

# Baptist and Reflector

February 3, 1993

VOL. 159 ■ NO. 5

STATEWIDE EDITION

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week's  
news*

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## 1992 was tough year, but missions continued

By Erich Bridges  
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Few would deny 1992 was a rough year for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. But it also was a year in which foreign missions made significant advances.

Still recovering from a dispute over the defunding of a European seminary deemed too liberal by board trustees,

### Eliff declines FMB nomination

For Baptist Press

DALLAS — The trustee committee searching for a president for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board said Jan. 29 it had "narrowed its interest to a single candidate" but that the candidate had not accepted the nomination.

Committee chairman Joel Gregory declined comment on

the mission agency in 1992 saw some missionaries resign in protest, the departure of several key administrators, and the reluctant retirement of R. Keith Parks, its president for nearly 13 years and a 38-year veteran of foreign missions.

Parks then agreed to head the mission arm of the "moderate" Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Some predicted the end of Southern Baptists' tra-

ditional unity in missions. Others said there are plenty of world mission needs to be met by all — and plenty of mission support to go around.

But Elliff told Baptist Press Jan. 29 he talked to the committee Jan. 27 and gave them his decision not to accept the position. Elliff said the committee and he and his wife had prayed extensively and "had a desperate desire to hear God, not man."

Gregory said he was bound by a covenant between committee members to go no further than to say the committee had narrowed the list to one man in its nine-month search and he had decided not to accept.

A search committee statement, released Jan. 29, said: "The committee recently nar- — See Eliff, page 2

ditional unity in missions. Others said there are plenty of world mission needs to be met by all — and plenty of mission support to go around.

But foreign missions went on while Southern Baptists at home debated how foreign missions should be administered and speculated on Parks' successor. Final statistics on baptisms, church starts, and the like are not yet available, but some historic things happened.

"In at least three unevangelized people groups, we have seen the first person in history come to know the Lord and be baptized," reported board vice

president Lewis Myers.

Southern Baptist missionaries and other workers continued to move into the vast former Soviet Union — unimaginable only a few years ago. Risking their lives amid threats from Muslim opponents as well as trigger-happy thugs, Southern Baptist aid workers helped save lives in Somalia, one of the most Muslim countries in the world. Missionaries in Croatia and Serbia also took risks to help refugees from a brutal ethnic war.

Those were just the head- — See 1992, page 2



BLEDSCOE ASSOCIATION honored J. C. and Ann Lewis Jan. 26 on their retirement as director of missions and secretary. Ed Hardy, left, association treasurer, and Lee Raines gave the Lewises a check for \$5,106.96 on behalf of Bledsoe churches. Moderator Wert Campbell presided as Bledsoe churches also presented other gifts. See story on page 5

### Name change set, sixth grade may be added

## HCBA gets new leader, new directions

SEYMOUR — Trustees of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy here met Jan. 26 to make plans for the future of the Tennessee Baptist Convention school.

In major action, the board acted to ask the Education Committee and the TBC Executive Board to okay a move to include grade six in the curriculum.

In a called meeting last Dec. 15 the board's executive committee approved the title of headmaster to replace the title of president, and hired James Michael Beane of Dallas to fill the new post effective Jan. 1.

President William Palmer, who two years ago announced his retirement, will live in Morristown and will be the school's chancellor. He had

held office since 1984.

James Porch, TBC executive director, and convention president Leonard Markham, were invited to the Jan. 26 meeting.

Trustees at that session approved Beane's suggestion to have three entities under the HCBA umbrella. The existing Preachers School will continue, a conference center will be developed, and the school itself has been renamed Kings Academy.

School officials hope to get the sixth grade addition okayed at the May meeting of the Executive Board so it can be inaugurated this fall.

A retirement event will be planned for Palmer in March.

Discussion at the recent trustees meeting included a plan for purchase of facilities

of the adjacent First Church, Seymour, with funds provided by the TBC in exchange for acreage on the campus.

The church is currently building on another site. Thus far, this has not been officially "on the table."

Porch said he applauded "efforts by the administration and trustees to expand the concept of the school's ministry. At the same time, he said, "I encourage the administration and trustees to honor the heritage of the institutions, and take intentional action for the future with much caution and respect for the procedures, policies, and program statement of the Tennessee Baptist Convention that relate to Harrison-Chilhowee." — See HCBA, page 2

- Wm. Fletcher Allen is the editor.
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## 1992 was tough year but missions continued

— Continued from page 1  
line grabbers. Missionaries continued to put their lives on the line daily in other hot spots: the Middle East, South Africa, Angola, Liberia, Mozambique, Colombia, Peru. One missionary was briefly kidnapped and threatened before being released. Other workers were beaten and robbed. One young worker died in an auto accident while serving persecuted people.

In less dangerous places, 3,900 Southern Baptist missionaries quietly continued to serve and evangelize. They even surpassed their Bold Mission Thrust goal of having missionaries in 125 countries by the year 2000. They now personally work in 128, assist

ministries in 27 others, and have a Christian witness in 11 other nations. The splintering of some countries where missionaries already were working helped meet the goal, but meeting it eight years early was a landmark nevertheless.

Few new world trends emerged in 1992. Several very old ones reasserted themselves, like the savage inhumanity people can inflict on one another and the second law of thermodynamics that says all things left uncontrolled tend toward chaos.

One 1991 event continued to affect the whole world: the breakup of the Soviet Union. "We saw only the beginning of the pebble tossed into the pond that had very heavy waves

beginning in 1992," said FMB research director Clark Scanlon. "It will have continuing impact into the future. This opened suddenly many countries that had been closed to us before. It also meant a great demand for having people to go in and cover them."

Perhaps most significant for world evangelization, missionaries actually planted churches in "World A" — that part of humanity virtually untouched by the Gospel and hostile to it. Southern Baptists have begun focusing on entirely unreached people in recent years. In 1992 the effort began to pay off, with small groups of believers meeting among an estimated 20 previously unreached people groups.

"It's not just a matter of trying to approach these areas or elicit prayer for these areas, or have someone researching," said Mike Stroope, area director of Cooperative Services International, which works in restricted areas. "It's a matter of planting churches. To me that's thrilling."

Other highlights, as reported by several mission offices:

■ **The Middle East** — New Baptist Sunday School literature has been accepted "across the whole Arab world," reported Dale Thorne, area director.

■ **East Asia** — Successful church starts in Japan pushed missionaries well ahead of their goal of starting 50 churches by 1995. □

## Elliff declines nomination to serve as FMB president

— Continued from page 1  
rowed its interest to a single candidate, only to find with prayer an apparent mutual and bilateral determination by the candidate and the committee that the will and timing of God rested in another direction."

