

Baptist and Reflector

February 10, 1993

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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week's
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2,000-plus churches participate in prayer alert

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Now in its second year of encouraging Southern Baptist churches to pray for spiritual awakening, the Watchmen National Prayer Alert includes 2,050 churches committed to praying at an assigned hour each week.

"This means 12 churches are praying each hour of every day," said Mary Betts, Watchmen National Prayer Alert coordinator at the Baptist Sunday School Board. Participants are asked to gather as a group

at their appointed hour, pray, and then "pass the watch" by calling the church with the next hour on the schedule.

"When the churches are really networked, the relationships they form are unique," Betts said. "In the churches where people are able to get together as a group, they are getting more from the experience."

Participating churches come from all 50 states, Canada, and Puerto Rico. Texas leads all states with 265 participating churches, followed

by Georgia, 131, Tennessee, 121; North Carolina, 117; and Alabama and Missouri, 106 each.

Norma Parlier, prayer coordinator at Highland Church in Hickory, N.C., reported: "Although we have to get up around 3:30 in order to get to the church by 4 a.m., we all agree this is a good hour. Our prayer time has been a wonderful experience for all of us. The church before us is faithful to pass the watch at 4 a.m., and the church after us is always ready to receive the

watch at 5 a.m."

Joe Guthrie of Fairhaven Church in Demopolis, Ala., wrote Betts to cite "the positive impact the prayer alert is making in our church. We are having around 23 people come out to pray each Thursday at 5 a.m. We're seeing God answer our prayers, people are being saved, lives are being turned around, and the overall spiritual temperature of our church is going up."

Churches interested in participating in the ministry may call Betts at (615) 251-5037. □

Changes in journeyman program restore original identity

By Mary E. Speidel
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's journeyman program will undergo changes designed to restore the identity of the original program which was

established in 1964.

Board administrators approved the revisions Feb. 2 after hearing recommendations from a task force appointed last October to study the program. The original journeyman program was developed to allow recent college graduates to

serve for two years alongside career missionaries.

In 1989 the journeyman program was made part of a newly-created International Service Corps formed to send non-career personnel overseas for four months to two years. Under that umbrella, it became known as the journeyman "option" of the service corps.

Elements of the original journeyman program were used as a model for the International Service Corps program, created to provide a more uniform approach to the sending of non-career personnel. Participants in the jour-

neyman option went through the same application and screening process as other service corps volunteers but attending a separate 16-day orientation.

With the latest changes the journeyman option will be restored to a distinct program of its own, said Wendy Norvelle, director of the board's International Service Department.

The journeyman applicant must be a college graduate, Southern Baptist at least two years, a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, have never been married, and be committed to — See Changes, page 2

SBC Cooperative Program gifts up in January by 14.4 percent

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for January were up 14.4 percent over the same month a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

January gifts totaled \$14,292,208 compared to that same month in 1992 of \$12,492,681, an increase of \$1,799,527.

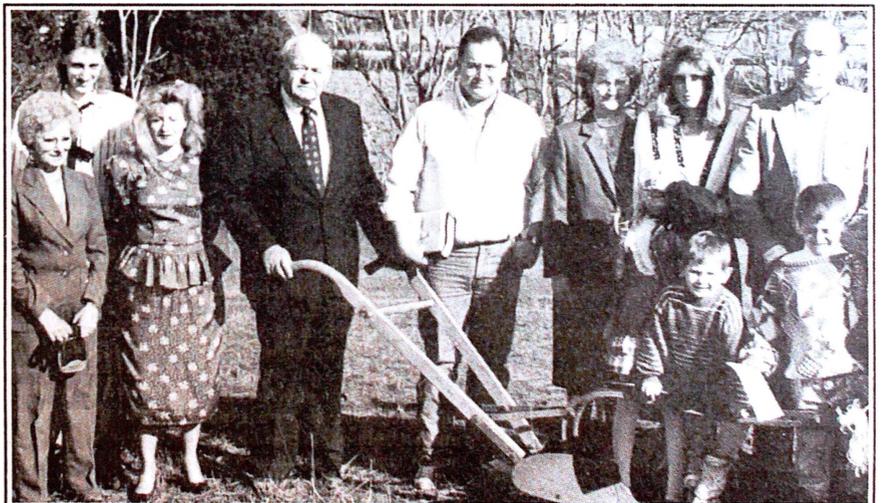
The 1992-93 SBC monthly basic operating budget requirement is \$11,683,366. The current year's SBC Cooperative Allocation Budget is \$140,200,395.

For the fiscal year to date (October through January), gifts are up 3.91 percent over the previous year: \$47,764,008 versus \$45,965,592, or an increase of \$1,798,416.

Designated gifts also were up in January by nearly \$3.5 million. Those gifts totaled \$21,986,820 compared to \$18,495,616 that same month a year ago, an increase of 18.88 percent.

The Cooperative Program is

Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. □



ALMOST FIVE YEARS after being formed as a congregation, members of Eastside Mission, McMinnville, broke ground Feb. 7 for their first building. The mission, sponsored by Central Association and co-sponsored by Westside Church, has been meeting in the association's office. Director of Missions Ralph Hoover is flanked by members of the mission. The building will be constructed by volunteers from the mission and Hamilton County Association. Funds were secured by grants and low interest loans from the TBC Missions Department and other contributions. Other churches assisting in the work of the mission include Northside, Shellsford, Providence, and First churches of Morrison and McMinnville.

- Wm. Fletcher Allen is the editor.
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Youth minister wants balance

Minister from Hendersonville named '1992 Youth Leader of the Year' out of 60 nominees

By Chip Alford
For Baptist Press

HENDERSONVILLE — When it comes to building a healthy youth ministry program, Debbie Harned takes her doctor's advice.

"Doctors are always telling us we need to eat well-balanced meals to be healthy. The same principle applies with youth work. You have to have a well-balanced program to have a healthy ministry."

"Bible study, discipleship, missions, music — all of those are important," said Harned, minister of youth and activities at Bluegrass Church in Hendersonville.

From all indications, the youth at Bluegrass are being well fed. The church averages between 70 to 80 youth in Sunday School each week and 30 to 40 youth attend Wednesday night discipleship and missions classes. They also lead their own worship services once a month, plan their own newsletter (the "Fountain of Youth"), teach their own weekly Bible studies and help organize a variety of outreach projects.

"I think as ministers we are supposed to be equippers," Harned said, explaining her philosophy of youth ministry. "I want to work myself out of a job by equipping the youth, their parents, and our youth workers. I don't want to be the focal point, I want them to learn to build their own foundation (in the faith)."

