

■ this week's news

global —

- Southern Baptists respond to hunger needs in Somalia. — See page 3

national —

- SBC Cooperative Program shows increase in December. — See page 2
- Paul Simmons resigns as professor at Southern Seminary. — See page 3

state —

- Tennessee students graduate from Southern Baptist seminaries. — See page 6
- Chilhowee Association volunteers wage war on despair by providing hope. — See page 7

Retirements, new faces dominate 1992 news

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

The calendar has turned a page and a backward glance at old 1992 will remind Tennessee Baptists of many changes.

Retirements, new positions, and new faces dominate the major news stories for the past twelve months.

At the top of the list is the change in leadership for Tennessee Baptists. James Porch, pastor of First Church, Tullahoma, was elected by the Executive Board to succeed D. L. Lowrie who resigned to accept the pastorate of First Church, Lubbock, Texas.

Lowrie, who held the post for three and a half years, left early in September, and Porch took office Nov. 1. He had been selected by a search committee and approved by the Executive Board in a close vote.

R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board for 13 years, retired in October. He announced in December that he would accept the offer of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to lead its global missions effort. The CBF membership is composed of churches and individuals within the Southern Baptist Convention who have banded together to

operate several initiatives separate of official SBC endeavors.

Several FMB missionaries resigned during the year, many of whom were working in Europe. Some joined the CBF, and some of those were by invitation. Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker, members of the FMB leadership in Europe, were among the first to resign, differing in the way FMB trustees were relating to European Baptists.

Probably the number two story in the SBC was the election of Houston pastor Edwin Young as president over Jess Moody and Nelson Price. Young's election continued the more conservative group's hold on SBC leadership dating back to 1979. There was no candidate from the more moderate group, for the second straight year.

Also ranking high as a SBC news item was the naming of Morris Chapman to succeed the retiring Harold Bennett as president of the SBC's powerful Executive Committee. Chapman, also from the more conservative group, had completed his second one-year term in June as SBC president. He was pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Nationally, Southern Baptists made headlines as Bill Clinton and Albert Gore were elected as president and vice president of the United States.

Both are members of Southern Baptist churches. Clinton served as governor of Arkansas and Gore, of course, was one of Tennessee's two senators, prior to Wednesday's (Jan. 20) inauguration.

Their nomination and subsequent election touched off outcries of opposition to some campaign proposals, mainly

their stance on abortion and homosexuals in the military.

The November 1992 TBC annual session in Gatlinburg was another top news story for Tennessee Baptists.

Leading up to the sessions, there was much discussion of an Executive Board proposal to cut substantially the Harrison-Chilhowee Academy budget, the election of the new executive director, and the overall — See Retirements, page 3



KEITH PARKS, who retired in 1992 as president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, spoke at the Tennessee Baptist Woman's Missionary Union meeting Nov. 16 in Gatlinburg, prior to the annual TBC meeting. He is shown with Tennessee WMU leaders Katharine Bryan, left, and Carol Pharris.

WMU approves historic plan to enlarge base

By Herb Hollinger
For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — In an unprecedented vote, the executive board of Woman's Missionary Union took action Jan. 10 to enlarge its base of operations, no longer to work exclusively with Southern Baptist Convention entities.

Declaring "WMU is at a crossroad," Executive Director Dellanna W. O'Brien said the action frees up the 104-year-old organization, opens opportunities, and "puts us in sync with today's woman."

Carolyn Miller, national WMU president from Huntsville, Ala., likened the action to a "giant leap, a giant step, a giant direction" in mission awareness involvement.

Following the proposals of a special committee, appointed by Miller in January 1992, the executive board took the first two days of its annual board

meeting in Birmingham and Shocco Springs, Ala., to shape the final plan. Divided into three sections — a vision statement, core values, and recommendations — the action will allow WMU to work with a variety of evangelical groups, including the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The CBF is a group of "moderate" Southern Baptists who are critical of the direction and conservative leadership of the SBC.

However, O'Brien and Miller, meeting with media following the final vote, said WMU would not promote the CBF's global missions offering.

"We would not be able to promote their offering ... it's a step we shouldn't take," O'Brien said. She called the CBF issue "volatile" in Southern Baptist circles and said it was "ironic that we can pray for them but not promote their offering." Officially, she

said WMU has not been asked to promote the offering.

However, WMU will assist CBF with missions materials,

most likely utilizing some generic materials already produced by the missions organization. — See WMU, page 2

On WMU action

TBC's Bryan provides insights

Katharine Bryan, WMU executive director, TBC, was contacted Monday afternoon at Shocco Springs, by the *Baptist and Reflector*.

"WMU of Tennessee wants to serve all TBC churches," she said. As a member of the special committee, she said the meeting was "open, non-defensive, and exciting."

"WMU nationally has affirmed our 104-year-old historical stance of unwavering support of our missionaries — who have been called out from our churches.

"Tennessee's WMU exists to serve all our churches, to

train leaders for missions organizations, to assist in creating an atmosphere where preschoolers, girls, women, can become aware of the world — and to respond as God leads them.

"We recognize new opportunities in a changing culture and environment, while having potential of expanding our avenues for ministry and witness to a hurting world. We continue to challenge believers to pray for missions and missionaries."

Bryan said all entities linked with WMU in any way "must fit in our parameters." □

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Retirements, new faces dominate 1992 news

— Continued from page 1

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election process.

The rest of the story, however, is that the TBC budget passed without alteration, and the entire two-day session was amicable. Leonard Markham, pastor of Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville, was elected TBC president narrowly over Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

Newsmaking stories relating to the TBC included Frank Samuels, pastor of Southland Church, Memphis, being named president of the Executive Board, while David George, pastor of Immanuel Church, Nashville, was named chairman of the Executive Committee.

Other top news stories on the Tennessee Baptist Convention level include:

James Currin, McKenzie native and executive director of the New England Convention for 14 years, died in April.

More than 18,000 young people attended the annual Youth Evangelism Conference in Nashville in March.

January was recorded as the best month for CP giving in TBC history with \$3.1 mil-

lion. State Evangelism Conference speakers challenged Tennessee Baptists to be strong in evangelism and outreach.

The Tennessee/Chile Partnership Missions effort began Jan. 1. The partnership with the Philippines ended in March with a total of 270 volunteers helping lead 12,350 people to Christ.

As promised, after four months of study and preparation, the *Baptist and Reflector* presented a new layout design, and began using a completed computerized system July 1. It was the first major overhaul of design and production in several years for the convention's official newsjournal.

In late July, more than 200 Tennessee Baptists met to form a local Cooperative Baptist Fellowship chapter.

New Life Church, Murfreesboro, moved into the first Laotian Baptist church building in the state in August.

The Mississippi River Ministry began joint work in August with neighboring states of Tennessee, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missis-

sippi. Almost 6200 Tennesseans received Sunday School leadership training at seven regional conferences in September, a record number.

The Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes received titles to two existing facilities, Stoneway Acres in Lebanon, and Rainbow Acres in Jacksboro.

The annual TBC sessions in November had record attendance of 2279.

The Golden State Missions Offering exceeded \$1 million for the first time.

John Highsmith, youth from Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, won the national Speak Out competition in the SBC.

Hundreds of Tennessee volunteers served on the front lines in Florida's massive Hurricane Andrew recovery program. The work was headed by Cameron Byler and Curtis Fowler. More than a half million meals were served and several buildings were repaired.

Other stories making top Southern Baptist news:

Lewis Drummond retired as president of Southeastern

Seminary, and was succeeded by Paige Patterson.

SBC reported 38,321 churches.

SBC positions itself against church approval of homosexuality and directed Home Mission Board to study relationship with Freemasonry.

HMB announced plans for new building near Atlanta and elected Ron Phillips, Chattanooga, as chairman of its trustees.

Al Shackleford, former editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*, who was fired from his post as vice president in charge of Baptist Press, was hired as editor of the Sunday School Board's *Mature Living* magazine after 23 months jobless.

Joel Gregory resigned as pastor of First Church, Dallas.

Roy Honeycutt announced upcoming retirement as president of Southern Seminary to be effective Dec. 31, 1993.

Early retirement accepted by 159 employees at Sunday School Board.

Yes, 1992 was an eventful year for Tennessee Baptists — and on the Southern Baptist Convention level. □

WMU approves historic plan to enlarge base

— Continued from page 1

zation. O'Brien said there was an urgent need for children's missions materials for the CBF. However, she said, the CBF's 20 missionaries will not appear in the widely-used WMU Prayer Calendar which heretofore has listed only SBC-related career missionaries.

Both leaders said they hoped to continue the relationship with SBC entities, including the promotion of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Mission and the Annie

Graham to speak at Clinton inaugural

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Southern Baptist evangelist Billy Graham has accepted an invitation to offer the invocation at the Jan. 20 inauguration of President-elect Bill Clinton.

Graham has participated in every presidential election, beginning with Lyndon Johnson, except Jimmy Carter's.

Some pro-life groups, have asked Graham to reconsider and to withdraw his acceptance, but as of Jan. 11, Graham was still scheduled to participate. The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's Executive Director sent Graham a private letter also asking him to reconsider. □

Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, critical to the financing of FMB and HMB missionary activity. WMU receives more than \$700,000 from the two boards each year to promote the offerings as well as for other projects.

