

## Five missionaries in Liberia flee fighting

By Donald D. Martin  
For Baptist Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — Five Southern Baptist missionaries evacuated Liberia in late October as fighting continued in Monrovia, the capital of the west African country.

The five, now in temporary lodging in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, hope to return to Liberia as soon as the fighting ends, said Foreign Mission Board administrators.

No other missionaries in Liberia planned to leave as of Oct. 27, according to a message from missionary Bradley Brown of Marietta, Ga.

"There are no immediate plans for anyone else to leave," Brown said in a fax message via a United Nations' satellite phone. "Our situation continues to be satisfactory. There is much relief work to be done. Please assure our children that it is our choice to be here. It is not a matter of not being able to leave."

The evacuated missionaries left Liberia over a span of several days. Debbie Moore of Hope, Ark., flew from Monrovia to Abidjan

Oct. 23. Joyce Nicholson of Seaside, Calif., left the next day. Felix and Dene Greer of Jackson, Miss., departed Monrovia Oct. 25. Jane Williams of Knoxville, left the town of Yekepa, drove across a northern border Oct. 25, and arrived in Abidjan Oct. 26.

Seven other Southern Baptist missionaries and two shorter-term workers remain in Liberia. Six are in Monrovia and three in Yekepa.

Monrovia continues to experience heavy fighting in the latest chapter of the civil war that started in December 1989. Troops with the west African peacekeeping force and rebels of Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia have exchanged artillery and small-arms fire in several parts of the capital city, according to reports.

Liberia's interim president, Amos Sawyer, urged Oct. 27 that all sides in the fighting leave Monrovia and allow the capital to remain a "safe haven" for refugees. Sawyer's plea followed a rocket attack in the city that killed four or five civilians, including a baby.

More than 60,000 people have died in Liberia's civil war. Fighting has forced about half of Liberia's 2.8 million citizens to leave the country as refugees. In recent weeks, more than 100,000 new refugees have sought refuge in Monrovia.

"There are many thousands of displaced people now who need all

the help they can get," Brown said.

Missionaries working through local churches have supplemented international relief agencies' food distribution with food, clothing, and bedding. Other missionaries have staffed temporary medical clinics. □



CLINTON ASSOCIATION met Oct. 20 at Second Church, Clinton, for its 140th annual session. From left, Tom Byrge, Clinch River Church, moderator; Charles Parker, First Church, Oliver Springs, new moderator; Michael Pearson, director of missions; and Gloria Pierce, clerk. Stanley Young, Edgemoor Church, is assistant moderator. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

### this week's news

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## Parks tells missionaries why he's retiring

By Bob Stanley  
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — R. Keith Parks wrote Southern Baptists' 3900 foreign missionaries Oct. 23 that his decision to retire now "is the Lord's will under unfortunate circumstances."

But the Foreign Mission Board president added: "I feel we are missing the best that God had for us. Southern Baptists should be marching through God's open door of opportunity as a united, loving, obedient people of God. May God forgive us and have mercy on us!"

Parks told missionaries he was writing them to clarify why he felt led to retire at 65, rather than serve until 1995 as he proposed in August 1991.

"Many of you have indicated that our reason for retiring earlier than planned is still not clear," he said.

Parks also said he is still receiving similar questions from Southern Baptists in general and from some of the board's own trustees who say they encouraged him to continue serving. He sent copies of his letter Oct. 26 to FMB trustees and staff and state Baptist executive directors and editors.

He also sent a separate letter to FMB trustees elaborating on his reasons for retiring Oct. 31, 1992, three years earlier than he

originally planned.

A number of trustees, staff, and others "have insisted 'nothing has changed' (at the Foreign Mission Board) and have objected to my saying there were 'philosophical differences' with them," Parks' letter to missionaries said.

Parks disagreed with that opinion, listing ten areas in which he believes the Foreign Mission Board has changed since the "conservative resurgence." But trustee chairman John Jackson of California, responding to Parks' letter, expressed strong disagreement with its conclusions.

The letter from Parks cited:

(1) Lack of appropriate representation of "a very large percentage of Bible-believing, theologically conservative Southern Baptists" on boards of trustees. "Their money is still solicited but not their representatives nor any contribution of convictions or viewpoints," Parks wrote.

(2) Decisions being "increasingly shaped by ultra-conservative theological interpretations rather than tested and adopted mission principles."

(3) "An atmosphere of trust and respect for differences of viewpoints has been replaced by suspicion, distrust, criticism, and intimidation."

(4) Freedom to disagree being "replaced by expectation of con-

formity." Parks added: "When issues or problems cannot be discussed honestly, they cannot be dealt with productively or solved."

(5) A decline in career missionary appointments and increased emphasis on volunteers that is "bringing an imbalance overseas."

(6) Some trustees "without the time, expertise, knowledge, or experience to make administrative decisions" on foreign missions "increasingly doing staff work instead of fulfilling the role of

trustees."

(7) More pressure on the board's news office, which serves as the Richmond (foreign) bureau of Baptist Press. "to report only 'positive' news," which Parks said threatens to "destroy the credibility of the press."

(8) A new development of asking prospective staff members "for expressions of loyalty toward trustees and/or the 'conservative resurgence.'"

(9) Increasing emphasis for — Parks tells, page 2

## Good news for TBC budget

The 1992-93 budget year ended for the Tennessee Baptist Convention with some good news and some figures that were not so good.

Failure to reach the highest ever Cooperative Program budget goal only slightly dimmed the good news that CP gifts from Tennessee Baptist churches combined for a total of \$25,209,549.26 by October's end. That total is \$892,800.96, or 3.67 percent, above the previous year's budget total.

The TBC Cooperative Program budget goal for 1991-92 was \$28,290,960, a figure which was raised substantially by convention messengers last November in an ill-fated at-

tempt to give TBC colleges equality and additional funds. The boost failed to accomplish the increase that was intended, but the allocations were equalized for Carson-Newman College, Belmont University, and Union University.

October's gifts totaled \$2,554,422.66, a slip of \$356,466.58 from October 1991. Total gifts for the budget year which ended Oct. 31 amounted to \$24,316,748.30.

According to Martha Grove, Accounting Department director, Cooperative Program gifts for 1991-92 were only about \$200 less than the total two years ago before alternative giving came into being. □

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# Parks tells missionaries why he's retiring

—Continued from page 1  
sionary appointment on the four background statements in the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee report, instead of just the Baptist Faith and Message statement (Southern Baptists' traditional statement of faith, adopted in 1963).

(10) The convention controversy atmosphere causing "many (missionary) candidates either to believe they cannot be appointed or to decline appointment because they are not comfortable with the present Foreign Mission Board direction."

Jackson, who received a faxed copy from Parks of the letter to missionaries, said "trustees have the highest admiration for Dr. Parks and his ministry to Southern Baptists and the world. He has a heart for missions and desires to see the world evangelized. However, I strongly disagree with the conclusions regarding philosophical differences found in his letter."

Jackson said he has "no desire to attack Dr. Parks, but I do know the heart of trustees and feel compelled to defend them. There are always two sides to every statement. Each of us tends to view our position as correct. I am certain Dr. Parks believes his views are accurate. However, trustees would disagree on most of his allegations."

As an example, Jackson cited one statement Parks made in his letter to missionaries: "When

issues or problems cannot be discussed honestly, they cannot be dealt with productively or solved." Jackson said most of the statements in Parks' letter were never discussed with trustees.

"In addition, when discussion did take place, any negative view was exploited or labeled as the controversy weaving its way into board affairs," Jackson said. "Missionaries and Southern Baptists are not told of individual disagreement within the Global Strategy Group (the FMB's top executive council). But if one trustee voices a negative opinion, it is trumpeted as if all trustees have voted."

Jackson said both he and the other trustees desire "to have room to disagree without being disagreeable. We believe this can and will be the future working relationship with (FMB) staff. I ask the Lord to bless the Parkes and give thanks for their dedication to missions and their unflinching support to the Foreign Mission Board staff and Southern Baptist missionaries."

Parks, in the letter to missionaries, said the confusion over his retirement is summed up in one question: "Why did you say it was God's will to lead until 1995 and then a few months later say it was God's will to retire in 1992?"

In August 1991 Parks revealed a vision he said God had given him for new foreign mission initiatives to help Southern Baptists reach their Bold Mission Thrust goals.

He offered his personal commitment to lead preparations up to a 1995 launch date for his "Missions 21" vision, which would extend into the 21st century.

Against the background of "incredible opportunity in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet states, I felt compelled to share with the trustees some concepts that I believed the Lord had given me," Parks wrote. "In keeping with my style of leadership I asked the staff and trustees to study, change, expand, or modify these ideas."

But "the trustee subcommittee appointed to work with staff never consulted me nor sought staff input," he said. "Their report seemed designed to discredit the

concepts, encourage my retirement, and focus on other trustee concerns."

In the letter to missionaries, Parks said he is retiring "with regret and personal disappointment" but is confident God can work in unfortunate circumstances. "We know he wants the Gospel to reach all the peoples groups of the world," Parks added. "We pray that you and we can continue to be a part of his plan."

Parks, who has not yet announced any decision about his future plans, asked missionaries to pray that we can know God's "will for the future without question and follow it without hesitation." □

## Missouri Baptists elect Travis, debate definition of family

Baptist Press

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. — Pastor Rodney Travis received 62 percent of the votes in a race with director of missions Marvin Nobles for the Missouri Baptist Convention's presidency during its 158th annual session. Travis, pastor of First Church, Jackson, served as the convention's first vice president during 1992.

Travis described himself as a theological conservative but a person "who likes to cooperate and work together." He empha-

sized he is not identified with any group or faction.

Missouri Baptists' Oct. 26-28 meeting in Cape Girardeau attracted more than 2500 people to the first convention held in southeast Missouri since 1975.

During business sessions, messengers approved a \$15.2 million Cooperative Program budget for 1993. The Cooperative Program is the unified financial plan used by the Missouri and Southern Baptist conventions. Of the total, 35.75 percent will be used for national and international causes coordinated through the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee based in Nashville, the same percentage as the current year. The remaining 64.25 percent will fund missions and ministry projects in Missouri.

In addition to the budget, messengers routinely dispensed with 13 other recommendations with no discussion and virtually no opposition.

Resolutions did spark some debate and opposition from messengers. A resolution on the Biblical definition of family was approved on a close show-of-hands vote.