Harned may not be the focal point in her church's youth program, but she was the center of attention in the November/December issue of *Group*, a nondenominational magazine for youth ministers, which named her "1992 Youth Leader of the Year" from a na-

tionwide field of more than 60 nominees.

"Under her forceful, visionary leadership, the youth program at Bluegrass Church has developed into a prototype for excellence in youth ministry," *Group* editor Rick Lawrence wrote about Harned. "Everything about it is strong; youth involvement and leadership, a nurturing and exuberant environment, enthusiastic adult participation, cutting-edge volunteer training, experiential programming that's fun and growth-oriented, a service

four years before I went to Southwestern, but after being at seminary only a few months I began to feel embarrassed about what I had done before in youth ministry.

"It was tremendously helpful for me to understand the big picture of youth ministry — the curriculum, the church staff, resources, counseling, the biblical basis of it — all of the elements that go into ministry. That's the kind of awakening I had."

One of Harned's innovative programs is a youth-led worship service once a month. No adults are allowed in the service (except for Harned) and all the counseling is provided by trained young people.



AWARD WINNER — Debbie Harned talks with a youth at Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville.

mind-set, and relational ministry."

Harned said she was both shocked and honored to receive the award.

"I'm in a profession where there are tons of rewards (through witnessing changes) in the lives of young people, but very few awards. This was really a surprise."

She earned a bachelor's degree in music from Belmont University in Nashville before going to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, in 1984 to pursue a career in youth ministry. She described her time at the seminary as "an incredibly great experience."

"Dr. (Wes) Black and Dr. (Phil) Briggs (youth ministry professors at Southwestern) have both written me and taken full credit for this award," Harned said, laughing. "But seriously, a large part of the credit does go to them."

"I had been involved in youth ministry about three or

"The youth are very excited about it. We had 10 of them who came for training in how to lead someone to Christ. And many of them who wouldn't feel comfortable sharing their testimony in our regular worship service have been able to do it in these services," she said.

While some of her job involves planning and administration, Harned said the part she enjoys most is spending "one-on-one" time with the youth.

Asked if she had any advice for her peers in youth ministry, Harned said: "I guess I would just tell them to hang in there. You can't implement everything in a summer or even in a year. But if you keep building up others, if God does move you somewhere else, you will have left something behind that will be strong enough to stand on its own." □

Changes in journeyman program restore original ...

— Continued from page 1
serve two years.

Those stipulations reflect several changes, Norvelle said. One is that the applicants be never-married singles only. The original program was created for single college graduates but later evolved to include married couples. The journeyman option program also was open to married applicants.

The move to limit the pro-

gram to singles is mainly for training purposes. The revised program's more intensive training "lends itself more readily to singles," Norvelle said. Training focuses on group experiences and doesn't allow much time for couples to be together, she said. Married couples interested in overseas service may still apply for the International Service Corps. Divorced applicants — who are single or remarried — also will

continue to be considered for the service corps.

Another change is that journeyman will be required to be Southern Baptist at least two years, also a new requirement for all International Service Corps volunteers, Norvelle said. The current requirement is that a participant in any service corps program — including the journeyman option — be a Southern Baptist at least one year.

Missionaries to leave Togo

By Donald D. Martin
For Baptist Press

LOME, Togo — Southern Baptist missionaries planned to evacuate Lome, the capital city of Togo, Feb. 3 as a deepening political crisis fuels the spread of violence and civil unrest in the coastal city.

Most of the 14 career missionaries, their children, and three International Service Corps workers planned to drive to Cotonou in the neighboring nation of Benin, reported mission chairwoman Ann White from her Lome home.

Two missionary couples, including White and her husband, Mark, of Alabama, and Frank and Melandey Dudley of Texas and Louisiana, decided to drive to northern Togo, an area free of the unrest. They will stay with Southern Baptist missionaries there.

The latest wave of violence erupted Jan. 30 in Lome when government troops looted and burned the home of an opposition leader, according to press reports. That same day Togolese security forces reportedly killed at least six people, including two foreigners, when troops loyal to President Gnassingbe Eyadema rambaged through the city looting homes and businesses.

Missionaries and their children leaving for Cotonou, Benin, include Joe and Debbie Moss, from Marietta, Ga., and Black Mountain, N.C., respectively; Jim and Donna Shemwell, from Gary, Ind., and Cold Spring, Ky.; Randy and Kathy Arnett, from Oak Grove, Mo., and Charleston, Mo.; Larry and Martha Pritchett, from Irving, Texas, and Longview, Texas; Mary Katherine Campbell, from Abilene, Texas; and Paula Settle, from Owensboro, Ky, who has furloughed in Nashville. International Service Corps workers Ruby Patterson, Asheville, N.C., and Leslie and Ronda Brooks, both from Mobile, Ala., also will leave. □

These changes were proposed after the board's task force on journeyman surveyed a sampling of Southern Baptists familiar with the journeyman experience, Norvelle said. Respondents included missionary supervisors of journeyman, former journeyman, and board administrators.

"Overwhelmingly, they (respondents) wanted to retain that journeyman identity," said Norvelle. □

Masons urge members to attend SBC as messengers

By David Winfrey
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — From letter writing campaigns and special meetings to a call to attend the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Houston, Masons are defending their lodge membership and denying any conflict with Christian doctrine.

"We are simply trying to set the record straight," said John Boettjer, managing editor of *The Scottish Rite Journal*, which expanded and dedicated its February issue to the topic of Freemasonry and religion.

Masonic response comes as Southern Baptists await a study on Freemasonry by the Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department.

Meanwhile, Freemasonry critic Larry Holly said he will publish his second book on the subject, to be available at this year's convention. Holly, a Beaumont, Texas, physician who initiated the call for a study of Masonry, mailed his first book to several thousand Baptists prior to the 1991 SBC meeting in Indianapolis.

Holly said his second book also will be mailed to HMB trustees before they vote at

their March meeting on whether to accept the study by the board's interfaith witness department and send it to the convention for consideration. Holly contends that a sound study of Freemasonry will find it to be occultic and incompatible with Christian doctrine.

Masons counter that critics misquote Masonic writings, use outdated material, or elevate one Mason's beliefs to the level of doctrine. Freemasonry encourages church involvement, they say, and it simply refuses to allow religious differences to prevent good men from becoming better through

civic and charitable projects.

