flood of volunteers and the donations.

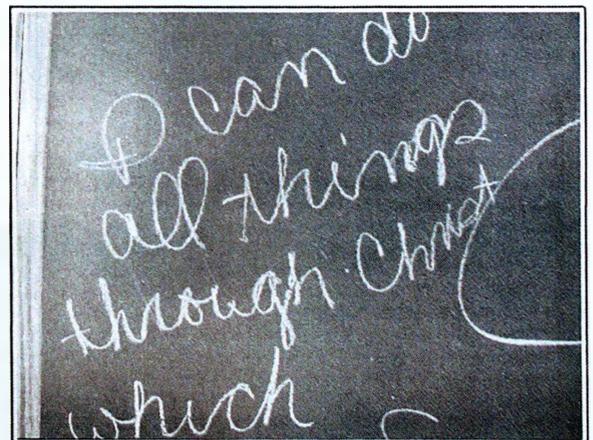
To paint a clear picture of what the Tennessee feeding unit has accomplished in four weeks, Byler explains it this way. "In order to feed the people, we have been running a small town of 300," he said.

"On the corner of this highway and 117th Ave., we are taking care of the volunteers, providing housing, garbage disposal, sanitation, electrical power — this is what it takes to do our work. We try to be self-sufficient because the first priority for any relief unit is not to place a burden on the local citizens.

"We have had to depend on Army and local police to some extent to help with safety and protection. They have been great. The Army also has supplied a lot of food and equipment when we needed it. The Red Cross is great to work with."

Joe Coats Sr. echoes Byler's praise for the volunteers. Coats started Glendale 26 years ago — and it was the first Black Baptist church to join the Florida conven-

tion. "Without our Southern Baptist brothers and sisters helping us," he said, "we would have had a very hard time." He praised construction units from Clinton Association for "putting a roof over us so we could worship." □



AND HERE IS HOPE says a message on a chalk board in a roofless classroom at Glendale Church.

Love In
Action



Our baby would not have been possible without the alternative ministry...

- Bill & Susan...
new adoptive parents.

"We tried for years to have a baby, without success. It was a real strain on us and our marriage... one that others can't really understand who haven't been through this experience.

One in six couples have infertility problems and only half of them are able to be treated. That leaves a lot of people who can't have children.

The Children's Home offered us an option we hadn't had before. The process wasn't easy... and it took three and a half years. They checked us out thoroughly... conducted a home study, and asked our friends to write letters of recommendation on us.

After they had our profile and the birth mother's profile... they studied, discussed and prayed...and we waited.

In the beginning, we actually thought that an adoptive child was a second choice, but now we know that the second choice can be the best choice. And we came to the realization that this is what God meant for us.

We'll never forget what our pastor said at Jenny's dedication. "Isn't it just like God to take things and turn them around... what we have here is grace... that's what God is in the business of doing."

Without the alternative ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, our baby Jenny wouldn't be ours. We thank God that birth mothers are choosing this alternative.

It offered them...and us...an option we didn't have before."



Tennessee
Baptist
Children's
Homes

TBCH Central Office
5001 Maryland Way
Brentwood, TN 37027
615-371-2000

The Alternative Ministry

■ the leaders

■ **Cliff Davis** recently resigned as pastor of Bogota Church, Bogota, to begin studies at seminary.

■ **James Carpenter**, youth pastor at Concord Church, Chattanooga, was ordained to the Gospel ministry Sept. 6.

■ **Broadway Church**, Maryville, called **Dean Denton** as director of special ministries working with the college and career, single adult, and blended families departments. She was interim youth director at Broadway.

■ Members of Central Church, Kingston, recently welcomed new pastor **Bill Elliott**.

■ **J. Roy McComb** will serve his first Sunday as pastor of First Church, Lenoir City, Oct. 4.

■ **Chris Holland** recently joined the staff of Bellevue Church, Nashville, as minister to youth. He is a religion major at Belmont University, Nashville.

■ **Carlos Sibley** is the new pastor at Macedonia Church, Cleveland.

■ the associations

■ The Nashville Association Sunday School Leadership Training Conference will be Oct. 5-6. First Church, Hendersonville, will host the conference Oct. 5 at 6:45 p.m. and First Church, Columbia will host Oct. 6 at 7 p.m.

■ The ALPHA Association missions fair and rally will be Oct. 10 at the Hickman County Recreation Center. It will include booths showing mission work around the world, foods from other countries, a march of flags, and a commissioning service for David and Pam Emmert, newly appointed missionaries to Ethiopia.