The resolution affirmed the "Biblical ideal, the family of one man and one woman, committed together, as the ideal we shall present, affirm, and teach in our homes and churches."

Although the resolution acknowledged that family units "may be broken through death or divorce," debate centered on whether single-person family units and single-parent families were covered by the definition used in the resolution.

Messengers defeated a resolution which would have recognized the national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Baptist Fellowship of Missouri as "separate and distinctively different from the Southern Baptist and the Missouri Baptist conventions, autonomously governed and financed."

Both organizations have been identified with the "moderate" faction within the Southern Baptist Convention. □

## Law takes early retirement at FMB

For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Betty Law has announced she will retire early as Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board vice president for the Americas, citing disagreement with the approach taken by board trustees.

A veteran of 40 years in Southern Baptist home and foreign missions, Law is the board's highest-ranking female staff member and is the second vice president to take early retirement because of disagreement with trustees. Isam Ballenger, then vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, announced early retirement last January.

In a letter dated Oct. 22 to retiring board President R. Keith Parks, Law said she will retire next Jan. 15 after 29 years with the board, the final three as the top administrator for mission work in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada. She sent copies of the letter to some 1350 missionaries in the region and to 17 trustees on the board's Americas committee.

Law, who turns 64 Nov. 8, told Parks she could no longer serve with integrity as vice president for the Americas because she can no longer "support and defend the actions, directions, and views of the trustees or fairly interpret" them to missionaries and South-

ern Baptists.

She expressed appreciation for Southern Baptists, her opportunities for service and her relationships with missionaries, overseas Baptists, board staff, and trustees on the Americas committee.

But her letter cited changes at the board which she said influenced her decision to retire earlier than she originally planned.

Law's letter also cited "a growing tendency toward control and conformity" at the Foreign Mission Board. "In my service with the Foreign Mission Board, I have worked with Baptists in other countries who have a deep faith. They do not have to express their faith in the same way as I do as a Southern Baptist, or be Southern Baptists, for me to serve with them, learn from them, and be inspired and challenged by them.

"There are always two sides to every statement," trustee chairman John Jackson of California told Baptist Press. "Some staff may feel the way Betty does, and I give them the benefit that they may believe that. But I don't feel her points accurately reflect the position of trustees."

Parks, who retired Oct. 31, paid tribute to Law as a missionary and leader of "spiritual depth, intellectual insight, and unstinting effort." □



**OFFICERS OF SHILOH ASSOCIATION** include, from left, Director of Missions John Phippen, Lauren Locke, Olive Hill Church East, treasurer; Wanda Godwin, Southside Church, Savannah, secretary; Frank Kemper, First Church, Adamsville, moderator; and Max Walker, First Church, Selmer, outgoing moderator.

# Dobson targets book, urges boycott of company

By Art Toolston  
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Incensed over Madonna's controversial \$49.95 *Sex* coffee-table book, Morality in Media and author-broadcaster James Dobson have called for a boycott of Time Warner Inc.

Warner Books, a subsidiary of New York City-based Time Warner, is the book's publisher. More than 800,000 copies of the book — in six languages — were placed on the market Oct. 21.

Dobson also called for a boycott of the book's printer, R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company of Chicago. Donnelley, the world's largest printing company, has printed numerous books for Dobson's Focus on the Family ministry in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Donnelley also was the printer of 40,000-plus copies of this year's Southern Baptist Convention Annual and 12,000-plus copies of the SBC Book of Reports, both published by the Nashville-based SBC Executive Committee.

In addition, Donnelley does extensive business with the South-

ern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, including Bible printing and other projects, and with numerous other national publishers of religious materials.

*Dobson said the Madonna book "is, without question, the most outrageous single event that has occurred in my lifetime with reference to teenagers especially."*

The book "should be a major concern to every parent in this country," Dobson said during his Oct. 27 national radio broadcast. "She's out to change the moral perspective, the moral view of an entire generation."

The Madonna book is "not just airbrushed nudity," Dobson said. "It's not just soft-core pornography. It's filled with perversions of the most explicit type" — "full frontal nudity cast in homosexual settings ... sado-masochistic behavior with whips, knives, and chains ... and clearly implied bestiality and pedophilia" (sexual perversion with children).

"I am angry about those who are doing this to the younger

generation," Dobson said, noting the book will be "seen by literally millions of kids" and will stir them to "to do things that ultimately will destroy the family."

"This is not just some porno queen," Dobson said, noting millions of youth "imitate Madonna — she has such influence with them."

Of Donnelley, the printer, Dobson said, "We're not going to do business with them any more." Focus on the Family has relied on Donnelley for virtually all its major printing needs, he said. "But when the present agreements are over, we're through."

Dobson urged other Christian organizations to reconsider their ties to Donnelley.

Morris H. Chapman, president-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, told Baptist Press, "I am shocked that Donnelley chose to print a book which so blatantly disregards the moral and spiritual welfare of the American people."

Chapman added, "This past year, the Executive Committee for the first time contracted with

Donnelley to print the SBC Annual and Book of Reports. These contracts are made on an annual basis and no contract has been negotiated for 1993."

James T. Draper Jr., president of the Sunday School Board, issued a statement, noting: "We are surprised and outraged that two of our suppliers, R. R. Donnelley and Rand McNally (which owns a bindery) were involved in the publication of the pornographic book, *Sex*, by Madonna."

"We have been in contact with representatives from both of these companies concerning this matter. Rand McNally sent us a letter stating that they regret their involvement with this book and would not be involved in such projects in the future."

"We have received no such written communication from R. R. Donnelley."

"We are in continuing communication with both of these companies. We will be in contact with other Christian publishers as we contemplate future involvement with these companies. I can say the BSSB stands solidly and forcefully for Biblical and family values. Our decision about future involvement with these companies will be consistent with our commitment to these Christian ideals."

Donnelley's vice president for corporate relations, James M. Ratcliffe, issued a statement, noting:

"We are sensitive to the fact that from time to time people may be offended by the content of materials we print. And, we strive to avoid work that is broadly and blatantly offensive. But we are not — and do not seek to be — a censor."

"We cannot reject work simply because it may be controversial to some. Rather, we seek relationships with publishers whose reputation and standards of quality and content are consistent with the values and standards of our company and our people."

"We know some may not agree

with our decision in this case. However, we hope they will respect our decision and what it says about our commitment to our customers and their rights and role as publishers."

If Time Warner fares well with its Madonna book, Dobson warned, other companies are going to take "a good hard look ... and their mouths are going to water to get in on it."

Readers of *Sports Illustrated*, a Time Warner subsidiary, should cancel their subscriptions, Dobson said as an example of a boycott action. They should tear in half the magazine cover with their mailing label and mail it to the company stating their protest of Time Warner's promotion of the Madonna book.

Among other Time Warner businesses Dobson is urging be boycotted are *Time*, *Life*, *Money*, *Fortune*, *Parenting*, *Southern Living*, and *Entertainment Weekly* magazines, American Family Publishers, Six Flags theme parks, Home Box Office (HBO), Cinemax and Warner Bros., and Atlantic recording labels.

The Madonna book is part of "a civil war of values," Dobson said. It's "a tidal wave of evil — that's what we're faced with."

"Madonna is not the enemy," Dobson said. "Satan is the enemy. She is being exploited by the enemy. We need to pray for her that the truth will become evident to her. I don't hate Madonna. I don't hate Time Warner. We need to pray for them, but we also need to let our opinions be heard."

Lamar Cooper Sr., director of denominational relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, issued a statement commending Morality in Media, Dobson, and American Family Association for their boycott calls of Time Warner.

"There is no way one could claim any redeeming social value for a book that lauds sexual perversion, bestiality, homosexuality, lesbianism, and sado-masochism," Cooper said. □

## MWBTS trustees act on faculty issues

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Issues related to the faculty topped discussions during committee meetings and in sessions of the full board during Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's Oct. 19-20 trustee meeting.

A planned recommendation of the board's instruction committee to fill a faculty vacancy in New Testament studies was nullified because board members were not given a 30-day notice prior to the meeting that a prospect was to be voted on. Also, trustees voted to allow students to record classroom lectures without the permission of their professors.

David M. May, visiting professor of New Testament at Midwestern since January 1991, was to be recommended by President Milton Ferguson for election to the faculty as assistant pro-

fessor of New Testament. The trustee instruction committee supported the president's recommendation, but "came late to the decision to overwhelmingly affirm Dr. May," according to James Jones, chairman of the instruction committee and director of evangelism and Brotherhood for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

Because of the delay in reaching a final consensus among committee members, the president's notification of his intent to recommend May was not sent to trustees until Sept. 30, 19 days before the October meeting.

According to conditions adopted by trustees during their April 1991 meeting and set forth in the seminary's Academic Freedom and Tenure statement, the president must notify the board of his intent to recommend a prospective faculty member no later than 30

days before the meeting in which the prospect will be voted on.

Seeking a resolution to the situation, the president and instruction committee members agreed to an alternative proposal, reporting to the full board that they had voted to extend May's contract as visiting professor through the 1993-94 academic year and announcing the president's intention to recommend May for election to the faculty during the board's April 1993 annual meeting.

In another issue related to the faculty, trustees considered a report from the instruction committee that affirmed the seminary's longstanding policy on the audio recording of classroom lectures, then adopted an amendment changing that policy.

A lengthy discussion ensued with trustee Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church, Hot Springs, Ark., making a motion to amend the policy which allowed the recording of classroom lectures "contingent on securing prior approval from the professor in the course." With his amendment, Rogers asked trustees to delete that section of the policy, allowing lectures to be recorded without a professor's approval.

"This would move the discretionary power from the professor to the student," Rogers said.

Employing a hypothetical scenario, Rogers maintained if a student made allegations of aberrant teaching in the classroom, tape recordings of classroom lectures would "give us the mechanism to deal effectively, fairly, and openly with evidence." It would give trustees the means to either "exonerate the professor or substantiate the allegations of the student," Rogers said. The amendment passed by a 19-8 vote. □

### For first building

## Bon Aqua Mission breaks ground

Members of Bon Aqua Mission in Bon Aqua recently broke ground for their first building.

The mission, sponsored by First Church, Dickson, was established in 1990 and has been meeting in the former Seventh Day Adventist Church building.