"Even a casual perusal of these pages should convince any person open to reason that Freemasonry is not only compatible with religion but also confirms and complements religious faith and church participation," wrote C. Fred Kleinknecht, sovereign grand commander of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, in the *Journal*. The *Journal*, which has a circulation of 550,000, features essays and letters by Southern Baptist pastors and laymen, as well as others such as *Guideposts* publisher Norman Vincent Peale.

Baptist Masons who wrote in the February issue include Baylor University President Herbert Reynolds and President Emeritus Abner McCall. Essays note that George W. Truett, former pastor of First Church, Dallas, was a Mason and U.S. Senator Jesse Helms is a Mason.

In the *Journal*, two Baptist laymen call for Baptist Masons to attend the SBC in Houston, Texas, June 14-17 as messengers. Masons also have written letters to Southern Baptist leaders, stating they are Christians and see no conflict between the two. □

Oklahomans continue to debate cancellation of Graham's daughter

By Art Toalston
For Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Debate continues in Oklahoma over the cancellation of Billy Graham's daughter from the convention's evangelism conference.

"In retrospect, I believe it was a mistake" to cancel Anne Graham Lotz, Wayne Bristow, director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma's evangelism department, wrote to some 1,600 churches in the state. His letter also was printed in the Jan. 21 edition of the *Baptist Messenger*.

convention newsjournal.

Bristow wrote he regrets "the embarrassment and distraction that has issued from this episode."

Meanwhile, a pastor defended his stated intention to interrupt Lotz to protest her being in a position to preach to men, which he believes is unbiblical.

"A generation ago any denominational employee that would dare to have a woman on the program to preach to men would have been dismissed from his position," wrote Wayne Keely of Claremore in a letter published in the Feb. 4 issue of the

Baptist Messenger.

Lotz, Graham's daughter, was to have addressed the Jan. 18-19 state evangelism conference at First Southern Church, Del City. Bristow, in his letter, took responsibility for cancelling Lotz because of Keely's threatened disruption of her two 45-minute presentations.

"My intention was to avoid knowingly putting Mrs. Lotz in an embarrassing situation and opening the conference to a disruptive atmosphere which would distract us from the primary focus," Bristow wrote.

He also wrote that Lotz "is a godly woman, with great

courage and a confidence in her Lord. She is a woman who speaks under the authority of her husband, pastor, Lord, and those by whom she is invited."

A few days after that decision in December, Bristow wrote, evangelical speaker Jill Briscoe was interrupted by

Keely during the convention's Dec. 29-30 youth evangelism conference.

Keely, pastor of Faith Church, Claremore, defended his position to interrupt Briscoe by referring to Scripture verses in the letter he wrote. □

Opponents of lifting ban criticize president's stance

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's arrangement with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn, D-Ga., may have bought him some time on his plan to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military, but it

did not satisfy many of those opposed to changing the policy.

Congressional Republicans, as well as leaders of military, evangelical, pro-family, and conservative organizations, decried the president's Jan. 29 announcement of a period of consultation leading to a July 15 deadline for a draft executive order permanently dropping

the ban.

"The political tradeoffs are continuing," said Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"Our commander in chief is pursuing a policy which is dictated by the homosexual political lobby and is opposed by the overwhelming majority of military personnel. There are good, sound reasons of military discipline, good order, and morale for keeping the time-honored policy in place until now. It is disturbing that the president would so casually disregard these reasons and years of military policy," Land said.

Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., leading the Senate opposition to Clinton's position, said after the president's announcement of his plans, "It's hard to conclude that this delay is anything but an attempt to gain cover in a political firestorm of the president's own creation."

In his press conference, Clinton said, "I don't expect to change my position."

Coats and other Republicans plan to act quickly to try to write the ban on homosexuals into law. □

Virginia 'conservatives' form group

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Claiming Virginia Baptist leadership is moving away from the Southern Baptist Convention, "conservative" Virginia Baptists have voted to form an organization to increase their fellowship and influence.

The organization, named Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, was formed to "assist local Southern Baptist churches in Virginia to win the lost to Christ, to develop believers, and to promote missions and evangelism," according to a vision statement adopted by almost 700 conservatives Jan. 28 in Lynchburg.

Bill Templeton, pastor of Northside Church, Charlottesville, said the move was made

to build "a solidifying organization" and "to have a more influencing vote in the Baptist General Association of Virginia."

However, the new organization is not a new state convention to rival the BGAV, insisted Tommy Taylor, pastor of London Bridge Church, Virginia Beach, who was elected president. "Some felt like we need to make a break now. I don't feel that way and obviously most here do not. Two state conventions is not my goal."

Taylor denied that an unstated purpose of the SBCV is to take over the BGAV. "We would organize more only if Virginia Baptists continue to move from the SBC," Taylor said. □



ABOUT 90 men and women from across the state gathered at the Baptist Center in Brentwood Jan. 25-26 for training as Great Commission BREAKTHROUGH consultants, a cooperative effort between churches, associations, the TBC, and the Baptist Sunday School Board to help local churches achieve a breakthrough in spirit, attitude, and relationships. Andy Anderson, far left, retired SSB employee, led the training. Among those receiving instruction were, from left, Charles Earl, Rogersville, Kenneth Kyker, Johnson City, and Gary Williams, Jackson.

Patterson denied 'watchcare' status

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — A request by Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, for a "watchcare" relationship with Wake Forest Church was denied by church deacons who asked Patterson in writing to withdraw his request.

Patterson, acknowledged as one of the architects of the "conservative" resurgence in the SBC since 1979, and his wife Dorothy had submitted a written request to the church for "watchcare" status which is a type of temporary relationship primarily for those who do not want to move their membership.

On Jan. 24, however, the deacons voted 16-1, with one abstention, to recommend to the church that the request be denied. Patterson and his wife withdrew the request Jan. 27.

Concern for members' feelings and potential division in the church were cited as the basis for the request, said Pastor Thomas Jackson, who along with Carroll Trotter, chairman of the deacons, signed the letter to Patterson which asked him to withdraw his request.

The letter to Patterson ended with an invitation to worship at the church "at any time, and we would expect that our congregation would join us in that welcome." □



'Dangerous' Conference

I just received a brochure in the mail from the TBC advertising a "Volunteer Conference" Feb. 20 at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville. I figured it was my duty as a good Baptist to warn folks about this conference.

If you're satisfied with the way things are rocking along

in your Christian life right now, don't go! Now, I don't know some of the leaders, but I do know a couple of them birds. One is Jarvis Hearn.

