

FMB appoints missionaries with Tennessee ties

■ this week's news

global:

■ Keith Parks retires Oct. 30 after 38 years of foreign missions service, including the last 13 years as president of the Foreign Mission Board. — See page 3

■ Southern Baptist missionaries consider evacuating Liberia. — See page 2

national:

■ Tennessee Baptist Martin Bradley retires from SSB after pioneering statistical work. — See page 4

■ Orders for the 1991 Baptist Hymnal recently topped the two million mark. — See page 6

state:

■ Stoneway Acres, operated by Baptist Homes for Exceptional Persons, will be deeded to Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes Nov. 5. — See page 3

■ Union University has been awarded a \$450,000 grant from The Kresge Foundation. — See page 2

RICHMOND — Seven people with Tennessee ties were among 41 people appointed as missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Oct. 13 at Huguenot Road Church in Richmond.

Lewisburg pastor Mark A. Duggin and his wife, Melinda, were appointed to serve in north Brazil where he will start and develop churches. They also will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Duggin, a native of Murfreesboro, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Duggin of Memphis. He considers Whitten Memorial Church, Memphis, as his home church.

Duggin, pastor of Parkview Church, is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis. He also has been pastor of Stanton Church, Stanton.

Melinda Duggin is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Sargent of Memphis. She considers Bartlett Church, Bartlett, as her home church. She holds an associate of science degree in nursing from Union University.

The Duggins have three children: Matthew, Micah, and Mandi.

Richard and Teresa Folkerth Jr. have been named representatives of Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization.

The Folkerths will live in



DUGGINS



FOLKERTHS



RAYS

southern Asia where they will use their skills in development of CSI-related projects in developing nations in that area.

The couple has been attending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Most recently he was a wildlife biologist with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency in Nashville. They are members of Stonebrook Mission of First Church, Smyrna.

Folkerth is an Ohio native while his wife is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Roop of Spring City. She was born in Bristol. She also lived in Jefferson City, Bluff City, and Chinquapin. She considers First Church, Jefferson City, her home church.

The couple has two children: Meghann and Michael.

Eddie and Janice Ray have been appointed to serve in Zambia where he will start and develop churches. They also will be

involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Ray, a Louisiana pastor, was born in Martin and is the son of Lenetta Ray of Rives. Ray considers Alamo Church, Rives, as his home church. He is a graduate of Union University and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

He has been a self-employed farmer in Rives and was interim pastor of Calvary Church, Rutherford.

His wife is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Jacobs of Rives. She too considers Alamo Church as her home church. The Rays have two grown children.

Bonita K. Wilson was appointed to serve in Zambia where she will train women in the churches and be involved in outreach ministries. A native of Illinois, she is a graduate of Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, and



WILSON

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

She cites First Church, Donelson, as being influential in her Christian growth. She formerly served as Acteens director for Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.

The new missionaries will attend a seven-week orientation in Rockville, Va., before going to their respective fields of service. □

At Sunday School Board

Retirement 'window' chosen by 159 employees

By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — More than 83 percent of the 191 Southern Baptist Sunday School Board employees eligible for a special voluntary retirement window have elected to take the enhanced early retirement provision approved by the institution's trustees in August.

A total of 159 elected to retire between Sept. 1 and Nov. 1. The one-time provision, part of a restructuring for the 101-year-old church programs and publications agency, was offered during the summer to persons with a minimum age of 52 and whose age and tenure totaled at least 77.

In addition to the retirement of eight employees from middle- and upper-level management positions announced in June, six department directors are retiring. They are Max Caldwell, Sunday School youth-adult department; Muriel Blackwell, Sunday School preschool-children's department;

Tom Clark, Bibles and books; Ray Conner, church recreation; Joe Denney, video/audiovisuals; and Jerry Ross, art.

Retirees among Baptist Book Store managers include two regional managers, Robert Mendenhall, southeastern region, and Al Crawford, central/campus region.

Five store managers in the 63-store chain will retire. They are Ken Brannon of Greensboro, N.C.; Charles Clark of Nashville; Charles McGlocklin of Jackson, Miss.; Loren Miller of Knoxville; Jeanette Scott of Wake Forest, N.C.; and Fran Webb of Charlotte, N.C.

Of the 159 retirees, 53 were in management positions, 63 were professionals, and 43 support staff personnel.

Provisions of the voluntary retirement incentive plan include no reduction in monthly benefits for early retirement and a benefit enhancement based on projected Social Security benefits to age 62

or age 65, depending on the individual's age at retirement.

The program is being financed by the board's pension trust fund and affects operating costs positively by savings in salaries and benefits. After replacement of about 50 percent of the departing employees, the program is expected to save the board about

\$2.5 million.

The 32 employees who did not take the package will remain as board employees, said Frank White, of the SSB's office of communications.

Because of reorganization, some of the remaining employees may have new roles, White added. □

CP receipts needed by Oct. 31

Churches are reminded that the Tennessee Baptist Convention's budget year closes Oct. 31. Church treasurers should mail their Cooperative Program and designated offerings early this week if they are to be counted in the budget year ending Oct. 31, said Bill Wilson, TBC interim executive director.

In order for a church's receipts to be counted in the 1991-92 budget year, they must be at the TBC offices in Brent-

wood by Oct. 31. Monies mailed in October but received in November will be counted toward the 1992-93 budget. Mail delivery usually takes two to three days.

As of Oct. 23, CP receipts were running \$814,872.99 over last year, but was still below the convention's adopted budget, Wilson said.

The convention has operated on 83 percent of the adopted budget for the 1991-92 budget year. □

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BWA women set high goal for prayer offering

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — As Baptist women around the world observe their annual Day of Prayer the first Monday in November, they are challenged to more than triple their offerings to reach a goal of \$1.2 million worldwide.

The challenge goal for North American Baptist women is \$1 million. The total worldwide offering on the 1991 Day of Prayer was \$331,576.

The high goal was set by the BWA women's department executive committee, composed of

Relief gifts top \$1.5 million

By Barbara Denman
For Baptist Press

MIAMI — Dipping into piggy banks, pocketbooks, and personal savings, more than 1500 Southern Baptists and others have offered a liberal financial hand to churches and communities in the hurricane-ravaged Miami area.

As of Oct. 15, more than \$1.5 million had been contributed to the Florida Baptist Convention's disaster relief fund to help victims of Hurricane Andrew — an unprecedented amount for the convention to receive in unsolicited giving.

These funds are being earmarked for a variety of purposes, meeting immediate and long-term needs in Dade County.

Individuals, businesses, churches, Sunday School classes, Baptist associations, and state conventions have participated in the giving, providing small and large amounts.

Their gifts have ranged from \$2.70 given by a Florida child to more than \$100,000 contributed by a sister state convention.

Individuals and churches from North Carolina contributed \$286,300; South Carolina Baptists, \$232,600; Georgia Baptists, more than \$158,000; Virginia Baptists, \$130,800; and Montana Baptists, \$3500.

