

■ **this  
week's  
news**

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

## Crowd of 1200 hears motivating messages

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
editor

Although the threat of freezing rain caused some apprehension, it didn't seem to affect attendance for the State Evangelism Conference in Nashville Jan. 18-19.

The two-day affair was one of the better attended of the last few years. An estimated 1200 filled the Belmont Heights Church sanctuary for most of the five sessions.

Addressing the theme of "Equipping Believers, Share the Gospel," a bevy of evangelistic speakers underscored the need for stronger emphasis on evangelism through churches and individual ministries.

John Sullivan, executive director, Florida Baptist Convention, was theme interpreter with four messages.

Other speakers included Lonnie Robinson Jr., Brownsville, a layman who gave a testimony on Tuesday evening; Morris Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president, Nashville; Henry Linginfelner, evangelist from Alcoa; Leonard Markham, TBC president, Hendersonville; Perry Michel, pastor, Belmont Heights Church;

James Porch, TBC Executive Board executive director;

William Shaw, pastor, White Rock Church, Philadelphia, Pa.; Jay Strack, Dallas evangelist; and Keith Walker, Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

State evangelism director Jerry King said participation was high, and he was pleased particularly with the Tuesday night attendance. Next year's meeting is scheduled for the new facility of Two Rivers Church, Nashville, and King already has plans to push attendance.

Prior to the conference, state evangelists met, also at Belmont Heights. In area church services Jan. 17, evangelists preached. There were 36 professions of faith, eight additions, and 276 other decisions.

William Shaw preached three sermons based on the parable of the prodigal son.

He said only to focus on the prodigal aspect of the son is too narrow. "Jesus paints a picture of troubled family relationships," he said.

Shaw looked at the "body language" of the father. He did not argue with the son who was about to leave. He compared the father's action with God. "All too often God does not argue with us over our choices. He wills us to make the right choices, but he does



ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE were, from left, James Pulliam, interim minister of music, First Church, Bolivar; Mike Adams, pastor, Jasper, Ala., formerly of First Church, Union City; Jerry Winfield, pastor, First Church, Bolivar; and Mrs. Pulliam.

not force us," Shaw said.

Shaw pointed out the father's reaction when the prodigal son came home. He embraced his son and showed his affection for the one who "messed up" in grand fashion, he said.

Similarly, God loves us "in a way that staggers the imagination," he said.

In a second message about the younger son, Shaw said he took the father's goods and distanced himself from the giver. In doing so, he accepted the gifts but denied the father's

authority.

In the far country, the son found he could not replenish his father's care. But when he went home and repented, realizing his mistake, he was gladly accepted. This is how God receives the repentant sinner, Shaw said.

Speaking of the elder son, Shaw said his actions represented the "most difficult problem of kingdom enterprises," rejection based on religious zeal or doctrine.

—See Crowd, page 2

## Graham prays for country's new leaders at inauguration

By Tom Strobe  
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — William Jefferson Clinton, taking office as the 42nd president of the United States and the third Southern Baptist to govern from the White House, pronounced the beginning of a "new season of American renewal" which would require sacrifice from the country's citizens.

The "urgent question of our time is whether we can make change our friend and not our enemy," Clinton said in his Jan. 20 inaugural speech.

While the new president called for Americans to embrace change, Southern Baptist evangelist Billy Graham requested in an inaugural prayer a change of heart produced by God.

Americans "cannot say that

we are a righteous people, for we are not," Graham said in his invocation at the ceremony.

"We have sinned against you. We have sown to the wind and are now reaping a whirl-

wind of crime, drug abuse, racism, immorality, and social — See Graham, page 2

## Tennessee/Chile partnership celebrates anniversary

For Baptist and Reflector

The Tennessee/Chile Partnership is doing well after its first year, according to Jarvis Hearn, director of the TBC Partnership Missions Department.

After one year and one month, 242 volunteers have traveled to Chile to work in various aspects of the partnership, ranging from evangelism to construction.

To contrast, 270 volunteers went to the Philippines, Tennessee's foreign mission partner prior to Chile, during the entire three-year partnership, Hearn said.

"The partnership has been very successful. Those who have gone see the need and are willing to go again. This is the heartbeat of missions," he observed.

During the first year, which began last January, volunteers encountered 750 first-time

professions of faith and about 800 other decisions for Christ, Hearn said.

Volunteer work also is essential in determining how one feels about missions, Hearn said. He cited a study which found that 29 percent of the foreign missionaries on the field today had some kind of volunteer experience, either at the home or foreign missions level. "That speaks highly for volunteer missions," Hearn said.

Hearn said the current partnership is healthy considering the number of requests from Chile and the number of people who want to go. An immediate, urgent need is for volunteers to participate in a large evangelism crusade, May 22 - June 1, in Santiago, he said.

Additional stories and photos on the Chile partnership, along with a list of volunteer opportunities, can be found on page 7. □

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# Crowd of 1200 hears motivating messages

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Morris Chapman spoke of the great need for spiritual awakening in the nation. "We as a nation have not experienced spiritual awakening in our lifetime," he said. "We need to be on our knees and faces praying down revival."

John Sullivan told the audience, "You'd better learn to dig wells in the valley of despair. You'd better learn to grow where you're planted. God may leave you there the rest of your life."

One of the greatest problems for pastors, he said, is, "God's men do not take enough time to develop the inward dimension of their lives, their relationship with the Holy Father." He added that Baptists "don't praise God enough."

Henry Linginfelter's message was centered on John 19. He reminded the listeners, "Jesus did not say, 'I am finished.' He said it is finished. Just as an artist who has completed the picture, it is finished. His suffering was finished. That which he had come to do had been done. He purchased our salvation."

James Porch said that God will interrupt a person with a surprise offer at a chosen moment, to join him. These

moments, he said, become holy places. He said the experience of Moses at the burning bush was a precedent, others would follow.

Porch cited the tragedy that sometimes people miss the holy place, the holy time. Though a crowd gathered at Christ's crucifixion, many missed the holy place. He warned that Christians must be alert to the holy places in their lives. He said that some in that Calvary crowd were like some Southern Baptists of today, just standing by, or too busy, or hurling abuse. Some were confused. In our lives, he said, people must get close to the cross of Christ, a very holy place. "As Tennessee Baptists," he said, "it's time for us to attack the existing confusion."

Perry Michel talked about building on strong foundations. "Have we got enough perseverance and spirituality to build our lives on the solid Foundation?", he asked. "We are going to build a church, and the gates of hell will attack. Those gates will not be able to withstand the onslaughts of the church." He added, "Christ is building kingdom in your life and mine, fighting the devil in the world, purging evil, replacing it with the presence of God."

In one of his messages,

Shaw reminded his listeners, "Sin has a way of blinding our judgment so that we can't see or think. But it is always important for us to know that there is never a famine where the Father is. The youngest son, often called the prodigal, learned that the good of God cannot be sustained when it is separated from God."

Pastors face the daunting task of motivating people to live as they should, said Jay Strack. Even the top leader in the United States struggles with that, he added. He said some pastors suffer from looking at the agenda of others. "If you and your wife are not soul-winning and visiting, your people won't do it either," he warned.

He also warned against political entanglements, saying that the (yet to be named) president of the Foreign Mission Board should be seen as one who loves souls, not whether he's on one side or the other. Instead of praying for God to change situations, he said, Christians in the United States should become more like the Christians in Eastern Europe who prayed for their countries rather than leaving them, he concluded.

**Additional quotes from State Evangelism Conference speakers:**

The worst thing to happen to man is to be dead and not know it. — Shaw

What God has in mind for us is always more than we have. We short-change ourselves when we do other than Christ's will. — Shaw

To be saved is to be born into a family. We need family to give shape and form to our lives. — Shaw

There is good news and bad news about the devil. The good news is that he can't destroy you without God's permission. The bad news is that God has given him that permission. — Sullivan

If I have something to give the Lord, I'm going to send it on ahead. — Sullivan

If you aren't careful, you will become a lot like that company you keep. — Sullivan

The most staggering thought of my life is that Jesus Christ has come to live in me. — Sullivan

We can't let what happened to us two churches back affect the way we love our people now. — Strack

— Connie Davis and Lonnie Wilkey contributed to this story. □

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## CP budget takes from Executive Committee, gives to CLC

By Mark Wingfield  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Members of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee will be asked to sacrifice some of their own budget to strengthen the SBC Christian Life Commission.

The Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee decided Jan. 21 to recommend protecting the CLC from an otherwise across-the-board budget reduction in fiscal year 1993-94. Funds to sustain the CLC at its current budget level will come by a two percent reduction from the SBC operating budget allocation supervised by the Executive Committee.

The subcommittee met in Nashville Jan. 20-21 to prepare its recommendation on allocation of the 1993-94 Cooperative Program funds. That recommendation must be approved by the full Executive Committee before being presented at the SBC annual meeting in Houston in June.

Subcommittee members wrestled for the second year with how to divide a budget pie for the coming year smaller than the one for the current year. By mandate of SBC policy, the budget total for 1993-94 cannot exceed total receipts for

fiscal year 1990-91.

CP gifts that year were \$138.23 million, an amount 1.40 percent below the current year's budget. That means next year's budget must be 1.40 percent less or \$1.97 million than this year's.

How to make that reduction was the primary point of discussion, although members also used the occasion to question SBC executives about their attempts to save money and about the amount of money they are receiving from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of Southern Baptist "moderates," displeased with the Executive Committee and other SBC "conservative" leaders.

Last year SBC agencies reported receiving \$3.12 million from the CBF. Last year the Fellowship's contributions favored the Foreign Mission Board strongly and discounted the CLC, SBC operating budget, six seminaries, and the Home Mission Board.

The attempt to shore up the CLC is driven in part by concern that the CLC has been targeted by "moderates" for exclusion. It is further driven by the belief of some committee members that the CLC is perhaps the third most important SBC entity, behind the

mission boards. The CLC's strong stand against abortion and homosexual rights will become even more essential now that Bill Clinton is president, committee members said in debate.