I got him figured out. He'll get the people in a room, tell about partnership missions adventures and the first thing you know half of 'em will be signing up to go!

They'll go somewhere like Chile and see our Cooperative Program at work in ways they never could reading about it in a bulletin insert. When they get back to their churches and see the lack of interest in mis-

sions, they'll cause all sorts of trouble. They'll constantly pester their churches to give more to missions and take a more active part.

Why, they'll probably even expect others to be willing to leave all the comforts of our country and go somewhere like they did! If you're satisfied with things as they are now, you'd best steer clear of Jarvis Hearn and partnership missions.

And then there's that Terry Sharp. This one's a slick trick on the part of the TBC. He was a missionary in Brazil. He's just running over with missions and if you get in the same room with him he'll spill over on you! He'll start by telling you all about opportunities that are available in missions. You'll learn about all the needs and how you could help fill those needs. Then he may conclude by asking you something like, "Would you at least be willing to pray about your involvement in missions?"

Being a good Baptist who doesn't want to appear to be un-mission-minded, you'll agree. You may forget about that promise for a little while after you leave the conference. Before long, you'll remember it and to keep from feeling like a liar you'll probably half-heartedly pray, "Lord, if you want to use me more in missions service, I'm willing."



Regional meetings set for committee

The Special Study Committee held its initial meeting in Nashville on Jan. 18. It was decided by the members present that the committee should hold eight regional conferences to provide Tennessee Baptists the opportunity for dialogue.

We believe the convention can be best served by familiarizing participants with the present process that is in place and exchanging ideas about it. For those unable to attend, we encourage you to communicate your opinions in the way most convenient.

We will set the dates for the regional sessions in our next regular meeting Feb. 11. Times and places will be published. We solicit your prayers as we study the issues before us.

Fred A. Steelman, chairman
Special Study Committee, TBC
Chattanooga 37415

Nominations sought for openings on TBC boards, committees

Guidelines adopted by the Tennessee Baptist Convention for the Committee on Boards and the Committee on Committees allow all Tennessee Baptists to make nominations.

This form should be filled out completely, signed, and addressed to James Porch, executive director-treasurer, TBC, or to chairpersons of the Committee on Boards or Committee on Committees, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, 37024.

Deadline for receiving nominations is April 1.

The Committee on Boards meets April 29-30. Temporary chairman is William Fox, pastor, First Church, P.O. Box 192, South Pittsburg, 37380.

The Committee on Committees meets May 13. Temporary chairman is Marvin Nail, pastor, Whitsett's Chapel, 1351 Pleasant Hill Road, Nashville, 37214.

Now you've done it!

Next thing you know you'll be involved in missions service neck-deep to a giraffe. No longer will you be comfortable with status-quo service. All will not seem like enough and your friends will think you're crazy when you start using your vacation time from work to do mission projects.

I can almost hear you as you talk about missions to everybody at home, at work, even at Kroger! You see, you got too close to Terry Sharp, and his love for missions ran over on you and now you're looking for someone to run over on.

If you're satisfied with just going to church on Sunday and supporting missions with a few dollars in the offering plate or special offering envelope, or if you're satisfied with just the

warm emotions you feel as you read about someone else doing missions, then by all means be out of town or otherwise busy the weekend of this conference!

If you go, God is liable to grab you up and jerk you so far out of socket you'll never be satisfied until you and every other person on earth are in his service. And if that happens to you, don't say I didn't warn you. I know what I'm talking about 'cause that's exactly the way it happened to me!

Thanks, Jarvis and Terry, for helping me hear and understand God's call to me into full-time missionary service!

Nathan Holloway, pastor
Wrigley Church
Lyles

This is an unsolicited "advertisement" for a special conference — and the paper gladly endorses it. — Editor

Nominations may be made to the Committee on Boards for the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Executive Board _____ | Children's Homes _____ |
| Belmont University _____ | Bapt. Health Sys., Nash. _____ |
| Carson-Newman College _____ | Bapt. Health Sys., E.T. _____ |
| Union University _____ | Bapt. Mem. HCS, Mem. _____ |
| Harrison-Chilhowee _____ | TB Foundation _____ |
| Com. on Committees _____ | Adult Homes _____ |

Nominations may be made to the Committee on Committees for the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Arrangements _____ | Constitution & Bylaws _____ |
| Audits _____ | Credentials _____ |
| Boards _____ | Historical _____ |
| Church Staff Comp. _____ | Resolutions _____ |

I recommend:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Association _____ East _____ Middle _____ West _____

Prior service on TBC boards and/or committees _____

Training, skill, experience which would qualify this person for service _____

This recommendation does not assure nomination, but it will be given serious consideration.

Signed _____ Date _____

Mailing address _____

Phone _____

Brotherhood leaders cited for disaster relief efforts

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Brotherhood leaders from 28 states, including Cameron Byler of Tennessee, were praised for their response following Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki while cele-

brating 25 years of Southern Baptist disaster relief ministry at their annual meeting Jan. 27-30.

"Although we might not always say so, we are aware of and appreciate the support that the Southern Baptist Con-

vention provides to us," said Bobby Baines, American Red Cross disaster services external relations officer. "Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki tested our resources as never before. I want to thank you for your cooperation in responding."

Byler later presented the award, for Tennessee Baptists' efforts in Florida following Hurricane Andrew, to TBC Executive Director James Porch.

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has the primary responsibility for disaster relief, providing funds and long-term response. State convention Brotherhood departments are responsible for the implementation, while the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis coordinates multi-state responses and represents the Southern Baptist Convention with other national relief agencies.

Thousands have come to know Christ in south Florida as a result of disaster relief ministries, said Cecil Seagle, Brotherhood director for the Florida Baptist Convention. □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership

February —



- 11 — Reconciliation and healing for First Church, Arica.
- 12 — Caroline Jones celebrates her birthday as a home evangelist missionary, wife to Archie, and mother to adopted Chilean daughter, Elizabeth.
- 13 — Pray for these two Tennessee volunteers, Terry Brown of Bells and Billy Castellow of Brownsville.
- 14 — Pray that these will be a reflection of Jesus Christ in word and deed as they serve today — Wm. Cobb, Bells, and Edward Hudgins, Obion, Michael Hopper, Brownsville, and H. B. Fisher, Humboldt.
- 15 — Remember Mr. and Mrs. James Mathias of Troy and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Woldring of Hamilton, Mich., as they construct a church in Temuco.
- 16 — Mary Jo Geiger needs our prayers in special ways as she celebrates her birthday today. Due to a medical disability she has returned to the states permanently. Pray God's peace for her as she makes this difficult adjustment.