Noting WMU is an auxiliary of the SBC, and auxiliary means "helper," O'Brien said she was unsure what SBC leadership would do following the WMU action (see an article on SBC leaders' responses in next week's *Baptist and Reflector*).

There was virtually no opposition to the final plan adopted by the executive board, which is composed of state convention WMU presidents, with state WMU executive directors invited by Miller to participate in the vote.

The plan begins with a Vision Statement: "Woman's Missionary Union exists to enable churches and believers to participate in introducing all persons in the world to Christ."

The Vision Statement is followed by eight more-detailed statements called "Core Values," titled: "Priesthood of the Believer, God's Call to Mission, Prayer for Missions, Giftedness of Women, Social and Moral Issues, Development of Leaders, Partnership with Christians Around the World, and Diverse Organiza-

tional Models."

The six action statements, called "recommendations," affirm the WMU's commitment to missions, "the reason we exist," and to "relate to others who share our commitment," and they commit WMU to:

- provide prayer support and resources for any Southern Baptist group involved in missions, "at their request."

- produce and market generic missions education resources for other evangelical groups.

- promote and facilitate effective voluntarism in response to specific needs.

- identify one social issue each year for specific intervention through national projects.

- accept contributions to be used for WMU and related missions needs.

According to WMU leaders, the organization has already, in minor ways, produced generic missions materials and facilitated mission volunteers, i.e., the Acteen Activators, teen-age girls in volunteer short-term mission projects. However, Miller said WMU would not sponsor "career" missionaries such as done by the foreign and home missions boards of the SBC.

National WMU already has received some unsolicited contributions for its work, although in small amounts, and though identifying it as a recommendation (action plan) leaders said WMU would not solicit funds. □

SBC receipts up in December

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for December were up 3.14 percent over the same month a year ago, according to Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

December CP receipts totaled \$10,906,778, compared to December 1991 of \$10,575,202.

"I am encouraged by the increase in Cooperative Program receipts for the month of December," Chapman said. "For the sake of world missions, I have great hope that in 1993 Southern Baptists once again will establish an upward trend in CP giving."

The 1992-93 SBC monthly basic operating budget requirement is \$11,683,366. □

Southern Seminary professor takes early retirement

By David R. Wilkinson
For Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Paul D. Simmons has taken early retirement from his teaching position at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in the wake of a film he showed to a class in December that sparked controversy over its sexual content.

Simmons submitted a letter to seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt Jan. 6 announcing his retirement effective retroactively to Dec. 31.

Simmons' decision abruptly ended a 22-year career as an ethics professor at SBTS.

Simmons, 56, has faced mounting pressure in recent years from seminary trustees who disagree with his pro-choice views on abortion.

The last in a series of attempts to resolve the conflict failed Dec. 15 when trustees at

a called meeting in Atlanta soundly defeated a proposal from their academic personnel committee to buy out Simmons' teaching contract.

After the closed-door meeting, Honeycutt told reporters the trustees' decision put efforts to resolve the issue "back to ground zero."

Several trustees speculated publicly that formal charges of dismissal would be filed against Simmons in the coming months.

Since that meeting, however, new controversy flared suddenly on a different front. Near the end of the fall semester, Simmons showed an explicit video on disabled persons and sexuality to a masters-level class on "The Church and Sexuality."

When several students from the class registered formal complaints, the matter was placed under administrative

review. Before the review was completed, however, Simmons announced his decision to retire.

Honeycutt said seminary officials had not requested Simmons' resignation and that the formal action under consid-

eration in response to the classroom incident did not include dismissal.

"Dr. Simmons has been a productive and effective member of the seminary faculty," Honeycutt said. "In more than two decades of teaching min-

istry on this campus, students and faculty colleagues have admired him for his commitment to integrity, his dedication to teaching, and his devotion to Christ." □

TV documentary details hurricane relief efforts

Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — "When the Storms Passed By," a documentary about Southern Baptists' response to Hurricane Andrew in Florida and Louisiana, as well as Hurricane Iniki in Hawaii, will be shown on the ACTS/VISN and Family Net cable systems Jan. 30 at 10 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

The in-depth report presents the initial impact of the hurricane on the states and the ongoing ministry of South-

ern Baptist churches to local residents.

The hour-long documentary includes a segment on the 500-plus construction volunteers from North Carolina who rebuilt homes in south Florida over the New Year's holiday and summarizes the continuing needs in Florida.

Produced by the media services department of the Jacksonville-based Florida Baptist Convention, the program is probably one of the "rare occasions" a state organization has produced a documentary for a

national audience, said Ty Wood, director of the department.

Viewers should check local listings for viewing times. □

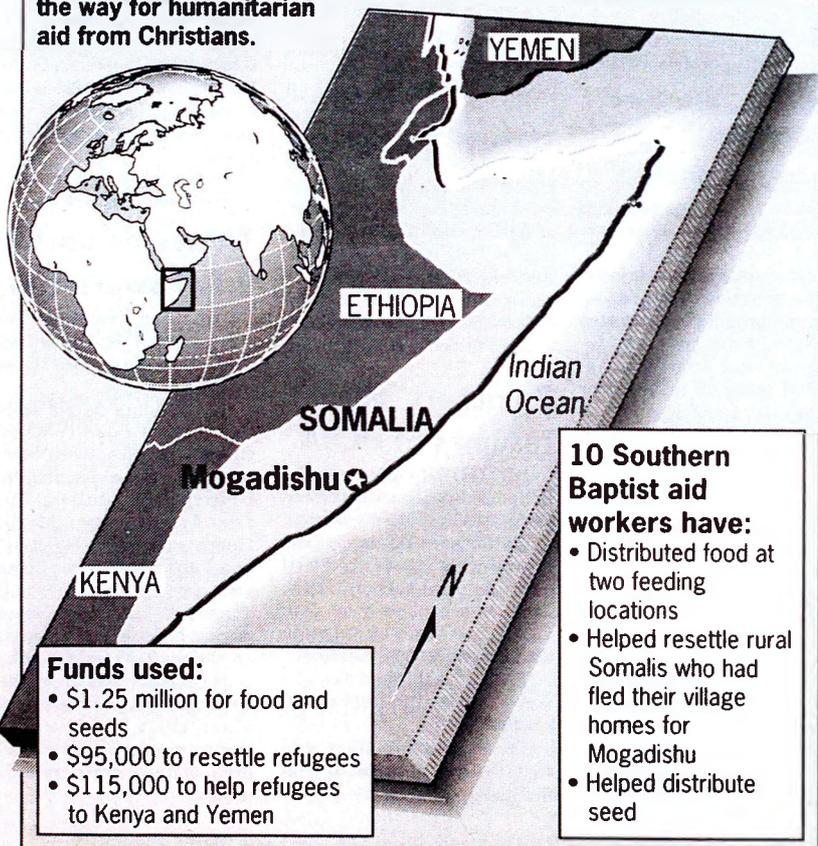
Phone numbers set for state conference

The State Evangelism Conference will be held Jan. 18-19 at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville. The TBC Evangelism Department will have an office at the church. Phone numbers are (615) 385-3872 or 385-3873. □

Southern Baptist hunger relief funds used to help feed Somalis

Southern Baptists respond to Somali crisis

The Foreign Mission Board needs volunteers to work with Somalis for two to six months. The last Protestant missionaries were forced to leave the African nation in 1979, but recent famine has opened the way for humanitarian aid from Christians.



10 Southern Baptist aid workers have:

- Distributed food at two feeding locations
- Helped resettle rural Somalis who had fled their village homes for Mogadishu
- Helped distribute seed

Funds used:

- \$1.25 million for food and seeds
- \$95,000 to resettle refugees
- \$115,000 to help refugees to Kenya and Yemen



MALNUTRITION THAT does not kill on its own still opens the door for other diseases to invade weakened bodies. Childhood illnesses that are routine in the U.S., like measles, have killed thousands of youngsters in Somalia. Here, a Somali nurse, inoculates babies in a camp where Southern Baptist volunteers have assisted in the feeding program.



A RECENT SURVEY by doctors from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta estimates 70 percent of all Somali children under age five have died in the current crisis. The children seen here are still alive, in part, because of Southern Baptist hunger relief funds and volunteers who have worked alongside other aid groups in the camps.

■ about letters to the editor

- Make it concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length.
- Name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Include address and phone number.
- Avoid personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone.
- Send original copy. Form letters and "open" letters will not be published.
- Only one letter in a three-months period per writer will be published.
- If letter does not conform, it will be returned.
- Opinions and ideas expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the *Baptist and Reflector* and its staff. □

Strong home ties

I write to express appreciation for the *Baptist and Reflector*. For several years I have received the paper here in Japan. I am a native of Lawrence County, Tennessee, and with considerable interest I read the paper each delivery.

Although I have not lived in Tennessee since my freshman year at Belmont, I count Tennessee my home and I feel that all my roots, especially spiritu-

al, are there. I always note the reports from the many small churches in Lawrence County, such as Liberty Grove (my home church), Leoma, Loretto, and OK where I did my first preaching as a high school and college student.

I pastor an English language church in Okinawa. My ministry for over 22 years has been here to the many Americans that come for a few months, or a few years, and need a strong church.