## Graham prays for country's ...

— Continued from page 1  
injustice. We need to repent of our sins and turn by faith to you."

In his invocation Graham also thanked God "for the moral and spiritual foundation" of the country and prayed for Clinton and Vice President Al Gore "whom you have permitted to take leadership at this critical time in our nation's history."

"Help them always to see the office to which they have been elected as a sacred trust from you," Graham prayed. May the new president "know that he is never really alone, but that the eternal God can be his refuge, and he can turn to you in every circumstance. Give him the wisdom you have promised to those who ask and the strength you alone can give."

He also asked "that the memory of this event always

remind us to pray for our leaders."

Graham, who was participating in inauguration activities for the sixth time, had been asked by some pro-life activists not to pray at the ceremony because of Clinton's positions on abortion and homosexual rights.

Clinton, who first joined a Southern Baptist church as a child in Hot Springs, Ark., became the first Democrat since Jimmy Carter, also a Southern Baptist, to serve as president. Harry Truman also was a Southern Baptist.

Vice President Gore also is a Southern Baptist. He is a member of Mount Vernon Church, Arlington, Va.

While largely avoiding discussion of precise policies, Clinton's 14-minute address called on Americans to change the country and to serve others. "On a winter day," he said, they can "force the spring." □

# SSB president urges prayer for Clinton, Gore

By Linda Lawson  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptists who voted for Bill Clinton and those who opposed him now have a shared biblical obligation to pray for the nation's 42nd president, James T. Draper Jr. said.

Draper, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, writing in his monthly column in the February issue of *Facts and Trends*, noted President Bill Clinton and Vice President Albert Gore Jr. are both members of Southern Baptist churches, a first.

"Doubtless, Southern Baptists split in their vote for the presidency just as the nation as a whole did. There have

been and continue to be many areas of concern each of us has about the future of our country and the approach that is taken to leadership and governing.

That is nothing new. Politics has always been a diverse matter and has resulted in many different opinions," Draper said.

"However, there is one truth that transcends all of the differences of this election: God is still God and he still governs the affairs of men," he added.

"So what should be our response to this election of two fellow Southern Baptists to the highest elected positions in this land?" Draper asked. "There are some who strongly support President Clinton and Vice President Gore. Others

are strongly critical and hostile. So, what shall we do? Shall we complain and condemn if we disagree with them? Shall we praise and support if we agree?"

Citing Scripture verses I Timothy 2:1-4, Draper said the Bible "instructs us to pray for those in positions of leadership and authority."

Also, he said Christians are to include the personal needs of leaders in their prayers and to pray from a sense of reverence and worship for God. "As we pray for our president and vice president,

we are actually reverencing and worshipping our Heavenly Father."

From the verses, Draper said it is clear Christians can approach God confidently when they are praying for leaders and including gratitude to God for their leadership.

"Those in authority are God's instruments for order and blessing for a society. We are to pray with grateful hearts," he said.

"We are admonished in these verses to pray for all in authority," Draper continued. "The reason is not just for their benefit, but that we may have lives that are free from outward disturbances, political agitation, and persecution."

The result of prayer by Christians for their leaders is a "peaceable life," a society of "godliness and honesty. These words speak of the fulfilling of our duty toward God and our respect for our fellow citizens. As we do this, we will have an atmosphere in which God's desire for all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge

of the truth can be best fulfilled," he said.

Draper called on the 2050 Southern Baptist churches participating in the Watchmen National Prayer Alert to make Clinton and Gore objects of prayer. These churches have committed to pray one hour per week at designated times and then to communicate with the church that begins praying as they conclude.

"As these churches pray, our president and vice president will become the objects of prayer seven days a week, 24 hours a day," Draper said.

In addition to publishing the editorial which will reach about 60,000 SBC, state, associational and church leaders, copies were delivered to Clinton and Gore.

"No politician or political party will be the solution to the problems that face this nation," Draper said. "Only the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ reigning in the hearts of our citizens will effectively meet the complex problems and matters that are confronting us today." □



DRAPER

## Baptists watch Clinton's welfare plans

By Louis Moore  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — As President Bill Clinton seeks to shift America's primary attention from its global role to itself, a cornerstone in his plan calls for radical changes in the way the nation addresses the needs of the poor, including the homeless, the fatherless, and those in the inner cities.

Such sweeping changes, if implemented, could revolutionize the \$150 billion Washington spends each year on welfare programs and also dramatically impact the economy and social structure of the nation, Clinton's friends and foes agree.

The proposed changes are so dramatic and far-reaching, Southern Baptist leaders who specialize in government affairs are watching closely with a mixture of optimism and concern.

In Mandate for Change, a think-tank project considered a good blueprint for the early Clinton years, authors Will Marshall and Elaine Ciu outline a possible Clinton scenario "for replacing welfare with a work-based social policy that reinforces mainstream values, rewards individual initiative, and demands responsible behavior from recipients of public assistance, even as it expands opportunities to achieve self-sufficiency."

The plan calls for replacing permanent welfare with a two-year transitional program that puts welfare recipients to work, assures all Americans access to health care, and creates social insurance for all children through guaranteed child support.

The plan calls for major changes in child-support en-

forcement and ways for helping the homeless find housing.

If implemented, such sweeping changes could win the support of many Southern Baptists, denominational leaders say.

"There are a lot of laudable goals in Mandate for Change," said Richard Land, executive director for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "I am personally very encouraged by some of the policy proposals put forward by President Clinton..."

Land said he especially likes the outline of the Clinton-Gore plan which calls for making welfare temporary, subsidizing work, not penalizing people for working, and stressing job placement and training among the poor.

He said he is concerned, however, whether such a plan will ever see the light of day in Congress or be implemented by the government. Land said he sees tension between the "old guard" Democrats who don't want to see welfare overhauled and "new guard" Clinton Democrats who support the president's proposals.

James A. Smith of the CLC's Washington office, said the agency will listen to what Southern Baptists want to see done about welfare reforms.

Glen Stassen, professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., said the Clinton-Gore plan for the poor is "a shift from a philosophy that was neutral on values to one that encourages people to take responsibility where they can. This is not a values-neutral administration. It is trying to encourage people to work."

C. Ben Mitchell, director of biomedical ethics and life issues for the CLC, said he

applauds the Clinton-Gore plan to provide housing and care for the homeless. "I'm anxious to see how those plans will be fleshed out." □

## Unofficial reports say Elliff to lead FMB

BRENTWOOD — Two sources Monday (Jan. 25) reported that Tom Elliff of Oklahoma is the choice to become president of the Foreign Mission Board.

Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, since 1985, has been chosen by the FMB search committee according to reports by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Richmond, Va.; and *Associated Baptist Press*.

Baptist Press, reporting arm of the SBC executive committee, released a story Monday quoting Ed Briggs, religion editor of the *Richmond* paper.

Joel Gregory, search committee chairman, told Baptist Press, "The search committee has voted that there will be no comment until it is time for comment to be made. We've done that heartily and unanimously. When it's time to make a comment, I will make a comment. We feel very strongly about this."

The reports from ABP and Briggs say Elliff could not be reached for comment.

However, Elliff recently underwent a complete physical evaluation in Dallas, one of the steps the committee said would be necessary before a recommendation could be made to the full board.

Last October committee members were quoted as saying they had narrowed their search to two men, both with

missionary experience — FMB interim president Don Kammerdiener and Sunday School Board administrator Avery Willis. Reports said there were complaints that the two had been involved in the "conservative" movement to gain control of SBC agencies.

Apparently the committee renewed its search and Elliff is the only one of seven finalists for the post who has been active in the movement and with missionary experience.

Elliff and his wife served for two years in the mid-1980s in Zimbabwe.

He is the brother-in-law of former SBC president and former Del City Church pastor Bailey Smith. In 1990 he served as president of the SBC Pastors' Conference.

The *Richmond* newspaper's story named "board sources" as identifying Elliff as the nominee. If elected by FMB trustees during their Feb. 8-10 meeting in Richmond, Elliff would succeed R. Keith Parks, who retired last October after heading the board since 1980.

Although no public statement has been made of Elliff's selection, FMB trustees chairman John Jackson said Jan. 11 that the search committee had made its choice. According to sources close to the process, said ABP, the committee will mail trustees packets of information about the nominee this week.

Elliff and his wife Jeannie and their four children returned to the United States from Zimbabwe so the oldest child could receive treatment for injuries received in an automobile accident.

A native of Paris, Texas, Elliff has an undergraduate degree from Ouachita Baptist University and a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary. He was pastor of Applewood Church, Denver, and Eastwood Church, Tulsa.

Both immediate past FMB presidents, Baker James Caughen and Parks, were longtime missionaries. — Wm. Fletcher Allen □

## Retired pastor M. W. Little dies

Retired pastor M. W. Little of Athens died Dec. 20 at his home.

The Jefferson City native was pastor of several churches in East Tennessee, including First Church, Decatur, for 27 years, and West Cleveland Church, Cleveland, for 13 years.

Little was a member of the National Football Foundation through the East Tennessee chapter for his work with youth in athletics while he was pastor in Decatur.

Little is survived by his wife, Marie, and two daughters and five grandsons. □

■ about letters to the editor

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Moving on?

I agree with Mr. W. T. Barner that after 13 years of conflict, it is time for us moderates/liberals to leave the SBC and to form our own denomination. Let's get on with it!

While it is important to be moral and to have the right beliefs, views, doctrines, and interpretations, these are not an end in themselves. These are not the goals of Christianity! While being religiously correct is important, at the foot of the cross everyone is equal.

No one has an advantage or inside track with God. It is time for the conservatives to have their great revival. But they alone cannot reach the

lost world for Christ.

While Baptists might strive for doctrinal uniformity and moral conformity, no one has "all" the right beliefs, views, doctrines or interpretations. Each of us has some error somewhere!