Opportunity knocks, and it's time to answer

Tennessee Baptists comprise a large segment of the state's population. If all members of the 2,900 churches were to line up single file, they would stretch from Bristol where I-81 swings down from the mountain valleys, head west on I-40 and march all the way to Memphis on the Mississippi.

For sure it is a large crowd. It's doubtful if all one million could be squeezed into their own church houses. We make up about one fifth of the entire population of the Volunteer State.

Not all the churches have pastors. The number is not precise, but it is likely that three hundred are lacking pastoral leadership at any given time. Not all the churches have staff members to assist the pastor. Many of our churches, because of size or economy, have bivocational pastors.

While this may be a growing trend, it is not the best solution for all churches.

Many Tennessee Baptist churches have worship places that differ from the picturesque and traditional Old South town square edifice — stately white columns fronting the splendid brick structure, with a stately steeple scraping the sky.

Some church buildings are genuine antiques — a hundred or so years old. Others are middle-aged, and some display the "latest" in modern architecture. There are spacious churches, with plenty of room to grow into. Others may have just an extra classroom or two for its education space.

Few have family centers (gymnasiums). That trend waxes and wanes. Some over-build, but most Tennessee Baptist churches lament their need for growing room.

The churches are located along the highways, on town and city streets. They are nestled beside the friendly rivers, huddled on the sides of vaulting mountains. They are placed strategically in bustling neighborhoods and apartment complexes, and others are almost left behind as the people move to suburban greener grass.

They are stationed where population centers are located, where outreach is almost simple. And they are positioned where people once were. Some build where prospective members can be expected to move into the community. Others are placed where there are no people moving in, but where the church is nonetheless needed.

Well then, what do the churches have? What are all these congregations about? What is their past, and what does the future hold?

Tennessee Baptists are placed strategically on the map of the United States. More specifically, we are placed uniquely on God's map — spiritually. Geography is important, of course, but geography alone is not what has made this a state of volunteers.

Historically, Tennessee Baptists often have buttressed the work of the Lord among Southern Baptists and in our own convention. We have provided leadership and much-needed strength of character in

times of stress and ordinary days.

But Tennessee Baptists are an extraordinary people. From the mountains to the Mississippi, frontier-type people are used to hard work, and we can disciple those who aren't. Our heritage begs for growth in the power of the sent Holy Spirit.

In these early weeks of 1993, the promising months and years ahead bear close scrutiny. What we do as a convention this year may set the agenda for the next decade, taking us well into the 21st century. It's time to march.

Tennessee Baptists have new leadership, and new leadership always provides opportunity for elevated servanthood, broader horizons, and brighter visions for reaching people for Christ. What should be done on the home front? Some ideas:

Develop a spirit of cooperation and harmony while recognizing local church and associational autonomy.

Go and reach all people — all races and ages, every economic strata, all spiritual and physical conditions, all for Christ.

Strengthen ties with mission points such as Michigan and Chile, and every place where Tennessee volunteers serve.

Build WMU, Brotherhood, Sunday School, Discipleship, education, and care for children, adults, and general health. See these assignments as loving care.

Trust God to provide what he needs to work through his people in Tennessee, to claim the state for Christ. □

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

And now, the news

Erwin McDonald, editor emeritus of the *Arkansas Baptist*, tells a priceless story about how he was once "put in his place."

He was visiting a meeting of an Arkansas association.

In wrapping up his brief message, he referred to his involvement in page makeup. "Among other things, I help make up the pages," he told the messengers.

It took only a moment for a gentleman to bolt upright from his seat to remark, "I already knew somebody was making up all that stuff you've been printing!"

I suppose when the applause subsided, Erwin set him straight.



ALLEN

All the Baptist state papers I know about are careful in deciding news content, quality of the news, and source reliability.

Other rules are applied, such as news value, whether the story edifies, is needed, and whether it presents the facts for readers. Like the readers, we don't agree with all of it.

We get much advice from unqualified sources. We've learned it is okay to strike nerves sometimes. Complacency is not a virtue.

Here at the *Baptist and Reflector*, we know this paper belongs to Tennessee Baptists. We are your editors and handle with care the trust and responsibility that comes with the assignment.

Where do we get the news that you read? Most news comes from Tennessee Baptist churches and people — and we never have too much of it.

We rely on Baptist Press as a major source of SBC news, and ABP also sends many items, as do other papers. We don't deal with rumors and gossip, so we won't use what we hear in the hallways!

Baptist institutions, commissions, seminaries, agencies give us facts about their work.

Of course we write most of our own stories, depending on you to give us tips. Baptists in Tennessee are busy people, and we are satisfied with our role as your newspaper. We like to tell the Good News. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile —

The wife, accompanying her husband on the golf course one afternoon, decided she would play one of the short holes. She took a wood from the bag. Her husband told her she should use an iron. "Nothing doing" she said. "I've been using an iron all morning."

Take this truth with you —

Variety is indeed the spice of life. Are you in a rut from doing the same thing the same way every day? Why not try a new approach today? Do it differently! You might find it's a lot easier that way!

Memorize this Scripture —

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go," (Psalm 32:8).

Pray this prayer —

Lord, help me examine myself and my methods. Perhaps I've been doing some things the hard way. If so, lead me to change and find life is easier by relaxing and trying a new solution to an old problem. □

'Walking in newness of life'

By Louis Moore
Christian Life Commission

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, something happens inside us that makes us different people. Our ethical behavior changes as his spiritual power takes control of our lives.

Paul described this transformation as walking in the newness of life.

Before we are able to walk in this new way, we must confront the Living Christ person to person in a conversion experience. No person can intercede for us; our baptism does not take the place of this encounter. Our baptism by immersion is an outward sign of what happens inside us. Paul says the act of baptism is symbolically like the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Baptism then symbolizes the regeneration that occurs inside us.

But what does it mean to "walk in the newness of life?"

Just as Jesus was transformed after the resurrection, we too change in word and deed. We begin to live as new people in a new way of life.

Paul's use of the word "walk" is significant. Walking requires effort on our part. We willfully get up and take steps.

In the same way, when we walk spiritually, we must do more than merely stand there. We make a conscious decision to take the steps that lead to spiritual maturity. We decide to go to church each Sunday and each Wednesday night and at other times. We make the decision to read our Bibles. We develop a deep and abiding prayer life by consciously learning how to pray and then by praying privately and publicly.

others out of the realization that they too were created by God and in the image of God. That image is not limited by any of the physical characteristics that distinguish people. All people, regardless of what they look like, are God's creation and trace their origins to the first parents.