God's blessings on your ministry there and thanks again for the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Elton Gray, pastor
Koza Church, Okinawa

Coming and going

Mr. J. W. Glass, in his Dec. 16 letter, is certainly from the school of "I've seen 'um come and I've seen 'um go." Some of these pastors may have been under the power of God to help the situation if not hindered by self-seeking men. I have yet to meet these money hungry "conservatives."

The pastors I know usually have to bring money into the issue to support their families. Of course the "I've seen 'um come, and I've seen 'um go crowd" also like to keep their pastors hungry, humble, and poor and do all they can to keep 'um that way.

No one is trying to scare the WMU because of fear of giving money. The issue is if the money will be spent by the national leadership of WMU for Southern Baptist programs or Cooperative Fellowship programs?

In closing, in 38 years of teaching Sunday School, I am

sure you noticed the "conservative" pastor Paul controlled the churches through the guidance of the Holy Spirit in accordance with his call to be a pastor. Oh yes, he was also accused of being money hungry and being a dictator.

A. G. Buckles, pastor
Kingsport 37660

King James Bible

Too bad we Southern Baptists cancelled the convocation of the Bible, and did not celebrate the great, inerrant, inspired, King James Version.

According to Mark Wingfield's article for Baptist Press, Dec. 16, the English language has been commercialized into foolishness, ignoring the Holy Spirit as teacher.

It is not our business to change the Word of God, but to allow the Word of God to change us.

Many Christians and churches alike, fear it, for if read, they would become convicted.

Within the King James Version pages are invaluable life teachings. It includes one's soul salvation, and new births, abundant lives, healings, and miracles. The list is endless!

School systems dare not use it, for in the hands and minds of school children it would become a potent weapon, producing a conducive learning environment, destroying our present-day school system and the hope of a future godless society.

No, I do not worship the King James Version, just its author.

Thelma Sudberry
Shelbyville 37160

Contact committee

I believe a recent "Letter to the Editor" seems to indicate that there is a widespread desire for change in the process for the selection of Tennessee Baptist Convention committee and board members.

The special committee appointed to study this matter can have a tremendous impact upon the life of the TBC in the days ahead if it will be sensitive to expressions of the people.

I am committed to the principle that to the greatest extent possible, the local Baptist church people should have the right to participate in the selection of the convention leadership. Those who serve in elected leadership roles should understand they represent the people from whence they come. In our association each church elects those who represent them on the association executive board.

The present process does not allow for local representative leadership selection in the TBC. Rather, a tightly controlled, closed system prevails. The selection process must change if we expect harmony within the convention and continued support of the TBC and its ministries.

Tennessee Baptists who believe they have the right to be involved in the selection of convention leadership should write personal letters to Chairman Fred Steelman and to James Porch, TBC executive director.

J. W. Bargiol
Harriman 37748

A giant

No one who has ever known or has ever been associated with Dr. William L. Palmer in the Lord's work could doubt that he is a giant among us. Not a giant after the similitude of Goliath, but a giant after the similitude of David, God's soldier/statesman.

Why do I refer to Dr. Palmer as a giant? He is intellectual and efficient. He has the ability and the know-how to direct a program such as that at Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy.

He has courage and conviction. He is doctrinally correct. He is correct in practice. He has stood tall and strong in his defense of the academy. This academy is one in which there has never been a question of what is taught in the classroom or the life-style permitted on the campus.

He has love and compassion. It takes a big man to love while others are resisting the call to love and compassion. Under his leadership there were more than 25 professions of faith among the young students. This in an institution that has for its goal and ideal academic excellence and not professions of faith.

Dr. Palmer is a scholar. He

Preachers' School resumes at HCBA

SEYMOUR — Preachers' School, Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy's weekend study for area ministers and ministerial students, will begin its third session for the 1992-93 school year on Jan. 16. Classes begin at 8 a.m. in the academy's Ogle Building.

This is the third session of a new four-year ministerial curriculum.

For more information, contact the school at (615) 573-8321. □

has led the school in an ideal to reach a high academic standard and to stand among the best and the highest in this field.

Young people leave the academy equipped in mind and spirit to meet the stress and vicissitudes of this world, and prepared to take their places of leadership in the world.

William F. Hall
Seymour 37865

Freedom of choice

What does freedom of choice mean? Does it mean that a person has the right to voluntarily choose to take the life of another human being without punishment? If so, then our prisons are full of people that should be freed. When God created mankind in his own image, he endowed us with the freedom of choice. But he reserved the right of giving and taking life only to himself.

History supports this with the giving of the law and we honor this as belonging only to God by obeying the laws before us today. No woman (or man) has the right to choose to have an abortion. The choices we do have are to abstain from sexual relations, use birth control, place the child for adoption, or to lovingly raise the child. The issue is not about abortion it is about a sex-crazed society that has completely ruled out living by God's Word. When our nation humbles itself and comes back to God, this problem will eliminate itself. Hosea 5:4 states, "They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God; for the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them, and they have not known the Lord."

W. Keith Pierce
Sweetwater, 37874

Tennessee pastor

B.B. Powers dies

Longtime Tennessee Baptist pastor B. B. Powers died Dec. 29 in Nashville. He was 91.

The Indiana native served as pastor of Powell's Chapel Church, Murfreesboro, where he was pastor emeritus; First Church, Mt. Juliet; First Church, Waynesboro; Madison Heights Church, Nashville; and Fairfield Church, Centerville. Powers was active in the Tennessee Baptist Convention during his pastorates, serving on various TBC committees.

He is survived by his son, Vern Powers, retired director of the TBC's Protection Plans Department, five grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



January -

- 14 — Nell Hardy has retired from her work as a missionary in Chile. Pray birthday blessings for her as she serves the Lord in retirement.
- 15 — Pray for Betel Church in Concepcion as they plan to begin construction on their new building.
- 16 — Pray today for salvation of Manuel Sanchez in Temuco.
- 17 — Pray for Jeff Melton, Bill Rosenbalm, and David Akers of Knoxville as they do construction work at a Baptist camp.
- 18 — Pray for retired missionary Fern Bitner as she celebrates a birthday today. Pray that the Lord will utilize her skills in retirement.
- 19 — Pray for these who are constructing a parsonage in Castro: James McAfee, William Hall, Danny Lee, Roger Phillips, Philip Singleton, and August Vastola.
- 20 — Pray for the GA Camp being conducted today. Also, pray for our Knoxville volunteers serving with the GAs and national leaders.

Presenting the news, straight, or otherwise

Since the late years of the 1970s there has been a general decline in subscription numbers of Baptist state papers.

Along with that decrease in numbers, the respect of papers has decreased with some. While surveys may prove helpful in discerning causes, seasoned state paper editors and other observers point to several reasons.

With the transition from one style of Southern Baptist leadership to another, many readers may have wanted more than could be delivered from the papers. And some readers apparently wanted news with a certain angle.

As the "split" widened and new leadership became entrenched, two basic "sides" developed. Each expected the papers to espouse narrowed views. Most state papers held to the premise they represented all their in-state Southern Baptists.

This view complicated the issue, since it alienated many readers. Those with allegiance to each "side" lost interest in the papers because there could have been too much news about the other "side" and not enough about their favorite.

So-called autonomous papers developed with the claim of being "free" and able to tell the whole truth. Usually this has meant publishing a paper that is anything but unbiased, despite well-intentioned goals, while denying the validity of state papers.

As this year 1993 begins, we want to thank all Tennessee Baptists and others

who still have loyalty and believe in your paper. We depend on Tennessee Baptists for support, of course, but we emphasize that the *Baptist and Reflector* is the only official newsjournal for our people. The paper is produced by Tennessee Baptist journalists, loyal to Tennessee Baptist interests.

During this editor's five years managing the paper, there has never been a single attempt by TBC leadership to dictate or in

any way influence the direction of the paper. We are grateful and pledge the best paper possible for Christ and Tennessee Baptists.

The search for truth is commendable, as long as the seeker wants facts from all sides of the issue with the goal being an honest decision made from unbiased information.

This is your paper, Tennessee Baptists, and we lean toward no special interests. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Sanctity of human life vital issue

Certainly human life is precious, highly regarded by the Creator. The Bible verifies this truth.

It means that every human life is precious, loved and nurtured by God, cared for with his intense passion, and bound for glory from the outset.

John Donne, venerable English clergyman and poet of four centuries ago, tied mankind together while recognizing the independence of each soul and reliance on families and friends.

He put it this way, "No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less ... [therefore] any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind." Of man's special existence, Donne says the death of any person diminishes the wholeness of God's creation.

Sunday, Jan. 17, is noted on the Southern Baptist calendar as Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.

As churches and individual Baptists observe this particular day, the significance and meaning of the sanctity of human life will be kept in focus.

But the sanctity of human life inculcates even more than a full life lived on earth. When God created mankind, He intended for each person to live unmolested by others, able to live without fear of being murdered, maimed, or abused.

Children have the right to live without fear, worry, or concern about their personal welfare. Child abuse has as many victims probably as any crime that affects adults. Abortion on demand is a critical issue, and Ben Mitchell of the Christian Life Commission calls it "just the thin end of the wedge with respect to the sanctity of life." He adds there are many assaults on human life, including euthanasia and assisted suicide.

As Christians we must recognize and work for the sanctity of all human life. All people have that right. □

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Always two sides

Old books are among my best friends. They have age and character. Their vintage is stirred by the souls of people living when the books were written.

The authors are the messengers, telling the story as they wish, either factually, biographically, or perhaps as embellished history.