*Jim Pennington*  
Johnson City 37603

Future generations

How will abortion effect future generations? Some of the babies killed by abortion would have turned out to be tomorrow's leaders and scientists that God offered the world to improve life's quality. They come from all walks of life, races, and nationalities.

This nullifies the pro-abortion statement that pro-choicers are looking for a better quality of life.

But as parts of one body under Jesus, we are all needed and those that seem to be the more feeble members of the body are the more necessary. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," like we tell aborted children (see I Corinthians 12:12-22).

That God chose certain people for certain tasks is stated throughout the Bible. Samson, David, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, and Paul were chosen by God from or before conception. Such people might not survive abortion today because of the free will God gave us and legal abortion.

When a woman kills a child by abortion, she can never have another just like it later. That child with its capabilities is lost to the world because no two people are alike. The Scriptures on the preceding paragraph are: Judges 13:5-7; Psalm 139:13-15; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:15, and Galatians 1:15.

Jesus told us that someone who will not believe the Bible will not even believe a person risen from the dead (see Luke

17:31). There are many Scriptures that can be used to condemn abortion and we must start using the Bible more against it because it is the sword of the spirit (see Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; Revelation 1:16, 19:15).

*Robert S. Dubiel*  
Martin 38237

From a friend

The New Year has rolled around and telling us of our joys, our opportunities, our successes, and our failures. This year there are many things for which we rejoice and a few for which we as a nation should be repentant in the midst of our blessings and controversies. We greet you with a prayer that the Christian world may in these find solutions to their many problems without losing sight of their great opportunity to further the cause of morality and justice around the world.

It does not fall within my category as an emeritus missionary to complain at, criticize, or chastise anyone for the impasse in which we now find ourselves in face of world problems. Many of us are fully committed to the fulfillment of this program. The nations of the

world are opening their doors to our representatives everywhere for Christian democracy and Christian hope. It looked as if the prize might be ours for the efforts, but we seem to have taken a tumble.

Maybe we lost our compass. Prosperity and success crept into the hearts of the unwary. Now it seems possible we have started on the same route of Constantinople and Rome. It breeds contention, confusion, and destruction. Our greatest fears seem justified that unless we meet boldly the challenge we will fail in the end. We are told we are living in a new age. This undoubtedly, is one of the most inclusive and far reaching of all times. It is said that the 21st century will be one of fulfillment. We also agree. Television, atomic powers, the big telescope, and computers have all given us a new approach.

We must not be deceived by that approach to think God has disappeared, or that he never existed at all. The universe is still his creation. The laws of nature are still the "the thoughts of God." Justice, morality, and compassion are still the basic foundations upon which human society must ultimately find its place.

We believe the 21st century is the time when that final discovery can be made. We must play a prominent role in that discovery and realization. Potentially we have the basics for that task. We have the organizations, we have the personnel, we have the leadership, we have the training facilities (educational institutions), we have a vibrant youth, we have the financial resources, we have the media, we have the Bible. We believe that we can and are going to fulfill that mission if we have the will and the moral stamina. Christians, let's not blow our potential to reach out to the world's needs which already are at our door.

For me personally, my health is pretty good.

This is my greeting to all my family, my church, my colleagues, and my friends. I wish for all of you joy and Christian prosperity.

*William H. Berry*  
Memphis 38119

Bill Berry is a retired missionary, emeritus. He served many years in Brazil, and at 98 still maintains the wit and wisdom that enabled him on the mission field. For those who might want to write, he lives at 6700 Neshoba, Memphis, 38119. — Editor

In Bolivia

Tennesseans aid Knoxville missionary

For Baptist and Reflector

Nine women in the Knoxville area served as mission volunteers in Bolivia in early December working with foreign missionary and Knoxville native Patricia Stooksbury.

The volunteers conducted WMU leadership training conferences at the Baptist camp at El Palmar near Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

Stooksbury works with the women of Bolivia, particularly Women's Missionary Union. In 1991, 35 women and their children attended the camp for annual WMU training. Registration for 1992 rose to approximately 260 WMU members, including women, teenagers, and children.

The 1992 WMU camp was funded, in part, by SBC WMU's Second Century Fund which provided transportation and camp fees for two women from each Baptist church in Bolivia.

The volunteers led conferences and provided crafts for the four-day camp. Language was no problem as missionary wives served as interpreters. Their chosen theme was "Vamos a transformar el mundo"

or "we are going to transform (or change) the world," said Lola Byrd, a member of Edgemoor Church in Anderson County and WMU director for Clinton Association.

Other team members and their churches were: Jeannette



JEANNETTE THOMAS, right, talks with a Bolivian woman during a conference she led for Sunbeam leaders.

Thomas and Donna Mellon, Wallace Memorial; Carol Miller, Chilhowee Hills; Bobby Turner, West Hills; Susie Waddell, Ridgeview; Carla Sampsel, Grace at Karns; Dottie Sampsel, Cumberland; and Linda Calloway, Ball Camp.

Thomas is the WMU director for the Knox County Association of Baptists; Turner is the former director and a member of the Tennessee Baptist

Executive Board.

The group visited the Demonstration Farm and Training Center at Catoca operated by foreign missionaries Terry and Kathy Waller. They also participated in a one-day prayer retreat with area missionary wives. They attended WMU meetings in two churches, one associational WMU meeting, and Sunday worship services at First Baptist of Santa Cruz.

Although Bolivia is the poorest country in South America, the volunteers say the Bolivian people they met were friendly, loving, and generous. They wanted to share what they had with team members. On their last day in the country, the national WMU president Sonia Paz, and her sister-in-law, Sonia Gianelli, hosted a luncheon for the team in their home. The Santa Cruz WMU gave them a going away party.

Stooksbury is the daughter of Ethel and Grady Stooksbury who attend Wallace Memorial Church. She requests that Tennesseans become "prayer warriors" for the Bolivian missionaries and their families, Byrd reported. □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



January -

- 27 — Pray birthday blessings for home evangelist missionary Phyllis Walker.
- 28 — Pray for evangelist Mike Dietz and his work as he celebrates his birthday today.
- 29 — Pray for the Tennessee church construction team leaving today for Temuco.
- 30 — Praise the Lord for the medical clinics project held in October. Pray for the 196 people who made decisions at this time.
- 31 — Pray for retiring missionaries Charles and Betty Alexander as they seek the Lord's direction for their lives.

# When losing direction, follow the Compass

Editors often are accused of knowing nothing, but perhaps that is because some readers think we should know everything.

Sometimes readers don't want to know what editors think; others probably don't care. However, when Baptist state papers editorially address certain events and persons, we get rapt attention.

Retired missionary Bill Berry of Memphis, whose letter appears in this week's edition, suggests that Southern Baptists may have lost their compass.

Berry reminds us that we have the personnel, leadership, training facilities, youth, financial resources, the media, and the Bible to fulfill our mission. But, he adds, we need the will and the moral stamina. We sense that he is ready to lead the way, to step out front.

We hear Berry and thousands upon thousands urging Southern Baptists to take advantage of the enormous opportunity. He is saying, let us go through those newly opened doors, teaching and evangelizing, feeding and nurturing.

Opening doors are daring us to sweep through. Windows of spiritual adventure may last only a brief, historical moment.

What will we do? Pausing to reflect on our lost innocence will not give bread for the body or food for the soul to millions of physically and spiritually starving people on this planet.

When Berry and other prophetic voices point to the opportunity and the degree of

preparedness, we also speak to the instruments of healing the world's problems. The message would say, in part, attention Home Mission Board. Be on the move, Foreign Mission Board. Heed the call to arms, Sunday School Board. Listen well, seminaries. We have found our compass.

Be quiet on inconsequential matters, Executive Committee. Stay the course, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission. Be true to the Gospel, pastors and evangelists. Reach out, laity. All of you, shake off the decade-long chains that shackle missions, evangelism, ministry.

It was mentioned here last week that it would be wise to cease squandering our time on what *could* happen, and concentrate on what God *can* do through his people. We say it again.

When this paper reported last summer on the nomination of two Southern Baptists for the two top elective offices in the nation, we were told that such reporting would be detrimental to our welfare.

We thought about that during the inauguration of President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore Jr. Many Southern Baptists are not happy with their new leaders. Some feel genuine alarm. But as present-day Southern Baptists have discovered, we can accomplish much more for

God's work by cooperating without surrender and by praying for each other.

Didn't Jesus Christ say something about how the world could recognize his disciples? Didn't he mention something about that new commandment, love?

Despite his being asked not to pray at the presidential inaugural ceremonies, fellow Southern Baptist Billy Graham obeyed that command — even in public. Praying for someone certainly indicates the presence of love. We have to believe that those involved will be pray-ers for America's national leaders. We have much to lose if they fail.

Sunday School Board President Jimmy Draper is to be commended for encouraging that kind of praying.

Reports in this issue tell of calls from the new leaders. There is no need for pouting and dreading what *could* be. We are told by Jesus the folly of worrying about tomorrow. Look and listen for the good things. Pray for the right causes. Join with the optimistic Bill Berry. God can and will do greater things than can be imagined, if we are ready to act as his people.

Southern Baptists, despite frailties, are doing some good things for the Lord all around the world. If our witness is hindered, it is more an indication of disobedience to the love command than of closed doors.

Though Baptists may not have lost our Compass, it might have been misplaced. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

## Words, words

A character in Shakespeare's *Othello* says, "But words are words; I never yet did hear that the bruised heart was pierced through the ear."

That message sounds surprisingly similar to the advice parents often give to their offspring when childish invective is hurled at them, "Sticks and stones..." Not always true!

A friend, perhaps seeking to praise my profession, calls me a wordsmith. I like that, and try to live up to the thrust of it. Wordsmith.

