

Baptist and Reflector

January 20, 1993

VOL. 159 ■ NO. 3

STATEWIDE EDITION

■ *this
week's
news*

global —

- Southern Baptist workers wonder about future in Iraq amid growing tensions. — See page 2

national —

- SBTS trustees narrow list of candidates for presidency to four. — See page 2
- SBC leaders react to recent action of Woman's Missionary Union. — See page 3

state —

- Nashville pastor Bill Sherman celebrates 25 years at Woodmont Church. — See page 6
- Black Memphis church helps old friend begin black church in Michigan. — See page 7
- Tennessee FMB trustee discusses WMU action. — See page 8

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Southern Baptists give record \$37 million to Easter offering

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions set a record last year by exceeding \$37 million.

Gifts totaled \$37.61 million, according to the year-end, unaudited report. The 1992 gifts were up 5.89 percent from the 1991 total of \$35.52 million.

"I am thrilled and delighted with the record-breaking report," said Larry L. Lewis, HMB president.

The gifts indicate "the continued interest of Southern Baptists in evangelism, church planting, and ministry," he said.

The 1992 gifts reached 91.74 percent of the \$41 million goal. The 1993 goal is \$38 million. Money received over the goal will be used to start churches.

Tennessee Baptists gave \$2,684,386.78 to the Annie Armstrong offering between Nov. 1, 1991 and Oct. 31, 1992. The 1992 goal was \$3.1 million and is the same this year. □

WMU embraces missions, not different factions

By Susan Doyle
For Baptist Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — The Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Executive Board made decisions during their Jan. 9-13 meeting they hope will allow them to be the one entity that can relate to all Southern Baptists, according to its national executive.

The board's meeting at the national WMU office Jan. 9 and at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly Jan. 10-13 was attended by state WMU presidents, who comprise the WMU Executive Board; state WMU executive directors and their staffs; national WMU leaders and staff; and other guests.

National WMU Executive Director Dellanna W. O'Brien said WMU has "taken a stance — not taken sides."

"The fact is, there are numerous factions within the SBC, not just two," she said. "To fall into step with only one precludes our being what we were formed to be to other Southern Baptists."

WMU gives total allegiance to missions, O'Brien said, not to people, agencies, or other groups.

Action taken by the Executive Board will allow WMU to produce materials for all Southern Baptist groups involved in missions at their request. The board also voted to begin marketing generic missions education resources for other evangelical groups.

The action was based on

recommendations made to the WMU board by an ad hoc study committee formed one year ago. WMU President Carolyn Miller named the 17-member committee made up of herself, several state WMU presidents, several state WMU executive directors, the national WMU recording secretary, a former national president, and several national WMU staff members.

The committee's recommendations included a preamble which affirmed the organization's desire to support "Southern Baptist global missions through prayer, the Cooperative Program, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions."

The preamble also stated "the right of individuals, churches, and state conventions to choose other plans for cooperative missions giving."

The board also approved recommendations to:

- "recommit ourselves to missions, the reason we exist, and relate to others who share our commitment";

- "promote and facilitate effective volunteerism in response to missions needs";

- — "identify one social issue each year for specific intervention through national projects"; and

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

The recommendations stem-



THE FELLOWSHIP OF TENNESSEE EVANGELISTS elected new officers in their meeting Jan. 18, prior to the State Evangelism Conference at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville. From left, are, Rob Finley, Memphis, president; Duane and Mary Jeffrey, McEwen, music coordinators; and Charles "Toomie" Cash, Johnson City, vice president.

med from a vision statement and set of core values.

The vision statement reads: "Woman's Missionary Union exists to enable churches and believers to participate in introducing all persons in the world to Christ."

The eight core values adopted by the group were 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 Organizational

Models."

After voting on each part separately, the board adopted the committee's report "in toto" — recommendations, vision statement, and core values — without opposition.

The board also adopted a new "Church WMU Base Design," a document which defines what WMU tasks are and what WMU organizations will be in the local church. The new plan will become effective with the 1995-96 church year.

— See WMU, page 3

Search committee reportedly has nominee for FMB presidency

Baptist Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — The search committee for a new president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has selected a nominee but has agreed not to disclose the individual's name, according to the FMB trustee chairman, who made the statement in a public meeting Jan. 11.

John Jackson, a California pastor who chairs the FMB trustees and is an ex-officio member of the trustee search committee, said the individual was selected during a search committee prayer retreat Jan. 7-9 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Jackson made the state-

ments during a general session of the Woman's Missionary Union Executive Board the morning of Jan. 11. Jackson and other FMB leaders were on hand for a dialogue session with WMU representatives.

The committee plans to present the nominee's name during their Feb. 8-10 meeting in Richmond or April 19-21 meeting in Columbus, Ohio, Jackson said.

The committee is committed to secrecy and will not even tell their spouses, Jackson said.

When contacted, search committee chairman Joel Gregory of Dallas, said, "I don't have any comment at all. Not a bit." □

Clinton meets with ministers; discusses moral issues

By Tom Strode
For Baptist Press

of his positions.

There was "some good, forthright exchange in which the participants shared with Mr. Clinton our concerns on moral issues, in which he gave expression to his own perspective on those same issues," said Bill Merrell, director of Comanche-Cotton Association in Lawton, Okla.

Abortion and homosexual rights, Merrell said, were "probably the two big-ticket items" but tax exemptions, the family, and the necessity for spiritual guidance and direction also were discussed.

Clinton has expressed his support for abortion and homosexual rights, positions opposed by resolutions at recent Southern Baptist annual meetings and by most evangelical Christians. About a dozen state Southern Baptist conventions last fall adopted resolutions voicing opposition to Clinton's positions on the two issues.

"I felt that Mr. Clinton was generally open and willing to speak candidly and listen attentively to our concerns on the issues," Merrell said. "I believe that evangelical Christ-

ians should come together and pray devotedly as we're commanded in Scripture for our president and our country.

"I believe we need to get beyond the campaign mode and use those resources, both spiritual and civic, which God has made available to us.

"We, in fact, agreed and did pray for his safety, his character, and the character of those who lead, for his family and for his leadership as president," Merrell said.

Horne had suggested the meeting to Clinton shortly after the election but it was not set until two evenings before the luncheon.

If Clinton "had not pushed for it being done, it would not have happened this last week" before the Jan. 20 inauguration, Horne said.

The purpose of the meeting was not to try to "change (Clinton's) mind on any issue," Horne said. In arranging the meeting, Horne said he did not "draw limits on what was to be discussed." It was a step in "developing some kind of relationship" between Clinton and these ministers, Horne said. "The main thing that I wanted

to come out of (the meeting) was that these men (would) know a little bit more" about Clinton.

It also was to "let him know these folks out here were going to be praying for him," Horne said.

Southern Baptist participants included some who have been identified with the conservative resurgence in the convention and some who have not. In addition to Horne, Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis, and Merrell, the Southern Baptists attending were Ron Lewis, pastor of Richardson Heights Church, Richardson, Texas; James Pleitz, pastor of Park Cities Church, Dallas; Roger Freeman, pastor of First Church, New Orleans; Wendell Estep, pastor of First Church in Columbia, S.C.; Randel Everett, pastor of First Church, Pensacola, Fla.; Ken Branam, pastor of Plymouth Park Church, Irving, Texas; Stan Paris, pastor of First Church, Hope, Ark., (Clinton's childhood home); and David Napier, associate pastor at Immanuel. □

WASHINGTON — Fifteen ministers, most of whom were Southern Baptists, met with President-elect Bill Clinton eight days before his inauguration at a luncheon which included a "forthright exchange" on moral issues, one participant said later.

The two-hour meeting Jan. 12 at the Governor's Mansion in Little Rock was organized by Clinton's pastor, Rex Horne of Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

Among the 11 Southern Baptist participants were **Adrian Rogers, Memphis**, a former Southwestern Baptist Convention president. Others who attended included popular author and preacher **Chuck Swindoll** and super-church pastor **Bill Hybels**.

In initiating the meeting, Horne said he had "no agenda, no motive other than to have (Clinton) meet some of these people and have some of them meet him." Some of the participants, however, openly expressed their disagreement with Clinton on some

Baptist workers in Iraq watching what happens next

By Erich Bridges
For Baptist Press

ZAKHO, Iraq — All was quiet Jan. 14 in northern Iraq where Southern Baptist aid workers are based, following allied air strikes on Iraqi missile sites to the south the day before.

"We wouldn't have known anything was going on had we not seen it on CNN," said Paul Smith, who heads up assistance to the Kurds by Global Partners, a London-based humanitarian agency. Smith spoke to Baptist Press via cellular telephone from Zakho, near the Turkish border in the northern "no fly" zone.

Still, the seven Global Partners workers in Zakho planned to stay in their well-guarded house for at least 48 hours.

"I think we'll cease operations here for a few days until we see things are clear," Smith said.

In a morning briefing Jan. 14, allied authorities in the area told foreign relief workers there was little imminent danger of an Iraqi military incursion into the Kurdish region — now being closely watched by allied planes. But they warned the workers to prepare for an increased risk of harassment or terrorism.

Western workers in the northern region have been tar-

geted repeatedly over the last year in bombing incidents, shootings, and destruction of vehicles and relief equipment.

Should they need to evacuate, the Global Partners workers have a detailed plan and could be "out of here ... in 15 minutes" on the way to Turkey, Smith said.

Global Partners has worked in the Zakho area since the end of the Gulf War, helping Kurdish people through medical clinics, well drilling, and seed distribution.

"We're making big plans to expand; we're not giving up," Smith insisted, "unless things fall apart" in the region's

fragile peace.

"Bottom line is that we are all fine, no one upset. We are continuing our work with precaution," he added.

Global Partners personnel in Zakho include Smith, of West Monroe, La., and his wife, Virginia, of Farmington, Mo.; physician Robert Pepper of Beaumont, Texas, and his wife, Rhonda, of Rutledge, Ga.; well-drilling coordinator Art Baker of Georgetown, S.C.; seed-distribution coordinator Bill Hinton of Hopkinsville, Ky.; and Chris Unger, a German. □

SBTS trustees narrows list

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's presidential search committee has narrowed its list of potential nominees to four.