I haunt antique shops that specialize in these wordy relics, and investigate garage sales and flea markets.

I think any reader of old books relish along with me the special prizes that sometimes are tucked between pages or written inside the covers, or elsewhere.



ALLEN

Occasionally a faded flower serves as a tender reminder of feelings expressed. A biography of Chopin contains several penciled notes from a piano teacher to his student, apologizing for not having Chopin's abilities.

These are treasures of a sort, remnants of other days, reminders of people who were once where we are now.

I finished reading a 1919 western the other night, *Silver and Gold*. One of the last pages carried a note from the publisher.

There are sides to everything, the note remarked, including the wrapper which covers every one of our books.

The note explained that the publisher had a book for every reader, more than five hundred titles. "Don't forget the other side of the wrapper," said the message. "but in case it is lost, write to the publisher for a complete catalog."

It occurred to me that there are indeed two sides to everything, and sometimes more.

The Christian life offers excitement and joy. Its opposite, the other side, offers danger and defeat.

The Christian life offers not a cafeteria to suit every taste, but a promise to fit every person's gifts to the God-assigned direction.

In case the message on the wrapper is lost, the Author can be easily reached. □

Of hurricane victims

Volunteers meet emotional needs in Florida

By Chip Alford
For Baptist Press

MIAMI — While teams of Southern Baptist volunteers continue to help rebuild homes and churches destroyed or damaged by Hurricane Andrew, church and denominational leaders also are beginning to provide programs and resources to help south Florida residents put the pieces of their emotional and spiritual lives back together.

It began in early November when the Florida Baptist Convention sponsored a spiritual retreat for pastors and church staff members serving in areas hardest hit by the Aug. 23 hurricane. While only a small number attended, one pastor said it did provide a much-needed "breather" from the hectic pace of reconstruction.

"The retreat was helpful because it helped us focus on the grief process, how to get through it ourselves and help others through it, too," said Charlie Koch, pastor of Cutler Ridge Church in south Miami. "It was also a chance for spiritual refreshment. With the way things are here now, you do forget that life is normal just a few miles away."

Not long after the storm, Koch started a support group for hurricane victims at his church. Led by a Christian counselor, the meetings attracted a small number of people and lasted only a few weeks.

"But it was helpful because it gave people a chance to vent their feelings and frustrations," Koch said. "I think we may have started it a little too soon, though. People are still very much dealing with the physical aspects of the hurricane — rebuilding their homes and businesses, looking for work. Some people are still living without electricity."

The spiritual retreat was just the first step in the Florida Baptist Convention's efforts to help meet the spiritual and emotional needs of hurricane victims. According to state brotherhood director Cecil Seagle, a church and community ministries worker and a Christian counselor are being secured to work through the convention's disaster relief command post in Florida City.

"We hope to have them both working by mid-February," Seagle said, adding the workers likely will travel to different areas damaged by the hurricane to meet, work, and

counsel with victims.

While providing spiritual and emotional help to hurricane victims is vital, Seagle said the immediate priority remains rebuilding homes and churches.

"We have identified 372 homes damaged or destroyed by the hurricane that are either uninsured or underinsured. If we don't help rebuild them, the people are absolutely going to cave-in under the pressure," he said, adding the emotional health of victims often relates to how far along they are in the rebuilding process.

"It really is like moving through a grief process. Some folks are still very, very angry and are asking 'Why me?' Others are depressed and frustrated from dealing with contractors and insurance companies.

"There are still huge amounts of devastation here. Those that are making progress are beginning to feel better about things."

Any individuals or church groups interested in helping with the rebuilding should call the convention's disaster relief headquarters at (305) 248-7059. □

■ just for today
By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile —

A Texas oil millionaire went to a dentist who told him his teeth were in perfect shape. "Start drilling, anyway," he said, "I feel lucky today."

Take this truth with you —

We are given one day at a time. Today's bridge is the only one we need to or can cross today. This is the first day of the rest of your life. Make it count.

Memorize this Scripture —

"My God shall supply all your needs" (Philippians 4:19).

Pray this prayer —

Help me live today today. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow is not yet here. What I do today can and will affect tomorrow, but I must do it today. Tomorrow will be good if I take advantage of today's opportunities and accept today's responsibilities today. Help me to do it. For Jesus sake. Amen. □

State students graduate from SBC seminaries



Philip Cash
First Church,
Trenton
NOBTS
M.A.C.E.



Roy O. Collins
Immanuel,
Elizabethton
NOBTS
M.D.B.L.



Paige Rittenhouse
Knoxville
Knoxville
SEBTS
A.D.



Daniel Baird III
Knoxville
SEBTS
M.A.C.E.



Carl Creasman
Athens
SEBTS
M.D.



Lance Robinson
Knoxville
SEBTS
M.D.B.L.



Stephen Allen
First Church,
Pigeon Forge
SBTS
M.D.C.E.



Bradley Bull
Magna View,
Talbot
SBTS
M.D.



Connie Bull
Chilhowee Hills,
Knoxville
SBTS
M.D.



Amy Derrick
First Church,
Cleveland
SBTS
M.A.C.E.



John Derrick Persia
Rogersville
SBTS
M.D.C.E.



Gene Gladney
Boulevard,
Memphis
SBTS
Ph.D.



Laura Griffin
Knoxville
SBTS
M.D.



Jess Love Jr.
Pastor
Grandview,
Nashville
SBTS, D.M.

Southern Baptists' six seminaries held commencement services in December. More than 30 students with Tennessee ties were among graduates of four of the seminaries — Southern Seminary (SBTS), Louisville, Ky.; Southwestern Seminary (SWBTS), Fort Worth, Texas; Southeastern Seminary (SEBTS), Wake Forest, N.C.; and New Orleans (La.) Seminary (NOBTS).

Photos and information were provided to the *Baptist and Reflector* by each seminary. In some cases, home churches were provided.

Abbreviations of degrees are as follows: associate of divinity (A.D.); master of divinity (M.D.); master of divinity with biblical languages (M.D.B.L.); master of divinity in Christian education

(M.D.C.E.); master of arts in religious education (M.A.R.E.); master of arts in Christian education (M.A.C.E.); master of arts in marriage and family counseling (M.A.M.F.C.); master of church music (M.C.M.); doctor of divinity (D.D.); doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.).

The following graduates from Southern Seminary listed Tennessee as their home state but photos were not available: James Beard, Chattanooga; Billy Hawkins, Smithville; Jerry Rimmer, Knoxville; William Chittum, Knoxville; Daniel Mynatt, Gatlinburg; Greg Templin, Lake City; and Bruce Yates, Delano. Southeastern Seminary did not send a photo for Patrick Kelly of Elizabethton. □



William Martin
First Church,
Clarksville
SBTS
D.M.



Patrick Milam
First Church,
Tullahoma
SBTS
M.A.C.E.



Jim Myers
Northport,
Newport
SBTS
M.D.



Carolyn Postma
Central,
Oak Ridge
SBTS
M.C.M.



Richard Suggs
Woodmont,
Nashville
SBTS
M.C.M.



Clyde Ward
Enon,
Halls
SBTS
D.M.



Robert Carpenter
Memphis
SWBTS
M.D.B.L.



Stuart Cocanougher
Mt. Juliet
SWBTS
M.D.



Charles DeMore
Fayetteville
SWBTS
M.D.B.L.



Michele Dickenson
Dyersburg
SWBTS,
M.A.M.F.C.



Randall Fletcher
Blountville
SWBTS
M.D.



Paul Gunn
Maryville
SWBTS
M.D.



Terry Hughes
Memphis
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



Michael Lusby
Knoxville
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



David R. Miller
Knoxville
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



Danny Milliken
Gallatin
SWBTS
M.D.



James Moody
Lexington
SWBTS
M.D.B.L.



Phillip Nelson
Rockwood
SWBTS
M.D.



Charles Sexton
Farragut
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



Donald Simpson
Bartlett
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



Johnnie Watts
Woodbury
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.

Union offers seminary extension classes in West Tennessee

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Union University will offer seminary extension classes in nine West Tennessee locations this winter and spring.

Classes will meet for 13 weeks. Costs vary in each association. Persons interested in taking courses should contact their local association for details.

Sites, courses, meeting dates, and instructors include:

■ Covington, "Old Testament Survey, Part III," Feb. 8, 7-9 p.m., Big Hatchie Association Center, Paul Moore, pastor, Charleston Church, Stanton.

■ Dyersburg, "Dynamics of Teaching," Feb. 1, 7-9 p.m., Dyersburg State Community

College, Charles Halliburton, pastor, Finley Church, Finley.

■ Bolivar, contact Hardean Association at (901) 658-9378 for information.

■ Adamsville, "Systematic Theology," Feb. 11, 7-9 p.m., Shiloh Association Center, Chester Harrison, pastor, Butler's Chapel Church.

■ Dresden, "New Testament Survey: The Gospels," Jan 19, 7-9:15 p.m., Weakley Association Center, Richard Skidmore, director of missions.

■ Paris, contact Western District Association at (901) 642-4641 for information.

■ Union City, contact Beulah Association at (901) 885-2151 for information.

■ Memphis, "A Study of Matthew's Gospel," Feb. 4, 7-9 p.m., Ardmore Church, Wrex

Hauth, chaplain, Veterans Hospital, Memphis.