Wordsmiths handle words, I suppose, like some people handle snakes, deftly, carefully, thoughtfully. And are we skilled, as is the blacksmith when he forges the shoe and places it carefully on the horse's hoof? Hmmm, a perfect fit, made to order, tough but gentle, with a nice feel to it.

There are many kinds of craftsmen using words today. Some are skilled in deception and vainglory. They know how to turn a cute phrase, how to string a line of clear sounds together. They can use words to hawk the pettiest products, the most attractive and debilitating evils. The gullible buy from these hawkers. The result often is tragedy.



ALLEN

I have on my computer a faithful accomplice in word-smithing. Though it may have several names, I call it simply "spell-check."

It is my safeguard against silly errors. I call on the utilities window and tell the spell-check service to keep me out of trouble.

It shows me how many words I have typed, how many are unique, and how many are suspect. Yes, of course, those that are suspect get my quick attention.

I've often thought that God should have put a spell-check, or something similar, on our mouths. At least we would have opportunity to eliminate that heartless word, the destructive remark, the hurtful message. But I think we already have a perfect safeguard. It's called conscience, and loving each other. □

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

### Start with a smile —

A young girl said, "No wonder she gets A's in French. Her parents are from Paris and they speak French at home." Her friend replied, "Not necessarily. My parents are both squares, and they are always talking in circles, but I don't get an A in Geometry."

### Take this truth with you —

What others say and do influences us more than we realize. Also, what we say and do influences those with whom we come in contact. If "I am a part of every person I have met," then every person who has met me is a part of my life. Is he better or worse for knowing me?

### Memorize this Scripture —

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John ... they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus," (Acts 4:13).

### Pray this prayer —

Lord, guide me today so that I may help people by my example. Keep me from harming others by either my conduct or my attitudes. □

## Pro-lifers won't retreat: Land Clinton rescinds abortion policies

By Tom Strode For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton's Jan. 22 reversal of four anti-abortion federal policies was an attempt "to break the will of the pro-life movement," but he will not succeed, said the head of the Southern Baptist Convention's ethics agency.

On his third day in office, Clinton, a member of a Southern Baptist church, rescinded policies implemented by the Reagan and Bush administrations during the previous three terms. They included bans on federal funding of abortion counseling and referral by non-physicians at family planning clinics and on funding of fetal tissue transplantation research.

In a fifth memorandum, the new president directed the Food and Drug Administration to decide if the import ban on RU 486, the French abortion pill, should be maintained.

The symbolism of the date on which Clinton acted was not lost on pro-life or pro-choice advocates. On Jan. 22, 1973, the Supreme Court declared abortion a constitutional right. Clinton signed the presidential memoranda as about 75,000 pro-lifers concluded their annu-

al March for Life from the Ellipse, just south of the White House, to the Supreme Court.

"Today is a sad day for America and a horrifying day for unborn children," said Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission.

"As if to add insult to injury, President Clinton takes these

actions on the 20th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision. These are truly cruel and spiteful acts meant to break the will of the pro-life movement. It will not work," Land said.

Land said the pro-life movement would not falter under a pro-choice administration, noting unborn human life is "sacred." □

### S.C. association cancels O'Brien visit

CONWAY, S.C. — The executive committee of Waccamaw Association has voted to rescind its invitation to national Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Dellana O'Brien to speak at its annual fall meeting in 1995.

The committee also adopted a resolution strongly affirming the Cooperative Program and encouraging churches to give only through traditional Southern Baptist channels.

Both actions came Jan. 18 during a regular meeting of the association's executive committee, comprised of one pastor and one layman from each church. Several pastors present for the meeting said the vote was 25-22 to rescind the invitation to O'Brien, who was invited last year to speak

during the 1995 meeting.

Charles Thrower, pastor of Juniper Bay Church, Conway, where the meeting will be held, made the motion to rescind the invitation because "the main reason is that WMU is linking up with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and seems to be abandoning its historical heritage" and he "is not in favor of women speaking from the pulpit when they are listed as delivering a message."

Director of Missions Bill Harrell missed the meeting because of his wife's illness. He said he has not read the minutes but thinks the committee "misinterpreted what WMU has done." He said he thinks the decision was made hastily without all the facts. The recommendations approved by WMU do not mention the CBF and reaffirms traditional SBC giving channels. □

## 'Firm up' beliefs: John Sullivan

Florida Baptist leader John Sullivan challenged Tennessee Baptist ministers to "firm up" what they know about the Gospel and to preach it with conviction.

Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention, preached four sermons based on "Equipping Believers: Share the Gospel," the theme of the State Evangelism Conference held Jan. 18-19 at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville.

"I have come to the conclusion that a lot of what is called Gospel preaching is not a whole lot of preaching and even less Gospel," Sullivan said at the beginning of the conference.

The former Texas and Louisiana pastor said he learned early in his ministry that "I must firm up what I believe about the Gospel of Jesus Christ for that's the only thing that's going to make a difference in the lives of those I encounter."

Sullivan emphasized "there is a heart of the Gospel that we must preach and if we do not preach it all we have not

*'The most important thing is ... the inner man who delivers the sermon.'*

preached all of the Gospel."

Sullivan cited five things found in the book of Acts that must be included in the preaching of the Gospel: (1) Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God; (2) Jesus came to fulfill the prophetic message of the Old Testament; (3) Jesus died on Calvary but three days later he was alive again by his strength and his own power; (4) Each person is personally involved in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus; and (5) Jesus is coming again.

In his second sermon Sullivan explored why, if Southern Baptists know what the Gospel is, it is not being shared.

One of the greatest problems among Southern Baptists, he said, is "we have lost the joy of our salvation, or in



SULLIVAN VISITS with Jerry King, TBC Evangelism Director and coordinator of the event.

the words of the psalmist, we have lost our song."

Sullivan noted there are signs which indicate a person is losing their "song." The first is to allow discouragement to determine your demeanor or way of life, he said. "God is never the author of discouragement. Faith comes from God, not discouragement, he emphasized.

Second, he said, a person who loses his or her song allows changing circumstances to cancel his or her convictions. Changing circumstances should not cancel your deepest convictions, he said.

Finally, Sullivan warned, do not let the "rut of your routine erode relationships with God and others."

Sullivan's final two sermons dealt with dimensions of being equipped to share the Gospel and results.

He urged Tennessee Baptist

pastors to "learn to grow where you are planted because God may leave you there the rest of your life."

The three dimensions of growth are upward, inward, and outward. "You are saved because of something that hap-

pened from above," he said.

The inward dimension means that a person must die to one's self so Christ can be lifted up. It's more important to spend time talking with Jesus than pouring over books for sermon preparation, Sullivan declared. "The most important thing is not the sermon, but the inner man who delivers the sermon, he said.

Finally, the outward dimension won't happen unless the first two have taken place, he said.

In his last message Sullivan reminded conference participants that Jesus Christ came to "untie" everything Satan has tied up; he was manifested to take away our sins; and he came to "bring final victory to life." — Lonnie Wilkey □

## Conference quotes —

'God knows better what he's up to than I do.'



CHAPMAN

'It is easy to miss standing on Holy Ground because we can be too busy.'



PORCH

'I have come to the conclusion that a lot of what is called Gospel preaching is not a whole lot of preaching and even less Gospel.'



SULLIVAN

'I know some of you are in places that only the Holy Ghost will ever change. But the Holy Ghost wants to change them.'



STRACK

'Sin has a way of blinding our judgment, messing up our abilities to see and balance.'



SHAW



PERFORMING AT THE CONFERENCE were the Heightsmen, from left, Guy Bates, Van Grafton, Rick Dixon, and Lloyd Blackwell, of the host church, Belmont Heights.

## Illness changes Brownsville businessman

"Five years ago I wouldn't have been found in a place like this," declared Lonnie Robinson Jr. to the nearly packed sanctuary on Laymen's Night of the State Evangelism Conference.

The successful Brownsville businessman quipped he had

grown up in rural West Tennessee "so far out in the country we had to go toward town to go hunting." His family had been poor, he related. Robinson only finished the seventh grade because he was needed to do farm work.

He is thankful for his upbringing, though, he said, be-

cause his parents were Christians. He was supposedly saved, Robinson described, when he was a teenager.

He gave up farming for business, and became successful. Robinson admitted he spent his time buying cars, vans, and other luxuries.

In 1987, although small businesses all across Tennessee were closing or at least suffering the effects of the recession, he was the third largest John Deere equipment dealer in the United States, Robinson reported. But he still wasn't happy, he admitted.

Then in November of that year he suffered chest pains. His doctor ordered him to a hospital in Memphis. On the way, while lying in the back seat of a car, Robinson said he

prayed and was changed.

God accepted him, Robinson testified. "I can remember when you could buy a nickel Coca-Cola. I have no education." Now he is no longer ashamed of his background or lack of education, he told the crowd.

"God does not call the equipped, he equips the called," stated Robinson.

Because of his active witness to others at his business, he has been called crazy, he added. But the Brownsville Equipment Company is God's, said Robinson.

"When you are as lost as I was lost and you get as saved as I am saved, how can you not talk about Jesus?" — Connie Davis □



ROBINSON

## Volunteers find work in Chile is needed and rewarding

By Lonnie Wilkey  
associate editor

The passage of time has not erased the good memories of a positive missions experience for several volunteers who returned from Chile in November.

The trip is "still extremely vivid in my mind," said Ken Altom, pastor of First Church, Cookeville, who led the 17-member team.

"So much good happened as a result of the trip," he shared.

The team traveled to Valparaiso and Vina del Mar in an evangelism effort.

Approximately 750,000 people live in the area, Altom said.

The teams worked in 11 churches and missions.

Altom praised the work of missionaries Richard and Carol Poe, who serve as the Chile/Tennessee Partnership coordinators, and Bill and Terri Baer, local coordinators, and their assistants David and Debbie Butts.

"The work of our missionaries was excellent. They could not have been any better," said the Cookeville pastor.

He noted the missionaries "had done their homework," thus making the trip "efficient and effective in every way."