■ the work

■ A team of men from First Church, Jackson, recently completed a mission trip to the Lakeland Association in Milwaukee, Wis. The First Church

men worked with their former associate pastor **Byron Epps** making repairs on an inner city church building which will house a H'mong congregation.

■ Missionaries to Taiwan **Donald and Helen Jones** are on the field. Send mail to P.O. Box 27-24, Taichung 400, Taiwan. She is the former **Helen Brandon** of Woodbury.

■ **Richard and Ida Lusk**, missionaries to Hong Kong, are in North Carolina for furlough. Write to them at 341 Appletree Street, Brevard, N.C., 28712. The former **Ida Bennett** was born in Humboldt. Both consider **Brownsville** their hometown.

■ **Mike and Pam Osment**, missionaries to Taiwan, are in Tennessee serving as missionaries in residence at Union University, 2447 US Highway, Jackson, Tenn., 38303. They consider **Memphis** their hometown.

■ Tennessee natives and missionaries to the Philippines **Jeffrey and Regina Palmer** are in the states. Send mail to P.O. Box 171, New Johnsonville, Tenn., 37134. He was born in Jackson and considers **Waverly** his hometown. She is the former **Regina Moore** of Camden.

■ **David W. Copeland**, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Sparta, reported that his church recently concluded the most highly-attended revival in the history of the church. An average of 100 people attended each night of the revival held at the White County Fairgrounds in August. Usually 50 people are in attendance at the church's Sunday morning service. The revival was held in a tent owned by the Tennessee Baptist Convention for church's use.

■ The Lao Mission of Woodbine Church, Nashville, met Aug. 23 with its sponsoring congregation to ordain its first deacons, **Inpaeng Sabchareun** and **Khian Mitsamphanh**. The mission, which was organized two years ago, draws about 85 to its Sunday morning worship services. It is led by Pastor **Taikham Bayluangrath**.

■ the churches

■ Members of Flat Gap Church, New Market, will hold a building dedication for their new church building at 515 Hinchey Hollow Road Oct. 4. New Pastor **Bob Griffin** will deliver the dedication sermon.

■ **Harold Hunter** will lead revival Oct. 4-7 at First Church, Old Hickory. **Ron Alley** will be music evangelist for the services.

■ The congregation of Pleasant Hill Church No. 2, Rives, celebrated their church's 60th anniversary and homecoming Sept. 27. Noon luncheon was followed by a concert by the Homeland Singers from Missouri.

■ **Jerry King** will deliver the homecoming message Oct. 4 at Westwood Church, Nashville. The church will also be in revival Oct. 11-14.

■ **Charles Cash**, Johnson City, will preach during revival Oct. 11-14 at Third Church, Nashville. The theme of the services will be **Recapturing that Spiritual Excitement**.

■ Revival will be Oct. 4-7 at Beverly Hills Church, Memphis. Sermons will be delivered by **Don Marston**, **Jerry Glisson**, **Ray Newcomb**, **Edsel Bone**, and **Bill Wilson**. **John Ellzey** will lead music.

■ **Benny Jackson** will be evangelist for revival Oct. 4-7 at Hillhurst Church, Nashville. Minister of Music **Mike Overcash** will lead music for the services.

■ **Edward Johnson**, evangelist, and **Terry W. Williams**, music director, will lead revival Oct. 4-7 at Audubon Park Church, Memphis. Johnson is pastor and Williams is minister of music at First Church, Ocala, Fla.

■ **Saturn Drive Church**, Nashville, will host its annual fish fry Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. All former members and friends of the church are invited.

■ **Bill Edmonds**, pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Coalfield, will lead revival Oct. 11-16 at Childs Memorial Church, Harriman.

■ Members of New Hope Church, Hohenwald, recently burned the note on the church property.

■ **Bob Elliott** will lead revival Oct. 4-7 at First Church, Greenfield.

■ First Church, Loudon, will hold revival Oct. 11-14 with evangelist **Leonard Markham**.

■ **Kevin Gaza** will be evangelist for revival Oct. 4-9 at Bethany Church, Loudon.

■ Members of Buffalo Church, Rutledge, celebrated the church's bicentennial anniversary Sept. 13. **Jack Hipsher** is pastor.

■ Revival will be Oct. 18-22 at Pleasant Grove Church, Coalfield. **Ralph Berry**, **David Hanes**, **Obie Campbell**, **Gary Smith**, and choirs from Ridgeview Church, Knoxville, Beech Park Church, Oliver Springs, and Calvary Church, Oak Ridge, will participate in the services.