A New Testament survey class, taught by Michael Moore, began Jan. 12 in Lexington at Beech River Association Center.

Courses are open to laypersons as well as ministers, said John Adams, vice president for religious affairs at Union.

Regular college entrance requirements are waived for the study. Course work will lead to a diploma in either pastoral ministries or Christian leadership, Adams said.

Up to eight semester hours in the seminary extension program may be transferred to Union for college credit.

The classes should not be confused with Union's seminary studies program, which is

a joint effort between the university and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

For information on either program, contact Adams at (901) 668-1818, ext. 243. □

James Cooley dies

James Cooley of Chattanooga died of cancer Dec. 30. He was 65.

Cooley served as a Tennessee representative on the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

A Chattanooga businessman, Cooley was an active member of East Lake Church where he served as minister of music for the last six years.

He is survived by his wife, Dolores, and three children. □

Volunteers wage war

Hope attacks despair at Maryville center

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

MARYVILLE — All the peanut butter and macaroni was gone from the kitchen shelves. The woman in her 40s had been hungry before, but she had to find help this time. The granddaughter she was raising was only 11 years old.

She felt despair like an old friend revisiting her. Raising a child was expensive. The disability check her husband received didn't cover all of their needs.

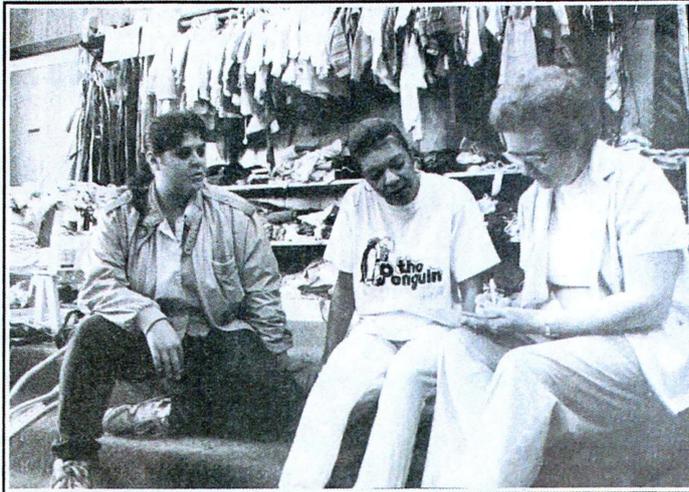
She had heard the Chilhowee Baptist Center would help her. She and her friend found it in the former public school building.

There she got food and clothes — a good variety — and went to a devotional presentation from the Bible.

The next week she went back to a Bible study and took her granddaughter. The women in the study prayed for her health problems. Her granddaughter became the star pupil, known for her many questions.

Their new friends told them about a Baptist church near her home. She took her granddaughter. She wanted her to be around these people. Finally her husband even visited the church.

When a volunteer at the cen-



TO GET CLOTHES for her children Teresa Ivey, center, discusses her need with center volunteer Mary Helen Millsaps, right. Ivey's friend, Victoria Forrster, left, drove her to the center because Ivey's arthritis prevents her from driving. — Photos by Connie Davis.

ter broke her leg, she substituted for her. She sorted clothes, bagged groceries, and answered the phone. The work made her stronger. She decided to stop smoking.

Her old friend, despair, had lost its struggle for her soul.

"She has very little of what the world would consider is necessary for happiness, but enjoys helping others," stated Diane Landers, center director.

"She has a ministry of her own," added Landers, noting her new friend helps people who would never come to the center or church.

Standing in the gap

Landers sees the role of Chilhowee Baptist Center equal to that of her friend — reaching people uninterested or estranged from churches. The center is "the closest thing they (clients) have to a church," explained Landers.

For a lady who is dying of cancer, the center ministers by encouraging her and delivering food. Clients receive counsel five days a week. And the children who come to Mothers' Day Out call the center "their church," reported Landers.

Needs abound

These people are members of about 250 families who visit the center each month, she reported. Contrary to the pervasive opinion that most of those families are abusing charitable institutions, Landers reported most of the center's clients are "embarrassed to even be here." Many are the second generation of families she worked with as a social worker for Maryville's Department of Human Services. Their struggles

against the "vicious cycle of poverty" inspire, said Landers.

Struggles

The battles against poverty fought at the center transpire in former classrooms of the school renovated by volunteers into Alwick Community Center. A volunteer greets a woman on crutches and her companion who enter the reception area. The woman on crutches explains she has rheumatoid arthritis which has prevented her from working. She needs some

clothes for her children, she says. The volunteer pulls a card from a file and begins explaining the procedures of the center.

Volunteers

In the clothing room, Mary Helen Millsaps greets the clients. Later Millsaps described her work at the center as important and challenging.

She has provided clothes to people who needed to attend a wedding or funeral and didn't have anything appropriate to wear.

"It's a joy too," said Millsaps, a member of Unity Church, Maryville, who works three days a week.

Edra and Glen Rogers of Monte Vista Church, Maryville, work at the center two days each week. Glen, 78, picks up discounted bread from a bakery and discounted groceries from a local grocery. On just one morning he picked up 254 lbs. of groceries and 50 loaves of bread.

The Rogers, Millsaps, and other volunteers like the late Dennis Persons of Cedar Grove Church, Maryville — over 300 each year — make the center possible, noted Landers. They represent the 82 churches of Chilhowee Baptist Association, which fund the center individually and collectively through the association.

For three years

Strong-minded women began the center three years ago. Members of the Woman's Missionary Union of the association persevered despite a study

which concluded such a center was not feasible.

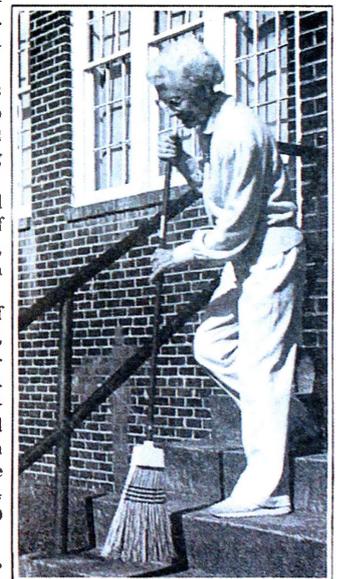
This year it has an annual budget of \$18,000 and one full-time and one part-time worker, reported John Churchman, the association's director of missions. The center is assisted by private donations, such as gifts of food from the Boy Scouts, and a relief organization which coordinates efforts of several agencies in the county, noted Landers.

Spiritual needs

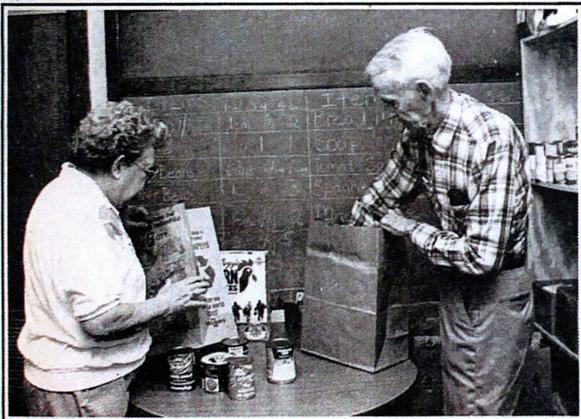
Physical needs may mask spiritual needs. Though Mary-



JOHN CHURCHMAN, director of missions, and Diane Landers check out some toys in the children's room.



ON MANY MORNINGS Edra Rogers can be found sweeping the steps which lead to the Chilhowee Baptist Center.



BAGGING GROCERIES for about 180 families who receive them each month are Wannell Williams, left, a member of Immanuel Church, Maryville, and Glen Rogers of Monte Vista Church, Maryville.

Women's Summit set for March 19-20 in Nashville

"Awakenings" will be the theme of the Women's Summit March 19-20 at the Nashville Convention Center.

Sponsored by Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union, the meeting will focus on the role of women as an individual, daughter, wife, parent, employee, and church member.

Keynote speakers are Nona

Kay Bickerstaff, minister of missions at Wilshire Church, Dallas, Texas, and a former home and foreign missionary, and Sheila West, president and chief executive officer of ACI Consolidated, Inc. She is the author of *Beyond Chaos: Stress Relief for the Working Woman*. Camille Simmons of San Antonio, Texas, and Letha

Crouch of San Antonio will provide music. A number of different conferences will be offered.

Registration fee for the meeting is \$15 and includes program fees, conference materials, and notebook.

For registration and hotel information, contact Tennessee WMU at (615) 371-2038. □

Repaired dam quenches thirst in drought-stricken Zimbabwe

By Linda Gaddis
For Baptist Press

SANYATI, Zimbabwe — What better way can a Christian prove concern than by helping conserve water in a drought-stricken land?

That's what Paul Boone did in the Neuso area near the Sanyati Baptist Hospital in Zimbabwe, a country suffering perhaps its worst drought in recorded history.

Two years ago, as area rainfall already was decreasing, Boone, a Southern Baptist missionary doctor from Texas, noticed an earthen dam near Gambiza Baptist Church deteriorating.

In past years the dam had provided a significant reserve water supply. But without

upkeep it had eroded and couldn't even hold water. In years of normal rain, area residents got along without it.