Gregory categorically denied a rumor the 15-member committee might resign.

He said the committee, which has met 13 times and held five teleconferences since April 8, has invested a lot of effort in the search and will continue to seek a candidate.

The search committee statement said: "We intend to follow the prayerful and deliberate process already under way to find God's person for leadership. We covet the prayers of Southern Baptists everywhere

in the continuation of this process."

The statement said the committee will make no recommendation on a candidate at the Feb. 8-10 meeting of Foreign Mission Board trustees in Richmond, as many had anticipated.

Gregory declined to speculate on when a candidate will be presented to the trustees. The board's other meetings for 1993 are April 19-21 in Columbus, Ohio, and June 28-30, Aug. 16-18, Oct. 11-13, and Dec. 6-8, all in Richmond.

By trustee action any candidate elected to succeed R. Keith Parks as Foreign Mission Board president must receive a 75 percent vote of the trustees.

Elliff, pastor of First Southern Church in Del City,

Okla., told Baptist Press he and his wife "haven't had any peace that we should continue in this process."

He said he told the committee last fall to remove his name from the list but agreed to meet with the committee and to go through a medical evaluation at the Cooper Clinic in Dallas at the committee's request.

"The search committee really impressed me, especially in the last couple of weeks, that they are far and above any political agenda."

Elliff said in apparent reference to denominational political and theological controversy. "They are untouched by this issue."

Referring to news reports circulating about its process to seek a candidate, the search

committee statement said:

"On two occasions the press has indicated that the committee was close to closure when there was no indication from the committee itself that such was the case."

The statement said the committee interviewed four nominees "on two occasions each." It said it had 74 total nominees and received 289 letters. It said the nominees were ranked into four tiers, with 16 nominees in the top two tiers.

Editor's note: In last week's story about the nomination, the Baptist and Reflector inadvertently omitted a word in a paragraph identifying Don Kammerdiener and Avery Willis as two "finalists." It should have read: "Reports said there were complaints that the two had not been involved in the 'conservative' movement..." □

## HCBA gets new leader, new directions

— Continued from page 1  
Markham, in a statement last Friday, said perhaps some of the changes were coming too quickly after the leadership change. Relationships and communication have to be developed, he said.

He asked for input from TBC leaders to be allowed at future trustees meetings.

Beane comes to HCBA from a 16-year tenure with Trinity Christian Academy in Dallas. Among other positions there, he most recently had been

director of development.

"Raising funds is the life blood of a private institution," he said. "In coming here, I bring the fundraising background and 21 years in education."

He said he envisions changing the perception of the school, increasing enrollment, and changing the success of the athletic program. While historical roots will be nurtured, he said, plans for the future are "exciting, innovative, and development into one of the finest educational experiences for teenagers anywhere in the world."

Beane has plans to open the Ogle Building, the currently unused Fine Arts Center. □



BEANE

## DOM Phippen succumbs to cancer

John Phippen, director of missions for Shiloh Association since Jan. 1, 1991, died Jan. 30 following a bout with cancer. He was 52.

A native of Kentucky, Phippen was pastor of First Church, Medina, from 1969-81. He moved to First Church, Savannah, that year and served as pastor until Shiloh Association called him as director of missions in 1991.



PIPPEN

He also held two pastorates in Kentucky.

Phippen held degrees from Union University, Jackson, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He served on numerous committees at both the associational and Tennessee Baptist Convention level. He was a former trustee of Union University. Phippen wrote Sunday School lessons for the Baptist and Reflector in 1989.

Phippen is survived by his wife, Sandra, and two children, Jonathan and Johnna. □

## Former TBC officer Jack Prince dies

Retired Knoxville pastor Jack Prince died Jan. 30. He was 63.

The Virginia native was pastor of West Hills Church, Knoxville from 1960 until his retirement in 1992. He was then named pastor emeritus of the church.

Prince held degrees from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He was active in Knox County Association and the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He was elected a vice president of the convention in 1989 and preached the convention sermon at the TBC annual meeting last November in Gatlinburg.

Price is survived by his wife Sarah Frances and four children. □

# 'Powerline' listeners may receive shock when show is broadcast Feb. 5

By Doug Dillard  
For Baptist Press

FORT WORTH — Some of the almost 900 radio stations that carry the Radio and Television Commission's program "Powerline" may be in for a rude awakening unless they heed warnings issued by the Southern Baptist agency.

A few of the stations may find the compact disc labeled with the name of the popular program and marked "for airing the week beginning Feb. 5" actually contains material they do not want to put on the air, according to Ed Malone, vice president for radio for the commission. Because of a labeling machine mixup in a subcon-

tractor's shop in Michigan, the disc marked "Powerline" may contain a rock album, "Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables" by a group called Dead Kennedys.

The album is "vulgar, highly offensive" and not anything we would ever play on any program," Malone said. "In our opinion the language on this album is obscene and we would hope that it would not be played on any radio station," he added.

"Powerline" is a 30-minute radio program produced by RTVC since 1969. It blends adult contemporary music with brief inspirational messages that encourage Christian alternatives to life dilemmas.

The commission recently contracted with a Dallas record company to transfer the recorded program to compact discs which improve the quality of the broadcast.

"Our 'fail-safe' quality and delivery controls call for us to be mailed a copy of each album as if we were a radio station," Malone said. "But, before we could play our control copy, we had already had a call from a station manager to alert us to the mistake," he added, noting they immediately began calling stations to alert them.

The company has been very apologetic for the human error leading to one box of 30 mislabeled discs, RTVC officials said. □



CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER for Bertha Goins who has served for 60 years as Sunday School secretary and treasurer at Glade Springs Church, LaFollette. A native of Campbell County, she was baptized as a member of Glade Springs Church in 1921. She and her late husband Bill were named adoptive parents of the church family in 1987. On Jan. 10 Pastor Don Reynolds presented her with a proclamation of appreciation on "Bertha Goins Appreciation Day."

## SBC Annuity Board files shareholder resolution with Kmart

By Thomas E. Miller Jr.  
For Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has filed a resolution with Kmart Corporation, requesting its inclusion in proxy materials and its consideration by shareholders at their annual meeting May 25.

The resolution asks Kmart's board of directors to "instruct the management of Kmart Corporation to stop the promotion, display and sale in its Waldenbooks subsidiary of literature and other media that is largely devoted to the description of sexual encounters or that has a graphic depiction of exploitative sex and/or gratuitous violence."

Paul W. Powell, Annuity Board president, said he has asked every church pension board in the nation to study and support the resolution.

In addition, Powell has written to and asked support of all Baptist foundations and state conventions.