John Sullivan, executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, said the \$1.5 million in contributions is "un-

Ministers' wives to meet at TBC

The Tennessee Baptist Ministers' Wives Luncheon will be held Nov. 17 at noon at the Glenstone Lodge, Days Inn, on Airport Road in Gatlinburg.

The theme for the luncheon is "Creative Power."

Julie McMahan, a craft artist, will be special program guest. Music will be provided by Diane Jordan, secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Ministers' Wives organization.

Tickets may be obtained by calling Bobby Metcalf, president, at (615) 687-6616; Linda Taylor, vice president, (615) 577-2539 or 688-9811; or Jordan at (615) 475-2719. Tickets also may be purchased in the Exhibit Hall at the TBC Nov. 16 or on Tuesday morning, Nov. 17, before the meeting. □

excutive committee, composed of international and continental officers. Catherine Allen of Birmingham, Ala., is president of the department and Aduke Akinola of Nigeria is secretary/treasurer.

The annual Day of Prayer, sponsored by BWA's women's department, is observed in the 165 member bodies of the Baptist World Alliance. Offerings taken on this day are shared equally between the six continental unions of the women's department and the international office.

believable. It has far exceeded any expectations I had. It just proves again the most generous people in the world are Southern Baptists."

Robert LaFavre, Walton County Baptist Association director of missions, spent the early hours after the storm helping at the state convention's command center at Pembroke Road Church in Miramar. He returned to the association's churches and led them to raise \$15,000.

Among gifts from more than 400 Florida Baptist churches were \$27,000 from First Church, Orlando; \$19,000-plus from First Church, Jacksonville; and \$13,000-plus from Calvary Church, Clearwater. Another 500 donations received were from individual Floridians.

Many gifts represented sacrificial giving by elderly persons, who wrote that their checks were "small" but when added to other gifts increased in size. □

In North America, the continental union (NABWU) includes 20 conventions and unions in the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean. In a recent letter to the leadership of women's groups in North America, outgoing NABWU President Dorothy Sample said the support of women on this continent is "crucial."

"We in North America have the greatest resources of all the continental unions but we give the least per capita. This is a heart-breaking truth. As we seek this year to reach more and more women around the world for Christ, to train Baptist women leaders in remote areas, and to meet physical needs of women and children, your support is crucial," Sample wrote.

Around the world the Baptist

Women's Day of Prayer is observed in nearly all the major languages and in many dialects. The program, distributed by the BWA women's department, is sent early in the year to translators in the six continental unions. The suggested program includes Bible study, testimonies, and prayer requests for women throughout the world.

The Baptist Women's Day of Prayer was held first in Europe in 1948 as a means of reconciling national Baptist groups following World War II. The movement has grown to include Baptist women in about 200 nations. Offerings taken on this day are the financial lifeline of the women's department, an auxiliary of the Baptist World Alliance. □

Liberia missionaries on alert

Baptist Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — Southern Baptist missionaries distributing food, clothing, and bedding to refugees flooding into Monrovia may soon flee the country themselves.

Fighting between rebel factions and troops of a seven-nation West African peacekeeping force has escalated in recent weeks. Heavy fighting continued Oct. 22 on the outskirts of Monrovia, according to news reports. Peacekeeping forces have imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew in Monrovia and the U.S. Embassy is transporting dependents and other nonessen-

tial personnel out of the country.

Ten Southern Baptist missionaries in Monrovia have reviewed evacuation plans and may leave if fighting increases in the capital city, said mission administrator Bradley Brown in a radio message to missionaries in neighboring Sierra Leone.

By Oct. 22, Baptist Press had not learned of any missionaries leaving the country.

Besides Brown, from Marietta, Ga., other Southern Baptist missionaries in Monrovia are Brown's wife, Carolyn, of East Point, Ga.; Felix and Dene Greer of Jackson, Miss.; John McPherson of Knoxville; Debbie Moore of Hope, Ark.; Kenneth and Joyce Nicholson of Magdalena, N.M., and Seaside, Calif., respectively; and Jim and Jane Park of Paducah, Ky.

Two other Southern Baptist couples work in Yekepa, a small mining town in northern Liberia: missionaries Earl and Jane Williams, from West Monroe, La., and Knoxville, and International Service Corps workers George and Margaretta Senter, from North Garden, Va., and Eskilstuna, Sweden. They may not necessarily evacuate at the same time as the Monrovia-based missionaries. □



CUMBERLAND GAP ASSOCIATION elected the following as officers during its recent meeting: From left, back row, Robert G. Ziegler, treasurer, member, First Church, Harrogate; Jay Sulfridge, moderator, pastor, Little Mulberry Church, Sneedville; Floyd Montgomery, vice moderator, member, Indian Creek Church, Harrogate; Phyllis Hurst, assistant clerk, member, Blair's Creek Church, Tazewell; Bill Hazlewood, director of missions; front row, Mrs. White Brus, clerk, member, Cedar Grove Church, Tazewell. Messengers met Oct. 12-13 at Little Mulberry Church. — Photo by Connie Davis

Union receives \$450,000 grant

Union University has been awarded \$450,000 for a new student union building from The Kresge Foundation in Troy, Michigan.

Construction is scheduled to begin on the \$4 million building in spring of 1993. The student union will house the university's dining services, bookstore, student affairs offices, and new 250-seat auditorium.

"Counting the Kresge grant, we have raised just under \$2 million in cash and pledges toward this building project," said Hyran E. Barefoot, Union's president. "The Kresge Foundation requires that Union raise the remainder of the money needed by March 1994. We will be working hard during the next 18 months to succeed in the total fund-raising effort." □

Church hosts prayer meeting for nation

There will be a special meeting on Nov. 2 sponsored by Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville.

Beginning at 7 p.m., the one hour service is designed for prayer for the nation according to a church spokesman, and is planned "at this important time for the national election in selecting our leaders."

Theme of the prayer meeting at Bluegrass Church is a portion of Psalm 33:12, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." □

The Parks era: shifting to a global strategy

By Leland Webb
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The nearly 13 years R. Keith Parks has led Southern Baptists' foreign missions have been packed: Daring new methods. Classic restatement of Baptists' primary mission goal. Clear re-emphasis of basic principles. A surge in volunteers. Prayer emphasized as strategy. Closer cooperation with other missions-centered Christian groups. Reinforcing partnership with overseas Baptists. New focus on forgotten peoples.

But those are subtopics under the two-word theme of the Parks era: global evangelization.

"More than any other person, he has led us to focus on the whole world," says William Hancock, Foreign Mission Board chairman from 1990-92. Parks led Southern Baptists to realize "there are no countries closed to the Gospel. He has been persistent in giving leadership that focused on the unreached peoples of the world."

Adds Baptist World Alliance General Secretary Denton Lotz: "He has been a significant instrument of God for... the missionary goal of evangelization of the world in this generation."

As always, historians looking back on the 1980s and 1990s will have to provide the long-range perspective. But from several of Parks' contemporaries who have been part of this missions era have come evaluations of his 153-month term. (His tenure ranks him sixth in length of service among FMB executives.) Parks retires Oct. 30 after 38 years in Southern Baptist Foreign Missions.