Boone spent more than a year talking to community leaders and church members until they recognized the need to repair the dam, using local labor. Eventually the local chief asked Southern Baptist missionary Nancy Carley if the dam qualified as a project for "Food-for-Work," a Baptist hunger relief program that pays people in food to work on community improvement programs.

Carley, a nurse-midwife at the Sanyati hospital, got authorization and soon residents were laboring with shovels and other hand tools on the dam.

Gambiza Baptist Church took advantage of the opportunity. Pastor Darlington Dhliwayo led a daily noon devotion and church members had opportunities to tell workers about Jesus.

Repair work on the dam was not complete when the

time limit on the project ended, so Boone and Dhliwayo organized a community work day to finish the job. The work was completed and a thanksgiving service was held.

Two years later the value of the dam is evident. Local residents have a place to bring

their cattle to drink and a communal garden maintained with irrigation.

When it was time to harvest the produce the roles were reversed. Local residents held a celebration to acknowledge the role Boone and Baptists had in repairing the dam. □

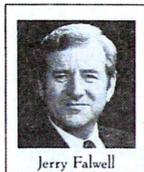
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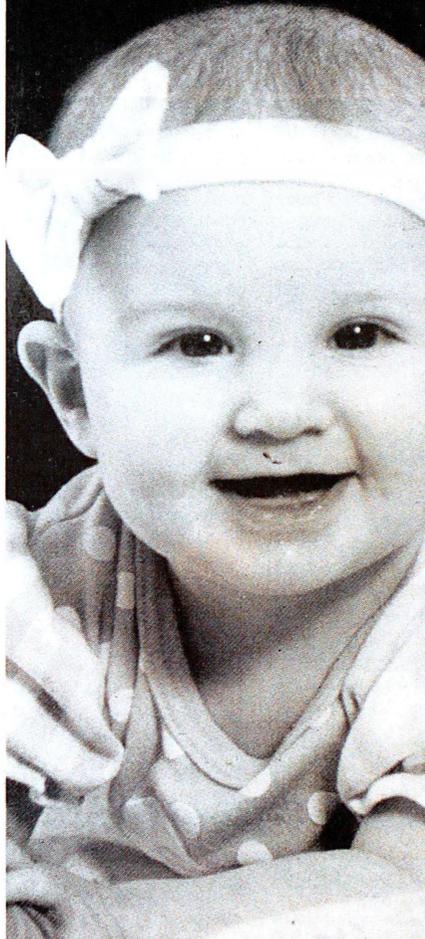
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Sunday - January 17, 1993

The Tennessee Baptist Children's Home observes the sanctity of human life every day of the year through its Alternative Ministry.

To protect the unborn, the Alternative Ministry provides support and understanding to women in crisis pregnancy.

The Alternative Ministry has a mission to provide food, shelter and spiritual guidance during this crucial time, in a Christian atmosphere. This innovative, caring ministry preserves life while maintaining the dignity of both mother and child.

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Residential Care

TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the work

■ **Warren and Ruth Harris**, missionary associates to Peru, are on the field and may be addressed at Apartado 544, Chiclayo, Peru. She is the former Ruth Cobble from Andersonville and Knoxville.

■ **Janie House** missionary to Ivory Coast, is on the field. Write to her at 01 BP 6491, Abidjan 01, Ivory Coast. She

was born in Shelbyville and considers Nashville her hometown.

■ **Missionaries to Honduras Timothy and Dorcas Patterson** have completed language study in Costa Rica and are on their field of service. They may be written to at Apartado 3588, Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Patterson considers Camden his hometown.

■ **David and Mary Sheddan** have completed language

school and have arrived in Indonesia as missionaries. Write to them at Kotak Pos 258, Medan, SUMUT, Indonesia.

■ A volunteer mission team from Tennessee arrived in Chile Jan. 3 to work at a camp for missionary children in Temuco. Volunteers are **Angela N. Watson**, First Church, Franklin; **Marsha L. Crosswhite**, Tusculum Church, Greeneville, and a Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, student; **Lisa R. McCarter**, Buffat Heights Church, Knoxville; and **Rachel A. Ownby**, First Church, South Pittsburg.

■ A team of volunteers from Tennessee churches will be in Molina, Chile, Jan. 20-Feb. 1, to construct a church. Volunteers are **Robert R. Mayes**, First Church, Franklin; **David C. Allen** and **Patricia F. Allen**, Parkway Church, Goodlettsville; and **Barbara K. Jackson** and **Ricky D. Jackson**, First Church, Linden.

■ In conjunction with the Chile/Tennessee missions partnership, a mission team will travel to Castro, Chile, Jan. 18 to construct a parsonage. Team members will be **James D. McAfee**, team leader, **William R. Hall**, **Danny K. Lee**, **Philip S. Singleton**, all of Mount Olivet Church, Mount Olivet; **David Acres**, Mount Harmony

Church, Knoxville; **Roger G. Phillips**, Cedar Hill Church, Baxter; and **August Vastola III**, Cedar Grove Church, Lebanon.

■ the churches

■ Members of **Lenox Church, Lenox**, worshiped for the first time Dec. 6 in their newly remodeled auditorium which includes new lights, a baptistry, restrooms, carpet, seats, a pulpit, and additional stained glass windows.

■ the leaders

■ Members of **Brainerd Hills Church, Chattanooga**, recently welcomed **Jeffrey Clark** as minister of music and youth. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **Wade Smith** is the new minister of music and youth at **Fairview Church, Watauga**.

■ **Homer Salyer** is serving as interim pastor at **Riverview Church, Elizabethton**.

■ **Gene Wood** has been called as pastor of **Stock Creek Church, Knoxville**. He formerly served as associate pastor/minister of adults at **First Church, Powell**.



60 YEARS PERFECT ATTENDANCE — Carl Ownby, right, was honored recently by First Church, Sevierville, for 60 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School at First Church. **James Draper**, left, Baptist Sunday School Board president, made presentations to several perfect attenders. Pictured in center is **Lois Ownby**.

■ the people

■ **Poplar Corner Church, Brownsville**, recently ordained **Chad Simpson** as a deacon.

■ **Ron Bowman** and **Richard Righter** were ordained as deacons Jan. 3 at **First Church, Elizabethton**.

■ **First Church, Roan Mountain**, ordained **Mark Guinn** and **Daniel Santiago** as deacons.



BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR OF THE YEAR — **Lawrence O. Hudson**, right, pastor of **Monument of Love Church, Memphis**, was named an exemplary bivocational pastor of the year by the Southern Baptist Bivocational Ministers Association during its annual meeting in December in Fort Worth, Texas. Four pastors receive the nationwide honor each year. Also pictured are **Mrs. Hudson**, center, and **Dale Holloway**, left, national missionary for bivocational ministries for the Home Mission Board. Hudson also was elected a vice president of the association.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

When it's over

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

Habits are easy to start and hard to break! When we think about habits, we usually think of bad ones. You know, the ones we try to quit, change, or somehow alter in our lives. But, you know, there are good habits, too. One of those good habits is being willing to give of your time and finances to help others.

At this time of year, we get many appeals for help for people in need, and we "church folks" are pretty good about doing that during the Christmas season. There are families in our own congregation who need help and many are responding to that even as you are reading this column. However, giving time and finances at Christmas time is one of those **good habits** we need to work on the rest of the year.

People will not stop having needs when Christmas is over. Families will have to do without some of life's basic necessities in January and every other month of the year. So, why don't we think about making meeting people's needs a habit we practice all year long.

We don't have to look very far to find folks who need help. We don't have to debate about whether there are people in need around us. We don't have to

write one of the mission boards or call the TBC to find people who could use our help. People need us now and all year long.

And, the most wonderful thing about this "giving business" is that people surely become open to hearing the Gospel when they have food on their table. It is hard to talk about the love of Jesus when people can't feed or clothe their families.

Let's begin practicing this habit of giving our time and finances to help people right around us. Our actions will preach a mighty sermon. □

Take your time

Pete Mullins, pastor **East Athens Church, Athens**

December was a busy month and if we were not careful, we could lose sight of the Lord and get our priorities out of order easily. As I consider this fact, I am reminded of the time Jesus' earthly parents took him to Jerusalem when he was 12 and started home without him. How could they possibly have gone and left Jesus behind? The same way many people do it today!

The main reason for them leaving Jesus behind was sheer carelessness. Mary and Joseph certainly did not intentionally leave Jesus behind. She must have supposed he was with Joseph and Joseph must have

supposed he was with Mary. They were not delinquent, just careless. Often Christians become careless. We just take the Lord for granted.

Another reason why they left Jesus behind was that they were too occupied with other things. They were traveling in a caravan and as they were so absorbed with family, friends, and the pleasures of the trip, they traveled a long distance without even realizing Jesus was not with them. Let's not be so occupied with all the "trappings" of the season that we forget the Savior.

Let's praise God for his unspeakable gift — the gift of his only begotten Son. □

Journey into the future

Charles Wm. Brown, pastor **First Church, Maryville**

Standing on the plain of Moab, Moses rehearsed the history of the people of God. At a critical point of their nomadic life the people had requested help in determining their future. "Let us send men before us, that they may explore the land for us, and bring us word again of the way by which we must go" (Deuteronomy 1:22). Twelve spies were sent out to do reconnaissance of the land and report their findings. The results were used to shape future travel.