"We have no way of knowing who is holding Kmart stock," said Powell, "so we wrote to all our possible allies in the effort to curb the sale of pornography."

The resolution is a result of trustee action on Nov. 3, 1992, following full discussion of alternatives including divesting the stock.

Powell noted, "We could simply have sold our Kmart holdings, but selling stock has no influence on the company. Our trustees wanted to attempt a meaningful attack on the sale of pornographic publications rather than just protest.

"If we get no satisfactory response, we'll sell the stock in a prudent manner," Powell said. "But I hope we can reach

the shareholders and secure their agreement that the materials in question are not appropriate products for Waldenbooks to market."

The Annuity Board has been addressing the Waldenbooks practice since late spring 1992. After the August trustee meeting Powell wrote a letter to Joseph E. Antonini, Kmart's chairman and chief executive officer, in which he said, "Our own independent investigation has caused us to conclude that

Waldenbooks does, indeed, offer products we consider grossly offensive to prevailing community standards.

"It is obviously impossible for you to monitor every product, service, and title in your corporate family," Powell wrote, "but when a title or publisher becomes identified with sexual exploitation and you choose to sell that product, you are making a conscious decision to pander to baser instincts."

Powell said he is thus far dismayed at corporate response by Kmart. He has yet to receive a reply from the chairman. "In the light of such management intransigence, we have no option except to plea the rights of Kmart's owners against the abuse of management," Powell said. "The refusal of management to enter into dialogue is unacceptable and anti-shareholder behavior." □

## Lyle moves from Maryland to New England

By Allyson Clark  
For Baptist Press

NORTHBOROUGH, Mass. — The Baptist Convention of New England's executive committee voted unanimously Jan. 19 to call Kenneth R. Lyle as executive director.

Lyle, approved during the regular meeting of the committee, will assume the duties of the six-state convention April 15.

Lyle has served the Baptist Convention of Maryland-Deleware as executive director/treasurer since 1982. Previously he was pastor of Atlanta Baptist Tabernacle and director of missions with the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association. Lyle also has been pastor of churches in New York, Texas, and Mississippi.

The search for a new executive director began in May 1992 following the death of James Currin last April. Currin began serving in New England in 1978 and led in the formation of the state convention in 1983. Currently the convention encompasses approximately 200 churches

and missions.

Lyle, a native of Houston, and his wife Judy have four married children. He has earned degrees from Mississippi College, Clinton, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth,

and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Lyle affirmed New England as a mission field and recognized it as a mission base, each having an impact on the world for Christ. □

## Anderson accepts chaplain's position

Gary Anderson Sr., pastor of First Church, Dunlap, since 1982, has resigned effective March 31 to become a chaplain with the Western Tennessee Institute in Bolivar.



ANDERSON

A member of the Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, since 1987, Anderson served last year as second vice president of the convention. He is a former trustee of the Sunday School Board and of Belmont College.

Prior to serving at Dunlap Church, Anderson was pastor of Immanuel Church, Lawrenceburg; Orinda Church,

Orinda; and Milton Church, Milton, Ky. He was chief of chaplains for the Tennessee Department of Corrections 1968-74.

A native of Nashville, he is a graduate of Belmont College and has the doctor of ministry degree from Southern Seminary. He has clinical pastoral certificates from Central State Psychiatric Hospital, Lakeland, Ky., Baptist Hospital, Nashville; and South Carolina Department of Corrections, Columbia, S. C.

His wife is the former Sara Joyce Middleton. Gary Anderson Jr. is pastor of Burt Church, Woodbury, and their daughter, Agatha Joy Kusenda, is a school teacher in Chattanooga. □

## Two reminders for our readers

We offer two reminders to our readers.

First, we remind Tennessee Baptists that we'd like to have more church newsletters mailed to the *Baptist and Reflector* office.

Many readers have already discovered that pastors and church staff members write interesting personal columns weekly. We have been printing some of them each week in the paper. We want and need more. Send them to us. Each week the staff reviews those we receive, looking for news items and opinions.

Second, the *Baptist and Reflector* is mailed on a complimentary basis to all Tennessee Baptist foreign

missionaries. We need your help in sending these subscriptions by air mail. When sent by surface mail, the paper may arrive at the missionary's home three or more months later.

We'd like for churches claiming missionaries from their membership to underwrite the air mail postage. The *Baptist and Reflector* budget is insufficient for this. We believe other churches and individuals want to help.

Two pertinent reminders: mail regularly to us your church newsletter, and contact our office if you want to help a missionary family receive timely mail from "home." □

■ about letters to the editor

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



educator.

Dr. Simmons informed his class of the content of the video which would be shown. After the class, students were given the opportunity to openly discuss the video. There were no negative comments made during this discussion. The students also had the option of talking personally with Dr. Simmons about their objection to the video. They bypassed the first two steps which Jesus commanded and went straight to the trustees.

One must wonder if the trustees considered that in a class of about 90 students, only four filed the complaint. When such a small minority can control the atmosphere of the seminary, it becomes a place of indoctrination rather than an institution of higher learning.

It is becoming difficult to prepare for the many diverse types of ministry to which we have been called. The vibrant teaching to which Southern is accustomed is being challenged. A small core of students, resistant to change, have damaged the trust and respect of teacher to student. I am convinced that dogmatic teaching, which some trustees and a few students prefer, will ruin our witness for Christ.

*Tim Shockley*  
Southern Seminary  
Louisville, Ky., 40280

**Rich resources**

As recent graduates of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, we would like to

thank fellow Tennessee Baptists for their financial

support of our education. Scholarships provided by the state convention as well as the state WMU eased the enormous stress of graduate school.

In addition, it was a tremendous privilege to study at one of the finest theological schools in the world. We Baptists take entirely too much for granted. One illustration will suffice.

While doing a church history research paper on the subject of penance, Brad found nearly 100 volumes on the subject in the seminary's library. A trip to another seminary's library produced only one volume.

We count it a blessing to have studied in an environment rich in personnel and material resources. We appreciate your contribution to this part of our lives and ministries.

*Bradley and Connie Cruze Bull*  
Taylorsville, Ky., 40071

**Pray for direction**

Concern was expressed on the media Jan. 26 about the political significance of President Clinton's giving the gay issue such early priority. I simply want to say that the concern is misplaced. The timing of his action is not nearly as significant and serious as the fact that legalizing in the military what the Bible condemns reflects the nation's spiritual direction on a collision course with God whose judgment on sodomy should bring this na-

tion to repentance considering God's historically vindicated claim to be "the same yesterday, today, and forever."