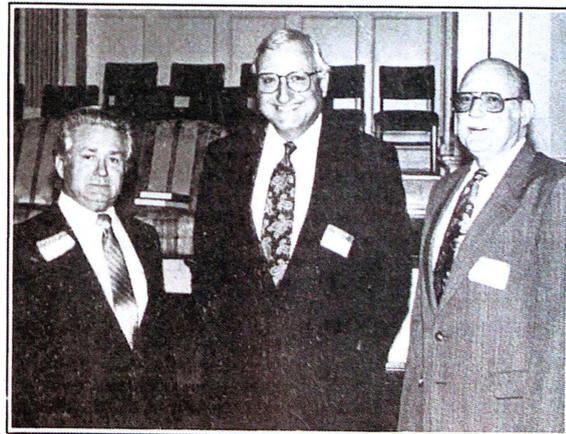
The mission now has an enrollment of 45 in Sunday School and more than 50 in worship. The present building is filled to capacity.

Participating in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new sanctuary and education building were Bon Aqua Pastor Thomas Clifton, John Compton, pastor, First Church, Dickson, and Don McCoy, former pastor of First Church, Dickson, and now church starter strategist for the Missions

Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. □



**PASTOR THOMAS CLIFTON** of Bon Aqua Mission breaks ground with the help of John Compton, right, and Don McCoy, left.



**LEADING BLEDSOE ASSOCIATION** during its annual meeting were, from left, Jack Goodwin, Indian Hills Church, Gallatin, outgoing moderator; Joe Hinkle, New Hope Church, Hendersonville, vice moderator, and Wert Campbell, First Church, Gallatin, moderator.

## ■ about letters to the editor

- Make it concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length.
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## Consequences

I appreciate being able to read letters in the *Baptist and Reflector* even though I cannot agree with many of them.

I appreciate those who will not waver from what is right and who boldly and publicly stand against the powers of darkness and spiritual wickedness in high places that work overtime to try to rob us, our children and grandchildren of our Judeo-Christian ethics given by our Father God through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. We must not allow this to happen.

No longer can American children openly pray and read God's Word in public schools. No longer are Gideons or anyone else allowed to give school children Holy Bibles. No longer can public school teachers post or teach the Ten Commandments or even mention God's commandments, laws and statutes to help guide chil-

## Letters of thanks

Do you want to express gratitude or appreciation for something special in your life? Is there some memory or event that exemplifies your best feelings about thanksgiving?

Share your thoughts with other Tennessee Baptists at the Thanksgiving season.

Send a concise letter that expresses your fondest remembrance of something or someone, a gift from God.

Letters must be received here by Nov. 18 for the Thanksgiving issue. □

dren in the right direction.

What is happening as a result of all this? Our generation has become rebellious for the most part, and does not personally know or care about the one true God, their creator.

Thus the majority of our generation has turned to false gods and are living immoral lives, resulting in all kinds of sexual perversion and ungodly sins. God will hold us all accountable to him for the millions of precious babies who are killed and slaughtered by abortion and all sinful acts.

Pay day is coming (Numbers 35:33).

Meredith A. Allred  
Rockwood 37854

## Salute to comrades

In our Baptist tradition of saying "thank you for a job well done," let me raise a salute to gallant comrades at the Baptist Sunday School Board, especially the large number now being moved into early retirement.

Oct. 30 was the last work day for 134 employees included in the 159 retiring from the board since Sept. 1. They represent nine percent of the board's work force and approximately 4000 years of service.

During the last 15 months, 27 of the 48 trustee-elected management leaders have left the board by resignation, termination, or early retirement, including 12 of the 14 who served on the board's executive staff and worked directly with me as president.

All these employees have given their skills, knowledge, industry, experience, and relationships to the vast work of the Nashville-based church programs and publications agency, the largest of its kind in the world.

Of those now retiring, 128 live in the Nashville area, and others across the nation. They are our next-door neighbors, workers in our churches, and volunteers in our communities. Their children are in our schools, young people in our universities, and spouses in the work force.

Some of these were ready for retirement, and it has been welcomed; for others, retirement as early as mid-fifties has caused career disruption, financial crisis, or family distress. To all of them, we raise our salute as fellow Southern Baptists and place high value on their Christian calling. We recognize their need for new opportunities and beginnings, and wish them well in this turn of their journey.

Lloyd Elder  
Belmont University  
Nashville

■ Lloyd Elder is former president of the SSB. - Editor

## Valuing life

When a child is conceived in a mother's womb, in the incredible miracle of reproduction, it is given the chance to "be." Even in its microscopic state, the child is loaded with millions of pieces of genetic material that makes for a unique being, an "original" straight from the mind of God. Within that newly fertilized egg is the blueprint for the creation of 60 trillion cells in a package no bigger than the point of a pin. At only three weeks of pregnancy, there are the beginnings of a spine, and at four weeks a primitive heart forms and begins beating. At 43 days, the unborn baby has detectable brain waves. In adults, heartbeat and brain waves are commonly referred to as "vital" signs. Vital signs are a demonstration of life. So—the person exists, and should be provided safety in its first home.

It is alarming to me that our national conscience has so stagnated that a political or religious nod would be given to any pro-abortion candidate. It is an embarrassment to me that the Southern Baptist label is attached to candidates who have endorsed unrestricted abortion. The lines are clearly drawn. The "Southern Baptist" label and "pro-abortion" stands have become strange bedfellows indeed. I have always been a Southern Baptist, but give me, rather, an Episcopalian who values life than any Southern Baptist who doesn't.

Janet A. Reeve  
Chattanooga 37415

## Seminary days

I have read a statement from the October 20 *Western Recorder* attributed to Dr. H. Edwin Young, president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He is reported to have said at the inauguration of Paige Patterson as Southeastern's president, that his student days at Southeastern under different leadership caused him to doubt his salvation, his call to ministry, and the veracity of the Bible.

I was a student at Southeastern from 1957-62, some of the same years attended by Dr. Young. I regret very much that he was not exposed to the same faculty members I was privileged to study under. Professors like Drs. Olin Binkley, Thomas Bland, Luther Copeland, Leo Green, E. W. McDowell Jr., Emily Lansdell, M. Roy McKay, John Steely, James Tull, John Wayland, J. B. Weatherspoon, and Dr. S. L. Stealey would surely have called him to praise God for the gift of salvation and driven him to a deeper appreci-

ation of the Bible as God's revealed, inspired word.

R. H. Chevallier  
Cumberland Church  
Knoxville 37921

## Grateful for prayers

I wish to thank all my Tennessee Baptist friends for your fervent prayers and genuine concern during my illness of the past year. The letters, cards, and phone calls have been such an encouragement and strengthened my faith in our blessed Lord and great physician. His grace is indeed sufficient, and His power brought responses of amazement to the doctors attending me for my serious illness at the University of Alabama Medical Center.

I covet your prayers as I face the days ahead. Each morning brings gladness to my heart for another day to serve my precious Lord and share his blessings with those I see at my store each day. Your prayers, love, and friendship mean so much.

Jim Cooley  
Chattanooga 37415

## Gift of thanks

The fact that your convention along with those of Kentucky and Florida remained in the disaster area through the month of October will be shared with the personnel of this association, as we feel this is something of which to be proud.

On behalf of the directors, officers, and staff of this association, we are pleased to send another check, \$1,207.73, as a token of our continued appreciation for your convention's involvement in the recovery from Hurricane Andrew. This is the close-out of our "Relief for Dade" fundraising.

Please express again our sincere thanks to Tennessee volunteers who spent many hours preparing and serving meals

beginning almost immediately after the storm passed, as well as in the disbursement of clothing and food in the Florida City area.

Thank you for aid and assistance given to victims of "Hurricane Andrew."

Herbert C. Moore,  
vice president  
First Federal Savings and Loan Association  
West Palm Beach, Fla.

■ First Federal has sent three checks to the TBC for work done in South Florida. - Editor

## Telephone numbers during convention

- main number - (615) 436-6900
  - Baptist and Reflector - 436-6900, ext. 1215
  - Public Relations - ext. 1214
  - TBC office - ext. 1166
  - FAX - 436-3704
- Phones will be available at several sites in the center.

## Chorale sets tour

The 80-voice Tennessee Baptist Chorale, made up of ministers of music in Tennessee churches, will be performing in seven sites during November.

The schedule follows:

- - Nov. 12, Ellendale Church, Memphis, 7 p.m.
- - Nov. 13, First Church, Martin, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 14, First Church, Mt. Juliet, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 15, Beaver Dam Church, Knoxville, 11 a.m., and Virginia Avenue Church, Bristol, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 16, First Church, Jefferson City, 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 17, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Gatlinburg Convention Center.

Julian Suggs, director, Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Music Department, directs the chorale. □

## Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



November -

- 6 - Leaders of the Chilean Baptist Convention as they prepare a new convention structure that will be presented at their national convention in January.
- 7 - In Temuco today there is an associational youth meeting. Pray for the youth and their leadership during these meaningful hours together.
- 8 - The salvation of Manuel Sanchez.
- 9 - Three non-Christian university law students who have contacts with Parque Apoquindo Baptist Church.
- 10 - Missionary Laura Frances Snow, who serves in Chile doing women's work.
- 11 - Missionary Diann Bailey in Santiago as she tries to organize her time both in Spanish and in English responsibilities.

# Word of thanks to Wilson, and welcome to Porch

Often we may forget to express adequate appreciation for someone who has done well with a task which may not seem significant on the surface.

Such is the case with Bill Wilson, director of the Convention Ministries Division. Wilson joined the Executive Board staff in July 1990, but since September 5, he has performed double duty for Tennessee Baptists. When D. L. Lowrie left to be pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Wilson added to his duties those of interim executive director.

As expected, he performed both admirably. The amazing aspect of this is that Bill Wilson kept his calm demeanor and loving but strong spirit. He approached both major responsibilities with his usual aplomb and adroitness.

During a period of some unrest, he has maintained the same leadership qualities that have equipped him so well in his long-time role as pastor of Brentwood Church and then as director of a major portion of work in the ministries division.

Bill Wilson has kept the same direct attitude for quality and excellence in planning and performance. He has steered the good ship Tennessee Baptist Convention through some choppy waters, and pushed us forward though it would have been easy to chart a course through smooth waters.

We salute Bill Wilson as an able compatriot and resourceful leader - as he turns over the helm to James Porch, our new executive director. Porch was elected by the Executive Board September 4, and assumed duties on Monday, November 2.