Cordova pastor Wayne Allen, who chairs the Louisville seminary's trustees, said the names are not being released at the request of the four individuals.

Allen, in a telephone interview with Baptist Press, said the seven-member search committee met Jan. 11-12 in Memphis and settled on four potential nominees as successor to Roy L. Honeycutt who will retire at the end of 1993

after serving as president since 1982.

The search committee received 28 nominations, with a number of the individuals declining further consideration, Allen said.

The committee will meet with the four potential nominees in mid-February and select the person it will recommend to fellow trustees in early March, Allen said.

After one further in-depth interview, the individual's name will be announced in April, he said.

Allen said the committee is doing background checks "theologically, psychologically, physically, and financially." □

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Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership

January —

- 21 — Pray for these volunteers, Bob Mayes, David Allen, Patricia Allen, and Barbara and Ricky Jackson as they labor together building a church.
- 22 — Pray for Janis Dietz home evangelist as she celebrates her birthday today.
- 23 — Pray peace and comfort for missionaries Terry and Rebecca Boston.
- 24 — Pray for Gene Huckaby on his birthday today and for continued healing in his body.
- 25 — Pray for Vacation Bible Schools being held all over the country and our missionaries, church leadership, and the children.
- 26 — Pray for First Church, Nashville construction team in Concepcion as they work with national lay leader, Ruben Sepulveda.

Chapman, other SBC leaders react to WMU action

By Art Toolston
For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The Southern Baptist Convention needs "a clarification" from the Woman's Missionary Union so the SBC can study "the decisions which we now are facing as a convention," Morris H. Chapman said after WMU's executive board voted Jan. 10 to chart an independent course in its missions programs.

Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, said he is saddened by the WMU decision, having "expressed hope to the WMU leadership that nothing would change in the organizational relationship between the SBC and the WMU." The SBC-WMU's "traditional auxiliary relationship ... has served us well for 104 years," Chapman noted.

"This action will no doubt raise grave concern in the hearts and minds of most Southern Baptists, including many members of the WMU in our local churches," Chapman

said.

John Jackson, a California pastor who chairs trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, voiced a similar reaction, saying WMU's new direction "necessitates a full exploration ... at the Monday (Feb. 8) session of our February board meeting. We will explore interpretations and implications of these adopted parameters and their impact on (the) FMB-WMU relationship."

Also issuing reactions to the WMU vote were Don Kammerdiener, interim FMB president; Larry Lewis, Home Mission Board president; and James Williams, Brotherhood Commission president.

Among the points of clarification Chapman posed regarding WMU:

■ "When they accept contributions, will these funds be channeled for SBC missions programs or for their own programs and for programs of other organizations?" Chapman asked, concerning a "recommendation" adopted by the

WMU giving it a green light to accept funds "to be used for missions causes."

■ "When the leadership of the WMU says that they will 'promote and facilitate volunteerism,' does this mean they will support volunteers of the SBC home and foreign mission boards? Or will they have their own mission program?" Chapman asked, concerning a recommendation that WMU begin "sponsoring" volunteers.



CHAPMAN



LEWIS

■ "When they adopt a social project each year, will it be a SBC project or their own project?" Chapman asked, concerning a recommendation that WMU target a "social issue" each year.

Chapman commented: "Historically, the WMU's

whole purpose for existence has been to serve as an auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention ... to support SBC programs. When an organization gets a program of its own, it ceases to be an auxiliary. It becomes its own entity and has its own programs."

Don Kammerdiener, interim FMB president, said, "I need time to study (what the WMU voted)," and also said he planned to talk to WMU leaders further during their Jan. 9-13 executive board meeting.

Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis said, "I was not present for the meeting and do not know the full details nor the interpretation of the recommendations made by the (WMU) long-range planning committee. I intend to discuss this further with (WMU Executive Director) Dr. (Dellanna) O'Brien and her staff."

"I certainly affirm not only the right, but the responsibility of WMU to work with all Southern Baptist churches including those affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship," Lewis said. "However, I question the wisdom of any SBC agency or auxiliary identifying in a supportive way with any schismatic group that has set itself against SBC leaders and agencies or has established competitive agencies."

"I appeal to WMU to service all Southern Baptist churches but

continue their historic

stance supporting and promoting missions exclusively through the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention," Lewis said.

He said he has not yet heard anything in the recommendations that would exclude the HMB from working with the Woman's Missionary Union on the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, which raised more than \$37.5 million in 1992 to support Southern Baptist home missions.

James Williams, Brotherhood Commission president, said he hopes the men's organization will be able to continue relating to WMU, though the WMU executive board's actions "may introduce new dimensions into our joint deliberations and relationships. We will need to see how these recommendations work themselves out in the churches and denomination before we know how WMU and Brotherhood will work together to involve Southern Baptists in missions."

As to Brotherhood's direction, Williams said, "Without question, the Brotherhood Commission will continue its historic support of Southern Baptist cooperative missions approaches. We will remain in full support of the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board and other Southern Baptist Convention entities" □

WMU embraces missions, not different factions

— Continued from page 1

The plan calls for several major changes:

(1) WMU's tasks have been simplified and re-prioritized. The tasks beginning in 1995-96 are:

"Pray for and give to missions."

"Do missions."

"Learn about missions."

"Develop spiritually toward a missions lifestyle," and

"Participate in the work of the church and the denomination."

Between now and October 1995, WMU will continue to operate under the current task statements:

"Teach missions."

"Engage in mission action and personal witnessing."

"Support missions," and

"Interpret and undergird the work of the church and denomination."

(2) The new plan includes a specific focus on "churchwide missions." While ongoing, in-depth missions learning and involvement will still be carried through WMU age-level organizations, there will be an additional emphasis on all people in the church having some missions awareness and involvement.

(3) The adult organization has been simplified to allow groups to form around common purpose, interests, needs, or age. Each group will select

one or more missions task as a focus. The adult organization also will include a greater emphasis on hands-on ministry and witness involvement.

While the adult organization will allow for more diversity, it will also provide for members who are happy with current traditional missions involvement.

The name of the WMU adult organization will be presented for recommendation at the June WMU Executive Board meeting.

(4) The new plan also adds a focus in Mission Friends, the preschool organization — parental involvement in a child's missions education.

(5) The Girls in Action organization will include an option for an older GA (grades 4-6) group. Older GAs will have opportunities to participate in the organization more, will have more issues-oriented curriculum, and will use different learning approaches.

These changes came in direct response to requests from WMU members and leaders that the entire WMU organization be more simple, flexible, and relevant to today's world, said Bobbie Patterson, WMU associate executive director.

In other business, the WMU executive board:

■ Voted to ask R. Keith Parks, former president of the

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, to allow the archives of the national WMU office to be the repository for his personal presidency papers.

■ Adopted a news philosophy and news coverage policy for WMU Executive Board meetings.

■ Approved the 1992 annual report.

■ Approved \$65,410 in grants from WMU's endowment fund, the Second Century Fund.

Second Century Fund grants are used to support missions work among women abroad and in the United States and to support missions education among women in seminaries.

— Heard the announcement of the 1993 Acteens National Advisory Panel. Acteens is the missions education organization for girls in grades seven through 12. They are Alison Grigg, Moweaqua, Ill.; Bobby Jo Lipscomb, Miami, Okla.; Keo Rasavong, Amarillo, Texas; Wendy Elizabeth Hoag, Batesville, Ark.; Jennifer Marie Lott, Hattiesburg, Miss.; and Amy Wilson, Memphis.

Advisory panel members serve as pages at the WMU annual meeting and the Southern Baptist Convention. They also write and speak on behalf of Acteens. □

Former national WMU leaders affirm Executive Board's changes

Baptist Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Five of six living national leaders of Woman's Missionary Union offered immediate affirmation Jan. 10 of the decisions made earlier that evening by the current WMU Executive Board.

Present during the meeting were Alma Hunt and Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, former national executive directors, and past national presidents Helen Fling, Christine Gregory, Dorothy Sample, and Marjorie McCollough. Sample was notified of a death in her family on Sunday (Jan. 10) and left the meeting early.

Of the six, McCollough was the only one who served on the 17-member committee that brought the recommendations to the WMU Executive Board.

"I am thrilled to have been a part of the committee,"

McCollough said. "I'm thrilled for what this means for WMU. I hope it will mean an enriched program for missions."

It was evident that "nothing but the Holy Spirit" was at work during the meeting, said Hunt. "I am convinced that God will never forsake us as long as we stick to our purpose — which we have affirmed," she added.

Flint agreed: "It has been fun for me to watch the women — to see them in action, to see the new thinking with the same kind of commitment to missions that there has always been."

"The decisions made at this meeting continue almost 105 years of 'working toward this inclusiveness — to broadening the tent,'" Crumpler said.

Gregory said the action means "We're Woman's Missionary Union and we're going to continue to be Woman's Missionary Union." □

■ about letters to the editor

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Thanks for support

I thank Tennessee Baptists and the Tennessee Baptist Foundation for assisting so graciously in my seminary education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The financial aid I received from my home state truly made it possible for me to prepare for our Lord's work. Because of people like Mrs. Thelma R. Hodges and Mr. and Mrs. Val C. Jackson, I was able to attend Southwestern to prepare academically toward fulfilling God's call on my life. I recommend Southwestern and thank those who fund it and have made this part of my calling a reality.

My home church is First Church, Rockwood, where Jim Hutson is pastor.

Phil Nelson, pastor
Era Church
Era, Texas, 76238

From California

Thank you Tennessee Baptists for your \$180,774 in gifts to Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program unified budget during the 1991-92 SBC-year (Oct. 1, 1991 to Sept. 30, 1992).

Your prayers and support

help undergird a solid year of ministry and growth for Southern Baptists' seminary in the West. Student enrollment was up, we enjoyed our second consecutive year of a balanced budget, faculty and staff morale and commitment remained high, and our students continued their involvement in a multitude of cross-cultural ministries at our three campuses and various Ethnic Leadership Development Centers.

Together, we look to a future filled with unprecedented opportunity around the world. Golden Gate Seminary pledges to continue its commitment to educating a new and creative generation of Christian leaders to help Alabama Baptists meet those challenges and reach the world for Christ.