Team members did basically what "the people asked us to do," Altom said. The volunteers taught Sunday School classes, shared with different age groups, visited in homes, and held revival services.

"As a result of God's grace, we had 99 first-time professions of faith and 176 rededications," Altom reported.

He noted that the prayers of Tennessee Baptists, before and during the trip were vital. He also observed the Chilean people were prepared prayerwise

for the volunteers' visit.

Altom shared a testimony which showed the power of prayer. Altom and some others were visiting a lady whose husband had been away at sea for six weeks. Normally, he was able to contact her, but she had not heard from him during this period.

"We witnessed to this lady and she received Christ as her Savior," Altom said, adding that before they left they prayed with her that she would hear from her husband. Before they departed, the phone rang and it was the woman's husband on the other end of the line.

The dedication of the Chilean Baptists to witnessing and discipling new Christians made an impression on the Tennesseans.

The Chileans really want to win their neighborhoods for Christ, Altom said, noting that instead of door-to-door visits the teams were involved in "intentional" evangelism. They would go to homes where the people would invite their friends and neighbors to come and hear the Gospel, he explained.

Wert Campbell, a layman from First Church, Gallatin, and his wife, Theta, participated in several of the home Bible studies. Campbell noted the Chileans do not walk away after they win someone to the Lord.

"When someone was saved the church would appoint a member to meet with the new Christian and disciple that person for several weeks," Campbell said.

The Campbells have great appreciation for the Chilean Baptists in the small mission where they served.

The people in the churches



**TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION** President Leonard Markham, pastor of Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville, recently returned from a trip to Chile where he led a prayer retreat for Southern Baptist missionaries. He found time to spend with the following missionaries who have Tennessee ties. "It was a wonderful experience as I preached and prayed with the missionaries all week," he said. From left, are, Rick, Richard, and Carol Poe, Markham, Donna Mae Bobby, Carol Henson, Richard, Lisa, Errin, and Lauren Bray, and Mary Jo Cooke.

worked to make the mission effort a success, the couple agreed.

Altom and the Campbells, along with missionary Bill Baer, had an opportunity to meet the regional governor of Valparaiso. Campbell presented him a Spanish Bible from the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Mrs. Campbell said the governor was very receptive to their visit and even suggested things that could be done through the partnership effort.

Campbell said they were told later that visit opened doors for the Chilean pastors with the governor.

"The governor saw Tennessee

Baptists as a people willing to help," Altom said.

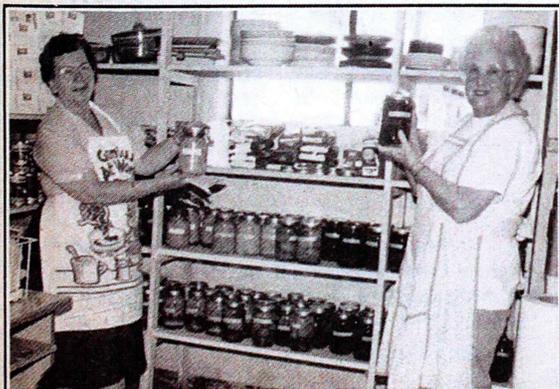
Two other team members were Mike and Juanita Bridges of Brainerd Church, Chattanooga. "We were witnesses as we watched the Holy Spirit at work during the week.

"Our hearts were warmed as we shared our faith with our brothers and sisters in the Valparaiso church. Though their homes were humble, by American standards, their hearts were open wide to welcome us and make us feel loved in spite of the language barrier," Bridges wrote in a report he submitted to the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Those who have gone said they would encourage others to participate in the Chile partnership. Altom already is planning to lead another team in the fall.

"I urge you to begin praying now and making plans to participate with other Tennessee Baptists who are willing to be used of God in partnership with fellow Christians in Chile," Bridges wrote.

Tennessee is known as the Volunteer State, Altom said. "We need to make an effort to participate in this partnership," he said, noting there are many needs and opportunities for ministry in Chile. □



**KNOX COUNTY ASSOCIATION** volunteers Doris June Large, left, of Central Church, Fountain City, and Alberta McCrosky of Beaumont Church, Knoxville, recently went to Chile to can and freeze fruits and vegetables for the 26 girls and their caretakers at the Baptist Children's Home in Temuco. They also taught some Chilean women how to can and freeze food.

### Volunteer opportunities available in Chile

Dates	Specific tasks	Needed
March 6-16	Evangelistic revival team, Chillan	1 team of 3-5 persons
March 13-22	Medical team, Cncepcion	21 persons
May 22-June 1	Evangelism crusade, Santiago	80-120 persons
May 22-31	Music evangelism, Concepcion	1 team of 15-20 persons
June 1, 8-10 weeks Visa needed	Education at the school operated by El Sembrador Baptist Church	1 team of 2-6 people
Aug. 7-16	Educational training, Punta Arenas	1 team of 3-5 persons
Aug. 7-16	Evangelism, spiritual retreat, WMU team Talca, Central Valley	1 team of 4-6 persons
Sept. 24-Oct. 4	Community development, quilting	1 team of 2-4 persons
Oct. 2-11	Medical evangelism, Punta Arenas	1 team of 6-8 persons
Oct. 16-25	Medical project, Talca	1 team of 18-24 persons
Oct. 23-Nov. 1	Church construction, Esmeraldas, Curico	1 team of 4-8 persons

For information on any of these opportunities, contact Jarvis Hearn at the TBC at (615) 371-2028

# Father of 'missions' tomb: as humble as Carey's life

By Michael Chute  
For Baptist Press

SERAMPORE, India — The people of Serampore knew what I'd come to see.

At every turn, someone pointed the way. Shopkeepers. Taxi drivers. Street kids. Finally, carried along by an entourage of townspeople, I headed down a long, dusty lane a stone's throw from Serampore College. A child skipped by. A young man talked incessantly. Everyone wanted to show me the town's main attraction.

Once through the white gates, the sight before me was depressing. It wasn't so much children climbing over the ruins but the trash from countless picnics lining the walls joining this corner of Serampore's cemetery. Pillars of stone, long ago toppled, lay strewn amid tree roots encircling the place.

A plaque on the side of the tomb I sought simply read: CAREY.

I'm not sure what I'd expected, but this wasn't it. I'd envisioned something a little more grand, more befitting the "father of modern missions." I grew up a Baptist, revering the very name — William Carey. My wife attended his namesake Baptist college in faraway Mississippi. But this was India, where half a billion poverty-stricken people can barely feed themselves, much less care for a grave — even one as hallowed as Carey's.

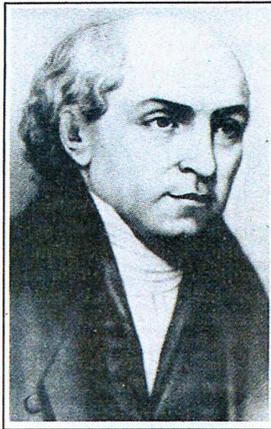
The tomb is simple. No. It's stark. The small white structure holds Carey's remains and those of his family. Dorothy is buried here — the wife who sailed with him from England in 1793, against her will, only to go insane in the wilds of Bengal. His beloved son Felix, who never overcame the death at sea of his own wife and children, also is here.

Looking at the crumbled monument, a story — perhaps a legend — came to mind. A missionary visited Carey shortly before the patriarch's death. As he turned to leave, the dysentery-wracked old man gathered his strength to faintly whisper: "When I am gone say nothing about Dr. Carey. Speak only of Carey's Savior." He died in faith, just as he had lived. I realized he would rebuke my distress over such earthly concerns as the disarray of a tomb.

Carey's remains lie buried the way he lived — humbly. He "attempted great things for God" and "expected great things from God," but Carey

never expected anything on earth for himself. He counted his accomplishments as insignificant compared to the immeasurable bounty of God's grace. All glory went to God. Always.

India had Carey for 41 years, but his dying words



**SKETCH** of William Carey, who, though was not the first missionary, is considered the father of modern missions. Photos are not available of Carey, who lived before photos were perfected.

have yet to be realized. Virtually all Serampore citizens, whose great-grandfathers' great-grandfathers walked with Carey, have yet to accept Carey's Savior.

But they benefit daily from what he gave. The "father of modern missions" also was the "father of education" here. He started India's first university and gave Bengalis their written language. The "father of industry" brought the first steam engine and printing press to Bengal. Serampore College still displays the actual botany, shell, and mineral collections the "father of science and agriculture" used to teach young Indians.

The "father of concern" led struggles against social ills: infanticide, abortion, slavery, racism, "sati" (ritual burning of widows on their husbands' funeral pyres), oppression, colonial exploitation, even the caste system.

He won a lot, but he didn't win the people — not in large numbers.

Still, Carey's missionary contributions can't be measured. He wasn't the first of his missionary breed, but 200 years ago Carey provided the "spark" at a crucial time in world history that ignited the modern missionary movement.

In 1789, the moderator of Northamptonshire ministers' fellowship asked Carey, then a young pastor, to present a topic for discussion. Carey asked whether Jesus' command to teach all nations obligated all ministers to the end of time. The moderator reportedly snapped: "Sit down, young man ... when God wants to convert the world, he can do it without your help or mine."

The rebuke didn't deter Carey. Two years later he wrote a pamphlet called "An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens."

Evangelicals call him the "father of modern missions," but he certainly wasn't the first missionary in modern times. Carey, who was a shoemaker by trade, was not the first Protestant missionary to India. He didn't even start out as a Baptist.

Reared in an Anglican home in England, the 20-year-old Carey married a daughter of a Dissenter, the Protestant group which refused to accept Church of England doctrines. It had a profound influence on the young cobbler.

Carey became a Baptist in 1783. Later he felt called to preach and served as pastor of Northamptonshire Baptist

## Volunteers needed to mark Carey's 200th anniversary

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Southern Baptists plan to mark the 200th anniversary of the arrival of William Carey in India with their own mission pilgrimage in November.