It is time to welcome James Porch. He certainly is no stranger to Tennessee Baptists. He has served as pastor of First Church, Tullahoma for a decade, and has credentials as a Baptist leader with a deep love for missions, evangelism, and ministries.

Porch has served Tennessee Baptists on three levels - the local church, the association, and service to the convention through the Executive Board and various committees and assignments.

The new executive is not a novice to hard work and dedicated ministry. We trust Tennessee Baptists to welcome the Porch family, to work willingly with him as he leads, and to cooperate even while offering friendly Christian counsel. That is the way Tennessee Baptists are accustomed to working.

In months and years ahead, we all will do well to give the Master our best and pledge to walk together. Welcome to James and Lynn Porch, and their son and daughter, Scott and Terri Lynn.

The success of his tenure as Tennessee

Baptists' leader depends greatly on the acceptance and cooperation of the people. When he reports to messengers during the annual meeting in Gatlinburg November 17, he will have been on the job two weeks. It will be a "get acquainted" time, and we believe it will be the beginning of exciting and productive days for all of us. □

## Honor RA youth

This week, through Sunday, is a designated time for recognizing young men and boys in our churches. Royal Ambassadors is the missions organization which has the assigned task and responsibility for shaping attitudes in that group.

A vital part of every church family, young men and boys need to be taught the realities of missions. Many missionaries today witness to RA years as the deciding factor in mission awareness.

There is often a dearth of men willing to help in this area. So while we acknowledge the validity of Royal Ambassadors, we also remind Baptist men of their responsibility in teaching and living the missions role in the local church.

We salute Royal Ambassadors and the Baptist men who stand with them. □

one word more  
By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
editor

## All's right in God's world

One could get bone-weary of traveling if it were not for a good cause, and if the benefits were not substantial.

Earlier in October I wrote of the joys gained by visiting with Baptist associations in their annual meetings across the state. At the conclusion of this astounding month, my head and heart dance to the same music.

Robert Browning, in his "Pippa Passes," has the peasant girl, in her glorious estimate of spring, sing out, "God's in his heaven, all's right with the world!"

In my last trek across Tennessee's gold and red-flecked hills and mottled plains last week, I meandered down the heartland from Cookeville, through Sparta, Doyle, Quebeck, Rock Island, McMinnville, Smartt, Manchester, Tullahoma, Lynchburg, Mulberry, and finally, to Fayetteville. I had time enough to think.

From a glad morning with the folk of Stone Association to an evening with those of William Carey, I found that all is indeed right with God's world. Oh, for sure there are a few unpleasants bounding about.

On that drive under a leaden sky, brightened by a continuous canopy of Tennessee fall collision's of color, I thought of the quarter of a century of attending associational meetings. All told, it is likely that I have participated in at least 275 of them. They have provided me with superlative memories. Only one or two were on the down side.

The Baptists that attend these meetings, certainly most of them, do a lot of praising, praying, worshiping, reporting, singing, talking to each other, and yes, eating.

It's interesting that they don't seem to have much time for gossip or discussing worldly matters. They have come for a purpose, and they get right to it. For the most part, they know what they are there for.

As we look toward November 17-18 in Gatlinburg and our annual state convention, it is good to know that priorities are set in the right spirit, back there in the associations. Our staff attended almost half of them, and we were blessed. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

## Brotherhood trustees review ministries

By Steve Barber  
For Baptist Press

MEMPHIS - Trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission got a multimedia review of this year's crowded schedule of the agency's special ministry projects at their Oct. 23-24 meeting.

### Evangelism team leaves for Chile

A 17-member evangelism team led by Ken Altom, pastor of First Church, Cookeville, left Oct. 30 for an 11-day assignment in Vina del Mar, Chile.

The effort is in conjunction with the Tennessee/Chile Partnership.

Tennessee Baptists on the team are: Altom, Mike and Juanita Bridges, Brainerd Church, Chattanooga; Wert and Theta Campbell, First Church, Gallatin; Don Frazier, French Broad Church, Dandridge;

Amos Jarman, First Church, Spring Hill; Faye Lawson, Anita Pauza, Joy Schleifer, and Larry Williams, Ooltewah Church, Ooltewah; Charles Olson, Sycamore Church, Smithville;

Eliot Roberts Jr., First Church, Crossville; Jan Spruill and Mary Walsh, Two Rivers Church, Nashville; and Peter Valdevento, Westwood Church, Nashville. □

James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president, said the projects ranging from Central Asia to South Florida show a "radical, caring, Christian love" that must be offered before the Gospel message can be accepted.

"There are a lot of people out there who aren't going to take our word for the Gospel," Williams said. "But out of the curiosity that this kind of love always arouses we have the chance to clarify, with the words of the Gospel, why we've acted as we have, and then the Holy Spirit brings conviction and repentance."

The food-distribution phase of Project Brotherhood in the Moscow area served as an ideal witnessing opportunity for volunteers and a starting point for Russian Baptist churches to magnify their outreach, according to Williams, who said lists of food recipients have become prospect lists for churches.

"I thank God for the seeds that have been planted and the harvest that has already been reaped," he said. "Think of the good that's going to come as these churches evangelize their own people. Let's pray that many will come to know our wonderful Lord Jesus."

Dennis and Jennefer Quinn of St. Peters, Mo., who served as the first on-site Project Brotherhood coordinators in Moscow, gave their testimonies

and were recognized along with Mississippians Sammy Platt and Larry Taylor, who followed the Quinns in Moscow, and Chuck Singletary and Bob Sloan, who operated the Project Brotherhood Information Center in Memphis.

Trustees also saw a videotape overview of the agency's coordination of Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Andrew and had their first look at the latest promotional video for World Changers, which involved more than 2500 youth in missions projects during 1992.

The work of the 16-member Ladakh Medical Project team, which saw 3000 patients during July in India's Himalayan Mountains, also was recapped during the meeting. □

### Union hosts dinner at convention

Union University, Jackson, will host an alumni and friends dinner Nov. 17 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Gatlinburg.

The dinner will begin at 5 p.m. in the ballroom of the Glenstone Lodge Days Inn near the convention center. Tickets are \$10 per person.

Call Union's alumni office at (901) 668-1818 for reservations. □

## just for today

By Fred Wood  
pastor emeritus  
Eudora Church, Memphis

### Start with a smile -

A co-ed took one look at the exam sheet on the last day before Christmas holidays and wrote on it, "Dear Prof: Only the Lord knows the answer to these questions. Merry Christmas." The first class after the holidays she received the paper back with the notation, "Dear Jane, The Lord gets an "A." You get an "F." Happy New Year."

### Take this truth with you -

Some things we do not know and never will know. Still we must play the game! Do your best with what you do know and more light will be given to you.

### Memorize this Scripture -

"The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1).

### Pray this Prayer -

Lord, help us to realize that through faith we may lay hold of thee and all thy promises. We will then have no fear of the unknown. □



ALLEN

# ■ Tennessee features



**SEVIER COUNTY ASSOCIATION** closed its two-day session at Knob Creek Church. Officers include Dorothy Adams, WMU director; Herbert Caughron, Brotherhood director; Frank Proffitt, director of missions; Dallas Gibson, moderator; and Barney Evans, clerk. The 107th annual session also met at Alder Branch and Bells Chapel. - Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen.

## State Baptist associations hold annual meetings



**INDIAN CREEK ASSOCIATION** Director of Missions David Miller, back, meets with officers during the association's annual meeting. From left, Cecil Gilliland, First Church, Waynesboro, moderator; Frances Rains, Leatherwood Church, clerk; and Norman Baker, Bethlehem Church, vice moderator.



**JEFFERSON COUNTY ASSOCIATION** met at First Church, White Pine, for its closing session. Officers are, from left: Charles McGill, vice moderator; Jerry DeZearn, director of missions; Kathleen Lockhart, clerk; and Norman Turley, moderator. - Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen.



**MICHAEL PROWSE**, director of missions for Stone Association, helps burn the paid-up mortgage for the Student Center at Cookeville. Ken Altom, center, moderator; and Joe Wiles, Baptist Student Union director, reported that the loan was paid long before the due date. The messengers met at Brotherton Church.



**LEADERS OF BIG EMORY ASSOCIATION** include, from left, Director of Missions J. W. Bargioli; Frank Kubas, Lee Village Church, clerk; Herbert Lee, First Church, Sunbright, outgoing clerk; Thom Tapp, Orchard View Church, associate moderator; Tommy Hensley, Kellytown Church, moderator; George Wadlington, South Harriman Church, treasurer; and Tom Mooty, First Church, Wartburg, outgoing moderator.



**MEETING AT HALEY'S GROVE** Church, Crab Orchard, Cumberland Plateau Association heard Butch Stapleton preach at its closing session. From left: Roy Lang, treasurer; Bill Beck, missions development; Henrietta Baldwin, clerk; Charles Christopher, moderator; Roy Davis, director of missions; back row: Butch Stapleton, assistant moderator; Russell Honeycutt, evangelism director; Franky Henderson, Brotherhood director; Louise Davis, WMU director; Tom Page, stewardship director.



**JOHN RUSHING**, right, congratulates Elmer and Mildred Crosby during the annual meeting of Maury Association. Crosby announced his retirement after 17 years as director of missions for the association.

# Nashville Baptist helps open school in Kazakhstan

By Beth Sammons  
For Baptist Press

**ALMALIBAK, KAZAKHSTAN** — With the assistance of Southern Baptist volunteers, local people opened the Kazakh-American School of Kazakhstan in October.

The school in the former Soviet republic, a strategic crossroads of Central Asia, began classes with 100 Kazakh students, seven Americans, and two Pakistanis enrolled in grades one through five. The school will be self-supporting through students' tuition.

The school is the first private institution of its kind established in post-Soviet Kazakhstan, said director Robert Cuttino, a Southern Baptist volunteer from Woodmont Church, Nashville.

"The new school is a chance for Christians to serve in a front-line capacity, directly with the people," Cuttino said. The school aims to offer the training needed for an "emerging economy and developing democracy," he said.

At the opening ceremony, Southern Baptist worker Brian Grim said the school also will serve as a model for others to be established in Kazakhstan.

Grim, vice president of the Central Asian Foundation, said the need for the school became apparent when Southern Baptists began a school reconstruction project in Zaisan, a region earmarked as a free-trade area with China.

"We realized that in order to do the school properly we needed to develop ... a Kazakh-English curriculum," he said. "This is the first time in history there's been a Kazakh-language, American-language school. We're beginning something new and we need to learn."