William O. Crews, president
Golden Gate Seminary
Mills Valley, Calif., 94941

Parks' move

I would like to congratulate Keith Parks who, after being a 37-year SBC missions veteran, has kept his integrity and shown his "true colors" in standing up to the FMB trustees. Parks is not alone in his support for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. At least 20 missionaries in Europe have

resigned to protest FMB actions as well as three other high-level FMB administrators. The CBF reports letters from more than 200 missionaries on file that are considering moving from the FMB to the CBF.

People who have decided to support the CBF aren't heretics — they are Southern Baptists. Traditionally, Southern Baptists have supported local church autonomy. Try hiring a female pastor and see how much autonomy your local association gives your church. If your association is like one in Memphis it will give lip service to the idea of local church autonomy and boot you out of the association. Traditionally, Southern Baptists have supported the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer. Now that doctrine is talked of as a "recent historical development" that harms "pastoral authority."

In an effort to be Southern Baptist some people have seen fit to form organizations that won't fall under the patriarchal hierarchy of the SBC. If you want to learn more about the CBF and historical Baptist freedom then contact *Baptists Today*.

Andrew F. Bennett III
Southern Baptist Seminary
Louisville, Ky., 40280

Love and concern

In the Jan. 13 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* I read of the WMU approval of the historic plan to enlarge the base.

I proudly belong to the Woman's Missionary Union.

We have not been directly asked to promote offerings of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

We have been asked to pray for this organization. As Christians, first of all, this is our duty and obligation.

I would like to know, however, the meaning of generic missions materials. In the dictionary, the meaning is "a product without a brand name."

I read the six action statements in last week's issue with great love and concern. I am prayerfully concerned about these actions.

Frances Lancaster
Humboldt 38343

Tennessee WMU responds that current literature will continue to be published. Generic materials for others won't carry the Southern Baptist Convention name. These materials will be products without a brand name. — Editor □

A most exciting missions offering

I have experienced the most exciting Lottie Moon Christmas Offering season of my more than 21 years as a pastor. I want to share it with other Tennessee Baptists.

I have been pastor of Ebenezer Church in rural east Knox County for two years. I'm from Alabama and have spent most of my life there. Ebenezer is a wonderful, loving, caring, giving, and growing church. The membership is 625 with average Sunday School attendance of 210. The new budget is \$186,000.

Before I came to the church I was disappointed with the lack of support for missions, especially foreign missions. When I became pastor, we increased our giving to missions. I shared with the people my lifelong interest in missions and missionaries. Some of that was experienced through the Alabama/Nigeria Partnership in 1984.

In 1989 the Foreign Missions offering goal was \$1800 and the offering was \$2000. The following year, the goal was \$2500 and the offering was \$3500. In 1991 the \$5500 offering exceeded the goal by \$500. The 1992 goal was set at \$6000.

We had almost reached our goal when we received a check designated for the Foreign Missions offering—of \$48,000. So our gifts totaled almost \$54,000!

The "anonymous" gift came from a couple who are not members of our church, but they have visited us. The Lord has blessed their lives and their business. They had heard about missions from the pulpit.

I have been disturbed about mission support throughout the SBC, and discouraged about some who gave to missions through other means so that the goal had to be reduced.

But what a lesson God was teaching me. We are but a small part of the greater picture, and if the needs can be properly conveyed to the people, God has the resources to meet the needs.

I am happy that my wife and I plan to go to Chile in May to participate in an evangelistic project, with the support of the church. Missions awareness and support continue!

Jim Clayton, pastor
Ebenezer Church
Knoxville 37914

From Woman's Missionary Union leaders

An Open Letter to Southern Baptists:

In a historic meeting Jan. 9-13, Woman's Missionary Union adopted a new vision for the future. We identified basic values which are and always have been at the very heart of our existence. Growing out of those, recommendations were adopted to move us into the future.

The recommendations challenge us to use contemporary approaches to ministry and missions involvement as we fulfill our missions purpose. Each recommendation concerns an aspect that WMU has long considered foundational to the missions cause of our organization, such as prayer support, missions education, personal involvement in missions, and mission support. The recommendation to accept contributions enables WMU to fulfill its missions role more effectively.

The decisions we made this week have grown out of our love of Southern Baptist missions. Our desire is to support our missionaries and

to provide educational materials for those who share in our commitment to the missions enterprise. Following lengthy open discussion, the final report of the committee was adopted unanimously by WMU leaders from throughout the nation.

For many years we have partnered with the Brotherhood Commission to support unselfishly the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign Mission Boards. It is our intent that none of the actions taken at this meeting change any of these relationships which are so important to us.

Just as individuals, churches and other Southern Baptist entities are looking for ways to make the church relevant in the 21st century, WMU has found it necessary to find new ways to help individuals and churches fulfill the Great Commission mandate. The actions we have taken will empower WMU to be more effective in reaching the world for Jesus Christ and will enable us to assist

Southern Baptist churches and other evangelicals who need resources that WMU can provide to more effectively reach a lost world.

When Woman's Missionary Union was begun in 1888, the women made a deliberate choice to support Southern Baptist missions. We want you to know that our choice is the same today.

We are truly co-laborers together — partners in the endeavor to make a world of difference for Christ as we move confidently and boldly into this new era. We covet your prayer support and encouragement. In return, we pledge to you our love and our continued, deep commitment to Southern Baptist missions.

Members of the WMU Executive Board and State WMU Executive Directors

WMU action should not cause SBC problem

Acting on findings of a special study committee, Woman's Missionary Union has gotten the attention of most Southern Baptists.

WMU's executive board members met in Alabama two weeks ago to hear the findings and then spent two days of its annual board meeting shaping their own report. The result played to mixed reviews.

Amid clamor and rhetoric, quizzical looks and diverse attitudes, it seems that WMU has put on paper what the organization has been doing for 104 years.

As the smoke clears, it will be easier to see and comprehend. Answering critics who seem to believe WMU has strayed from its moorings and historical position, Dellanna O'Brien replied that WMU has taken a stance instead of taking sides (in the thirteen-year tug-of-war between Southern Baptist "moderates" and "conservatives"). WMU Executive Director O'Brien says there are many groups in the SBC, not only two.

Until now it appeared that on the SBC level WMU would be one of the very few entities to escape the struggle for control.

Some observers may believe that the WMU decision to assist in some CBF endeavors results from O'Brien's leadership style. She has been more outspoken than previous leaders on SBC issues that related to WMU. It is more plausible to believe that the continuing conflict eventu-

ally will touch every nerve of each SBC entity, even this auxiliary.

It is a fact that WMU relationship with SBC leadership has become edgy during the past few years. Though the ties have seemed to grow increasingly tenuous, this new action eventually could bring all parties closer together.

The irritant in WMU's decision is the apparently new relationship with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Said one WMU leader, "There's no need to fear such ties. We have not hooked up with CBF."

But the mere suggestion that any SBC entity would aid CBF elevated blood pressure readings.

We should carefully note that WMU has not acted on a whim, nor without caution. The new vision statement, core values statement, and recommendations plainly reflect a studied response, a plan of action, to mission needs of this generation. WMU leaders have stated clearly that any group appealing for missions help must fit into WMU parameters for assistance.

In the Shocco Springs action ten days ago, WMU executive board members included CBF requests in their list of "can do" actions.

They say this fits their historic stance. The point is argued by several SBC leaders. Closely related to the inclusion of CBF, they say, is that the action could cause the

Cooperative Program and SBC missions offerings to suffer. WMU replies that any help they give CBF stops short of sponsoring CBF missions offerings and listing its missionaries alongside SBC missionaries on the WMU prayer calendar.

WMU leaders also say that this simply continues ongoing policy.

Reading *Baptist and Reflector* news about the WMU move and reactions to it (in this issue) should help Tennessee Baptists make prayerful conclusions.

We believe, WMU has not acted irresponsibly nor out of ignorance. We see two of the recommendations as red flags to some: concerning support of Southern Baptist groups in missions with prayer and resources at their request, and accepting contributions to be used for WMU and related missions needs. We also believe that objections to these and other points can be cleared when dealt with properly.

We appreciate WMU for courage to state its missions stance plainly. Southern Baptists need not doubt WMU motives.

There is no group on the horizon that can replace successfully the historic WMU role in missions education and support for Southern Baptists, nor is one necessary. WMU has strengthened its statement of purpose and incorporated an enhanced vision for the future.

Dire forecasts about what *could* happen will not serve us well. Let us concentrate on God's blessings that *can* happen. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Mirror reflections

Even mirrors don't always present a perfect reflection of just who, and what, we are. Sometimes portraits don't.

For example it may cause consternation to new readers when they ponder the meaning of our double name, *Baptist and Reflector*. And some faithful subscribers do not know the distinction of that title. It wears easily, but adequately understanding it is difficult.

We have thought of omitting the little word "and" since the paper is singular. But when we think back to the forerunners of our paper, the reason becomes plain. It's *Baptist and Reflector*. We descend from two fine but very old Baptist newspapers, the *Tennessee Baptist* and the *American Reflector*. The two were owned and edited by E. E. Folk and he merged the names in 1889.



ALLEN

The current model is Baptist and it is a reflector of the news and events, collecting them and "reflecting" on the news and then "reflecting" it out to all the readers. Voila! You then have the venerable descendant of the two papers. Our name is a mirror image of who we are and what we try to do for Tennessee Baptists.

Years ago a trustee of another Baptist state paper had an artist son. At that stage of his career, his art did not attract many buyers, but his father liked his work.

The father donated one of the nondescript paintings to the paper's staff. It really wasn't very good, but the staff appreciated the gift. After all, it came from a trustee.

When there was a trustees' meeting, they hung the picture. When the trustees went home, the picture came down.

There were at least two almost opposite opinions of the art. Who was right? Who had the true "picture"?

We are blessed when our Father looks at us and sees his Son. We don't need a mirror to get that blessing. How purely we reflect Christ is the thing. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Sunday, Jan. 24

Baptist Men's Day focuses on involvement

By Steve Barber
For Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — This year's theme for Baptist Men is "Missions Involvement Through Equipping Believers" but "equipping" is viewed these days only as a place to begin, not an end in itself.

"When you consider the masses out there in the marketplace who don't have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, a commitment to equipping believers for missions involvement becomes even more imperative," said Jim Furgerson, director of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission's adult division.