The nation that rejects God's authority, will, and priorities for those of a people who choose rather to "do what is right in their own eyes" cannot expect its military might to be an ordained instrument for peace and order in the world. Nor can it find security from divine judgment in its perverted power. The longer the nation continues on that course the more surely its chances of a military victory are prophetically pictured in Sodom and Gomorrah.

It is ironic and sad that the President leading this nation on a collision course with God seems to expect its citizens to reconcile his decision with his "Christian" profession of faith. The Christians in America who believe it is still as founded, a nation "under God," need to apply the power of prayer to the rudder of this ship of state sufficiently to turn it on a course that will vindicate that faith.

*Kenneth R. Powell*  
Nashville 37209

**Expressions of love**

Stephen is dead! He died Dec. 16. He is gone to be with the Lord, is experiencing no more pain and suffering. Praise be to God, who sustains us and gives us strength for today. His grace is very sufficient.

During the past 15 months

of his illness we have been sustained by the love and support of our friends across the country. Thank you all so very much.

We have learned that AIDS is a terrible disease that continues to spread throughout the population. It is not prejudiced, for it strikes in every element of society. Hardly a church today is not touched by AIDS. We must simply learn how to minister to people with the disease, with compassion and without fear.

We have also learned a lot about people who are homosexual. God loves them all as he loves you and me. They have the same needs of love and forgiveness. The church needs to reach out to this 10 percent of the population with love and the Gospel of Christ and to show love to their families as well. God is our judge.

Thanks for your love, prayers, and support.  
*Matt and Frances Nevels*  
Chattanooga 37415

**W.W. Harrison dies**

W. W. Harrison, who was pastor of Southern Baptist churches in Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, and California for 62 years died Jan. 23. He was 82.

Tennessee pastors for the Castalian Springs native included Long Hollow Church, Hendersonville, Gallatin Road Church, Nashville, and First Church, Carthage. He held numerous interim pastorates throughout Middle Tennessee.

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth and two children. □

**Words of explanation**

Jesus taught the disciples in Matthew 18 that when they have a disagreement with another, they are to try to resolve the matter with each other before involving others in the conflict. Had the students that filed the complaint against Paul Simmons followed this teaching, Southern Seminary would not be less one excellent

**Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership**

February -

- 3 — Thurman Penick of Martin who is serving as team leader of a construction team in Temuco. Pray for him and Edward Luttrell of Lenoir City as they labor for the Lord.
- 4 — Birthday blessings for Martha Bowman, a home evangelist missionary.
- 5 — Ana Lara de Pozo, newly-elected executive director of Chile Woman's Missionary Union.
- 6 — Teresa de Herrera, Chile prayer coordinator and newly-elected president of the national Woman's Missionary Union of Chile.
- 7 — Missionaries Susan and Mark Andrews who are planting and pastoring a church of 16 members in LaSerena.
- 8 — The Chilean team of summer missionaries conducting VBS in missions, new work areas, and struggling churches throughout this month.
- 9 — VBS is being held today at the church in Esmeralda. Pray the children will be eager to hear of Jesus' love, and pray for strength and wisdom for the leaders.
- 10 — The mission point in Taltal and the two churches in Tocopilla to overcome the effects of their economic environments and shine as a testimony for our Lord.



**VIM Day recognizes volunteers; conference planned**

For *Baptist and Reflector*

On Sunday, Feb. 28, 2,419 Tennessee Baptists will be recognized for their efforts in mission projects during 1992 by their respective churches on Volunteers in Missions Day.

The recognition is part of Tennessee 10,000, a Tennessee Baptist Convention program to have 10,000 different people involved in missions during a calendar year, said Ray Gilder of the TBC Missions Department.

Those being honored in February represent 53 associations and 229 churches across the state, Gilder said.

The honorees were nominated for the recognition by their pastor, director of missions, or leader of the mission project.

Forms to recognize volunteers are available from state directors of missions or the TBC Missions Department,

Gilder said.

General guidelines are that the mission work can be done anytime during the calendar year. The work can be one day, two weeks, or even more, Gilder said. The project, however, must be outside the local church, Gilder added. "I am sure there were more than 10,000 volunteers from Tennessee last year," Gilder said.

He hopes Volunteers in Missions Day will encourage churches to nominate their volunteers, including youth, to receive a certificate next year in recognition of their efforts. VIM Day is observed the fourth Sunday in February each year.

Though Tennessee 10,000 is coordinated by the Mission Department, volunteer work can be through any TBC department — Brotherhood, WMU, Partnership Missions, etc.

The ideal person to fill out

the form is the group leader, and he or she should do so soon after the project, Gilder said.

He said that churches who send forms for volunteers this year by Dec. 31 will receive the certificates in time for next year's VIM Day.

To assist churches in volunteer missions efforts, the Missions Department is sponsoring a one-day Volunteer Conference on Feb. 20, from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

The conference will deal with various aspects of volunteer work, ranging from disaster relief to senior adults on missions.

There is no charge for the conference and a light lunch will be provided. For information, contact the Missions Department at (615) 371-3044.

"There is no way we can hire enough ministers and staff," Gilder said. □

# Volunteer missions, idea whose time is now

The call of Christ jumps to the forefront of concern for each Christian who believes in missions.

Tennessee Baptists, geographically at the heart of Southern Baptist missions for many years, now find they have potential to build dramatically on that solid foundation.

As Baptist work explodes within the natural boundaries of the United States, Tennessee Baptists see the changes of missiology occurring around the world. No longer are we at the epicenter of missions, but we are witnessing the expansion of that center. The Foreign Mission Board continues to push the frontiers back, but the work is not easy. Many Tennesseans stand engaged in a wide range of ministries.

True to the volunteer spirit that is an insignia of Tennesseans, though not peculiar to the Volunteer State, Baptists here have responded quickly with a steady flow of eager spirits in Burkina Faso, Venezuela, the Philippines, and now Chile in official capacity of partnership.

We have reached out with hammers and Bibles also to Michigan in a decade-long relationship. Tennessee Baptists from scores of churches have trekked to many other foreign lands and homeland states. In short, we are not a selfish people where missions is involved.

The Tennessee/Chile partnership is now into its second year. More than 250 volunteers have been involved thus far. Though

at least 750 people have professed faith in Jesus Christ as Tennesseans have built buildings and repaired broken lives, the blessings also have been experienced by volunteers.

Those who go invariably return with a different attitude about missions. Jarvis Hearn, director of the TBC Partnership Missions department, quotes a study which found that 29 percent of foreign missionaries on the field had some kind of volunteer missions experience.

However, volunteer missions was never meant to replace the strong fulltime foreign missions program of Southern Baptists. Though the missionary force is nearing 4,000 on a career basis, those numbers can never cover the world. Volunteers fill in some of the gaps.