PASTOR LEE FORD of New Hope Church, Christiana, far left, recently led groundbreaking for a new fellowship hall at the church. Participating in the service were deacons and members of the building committee, from left, **Bill Wiser**, **Franklin Boyce**, **Edmond Gibson**, **Ray Lowe**, and **Fred Lowe**.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Keep in touch

Steve Vaughan, associate pastor
First Church, Lawrenceburg

A little boy was riding his tricycle furiously around the block, over and over again. Finally, a policeman stopped and asked him why he was going around and around.

The boy said he was running away from home. Then, the policeman asked why he kept going around the block. The boy responded, "Because my mom said that I'm not allowed to cross the street."

The point is clear — obedience will keep you close to those you love. Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." John 14:15. Our spiritual lives are gauged by our obedience to God and his Word.

I encourage you to study and apply the Word of God to your life this week. The difference in spiritual growth is not how much you read the Word of God; but how much you apply the Word of God to your life. □

Pleasing God

Gary Baker, pastor
First Church, Sweetwater

Life contains several absolute certainties — one of which is criticism. One of Aesop's Fables is about a man and his son making a trip to the market with their donkey. As they walked along, leading their donkey, people began to criticize them for walking while leading the beast of burden; so the father put his son on the donkey.

Shortly, people began to criticize the boy for riding while the father walked. They decided to change places and let the father ride — only to be criticized once more for making the son walk. They both climbed on the donkey in an attempt to content the people, only to be criticized again because both of them were riding a lowly animal.

In one last effort to avoid criticism, the father cut a sapling, tied the donkey's feet, and he and his son carried the donkey to town. In trying to please everyone, no

one was pleased — not even the man and his son.

When we try to please everyone we please no one and invite trouble on ourselves. The Bible teaches us that our only mandate is to please God. When and if we do that, we are able to live with self and rest well. Do this and see how much richer life is. □

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

Intentional tension

Dennis Foust, associate pastor
First Church, Chattanooga

We avoid discomfort. Whether it is turning on the lights at dusk, adjusting the thermostat, or ignoring certain issues, we spend a great deal of time defining our personal comfort zones. When ten-

sion begins we take an aspirin. When tension appears we withdraw. When tension becomes evident we struggle to restore normalcy. We often spend tremendous energy in an effort to do as little as possible.

The teachings of Jesus confront us with multiple tensions and ongoing discomfort. Jesus' life comforted the troubled and troubled the comfortable. Still today, Jesus' teachings initiate ethical struggles, theological wrestlings, and cultural dilemmas as individuals listen to the movements of life with a desire to hear God's heart.

As we live during these exciting days, God is inviting us to experience intentional tension. As walls come down around the globe; as our downtown area celebrates renewal; as our church prepares for expanded ministry; let us hear the teachings of Jesus faith-to-faith. Let us approach the challenges of discipleship with renewed commitment and courage. Let us be bold and visionary.

But how? What are some practical ways to have intentional ten-

sion in our lives? First, pray for personal and corporate renewal. Pray that each person will respond to the heart of God. Second, look for places and people to serve. Seek out opportunities to show mercy and do justice. Third, give of your personal resources sacrificially. Our church budget needs your ongoing attention. Our capacity to minister effectively as a church depends largely on the depth of financial commitment we make week in and week out. Fourth, tell your family and friends and colleagues and neighbors about this inclusive and forward-looking congregation. Tell them how we have decided to minister to the entire area.

Tell them how we serve the poor, support the distressed, feed the hungry, and empower the powerless. Tell them how we shape the lives of children and youth, rebuild camping facilities, and provide for future generations. Tell them how we make room for diverse view-points and support historic Baptist freedoms. Tell them how we love one another.

No church medical rates increase through June 1993

Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Southern Baptist Annuity Board will make no rate changes in the Church Comprehensive Medical Plan or the Seminarian Comprehensive Medical Plan for the first six months of 1993.

An improvement in recent claims experience helped the board avoid a rate change, according to Joel Mathis, senior vice president for insurance administration. He also credited the plan's managed-care and preferred-provider features with contributing to the avoidance of a rate increase.

Churches wishing to know rates now have accurate budget planning information for the first six months of 1993, Mathis said.

C-N hosts church history workshop

The Center for Baptist Studies at Carson-Newman College will sponsor a church history writing workshop and luncheon Oct. 2 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Charles Deweese, assistant executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention's Historical Commission, and Ellen Millsaps, professor of English at Carson-Newman, will lead the sessions.