It is tempting to ask others to test the waters for us. Is it too hot or too cold? Some of us yearn for such an approach to the new year. But it is a luxury that we cannot afford. This is not to reject sound advice when sought but it is to admit that individual faith and initiative are required to travel the road into the future.

What exactly is new that a new year provides? Most of us will traverse the same paths, motor in the same vehicle, and claim the same luggage as previously. So what has changed?

The value of a new year is that it provides a pitstop where we can assess where we are and where we are headed. We can take on new tires. We can receive more gasoline and oil. We can have the windshield cleaned. We can rest temporarily. Such a pause gives clarity of mind and vision. It also enables one to return to the track with renewed vigor and determination.

There is continuity and discontinuity in launching a new year. The difference lies in attitude. Psychologists have lectured to us for years that this spells the difference between defeat and victory.

As we face the new year together, may God give us courage and grace for the journey. Whether you receive the yellow flag of caution or the checkered flag of victory, may you know that Emmanuel travels with

you. □

The only time

Roland Smith, pastor **Central Church, Crossville**

We stand at the beginning of a new year. Two statements from Israel's history should provide food for thought. In Deuteronomy 17, Moses delivered a speech to the children of Israel and a theme looms large in all he said about the past and future:

"You shall not pass this way again."

We understand what Moses was saying, never that way again. It is a law of life: with each setting sun, there closes a door on that day. 1992 is past history. We made it what it was (for the most part) and we now live in the consequence of it.

However, a few months later, Joshua was chosen to lead the nation after Moses' death and almost immediately, he instructed the nation to prepare to cross the Jordan River. The instruction was to follow the Ark ... "for you have not passed this way before" (Joshua 3:4).

1993 is ahead and no one knows what it will hold. We, too, should follow the Ark, for the Ark is an Old Testament picture of Jesus. Let's make it our best year ever as we follow him. □

Networks agree on standards to reduce TV violence

By Pam Parry
Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Three major TV networks — ABC, CBS, and NBC — have agreed to work together to limit televised violence, according to an Illinois senator whose legislation allowed the networks to work together on the problem.

The results of the joint standards on TV violence probably will show up in programming for the fall of 1993, said Sen. Paul Simon, D-Ill., who facilitated the joint agreement.

At a December press conference, Simon also announced that the three networks are calling an industrywide conference in Los Angeles next spring to discuss TV violence further. A representative of the motion picture industry has agreed to participate in the meeting, Simon added.

Simon sponsored a bill that

temporarily exempts the television industry from antitrust laws, allowing the three networks to work together on the problem of program violence. His bill — the Television Violence Act — called for self-regulation, not censorship, Simon said.

According to the broad standards, all depictions of violence should be relevant to the development of the characters, theme or plot.

The standards also would prohibit:

- Gratuitous, excessive, or redundant violence;
- Glamorous depictions of violence;
- Scenes showing excessive gore, pain, or physical suffering;
- Scenes depicting uses of force that "on the whole" are inappropriate for a home view-

ing medium;

- Replicable or unique methods of inflicting pain;
- Portrayals of dangerous behavior that invite imitation;
- Realistic portrayals of violence in children's programs;
- Portrayals of violence used to shock the audience; and
- Gratuitous depiction of animal abuse.

The standards also encourage portraying the consequences of violence and scheduling all programs with regard for the likely makeup of the audience. The agreement also urges caution in depicting chil-

dren as victims and the mixture of sex and violence.

A statement released by the networks said these standards are consistent with each network's long-standing policies on violence but now will be set forth in a more detailed and explanatory manner.

"A free society can solve its problems without government

censorship," Simon said. He noted the "movie and television industries have made an impact by dramatically reducing the numbers of heroes and heroines who smoke and drink excessively. Now a second step forward can be made by deglamorizing violence." □

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News Flash



J. Harold Smith



Harold Hunter

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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Sexual purity— Bible Book Series for January 17

By Bill Wolfe, pastor, First Church, Counce

One would only need to read the newspaper, watch television, or listen to the children to understand that a lesson on sexual purity is one of the most needed lessons for today. It speaks to all age-groups.

The 20th century brought a whole new set of morals and living standards. Our social and educational systems make a lack of morals acceptable. However, the principles for sexual purity and morality set forth in the Word of God have never changed and never will.

In Matthew 19 Jesus faced a conflict with religious leaders concerning marriage and divorce. These leaders tried to trick Jesus by having Him choose sides in a theological controversy. There were two schools of thought on divorce. One was the school of Hillel which said divorce could be

granted for any cause which displeased the husband. The second was the school of Shammai which said divorce could be only for adultery. It depended on the interpretation of Deuteronomy 24:1-4. Jesus reminded them Moses allowed divorce because of the hardness of their hearts. Jesus went back to Genesis 1:27 and 2:24. He taught the joining together of male and female was God's work. The warning He gave about "let not man put asunder" is a reminder that man is responsible for the separation, not God.

The apostle Paul spoke of our responsibility to use our bodies as God intended in I Corinthians 6:13-20. We are reminded the Christian's body, as well as his soul, is the property of the Lord. Verse 15 says, "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ?" Our bodies

belong to Him. The Christian's body must be used to bring honor to Him.

The counsel given to the Corinthians in verse 18 is "to flee fornication." One must flee to avoid something. It was Andrew Murray who said, "The tabernacle with its wood, the temple with its stones, were as holy as all included within their walls: God's holy ones need the body to be holy." Verse 19 teaches us the Spirit takes up residence in the body of the believer. To defile the body is to insult the Holy Spirit who lives within us. There is no excuse to defile the body with fornication. It is God's temple! Paul brought this truth home in verse 20 by reminding us we were bought with a price — Christ's blood!

To refuse Paul's encouragement opens us up to every kind of sexual impurity. Our society

is as afraid of what they do not know about sexually transmitted diseases as they are by what they do know about cancer. We glare at people who practice sexual impurity and wonder when it will catch up with them. What do we do? We must read and accept the words of Paul in Romans 12:1-2 and encourage

Basic Passage:

Matthew 19:4-6;

I Corinthians 6:13b, 18-20;

Romans 12:1-2

other believers to accept this as their standard for living.

The wording seems to imply a sense of urgency about this exhortation on Christian living. His appeal to them is done by the mercies of God, such as justification, sanctification, and soon to be glorification. We do not do things to win the favor of

God, but we do them because we have already received His goodness. He speaks of a living sacrifice. We hear about people who want to die for Christ. But you cannot die for someone if you are not living for him.

Such is the case in the Christian life. We are to live for Him. This sacrifice is to be holy and acceptable to God. He speaks of this as being "reasonable service." How could we not live for One who died for us? This sacrifice is followed by service. We are not to be fashioned after this world, but changed. This transformation takes place in the mind. It is that renewing that Christ gives to us when we are saved. The supreme purpose of this is to prove or find out that the will of God is for us.

Sexual purity is not an idea for us to consider, it is a requirement by God Himself. □

□ The church is for all people — Convention Uniform Series for January 17

By Terry Bradshaw, pastor, Zion Hill Church, Sevierville

We start this lesson today with an illustration from the business world. A smart investor will diversify his assets. He will not put all his eggs in one basket. This assures him if a company he has invested in declines in value, he will not lose his entire investment. Learning the art of diversity is one way the investor guarantees himself a bright future.

Jesus Himself implied in the great commission that His followers should diversify the Gospel. He said in Matthew 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Jesus is not saying here that we should compromise the doctrine to suit the occasion, but the message of His saving grace is to be taken to a wide variety

of people. We as believers should take and invest the Gospel in the lives of all people, regardless of social status, nationality, or color. These thoughts lead us to our lesson — "The church is for all people."

Peter's conflict

Peter, in chapter 10, had been on a successful evangelistic tour. People in Lydda, Saron, and Joppa had been saved or healed by God's wonderful grace. The message he preached emphasized that Christ died for all men (vv. 34-35). Peter had concluded that God was not a "respector of persons."

In a perfect world, this would have been fine. As you know, the early church and the modern church are far from perfect. When word reached the church at Jerusalem, the message was met with resistance. You can

hear them now, "We can't allow Peter to continue associating with uncircumcised people," (ch. 11:3). The church was primarily made up of Jews converted to Christianity. Many held tightly to Judaism, while embracing Christianity. These believers were known as Jews of the Circumcision (ch. 11:2). They had developed a heretical doctrine about salvation and believed that when one accepted Christ as Savior, he was to convert to Judaism and keep most, if not all, its requirements.

Satan constantly looks for opportunities to disrupt the flow of the saving message of Jesus Christ. He found this one not on the streets of some godless city, but in the seat of Christianity, the church. He found a crack and sought to create a gorge!

Peter's response

Upon returning to Jerusalem, Peter found himself in the hot seat. In reality, Peter was not to blame. He merely acted upon a revelation God had given him. In chapter 11:4-17, we find Peter's response to the charges leveled against him. In verse 4 we find, "Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them." He simply started at the beginning and told them of all that happened.

In dealing with conflict in the New Testament church, we all could learn a lesson here. Conflict management starts with a willingness to explain and listen. Both are of equal importance and both were done in this instance. There is no conflict, doctrinal, personal prejudice, etc. that is too difficult if we

seek God's wisdom and show common Christian courtesy.