Southern Baptists have observed Races Relations Sunday for 26 years in order to remind ourselves that color of skin should never be a barrier to relationships for people who claim Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. God created and loves people of all colors. Churches should be places for people of all colors.

As we walk today in the newness of the life that Jesus has given us, let us continue to strive to treat all people, without regard to skin color or any of the other distinguishing physical characteristics, as God would have us.

Editorial update

In case you were wondering, the last line of last week's editorial was inadvertently left out. The last sentence was:

Christ's love propels us upward in a true partnership, with himself at the center. □

Observe
Race Relations Sunday
Feb. 14

One of the many ways we walk in newness of life is seen in how we relate to other people. The Bible is clear about how we are to treat others. If we act rudely and treat others as less than God-created individuals, or with contempt or hatred in our hearts, we do not exemplify God.

Walking in newness of life includes choosing to react to

Education Commission leader sets September retirement date

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission since 1978, has announced he will retire



WALKER

Sept. 1. Walker also will retire as executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary which, along

with the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., operates American Baptist College in Nashville, a four-year Bible college established to provide education primarily for black church leaders.

Walker, who will be 67 in April, is the longest-tenured director in the Education Commission's history. The commission promotes and supports the work of 71 Southern

Baptist-related seminaries, universities, colleges, Bible colleges, and academies. He also serves as executive secretary of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

Last June, the Education Commission gave Walker the Charles D Johnson Award which is given annually to a

person who has made a significant contribution to Southern Baptist higher education.

Walker also is an authority in parliamentary procedure and has served as parliamentarian for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He has just finished a new book *Southern Baptist Trusteeship*

which will be published in conjunction with Seminary, College, and School Day.

The Birmingham, Ala., native formerly was vice president for student affairs at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and was on the faculty of Samford University for many years. □

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LOCATIONS:

- Tuesday, Feb. 16, Memphis, National Avenue Church
 - Monday, Feb. 22, Johnson City, Holston Association office
 - Tuesday, Feb. 23, Jefferson City, Carson-Newman College
 - Wednesday, Feb. 24, TBC Baptist Center, Brentwood
 - Thursday, Feb. 25, Jackson, Union University, Coburn Dining Room
- TIME:**
All sessions begin at 10 a.m. and dismiss at noon

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Gary Rickman, director

Love In Action

They care at Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

-Becky France...
Social Counselor, Tennessee Department of Human Services

"David's mom is mentally retarded and unable to care for him.

By age 13, he had been bounced from town to town and home to home for seven years before he came to the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home.

The houseparent I called wanted to know all about David and he really listened to me. We decided that the structure and love David would receive from the Children's Home was just what he needed. We also knew that living in the same town as his mother would do wonders.

His heart went out to David, and so did his prayers.

It worked. While David was at the Children's Home, he accepted Christ and was baptized. He's been moved from a special program at school and placed in regular classes.

Best of all, David now has a rewarding relationship with his mother because of the work the people at the home did to reunite the two.

They do care. Otherwise, they wouldn't be doing what they're doing."



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Dr. Gerald L. Stow, President/Treasurer

Children

■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Laments concerning enemies — Bible Book Series for February 14

By Bill Wolfe, pastor, First Church, Counce

The question is not, "Do I have an enemy?," but "How many enemies do I have?" In 25 years of ministry, I have not been able to please everyone. At times, people have become angry and dissatisfied with me. I know that Jesus had enemies. I also know you cannot serve Christ without having enemies. But the hurt is still there.

When I think about the fact that I have enemies, I must remember the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Take time to read Matthew 5-7 and notice how Jesus says we ought to treat those that do not like us. Let Matthew 5:44 be a guide for your treatment of your enemies.

The Psalms that we will study in our lesson this week gives us some harsh sayings.

I. Psalm 58

Psalm 58 was probably written at the time Saul began to have malice against David. We

know Saul was jealous of David and that this led to some of his ill-feelings.

David charges the judges in this psalm with being unjust. He accuses them of being corrupt in their government dealings and in their very nature. They would not protect those who were innocent. They had judged unrighteously. Their very nature had become one of wickedness and violence. They did all of the violence and injury they could to help themselves and to avenge how they felt about others.

The wickedness of their nature is seen in the phrase, "estranged from the womb and alienated from the divine life." Two areas of their corrupted nature are seen: (1) lying — v. 3; (2) malice — vv. 4-5.

In Psalm 58:6-11, David writes against his enemies. Notice what he prays: (1) they might be disabled from doing

further mischief — v. 6; (2) they might be disappointed in the plots they had already laid — v. 7; (3) they and their interest might waste away and come to nothing — v. 8.

He doesn't pray for them to die, but that they might treat others better while they are alive. He does not want them to come near their mark. He closes this psalm by predicting their ruin and final fall in verses 9-11.

II. Psalm 83

Psalm 83 is a cry for deliverance. Ten nations had made a coalition and their purpose was to destroy Israel. These nations hated Israel for their worship of God. Because of this condition the cry comes in verse 1, "Keep not thou silence, O God!"

There are times that God holds his peace. But remember that God always knows where his children are. The psalmist prays for the destruction of

these forces and tells it.

He prays first of all for their destruction to be like the Midianites at the hands of Gideon. The second request is for God to make them "like a wheel," that they might continue in their motion, unsettled and giddy in their counsels, that they might roll down easily and speedily to their ruin (Matthew Henry). He prays that they not only be blown away as stubble, but burnt up as well.

Basic Passage: Psalm 58; 83; 137

III. Psalm 137

In the 137th Psalm we have the distressed cry of a people who have journeyed to the riverside, the "place where prayer was wont to be made," in order to weep as they thought about the changed surroundings from the mountainsides of Zion.

You will notice that while they were in captivity they "hung their harps upon the willows." When you are suffering because of disobedience there is nothing left to do but hang up the harps. In verse 3 their captors wanted a song, but they had trouble singing in a strange land.

We see their plight in verses 6-7. Some had forgotten Jerusalem. Circumstances ought not to dictate our joy in the Lord. Read the words of Paul in Colossians 3:2. In verses 8-9 a song is sung because of the coming destruction of Babylon. These verses give us the psalmists way of venting his wrath upon them.