The workshop is open to all pastors and church historians. For more information and lunch reservations, call (615) 471-3272. □

However, he cautioned church budget planners to keep in mind factors that could increase participant's rates, such as a birthday that could move a participant into a higher age bracket, or the addition of a dependent.

In the six-month rating period that begins in July 1993, Mathis said, some participants again may not see a change. However, depending on where they live, some participants could see their rates change in July, he said.

On Aug. 4, the board announced it will base pricing of the church and seminarian medical plans on the claims experience of participants in each state "to bring more fairness to the rate structure and to protect against shifting losses from one state to another."

It is too early to say which states' participants will or will not benefit by the change, Mathis said. The board will know rates for the second half of 1993 in the spring, he said.

Mathis urged participants who feel they can't afford the comprehensive plan to consider enrolling in or switching coverage to one of the two new lower-rate "catastrophic" plans available in

January 1993.

"Our participants have asked for choices, and we are going to be able to offer some, beginning in 1993," Mathis said.

The two plans will be available at reduced rates compared to church and seminarian comprehensive. The proposed plans will feature higher deductibles and limited benefits.

A \$25,00 deductible plan —

Catastrophic 2500 — will cost 40 percent less each month than comprehensive. Catastrophic 1000, with a \$1000 deductible, will cost 30 percent less per month.

Mathis also said a benefit change effective immediately will simplify some participants' lives. The plans will pay maximum benefits for eligible elective surgeries without a second opinion.

"Some participants told us that getting a second opinion is a hassle," Mathis said. "We looked closely at this requirement. We found that we could end the requirement without hurting the plans."

Mathis explained the plans will pay regular benefits for a second surgical opinion if a participant chooses to have one. □

Values and lifestyles for mature living



The Amenities

- Decorated model apartments
- Seven spacious floor plans to choose from
- Single story
- Spacious storage
- Large patios/porches
- Cable TV available
- Handicap units available
- All appliances furnished
- Alarm system (Life call monitoring available)
- Economical gas heat
- Individual garbage collection
- Electric range with self-cleaning oven
- Central heat and air

The Grounds

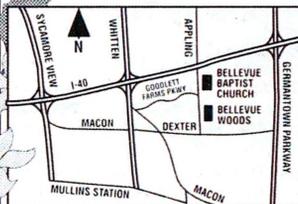
- Exterior lighting
 - Beautifully manicured grounds
- ### The Lifestyle
- Indoor heated pool and hot tub
 - Clubhouse
 - Private meeting rooms
 - Exercise facility
 - Guest suites available
 - Mini van for common trips
 - Monthly activities for seniors

The Grounds

- Controlled access at front gate
- Courtesy officer on duty 24 hrs.

For more information:

Come visit us at 1800 Appling Rd. in Cordova—Take I40 to Germantown Rd., turn right on Appling, turn right on Appling. Just south of Bellevue Baptist Church. Or call us at (901) 388-1888



BELLEVUE WOODS

APARTMENT COMMUNITY

Founded by Bellevue Baptist Church
Managed by LEDIC Management Group

LOW COST LEVEL PREMIUM LIFE INSURANCE
Permanent Term Policy
Examples of Monthly Premiums
Male, Non-Smoker

Age	\$50,000	\$100,000
45	\$ 29	\$ 52
55	55	104
65	114	221

Premiums and death benefit remain fixed for the life of the insured. Issued to age 80. Company rated A-plus (Superior).

LIFE INSURANCE SAVERS
The Term Specialists
1 (800) 424-TERM

CLASSIFIED

NEEDED: Part-time, permanent music director for Knoxville church. Send resume to West Haven Baptist Church, Attn: Chris Scott, 5651 Matlock Rd., Knoxville, 37921.

Call for Free BROCHURE

BAPTISTRIES HEATERS, PUMPS FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE
1-800-251-0679

FIBENGLASS BAPTISTRY CO
3511 HANSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

A&O CHURCH FURNITURE
4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053
JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282

SOLID OAK PEWS —
PEW UPHOLSTERY / REFINISHING
BAPTISTRIES • SITES
EDUCATIONAL FURNITURE
1 (800) 523 9058
NC 1 (800) 222 7895

Especially for Ministers

Lead your congregation in the footsteps of Jesus in the Holy Land

Following assistance provided free of charge by the Israel Government Tourist Office in Atlanta

- Connection with pilgrimage tour operators
- Informational and promotional material
- Samples of itineraries
- Holy Land video films
- An official letter of invitation to the Holy Land

Call us at
(404) 875-9924
1-800-752-3729

Israel Government Tourist Office
1100 Spring St., Suite 440, Atlanta, Ga. 30309

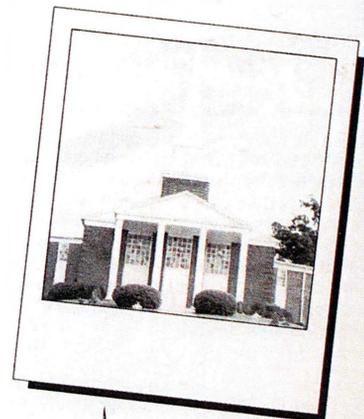
It's not just another building. It's your church.