The whole world

The challenge to proclaim the Gospel to all people came as a mid-course adjustment for Parks' presidency. It grew out of crushing statistical evidence that without an enlarged vision of the world, Southern Baptists would never contribute their full share to global evangelization.

"At a time when numerous denominations were pulling back from foreign-mission efforts, he was urging Southern Baptists to move forward," points out William M. Pinson Jr., Baptist General Convention of Texas executive director. "He helped Southern Baptists realize the extent of the world's lostness."

The impact of Parks on evangelization "is not yet fully measurable because the implications of his redrawing the map of missions reality are massive," comments Bill O'Brien, former FMB executive vice president and one of Parks' closest associates.

Global partners

Reality often reinforces convictions. Parks sought early on to convince overseas Baptist leaders of his sincerity concerning real partnership. Over the years many of them accepted the fact that Parks meant what he said, even as they grasped the implications for their national Baptist conventions. Meanwhile in the United



THE POWER OF PRAYER has characterized the 38-year missions career of Keith Parks, second from left, who will retire Oct. 30 as president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

States, the research-supported picture of the massiveness of the global-witness task helped convince others of the need for partnership at all levels.

The first Global Evangelization Strategy Consultation, held at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center in June 1985, involved Baptist leaders from 21 nations and set in motion a growing sense of partnership among overseas Baptists.

Innovation, recommitment

The realistic view of the world Parks embraces has led to emphases in two seemingly divergent directions. Yet when understood in the context of Parks' consistent missiology, these directions can be understood as complementary, not contradictory. The two developments: 1) fostering dramatic new approaches to restricted nations and unreached peoples; and 2) renewed emphasis on "evangelism that results in churches." Both elements relate to making the best use of available personnel and money.

In his "innovative approaches to 'frontier' mission efforts," Parks showed he has "a heart for the lost, the least, and the forgotten," says Jimmy Maroney, director of the FMB's Global Desk. "He tried to move this board beyond the safety of 120 countries into the high-risk countries of the Muslim, Hindu, and animistic world. The final frontier. That area of the world that has received the least attention by Christians for centuries."

"He moved from seeing mis-

sionaries go only to countries requesting personnel to countries-people groups that would never request missionaries because of a dominant Muslim or Hindu population."

At the same time, Parks called missionaries' attention to the board's longstanding stated intention: where possible reduce missionary profile in overseas churches and institutions, relinquishing responsibilities to overseas Baptists. This, in theory, would allow missionaries to push farther into unevangelized areas.

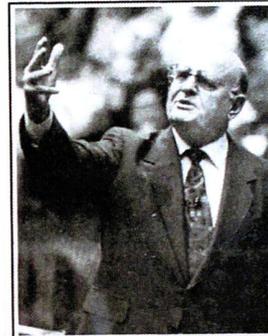
Parks "refocused Southern Baptist missionaries on evangelism," says C. Mark Cortis, Winston-Salem, N.C., pastor who was an FMB trustee in the 1970s and 1980s and chairman from 1988-90. "The concept of the 70/30 plan, which was misunderstood by so many, was an expression of Keith Parks' personal commitment to evangelism and was not an attempt to diminish Baptists' commitment to institutional missions, so much as it was a response to the social and nationalistic realities of our day."

Personal integrity

"The real assessment of Keith Parks will have to be made in terms of the man," suggests Avery Willis, a former missionary colleague in Indonesia, now discipleship and family adult department director at the Sunday School Board in Nashville. "He has been a brilliant strategist, a concerned and burdened missions leader, a loyal and principled in-

dividual who has set a personal example by his own spiritual life, his family, his Christian life, and his faith.

"Everything he espoused had already been thought out and lived out in the crucible of the mission field. He did not ask others to do what he had not already done himself."



PARKS

The tenure for Parks as FMB leader has fallen entirely within the era of restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention, with its sweeping changes in leaders and loyalties. Yet he remains one of the most respected convention leaders.

Difficulties

Despite the directions altered during the Parks years, some feel more progress might have resulted had conditions been different. "Communicating vision and winning support for it are never simple," advises Winston Crawley, longtime staff member who once directed the board's former overseas division and retired while director of planning. "Inertia is not just a principle of physics; it is also a reality of human interaction. Change does

not come easily, and there are always those who resist it."

Observers have suggested some specific factors that affected the outcome of the Parks era. Summarized in two categories:

- Southern Baptist interests have been focused on matters other than missions: SBC changes, a slowing national economy, a trend toward U.S. isolationism in the 1980s, world conditions.

"The greatest factor hindering global evangelization is illiteracy and/or apathy among Southern Baptists as to our responsibility for reaching out to the world," FMB trustee Ginny Brant declares.

Suggests Cortis, "The diminished denominational loyalty was hard for him to understand, and individuals' increased concern with issues and faithfulness to those issues rather than faithfulness to a denomination were difficult for him to grasp."

Willis notes with regret, "For whatever reasons, he was not able to affect as much change on the Baptist constituency in the United States as he was on the missionary force and the rest of the world. He did inspire integrity and stability on the part of most Baptists. He was not able to overcome the difficulties enough to encourage Baptists to give more generously to missions."

- Organizational drawbacks. Managing a worldwide enterprise is intricate in any arena, but a foreign mission effort is made up of a unique collection of individuals, at home and overseas, most of whom feel led by God to serve in their role. To this milieu Parks brought a participatory management style, assigning responsibility, and calling for accountability.

Parks' administrative style "did not hamper the vision, but it probably hampered equal implementation of the vision," suggests O'Brien. If, for whatever reason, staff members "do not share equal enthusiasm for the vision, that is bound to come out in the ways it is communicated and implemented... or not implemented, as the case may be."

But O'Brien, Parks' fellow visionary, feels that Keith Parks "has embraced the best of our heritage while innovating for the future. He has done so while remaining inclusive of all Southern Baptists, seeing the FMB as a servant agency for all the churches, and people who call themselves Southern Baptists." □

Adult Homes to receive Stoneway Acres

Baptist Homes for Exceptional Persons will hold an appreciation banquet Nov. 5 to thank benefactors of their ministry to the mentally retarded.

During the banquet, Stoneway Acres, the ministry's group home for men in Lebanon, will be deeded to Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes.

Many different people, churches, businesses, Sunday School classes, and missionary groups

have contributed to erase a \$200,000 debt on the Lebanon facility in just two years.

BHEP will continue its ministry in a support role, said J. L. Ford, executive director of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes.

The banquet will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Two Rivers Church, Nashville. The meal is free, but reservations are needed. Call Two Rivers Church at (615) 889-3950 by Nov. 2 for reservations. □



HELEN JEAN PARKS, center, along with her husband, Keith Parks, have formed a life-long team for missions. Here, they visit volunteer missionary Mary Saunders in Ethiopia.