In addition to helping the Kazakh community, the school will help meet the educational needs of the expatriate community, specifically the children of Southern Baptist workers.

Cuttino said the school will attempt to model the elements of critical analysis, open inquiry, freedom of expression,

and active citizenship. But he stressed the effort is not "educational imperialism."

"The Kazakh-American school has distinctive American elements, but this is really meeting the needs of East and West. The focus of the school is Kazakh students and basic elements of the curriculum are the Kazakh language, history, culture, and pedagogy," he said.

Nurlan Hamiev, co-director of the school, said the current educational system in Kazakhstan desperately needs change.

Under Soviet influence "our educational system lost important aims," he said. "It was based on teaching subjects from the scientific view only. Now we need to learn not only sciences but also humanitarian subjects like religion. That's why we need new teachers."

The school will offer voluntary Bible clubs and youth fel-

lowship groups. Recently Americans working in Almalibak, the village where the school is located, have found acceptance and gratitude as they have provided learning opportunities for Kazakhs.

Parents joined in when a prayer in the Kazakh language began the opening day ceremony.

Almalibak, located near the capital city of Alma-Ata, has a population of 30,000. Kazakhs comprise about 70 percent of the town's population. The other residents are Russian, German, Turkish, and Korean.

"When I talked to some parents in Almalibak, they agreed that our children are our future — economy, culture, science. They see in this school the best opportunity to develop these things," Hamiev said.

Ed Mason, director of Southern Baptists' humanitarian aid efforts in Kazakhstan,

also spoke at the opening ceremony. He said the school is another way former Soviets and Americans can work together to tear down the wall of distrust and animosity that has existed for years.

"This Kazakh-American school offers us an opportunity to work with children and destroy the ingredients that built the wall. We need to take the ingredients of trust, hope, and of becoming friends, and with these ingredients, build a bridge of friendship. These teachers in this school will be the architects of such a bridge," he said.

Besides three American volunteers, six Kazakh teachers work at the school. It urgently needs more American English teachers who also can help with physical education, art, music, social studies, and science.

For more information on these opportunities, contact Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist humanitarian aid organization, at P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va., 23230. □

**Cuttino stressed the effort is not 'educational imperialism'**

# Australians reverse role; do missions work in Volunteer State

For Baptist and Reflector

**LAFOLLETTE** — It all began in August of 1991 when Bob Brown, pastor of First Church, LaFollette, was preaching at Wollongong Baptist Church in Wollongong, New South Wales, 30 miles south of Sydney, Australia.

Brown's visit to Australia was part of a partnership mission through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"We had taken a team of six from LaFollette," Brown recalled. "They (the Australians) gladly accepted our invitation, which was expanded as more Australian pastors and laity expressed interest in participating," Brown said.

That invitation grew into Mission '92, a program through which 41 Australians visited Tennessee and Kentucky to preach in churches and visit with residents of the state.

Brown, a graduate of the University of Tennessee, considers himself a son of East Tennessee. So he began contacting churches in the Knoxville area.

"I felt the concept of the event was sound and needed," he said. "There is a certain amount of isolation on the part of the American church with regards to our fellow Christians in other parts of the world."

"We do very well at sending our missionaries and our

monies to other lands, as well we should. However, we could learn much from contact with these other believers as applied in our own local churches. This effort provided exposure that might not otherwise have been possible," Brown said.

The Australians visited the following Tennessee churches during the week of Oct. 4-11: First Church, LaFollette; Lakeview Church, Caryville; Glade Springs Church, LaFollette; Main Street Church, Lake City; Glenwood Church, Powell; Ball Camp Church, Knoxville; East LaFollette Church, LaFollette; and First Church, Concord, Knoxville.

The missions project was a resounding success at every church, Brown reported, noting the attendance was excellent at each site. "The spirit of those meetings was warm and receptive to God's leading," Brown said.

The LaFollette pastor noted the work done by the Australian teams varied from site to site. Surprisingly, they had wide access to the public schools in the areas around the churches, Brown said. He estimated more than 1500 students heard the Australians speak about their country and why they were here.

"We were also able to arrange a meeting with the city officials of LaFollette and officials of Campbell County where the Gospel was presented in a very straight forward

way in the context of government ethical standards," Brown said.

John Taylor, pastor of Wollongong Church organized the Australian trip to the United States. He was accompanied by his wife and 17 church members from all walks of life in addition to other Australian pastors and laypersons.

Prior to the Australians' visit to Tennessee, they spent a week in the region around Ashland, Ky. Brown worked with Dan Russell, pastor of Liberty Church, Ashland, to help arrange that portion of the trip.

"I never dreamed that this effort would expand to the extent that it did. As enthusiasm overseas built for the effort, the Lord continued to open doors in this hemisphere for the Aussies to minister."

"It was a beautiful expres-

sion of the work of cooperative missions as it ought to be. I am eternally thankful for the work of partnership missions through the Foreign Mission Board," Brown said.

Brown said he is "committed to encouraging this sense of cooperation" among his congregation.

"Since my days at Southwestern Seminary, God has kept his call of the mission of the church before me. In this instance, that call resulted in friendships being formed by family members of the family of God on opposite sides of the world. Praise the Lord," Brown said.

The LaFollette pastor noted plans are being made to return to Australia in the summer of 1993. Interested persons may contact Brown at (615) 562-7649. — Adapted from articles in the *LaFollette Press* and the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*. □



**THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION** participating in Mission '92 at First Church, LaFollette, surrounded Pastor Bob Brown, middle center, during a service at the church in October. About 41 Australians participated in the missions trip to Tennessee and Kentucky.

## Francis to address BSU workshop

A Baptist Student Union Music and Ministry Workshop will be held Nov. 13-15 at the Baptist World Center in Nashville.

The event is sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Student Ministries Department.

The theme for the meeting is "Walking My Talk and Living My Song." Seminars which address a variety of topics will be offered. Speakers include V. J. Cald-

well, pastor, New Monumental Church, Chattanooga; Dan R. Francis, pastor, First Church, Nashville; Demetrus Alexander, Nashville; and Perry Broadnax, Nashville. Music will be provided by Christian recording artists Teddy Grover and Reggie Watkins.

Registration fee is \$7 per person. For more information, contact the TBC Student Ministries Department at (615) 371-2056. □

# Baptists aid refugees from Somalia; country still suffers

By Craig Bird

For Baptist Press

MANDERA, KENYA — "The AK-47 is the president of Somalia now," Noor declared, smiling at his own comment.

Several fellow Somali refugees laugh softly — including some scarred by blasts from the infamous Soviet assault rifle, and others who have lost wives or children, parents or friends in the bloodletting in their home country.

These days, if a Somali can't find humor in death and dying, there isn't much to smile about. The laughter may be morbid, but so is almost everything else about their situation. At least in Mandera they are out of reach of the ruling firepower.

They aren't out of the grasp of hunger and disease, however. But now they are within reach of Southern Baptist missionaries and Kenyan Baptists in a just-born effort to minister in Mandera.

Noor and 50,000 other Somali refugees live in stick-and-reed huts on the edge of Mandera, a remote Kenyan town. Less than two miles from the camp they can see the low hills of the Somali border. Ethiopia — and another camp housing 20,000 more sick, hungry refugees — lies a mile in the other direction, across the Dawa River.

The refugees poured out of Somalia last year when long-time dictator Mohamed Siad Barre was ousted. They brought almost nothing besides their lives — and upwards of 40 refugees a day are losing even that.

"I wouldn't be surprised if the daily death rate is closer to 80," said David Sorley, a Southern Baptist missionary doctor who has been working in Kenya's northeast province off and on since spring.

Against that background,

Kenyan Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries are going to work in Mandera, hundreds of miles from the nearest Baptist church. Christians of any description are scarce. Mandera may be in Kenya, one of the most responsive countries in the world to the Gospel, but both the refugees and the area's residents are overwhelmingly Muslim.

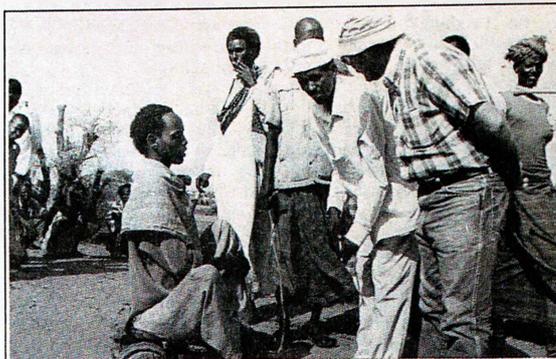
"When we first contacted the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, they were pretty blunt," Sorley admitted. "They said, 'You better not be coming up here to proselyte.'"

The Minneapolis native responded: "I won't be hiding the fact that I'm a Christian, but we don't believe in trading food for souls either."

Sampson Kisia, chairman of the Baptist Convention of Kenya, agreed. "Anyone who works in Mandera needs to understand this is a different kind of place. If we start preaching on the street and handing out tracts it will just cause trouble. But if we live out our Christianity while helping men and women and children who are suffering so much, the Lord can provide quiet opportunities for us to witness."

Kisia and Sorley were part of an eight-man team of Kenyans and missionaries who surveyed the area in October. They battled the 100-degree heat to visit refugees in the camp, check in with local government officials, and talk with the aid groups in Mandera to see how Baptist personnel and funds could best fit into the emerging aid program.

"We don't want to just show up and start competing with something UNHCR or CARE or UNICEF is doing," stressed missionary Sam Turner, a member of the survey team. "We want to find people who are being missed and minister



A CRIPPLED SOMALI refugee talks to Southern Baptist missionary Herb Cady, right, and refugee leaders in a Kenyan refugee camp. He fled Somalia being pulled on a cart. He is one of thousands of other refugees from Somalia who are crowding into the camp. They are being helped by both Southern Baptists and Kenyan Baptists.

to them. There is too much human need to duplicate the effort."

Food distribution apparent-

## Facts about Somalia

There are plenty of figures about Somalia.

At least 2000 people starve to death — each day. A thousand refugees abandon the hemorrhaging country — each day.

The porous borders hold eight million people, seven million guns, and 100 million rounds of ammunition. The relief flights are numbered, the sacks of grain counted. Casualty reports are specific. Dollar costs are computed.