More than 250,000 enrolled in Baptist Men and Baptist Young Men units will be celebrating a year of "equipping believers" on Baptist Men's Day, Jan. 24.

"The Baptist Men and Baptist Young Men programs in local churches are the main avenues for equipping men for missions involvement," Furgerson said. "Through the coordinated curriculum that centers on the monthly magazine, *Missions Today*, they discover

a world of missions opportunity."

Training leaders for the church-level programs is an ongoing emphasis. Last year, the agency's Memphis headquarters staff spent more than 200 days at training events "in the field." Hundreds more were led by certified instructors at the state and associational levels.

The result, according to Furgerson, is that Baptist Men in 1992 "proved they are committed to missions, more than in any other year."

Last February and continuing for five months, Project Brotherhood involved 84 volunteers from 15 states who repackaged an estimated 360 metric tons of bulk food into 35,000 family packs for distribution in the Moscow area. The volunteers, all of whom went to Russia at their own expense, also distributed food to hospitals, orphanages, and homes for pensioners.

After Hurricane Andrew came ashore last Aug. 24, Southern Baptist disaster relief units operated by Baptist Men from 15 state conventions began serving the first of more

than 2.5 million hot meals at sites in Florida and Louisiana. The response became the largest effort of its kind in Brotherhood Commission history.

Although Project Brotherhood and the Hurricane Andrew response got most of the attention during the year, they were among some 4000 projects involving volunteers, according to James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president.

"Obviously, God is using and blessing the work of volunteers, whose efforts are making Southern Baptist cooperative missions even more cost-effective," Williams said.

"A recent Volunteers in Missions report, with the most current annual figures we have, put a value of more than \$16 million on the work of the 62,281 volunteers that we know about. And that doesn't include workers on more than 1700 construction projects who saved Southern Baptists \$40 to \$60 million more," he said.

The key to expanding missions involvement by laymen is affirming their spiritual gifts and vocational talents, Williams affirmed. □

■ just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile —

A man was beating his head against a wall. "Why are you doing that?" someone asked him. "Because it feels so good when I quit."

Take this truth with you —

There are many habits we have that irritate both others and ourselves. We would feel so much better and our friends would like us better if we "quit" them. Why not resolve to analyze our actions for these irritating habits and try to eliminate them from our way of life?

Memorize this Scripture —

"For no one of us lives to himself and no one of us dies to himself," (Romans 14:7).

Pray this prayer —

Dear God, help me to realize we are all bound together in life. What I do today will affect others. Help me to make their lives better. For Jesus sake. Amen. □

Nashville church honors Sherman on 25th anniversary

By Lonnie Wilkey
Associate Editor

NASHVILLE — Woodmont Pastor Bill Sherman remembers well his first Sunday at the church — it snowed nine inches and he could not get there.

The next week, the first Sunday in January of 1968, Sherman did make it to church and he has been there ever since.

Sherman, who succeeded G. Allen West, now of Louisville, Ky., is only the second pastor of the 51-year-old Nashville church.

To commemorate Sherman's silver anniversary church members have declared January as "Pastor Bill Sherman Month."

Church and stewardship growth, missions, and a television ministry are the benchmarks of the Texas native's ministry at Woodmont. When he arrived in Nashville in 1968 from Stillwater, Okla., where he served as pastor of University Heights Church, Woodmont had an enrollment of 1395 and an average Sunday School attendance of 510.

Today, Woodmont claims 3192 people on roll and has an average Sunday School attendance of 1108.

Noting Woodmont is a "mid-town" church, and people have to drive by several churches to get to Woodmont, Sherman said he "is grateful the Lord has been good to us and enabled us to grow."

The church also has grown in stewardship under Sherman's direction. In 1967 total church receipts were \$220,000. Last year, Woodmont members gave \$2,408,342.

Missions also has been a trademark of the Sherman years. Sherman estimated between 400-500 members have filled 794 Bold Mission assignments in 38 countries. Missions giving has increased ten-fold at Woodmont, from 61,112 to 670,737 (1991 total).

Other mission activities include a Chinese congregation and a Messianic Jewish congregation which meet weekly at the church. In addition, Woodmont helped constitute the following Nashville Association churches: Brook Hollow, Creeviewood, Forest Hills, Brentwood, and Glenwood.

Through television Woodmont has been able to extend its ministry and to reach outside its four walls in spreading the message of Christ. Woodmont has televised its Sunday morning service for 23 years reaching anywhere from 150,000 to 300,000 additional people on any given Sunday, Sherman said.

Sherman said he is grateful for the opportunity to "build bridges" in Nashville in the areas of race relations and work with other denominations. Woodmont was a leader in dealing with the race issue in the early 1970s. The church was integrated during that decade and has had numerous worship services with 15th Avenue Baptist Church, a black congregation.

Sherman also has worked with other denominations on social issues such as gambling. Baptists need to do more of that, he said.

The years have not been without problems, Sherman admitted. "We have faced some real volatile issues in the church, he said, citing integration, the decision to rebuild the

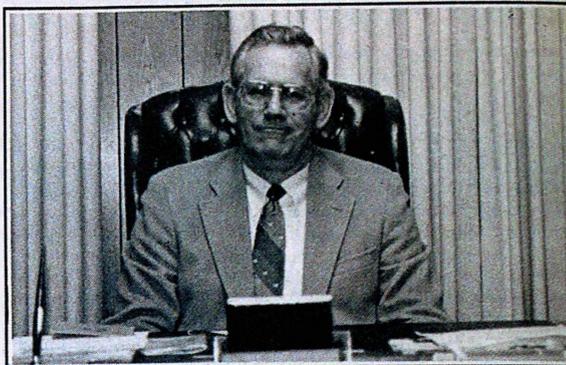
chapel which burned in 1974, women deacons, and the denominational issue as examples.

"Any one of those could blow a church apart, but our congregation has worked through them.

"God has been good. I have tried to be faithful and tell the truth according to Scripture," he said, adding that he "tries to be a person of integrity, conviction, and, hopefully, of grace."

Sherman and his wife, Veta, have ministered at Woodmont under trying personal circumstances. In 1988, their son, Donny, was diagnosed with melanoma cancer (see separate story).

Sherman expressed appreciation for the church and its



WOODMONT CHURCH Pastor Bill Sherman relaxes in his office. This month marks his 25th anniversary as pastor of the Nashville congregation.

people. "Woodmont has been our life for 25 years — our most meaningful years of ministry," he said. □

Sherman reminds laity pastors are human too

Pastor Bill Sherman knows what personal agony is all about. In 1988 his son, Donny, was diagnosed with melanoma cancer.

Countless trips and numerous treatments and surgeries later, Donny's cancer is in remission. The threat of recurrence is ever present, however. He undergoes a scan every six months. "Emotionally, I get in a position of semi-dread every time a scan comes up," Sherman said, adding they live from report to report.

The entire experience was agony for the entire Sherman family. "I would wake up at night, weeping or stay up at night praying." But, that is only natural, Sherman said.

"A pastor is human. He has real agony and pain just like his church members do," the Nashville pastor observed.

Sherman said it is a mistake

for church members to think of their pastor and his wife as "Superman" and "Wonder Woman" because they are not.

"If you cut a preacher on the hand, he will bleed. If you cut him on the heart, he will weep," Sherman said.

As a minister Sherman said he has walked "with scores of people from the diagnosis to the grave.

"The agony you go through for them is at a different level," he said.

When a pastor is going through difficult personal times, he still has to minister. "You don't separate the two."

He admitted it was tough ministering in those circumstances while his son was ill.

"There is no formula for handling it. You just ask the Lord for help and do the best you can," he said.

Sherman offered three tips

for church members whose pastors are going through personal crises in their lives.

■ Show the pastor and his family your love and support.

■ Pray. "It was very heartening to us knowing people were praying for Donny," Sherman said.

■ Take a long-term interest.

It is easy to be concerned and excited over something when it first happens, but when it is a long-term problem, continue to show your pastor and his family you still care and are still praying, he suggested.

Sherman said he is grateful for the support given to him and his wife, Veta, and to Donny and his wife, Tena, during the ordeal. "Donny is here because of the grace of God and the prayers of friends, many of whom we have never met," he said. — Lonnie Wilkey □

Church discovers 'fruit' ten years after 'seed' was planted

For Baptist and Reflector

A "seed" planted by a girl in Sunday School at New Salem Church in Soddy-Daisy has borne fruit in Campbell County, more than 100 miles away.

In 1982 Missy Hatmaker, as part of a Sunday School project, released a balloon with the following Scripture message:

"Behold, I 'Jesus' stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with me" Revelation 3:20.

That was the last anyone knew about that note — until ten years later when the church received a letter from Randal Perkins of Jacksboro.

The letter related he had found Hatmaker's note in November of 1982 while on a hunting trip in the mountains

of Campbell County. He noted he read the verse and put it in his wallet. Over the years he would take it out and reread the message.



PASTOR TED PAINTER, left, visits with Randal Perkins.

"After a rough life and a friend witnessing to me, and several people praying for me, I was saved on Feb. 9, 1990, at the age of 31," the letter shared.

It went on to say he had

been baptized, joined Wood Lake Church in Jacksboro, and had married "a wonderful Christian wife."

"I know it has almost been ten years since I found the ticket. I have decided to return it and share with you part of my testimony," Perkins said in the letter.

After receiving the letter, Pastor J. Ted Painter of New Salem, made arrangements for Perkins to come to the church and share his testimony with the congregation.

Perkins agreed and came to the church in November. He told the church he picked up the note, read the verse, but "just could not throw it away."

He admitted that he was leading the wrong lifestyle at that time — he used bad language and drank heavily.

"After eight years, I knew

the Lord was dealing with me, so I decided to go to church. He later accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior.

During the service the church presented Perkins with a Bible.

Though sending a balloon does not seem significant, it can be when God is in it, said Painter.

"To find out, ten years later, that this slip of paper was found and used by God in the salvation of one soul in Campbell County just proves that little is much, when God is in it," he said.

"Nothing thrills me more to know that the Word of God, sent out by way of balloon, has touched the heart of someone," he added.

Hatmaker, now a young woman, also was excited to

learn what happened to her note.