■ about letters to the editor

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Irresponsible behavior

I take issue with the idea "a woman has the right to do what she wants with her own body." If all women in America began shooting off their left foot, there would be an immediate outcry and legislation and punishment meted out to anyone guilty of such irresponsible behavior. A woman has no right to mutilate her own body and no court, no jury, and no judge would ever give her that right.

Abortion does not blow up a woman's body, but blows up, mutilates, and disfigures the body of a precious human baby inside the womb of the woman. The parts of the dead baby's body must be put back together to make sure that no part is left inside the woman's body. Then the dead baby's body is thrown out into the garbage can or disposed of in an incinerator or some other way. No burial. No prayer. Nothing.

More than 1.5 million precious American boys and girls have come to this horrible

fate. On the streets of America, precious American babies are being blown up and killed in different ways, and that, with the full consent of the law. Innocent blood is being shed daily under the grossly untrue statement that a woman has the right to take a human life just because she carries it around in her body. This is nothing more than a horrible lie. "God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." American women are certainly believing a horrible lie. "Know ye not that your body is the temple of God ..."

God have mercy on this holocaust-American style, and on American people for permitting such destruction and desecration of human bodies.

Betty Jo King
Nashville 37209

Our choice

I am responding to the letter "Label-Free" in the Oct. 14 issue. Without labeling the group, the people in control of

the Southern Baptist Convention have a lot of similarities with fundamentalists of earlier years. Present leadership has made it clear that unless one agrees with them, he or she will not be welcome in SBC leadership roles.

However, unlike earlier fundamentalists, they did not separate and create their own literature, seminaries, or other institutes while criticizing the main convention. Instead they had their own meetings (and still have them) to organize and control the Southern Baptist Convention and force those who oppose them to separate or complain. The effort was much more effective for them than what was done earlier. That is the main difference. This group accomplished what earlier fundamentalists failed to accomplish. They control the convention.

However, the spirit is pretty much the same. When the controlling group meets, there is no spirit of love toward those who do not agree with

them. If we as Baptists cannot or will not tolerate disagreement (even welcome disagreement), we are doomed to split. People used to ask how Southern Baptists were able to function so well without a creed. Now we have a creed (The Kansas City Confession of Faith and its interpretation by those in control), but we cannot function well together. People no longer ask me that question. The only questions concerning a split, are when, and how badly will it hurt missions? My prayer is that all Baptists would again have a voice in the convention and we can live together in love and harmony. My prediction is that we will grow further apart and eventually split unless God can bring us together in unity and love. Remember, if we do not let God use us in the spirit of love, God will use others. It is our choice.

Tony McGuire
Knoxville, 37931

Martin Bradley pioneers statistical work at SSB

By Linda Lawson
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE—Martin Bradley was working as a cost accountant in the Ford Motor Company's aircraft division in

Kansas City, Mo., when he chose another career path.

He joined the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board as statistician in the research and statistics department, becoming the first staff member

trained in the field of statistics. That was 1954, and Bradley, 65, retires Nov. 1 after 38 years with the department, concluding his service as director of corporate planning and research.

Bradley, a member of First Church, Nashville, is married to Ruth Bradley, a 20-year employee of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, based in Brentwood.

During his career, the Sedalia, Mo., native has seen the research department grow from a unit of five to a peak of 37 employees involved in conducting research not only for the board but for other Southern Baptist agencies. He has overseen the mammoth compilation of the annual Uniform Church Letter, statistical reports from the more-than-38,000 Southern Baptist churches.

In the early days when statistics were compiled with IBM sorters, "we just couldn't do much with UCL statistics compared to what we can do now with computers," Bradley said. Today, for example, a computer can churn out on demand data on the top ten SBC churches in membership, Sunday School enrollment, or a myriad of other items.

Bradley pointed with pride to the introduction of the multiple-part Uniform Church Letter that allows churches to fill out one document to be forwarded to the associational office with

copies to state conventions and the board. Formerly, associational clerks had to painstakingly transcribe church data to a new form, a process that resulted in frequent errors and



BRADLEY

led the board to introduce in 1986 an issues management process to monitor emerging trends in society and strategize appropriate responses by the board through its products and services.

"This enables us to look at what's going to be happening out in the future rather than always being reactive," he said.

Issues identified and dealt with in recent years have included the aging of America, baby boomers, customization, and niche marketing, literacy, the environment, and globalization.

Bradley also has attended the past 38 consecutive SBC meetings, serving as recording secretary from 1978-90.

In retirement, Bradley plans to do research consultation and assist state conventions in planning and research.

"The enriching thing for me has been the persons and the relationships," Bradley said. □

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PS Form 3526, Dec. 1988

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



November -

- 1 - Missionary Carol Henson, who has been instrumental in opening several new works that have resulted in churches in Santiago, as she seeks the right place to begin another new work.
- 2 - Today is World Day of Prayer. Pray for global needs and also our Chile brothers and sisters as they meet to pray together.
- 3 - Youth leadership is needed for Antioquia Church in Malpu.
- 4 - Missionaries Steve and Mary Jo Cooke who will be working with two Chilean couples to open a new work sponsored by Nunoa Church in Santiago.
- 5 - Jimmy Spikes, an evangelist missionary, who is celebrating a birthday today.

The goal: putting the welfare of others before self

For weeks and months, Tennessee Baptists have been preparing for busy associational meetings and the subsequent TBC annual meeting.

Work has been done by committees. Groups have been hard at the task making provisions for messengers on both levels of action. Reports are being readied for presentation and discussion. And so the Baptist story continues.

We have much for which to be thankful. Our Baptists forefathers gave to us established procedures which provide for lively discussion, and at the same time protect each individual's precious right to dissent. Every one of us has that privilege, a sacred part of our heritage. Each of us also has the responsibility to honor each other with respect. The gathered body has the right to expect the same kind of respect. In other words, even though we have individual and corporate rights, we should not abuse them.

While Baptists believe in the orderly conduct of associational and convention business, we are usually organized so as to allow for freedom and spontaneity. Who knows, God's Holy Spirit might bless us so that we truly will experience renewal. He must not be hindered by confusion or selfishness. Decorum is to be desired, and the individual messenger should treat others

as he/she expects to be treated.

At this year's meeting in Gatlinburg on November 17-18, several issues have potential of provoking potentially volatile debate. Let all make certain we have a pure motive with clear, sound reasoning behind us. Last year's sessions in Memphis should be strong reminder of the difficulty of conducting convention business without distraction.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

The Executive Board's proposed budget may be questioned. Because of Cooperative Program shortfall, most TBC entities will have cuts on the suggested budget. There have been diverse feelings about the election of a new executive director. There have been discussions about several other potential problems. There may be discussion about proposed changes in the way directors of missions' supplement is handled. That old rumor about plans for a "takeover" of convention leadership is still making the rounds. Is it only a rumor?

Though there may be special interest groups present at the convention, we believe most Tennessee Baptists will support the budget as approved by the Executive Board in September, and we believe there will be strong support for James Porch as the new executive director. Every messenger must be given opportunity for adequate and free expression, but the

good of the body must always be paramount.