A church has different requirements than most other buildings an insurance company covers. It represents the shared commitment and sacrifice of many people... it's an invaluable emotional investment.

Church Mutual has specialized in insuring churches for nearly 100 years. Today we are the nation's largest insurer of churches, protecting over 5,800 Southern Baptist churches alone.

We know you can never forget the enduring importance of your church in the lives of your congregation. We take the critical step of getting to know your church firsthand to learn your unique needs and concerns.

To learn about the difference that our personalized, specialized expertise and competitive insurance coverage can mean to you and your congregation, write or call us at 1-800-542-3465.



The Specialist

Church Mutual
3000 Schuster Lane
P.O. Box 357-S
Merrill, WI 54452

■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Gentile guilt for sin — Bible Book Series for October 4

By Mike Kemper, pastor, Green River Church, Waynesboro

Romans was written by Paul while on a three-month visit to Corinth (Acts 20:1-3). While "all Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable" (II Timothy 3:16), the book of Romans is one of the richest resources in the Bible for doctrinal truths. It contains truths about justification, sanctification, adoption, and judgment. Understanding the book of Romans will help unlock other Bible truths.

While at Corinth, Paul also wrote the book of Galatians to counter the Judaizers who were besetting the church there. Perhaps he wrote to the believers in Rome hoping to establish their faith correctly in case the Judaizers got to Rome before he himself arrived.

In verses 1-7, Paul identifies himself as the writer and the saints at Rome as the recipients

of the letter. His theme was Christ and the Gospel of Salvation.

Verses 8-17 record Paul's wish to visit the believers at Rome. The word of their faith had spread throughout the Roman Empire. He wanted to visit them for three reasons: to help establish them in the faith (v. 11); to be a blessing to them (v. 12); and to "have some fruit among them," winning other Gentiles to the Lord (v. 13).

Verses 16-17 give the specific theme. The Gospel of Christ reveals the righteousness of God which based on faith and not works and is available to all men, not just the Jews. Paul quoted Habakkuk 2:4: "The just shall live by faith." Paul had great confidence in the power of the Gospel.

Sin is identified in verses 18-

32. It is not identified in soothing terms, but is highlighted in its ugliness and shame. In these final verses, Paul told how the Gentiles got into the mess they were in by describing the darkness of the sin that engulfed them and how God's anger was upon them.

Their steps downward are easily identified.

1. They knew God (vv. 18-20). Man did not begin in ignorance and slowly work his way into intelligence. Man knew God and turned his back on God, working his way into ignorance.

2. "They glorified Him not as God," (vv. 21-23). Their vain thinking turned men from the truth to lies. The result of such wandering is darkness and more confusion. Men today put more stock in the words of economists, scientists, philosophers, and

television spokesmen than they do into God's Word. The result is the same today — indifference, ingratitude, and ignorance! "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools," (v. 22).

3. They changed the truth of God (vv. 24-25) by exchanging His truth for the lies of Satan! The result is evident. Man worships man more than the Creator. The lusts of man's heart have caused so much shame and disgrace that we have lost the ability to blush. Nothing shocks us. The downward spiral continues.

4. They did not retain God in their knowledge (vv. 26-32). Man began with a clear knowledge of God, but man did not want that knowledge. "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God," (Psalm 14:1). Man wants to show how we have evolved into

intelligent beings. Paul showed we have done just the opposite. Man has made himself into a beast.

The results of sin are clear. It brings the anger and wrath of God. It is true that God hates sin, but God loves the sinner! The sins described in this lesson not only convict others, but also you and me. We are all sinners.

The good news of the Gospel is that Jesus died and was resur-

Basic Passage Romans 1

rected that we might be forgiven of our sins and made "right" again. The truth is seen here that God is Just and is the Justifier. Will you by faith confess you sin and trust Christ? The just shall live by faith!