This week we will remember Valentines Day. Let's let "love" be the order of business against our enemies. Let us try to be obedient to the words and the commands of Jesus. □

□ Proclaim the Gospel — Convention Uniform Series for February 14

By Terry Bradshaw, pastor, Zion Hill Church, Sevierville

In reading the text for this week's lesson, I am reminded that sometimes it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than to convince someone of the truth. The apostle Paul faced daily the wrath of those who refused to believe the truth concerning Jesus. Patiently and persistently he kept sharing the message in hopes the Israelites would one day accept it.

It was Paul's desire (wish) and prayer (petition) that the Israelites might be saved (rescued). Someone might ask, saved from what? The Scripture lesson implies that the Jews needed to be delivered from a misguided religious zeal

and false righteousness. Paul had experienced both. He had been taught and raised to believe that the Jews alone were God's chosen people.

Paul recognized and no doubt appreciated to some degree the level of commitment demonstrated by the Jews. But, on the other hand, he was absolutely convinced that the Jews were religiously wrong about Jesus.

Preparing the way (vv. 3-8)

After a few moments of reflection, Paul says their zeal was, "not according to knowledge." It was not "full knowledge." Because of this inadequacy, Jesus had become a stumbling block, instead of a

Savior, to the Israelites. The Israelites not only missed this truth, but they also did not properly understand the principle of God's righteousness.

Paul says in verse 3 because of this ignorance, they continued to, "establish their own righteousness." While in so doing, they willfully refused to "submit to" the righteousness of God or the righteousness that is provided when one accepts Jesus by faith, vv. 3-4.

Paul continued in verses 4-8 to show that depending solely upon the law for one's righteousness (right standing) was absolutely inadequate — it could not achieve the desired result, a right standing before God.

Proclaiming the Gospel vv. 8-13

The message was clear. The Jews (not all) were looking in the wrong direction for God's righteousness. Paul explained in verses 9-10 how to obtain true righteousness. This verse, in part, calls for a confession that God was incarnate in Jesus. This was one of the things the Jews refused to do.

Paul also called for a "heart" belief in the resurrection of Christ. In Hebrew thought, the heart often represented the whole man. Paul, in essence, was saying that this new righteousness would require an absolute surrender to Jesus.

Actually, he gives to them in verse 10 the correct order of the

experience. "For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are

Basic Passage Romans 10:5-17

saved" (v. 10, NIV).

This is not necessarily two different acts but rather one complete act. One must confess to God that Christ is God and that he believes in him. Jesus helps to clarify this issue in Matthew 12:34, "for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." May we, like Paul, be burdened, patient, and persistent in our witness for Jesus. □

□ Encounter and response — Life and Work Series for February 14

By Toby Everett, pastor, Walker Memorial Church, Franklin

Whew!! I am sure glad that is over!

Have you felt that way over the last few weeks looking at Abraham, the man who was able to walk the pathway of obedience when called upon by the Lord to do a difficult task.

Our lesson this week brings us back to deal with a man who walked and struggled as many of us. His name is Jacob, a name who's meaning helps us see the struggle of his journey. It meant "supplanter" or "deceiver." By looking at three meetings with the Lord, we will see this struggle from a basic one to a struggle to grow.

Enlightened appearance (ch. 28:12-15)

Have you ever met anyone

famous? I once had the opportunity to meet Danny Gaither of the original Gaither Trio. I remember going home from the concert that night saying to my wife, "I'll never wash this hand again," while holding out the right palm he had shaken.

Jacob had a life-changing encounter. He was on the run from an angry brother, Esau, whom he had deceived not once but twice. It was at this emotional time, being away from home for the first time, that he came face to face with God.

In a dream something was seen by Jacob that would make him a different man. Two important truths come out of this portion of the text. The first is the ascending and descending

of God's messengers from heaven. By all Biblical records, this was Jacob's initial confrontation with God. Not only do we see the messengers, but we see "The Lord stood above." God's contact with Jacob communicated he was to be involved in Jacob's life and add to the covenant to "Keep you wherever you go."

Enriched appraisal (ch. 28:16-17)

Just when there was great difficulty ahead for him, Jacob came into contact with the source of deliverance. This man, who for all his life had no thought of God, is now in the "place" where God is. Our encounters with God bring about the same responses of fear, rev-

erence, and adoration.

Endeavored application (ch. 28:18-19)

While a senior in high school, I was the sixth man on our high school basketball team. In a close game, I scored just one basket. You guessed it; it was the winning basket shot just past mid court. All week long, I'd go back to the magic spot trying to remember what it was like.

Basic Passage: Genesis 27-28

Jacob wanted to remember that feeling he had experienced. So the stone that had been his pillow became "Bethel," the House of God.

Enlarged appreciation (ch. 28:20-22)

His appreciation for God was enlarged to the point that he made a promise to give not only himself in allegiance but also of his possessions.

A man advanced in years was saved during a revival. The day came for his baptism and as he entered the baptistry the pastor noticed his wallet in his back pocket. He paused to give the gentleman an opportunity to take it out, only to have him say, "No, I want to baptize that, too."

Encountering God brings about dramatic responses in our lives. □

■ the leaders

■ **Lewis Thomas** of Lawrenceburg and **J. C. Reagan** of Killen, Alabama, have begun serving First Church, Loretto. Thomas, a graduate of Columbia State Community College and Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, is minister to students. Reagan, minister of music, is a graduate of Union University, Jackson.

■ **Gary Owens** will be ordained as minister of music by Southside Church, Lebanon, on Feb. 7.



JAMES PORCH, left, TBC executive director, welcomes **Doug Sager**, pastor, First Church Concord, Knoxville, at his Jan. 17 installation service. Sager was pastor of Roebuck Park Church, Birmingham, Ala., and First Church, Alcoa. Other speakers were Mack Bingham, moderator, Knox County Association, and the vice mayor of the township of Farragut.

■ **Bill Powell** has been elected interim pastor of Stoney Creek Church, Elizabethton.

■ First Church, Hunter, has called **Dennis Deese** as pastor.

■ **Garry Edwards** is serving as interim pastor of Little Milligan Church, Butler. He is a former pastor of the church.

■ **Homer Salyer** began

serving Riverview Church, Elizabethton, as pastor Jan. 17.

■ **David White** is the new pastor at Gray Church, Gray.

■ **David Clark** has been called minister of music and youth at Southwestern Church, Johnson City. He is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **Tim Stanton** has accepted a call as pastor at Oak Dale Church, Greeneville.

■ Former missionary to Ecuador, **James Parrish**, began serving as pastor of Highland Park Church, Lawrenceburg, effective Jan. 31.