Careful preparation will help messenger and the corporate body. That comes by studying the issues, spending time in selfless prayer, and discussing and voting with a Christlike spirit and concern. How do we prepare?

1. Pray fervently for God's presence among us. Do nothing to keep him away.
2. Have proper credentials as a voting messenger if you want to participate.
3. Study the issues, the budget, the recommendations, the nominations for every board and committee. Study without preconceived decisions.
4. Discuss these with others who may see them with different perspectives.
5. Respect the rights of others, and promise not to act in envy, jealousy, or pride. Be willing to change if your opinion isn't as good as others.
6. Do all possible to dispel rumors. Check them for veracity. Keep them from interrupting Kingdom work and relationships among Tennessee Baptists.
7. Maintain Christian decorum, go the second mile, believe that God wants Tennessee Baptists to serve him and not ourselves.

We have potential to attempt and to do great things for God, by his grace. □

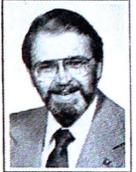
■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Keep strong home

There is much to be said for being in the right place at the right time. Home base is often neglected, when it always should have the strength for putting out fires and for starting them.

Six or seven years ago when we lived in Maryland, on a Sunday evening I had started home from church after worshiping and visiting with friends.



ALLEN

I stopped at the busy intersection with U. S. 1 and waited for the green signal. I moved out at a careful pace when the light changed. And to my surprise, I then heard a loud bang, coupled with a crumpling sound. I felt a strange smashing impact on my car's left side, scant inches from me.

The car whirled around crazily, skidding all the while, and halted after heading back toward the church. I got out with some effort and checked my car quickly, and myself. I ran to the other car and helped the young lady out of her late model red sports car.

I found out later she was returning home after visiting her boyfriend, and they had had a "fight." She said that was the reason she hadn't seen the two blazing red traffic lights and had hit me broadside.

This is so bad, I thought. No one is injured, and we are right in front of the police barracks. We'll get help quickly. Not so. We waited a few minutes and finally went to the barracks. The dispatcher told us that all the patrolmen were out on other cases; we would have to wait. Never mind our cars, there in the intersection. Eventually a patrolman came and rendered his duty.

The lesson learned from this scary and dangerous situation is that we need to keep our home base strong and fully manned - especially as people on duty for Christ. Our call is to minister at home, and elsewhere.

We must be prepared to put out fires at home, and to warn those around us who are cold. Staying strong at Jerusalem helps Samaria and Judea. □

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile -

The kindergarten teacher concluded the story of the rabbit and the turtle. "What do we learn from this story?" she asked. One little boy replied promptly, "You can't win 'em all!"

Take this truth with you -

You really can't win every time! Some things will go wrong, your whole life long. The sooner you learn it the better. In fact, life would be boring if we got everything we wanted. Be grateful you have to do without some things. You probably didn't need them anyway!

Memorize this Scripture -

"I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11).

Pray this prayer -

Dear Lord, help me to accept defeat gracefully when it comes and never forget that the true loser is the one who never enters the contest of life. Keep me from becoming discouraged by seeming failure or rejection by friends. Help us to remember that one could surrender to despair when he is on the edge of victory. □

Russians to view Baptist TV broadcasts

For Baptist Press

FORT WORTH — Representatives of Southern Baptists' Foreign Mission Board and Radio and Television Commission have begun work on a pilot project involving broadcast ministry opportunities in the former Soviet Union.

Don Kammerdiener, FMB executive vice president, and Sam James, vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, met Oct. 19 in Charlotte, N.C., with Jack Johnson, RTVC president, and Richard T. McCartney, executive vice president, to discuss ways the two agencies can work together.

The RTVC began transmitting two hours of programming weekly in the Russian republic in July.

"We felt it was vitally important to seize the opportunity for Gospel proclamation which the sudden offer of free television time brought," Johnson explained. "We knew local follow-up would be needed and that involvement of foreign mission personnel and Russian Baptists would be required to take full advantage of the opportunity."

The two agencies agreed to work cooperatively to construct a pilot project to build on the unique aspects of the unexpect-

ed Russian opportunities. They agreed to propose to Baptists in St. Petersburg a one-year project limited to the St. Petersburg area. If Baptists there agree, the Foreign Mission Board could select a coordinator, possibly a volunteer, to work with Baptists there to design a follow-up strategy.

"The Foreign Mission Board is always interested in using follow-up from media programs to integrate into work that is being done by local missionaries," Kammerdiener said.

Johnson agreed, "I am con-

vinced we must explore the outer limits of what media does best, then place that tool in the hands of field missionaries to help accelerate our pursuit of Bold Mission Thrust with Baptists in the CIS in November to see how they might respond. Later, probably in early 1993, a coordinator could lead churches in the St. Petersburg area to follow-up.

At the appropriate time, the RTVC would begin inviting response from viewers, with local churches participating in the follow-up, Johnson said. □



LEADING THE KNOX ASSOCIATION meeting Oct. 13 at Smithwood Church, Knoxville, were, from left, Alan Smith, moderator, pastor, Mars Hill Church, Knoxville; Walter Taylor, director of missions; Mack Bingham, vice moderator, minister of education-administration, Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville; and Gene Fleming, clerk, associate pastor, Cumberland Church, Knoxville.

New Baptist Hymnal orders exceed two million copies

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Orders for *The Baptist Hymnal* published in 1991 by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board have exceeded two million copies 19 months after its release.

Cedar Street Church of Metter, Ga., placed an order for 250 copies of the new edition on Oct. 5,

pushing sales of the hymnal past the two million milestone. The congregation sang from the new books during its homecoming services Oct. 19.

Pastor James Hartley said he and the church's volunteer music director, Monte Tillman, led the congregation to purchase *The Baptist Hymnal* because "we liked what we saw. It has better helps, the indexing is better, and we liked the songs better than in our old hymnal."

As of Oct. 19, total sales of the

new edition of the hymnal had reached 2,004,974 copies for a total of almost \$12.1 million. Total sales for the 28 other related products, including instrumental and specialized editions, had reached almost 150,000 copies for a total of \$1.89 million.

Unveiled in mid-March 1991 at PraisSing II, a national music and

worship event, the new hymnal attracted sufficient interest prior to its publication to reach sales approaching \$1.5 million four and one-half months before the release date. Persons choosing to order in advance did so without seeing the final product.

The first pre-publication order for the hymnal was placed in

February 1988, slightly three years before release date, by First Church, Richmond, Ky. By October 1990, 180,000 copies had been ordered. Sales had topped the \$4 million mark shortly after the PraisSing II unveiling, accounting for more than half a million copies of the new edition. □

Religious educators schedule banquet

Members of the Tennessee Baptist Religious Educators Association will hold their fall banquet Nov. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at First Church, Pigeon Forge.

Cost for the buffet meal is \$10. The Gloryland Band, a 15-piece band from Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, will perform.