□ Samuel: the last judge — Convention Uniform Series for October 4

Compiled by the Baptist and Reflector Staff

Throughout the history of the Bible God has prepared "a man for the times." Moses is just one of many examples. God used Moses to lead His people out of bondage in Egypt to the Promised Land.

Samuel also was chosen by God to be "a man for the times." Some scholars believe there were 12 judges and that Samuel was the last judge. Others believe there were 13 judges and that Samuel was the last of the judges. He was much more than a judge, however. Samuel also was a prophet and a priest.

The book of Judges tells of the terrible conditions that existed in Israel during Samuel's time. In Judges 21:25 we read that "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eye."

Imagine the chaos we would have in our land today if every person did what he wanted with no consideration of others. Also imagine what our land would be like today with no law enforcement. That is exactly the condition the people of Israel faced.

Israel was faced with widespread fear and insecurity because of the aggression of the Philistines.

The times called for a strong leader, one who could lead the people of Israel through a period of spiritual and political crisis. Samuel was such a man.

Little in the Bible is said about how long Samuel served under God. Scriptures tell us that Samuel was an excellent leader with strong leadership qualities.

In I Samuel 7:17 we find that Samuel, though he traveled

broadly remained close to his roots. He lived in Ramah where he was born and where he had good memories of his devoted mother, Hannah.

Samuel also was devoted to his own family. He made his sons judges (ch. 8:1-3). Unfortunately the practice of appointing family members to positions of leadership sometimes leads to trouble. This happens today and it happened with Samuel. "And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted justice," (v. 3). Samuel's sons disgraced him. This reminds us that "grace does not flow in the blood." That is why it is so important for our children to learn themselves about God's love and to seek His wisdom and spirit. We cannot do it for them through our lives.

The elders of the city took advantage of the situation to request a king similar to other nations (vv. 4-5). They were not willing to trust in God alone. Christians today are guilty of falling into the same trap. We always look for people who can help us in tough situations while failing to turn the problem over to God, the ultimate problem-solver.

Basic Passage Samuel 7:15-8:22

Samuel was disappointed with the people and turned to God. God surprised him because God told him to grant the people's request, but to do so with a warning of what might happen with an earthly king (vv. 6-9).

Samuel warned the people

that future kings could make unreasonable demands. While not all of Israel's kings did this, history records that many did.

Why did God allow the Israelites to have their way? God made His people with the ability to make decisions — right or wrong. He gave us wills to make free choices. Also, some of the best lessons of life are learned the hard way. Though Samuel could not convince the people they would not like having a king, the time came when they cried out to God for freedom from oppressive rulers.

Sometimes we are like that as well. We choose to ignore God's Word to us and rely on others.

God eventually freed His people from oppression. He sent a new king to earth who would rule with kindness, mercy, and love. His name was Jesus.

□ Make a personal response — Life and Work Lesson for October 4

By James Hutson, pastor, First Church, Rockwood

For the next ten weeks we will study I and II Timothy and Titus. They are called the pastoral epistles because they are letters written to individuals, in this case pastors Timothy and Titus. The general theme of this study is Breakthrough.

This theme is part of the larger theme of Bold Mission Thrust adopted by Southern Baptists in 1976. The overall goal of Bold Mission Thrust is that every person on planet earth would have the opportunity to hear the good news about Jesus Christ by the year 2000. We have made some progress toward this goal, but there is much more to be done in evangelism and missions. If our denomination is to achieve its lofty goal, we must have a Breakthrough.

Paul and Timothy (vv. 1-2)

Paul's salutation says two

things: 1. He identified himself (v. 1) He was an apostle by the command of God. Paul never forgot that he was a man under orders. 2. He commended Timothy (v. 2). There was an intimate relationship between the two men. The father-son relationship was a reflection of the teacher-disciple relationship. Both relationships were overshadowed by the "in Christ" relationship. Paul offered to Timothy a blessing of grace, mercy, and peace. Grace and peace were standard greetings with Paul. Paul used mercy in his greeting only in I and II Timothy. This was great assurance to a young man in the ministry. He was Paul's son and our Lord's servant.

Paul's experience of the Gospel (vv. 12-17)

Paul's experience was an

expression of God's saving grace (vv. 12-14). His experience was positive (v. 12). Here Paul offered thanks to God for strength. It was God who "enabled" Paul. He offered thanks that he was considered "faithful" or trustworthy. He offered thanks for the privilege of being a servant. The word translated "ministry" means to serve. It is the root word we translate for deacon. Both ministers and lay people are to be servants. Jesus said, "He who is greatest among you shall be your servant," (Matthew 23:11).