"I was just tickled to death to find out after all this time how God worked through this balloon," she said.

Laws now prohibit people from sending balloons into the environment, Painter said. □

Mack Canup dies

B. Mack Canup, a retired Baptist pastor, died Jan. 6 in Elizabethton. He was 91.

The Knox County native was pastor of several churches in Holston and Watauga associations between 1928-68.

He served as a part-time field worker for the TBC Sunday School and BYPU (now Discipleship Training) departments. After retirement he taught Sunday School at First Church, Elizabethton. He is survived by his wife, Ruby. □

Liberia missionaries share experiences with Rogersville group

For Baptist and Reflector

ROGERSVILLE — On the way back to West Africa recently, a missionary family paused to spend an evening at Henard's Chapel Church. The family renewed old friendships and talked to church families and friends about missionary life in a "war zone."

Earl and Jane Williams, and their son Kenneth, stopped overnight Dec. 30 before returning to West Africa where they will work with refugees.

They have been serving in Yekepa, Liberia, for almost 25 years. Liberia is located on the Gulf of Sierra Leone along the most western reaches of West Africa. During the last three years the Williams family has seen the country devastated by civil war, poverty, and death. Only one missionary remains in Liberia although just a few years ago there were 60.

Richard Cassidy, pastor of Henard's Chapel has been in close contact with the Williams

family since 1989 when Earl Williams was in Rogersville for a World Missions Conference. Cassidy had planned to take a group of volunteers to Monrovia and Yekepa this spring, but civil war broke out last fall and the FMB has delayed such activity at present.

They shared the daily life situations of Liberia, speaking of lack of water, electricity, food, or telephones. There was an abundance of fear, famine, frustration, and finality, they said. During the strife Jane became sick and had to leave Liberia. Within days tension and testing became so great that Earl and Kenneth also had to leave.

During the meeting at Henard's Chapel, Earl Williams spoke about God "lifting the hedge," remembering when Satan was allowed to enter Job's life and "wrecked" it. Williams said this is what is happening in Liberia. God has lifted the hedge, he said, and Satan is on the rampage. One day God will replace the hedge,



RICHARD CASSIDY, pastor of Henard's Chapel Church recently visited with Earl and Jane Williams, missionaries to Liberia, and their son, Kenneth. The Williams told the Rogersville congregation about their experiences in the country.

he said, and communities that once had only two churches will have 20. Where congregations were once 600 or 700 in attendance, there will be thousands.

The missionaries truly live in the bush. Asked what he missed most about living in

the United States, 12-year-old Kenneth responded, "I really miss the malls, football, and television." He said the little television available in West Africa is in French.

The Williams family probably will be working in Abidjan, Sierra Leone, or Ivory Coast —

helping Liberian refugees. They asked for prayers of Tennessee Baptists as they returned, and specifically asked for a bountiful Lottie Christmas Offering.

"The need is great and the work is there," said Jane Williams. "We want to go back and complete our assignment. Standing here in this church, and being home in the United States for a month gets us to thinking about not going back. But when we get back to Liberia and see the needs, and lead another soul to Christ, the churches growing, then we know it's right to go."

"God can speak to us through crisis in a way He can never speak to us through good times," Earl Williams said. "Every once in a while God lets Satan lift the hedge in every life. I think it's because He wants to make us strong. Christians grow stronger in difficult circumstances."

The Williams family is serving again in West Africa, longing for a return to Liberia. □

Two black congregations form first tie of Michigan partnership

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

When Charles Dill decided to give up his job as a pastor so a black congregation could have the church's building, he made some new black friends. Two and a half years later, those friends are helping him begin a black church in Michigan.

Dill, a Memphian by birth, knows the importance of race relations. The majority of the city's population is black. When he became pastor of Lamar Heights Church in 1984, the issue became more personal. The church was declining because of a transition in the neighborhood from white to black.

Dill and his staff led the membership to minister to the neighborhood for six years. He explained black children would become involved in the church's activities and become Christians, but would leave when they grew into adulthood.

By 1990, the community was 99 percent black, Dill reported, and he knew the time for a decision was at hand.

Just seven miles away in the Whitehaven community, Lawrence O. Hudson was guiding his congregation, Fitzgerald Community Baptist Church, through a disappointment. It was ready to invest in a building rather than rent, but an attempt to buy land had failed.

He didn't realize his mentor, the late Ben Young, Ardmore Terrace Church pastor, and others in the association had a better idea. Young had helped him decide to join the Southern Baptist Convention.

Lamar Heights began meeting at Cherry Road Church. The merged congregation invited Hudson to lead a service several months later. The bivocational pastor was nervous, he admitted, especially when he saw the crowd of about 300.

Hudson was surprised when following his sermon, the con-

Love erases racial differences.

gregation voted to allow Fitzgerald Community Church to rent the Lamar Heights facility with an option for ownership.

He was the only one in the building who didn't vote for the agreement. The members of the congregation, including those from Lamar Heights possibly still mourning the loss of their identity, agreed. "Only God can bring about unanimity," he stated.

Dill and Hudson still agree it was the right thing to do. More money could have been made by selling the facility to another group, said Dill. Muslims had expressed an interest. About \$600,000 was the estimated profit. But now a Southern Baptist congregation was matched up with a needed facility just seven miles from its

previous site.

Predictions have come true. The congregation gained an identity by the move, said Hudson. It had adopted the name Fitzgerald Community at the request of the owner of its building. The congregation chose Monument of Love Church.

The members no longer rattle around in a building which housed 900 members in the 1960s. It has grown from about 150 members to 250 in one year. And its giving has grown from \$73,000 to \$130,000. It started a bus ministry with one van, but

needs two. And the church has added a staff member.

Ironically, Hudson hopes the changes "are not a phenomenon in terms of numbers. ... Bigger is not better," he noted.

Monument of Love didn't forget its friend, Dill, who searched for another job for 13 months after the merger.

He remembers being invited to his former office at the church during that period. The leaders of the church gathered there to give him a gift of \$450. That happened other times, Dill said. After he accepted the position as area director of missions, Heron/Oakland Baptist Association, he received phone calls from Hudson.

So a year ago, when Dill needed some help for a black congregation, he thought of

Monument of Love.

Resurrection Chapel meets in the offices of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan in Southfield. Two local black churches were helping it financially in addition to the Home Mission Board. Then one of the churches had to pull out, explained Dill.

Once again a unanimous vote was made in a Memphis church, reported Hudson. This time it was the congregation of Monument of Love agreeing to help fund Resurrection Chapel.

The church decided after several months to send its associate minister, James Herron and his wife, Sonya, to visit Resurrection Chapel and their friend, Dill. The visit encouraged both groups, said Hudson.

God is "in the reminding business," said Hudson. When Christians begin to take things for granted, like a "beautiful facility," he reminds them to share with others, he explained.

God's also in the providing business, according to Dill. During his period of unemployment, he and his wife received gifts, in addition to those from Monument of Love, which helped them meet their financial needs. Cherry Road Church provided his insurance. Friends helped him find short-term jobs.

When he accepted employment in Michigan, his wife stayed behind five months wait-

ing for their house to sell.

Fifteen months later it is still for sale, but God is still providing, Dill insisted. Because of the generosity of Michigan Baptists, the Dills have not had any housing expenses in Michigan except utilities. And his wife, a nurse, has been given short-term jobs including travel expenses by her former employer in Memphis, which allows for some use of the house, added Dill.

"I don't have any doubts what we did was what God wanted us to do," Dill said. "It has been confirmed over and over by God, and my wife would tell you the same thing."

The Dills have on-site help in Memphis. His mother and sister live there besides friends made during his adolescence at Ardmore and Speedway Terrace churches and ministry at Broadmoor Church.

Although he would like to sleep in his own bed (their furniture is still in the Memphis house), Dill declared, "There's a real deep satisfaction from knowing that we did the will of the Lord."

The saga continued Jan. 17 when Cherry Road Church met at Monument of Love and surprised their friends with an announcement. The waiting period of five more years would be waived. The debt-free property was theirs. □

HMB, FMB leaders talk candidly wth WMU Executive Board

For Baptist Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — During several sessions with the national Executive Board of Woman's Missionary Union Jan. 11, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees and administrators called for bridge-building efforts on the part of Southern Baptists.

Meanwhile, Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis thanked WMU Jan. 12 for a job well done on behalf of home missions.

FMB trustees chairman John Jackson and trustees Karen Gilbert, Phyllis Randall, and Bill Blanchard, pastor of First Church, Soddy-Daisy, brought greetings to the WMU leaders. The invitation to the trustees to join the WMU board meeting resulted from earlier dialogues with WMU leaders, who, in turn, are invited to the FMB trustee meeting in February.

Jackson said he already has put a dialogue session with WMU leaders on the agenda for that meeting. "I think we will need that to clarify and alleviate any misperceptions there might be" as a result of WMU board action during the week, he said.

"Perceptions, whether valid or not, can be very traumatic," Jackson said. "I tend to be a peacemaker. I like to throw water, not gasoline, on a fire."

Jackson told the board he wants to see a continuation and a strengthening of the WMU-FMB relationship — not a deterioration.

Although that relationship has been "damaged some," he said, "just because it has been damaged doesn't mean you should keep jabbing the wound. Our desire is to heal any damaged relationships and to heal the wounds.

"We trust that as we look forward ... that five years from now we will look back and say that had we not joined together in a cooperative spirit, we would be very far apart. I think there are great things ahead," he said.

Later, Don Kammerdiener, FMB interim president, asserted Southern Baptists are at a critical juncture and stand in need of a "new bridge for a new era" to span the centuries.

"We stand in need of a bridge firmly anchored in the past and firmly anchored in the future," he said. "We need a bridge that is loyal to our heritage as Southern Baptists," he said, noting "missions is the foundation of the bridge."

The HMB's Lewis said, "Let me acknowledge publicly and with as much appreciation as I possibly can that although the success of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (for home missions) is the work of

Tennessee FMB trustee Blanchard attends WMU meeting

The action taken by the WMU Executive Board "may cause the Home Mission Board, the Foreign Mission Board, and the Southern Baptist Executive Committee to review their commitment to allow WMU to be the only means by which to disseminate and promote missions education, praying, and giving," said FMB trustee Bill Blanchard, pastor of First Church, Soddy-Daisy, who attended the WMU board meeting at Shocco Springs.