The figures do not lie. But they do not tell the whole story either. The tragedy is greater than math. — Craig Bird

ly will be handled adequately by other agencies, so likely Baptist projects include:

■ A therapeutic medical program focusing on children and the disabled too weak to walk to the feeding centers or stand in line for long hours. Often they are incapable of defending the food they are given. The project would send teams through the camp to locate

such people and get them to a medical center. There they would be fed five times a day until they are strong enough to compete in the regular camp system.

■ A latrine building program is needed. The biggest "bathroom" is a dry riverbed that intersects the camp. Rains wash the waste into the river — the only water source for both the camp and the town. Sorley already has worked with an in-camp group, Somali Intellectuals for Refugees, promoting self-help projects. Southern Baptist funds paid for tools so refugees could dig four-meter-deep toilets. The first week they dug 36, but the camp needs 2500 more before the rains come. Baptists will provide more tools, training, and help.

■ Help also is needed with the water supply. The UN refugee commission is rehabilitating the water system itself. So Baptists may do things as simple as teaching the refugees to build one-family, upward-flow water filters out of con-

crete and sand, or as intensive as drilling boreholes.

■ Another imperative is education for children. "You can see the children running in packs with no supervision and nothing to do," Kisia explained. "If they live here two years their social skills will be gone and they'll never go back to school. This is the critical age," he said, noting literacy and English classes also are options.

The survey team envisions using missionaries and volunteers from Kenya and the United States, working both in the camp and in the town.

"There are hungry children in Mandera too," Kisia said. "We would like to earn the right to maintain a permanent presence. We'd like to be there even after the refugees are gone."

The Christian community would like that too. The Catholic mission lent the survey team a four-wheel-drive vehicle during their visit and at every opportunity encouraged the Baptists to move to Mandera. So did the small Christian Community Church.

"Look at us," one Christian woman told the visitors. "There is not an ethnic Somali here. We are all from other parts of Kenya who are here working. We need help reaching the Somalis."

And that is not a laughing matter. — Bird, a Southern Baptist missionary journalist who covers Africa, accompanied the Baptist survey team to the remote camp housing refugees from Somalia. □

## How Baptists can help Somalia

RICHMOND — As hunger continues to devastate Somalia, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board urges people to increase their prayers and their gifts to the board's world relief funds.

The board has just allocated more than \$1.3 million in hunger funds and \$100,000 in general relief funds for Somali aid. But those figures represent only a small part of what will be needed, according to John Cheyne, who coordinates hunger and relief efforts. That brings total Somali aid allocations since March 1991 to about \$1.5 million.

Besides relieving hunger, missionaries seek to meet urgent general relief needs, such as for medicine, blankets,

and other vital supplies, Cheyne said. He encourages donors to designate gifts to world relief, rather than just hunger, since world relief funds may be used for all urgent needs, including hunger.

In other action related to the hunger crisis, the board 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.

The board also has agreed to secure peace between warring factions in Somalia. □

FOR SALE — 1 bus, Ford El Dorado; 25-passenger; 1990 model; excellent condition; maintenance records available; price, \$22,000. Call (615) 244-4776 or write Stardust Tours, 1504 Demonbreun, Nashville, Tenn., 37203.

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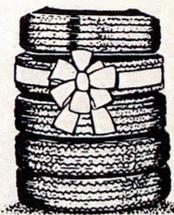
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## This Christmas, help re-tire a missionary.



A good set of tires determines whether or not missionaries Marvin and Linda Leech in Bengkulu, Indonesia, can do their job.

Tires provided by Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds enable the Leeches to travel in their four-wheel-drive vehicle to carry the gospel throughout the country. They work each weekend in a new church; offer leadership training programs; and visit Indonesian friends to share the plan of salvation.

The Leeches travel at least 10,000 "hard" miles a year. For instance, a 180-mile trip in Indonesia could take up to 13 hours. Pray that God will continue to protect the Leeches from danger and accidents in their day-to-day ministry.



**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**  
National Goal: \$84 million

# TenneScene ■ the people, their work

## ■ the leaders

■ **Dwight Whitworth** recently joined the staff of Clark Street Church, Johnson City, as minister of music. He served in a similar position in Virginia Beach, Va., and has more than 20 years of experience in churches in North Carolina, Mississippi, Virginia, and Tennessee.

■ **Nancy Hastings Sehested** celebrated her fifth anniversary as pastor of Prescott Memorial Church, Memphis, Nov. 1.

■ *The Surpassing Righteousness: Evangelism and Ethics in the Sermon on the Mount* by Eagle Creek Church, Holladay, Pastor **Clyde Tilley** was recently published by Smyth and Helwys Publishers.

■ **Gary Odom** is the new pastor of Round Lick Church, Watertown. He will begin his worship Nov. 15. Odom was a Foreign Mission Board missionary to Ecuador for eight years and worked as a church planter and developer.

■ **First Church, Clifton**, Pastor **Doug Phillips** resigned Sept. 20 to accept the pastorate of Blackwater Church, Daleville, Miss.

■ **First Church, Collinwood**, has called **Larry Bates**, Killen, Ala., as interim pastor.

■ **Steven Parker** is the new youth minister of Maple Grove Church, Harrison.

■ **East Chattanooga Church**, Chattanooga, called **Wayne Butts** as pastor.

■ **Don Paris** is the new pastor of Avondale Church, Chattanooga.

■ **Ron Atkinson** recently joined the staff of Stones River Church, Smyrna, as minister of youth.

■ **Members of Pleasant Grove Church**, Greenfield, recently welcomed new Pastor **Claude Prince**.

■ **Larry Bullard** is now pastor of First Church, St. Joseph.

■ **Leo Bunt** is serving Bonnettown Church, Five Points, as interim pastor.

■ Two churches in Lake City recently welcomed new pastors. **Charles Harness** is pastor of Island Ford Church, and **Mitchell Walker** is pastor of Longfield Church.

■ **Richard Teague** is serving as pastor of First Church, Briceville.

■ **Members of Antioch Church**, Sevierville, recently welcomed **Jim Duffel**, formerly a pastor in Nashville, as their new pastor.

■ **Mike Nelson** is the new pastor of Little Cove Church, Sevierville.

■ **Mountain View Church**, Sevierville, called **Billy Ogle** as pastor.

■ The congregation of **Shady Church**, Strawberry Plains, recently called **Allen Smith** as pastor.

■ **Ernest Mayo** is serving as interim pastor of Hornbeak Church, Hornbeak.

■ **Macedonia Church**, Kenton, called **Bill Williams** as interim pastor.

■ **Johnnie Lee** has been called as interim pastor of Eastwood Church, Cookeville.

■ **Johnson Church**, Monterey, Pastor **Glenn Conner** was ordained to the Gospel ministry Oct. 18.

■ **Nathan Bishop** is serving as interim pastor of Bethel Church, Yorkville.

■ **David Harwell**, new pastor of Hillcrest Church, Trenton, was ordained to the Gospel ministry Oct. 18 at Fellowship Church, Milan.

■ **Members of First Church**, Trenton, recently welcomed new Pastor **Billy Hammonds**, Maumelle, Ark.

■ **Rodney Hardin** resigned as pastor of Spring Hill Church, Trenton, effective Nov. 1 to accept the pastorate of First Church, Gadsden.

■ **Terry McDonald** is serving as interim pastor of Southside Church, Humboldt.

■ **Wayne Rowan** recently became pastor of Macedonia Church, Ripley.



THE CONGREGATION of Richland Church, Nashville, recently had cause to celebrate during its annual homecoming. Two years ago on the same date the church had 20 in Sunday School and only 17 in worship. On homecoming there were 104 in Sunday School and 230 in worship. Here, Pastor Billy Hill speaks to the children in attendance. Richland Church was begun as a mission of Park Avenue Church in 1928

■ **Johnny Criswell** is the new pastor of Midway Church, Dyer.

■ **First Church, Medina**, called **Ken Basham** as pastor

## ■ the churches

■ Construction recently began on a new Sunday School building at **Beech Grove Church, Lawrenceburg**.

■ **First Church, Gleason**, broke ground Oct. 4 for a new sanctuary.

■ A building/remodeling project at **Beech Springs Church, Gleason**, is nearing completion. The project will provide six new classrooms, a remodeled pastor's study, a remodeled sanctuary, and new roofing and doors.

■ An African American mission was recently organized at **Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage**. Simeon Baptist Fellowship began about a year ago as a Bible study class of 15 members and has grown to 50 in the mission which is made up of six Sunday School classes. Representatives from Nashville Association; the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and Bob Sheffield, interim pastor of Hermitage Hills, participated in the organization service.

■ Revival will be Nov. 8-11 at **Little Flat Creek Church, Corryton**, with evangelist John Holland, pastor of Salem Church, Knoxville.

■ **Jerry Massey** will lead fall revival Nov. 15-18 at **Kennington Church, Memphis**.

# Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

## Doing God's work in limited time

Don Farmer  
adult education and administration  
Concord Church, Chattanooga

Time — oh, how much is bound up in that little word.

"Time waits for no one." Summer is gone, Christmas decorations are for sale in the stores — what happened to Fall?

"Time heals all wounds." But Lord, I can't wait! Can't you do it now? The Psalmist cried out, "How long, Lord? Remember how short my time is," Psalm 89:47.

Jesus wept over Jerusalem. (They had rejected him.) He knew that destruction lay ahead for them, "because you did not know the time of your visitation," Luke 9:44.

Felix thought he had plenty of time for he said to Paul, "Go away for now, when I have a convenient time I will call for you," Acts 24:25. Are we also putting off some decisions concerning the Lord's work through Concord until "some convenient time?"

The apostle John wrote about 1900 years ago, "Blessed is he

who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keeps those things which are written in it, for the time is near," Revelation 1:3.

Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:15-16, "See that you walk circumspectly . . . redeeming the time, because the days are evil." Perhaps these words need to be our theme. They convey an urgency about our walk (character), the shortness of the time we have on this earth in which to do his work and also that we are continually in a spiritual battle. ☐

## Isaiah provided a model of worship

By Steve Brown, minister of music  
Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville

I hope your worship on Sunday helped you truly experience the presence of God. We bring to the worship experience our own "baggage" of needs, wants, likes, and dislikes. This baggage has tremendous impact on our response to what takes place.

In Isaiah 6:1-8, we find our model for worship. We see how

Isaiah approached the worship experience, the events that happened, and his response to worship. I want to lead us in thinking about worship as we look at this Biblical example. Our making a difference through worship must be based solely on God's guidelines. We must put our "baggage" into proper perspective.