The Foreign Mission Board will enlist up to 400 volunteers for 120 teams in eight Indian states. The partnership mission trip, Nov. 1-15, will end with celebrations in Calcutta, where Carey first preached in 1800.

The mission trip is part of the Southern Baptist Convention's "Cross Overseas" projects. In 1992 "Cross Over India" became the second in a series of projects emphasizing participation from all parts of the convention in a yearly

crusade emphasis.

In 1992, volunteers lead pastor training conferences and worked in medical clinics and personal evangelism projects in India. In November a 15-member partnership team worked in Bombay for two weeks.

In 1993, the main "Cross Over India" project will center around the area where Carey worked. India's one million Baptists in some 1000 churches represent the largest Baptist group outside the United States, but they account for barely one-tenth of one percent of India's 800 million people.

Volunteers interested in the project may call Bill Peacock at the FMB by calling toll-free (800) 999-3113. □

congregations.

During the ten years after his conversion, Carey prepared himself for missions while providing for his growing family.

Carey and his family set sail for India in 1793 where he served for 41 years. Admirers call him prophet,

patriarch, and pioneer.

At the very least he became the figurehead for the cause of modern missions. But Carey himself would be uncomfortable with endearing labels. To him, the work did not warrant platitudes, and certainly not a perch atop a pedestal. □

## Women's Summit • March 19-20

### Nashville Convention Center

#### Keynote Speakers



... for passion  
... for balance  
... for direction



**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*.

**Schedule**  
**Friday afternoon and night**  
2:00 Registration opens  
3:00 Early-bird conferences  
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  
\* Choose lunch time

**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.

Sponsored by Tennessee WMU

# TenneScene ■ the people, their work

## ■ the work

■ Two volunteer mission teams from Tennessee will travel to Temuco, Chile, to work in church construction. The first team will be in Chile Jan. 29-Feb. 13, and the second team will be there Feb. 12-27. **Edward Luttrell**, Union Carbide Church, Lenoir City, is a member of the first team. Team 2 members are **Terry Brown** and **Michael R. Hopper**, both of Holly Grove Church, Bells; **Billy Castellaw**, Poplar Corner Church, Bells; **William Cobb**, First Church, Bells; **Edward W. Hudgins**, First Church, Obion. **Geneva Mathias** and **James Mathias**, Blessed Hope Church, Troy; and

**H. B. Fisher**, First Church, Humboldt. **Donald R. Woldring**, and **Lovie M. Woldring**, Holland Church, Hamilton, Mich., will also be on Team 2. **Thurman Penick**, Pleasant Hill No. 1 Church, Martin, will lead both teams.

## ■ the churches

■ Members of **Powell's Chapel**, Murfreesboro, dedicated a new educational building Jan. 3.

■ A youth revival will be held Jan. 31-Feb. 1 at **First Church, Lawrenceburg**. Services will be led by evangelist **Scott Dawson** and music will be led by

**Phil Romine**. **Brad Pilkinton** will be a special musical guest.

■ The music group "The Singing Cs" of Camden will lead both the music and preaching in revival services March 20-21 at **First Church**, Walter Hill, and April 11-14 at **Feather's Chapel**, Summerville. A member of the group, **Jimmy R. Cooper**, will lead the services.

## ■ the leaders

■ **John Daniels** is the new minister of family activities and youth at **Signal Mountain Church**, Signal Mountain.

■ **Bell Road Church**, Nashville, recently called **Wayne Etheridge** as bivocational pastor. He formerly was bivocational pastor of **Benton Avenue Mission**, Nashville.

■ Members of **Rugby Hills**

Church, Memphis, recently welcomed new pastor **Sidney Wails**.

■ **Drew Randle**, Oxford, Miss., has accepted the call of **Leoma Church**, Leoma, to serve as minister of music and youth. He is a 1992 graduate of **Belmont University**, Nashville.

■ **Don Roberts** is the new youth director at **Bible Union Church**, Martin.

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

■ **Ouida McGill** is the new full time director of international ministries at **Speedway Terrace Church**, Memphis.

■ **Mount Carmel Church**, Cleveland, called **Ronald Thompson** as pastor. He began his duties Jan. 1.

■ **Danny Horner** is now

serving as minister of music at **Thompson Springs Church**, Cleveland.

■ **Waterville Church**, Cleveland, called **Mike Mallett** to serve as youth minister. He began Jan. 3.

■ **Philadelphia Church**, Waynesboro, has a new pastor. **Ed Gardner** began his pastoral duties Dec. 13.

■ **Jason Pettus** is the new minister of youth at **Park Avenue Church**, Nashville. **Scott Patty**, minister of youth for three years, resigned to start a new church called **Grace Community Church** in Brentwood. **Park Avenue Church's** minister of music, **Scott Pastore** recently resigned to accept a position in Kentucky.

## ■ events

■ Children ages 2-5 are invited to participate in a carnival of music at **Brentwood Library** sponsored by the **Belmont University School of Music**, Nashville. Classes will begin Feb. 16 and will be offered each Tuesday and Thursday for eight weeks. Class activities include singing songs, playing rhythm instruments, marching and body movements, reading music, and puppets. For information, call **Stephanie Kelly Mohr** at 331-4809.

■ **Union University, Jackson**, will sponsor a youth leadership conference March 26-27. Topics covered will include philosophy and trends of youth ministry, youth in crisis, Sunday School, Discipleship Training, and sharing alternative music with youth. The deadline for early registration is Feb. 11. For information, call (901) 668-1818.

## Cleveland group builds in Florida

An 11-member team from **Bradley County Association churches** has returned from work in Florida, assisting victims of **Hurricane Andrew**.

The first day, the team put shingles on the roof of the educational building at **Glendale Church** in **Richmond Heights**, reported **Ralph Henderson**, a member of **Big Spring Church**, Cleveland, who led the team.

**Henderson** noted that the education building's roof was 99 percent completed by his group. The interior of the building is still in need of repair, he said.

Two days were devoted to going into neighborhoods helping with roofing and window repairs.

The team put large sheets of black plastic on the home of a woman with eight children. Their roof had been blown away by the destruc-

tive hurricane. It was the second time plastic was put over their home. The woman's insurance company had gone bankrupt and she was not able to get a new roof, **Henderson** reported.

He observed no house seemed to be untouched by the hurricane. "The amount of work needed to repair the homes in this area is overwhelming," he said.

The trip also afforded team members opportunities to tell people about **Jesus**, **Henderson** said.

Other team members included: **Frank Schrader**, **Blythe Avenue Church**; **William Davis**, **Westwood Church**; and **Jack and Travis Adkisson**, **Keith Allen**, **Steve Gates**, **Jason Harvey**, **Harland Limburgh**, and **Roy and Daniel Willhoit**, all of **Big Spring Church**. □



**MEMBERS OF FIRST CHURCH, HUMBOLDT**, recently burned the note on their family life center/educational annex. The members paid \$1,953,663 in three and one-half years to satisfy the debt. Burning the note are, from left, **Ed North**, pastor; **Mrs. Charles Blurton**, whose late husband was the construction manager for the project; **J. Gus Hicks**, trustee; and **Bob Batchelor**, chairman of deacons.

# Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

## Your impact in '93

**Craig Fry**, pastoral care  
First Church, Franklin

The year was 1809 and the attention of the entire world was centered on the tiny country of Austria. All eyes were focused on **Napoleon**, the diminutive dictator of France, as he approached his next conquest.

At the same time, life carried on as usual in other parts of the world. Business deals were made, children went off to school, and mothers tended to household duties and the needs of infants. Not really anything newsworthy...especially as the headlines heralded the battles of Europe. Someone should have paid attention.

Born that same year in 1809 were **William Gladstone**, **Alfred Tennyson**, **Oliver W. Holmes**, **Edgar Allen Poe**, **Charles Darwin**, and **Abraham Lincoln**. In retrospect, only a handful of the most ardent history buffs can name even one Austrian

conflict, but who can measure the impact of those who were born in that very same year?

The start of a new calendar year affords us the opportunity to review and reassess our priorities. We may start the year with the highest of motivations and the purest of intentions, but unless we affirm our priorities in life, we will soon find ourselves doing "good things" in place of the "best things."

The early church made the public clarion call that **Christ** is risen indeed! May we express that same battle cry as we prove **Jesus** is our personal Lord through our thoughts, conversations, and deeds. □

## Hidden qualities

**Ronnie Mitchell**, pastor  
Graceland Church, Memphis

Have you ever misjudged someone? Have you ever failed to see potential in someone? Have you ever wrongly classified someone as a failure? If you have, you

are not alone in these assumptions. The following comments were written about some fairly successful people.

**Abraham Lincoln** — "When you consider that **Abe** has had only four months of school, he is very good with his studies, but he is a daydreamer and asks foolish questions."

**Woodrow Wilson** — "Woodrow is a unique member of the class. He is ten years old, and is only just beginning to read and write. He shows signs of improving, but you must not set your sights too high for him."

**Albert Einstein** — "Albert is a very poor student. He is mentally slow, unsociable, and is always daydreaming. He is spoiling it for the rest of the class. It would be in the best interest of all if he were removed from school at once."

Who knows what hidden qualities, gifts, or genius lurks in the hearts, minds, and spirits of those who seem to be unproductive at this point in their lives? Human eyes sometimes fail to see the pos-

sibilities, but the eyes of God know all. Maybe we should look at each other through His eyes. □

## Who to be in the new year

**Allan Lockerman**, pastor  
First Church, Cleveland

I don't know when the practice of **New Year's resolutions** began, but I suspect it coincides with the invention of bathroom scales. Regardless, it is an ingrained tradition in the lives of most people.

Someone said a **New Year's resolution** is that which comes in one year and out the other. I suspect the problem with most resolutions is in the emphasis. Most resolutions are what I call "do" resolutions. Perhaps the emphasis ought to be not on things we will do in 1993, but rather on things we will be.