The truth is that there are enough lost people in this world for all evangelicals. The numbers are staggering — various estimates say half of the population in America is lost, without Christ.

Thus, the burden falls on those who are willing to go, to share, to plant churches, to heal the sick, to lift up the broken-hearted, to visit the prisoners.

Hearn agrees with Richard Poe, a Tennessean who directs the partnership projects from Santiago. Both say the needs are great, time may be short, and both part-

ners need to cooperate in matching projects with volunteers, and praying always for all that needs to be done.

One of the urgent immediate needs is for volunteers to help with an evangelism thrust in Santiago, the Chilean capital.

If sufficient volunteers take part May 22-June 1, Santiago will not be the same. A modern city with more than five million residents, an impact for Christ there will send a message across Chile — and perhaps South America. Numbers, however, are not always the prime consideration. Both partners want quality of spiritual effort, and depth of character. The evangelistic effort must be of the true "vine life," garnering fruit for the Lord that is rich and abiding.

Growing true disciples is not easy either, but Chile Baptists are praying for more conversions, more disciples, and a growing number of churches. Isn't this cooperative challenge worthy of prayer and sacrifice? Can it be said of Tennessee Baptists, that first they gave themselves?

The thrust of foreign missions is birthed by the prayers of missions-minded people. But leadership in Richmond plays a distinctive role in successful recruitment and strategy. The task of the FMB search committee, no matter how worded, is to find the God-appointed leader with a missions heart and Christlike spirit. Anything less will cripple execution of the "go" assignment.

Christ's love propels us onward in a true

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

## A real love affair

Bledsoe Association celebrated January 26, and everyone who was present had a good time.

People from across the 27-church association in Middle Tennessee were expecting to participate in a joyous occasion, and they did. It was bittersweet.

The association was losing its director of missions and his secretary. They were leaving after eleven years, and the people wanted to shout.

It was difficult to determine whether the folks were happy because J. C. and Ann Lewis were leaving — or because they were staying on as interims in a two-thirds time situation.



ALLEN

The meeting was like a revival, and it had something of a circus atmosphere. There was plenty of rejoicing and testimony time, and quite a few tears flowed. At the start of the meeting, folks informally but officially voted to hire the Lewises on Monday on a two-thirds basis, after they had just retired January 31, that Sunday.

There was a packed house at Indian Hills Church, Gallatin. There were plenty of plaudits from Moderator Wert Campbell and others.

They were given two porch rockers, a photo book, letters of appreciation, a plaque, and a huge check for \$5,106.96 (probably to be used for a Chile mission trip), and a pig. Yes, a pig.

The check didn't bounce, and the pig didn't squeal. The pig is a substitute for a ham, since the Lewises are always giving ham to others. The check was about ten feet long and four feet high.

The pig brought the laughter, just to see J. C. trying to hold the little wiggler — but the tears came as spontaneous accolades came from the audience — like loving, friends, fellowship, spirit-filled, joyful, caring, kind, generous. Wert Campbell had to call time.

That's the way it should be always with church people. The Lewises and Bledsoe folks have had a long love affair. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

## Volunteers sought for Crossover Houston

By Sarah Zimmerman For Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Volunteers are encouraged to sign up now for "Crossover Houston," an evangelistic thrust to precede the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Houston.

The SBC meeting is scheduled for June 15-17, with the evangelistic emphasis set for June 9-13. Volunteers can register by writing Bobby Sunderland at the Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30367-5601.

Volunteers are needed for local church revivals, mass evangelism rallies, street evangelism such as puppet shows or concerts, block parties, door-to-door campaigns, and a three-day prayer conference, said Sunderland, evangelism assistant for promotion and project development.

Last year in Indianapolis, 1,043 people made professions of faith because of Crossover activities.

The event caused Indiana churches to be more motivated with evangelism efforts, said Loren Robinson, associate director of evangelism for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

"Pastors and church mem-

bers began to get a vision for reaching their community," Robinson said. "It sparked a vision and enthusiasm for

were added to the door-to-door campaign for Crossover Atlanta.

Russ Barker, director of



evangelism."

Evangelistic efforts have been held prior to the annual meeting since 1989 when the meeting was held in Las Vegas.

One woman in Las Vegas began teaching Sunday school at a local Baptist church after she was contacted during the pre-convention outreach. She was already a Christian but not involved in a church, and her husband and four children have since become Christians.

In 1991 hunger relief ministries and street evangelism

missions for the Atlanta Baptist Association, said Crossover Atlanta reminded local churches of the many different approaches to evangelism.

The purpose of Crossover activities is to "impact the convention for soul-winning," said Darrell Robinson, HMB vice president for evangelism. In addition to bringing people to Christ, Robinson said he hopes the events will remind Southern Baptists to keep evangelism a priority. □

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

Start with a smile —

The Sunday School teacher concluded the lesson, "Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt." One little boy said, "My mother looked back once while she was driving, and she turned into a telephone pole."

Take this truth with you today —

If we are to succeed in life we must avoid distractions. To keep our eye constantly on the goal is the way to reach it. Never let secondary causes interfere with that which is most important.

Memorize this Scripture —

"Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark." (Philippians 3:13b-14a)

Pray this prayer —

Lord, help me to separate the wheat from the chaff, the essential from the unnecessary, the urgent from that which can wait awhile. Teach me that a meaningful life is one that has chosen its priorities well. □

# Five years become 25 for retiring Tennessee missionary

By Linda Phillips  
For Baptist and Reflector

PINGTUNG, Taiwan — When missionaries Bob and Nell Beard went to Taiwan, they thought it would be for five years, but it turned into 25.

Beard, of Memphis, and his wife Nell, of Fairfield, Ala., began thinking about missions after reading an article in *The Commission*, the Foreign Mission Board's magazine, about English language pastors. They contacted the FMB and said they were open to the possibility of God using them in

## VBS clinics focus on 'Summershine'

The 1993 State Vacation Bible School Clinics will be held in four locations across Tennessee from Feb. 15-18.

This year's theme is "Summershine," based on Matthew 5:14-16.

Associational teams are encouraged to attend to Knoxville church hosts prayer study for Baptist women

Author and speaker Jennifer Kennedy Dean will speak Feb. 11 at Central Church Bearden, Knoxville.

Dean will lead a study entitled "The Praying Woman: Impacting Her World."

She is the author of *Heart's Cry*, a popular book on prayer. Dean also has written numerous articles and other items on principles of prayer and spiritual development.

A dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$4. The seminar will begin at 7:30 p.m. Reservations are required for both the dinner and the seminar. For information, call the church at (615) 588-0586 by Feb. 7. □

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overseas missions.