Peter's revelation recorded in chapter 11 verifies what Jesus taught in the great commission. God told Peter to diversify the

Basic Passage

Acts 11

Gospel. Peter was willing to obey the command of God. The message was taken not only to Cornelius and his house, but also to the people of Caesarea. After hearing Peter's case, the Bible says the detractors "held their peace, and glorified God, saying, 'Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life'" (ch. 11:18).

They discovered what our lesson title emphasized, "The church is for all people." □

□ Sexual purity — Life and Work Series for January 17

By Toby Everett, pastor, Walker Memorial Church, Franklin

For three and one half years, I had the joy of teaching Bible in a Christian academy in Memphis. It was during that tenure of service that in one year, three teens came to me with confessions of having had abortions. These were "good girls" who were actively involved in their respective churches.

Just a couple of years ago while speaking with a friend, he shared how in a large church he had friends in the adult singles department who expressed they had no problem with sex outside the bonds of marriage. After all, they were adults who knew what they were doing.

With 1.5 million abortions being legally performed each year, what becomes truly apparent is the need for a complete examination of the church's

view of sexual purity. We say we believe it, yet I wonder whether we believe it.

On this Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, we are called upon in our text to do this examination. Three truths are presented.

The start of sexual purity resides with God's creative plan of male and female as sexual beings. Notice there is the clear intention of male and female in sexual union.

The Scripture here specifically states in the joining of two they become one flesh. God's start for sexual purity is to keep it in the confines of marriage.

Sexual purity is for a three-fold purpose. It continues the race, it is the ultimate pleasurable expression of man and woman in marriage, and it is an

earthly illustration of the spiritual relationship between Jesus and His bride, the church. Within these perimeters, sex is God's special plan. He Himself started so man might find companionship and human communion at its ultimate.

A second truth is that sexual purity has a secret to reveal. Paul writing to the Corinthians instructed them to flee fornication. The word fornication comes from a Greek term that means any illicit sexual intercourse. One of the greatest biblical illustrations is that of Joseph, the final patriarch of the Hebrew nation. Though often tempted by the wife of the Egyptian officer, Joseph finally realized the best way to avoid the temptation was to run from it. David also would have learned a lot by

remembering that story as he looked upon Bathsheba. Had he turned and run from the temptation a man would not have died and an innocent child may have lived.

Our society tells us sex outside marriage is just recreation and the natural thing to do. I agree it is natural, but we are bought by the super natural. To give in, remain in the presence

Basic Passage:

Matthew 19:4-6;

I Corinthians 6:13b, 18-30;

Romans 12:1-2

of, or put ourselves in a position of being tempted only invites disaster. Our bodies are God's temple to be a place of holy fellowship, even in the sexual act

between man and woman.

Last of all, we find that to be sexually pure finds success in one way. Romans 12:1-2 says "Present your bodies as living sacrifices." It truly is a sacrifice on the part of youth and adults today to "sacrifice" common practice for uncommon purity. You do that by "not being conformed to this world," but being "transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Being informed about the consequences of illicit sexual activity is so important today. Somewhere minds have been conformed, "not" transformed.

"The church has a definite responsibility to provide a haven of healing for those who falter. We also need to be the voice of warning for those who face the struggle." □

Clinton appointee urged to help in alcohol battle

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has joined seven other organizations in asking the newly appointed secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to make the prevention of alcohol problems one of the top issues on her agenda.

In a Dec. 22 letter, the organizations asked Donna Shalala to endorse warning messages in alcohol advertising and increases in alcohol excise taxes. Shalala, chancellor of the University of Wisconsin, was appointed recently to the cabinet position by President-elect Bill Clinton.

"We have pledged to work with the incoming administration when we are in agreement, and we hope that the new secretary will be sympathetic to our concerns related to alcohol issues," said James A. Smith, the Christian Life Commission's director of government relations.

Other organizations endorsing the letter were the American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Home Economics Association, National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, and the National Coalition to Prevent Impaired Driving.

All except the AMA have representatives on the steering committee of the Coalition for the Prevention of Alcohol Problems. The CLC's Smith serves

on the committee.

The letter pointed out that in 1988 alcohol cost American society \$85 billion, more than all other drugs combined. Alcohol is responsible for more than 100,000 deaths a year, according to the letter. □

Seminaries report enrollment increases

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Fall 1992 enrollment for the six Southern Baptist seminaries totaled 10,551, with most reporting increases.

At Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., 859 students enrolled for the fall term, roughly the same number as last year. The figure includes students at the main campus and extensions.

Enrollment at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., increased from 463 to 472 students.

New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary reported a 27 percent increase in enrollment. Total enrollment reached 3311 at the main campus and 11 centers in five states and Puerto Rico.

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., reported an increase despite its probationary status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, one of its accrediting agencies.

Enrollment reached 628 students, with 153 new students, officials said.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., had 1917 students as of Nov. 4. The number was expected to reach nearly 2500

when all students enrolled in Boyce Bible School's off-campus programs are counted. Boyce provides ministerial training for people without college degrees. Last year's overall enrollment was 2489.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, reported its first fall enrollment increase since 1985: 3364, an increase of five over a year ago. The figure includes students on the main campus and off-campus programs in Houston, San Antonio, and Lubbock, Texas, and Shawnee, Okla. □

New items on money management set for release

Baptist Press

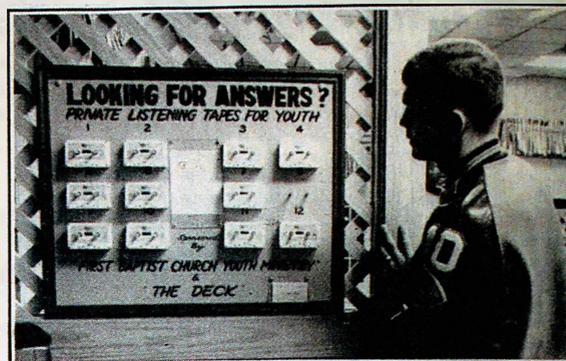
NASHVILLE — A simple plan for teaching Christian money management, "Live Wisely," will be released this month by the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission in a first-ever convention-wide emphasis.

The new emphasis and materials have been in development for two years, according to Lee Davis, money management specialist for the Stewardship Commission.

Materials available include a "How to Conduct a Live Wisely Emphasis" guidebook and *Five Steps to Successful Money Management*, a Broadman Press book.

The Stewardship Commission also plans to release in January a new set of color posters and leaflets on tithing. There is a poster and leaflet for every month of the year.

"It is one way to help our



BENJI LOTT, a teenager in Columbia, Miss., checks out a display of the "24-Hour Counselor," a series of audio cassette counseling tapes for teenagers produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board, at The Deck, a local restaurant popular with youth. The restaurant owners have teamed with First Church, Columbia, to provide the tapes as a ministry to local youth and their parents. — Photo by Jim Veneman

churches teach the discipline and blessing of tithing throughout the year," said John E. Rush, vice president for stewardship development at the commission.

In 1991, Southern Baptists reported more than 15 million members, but only 1,575,347 tithers, or slightly more than ten percent of membership. □

James Wesberry dies on Christmas day

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — James P. Wesberry, executive director emeritus of The Lord's Day Alliance of the United States and a former Southern Baptist pastor in Atlanta, died of lung cancer in his home on Christmas day. He was 86.

Wesberry, recently referred to as a Georgia Baptist patriarch, was ordained to the ministry in 1925.

He was pastor of churches in South Carolina and Georgia. From 1975-1992 he served as executive director of the Lord's Day Alliance of the United States, an ecumenical organization devoted to promoting the observance of Sunday as a day of worship. □

HMB accepting youth missions applications

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — High school juniors and seniors seeking to be Sojourner summer missionaries through the Home Mission Board should apply by March 10.

Sojourners are high school students who have completed their junior or senior year and are willing to work six to ten weeks during the summer. They receive food, lodging, and local transportation while on assignment.

The HMB also is accepting

applications for mission youth groups for summer work in various types of ministry, including inner-city missions, resort projects, and newer convention areas, said Valerie Hardy, associate director of the HMB's short-term volunteer department.

Through the Southern Baptist Convention, about 31,600 students were involved in mission youth group activities in 1992, an increase of 1100 over 1991.

For more information about Sojourners or mission youth groups, contact the Home Mission Board at 1-800-HMB-VOLS. □

Utah Baptists look toward 1998 SBC

Baptist Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Although the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting is not scheduled for Salt Lake City until 1998, Southern Baptists there are already looking forward to it.

Meeting in Salt Lake City "will help us and it will help Southern Baptists, if the messengers are properly trained," said Lavoid Robertson, recently retired director of evangelism for the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention.

Robertson said people who want to witness to Mormons should know "who you are as a Christian and what you believe."

It also is important to distinguish between Mormons and Mormonism. Love the people without embracing their religion, he said.

Resources for learning about Mormonism are available from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta. A free belief bulletin which highlights basic Mormon doctrines and biblical responses is available by calling 1-800-634-2462 and requesting item 363-58F. □

1993 missionary requests: gaining new gospel footholds

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has 38 critical personnel requests to fill in 1993. Because so many are equally urgent, requests are arranged in tiers. Tier I is the highest priority with 16 requests; Tiers II and III encompass 11 requests each. Mission workers also submitted 477 other requests that need to be filled.



The coming year's mission thrusts: working where few people have heard of Jesus, and also where people are responding in great numbers.

(BPI) Graphic By Marty Croll