Paul's experience was negative (v. 13). Paul was always ready to remind his listeners and readers of his pre-Christian experience. Ignorance is a great handicap. The inability to read, to do simple arithmetic, and solve problems makes life more

difficult. Spiritual ignorance may occur because no one has told us differently. It can also occur by unbelief when we know the truth, but refuse to accept it. Paul's ignorance was replaced by faith when he learned the truth.

Paul's experience was of grace (v. 14). To him, God's grace was "exceedingly abundant," or more than enough. It is like a river overflowing its banks.

Paul confessed "Jesus came into the world to save sinners of which I am chief," (vv. 15-16). Paul liked to use superlatives to describe himself. "I am least of all saints," (Ephesians 3:8). "I am least of all apostles," (I Corinthians 15:9). None of these should be taken literally. Paul was not chief of sinners nor least of saints. But he realized that who he was and what he was were the result of God's grace.

Paul's outpouring of praise is one of the great doxologies of the Bible (v. 17). It is an outpouring of his heart as he reflected on the mercies of God.

Paul's charge to Timothy (vv. 18-19)

Paul urged Timothy to fight the good fight. The struggle between good and evil, righteousness and unrighteousness.

Basic Passage: I Timothy 1

faith and unbelief, is not a picnic. It is a war. Jesus won the victory at Calvary, but until our Lord returns, the battle continues.

If Bold Mission Thrust is going to be more than a slogan, you and I, like Timothy, must fight the good fight, keep the faith, and share the faith.

FMB to assist Somali group in achieving peace

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will assist a group of Somali expatriates in its attempt to secure peace between warring factions in Somalia. The board has agreed to transport five members of the Somali Coalition for Action to Somalia as soon as the group secures written invitations from faction leaders assuring safe passage in and out of the country.

Board administrators hope the trip will take place by mid-October or early November. They also plan to send relief supplies with the coalition delegation, said Jim Houser, FMB associate area director for eastern and southern Africa.

"The idea is to help bring about a cease-fire in the short term and, in the long term, peace so relief goods can be distributed safely to the people," Houser said. "We're involved because we were approached by the group and felt this was at least worth a try."

Since March 1991 the Foreign Mission Board has channeled more than \$115,000 in relief and world hunger funds to workers in Kenya and Yemen aiding Somali refugees. Board officials expect to send more aid in the coming months. The board also has issued special calls to prayer for Somalia and asked several hundred Southern Baptist churches to include the Somali people in their prayer ministries that focus on unreached people groups. □

N.C. college plans school of divinity

Baptist Press

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. — Calling it a natural, maybe inevitable, growth process, trustee leaders of Gardner-Webb College added a school of divinity during an August meeting on campus.

Robert L. Lamb, long-time

faculty member and former chair in the department of religious studies and philosophies, was named dean of the new school by Gardner-Webb President M. Christopher White.

"The entrance of this institution into theological education at the graduate level is a natural, maybe inevitable, growth process," White said. "We have been in theological education for decades," the president observed, noting Gardner-Webb has had several thousand graduates in Christian ministry.

The offering of a master of divinity degree at Gardner-Webb follows a recent move by the college to introduce a master of arts in Christian ministry. The response to the master of arts in Christian ministry, which will begin January 1993, has been overwhelming, according to White.

The master of divinity is a three-year (about 90 semester hours) basic professional degree. It will be comparable to similar degrees in theological seminaries and divinity schools. Students will be permitted to take a heavier class load and this degree does not require an undergraduate degree in religion as an admission prerequisite.

According to college officials, the divinity school will automatically be accredited by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges and will seek accreditation from the Association of Theological Schools. □

Patterson reports on accreditation

Southeastern Seminary

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — The Reaffirmation Committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) completed a three-day study of Southeastern Baptist (N.C.) Theological Seminary Sept. 16. Southeastern President Paige Patterson said, "Their visit was extraordinarily helpful, and all the recommendations SACS left with us are entirely reasonable."



EVANGELIST BILLY GRAHAM, right, brought words of hope to the victims of Hurricane Andrew, which left South Florida with 250,000 homeless and 97,000 homes destroyed. Graham toured the devastated communities at the invitation of Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles and Alvah H. Chapman Jr., who was appointed by President Bush to head the "We Will Rebuild" reconstruction efforts. Here, Graham visits with Mary and Claude Yates, whose home was destroyed by the hurricane.

Patterson said the SACS committee "extensively examined our entire program and structure as well as the particular items which led to our current probationary status."