■ **Leoma Church**, Leoma, has called **Drew Randle** as minister of music and youth. Randle is a recent graduate of Belmont University.

■ The new pastor of Liberty Grove Church, Loretto, is **Ricky Cotton**, effective Jan. 1.

■ **Mickey Hanks** is serving as interim pastor of New Concord Church, Kenton.

■ Coming from Wyoming to be pastor of Mount Horeb, Ethridge, is **Joel Newton**.

■ On the occasion of his 25th anniversary, **Norman White**, minister of music, Raleigh Church, Memphis, was honored and ordained to the Gospel ministry.

■ **Paul Williams** began serving Poplar Heights Church, Jackson, as interim pastor Jan. 17.

■ **Linden Wolfe**, Little Flat Creek Church, Corryton, was called as pastor Jan. 10. He also served First General Church, Memphis, and Jones Chapel Church, Knoxville. He is a graduate of Liberty College, Lynchburg, Va., and Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

■ First Church, Rutherford, called **Randy Crews** of Arkansas as pastor, effective Jan. 27.

■ **Mike Sams**, who will be ordained by First Church, Bardwell, Ky., began serving as pastor of Spring Hill Church, Trenton, on Jan. 24.

■ **Clark Perkins**, minister of music, Walnut Grove Church, Kenton, has accepted the position of minister of music/youth at New Bethlehem Church, Dyer.

■ the people

■ First Church, Ripley, ordained **Jimmy Drumwright** to the Gospel ministry.

■ Southside Church, Lebanon, ordained **Michael Lalonde** as a deacon on Feb. 7.

■ **Kathryn Hester Baugher**, director of admissions, Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., was named dean of admissions at Belmont University, effective Feb. 1. She was interim youth director at Brentwood Church, Brentwood, her hometown.

BAUGHER

Baugher, is a graduate of Vanderbilt University, Nashville; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth; and Samford University.

■ First Church, Elizabethton, ordained **Ronald Bowman** and **Dick Righter** as deacons.

■ **Dave Strong** and **Hartwell Strain** were ordained as deacons by First Church, Halls.

■ **Mount Vernon Church**, Halls, ordained **Jeff Hogue** as a deacon Jan. 24.

■ **Bill and Linda Cates** of Brentwood will lead a Praise Sing at Liberty Church, White Bluff on Feb. 14 during the 11 a.m. service. After lunch, the Macedonia Church choir of Waverly will join the Cates. Pastor James Davis will speak on black spirituals. Bill Cates is a composer.

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■ An April 11-14 revival will be held at **Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis**. It will be led by **Ron Finley**, evangelist.



1993 CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE OFFICERS are, from left, front row, **Mike Bundon**, Knoxville, past president; **Tracy Wilson**, Rogersville, upper east vice president; **Ray Hatton**, Memphis, president elect; **Jerry Neely**, Murfreesboro, president; **Mark Caruth**, Nashville, middle vice president; back row, **Darrell Newman**, Cleveland, lower east vice president; **Bobby Atkins**, Dyersburg, west vice president; **Julian Suggs**, Brentwood, Church Music department director; and **David Glover**, Jefferson City, secretary/treasurer.

■ the churches

■ **Dino Bray** will be ordained by Central Church Fountain City, Knoxville, Feb. 14.

■ **Oak Street Church, Elizabethton**, dedicated its new building Jan. 21.

■ **Mountain View Church, Johnson City**, will walk from its temporary location to its new building on Feb. 28 where it will hold the morning worship service.

■ **Oakhaven East Mission, Memphis**, has moved to its new property and constituted as **Zoe Church, Memphis**.

■ On Jan. 31 **Allen Church, Brownsville**, dedicated its new sanctuary and additional educational space.

■ **Dalewood Church, Nashville**, has scheduled a revival led by **Jim Henry**, pastor, First Church, Orlando, and Nashville musicians **Ken and Lois Holland** Feb. 28-March 3.

■ An April 11-14 revival will be held at **Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis**. It will be led by **Ron Finley**, evangelist.

■ **First Church, Donelson**, will hold a **Jim Ponder Crusade** March 14-17. Ponder, of Orlando, Fla., was a pastor, Southern Baptist director of evangelism in Illinois and Florida, and leader of **Billy Graham Schools of Evangelism**.

■ A church growth revival led by **Aubert Rose** will be held at **North Knoxville Church**, Feb. 20-24.

■ **Ron Barker** of the Home Mission Board's evangelism division will lead a March 7-10 revival at **Indian Springs Church, Kingsport**.

■ the associations

■ **Lawrence County Association of Baptists** will hold an Associational Evangelism Conference Feb. 21-22. **Morris Chapman** will speak.

■ On Feb. 18 **Beulah Baptist Association** will hold its Evangelism Rally at First Church, Troy. **Gray Allison** and **Gray Allison Jr.**, will speak.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Love and acceptance

Colvin S. Melcalf, pastor
Central Church Fountain City,
Knoxville

Somewhere in the soul of every person is a need to be understood and loved. The desire to be appreciated and accepted is as strong as our appetite for food and water. This inner craving for attention is not always the sign of selfishness but the normal longing to be properly identified with other people.

It is at this point that we

find our basic motivation to love and be loved. It is here that we must all become ministers to one another. Without this acceptance and love, our lives become frustrated. In our attempt to find this lost sense of meaning, we tend to overreact and exaggerate the sinners we are.

In so doing, we can become obnoxious to people who do not understand that all we need is love. The Christian Gospel speaks to this basic human need as it offers the love and

acceptance of God. Because such a need exists, compassion is one of our greatest attributes.

At this common point in our humanity, we are like God who himself longs for the love and fellowship of his children. What then shall we say? Did not John say it best? "Little children, let us love one another." □

You are missed

Bill Northcott, assoc. pastor
West Jackson Church, Jackson

In I Corinthians 12, Paul

talks about spiritual gifts, and in verse 22 he notes that the gifts we often see as unimportant are truly most necessary.

When President Reagan was shot in 1981, the nation's government continued to function as though the attempted assassination had never taken place. During that same year, the garbage men of Philadelphia went on strike for three weeks and brought the city to its knees. Although most would say the presidency is far more important than domestic

sanitation, it was the company of garbage collectors who proved to be indispensable.

By the same token, there are many in the church whose contributions may not be as visible or as glamorous; however, they and their gifts are indispensable for the health and progress of the church. Resolve to be a part in deciding the destiny of our church. It is time for everyone to be involved. □