For reservations, contact Roger Hagan, P.O. Box 12105, Memphis, Tenn., 38112. □

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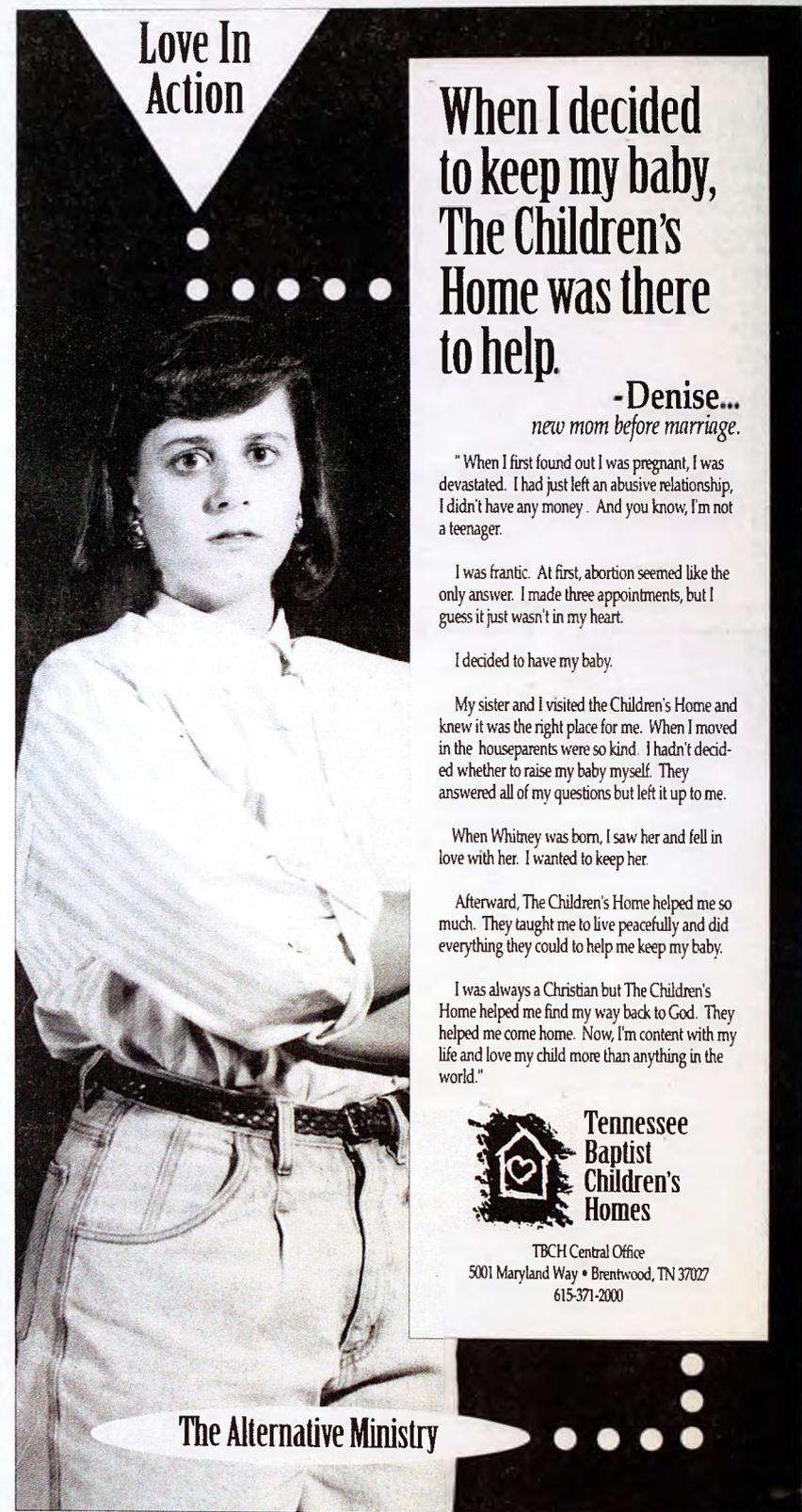
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When Whitney was born, I saw her and fell in love with her. I wanted to keep her.

Afterward, The Children's Home helped me so much. They taught me to live peacefully and did everything they could to help me keep my baby.

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The Alternative Ministry

■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Freedom through Christ — Bible Book Series for November 1

By Mike Kemper, pastor, Green River Church, Waynesboro

Paul described man's universal problem, sin. He explained that sin results in death. Paul told the Good News of God's plan of redemption by grace through faith. Every person who claims God's gift of redemption is "born again" and can shout "amen" to chapter 5.

Believers must be reminded, however, that salvation is not "the end," but "the beginning." Christians must proceed in faith to growth, and on to maturity from victory unto victory! Satan does not want believers to go on to discover spiritual truths. He seeks to cloud us in darkness.

Paul sought to bring light to questions some might have. "If God's grace abounds, then should believers live in sin to get more of God's grace?" Paul used a forceful phrase to counter the

possibility of this misguided understanding, "God forbid." This is not the truth at all. A Christian is "dead to sin," (v. 2). Christ died for us on the cross to pay the price of our sins. When we, by faith, accept His atonement for our sin, we also die to sin. We are dead to sin and alive in God.

Verses 3-4 do not refer to water baptism, but to the miraculous act of God by which He has put us "in Christ." Our old position was removed and we received a new position "in Christ." We know the "old nature" is still there, but when we are "in Christ," the old man is robbed of the power to rule over us. Praise God!

Verses 16-23 record Paul's comparison of "master and servant." No one can serve two mas-

ters. Before, we yielded ourselves to sin and were the servants of sin, which brought us "the wages of sin" (v. 23). After we were saved from sin, we were freed from the dominion of sin. We gained a new master and a new nature.

Tragically, many Christians choose to live beneath themselves by reverting to the old nature. In so doing, we live as slaves to sin when the truth is sin has no power. If it happens, it is because we have chosen to lower our standards to the "old nature" and deny the standards of our "new nature." Jesus said He came to "give life and to give it more abundantly." If we die to self and the "old nature," we can draw strength from the Lord to win daily victories over the sin that seeks to enslave us.

Paul continued by cutting even deeper into the problem in chapter 7. The fleshly nature seeks to drag us continually downward seeking to enslave us. The law God gave us is essential. The law is not sin, but the Law reveals sin (v. 7). By looking to the law we see the things we have done and know we have disobeyed God and are sinners. The reason we cannot make ourselves holy by obedience to the law is because our sinful self cannot be controlled by any law. Even though we try, and we should try, we fail, and "our sin slew us," (v. 11). In His love, God has not enslaved us under any law. But it is by His grace that we are free. The law is important — we should never forget. But the law cannot save us. May God's grace help us to

reckon ourselves as dead to sin, dead to the law, and alive to God through Christ, enjoying the blessing of being God's children.