In 1967 the Beards were appointed missionary associates to work with Trinity Baptist Church in Tainan, a church started by Americans working at the U.S. air base located there.

At the end of their first term, they expected to say goodbye to Taiwan and return to the United States. But because of Beard's previous teaching experience, Morrison Christian Academy asked him to serve as principal of the school's Kaohsiung branch.

While Beard led in the development and growth of the

receive training and orientation for the 1993 curriculum.

Conferences will include babies/ones; 2-3 year olds; 4-5 year olds; young, middle, and older children; youth; adult; general officers for VBS directors; and others.

Dates and locations are: Feb. 15, Manley Church, Morristown; Feb. 16, First Church, Athens; Feb. 17, First Church, Franklin; and Feb. 18, Englewood Church, Jackson.

The schedule is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Associational reservations must be made for meal and childcare by calling the TBC Sunday School Department at (615) 371-2054. □

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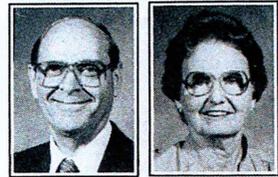
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school, his wife served as the first school secretary. When she started taking children to the library to give teachers a break, she became school librarian. Later, she taught creative writing, literature, and drama.

After ten years in school work, the Beards felt the Lord



B. BEARD N. BEARD

leading them into yet another ministry; this time to work with Chinese students. "Nell

## Conversational English workshops slated

Three conversational English workshops, sponsored by the TBC Missions Department, are set for across the state.

Dates and locations are March 8-9, Eudora Church, Memphis; March 11-12, Calvary Church, Knoxville; and March 15-16, Baptist Center, Brentwood. The workshops equip volunteers to

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and I wanted in the last five to six years that we had in Taiwan to do something with a little more of a direct evangelistic impact," he said.

They moved to Pingtung to work full time in student evangelism. The Beards' new home, near Pingtung Baptist Church, was a short distance from four large schools.

"The church was very weak and without a pastor when we came," Beard said. Others described it as dead, but the Beards urged the church to pray for a pastor and urged people in the United States to pray for the church.

"Intercessory prayer prevailed," Beard said. The church found a pastor who brought "a spiritual revival to

the church that was nothing short of the grace of God."

The Beards' eight months of formal language study 20 years earlier was limited, but they used all the Chinese they had along with coworkers.

The couple taught English to attract students, then directed their contacts to church services and other evangelistic outreach programs. "I feel that the Lord saved the best for last when he called us to Pingtung before retirement," she said.

It's difficult for the Beards to leave Taiwan and their "spiritual children." But when they retire in 1993, they will probably do what they have done for the past 25 years: loving people into God's kingdom. □

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# ■ Sunday School lesson commentary

## □ Laments for a nation — Bible Book Series for February 7

by Bill Wolfe, pastor, First Church, Counce

A nation in crisis causes us to look to the Lord with a new appreciation for his ability to help each situation.

During the Gulf War crisis, our people became a praying people. However, after most of the forces had returned home, even newsmen remarked about how little they were hearing about people praying.



WOLFE

The nation Israel seemed to go through a constant cycle. That cycle consisted of God's blessings, the people rejoicing in the Lord, the nations yielding to sin followed by God's judgment, and the people's repentance. It was a never-ending cycle. How familiar does that sound as we look at individual and national life?

Psalm 77 begins with a por-

trait of a good man under stress. His grief seems evident by the words he wrote in verse 1: "I cried unto God with my voice." The situation that concerned the psalmist was not resolved, as he said in verse 2: "My soul refused to be comforted." The writer acted as we do when we are distressed. We remember God, we complain, we allow our spirit to be depressed, we cannot sleep, we remember the way things used to be, and we ask many questions (vv. 3-9).

The psalmist responded to the situation by taking definite steps. 1) He said he would remember the works of the Lord (v. 11). In last week's lesson the psalmist remembered what God had done for him, not just going to the temple. 2) I will meditate on him and talk about him (v. 12). Meditation is being alone and thinking on the Lord. After we have thought on him we can

tell others about him. We cannot tell others about being close to the Lord and meditating on him if we have not done it ourselves. 3) He remembered the strength of the Lord (v. 14). God had declared and shown his strength to his people many times. (See Genesis and Exodus.) 4) He rejoiced in redemption (v. 15). Redemption is the message of the cross to our world. We must learn to rejoice in the cross of Christ!

Psalm 85 probably was written after the Jews returned from captivity in Babylon. The people of God are taught in verses 1-7 how to address God.

Verses 1-3 say God's people are to acknowledge the great things he has done for them. We see this great appreciation by phrases such as "thou hast been favorable to thy land," "thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people," "thou hast covered all thy sin," "thou hast taken away

all thy wrath." God showed his favor by bringing them out of captivity. They thanked God for all he had done.

Their thanksgivings are followed by prayers. First, they prayed for saving grace (v. 4). Second, they prayed for the removal of God's anger (v. 4). Then they prayed for God's revival among his people (v. 6).

**Basic Passage:**  
**Psalm 77; 85; 126**

We often use verse 6 to prepare for revival services. The saddest word is "again." How sad that revival cannot be a "once for all" experience in our churches and lives. The last thing prayed for is in verse 7. They asked the Lord for mercy. These people had seen enough of God's wrath. They wanted his mercy.

In Psalm 126, the psalmist poured his heart out to God. He remembered God's blessings,

and called the people to renewal. When the Israelites were captives in Babylon their harps were hung in willow trees. They resumed playing their harps. God used Cyrus, king of Persia, to defeat Babylon and allow the Israelites to come home. Someone said, "God sent them into captivity, not as dross is put into the fire to be consumed, but as gold to be refined." They were filled with music, laughter, and happiness (vv. 1-3).

We close with Psalm 126:4-6. They were glad to be home, but their hearts were burdened for those left. They prayed for God to act on their behalf again. "They sow in tears" is a sign of their burden. We need tears of sorrow for our sins, the sins of others, for sympathy. We can only bring back our sheaves if we sow in tears — weeping. God must break us to make us — not only a people but also a nation! □

## □ Commissioned to witness — Convention Uniform Series for February 7

By Terry Bradshaw, pastor, Zion Hill Church, Sevierville

Today's lesson deals with the events surrounding the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The background material, found in Luke 24, reveals to us not only the resurrection, but also the skepticism and doubt that surrounded this wonderful event.