In effect, Blanchard said, the WMU national leadership "has basically rewritten their program statement in such a way that they now may prepare educational material for

and promote groups which function in but are not a part of our convention-sanctioned ministries," he said.

"It also will probably cause the vast majority of WMU organizations throughout the 38,000 SBC churches to wonder why their national leadership is now opening the door for the possible support of mission causes that could compete with the SBC Cooperative Program," he told the *Baptist and Reflector* Jan. 14.

He noted the relationship between WMU and the home and foreign mission boards "has been mutually exclusive but based upon a mutual commitment to a singular cause

throughout all of our histories together."

Blanchard said he has always been supportive of WMU in churches where he has served. In fact, he said, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering has doubled at his church over the last five years.

The son of foreign missionaries, Blanchard said, "My desire is to promote missions and to continue in the bilateral agreement that the Foreign Mission Board has always had with Woman's Missionary Union in which we promote only one convention-sanctioned enterprise." □

many people across the country, no persons or no organization is more important to the offering than Woman's Missionary Union.

"We thank the Lord for what you do," he said.

Lewis announced that the Annie Armstrong offering for 1992 was \$37,545,461, a 5.7 percent increase over the previous year.

He also thanked WMU for their role in missions education. "You are telling our story. You are telling it thoroughly. You are telling it well," he said.

Lewis only briefly commented on the action taken by the WMU Executive Board.

He read to the group a statement he had given to Baptist Press. He noted he and several members of the HMB staff present for the meeting already had had a private briefing with Carolyn Miller, national WMU president, and Dellana O'Brien, national WMU executive director.

In return, several WMU leaders expressed appreciation to Lewis for his openness and fairness. They thanked him for sharing the statement person-

ally with them and for bringing a report that answered their concerns.

Lewis gave board members answers to concerns and questions about adequate annuity and health insurance for home missionaries and opportunities for women in home missions.

Due to budget constraints, the HMB had voted to defund a position jointly shared by the HMB and WMU. He told the board the HMB's administrative committee has decided to reconsider the action and will recommend to the full board in March to restore the position. □

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Nona Kay Bickerstaff is minister of missions at Wilshire Church, Dallas, Texas. She is a former home and foreign missionary.



Sheila West is a businesswoman from Michigan and author of *BEYOND CHAOS: Stress Relief for the Working Woman*.

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7:00 General session
9:00 Small group discussion

Saturday morning and afternoon

9:00 Conference choice I
10:15 Conference choice II
11:30 Conference choice III *
12:45 Conference choice IV *
2:00 General session

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Women's Summit Information

Meeting registration: \$15 per person (non-refundable). Registration fee includes fees, notebook, and conference material.

Other conference leaders include: Camille Simmons, Letha Crouch, musicians; Paula Smith, Uruguay, Carolyn McClendon, Louisiana, Vivian Hite, Missouri, and Linda Johnson, Florida, missionaries.

Rooms are available at Stouffer Hotel: \$110 per night plus 12.25 % tax (1-4 to a room). State sales tax 8.25% is exempt if a tax exempt form is submitted. Hotel reservation deadline is Feb. 19. Forms are available from state WMU office: P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024 or call (615) 371-2038.

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■ the work

■ **Frank and Dean Green**, Camp Carson, will be in Valdivia, Chile, Jan. 24-Feb. 2 working at RA and GA camps.

■ Fourteen people from First Church, Nashville, will work on a construction project in Concepcion, Chile, Jan. 23-Feb. 1. They are team leader Cecil Palmer, James Bryson, Raymond Conner, Thomas Ervin III, Ronald Hamlin, Philip Hemmer, Michael White, Robert Jones, Mary Alice McMains, Marvin H. McMains, Ethelene F. Palmer, R. Mark Teague, Robert M. Turner, and Emma J. Vidrine.

■ events

■ The annual **West Tennessee Baptist Pastors' and Wives' Valentine Banquet** will be Feb. 11 at Union University, Jackson, beginning at 6:45 p.m. Reservations are required by Feb. 5 for the dinner. Tickets are \$5 each and are available from area directors of missions or the office of religious affairs at Union. For more information, call John Adams at (901) 668-1818.

■ the leaders

■ Calvary Chapel Church, Ridgely, called **Roger D. Bone** as pastor.

■ **Ricky Wilburn** will begin as minister of youth and education at Hillcrest Church, Dyersburg, Jan. 24. He comes to Tennessee from Wilmington, N.C.

■ Members of First Church, Bluff City, recently welcomed

Charles Humpries as bivocational children and youth minister.

■ **Gray Church, Gray**, called **David White** as pastor. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and was formerly a hospital chaplain.

■ **Johnie Widner** is serving West Hills Church, Jonesborough, as interim pastor

■ **Bobby Sebastian** is the new pastor of Poplar Grove Church, Cookeville. He was ordained Dec. 19 at Washington Avenue Church, Cookeville.

■ **Jeff McReynolds**, a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, has assumed the duties of minister of music and education at Sunnyside Church, Kingsport. He formerly served at Bethlehem Church, Oneida.

■ **Lloyd Elder**, former president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, has been named interim pastor by Haywood Hills Church, Nashville. Elder currently teaches classes in biblical studies and preaching at Belmont University, Nashville.

■ **Larry Corder** is now serving as pastor of Saulsbury Church, Saulsbury. He was formerly pastor of Hickory Grove Church, Moscow.

■ Colonial Heights Church, Kingsport, has added **Michael and Merrie Johnson** to its staff. They will serve as team ministers of children and youth. The Johnsons come from Trinity Church, Seneca, S.C. He was minister of youth and she was minister of activities. Also, **Bob McNew**, minister of education, has been named associate pastor in adult education and administration.

■ **Woodbine Church, Nashville**, called **Ernie Jones**, formerly minister of activities at First Church, Hendersonville, as minister of youth/education. He began his new ministry Dec. 27.

■ **Steven Vaughan** is now serving as pastor of Barren Plains Church, Springfield.

■ The congregation of **Cherry Mound Church, White House**, named **John Norris** as pastor. He served the church as interim pastor for several months.

■ **James Nash** is the new music director at Rock Springs Church, Springfield. He recently retired from the Baptist Sunday School Board.

■ **Bill Wilkinson** has been called as minister of education to First Church, Lenoir City.

■ In a joint service, **Waterville Church, Cleveland**, and **Silverdale Church, Chattanooga** ordained **Mike Mallett** to the Gospel ministry Jan. 3. Mallett is the new minister of youth at Waterville Church.

■ **Essary Springs Church, Pochontas**, called **Dennis Callahan** as interim pastor.

■ **Wayne Hodge** is the new pastor of Shandy Church, Bolivar.

■ **Ed Gardner** has been called as pastor of Philadelphia Church, Waynesboro. He formerly served as pastor of Gulf Ridge Park Church, Brooksville, Fla.

■ This month, **Sam Marshall**, minister of music at Ridgedale Church, Chattanooga, will celebrate his 15th anniversary of ministry with the church. He and his wife Carolyn will be honored Jan. 31 during morning worship.

■ **David Bentley** was ordained to the Gospel ministry Dec. 13 at his home church, Pleasant Grove Church, Mountain City. He has been called as pastor of Walnut Grove Church, also in Mountain City.

■ the people

■ **Tony Kinder and Doyal McNabb** were licensed to the Gospel ministry Jan. 3 at Waterville Church, Cleveland.

■ **David Horne** was recently ordained to the deacon ministry of Sunnyside Church, Kingsport.

■ **Dalewood Church, Nashville**, ordained **Ron Nollner** as deacon Jan. 10.

■ **Scott Martindale**, a student at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, is representing Tennessee Baptist Student Union as a semester

missionary to Canada Jan. 4 - May 15. He will assist Baptist student ministries Director Randy Galloway on the campuses of the University of Toronto downtown and in Erindale. He will also direct the ministries of Humber College and Sheridan University, also in the Toronto area. Martindale is a member of Third Church, Murfreesboro. Letters may be addressed to Scott Martindale, c/o Randy Galloway, 891 Laurier Avenue, Milton, ON L9T 4H4, Canada.

Edmonds enters full time evangelism

Billy Edmonds, pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Coalfield, for the last 13 years, will leave the church March 28 to enter full time evangelism.

Edmonds has been active in Big Emory Association and is a trustee of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City. He may be called at (615) 435-6164. □



NEW ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS NAMED AT MEETING — Messengers to the Hardeman County Association annual meeting recently elected new officers. Pictured are front row from left, clerk Mary Louise Craft, associational secretary, member of Parrans Chapel Church; treasurer Wanda Young, Piney Grove Church; back row from left Director of Missions Deryl G. Watson; assistant moderator Ron Davidson, pastor of Grand Junction Church, and moderator Tim West, pastor of Hornsby Church.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Time for giving

Brent Seales, pastor
First Church, Elizabethton

Christianity, like Christmas, is giving. Jesus had much to say about money. Actually Jesus spoke more about money than about hell. Interesting? Why? Because money can keep us from God and God's best for our lives. Jesus said, "it was harder for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle."

Who are rich people today? Anyone with a house with indoor plumbing and an automobile, so says, Dr. Keith Parks, retired president of our Foreign Mission Board. How we use our money is an evidence of our being a child of God.

It takes money to do God's work. God has given his people all the money the kingdom/church needs. Why do churches often have the appearance of a second class organization, and

why do churches often fail in their mission of touching and changing lives? Because we are either disobedient in this area of giving altogether or we are occasional givers or selective givers.

The tithe is the Lord's. God has promised to meet your needs if you give. It's more blessed to give than to hoard.

As we close this church year and enter a new one, what God is looking for is the much needed gifts in the offering plate. May we model our Heavenly Father's generosity. □

Doing God's will

Mark Drake, pastor
Everett Hills Church, Maryville

A man confided to a friend, "I've been called to be a missionary." His friend asked, "Well, what are you doing for the Lord now?" The man replied, "Not much." The friend said, "Then please don't go overseas and do it." God has called us to faithfulness right where

we are. Adrian Rogers has written: "The way to find God's will for the rest of your life is to do God's will for the next 15 minutes" Certainly, we all agree that it is God's will for us to spend time in His Word every day.