Being a child of God brings a different style of living. The temptation to sin keeps knocking at our heart's door. It is a

Basic Passage
Romans 6:1 — 7:25

struggle, but we must remember that the wages of sin are and then yield to our true Master, who is the Lord. We can relate to the cry of desperation in verse 24. But we can also rejoice with Paul and other believers that this body of death can be overcome "through Jesus Christ our Lord (v. 25). □

□ Elijah: Prophet of courage — Convention Uniform Series for November 1

By Wes Ellis, retired pastor, Forest Hills Church, Memphis

It is written of Ahab that "as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat . . . he married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians, and went to serve Baal and worshiped him," (ch. 16:31).

Notice the references to the pagan god Baal, even in the names Ethbaal and Jezebel.

Ahab was confronted by Elijah the Tishbite, prophet of the Lord, whose name means "My God is Jehovah." The confrontation was clearly a contest between the true God and false ones. God in His mercy sends His servants to warn before ultimate judgment falls.

And unwelcome intruder
ch. 17:1-7

Elijah told King Ahab that a severe drought would befall the kingdom. The prophet also announced that the drought

would not end "except by my word" (v. 17). It may be that Ahab paid no attention until the drought began to be evident. But by then Elijah was nowhere to be found (ch. 18:10).

During this time he was in the care of the Lord by the brook Cherith and then by the widow of Zarephath in Sidon (ch. 17:2-24; see also Luke 4:25-26 and James 5:17-18). Sidon was the territory ruled by Jezebel's father. God provided for him in the very region where the false god Baal was thought to be in control.

Encounter with Ahab
ch. 18:1-18

Three and a half years of drought devastated the food supply. Near the end of that time, the Lord told Elijah to go again to Ahab with the promise of the end to the drought. In the meantime, the king searched the

countryside for grass to feed his livestock. He was assisted by Obadiah, not the prophet whose prophecy appears among the minor prophets, but a servant of the Lord who was employed in the king's household (vv. 4, 13). Elijah made himself known to him and reassured him, and he notified the king about where Elijah could be found.

Ahab accused Elijah of being the source of the troubles that had befallen Israel. "Is this you, you troubler of Israel?" However, the prophet countered with the truth: "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and you have followed the Baals" (v. 18). The plural is used because local communities had their own shrines and idols, all centered around the fertility god.

It is a human tendency to

blame others — especially the prophet of the Lord. Historically, Baptists have believed strongly that the preacher must be free to speak the message laid upon his heart. However, this seems to be changing as people tend to be more critical of message, method, and motivation. True, the messenger is human and may err, but the high view of the

Basic Passage
1 Kings 17:1-7; 18

pulpit is better, for it means the heart is open to hear what God may be saying.

Fire of the Lord, ch. 18:19-39

Elijah proposed a gathering and contest on Mount Carmel. This mountain ridge juts out into the Mediterranean Sea on the border where Jezebel's native country and Ahab's king-

dom came together. At the highest place were two altars, one used in the worship of Baal and the other, of great antiquity, had been used in the worship of God before the temple in Jerusalem became central.

The challenge was accepted. Elijah reminded the people of their failure to commit wholly to the Lord. The contest of fire would show who was the true God. The test would be to see which prophets could call down the fire to consume the sacrifice. All agreed (v. 24).

Elijah openly mocked the prophets of Baal in their futile attempts to elicit a response from their god. He repaired the broken altar, poured water on it, and reminded the people of repentance. With a few clear words he asked the Lord to show His power by fire. "Then the fire of the Lord fell" (v. 38). □

□ Accept the Good News — Life and Work Series for November 1

By James Hutson, pastor, First Church, Rockwood

Grace and peace are the common ingredients in Paul's standard greeting in his letters. Mercy is used only here and in 1 Timothy 1. The phrase "by the will of God" reflects Paul's deep consciousness of the divine purpose for his life. Even a Roman prison cell was not beyond God's purpose for his life.

Paul's thanksgiving, vv. 3-5

"I thank God," (v. 3). What are or who are you thankful for? Paul's list includes his young son in the ministry, Timothy, (1 Timothy 1:2). Paul commends Timothy for his faith, (v. 5). His faith is "unfeigned, sincere, genuine." It means genuine as compared to counterfeit. It means sincere as compared to pretense. Paul saw no deficiency in Timothy's faith.

In verses 3-6, Paul refers to

memory four times: "remember" in verse 3, "mindful" or "recall" in verse 6. Paul chose a variety of words in his desire that Timothy should have many memories to encourage him when Paul was gone. All of us have been enriched by the memories of those faithful servants of the Lord who have helped us and preceded us to glory.

Paul's charge to Timothy
vv. 6-10

"Stir up the gift of God which is in thee," (v. 6). This can mean stir up the fire to keep it from going out, or it can mean keep the fire hot by stirring it up. It does not mean the fire is going out. But all of us need to be sure the fire of Christian commitment burns brightly.

"Be strong in power, love, and discipline," (v. 7). The emphasis

in this verse is not the negative, "fear or timidity." The emphasis is on "boldness, love, and self-discipline."

"Share with me for the sake of the Gospel," (v. 8). There is no reason to think Timothy was ashamed or embarrassed by Paul's imprisonment. Paul urged Timothy to recognize he also may suffer for his Christian commitment.

"Remember God's purpose," (v. 9). It was God's grace that saved you and called you. The focus is always on the sovereign grace of God. This same grace will keep us. The security of the believer has its roots in God's marvelous grace.

"Remember the Lord Jesus," (v. 10). The whole range of Christ's redemptive work is seen as an accomplished fact. Our

confidence rests upon the life, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ.

Paul's testimony, vv. 11-12

Verse 11 records Paul's recollection of his calling from God. He was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher.

Verse 12 is Paul's personal statement. "I am not ashamed." Even though he was a prisoner in a Roman cell, he was proud to be called a follower of Jesus Christ. "I know in whom I have believed." It is the knowledge of personal experience. Some things we know because someone else told us. But other things, usually the more valuable things, we know because we have experienced them. A lot of people know about Jesus, but they have never trusted Him for salvation.

"I am persuaded." Paul was convinced of the reliability of his information. He had made up his mind. This is the word of continuous assurance and a banking term. "I have committed." Paul deposited his soul into God's hands for safekeeping. Some bankers are not trustworthy, but our Heavenly Father is

Basic Passage:
1 Timothy 1

completely trustworthy.

Breakthrough, the penetration of the Gospel into human hearts, will occur when you hear, receive, respond to, and share the good news of what God has done in Jesus Christ for all humankind. Before we can tell others, we must respond to the Gospel ourselves. □

TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ education

■ Robert Higgs, professor of English at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, was recently presented the Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, fifth annual Center for Educational Service to Appalachia Award. Higgs, co-editor of *Appalachia's Voices from the Hills* has written several articles and books concerning Appalachian studies and the Southern way of life.

■ the churches

■ Phil Glisson, Memphis, will lead revival Nov. 8-11 at **Riverside Church, Harri-man.**

■ The largest congregation in the memory of members of **Battle Creek Church, Springfield**, heard Pastor O. Jewell Barrett preach the 147th anniversary and homecoming sermon Oct. 4. The church's anniversary has been observed on the first Sunday in October for more than 100 years.