BRADSHAW

The lesson begins with verse 13 and tells how Jesus introduced the truth of the resurrection to two of his disciples. Verses 15-35 are a detailed account of the events surrounding this episode. A stranger joined the disciples on a journey to Emmaus. The stranger inquired about the events of the day and why they were so downcast (v. 17). The disciples, in response to the

stranger's questions, gave an account of details that had touched them deeply. After listening, Jesus, the stranger, offered a Bible lesson concerning the truth about himself (vv. 25-27). It is not until verses 30-31 that the two realized they had been with the resurrected Christ. Jesus combined the Scripture lesson with the administration of the evening meal to reveal himself to the two disciples. In verse 31, the word "knew" simply means they recognized him. The obscurity had been eliminated, and they knew the resurrection truth.

### Resurrection truth

The truth they had received could not be contained within themselves. They remembered how their hearts burned (v. 32) (literally, set on fire) as Jesus spoke from Scripture. They left

immediately to tell the others in Jerusalem of their experience with the resurrected Christ. I am convinced when one accepts the message of the resurrected Lord, he is forever changed. He/she gains a personal commission to share it's wonderful truth with others.

### Resurrection truth revealed

After reaching Jerusalem, the two disciples told others what had happened. Then suddenly Jesus was standing in their midst (v. 36). He spoke words of peace, but they experienced terrifying fear (v. 37). The word "spirit" in verse 37 can be interpreted ghost. This implies that in the midst of their doubt and confusion, they failed to recognize the resurrected Christ. Jesus said he knew their thoughts and fears (v. 38). The word "thoughts" in this context means doubts and

suspensions. Jesus implied he knew what they were feeling and thinking before they ever said a word. (Let me remind the readers that this truth is still in effect today.)

Jesus then set out to calm their fears. Isn't that like our Lord! He could have chastised them for their doubt and fear, but instead he chose to help them remove it. He encouraged them to look, feel, and listen as he led them from doubt to belief. They intellectually knew the facts, but this did little to relieve their doubt and confusion. Then in verse 45 we find, "Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand (comprehend) the Scriptures." God not only supplied the truth, but he also granted them ability to understand it. This revelation would forever change their lives.

### Share resurrection truth

The disciples, after learning the truth, were given the responsibility of sharing this message with the world. Jesus

**Basic Passage**  
**Luke 24:13-35**

reminded the disciples of his sacrifice and the reason for the sacrifice (vv. 46-47). He told them to tarry in Jerusalem until they are endued (clothed) with the power of the Holy Spirit. This power would enable them to carry out the task the Lord had assigned.

The church today is still responsible for delivering the Gospel message to a lost and dying world. The Bible says, the fields are white unto harvest, but laborers are few. The question is, are you one of the few. □

## □ Fulfilling family responsibilities — Life and Work Series for February 7

By Toby Everett, pastor, Walker Memorial Church, Franklin

There is a major problem facing us today with responsibility in family relations. The problem stems from conflicting "advice" from "experts." Psychologists say we must create an open atmosphere so children feel freedom to be themselves and still have self-respect. Some parents then take no responsibility for their children's friends, decisions, and choices.



EVERETT

Abraham was not one of those parents. Although he lived in a culture that permitted a more direct touching of lives in the family, Abraham's exam-

ple teaches us how to fulfill our responsibilities.

### Concerned involvement (ch. 24:2-4)

I remember telling my father I had asked Janet to be my wife. Dad responded, "Well, I picked out my daughter-in-law to be. I just didn't know which of you boys would choose her."

Abraham instructed his servant to choose carefully a wife for Isaac. He was concerned for Isaac's spiritual well being. Abraham knew, as my father knew, his son's life partner would be vital to his son's life. I do not advocate arranged marriages, but concerned involvement is certainly needed.

### Confident insistence (ch. 24:5-7)

Troubled by his task, Eliezer needed reassurance that he would be successful. Abraham insisted on two things. First, Isaac would not be taken from Canaan to where the wife would be chosen. Second, he wanted the servant to trust that God would assure success.

In families, we should be confident that God will see to the completion of the tasks in relationships if we honor him in the process.

### Careful intervention (ch. 24:12)

This prayer by the servant indicated he felt his responsibility deeply as a trusted member of Abraham's household. Several years ago I met a young couple who told me a marvelous

truth. The young lady shared how she had begun to pray in the eighth grade for the man that she would marry some day. She and her husband had listed those characteristics and prayed that God would provide a mate to fulfill them. Ten years passed before they even met one another, but the careful in-

tervention brought success. Completed initiative (ch. 24:67)

Abraham took the initiative to select a suitable bride for Isaac. Eliezer was the instrument of the initiative. We as parents need to live loving, sen-

sitive lifestyles that our children can accept. Abraham and Sarah had a grand life together. It was that example Isaac wanted to build upon. He accepted the choice because he was comforted by the decision.

### Covenant insurance (ch. 25:11)

The involvement of Abraham in accepting his responsibility for this covenant child carries over the blessing. We are not given any indication even in the new marriage of Abraham that the original covenant made by God was done away.

My father's responsible "choice" for me also was the very best, and though he didn't tell me until after the fact, "God blessed his son." □

**Basic Passage:**  
**Genesis 23:1-25:11**

## ■ the leaders

■ **Kenny Yau** is the new pastor of the First Chinese Church, Memphis. He was installed in a special service Jan. 24.

■ **Lakeview Church, Harri-**man, called **Jasper Greg Kelly**, Rockwood, as pastor. He began his duties Jan. 3. Kelly earned a master of divinity degree in pastoral care at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

■ Members of Marshall Hill Church, Niota, recently welcomed new pastor **Ronnie Moore**.

■ **Kenneth Charles** is the new pastor of Valley Road Church, Athens.

■ **Dallas Moore** has been called as pastor of Gists Creek Church, Sevierville.

■ **Greg Jones** recently returned to Providence Church, Sevierville, as pastor.

■ **W. W. Cope** retired from the pastorate of First Church, Pigeon Forge, in late December. **Roy Edgemon**, director of Discipleship and Family Development at the Baptist Sunday School Board, is serving as interim pastor.

■ **Edward Adams** has been called as pastor of Calvary Church, Sevierville.

■ **Garry Owens** will be ordained to the Gospel ministry Feb. 7 at Southside Church, Lebanon. He is minister of music at the church.

■ **Ben Garner** is serving as interim pastor of Prosperity Church, Auburntown.

■ **Bruce Deming**, minister of education and senior adults at Bayside Church, Harrison, has resigned to take a position as a Mission Corps volunteer for the next two years. Deming and his wife Ann will work as a team in a Baptist association in south Florida to assist area churches in Sunday School, Discipleship Training, and outreach. They will also begin outreach Bible studies, discipleship groups, and other ministries in apartment complexes, retirement communities, and mobile home parks.

■ **Ozzie Ingram** is the new minister of education and youth at First Church, Elizabethton.