The first act of worship is to acknowledge God's presence and see him in his holiness. Do you enter the sanctuary expecting to meet God? Does your attitude then encourage those around you to begin an attitude of worship? Many may only see the sanctuary as a social gathering place to watch others perform and to be entertained. Take advantage of the prelude to prepare yourself to meet God. Take a moment in prayer.

Take your mind off troubles and trials of life and, as Isaiah did, see God high and lifted up. Realize he is a holy God who deserves your attention and participation when you are in his presence. Angels aren't sitting passively waiting to be entertained. They are actively involved in singing his praises. They are ready to and do at his

simplest command.

The first part of worship is personal preparation. Come expectantly. Come into his presence with reverence, put aside things of the world. Open your heart to God's speaking to you individually. Don't be a passive spectator, but become an active participant. Isaiah's response was not based on anyone else's — he, alone, experienced God. It's your opportunity to prepare yourself and experience God each time we gather for worship. ☐

## Living an authentic Christian lifestyle

Billy Skinner, pastor  
First Church, Union City

Somehow those first-century disciples had something to offer their skeptical world. The disciples did not drift aimlessly into the first century hoping that lives would be changed. They were able to do this by cultivating the habit of including God in every aspect of their ministry.

We still have the same things to offer our world that is just as skeptical and at times

Gospel hardened. An infectious love is just as powerful as it was 2000 years ago. The message that they preached was the same message we preach. It is just as relevant today as it was in that first century. They, also, had a powerful Savior. Jesus said, "I am the same yesterday, today, and forever." That tells me his power had not weakened with the passing of time.

Perhaps the one ingredient missing in our churches today is an authentic Christian lifestyle. Those disciples lived what they preached and most of them died for the message they shared. There was no gap between their words and their works.

As teachers, leaders, and officers, can we incorporate in our lives and ministries that relevant message, and infectious love and depend on God's power? Above all these, can we live what we preach and teach? ☐

## Seminaries hold TBC luncheons

Four Southern Baptist seminaries will hold alumni meetings in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Nov. 17-18, in Gatlinburg.

Alumni of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, are invited to attend a luncheon Nov. 17 at noon at the Log Cabin Pancake House.

Joel Wood, Tennessee alumni president, will host the meeting. For more information, including

cost of tickets, contact Wood at (615) 843-2044.

Noon meals will be hosted Nov. 18 by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Southern Seminary's luncheon will be held at Glenstone Lodge and will include an address by SBTTS professor Wade Rowatt. Tickets are \$9 and may be ob-

tained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Frank Hawkins, president of Southern Seminary's Tennessee alumni at 1504 Dobyns Drive, Kingsport, Tenn., 37664.

Midwestern alumni will meet at the Travelodge Hotel. Cost is \$7.50 per person. For more information or to make reservations, contact Dane Anthony, president of the Tennessee alumni chapter, at Belmont University, 1900 Belmont Blvd., Nashville, 37212.

The New Orleans gathering also will be held at Glenstone Lodge. Don H. Stewart, director of the doctor of ministry degree program, will address the group. Cost of the luncheon is \$10 per person. For information, call Marshall Hargrave at (615) 475-5469. □



**FIRST CHURCH, GLEASON**, recently broke ground for a new sanctuary. Participating in the service with Pastor Chris Ward, front, are from left, Wendell Verdell, Little Jack Dunning, Richard Horn (chairman of the building committee), Kenneth Byrd, Bobby Parsley, and John Jones.

## Belmont hosts TBC dinner

Belmont University will host a dinner for alumni, pastors, church staff members, and friends on Nov. 17 at 5 p.m., or immediately following the evening session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The dinner will be held at Glenstone Lodge, just 100 yards up Airport Road from the Convention

Center in Gatlinburg. Cost of the meal is \$10 per person.

The program will feature Belmont President William E. Troutt and music from the college's School of Music.

For reservation information, call the Belmont alumni office at (615) 385-6402. □

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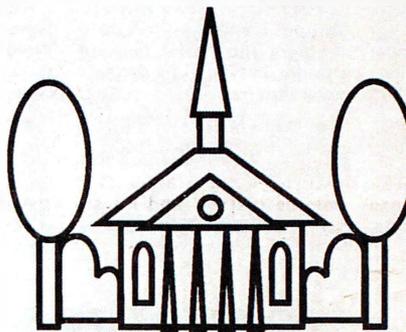
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# ■ Sunday School lesson commentary

## □ Victory through the Spirit — Bible Book Series for November 8

By Mike Kemper, pastor, Green River Church, Waynesboro

In chapter 8, Paul gave answers about the law and the flesh. Since God gave the law, and we are in the flesh, how can we do right? Paul showed the Holy Spirit is in every believer, enabling us to overcome the domination of sin.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit clothes us in righteousness so the law cannot condemn us. By the Spirit we are able to live fruitful lives to the glory of the Lord. Being "in Christ" means there remains no condemnation against us. The word condemnation in verse 1 does not mean hell. The issue of salvation from the wages of sin has already been settled for the believer. The Christian is not still in jeopardy.

Paul focused on the daily life of the Christian seeking to

please God while "in the flesh." The law is there as our "schoolmaster," but it does not condemn us. We are not under the law, but under grace. The Holy Spirit enables us to put to death sinful practices. We must discover this freedom in our daily lives because it is our rightful inheritance as a believer.

Many of us still have tendencies toward the flesh and this tendency is displeasing to God. We must make our choice, daily, to yield to the Spirit. Our debt is to the Holy Spirit who convicted us and showed us our need of the Savior, who brought about our new life and gave us our new nature. We owe the law and the flesh nothing! We owe the Spirit of God everything!

We are now "the sons of God" (v. 14). We have received "the

Spirit of adoption" (v. 15) and have liberty, which gives us freedom from the law and freedom from the flesh. Thus, we can please God and be exactly what He wants us to be. I am free to be me. You are free to be you. We have received the "adoption of God."

Adoption here means "sonship." God made us His children and we may call Him Father. As children we are joint heirs with Christ. We share in the inheritance and also the sufferings of Christ (v. 17). This suffering is not the kind of suffering that comes simply by being human and in this world. It is the suffering that comes from bearing our cross for Christ, and in this we are partners with Christ. We should not seek this kind of suffering, but suffering for Christ

seeks us out. Jesus did not seek the pain and sorrow that came to Him, however it became His burden to bear.

We must bear His burden also. We must share in His suffering until He comes again. Then we will share in His glory. But for now we can see the whole creation groaning.

Paul referred to this "groaning." In verse 22, he said, "all creation groans."

In verse 23, believers groan as they wait for the return of Christ. The soul has already experienced redemption, but "waiting for the adoption" means the "redemption of our body." Then will God's plan of redemption be completed.

In verse 26 we see that the Spirit groans as He intercedes for us. The most spiritual prayer

we can utter is not long, beautiful, or flowery, but a deep, heart felt groan which only God could understand.

The well-known verse 28 does not mean that everything that happens is good. It means that in everything, good or bad, God is in the midst, working to bring

### Basic Passage Romans 8:1-39

about His purpose, which is good. The promise of verse 28 is strengthened by what Paul affirms in verses 29-31.

Finally, do not worry what God will do! God is for us, not against us. Therefore, who can stand against us? We are "more than conquerors through Him that loves us," (v. 37). □

## □ Amos: Prophet of justice — Convention Uniform Series for November 8

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

The reign of Jeroboam II, sixth king of Israel after Ahab, was one of great material prosperity, but also of injustice and oppression (II Kings 14:24). God's message was delivered to the wicked nation by the prophet Amos, a shepherd and farmer from Tekoa in Judah (ch. 1:1; see also ch. 7:14-15). Perhaps he knew the Lord had called and sent him, and he spoke the Word boldly.

### Judgment of the nations ch. 1:3-2:3

Amos began this message, not by denouncing Israel, but by pronouncing doom upon some of Israel's neighbors. This approach disarmed the hearers and then pleased them. He compared the voice of the Lord to the roar of the lion and then announced judgment in the form of a drought (ch. 1:2).

Persistent offenses of the nations ("for three transgressions ... and for four") would bring a harvest of consequences.

Notice the universal moral laws which were being violated and for which all persons are answerable. Note also that God operates in history through nations and natural forces to enforce justice. And all sin brings a harvest of judgment.

### Indictment of Israel ch. 2:4-12

The delight of the people was clear as the prophet skillfully told of the coming misfortunes of surrounding nations, some of whom had been their oppressors. Then he spoke of Judah, their neighbor to the south. News of punishment there would vindicate them for their separation from that kingdom and for the course they had fol-

lowed. But the message was not complete!

Turning his attention to Israel (ch. 2:6), Amos made his charges. Their affluence had made them vain and oppressive (see ch. 6:4-6). They were annoyed by the poor of the land and the righteous, and they confiscated their belongings, mistreated them in other ways, and possibly even sold them into slavery. They had been corrupted by the power of materialism and violated the rights of others. Gross immorality with prostitutes in pagan temples may be the reference in verse 7c.

Such abuse of material blessings poses similar dangers for our society, also. Christian families can forget God in their enjoyment of the luxuries of life. Churches can do the same and become social clubs for the afflu-

ent. The people had forgotten the goodness and blessings of God. His mercy upon them when they were slaves should have caused them to respond with kindness toward the less fortunate. Their treatment of others, in addition to their violation of God's laws and of true worship, reflected the waywardness of their hearts.

### Basic Passage Amos 2:6 — 3:2

God also had raised up prophets and Nazirites to remind them of their blessings and duties. Nazirites were consecrated to God and showed it by abstention from alcoholic drink and in other ways. Yet the Israelites had tried to silence the prophets and get the

Nazirites to violate their vows. They wanted nothing to remind them of the poor, the righteous, the helpless, and the God of all three groups! In a similar way, they were obviously uncomfortable with Amos (see ch. 7:10-13).

Ingratitude and selfishness cause people today to neglect justice and mercy towards others and true worship of God.