There is much in store as we seek to honor the Lord and make him known throughout the new year. □

And I am one of them

P. A. Michel, pastor
Belmont Heights Church, Nashville

As we enter a new year, most of us plan to be better people. Resolutions such as pray more, systematically tithe, be more faithful in church attendance, live with less debt, be a more loving companion, make an effort to re-establish some broken relationship, and countless other decisions are framed in our minds. Though New Year's Day is just another point in time, we think of it as a day of new beginnings.

As Christians, our greatest resolve should be to demonstrate the newness we have in Christ in such a way that we give meaning to the name we bear. John A. Redhead tells the story of a friend of his who once found himself in a strange city with time on his hands between planes:

"He thought of going to a movie, but remembered an old gentleman, a friend and contemporary of his father's, lived there. His father had died some years before, and he thought it would be like a visit with his father to go out and see the old friend. So, he telephoned, told the old gentleman who he was, and asked if he might come out. He took a cab to the address and rang the doorbell. The old gentleman answered the door and swung it open. Before shaking hands or speaking any word of greeting, he stood back and looked his guest up and down. My friend said he had begun to wonder if his suit were not pressed or his hair not

combed or just what was the matter. He said he had never been subjected to such close examination. Finally, the old man shook his hand and said, "Well, I was just looking to see if there was anything of your father in you."

So the world is looking to see if there is anything of our Father in us. Others need a demonstration of the new kind of life to give meaning to the name we bear. In the third century, Cyprian, the bishop of Carthage, wrote to his friend, Donatus: "It is a bad world, Donatus, an incredibly bad world. But I have discovered in the midst of it a quiet and holy people who have learned a great secret. They have found joy which is a thousand times better than any of the pleasures of our sinful life. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They are masters of their souls. They have overcome the world. These people, Donatus, are Christians... and I am one of them." □

Oklahoma pastor's protest prompts cancellation

By Art Toolston
Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Billy Graham's daughter, Anne Graham Lotz, has been canceled from Oklahoma Baptists' annual evangelism conference after at least one pastor complained that a woman should not be in a potential preaching situation.

The cancellation reached the Jan. 13 front page of Oklahoma City's *Daily Oklahoman* in an article by religion writer Pat Gilliland and, at noon, Paul Harvey's national radio broadcast.

Wayne Keely, pastor of Faith Church in Claremore, Okla., told the newspaper in a telephone interview he had complained because Lotz was scheduled for two 45-minute messages during the Oklahoma Baptist General Convention's State Evangelism Conference Jan. 18-19 at First Southern Baptist Church in Del City.

Keely told the newspaper

Lotz's appearance opens the door to a woman preaching, which he believes is against biblical teachings.

Keely could not be reached by Baptist Press for comment.

The pastor also confirmed to the newspaper that he interrupted Jill Briscoe, a popular evangelical women's speaker, during a Baptist youth evangelism conference Dec. 30 when Briscoe asked the audience to turn in their Bibles to selected passages and began to discuss them.

"I think it would have been a sin for me not to do something," Keely was quoted as saying.

Wayne Bristow, Oklahoma Baptists' evangelism director, told the newspaper Lotz was replaced because of concerns

raised by pastors who believe the Bible teaches against a preaching role for women, but he did not specifically mention Keely.

"This conviction is so strongly held by a number of pastors," Bristow was quoted as saying, "that it began to be obvious back in early December that this was going to be disruptive."

Bristow said he talked to Lotz "and the decision was made to try to avoid there being a distraction from the real purpose of the conference."

The newspaper could not reach Lotz for comment.

Keely told the *Daily Oklahoman* he would love to hear Lotz and "didn't want her canceled. But to have her come in to preach to a bunch of conservative Baptists is ridiculous."

Keely said he doesn't oppose women on church programs as long as they stick to their personal testimonies and avoid preaching or teaching men. Keely said he bases his position on such Bible passages as I Timothy 2:11, where the apostle Paul writes: "But I

suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."

Dec. 30, during the Oklahoma Baptists' Youth Evangelism Conference's morning session, also held at the Del City church, Keely interrupted Briscoe from the audience, then led his group out. Briscoe noted she was speaking under the authority of her husband and God. She subsequently received two standing ovations, reported the *Baptist Messenger*. □

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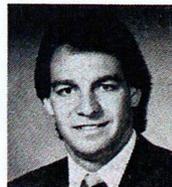
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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Praise to the Lord of life — Bible Book Series for January 24

By Bill Wolfe, pastor, First Church, Counce

In our previous lessons we dealt with praising God for His part in history and creation. How does this relate to life? We must accept God as the "Lord of Life" because He is the author of creation. Today's lesson deals with spiritual and physical life. Our praise belongs to Him because He is the Lord of Life!

The psalmist laid before us the thoughts and intents of the wicked man's heart. The Bible says "there is no fear of God before His eyes." The wicked man "flattereth himself in his own eyes," (ch. 36:2). One can easily see the connection. Pride goeth before the fall. Flattery causes a person to take their eyes off the Lord and focus everything on himself.

In verses 2-4 we see the acts of the wicked. The first has already been stated — he is blinded with self-adoration (v.

2). Since he is wrapped up in himself, he is always measuring his speech and his walk by his own standards (v. 3). We are told in Proverbs 1:7 that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." A person who despises such wisdom and instruction is a fool by God's standards. Verse 4 says that the wicked person is always coming up with some way of doing mischief. He does not hate evil. He spends time in the bed at night figuring ways to be more wicked in the morning.

The psalmist began in verse 5 to speak of the faithfulness of God. Notice these phrases which describe the faithfulness of God:

(1) "Reacheth unto the clouds," (v. 5) — His faithfulness is high enough to overcome all attitudes of human guilt.

(2) "Is like the great mount-

ains," (v. 6) — It is strong and unmoveable. It pierces the clouds where no human has ever trod.

(3) "How excellent is thy loving-kindness," (v. 7) — God's loving-kindness is seen in the person of His Son who spreads His wings of grace over a perishing world.

(4) "Abundantly satisfied," (v. 8) — The Hebrew word is "watered." There is an abundant supply of God's grace.

(5) "The fountain of life," (v. 9) — In Him we see truth. We pass from darkness to life when we accept His faithfulness.

After getting an understanding of God's faithfulness in verses 10-12, the psalmist prayed for a continuation of God's loving-kindness.

Psalm 100 is a psalm or hymn of thanksgiving and praise. The key words in this

psalm are action words. They demand that we do something.

Make a joyful noise. Let the noise be words of praise to the Lord. All of God's creatures should be ones given to praise.

Serve the Lord with gladness. Be people with hearts and the attitudes of servant.

Basic Passage: Psalm 36; 100; 127

Know who the Lord is. It is a personal acknowledgement of who God is. When we know the person of God we understand that we are His sheep.

Enter His gates. Do it with a spirit of thanksgiving; Let your praises be ones of "thanks."

Why do we do these things? Because the Lord is good. He is worthy!

Psalm 127 is a wisdom poem. It is divided into two sayings or

proverbs (vv. 1-2; 3-5).

There is a great gap between human effort and achievement and God's purposes. Verses 1-2 teach the lesson of divine sovereignty over human efforts by giving a warning against self-sufficiency. Except the Lord build the house and keep the city, it is all in vain. It is always the sovereignty of God that prevails. All efforts without God are vain.

He concludes the psalm by speaking about the value of a family. Children are a gift from God. One cannot raise a family without God's help. Children of one's youth can be very helpful to parents in their old age.

In your own life, how do you give praise to God? Is your walk with the Lord one of praise and thanksgiving? Remember, He is the Lord of Life! □

□ Learning God's wisdom — Convention Uniform Series for January 24

By Terry Bradshaw, pastor, Zion Hill Church, Sevierville

Corinth was a city with a reputation, an ancient melting pot of human flesh. Economically, it had both extremes, rich and poor. It was a trade center which contributed to its wealth and poverty. Modern thinkers would have considered Corinth as the land of opportunity.

It was filled with philosophical pagans and religious want-to-be's. Self appointed preachers and teachers proclaiming false doctrine were on every street corner. Human intellect was at odds with Godly wisdom. It was no wonder the early Corinthian church had difficulties.

Corinth, a church divided
The church at Corinth had been blessed by God. But in the midst of such blessings, factions developed. People were taking sides and the ministry of the church was being hindered. Paul wasted no time getting to

the heart of the matter. He opened with a salutation directly responding to the problems facing the church.

Verse 1 says, "Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God." Why did Paul begin with such a straightforward approach? In answering that question, one must read both letters to the church. Some had questioned Paul's authority, so he set the record straight. He wanted the church to understand he had not chosen this course for his life. God, through Jesus, "called" him to be an "apostle." He merely accepted the invitation to do God's work. Simply, he reiterated his apostolic authority.

Second, he was re-establishing himself in the mind of those who had been influenced by his detractors. The goal was to get

the people to listen and act upon his words. He felt it necessary to remind them he would be speaking God's Word concerning the problems that had divided the church.

Corinth, a church deceived
Two basic issues divided this early church — loyalty to human leaders and a misunderstanding concerning Godly wisdom. Paul, in verse 10, made an appeal to the people of the church to examine their loyalties. He had been informed by the "house of Chloe" (v. 11) that division had taken the place of unity, and it revolved around former spiritual leaders. He included himself in this list. He made it clear in verses 12-17 that he nor his fellow preachers deserved the pedestal on which some had placed them.

He asks in verse 13, "Is Christ divided? Was Paul cruci-

fied for you? Or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?" He encouraged them to focus on reality. It wasn't human personality they were to submit to, but rather Godly ownership.

He then set out on a long discourse concerning man's wisdom as opposed to God's wisdom. Why? In one sense it was in response to the problem just stated. The church at Corinth was primarily made up of Gentiles who could easily be swayed by the preaching of false teachers. Some, no doubt, crept in to lead the charge concerning divided loyalties. Enticing words of human wisdom can often set the mind of man on fire, but not the heart. Paul understood this, but he was afraid the Christians at Corinth had been deceived. He informed them the preaching of the cross was to some foolishness (v. 18).