■ **Mark Sheldon** is acting as interim minister of music at Park Avenue Church, Nashville.

■ **Randy Graham** has resigned as minister of youth and recreation at First Church, Humboldt, to accept a similar position at First Church, Natchez, Miss.

■ **Don Wynn** has been called as interim pastor of University Heights Church, a mission of Stevens Street Church, Cookeville.

■ **Audubon Park Church, Memphis**, called **Janet Anthony** as minister of childhood education. She will begin her duties Feb. 8.

■ **Keith and Tisha Wood** all are jointly serving as interim ministers of youth at Springfield Church, Springfield.

■ **Edwin D. Graber**, Houston, Texas, has been called as pastor of Central Church,

Chattanooga. Graber presently serves as associate pastor/executive assistant at Houston Northwest Church. He will begin his ministry in Tennessee Feb. 14.

■ **Charles Humphries** has been called as bivocational children and youth minister to Bluff City Church, Bluff City.

## ■ hospitals

■ **Baptist Hospital, Nashville**, has established the Baptist Cancer Center to serve as the focal point for the hospital's diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, nutritional guidance, and counseling for cancer patients and their families. The center's services will include a multi-media learning resource center; educational programs directed at cancer avoidance, early detection of cancer, and coping with cancer; and cancer-related community education programs offered through Baptist LiveSmart program.

## ■ the people

■ **Geraldine Ziegler** was recently recognized at Central

Church, Chattanooga, in honor of her 40th anniversary as church/pastor's secretary. She served under five pastors.

■ **Roger D. Sims**, Murfreesboro, has been named director of admissions at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He previously served as director of missions at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro. He holds masters and specialist degrees in education from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

■ **Steve Clendenin, Tommy Ducworth, and Charles Thomas** were ordained to the deacon ministry of Maplewood Church, Paris, Jan. 17.

■ **Mount Hermon Church, Clarksville**, ordained **Phillip Traylor** and **Danny Williams** as deacons.

■ **George Ervin III, Bob Tucker, and Manson Clement** were ordained as deacons Jan. 24 at First Church, Cleveland.

■ **Lawrence Atkins** was ordained as a deacon Jan. 17 at First Church, Camden.

■ **Sharon Denise Morgan**, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, has been named director of The Samaritan House, a homeless shelter operated by campus ministries, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

■ **Michael Lalonde** will be ordained to the deacon ministry of Southside Church, Lebanon, Feb. 7. The church also named **Dickie Denton Sr., Joe Palk Sr., William Harris, Ray Johnson, and Steve Mull** as undershepherds.

■ **First Church, Englewood**, will ordain **William Bell** to the Gospel ministry Feb. 21.

## ■ the churches

■ Members of **Georgian Hills Church, Memphis**, will celebrate the church's 35th anniversary May 16 with a homecoming service. The church staff seeks addresses of former church members to invite them to attend. Please send addresses to 3759 North Watkins, Memphis, Tenn., 38127.

■ **Rodney Gage** led a harvest crusade at **First Church, Spring City**, Jan. 9-11. One hundred and three decisions were reported of which 64 were professions of faith.

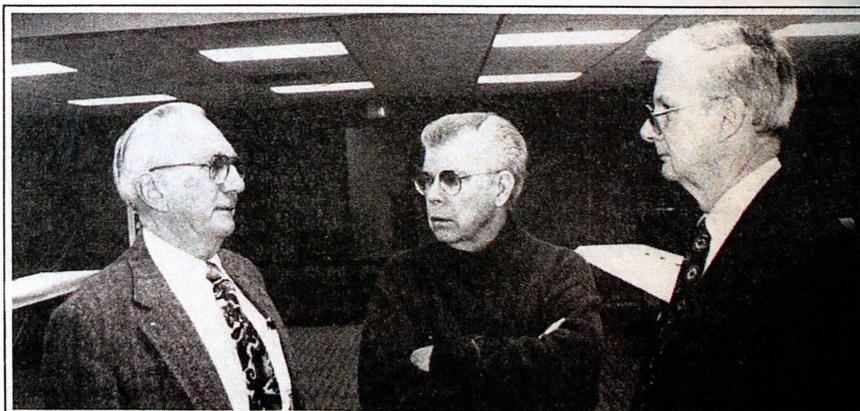
■ The community ministry of **East Cheatham Chapel, Joelton**, will expand Feb. 7 to include a Sunday morning worship service beginning at 11 a.m. Open house will be at 12:15 p.m., followed by a music service at 1 p.m. East Cheatham Chapel, sponsored by First Church, Pleasant View, and First Church, Joelton, began June 21, 1992, with Sunday evening worship services. The church is located at 1259-A Jackson Felts Road.

■ Members of **Flatwoods Church, Holladay**, dedicated their newly remodeled church Jan. 24. **Doyle Neal** delivered the dedication sermon.

■ The Talleys will be in concert Feb. 6, 7 p.m., at **Hillcrest Church, Lebanon**.



THE TENNESSEE/MICHIGAN PARTNERSHIP is alive and well, say leaders from both the Tennessee Baptist and Michigan Baptist conventions. Michigan leaders met with Tennessee cluster coordinators recently at the Baptist Center. **Jarvis Hearn**, TBC Partnership Missions director, said Tennessee leaders reaffirmed their missions commitment in Michigan. Last year, more than 2,000 Tennessee Baptists worked in Michigan. In top photo, **Carl Bond** of Giles County Association, left, visits with **Billy Whitt** of Michigan. Below, **Jarvis Hearn**, right, talks with **Herbert Higdon**, center, of Madison-Chester Association and **James Humphreys** of Carroll-Benton Association.



## Missions starts is McKinney's legacy

Starting missions is the legacy of **Nat McKinney Jr.**, retired director of missions from Bledsoe and New Salem associations.

He was called to the ministry while he was a member of First Church, Carthage. He became bivocational director of missions with New Salem Association in 1953.

Three years later he became director of missions for Bledsoe Association in addition to his work in New Salem. His work was divided two-thirds in Bledsoe and one-third in New Salem until he retired from Bledsoe in 1981. He resigned from New Salem approximately one year later.

During his ministry he

was involved in starting 14 missions, and all but two became churches. One of those missions, College Heights Church, Gallatin, now has a membership of more than 1,400 people.

After his retirement he led in establishing Carthage Road Church, a mission of First Church. The church was organized in 1990.

The church was built on land which has been in McKinney's family for more than 125 years, between Carthage and Lebanon. McKinney did most of the work in constructing the original chapel, with the help of his son-in-law. The congregation worshiped in the building for the first time in August 1991.

McKinney was honored that fall for his work throughout his 43-year ministry. □



MCKINNEY