### Responsibility of privilege ch. 3:1-2

"The whole family" (v. 1), including Judah and Israel, had been chosen and blessed by God. Their tremendous privilege (see Romans 2:17-21 and 3:1-2) carried also tremendous responsibility ("Therefore, I will punish you for all your iniquities," Amos 3:2b). These words should terrify those who enjoy the blessings of God, but disregard His will and His way. □

## □ Be faithful to Christ's purpose — Life and Work Series for November 8

By James Hutson, pastor, First Church, Rockwood

Assuming we have accepted and believe the Good News of God's love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ, what do we do, how do we act as a believer? II Timothy 2 lists Paul's illustrations of the ministry to which Timothy was called. Since Baptists believe in the priesthood of believers, Paul's instructions apply to every believer.

### Be strong in the Lord, vv. 1-2

Paul urged Timothy to follow the example of Onesiphorus (vv. 16-18). This same injunction by Paul is found in Ephesians 6:10. Our strength is found in the grace that comes through Christ alone and which gives us the power to do the Lord's work.

Here is the chain of Gospel witnessing and teaching. The teachings we have heard are to be shared with others. There

have been many witnesses to Timothy — the elders, his mother and grandmother, the apostle Paul, and many others. All of us recall faithful men and women who taught and encouraged us in our Christian walk. We must share what we were taught.

This transmission of Christian truth is to be shared with reliable (faithful) men and women who have the aptitude to teach. Christian truth is not left to chance, but is shared with others who have proven themselves.

### Examples for a Christian vv. 3-6, 14-16, 24-25a

We are to be like a soldier (vv. 3-4). A soldier must learn obedience even when that obedience requires hardship and sacrifice. A soldier must allow the duties of military life to have priority

over everything else.

We are to be like an athlete. In athletics there are rules to be obeyed. To break those rules is to be penalized and perhaps disqualified. The emphasis is self-discipline.

We are to be like a hardworking farmer who never gives up. A farmer cultivates the soil, plants the seed, and awaits the harvest. He repeats the process every year. Flood, drought, insects, and disease may destroy one harvest, but the hardworking farmer stays on the job.

We are to be like a teacher. Negatively, we are to avoid arguments. Very few, if any, have ever been debated into Christian belief. Paul urged Timothy to avoid "quarreling about words."

We are to study like a workman. Our work must stand the

examination of our Heavenly Father. "Study" means to do our best.

We are to be like a servant. A servant is not to be quarrelsome. We are to "speak the truth in love," Ephesians 4:15. This does not imply that we must agree with everything we hear, see, or read, but we are to be kind to everyone, ready to teach, not resentful. To those who oppose us we are to be gentle. The word "instruct" means to teach and discipline a child. "A soft answer turneth away wrath," Proverbs 15:1.

### Our supreme example — Jesus Christ, vv. 8-10

Paul urged Timothy to remember Jesus Christ, who is of the seed of David. This phrase expressed the humanity of our Lord. Paul also urged Timothy to

remember Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. The risen Christ is the central event in our Christian experience. The resurrection is the guarantee of all other aspects of Christ's work.

### Result of our faithfulness vv. 25b-26

It was our Lord's intention that everyone might be saved,

### Basic Passage: II Timothy 2

Luke 19:10. It must also be our intention that God use us to lead others to repentance. All who have been caught by the devil — the unsaved, the carnal Christian — can be set free from the snares of the devil. In this world, God accomplishes His purposes through men and women who are faithful to Him. □

## Committee lists no favorites for next president of SBTS

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The list of candidates for the presidency of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary now consists of a "blank piece of paper," stressed the chairman of the presidential search committee.

Wayne Allen, pastor of Briarwood Church, Cordova, said the committee agreed to develop a profile for a prospective president before considering any candidate.

"We have committed to each other that any of us who had any preconceived ideas would erase them from memory," Allen said. "We have no person in mind."



ALLEN

The search committee was named Oct. 12 after SBTS President Roy L. Honeycutt told trustees he would retire Dec. 31, 1993. Allen said the committee hopes to present a potential president to the board at its April 19-21 meeting.

Allen, who chairs the seminary's 63-member trustee board, was elected to lead the committee during a recent meeting on the Louisville campus.

Other search committee officers include Larry Adams, Oklahoma City, Okla., vice chairman, and Carroll Karkalits, Lake Charles, La. Other trustees on the committee are Charles Q. Carter, Jonesboro, Ga., Neal Gresham, Wing, Ala., P. A. Stevens, Louisville, and Rick White, Franklin. □

## Four Southern Baptists among Congressmen receiving alcohol funds

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The alcohol industry contributed more than \$5.7 million to members of Congress and to both political parties during a 40-month period from 1989 to 1992, and some Southern Baptists profited the most, according to a recent report.

Two Southern Baptists in the Senate and two in the House of Representatives ranked in the top ten in their respective chambers in contributions received from the alcohol industry.

Both Southern Baptists in the Senate are from Kentucky. Sen. Wendell Ford, D-Ky., was the top recipient of alcohol industry money in the Senate

with \$58,000. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., ranked third at \$47,422.

In the House, Rep. Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., ranked second with \$59,248 in alcohol-related contributions. Rep. Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., was tied for eighth with \$31,000.

The top benefactor of alcohol industry contributions in the House was Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., at \$70,500.

The report, titled "Under the Influence: How the Booze Industry Buys Business As Usual," was released Oct. 13 by Center for Science in the Public Interest, a Washington-based consumer advocacy group. The data was collected from the Federal Election Commission and Senate and House financial disclosure statements, according to the report. □

## Montana Baptists seek to double their size

Baptist Press

KALISPELL, Mont. — Kicking off a special emphasis to double the number of churches by the turn of the century, Montana Southern Baptists met Oct. 7-8 at Easthaven Church in Kalispell for their 32nd annual session.

The campaign, if successful, would double Montana's more than 100 churches and missions and have more than 16,000 of the state's 800,000 residents involved in the fellowship's churches and missions.

Paul Jones, pastor of Emmanuel Church, Billings, was re-elected president of the fellowship. □

## SWBTS trustees approve new degrees

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees approved two new degree programs in the school of theology and helped dedicate the seminary's new \$3.5 million Kathryn Sullivan Bowld Music Library during their semiannual meeting Oct. 19-20 on the seminary campus.

A 60-hour master of arts degree and a 24-hour master of theology degree each received unanimous approval by trustees. The two new degrees are the first major curriculum additions not requiring prior professional or educational experience in the school of theology since the bachelor of divinity degree was added in 1950.

Calling the new degrees a positive step for the seminary's academic future, President Russell H. Dilday told trustees

the curriculum additions will provide greater flexibility for students.

Dedication ceremonies for the Bowld Music Library included a special chapel music service and a ribbon-cutting. □

## Maryland church disapproves action of local association

Baptist Press

CLARKSBURG, Md. — Maryland's Montgomery Association voted Oct. 18 to extend membership to a church led by a female pastor, despite a warning that at least one member congregation, Wildwood Church in Bethesda, would terminate its affiliation with the association.

Members at the association's annual meeting voted 62-18 to adopt the recommendation of a women in ministry task force that leadership by ordained women not be considered as a test of fellowship for a petitioning church. In a separate vote, they agreed 59-19 to receive Liberian Christian Baptist Church, Silver Spring, into membership. The church's pastor, Victoria Russell, is a woman.

The 75.6 percent vote barely passed on a constitutional requirement for a 75 percent vote to admit new members into the association.

During discussion before the vote, Wildwood pastor Jeff Russell, who is not related to the new church's pastor, read a letter reporting his church had voted unanimously that should Liberian Christian be accepted into the association, their own membership and financial support "will be terminated immediately."

Russell and the rest of Wildwood's small contingent of messengers left immediately after the vote was counted, causing George Arthur, director of missions, to choke back tears as he stood to give his scheduled report. "That breaks my heart. It really breaks my heart," he told messengers. □

## Nations need English teachers, leaders say

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Nations once closed to the West may still disagree about the value of democracy or capitalism. But nearly all of them agree on one thing: English equals progress.

Russia, other Soviet republics, China, even Vietnam all want English teachers from the West to train their future leaders in the dominant international language.

That call opens a wide door for Christian teachers desiring

to influence people who may one day head up national governments, industries, and other institutions.

"Volunteers who can teach English overseas are in growing demand," said Bill Peacock, who helps recruit short-term teachers for Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization.

For more information, interested teachers can contact Peacock or the CSI office at P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va., or call (804) 353-0151. □

## Southern Baptists lead temperance coalition

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — During much of this century, Methodists led the nation's Temperance Movement but in the past 20 years the movement's leadership has shifted to Southern Baptists, says temperance leader Curt Scarborough.

"Southern Baptists still advocate abstinence (from alcohol)," said Scarborough, executive director of the American Council on Alcohol Action Program, and a trustee of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Indicative of that change, Dan Ireland, an Alabama Baptist, was elected as the new president of ACAP, the national temperance coalition, at the organization's recent meeting in Louisville, Ky.

ACAP represents a coalition of 36 state affiliates, 19 of which are led by Baptists. The nine-person executive committee includes four Southern Baptists, two United Methodists, and one each from the Evangelical Free Church, Roman Catholic, and Mormon traditions.

Southern Baptist members of ACAP are Ireland, Claude Witt, Kentucky; James Hamilton, Nebraska, and Pat Jones, Tennessee. □

## Seanor selected national RA director

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission has named Timothy C. Seanor as national Royal Ambassador director.

Seanor, 36, succeeds Karl Bozeman who retired May 31.

Seanor will be responsible for promoting and directing the Royal Ambassador program nationally which serves 231,227 boys in grades one through nine and their leaders.

He has served on the Brotherhood Commission staff for 11 years, including the last three years as editor of *Lad* magazine. □

## SSB taps Floridian for ethnic ministry

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Ramon Martinez has been employed by the Baptist Sunday School Board to coordinate church development work among ethnic groups.

Martinez, director of the Florida Baptist Convention's ethnic education department since 1983, will become ethnic and black coordinator for the board Nov. 15.

In his new role Martinez will coordinate the work of three sections: Hispanic church development, language church development (which includes Korean, Chinese, and other language groups), and black church development. He also will serve as a liaison for ethnic work between the Sunday School Board and other SBC agencies, state conventions, associations, and others.

A native of Cuba, Martinez came to the U.S. in 1962. Prior to his service in Florida, he served on the staff of the Home Mission Board. □



THE GRAND OPENING of the Kathryn Sullivan Bowld Music Library was held Oct. 20 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. President Russell H. Dilday, center, and Kathryn Sullivan Bowld of Memphis, left, prepare for the official ribbon cutting. Joining in the ceremony were, from left, Jay Chance, Scotty Gray, and Carl Wrotenbery.