To some it just was not logical according to human wisdom for God to use the abased and foolish things of this world to get His glorious Gospel out. Paul informed them the foolishness

Basic Passage I Corinthians 1:1 — 2:13

of God far surpasses the wisdom of the wisest man (v. 19). In driving this point home, he encouraged them to look at the church and see for themselves who makes up most of the body (v. 26). Paul did not discredit those that were intellectual, as long as their intellect was under the control of God.

In closing, Paul encouraged this church to face and overcome the issues dividing them. He realized this could only be achieved if God's wisdom and power reigned. □

□ Living in a corrupt world — Life and Work Series for January 24

By Toby Everett, pastor, Walker Memorial Church, Franklin

She was heavily made up and I almost didn't recognize the young lady who had sat in my office just a few weeks before. We had spent some time talking about how a Christian can live in the world and not be part of the world. She looked at me and said she was not willing to give up worldly living. She wanted to enjoy life and have a good time. The last time I saw this young lady she was on drugs and promiscuous — a very precious life ruined by choosing to be part of the world.

Television and movies picture an "acceptable" life. Yet statistics, newspapers, and news programs show that our world has become more lax in a true value system. How do we cope? What do we need to be

aware of if we are going to remain here and live in this society in which we are a part?

Constant attraction to visible appeal (ch. 13:12)

"The grass is always greener on the other side." Too often the green grass that appears so visibly attractive is only artificial turf. We are discovering that artificial turf has many hidden, harmful effects. There are burns that occur when you slide on it and the unyielding nature that causes injury to knees, ankles, and hip joints.

Lot found that the lush green valley held more than just opportunity for bettering his family situation. Living in a corrupt world dictates we be aware that the beautiful world may carry concealed hazards.

Commitment to moral instruction (ch. 18:17-20)

God felt strong about Abraham and his commitment to "command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice."

If generations to come are to have the ability to live in a corrupt world, parental guidance and education are vital. I cringe when I talk with the parent who says, "I'm going to let my child make their own choice about a value system."

We had better know what values are learned. We must live before our child and friends in such a way that "righteousness" is the adopted principle of conduct.

Compelled attitude to prayerful intervention (ch. 19:29)

Abraham expressed in verse 23 what most of us have felt somewhere along the way. Why must the innocent suffer for the wicked. I have seen that children suffer undue pain because parents end a marriage in divorce, or stay in an abusive,

Basic Passage: Genesis 13; 18-19

adulterous situation, thus confusing the child. I've noted parents who groan over rebellious children and ask the same question. Here we see that God is compassionate. Though the focal text does not cover it, God was willing to relent this judg-

ment for only ten righteous people, (see v. 32). We need to be zealously praying that God will not allow innocent to suffer, and we also need to involve ourselves in action with the prayers to warn of His intentions.

Contrasted association of mercy/judgment (ch. 19:29)

Though Lot may not have deserved God's mercy, God remembered Abraham and spared Lot. The apostle Peter penned God's heart when he wrote "The Lord... is not willing that any perish, but that all come to repentance."

We must "live in the world but not of the world." Finally, "Be not deceived. Bad company corrupts good intentions." □

Japan Baptist Union 'repents' of actions

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Japan Baptist Union has adopted a statement of repentance of its cooperation with the Japanese government's World War II activities, "especially the colonial oppressions and the invasions carried out by the government."

"With deep pain, we repent and confess our sins to God and we ask all people who were victimized by our faults to forgive our sins," said the union's "manifesto of repentance." It was received by the Baptist World Alliance in December.

The union, one of four Japanese Baptist bodies in the BWA, encompasses 57 churches with more than 4800 members.

"It is with great joy that we received your manifesto of repentance," wrote Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary, to Shigeru Iwamura, president of the union, and Ryujiro Nakamura, general secretary.

Lotz said his letter of response, on behalf of Baptists worldwide, was "a sign of our prayers and thanksgiving for you and this very serious manifesto of repentance." □

Tinsley accepts post in Minnesota-Wisconsin

Baptist Press

ROCHESTER, Minn. — A Texas Baptist association's director of missions, William C. Tinsley, has been elected as the new executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention.

Tinsley, director of missions for Denton Association since 1986, will succeed Otha Winningham, who will retire April 1 after nearly 18 years with the Minnesota-Wisconsin convention, which now encompasses some 13,850 members in 132 churches and chapels.

Tinsley has been pastor of several churches in Texas and was on the staff of the Baptist General Convention of Texas as a field consultant and associate coordinator in church extension.

He and his wife have three children. □

Teas tapped to edit Brotherhood magazine

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission named Charlotte Teas, 48, editor of *Lad* magazine, effective Jan. 4.

She replaces Tim Seanor, who was promoted to national Royal Ambassador director in October.

A native of Alabama, Teas recently was minister of children, singles, and outreach at West End Church, Petersburg, Va.

Teas holds degrees from Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Her experience in Royal Ambassadors includes organizing and developing an RA program in Anniston, Ala., which served 60 boys.

Lad magazine is published for RAs in grades one through three. □

White named managing editor of trade books

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Frank Wm. White, design editor of *Facts and Trends* and a writer for Baptist Press, has been named managing editor of trade books in the Baptist Sunday School Board's trade publishing division, effective Jan. 15.

In his new role White will oversee production processes for trade books published by Broadman Press.

White was news editor of *The Leaf Chronicle* in Clarksville before joining the board's communications staff in 1984. □

Texas school receives \$2 million from estate

Baptist Press

ABILENE, Texas — Hardin-Simmons University has received a \$2 million donation, HSU President Lanny Hall announced Jan. 10.

The gift is from the estate of Robert and Elizabeth Bline of Clovis, N.M. The donation is undesignated. Trustees will determine its use. □

BookLink ministry adds three collection points

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — The National Fellowship of Baptist Educators' BookLink ministry, which provides Christian reference and study books for Southern Baptist missionaries and national pastors, has added three more volunteers to its list of shipping directors.

The new volunteers are C. E. Holladay, Clinton, Miss.; John Dent, Walhalla, S.C.; and Olin Williams, Eubanks, Ky.

Additional volunteers are needed to help with collection

and shipment of materials, said B. Hal Buchanan of Tupelo, Miss., who serves as executive director.

The organization receives requests almost daily from missionaries overseas. The greatest needs are for reference books and study Bibles, Buchanan said.

Since its inception four years ago, BookLink has shipped more than 64,525 books, tapes, tracts, and other items to five states and 52 countries. Persons interested in BookLink may call 1 (800) 645-4391. □

Baptist worker escapes harm when gun misfires

Baptist Press

MANDERA, Kenya — Loyd Banes, an International Services Corps volunteer with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, escaped harm Jan. 4 when an automatic rifle misfired.

A man, who escaped after the incident, pulled the rifle from a burlap bag as Banes drove by and attempted to fire. Banes and his wife, Doris, are on a six-month assignment working at a 50,000-population refugee camp outside of Mander, Kenya, just across the border from Somalia.

The Baneses, who escaped injury in an earlier incident, declined to leave the city after the attack.

The couple is a member of First Church, Woodstock, Ga. □

Union University offers graduate level studies

Union University

JACKSON — Union University will offer three courses this spring toward the master of divinity degree.

The courses, offered through the seminary studies program, begins Feb. 15. It is a joint effort between Union and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Courses offered are "Survey of Christian Ethics," taught by David Lockard; "Introduction to Old Testament, Part II," taught by Kelvin Moore; and "Supervised Ministry Experience," taught by Gary Coltharp.

For more information or an application for admission, write or call John Adams, Union University, Jackson, 38305, (901) 668-1818 or Larry McSwain, Southern Baptist



ROY MILLER, center, of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Sunday School Department, presents an award to Tommy Stevens, right, pastor of Meadow View Church, Lawrenceburg, and David Englet, left, Sunday School director. Meadow View is participating in the Impact Tennessee Church Program, a new customized growth spiral approach for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Churches can earn up to three awards before applying for an Eagle Award from the Baptist Sunday School Board. The church was the first in the state to earn the 1/4 Increment Award. Meadow View increased its Sunday School enrollment by 45 percent over an eight-month period.

Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky., 40280, 1 (800) 626-5525. □

Blount tapped as president of Missouri university

Baptist Press

BOLIVAR, Mo. — Roy Blount, who has finished eight years as Missouri secretary of state, has assumed the presidency of Missouri Baptists' largest college, Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar.

Blount, a 1970 graduate of SBU, began full-time duties at the college Jan. 12, the day after leaving his office in state government. The Baptist layman was an unsuccessful candidate for governor in last August's Republican primary.

Blount, a SBU trustee since 1985, was unanimously elected as SBU's 23rd president in a called meeting of the trustees Dec. 30. He was given a three-year contract.

SBU, with 2000 students on its Bolivar campus, has weathered difficult times in recent years. Last August, trustees voted 31-1 to dismiss chancellor James L. Sells, alleging he had made "a deliberate attempt . . . to interfere" with the selection of a new university president.

Blount also is a current trustee of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City. □

Tarheel volunteers aid hurricane victims

Baptist Press

MIAMI — Despite the lure of two bowl games featuring North Carolina teams, 550 Tarheels spent the week after

Christmas rebuilding homes and churches in south Dade County, Fla.

The mobilization of North Carolina volunteers was the largest organized effort to help the devastated victims of Hurricane Andrew since Southern Baptists initially responded to the disaster last August.

While many victims have rebuilt their homes, tens of thousands still live among the rubble and ruin.

The North Carolina volunteers worked in cooperation with the predominantly black Second Baptist Church in Richmond Heights, a National Baptist church; the Florida Baptist Convention; and nearly 100 volunteers from Florida and other states.

The volunteers worked on 100 different projects, including ten Southern Baptist churches and 64 homes targeted for help by Florida Baptists. The homes were chosen for assistance because the owners were either uninsured or under-insured. □

Southwestern given endowment grants

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Three grants totaling \$93,500 have been awarded to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary by Lilly Endowment, Inc., the Indianapolis-based charitable foundation.

The grants are designed to meet the need for special theological education for the seminary board of trustees and faculty, as well as for improving communication between board members, faculty, and administration, said Scotty Gray, executive vice president at Southwestern. □