■ Revival was held recently at **First Church, Obion.** Bryan Parris, senior pastor at Watson Lane Church, Henderson, Ky., was evangelist, and John Berry, First Church's new minister of music and youth, led music. Three people made professions of faith, and one sought counsel concerning a call into the Gospel ministry.

■ Dal Shealy, president of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, was guest speaker Oct. 18 at **First Church, Sevierville.** He is former head football coach at Carson-Newman College and University of Richmond, and former assistant coach at University of Tennessee.

■ Members of **Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory**, dedicated their new sanctuary Oct. 18.

■ The 20th anniversary of **Bellevue Church, Nashville**, will be celebrated Oct. 30-Nov. 1. Speakers will be Mike Smith, Marty Bell, and Gerald Simmons. A potluck dinner will be served at noon Nov. 1.

■ Bob Pitman will lead revival Nov. 1-5 at **First Church, Camden.** Jonathan Nelms will lead music.

■ A "First-aid Crusade" will be Nov. 1-4 at **First Church, Columbia.** David Dykes will be speaker and Rick Stone will lead in music and worship.

■ Allen Buhler will lead worship and Bert Coble will lead music for revival Nov. 1-4 at **Cedar Grove Church, Lebanon.**

■ Revival will be Nov. 9-11 at **Immanuel Church, Lebanon.** Junior Hill will be evangelist and Price Harris will lead music.

■ Gary Beeler and Bob Zavattieri will lead revival beginning Nov. 2 at **Indian Ridge Church, Blaine.**

■ Revival led by Richard Skidmore will be Nov. 1-4 at **Union Grove Church, McKenzie.**

■ Members of **Sidonia Church, Sharon**, will hold harvest day Nov. 8 in celebration of the church's 140th anniversary.

■ the people

■ **Ted Collins, James Horner, and Rick Watson** were ordained to the deacon ministry of Sunrise Church, Rutledge, Oct. 25.

■ **West Jackson Church, Jackson**, ordained **Phillip Barham, Mark Layne, and Robert McBroom** as deacons Oct. 4.

■ **Jeff Pinson** was ordained as deacon Oct. 11 at First Church, Humboldt.

■ **Chamberlain Memorial Church, Chattanooga**, recently ordained **Glen Ferguson and David McDaniel** as deacons.

■ **Steve Williams** was ordained as deacon Oct. 11 at Lincoln Park Church, Knoxville.

■ **Ron Leonard** was ordained to the Gospel ministry Oct. 18 at Highland Heights Church, Memphis.

■ **Don Heath and Tim Long** were ordained to the deacon ministry of First Church,

Union City, Oct. 18.

■ **Calvary Church, Union City**, ordained **Mark Oseman** as deacon Oct. 4.

■ the leaders

■ **New Salem Church, Dukedom**, called **Daniel Tucker** as pastor.

■ **Garry Woodside** has joined the staff of Chamberlain Memorial Church, Chattanooga, as minister of music and youth. A native of Chattanooga, Woodside formerly served at Langston Church, Conway, S.C.

■ **Herbert Brisbane**, church starter strategist for West Tennessee based in Memphis and Shelby County Association, has been elected associate

director of the black church extension division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

■ **Blue Springs Church, Cleveland**, called **Richard Douglas Snyder** as pastor.

■ **Robert E. Wiggins Sr.**, has been called as pastor of Peabody Church, Memphis. He began his service Sept. 27.

■ **Mount Hermon Church, Savannah**, called **Mike Padgett**, a student at Union University, Jackson, as part-time minister of youth.

■ **Thomas Bivins**, Henderson, is the new pastor of Unity Church, Ramer. He began his service Oct. 4.

■ **Toone Church, Toone**, called **Richard Mills** as music and youth director.



CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ACTIVITIES CENTER is underway at Memorial Church, Hixson. Ground was broken recently for the facility which will house a kitchen, fellowship hall, educational space, and interim worship space. Participating in the groundbreaking ceremony were, from left, J. V. Tawzer; C. O. Wood; steering committee members Ben Beasley and Clarence Cannon; Pastor Joe Evans; deacon chairman James Arnold; steering committee chairman Herman Sledge Jr.; committee member Lawrence Miller; Minister of Music and Education Herschel Spivey; contractor Kenneth Raines; committee member Annie Mae Sanders; architect Steve Carroll; and committee member Jim Denham.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Supporting the CP

Ken McMillan
director of missions
Riverside Association

In 1925 in the Memphis Southern Baptist Convention the convention adopted the Cooperative Program to support missions in our state and around the world. It was a good plan and still remains the best plan available to support our missions ventures. The Cooperative Program was to combine the special offerings of different agencies of the convention. I fear that we have gone back to too many special offerings. We have the State Mission Offering and the offering is vital to our state efforts. We have the offering for the Children's Home that meets another vital need. We have Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, and other offerings that are important.

However, while many of

these agencies are exceeding their offering goals, and sometimes vital needs, giving to the State Convention through the Cooperative Program is desperately hurting. The giving to the State Mission Offering, Children's Home Offering, Lottie Moon, and Annie Armstrong ought to be above the percentage given through the Cooperative Program. Some that are taking up special offerings receive a large amount of funds through the Cooperative Program. Some churches give through special offerings because there may be a few things they don't like. We fail to realize that we are hurting those we don't like and hurting many greatly needed programs vitally needed in our state.

This year our State Convention has been forced to make cuts in staff and programs to keep within our available funds. We also have had to go back on commitments made in

the past to staff members. I know some cuts were needed, but many needed services have been cut because many churches are not giving through the Cooperative Program. Unless our giving picks up, more radical cuts will have to be made, and these will hurt our program in the association. I pray our churches will pray sincerely about the need to give more through the Cooperative Program so we can meet all our needs, not just those that might appeal to us individually.

This year our CP programs help:

Send 4922 home and 3906 foreign missionaries to more than 123 countries;

Support six seminaries providing Christian education to more than 11,000 young men and women preparing for Christian vocations;

Support three Baptist institutions in our state that provide Christian education to

more than 7235 young men and women. Many of these are training for Christian vocations;

Provide training and equipping to our churches and associations around our state. This is a vital part of our ministry;

Provide vital assistance for all of our local associations in our state except five. Without this assistance our work would be severely hindered. □

Chosen to serve

David Pitman
director of church services
Hamilton County Association,
Chattanooga

Allow me to share several suggestions to all Sunday School leaders. These words are true if this is your first year of service or if you have many years of experience.

Be humble. Realize that you cannot be completely successful

on your own.

You need the help of others and the power of the Holy Spirit if you are to serve successfully.

Be prayerful. Call on the Lord to give you wisdom, guidance, and strength.

Spend time in prayer on a daily basis. It is impossible to do anything of importance in the church without prayer power in our lives.

Be determined. Realize that nothing of importance comes easy. We must be determined to work hard to bring about success in our church.

Be dedicated. Accept your position of service and pledge yourself to be used of the Lord in any way he chooses.

Be joyful. Count it all joy that you have been chosen to an important place of service in your church. Demonstrate a positive spirit in every aspect of your work. □