I am reminded of the story of **Mary and Martha**. **Martha** was resolved to "do" — constantly doing something for the Lord.

**Mary** was resolved to "be" always wanting to be with **Jesus Christ**.

Here are some things I hope: To be more childlike in my faith in God and be more grown-up in my reactions to others. To be less discouraged by the major events on the world scene and more encouraged by the little things that God does in my life every day. To be more sensitive to the hurts of my congregation and less concerned with the little slights that come my way. To be more patient with the questions of my children and less patient with my tendency to question God. To be more expressive of my love for my wife and less demanding of the respect and attention of other people. To be more amused by my own limitations and more amazed by the fact that God could use someone like me. To be more impressed with the wisdom and common sense of the people with whom I work and less impressed with my own personal insights.

The list could go on and on. □

# Law restricting worship in Albania expected to pass

By Marty Croll

TIRANA, Albania — Turned back once, shrewd politicians are expected to win a second bid to pass a law that would block Christian evangelical efforts in Albania's young democracy.

Albanian President Sali Berisha rejected one proposed law on religion last November, saying it failed to reflect the principles of a free country. But too much is at stake for him to reject the latest one, according to sources close to the government.

The new proposed law represents the ten-month-old free republic's attempt to mold religious guidelines for citizens. In presenting it to lawmakers before the end of January, powerful forces backing Muslims and Orthodox and Catholic churches plan to tie it to nationalism and pride in Albania, the sources said.

"It would be very difficult for anybody, including the president ... to make constructive criticisms without being perceived as being ... less than a patriot," agreed John Keith, external coordinator for Albania working with the European Baptist Federation. Keith lives in Croatia.

The first law favored four religions it called traditional in Albania: Islam, an Islamic sect and the Albanian Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches. Other groups would gain the right to exist only through a powerful committee whose members are officials from those religions.

"It looks as if the law before parliament (now) has been amended to bring it almost to its original state, with discrimination, government control and general nationalistic bias," said a Protestant source close to the government.

Much attention on the floor of the governing People's Assembly will focus on a clause requiring that religious groups be led by Albanian citizens. That's a hot topic now because the head of the Albanian Orthodox Church is a native of Greece, and relations between Albania and Greece are strained.

"There are implications that 'We wouldn't want religion in our country controlled by foreigners, would we?'" Keith said.

Albania scrapped the first proposed law after members of the evangelical community and others warned high government officials that it violated the United Nations' 1981 resolution against religious intolerance and would hardly be viewed as "free." Among those who protested was Tony Cupit, director of evangelism and education for the Baptist World Alliance.

In a letter to Cupit, Albanian ambassador to the United States Roland Bimo assured him "no legislation which will discriminate against Baptists and other religions will be promulgated as law in Albania. We are engaged seriously in building a democratic society, and ... the freedom of religion is of primary importance."

A new draft that followed reportedly would have been a model for religious freedom in Eastern Europe. But it was short-lived. "There were some very clever people who politically maneuvered the thing in such a way that nationalistic feelings are at stake," said Keith.

The new proposal finds strong support within Albania's bureaucratic structure, sources said. Known for brutally enforcing the atheism its once-communist government officially declared in 1967, Albania actually is about 70 percent Muslim, 20 percent Orthodox and ten percent Catholic. Evangelicals are sparse and have invited Baptist missionaries to work with them.

In their heyday, communist leaders used a religious affairs

office to curtail Orthodox, Catholic, and Muslim activity. Now, however, officials in that office reportedly are advocates of those groups. They are the ones bringing the law forward.

Government officials have

been slow to respond to the latest round of protests by Protestants and evangelicals. When told the laws violate modern standards of human rights, they point to Greece and Turkey as models, according to

a Protestant source. Turkey and Greece are known for restrictive laws about faith. □

## Love In Action



### We Instill In Our Children Hope For This Life And Hope For The Life To Come.

**-Dr. Gerald L. Stow...**  
*President and Treasurer*

"We've always been know for meeting the spiritual needs of children who have been orphaned, abandoned or abused. Our goal is to teach them hope for this life and hope for the life to come.

Part of what we do is build self esteem by telling each child that he or she has special qualities that God has given only to them.

Many of our children here have been orphaned by the living, not the dead. So they begin to heal when they start to trust us and allow us to help them solve their problems.

In 1993, we see our approach becoming more and more therapeutic as we develop new ministries to cope with separating families, teen pregnancy and juvenile offenders.

A dream of ours is to have dozens of Christian Counseling Centers where classes on parenting, stress management and family preservation are taught.

Your prayers and support this year will help us continue to be 'the helping hand and heart'."



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# ■ Sunday School lesson commentary

## □ Laments of loneliness — Bible Book Series for January 31

By Bill Wolfe, pastor, First Church, Counce

"Be not dismayed what e'er be tide,  
God will take care of you;  
Beneath His wings of love abide,  
God will take care of you.  
God will take care of you,  
Through everyday, o'er all the way;  
He will take care of you,  
God will take care of you."

There are times in our lives when we ask such questions as: Does God really care about me? Does He know what I am going through? Has He forgotten about me? The answers are yes, yes, and no! God does care, He does know, and He has not forgotten about you!

Everyone experiences times when they feel alone. Christians can go through times like this even though they are eternally secure in Jesus Christ. I have felt this way at times because I failed to see I was neglecting

God in my life and not giving Him His rightful place. When one does not depend on God, he depends on no one.

In our Scripture passages today we find the psalmist at a lonely time in his life. He was crying out to God for help and deliverance from this feeling.

In Psalm 42, the psalmist describes his loneliness with a picture drawn from nature. He attempted to convey his spiritual thirst. We are immediately drawn to the picture of a deer. In our spiritual imagination we can see this deer standing by the brook taking a drink of water. But the real emphasis is on the water itself.

Since the psalmist was unable to go to the temple, he was speaking also about the worship of God. He knew he was experiencing something terrible. His condition of exile caused him to

cry out twice in this chapter, "Where is thy God?"

Feeling deserted by God and cut off from his joy of participating in temple worship, he began to remember better times (v. 6). David had been to Jerusalem many times to worship and be a part of the praise given to God. But remembering alone cannot bring the real thing. He realized again his condition was the same (v. 7), so the next time he remembered not the trips to the temple, but the God of the temple. Sometimes we remember the joys of going to church more than we remember the blessings of God Himself. However, we draw from verse 11 that he is still downtrodden. He repeats, "Where is God?"

Perhaps Psalm 51 is one of the most noted Psalms. It is often associated as the confession and acknowledgement of

his sin with Bathsheba. Perhaps the most important aspect of this Psalm is its teaching on forgiveness. He now remembers the loving-kindness of God. This leads him to repentance.

Lost people and Christians alike need to see the love of God before they will realize what God can do for them. David took action because of his sin. Notice

### Basic Passage: Psalm 42; 51; 123

his prayer. There are four things he prayed. First, he asked for mercy. He knew about the love of God. Second, he asked that his sins be blotted out. This is a wonderful result of forgiveness. The third request is that God wash him. Only the blood of Christ can do this today. Lastly he prayed to be made clean. David knew his sin

was really against God. All sin is against God. If you feel lonely because of sin, you must confess it and receive God's forgiveness.

The last two verses of Psalm 123 sound like a repeated S.O.S. signal sent out by desperate men. When people are under stress they must have more than religion to help. They need the power of God. The psalmist seems to have been under attack from other nationalities of people. The cruelist form of punishment is that which comes from the mouth many times. David did what we all must do. He turned his eyes toward the heavens to see God.

When you are lonely, for whatever the reason may be, just remember there is a God in Heaven who cares about you and your problems and what you are going through in your life day by day! □

## □ One body in Christ — Convention Uniform Series for January 31

By Terry Bradshaw, pastor, Zion Hill Church, Sevierville

Unity: Is it a choice or a responsibility? In reality, it is both. Jesus taught in Mark 3:24-25 that a kingdom or house that is divided cannot stand. Paul, in Ephesians 4, reaffirmed this teaching. The situations were different, but the truth remains the same. Unity is a necessary ingredient for success.

### Worthy walk, vv. 1-2

In verses 1-2, you find, "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love," (KJV).

In introducing this chapter, Paul used the phrase, "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord." Paul here was reminding his readers that the Godly life

often requires something from us. For Paul, it was imprisonment; for the church at Ephesus, unity.

Let me remind the readers there were factions in the early church. This is well documented in the Word of God. These factions often interfered with the churches productivity, and Paul was forever reminding his readers how to deal with such problems. Here in our text the apostle used the word "beseech." This word means to call to one's side or invite. Paul extended an invitation for them to live a life that was worthy of their calling. This involved lowliness (humility), meekness (gentleness), longsuffering (patience), and forbearing love (bearing with another in love). This was to be done in light of a common goal, unity.

### Worthwhile endeavor vv. 3-13

Paul, in verse 3, encouraged his readers to endeavor to keep unity in the bond (uniting principle) of peace. Our world is filled with division. We see it on TV, experience it at work, and watch it destroy homes. We desperately need a place to go where unity is the norm and peace can be felt. God intended His church to be such a place. Paul encouraged the Christians at Ephesus to adopt the lifestyle mentioned in verse 2. Paul knew belief often dictates behavior. So he mentioned here what he recorded for them later in this chapter. "Put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness," (v. 24), even if it meant sacrificing some old sinful attitudes.

Paul also taught that God had bestowed upon the membership a variety of gifts to be used in reaching their divine goal. He first pointed out the natural diversity found in the body of Christ. Verse 7 says, "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ," (KJV). The word "every" in the text means each one. Paul believed the grace of God had not left anyone out. All had something to contribute to the work of unity in the church.

Take note he didn't differentiate between the gifts. He understood all gifts to be great and each had a responsibility to work jointly with others to build the body of Christ. When the membership is willing to put on the new life and exercise their God given talents, a won-

derful fellowship will follow.