Patterson told students gathered in chapel. "No recommendation is beyond our ability to effect, neither are any unconscionable. To the contrary, they are most helpful, and we will initiate an effort to respond fully to the recommendations of SACS and give our best energies to that end."

Concerning Southeastern's ten-year reaffirmation of accreditation, SACS will make no public announcement. Patterson said, "It is not the practice of SACS to share its recommendation concerning the possibility of reaffirmation. Indeed, that awaits our institutional response to their concerns. A decision regarding our accreditation will be forthcoming at the December meeting of SACS in Dallas." □

Missouri college dismisses chancellor

Baptist Press

BOLIVAR — Trustees of Southwest Baptist University, in Bolivar have voted to dismiss James L. Sells as chancellor of the Missouri Baptist school. Sells had been associated with the college since 1965.

In a press release handed out to reporters following a five-hour closed-door meeting, the trustees announced, "Dr. James L. Sells has been terminated as chancellor of Southwest Baptist University effective immediately. This action specifically revokes any and all authority or license previously given to Dr. Sells to be associated with the university or to use the university's name in any manner or nature whatsoever."

According to SBU attorney Gary Lynch, the action was approved by the trustees by a vote of 31-1. The school currently has 48 trustees. Word & Way, Missouri

church, he said.

"The purpose of reaching people is to involve them in the total life of the church, not just one organization," Brown said.

Tom Lee is author of the handbook which is designed for Sunday School general officers. A pastor's edition includes 16 additional pages to help pastors lead evangelism-outreach efforts. Writers for the age-level books are: adult, Richard Dodge, SSB; youth, Bob Metcalf, SSB, Craig Frye, youth minister at First Church, Franklin, and Vickie Knierim, youth worker at New Hope Church, Hermitage; children, Cosette Baker, SSB; and preschool, Jan Norville, preschool-children's minister at West Oakley Church, Las Vegas, Nev. □

Fall enrollment up at Southwestern

Southwestern Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas — Fall enrollment at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is up for the first time since 1985, according to the seminary's registrar.

The fall enrollment is at 3364 students, an increase of five students over a year ago. The figures include students registering at the Fort Worth campus and off-campus programs in Houston, San Antonio, Lubbock, Texas, and Shawnee, Okla.

Evangelist counters no risk 'curse'

Baptist Press

NORILSK, Siberia — "Many prisoners died under Stalin's regime building this city," a Norilsk journalist told Southern Baptist evangelist Sammy Tippit. "As a result, many people believe the city is under a curse. Would you agree?"

Tippit, of San Antonio, Texas, who was in the Siberian city for an evangelistic campaign, said, "No, many who died were believers in Christ."

"And the blood of martyrs is dear to the heart of God. I believe many will come to Christ because of the prayers of those who were martyred for him in this city."

Tippit's ministry counted 6000 decisions for Christ while in Norilsk. □

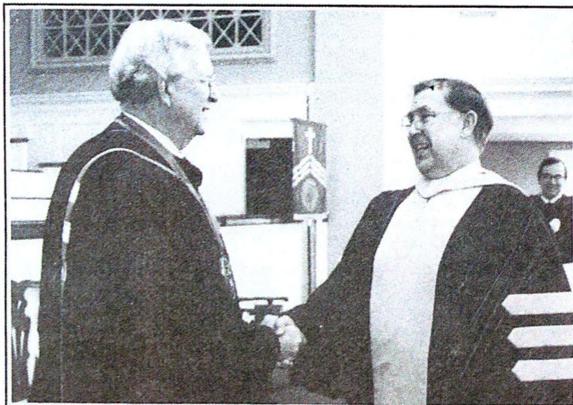
Organist going strong at age 86

Baptist Press

BAGDAD, Ky. — "I'm just going to keep sitting on that bench," says 86-year-old church organist Mary Nilles, "until they have to hold me up."

Indian Fork Church, Bagdad, recently honored Nilles for more than 60 years of service as church organist and pianist.

"I started out on an old pump organ," Nilles recounts. "When the church bought a piano, I played that until we got the spinet organ. Of course now we use an electronic one." □



FORMER TENNESSEAN Jack R. Cunningham, right, J. M. Frost associate professor of Christian education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was congratulated by seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt upon Cunningham's signing of the Abstract of Principles, the seminary's statement of faith since its founding in 1859. Prior to joining the Louisville, Ky., school's faculty this fall, Cunningham was associate director of Seminary Extension in Nashville and a member of First Church, Millersville. — Photo by Tom McDonald