### Wonderful fellowship v. 16

In Ephesians 4:16 we find, "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and com-

### Basic Passage Ephesians 4:1 - 16

pacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." This verse describes a church that is functioning the way God intended; a church where peace, unity, and love can be found; a church that is in love with the Lord and loves to do the work of God. This should be the commentary of every church today. □

## □ Facing difficult tests — Life and Work Series for January 31

By Toby Everett, pastor, Walker Memorial Church, Franklin

The year 1989 was a year of difficult tests of faith for my wife. She had been adopted shortly after her birth by her aunt and uncle at the request of her natural mother before she died. Even though adopted, she maintained a relationship with her birth father for a large portion of her life, thus having two dads.

In February of 1989, her adopted father, who had reared and loved her intently, and she him, died of respiratory problems. In early November 1989, her grandmother died suddenly of a stroke. She had been as a second mother to Janet. In mid November, we received a call that her birth father also was at the point of death and two

days before Thanksgiving he too died. One week and four days later her adoptive mother was found dead of heart failure in the front yard of her home.

In the text this week, we see Abraham facing a difficult test. Five lessons come from his experience.

### A priority check, ch. 21:1-2

First, we note that Abraham stands ready when God comes to him. His statement, "Here I am" in verse one may be one that would come back to haunt him. We often without thinking tell God we are ready for anything, only to find that the valleys that lie before us are deeper than anticipated. But possibly Abraham took some reassurance in where his test

would occur. It would happen at Moriah — "where God makes Himself known." Test sometimes come to us so we can reflect upon knowing God as priority in our lives.

### A preparatory journey ch. 12:1-2

There was no question of the test placed before him. That is not always the case in Scripture. Job had a struggle with the test, but in the end trusted the tester. Abraham made preparatory arrangements to fulfill the test to the limit, even to the point of cutting the wood and taking it with him to Moriah. Because we are as believers prone to receive tests in our lives, we must prepare for the journey and trust the tester.

### A purposeful erecting ch. 12:9-10

Note the first thing Abraham did when the test was at its beginning. He "built an altar there." Somehow he determined to worship in the test. Too often believers withdraw from, instead of drawing near to, God in the test. The altar was erect-

### Basic Passage: Genesis 21:1-8; 22:1-19

ed for the purpose of calling Abraham to the task of remembering why he was there.

### A practical necessity ch. 12:11-12

When the voice of "the angel of the Lord" called to Abraham in his test, he again responded,

"Here I am." It was necessary that he remain attentive to the voice of God's messenger while facing the test. Note I said "God's messenger." His messenger will deliver hope in the test because "I know that you fear God."

### A provided answer ch. 12:14

So moved by the experience was Abraham that he gave the spot a memorial name. "Jehovah-Jireh" has a dual meaning. Jireh means "sees," and, "will provide us the answer in His time and way."

Tony Tench said it like this. "The Lord provides, and on His mountain, wherever He calls you to the test of faith, He will be seen!" □

## RTVC trustees hear of continued growth

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southern Baptist Radio and Television trustees, in their Jan. 11-12 meeting here, heard reports of greatly expanded audiences for its two television networks, accepted a "clean" auditors' opinion, and learned of significant technical advances in communications.

Jack Johnson, RTVC president, reported on a recent trip to the former Soviet Union to explore ways to capitalize on the agency's opportunity to air programming in the Russian republic. He predicted the meetings would assure continued free airing of Baptist programs on the government-controlled station.

Network operations vice president Michael Wright told trustees that FamilyNet and ACTS, RTVC's two television networks, now reach into 60.6 million homes across the United States with potential viewership of 163.8 million people.

ACTS is now on 1194 cable systems with more than 19 million households while FamilyNet is carried by 64 low-power and 54 full-power stations covering 41.6 million homes.

Auditors told trustees they had issued a "clean opinion" on the just-completed commission's audit.

The major portion of the meeting was orienting trustees to advances in the electronic communications field. □

## Mission needs exist in Sunshine State

Pembroke Foundation

WINTER PARK, Fla. — Missions opportunities for youth are available in Florida.

Churches would be responsible for their own travel, meals, and housing expenses.

Interested people may contact J.C. Mitchell, executive director of the Pembroke Foundation at (407) 740-7781 who works in conjunction with the Florida Baptist Convention. □

## WMU awards \$65,410 in grants

Baptist Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union has awarded \$65,410 in Second Century Fund grants to fund women's missions work in ten foreign countries and eight state Baptist conventions.

The 21 grants were announced during the WMU executive board meeting Jan. 9-13 at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly.

A total of 24 requests for grants totaling \$114,340 were considered by the Second Century Fund committee of the WMU executive board.

The Second Century Fund is a permanent endowment which was created by WMU during its centennial year in 1988 as a gift to future generations of women in missions. All contributions are invested permanently. Only the interest earned on the principal is given each year in grants.

## Former hostage's sister now turns attention to needy children

Baptist Press

LEBANON, Ky. — Injustice can be found in Lebanon, Ky., as surely as in Beirut, Lebanon, according to Peggy Say.

Say, sister of former hostage Terry Anderson, spoke at the WinterFest program held at Lebanon Church. Her brother was abducted in 1985 in Beirut while working for Associated Press. Say, who became perhaps the best known crusader for hostages, was a member of

Cadiz (Ky.) Church during much of Anderson's captivity. Say and her husband, David, now live in Cookeville.

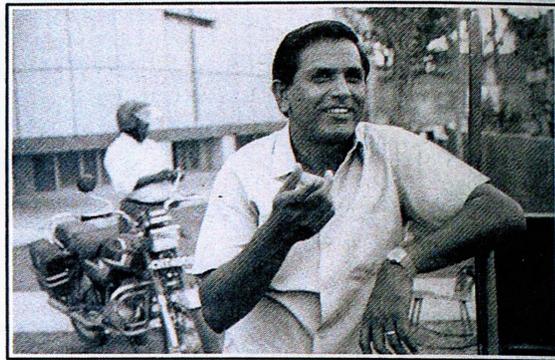
Since Anderson's release in 1991 Say has found a new cause to champion — the plight of underprivileged children in Africa and eastern Europe. She now works as outreach director for the human rights organization Friends in the West.

The same Christian convictions that forced her to plead

her brother's case compel her to speak out for the children of the world, Say said.

"I'm a Christian person, a moral person," she said. "My brother was being chained to a wall. What else could I do? Say, 'Sorry, kiddo, I'm not a diplomat or a politician.'"

In the same way, "I cannot turn my back on these children of Africa," she said. □



**NAZIR MASIH**, who miraculously survived a near-fatal accident to answer God's call to ministry, stands in front of the new \$200,000 building of Chandigarh Baptist Church in India, where he is pastor. Masih, who was led to ministry through the influence of a Southern Baptist pastor, is making a significant impact on Baptist work in Punjab, India. Besides its own building, the church, with help from Southern Baptists, has built several other congregations in Punjab. — Photo by Warren Johnson

## Southern Baptist teacher provides witness at posh Chinese hotel

By Lounette Templeton  
For Baptist Press

BEIJING, China — The smartly dressed blonde walking through the lobby of the Beijing Lido Holiday Inn looks like a sophisticated tourist.

She's not. She's Susan Harralson, a hotel staff member. She's also a kindergarten teacher in Nortonville, Ky., and member of First Church, Madisonville, Ky.

The job surprised Harralson

as much as anybody. When she first investigated overseas service, she was prepared to raise her own support for a job anywhere.

She never dreamed an international hotel chain would need a kindergarten principal in China. The Lido provides preschool education for the international community in Beijing. Since the hotel pays her salary, she didn't even have to raise her own support.

Before she went to China,

Harralson, who has a master's degree in early childhood education, had taught for 13 happy years in Nortonville.

"I loved where I was," said Harralson. "But after a trip to South America, I felt God wanted something more of me."

How does her job at the posh Chinese hotel fulfill that desire? Harralson sees the work as an opportunity to put her Christian life on the line and demonstrate what

she believes.

"They know I'm a Christian and I want them to see a difference in me," she explained.

Chinese television featured the school on a special program in 1991. The Lido preschool has a reputation as an elite school for children of diplomats and businessmen.

But Harralson's job isn't all that luxurious. A normal workday runs nine hours and she works six days a week.

"It was a big adjustment," she admits. "Living in the hotel is like being on duty all the time." Most of her small charges live in hotel apartments, which means she is not only their teacher but their neighbor as well. Harralson loves China but misses the family and church support she enjoyed back home. Her Beijing colleagues, she learned quickly, don't hold her Christian values. "I realized I didn't have anyone to depend on except God. I said, 'It's me and you, God.'"

Yet she prizes the relationships she has developed with the Chinese and expatriate staff. Harralson makes good use of the several hours the staff is on duty after the children leave. She has taught aerobics, English, even fashion

and makeup classes.

Her secretary, Emily Sun, said the Chinese workers appreciate Harralson's interest in them.

When Harralson first came, Sun said she was prepared to like her, perhaps because her father had passed on his appreciation of Americans. She wasn't disappointed.

"We love her very much," she said. "Susan is so kind and helpful and generous. We have a very special relationship. I know she's a Christian. I don't have a background in Christianity so I don't understand about it very well, but I'm interested. Sometimes I ask her questions and she tells me stories from the Bible."

When Harralson completed her two-year contract last June, the hotel management promised her a higher staff rating if she would remain. The dilemma she faced was obvious to her friend Sun.

"Susan was just standing in the middle," Sun said. "She loved China and she loved her job back home."

China won. The hotel thinks it convinced her to stay another year but anyone who knows Harralson knows what kept her in China. □



**SOUTHERN BAPTIST** teacher Susan Harralson, right center, works nine hours a day, six days a week as principal of a prestigious international kindergarten at the Beijing Lido Holiday Inn in China. She sees the work as an opportunity to demonstrate her Christian life.