

■ **this week's news**

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## SBC annuity plan began with Edgefield pastor

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

NASHVILLE — Only a minute percentage of Southern Baptists celebrated at Edgefield Church, Feb. 21, but there was reason for all 15 million to take note.

Those that gathered at the historic church observed the 75th anniversary of the founding of everybody's favorite Baptist entity, the Annuity Board.

Southern Baptists' agency that cares for retirement and health plans for thousands of pastors and other Baptists began in the heart and mind of William Lunsford, pastor of Edgefield Church, in 1916.

On a Monday morning that year, the lawyer-turned pastor went to a regular meeting of the Nashville Association's Pastors' Conference with a burden on his heart.

For many months he had agonized over the wretched plight of old and disabled Baptist pastors, their widows, and orphans.

There was no Social Security in those days, no Southern Baptist pension plan, and little personal insurance. Meager salaries paid to pastors made savings hard and sometimes impossible.

Other denominations, with central church authority, were addressing the problem. But Baptists, with total church autonomy, were leaving most pastors and their families to fend for themselves in times of crisis.

It was not a good time for raising money. The nation was at war, but Lunsford was determined. "Our nation takes care of its soldiers and sailors who are disabled; our great industries pension worn-out employees; why can not our denomination provide for its veterans and worn-out workers?" he asked the Nashville pastors.

The Nashville pastors appealed to the Sunday School Board — and the board took the appeal to the Southern Baptist Convention. The denominational conscience was moved, and in 1917 a committee was appointed by President J. B. Gambrell.

The Sunday School Board set aside \$100,000 to begin a ministry of relief if the convention should choose to create a

commission. Lunsford reported for the committee, and the Commission on Ministerial Relief and Annuity was created. Lunsford was named first corresponding secretary on July 10, 1918.

So Baptists gathered Sunday, Feb. 21, to honor Lunsford, and to place a plaque in his memory with Edgefield Church.

The Annuity Board, now the modern version of the original commission, hosted the Sunday celebration.

Board President Paul W. Powell preached from Matthew 25 on "Serving Those Who Serve the Lord." Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. taught the day's lesson to the adults. And Annuity Board trustees' chairman William Willis unveiled



WILLIAM WILLIS, Annuity Board trustees' chairman, and Lauren Dumser, unveiled a memorial plaque honoring Edgefield pastor William Lunsford in special service.

the plaque, along with help from Lauren Dumser, daughter of Pastor Thomas E. Dumser II.

Also present for the special service were representatives of several SBC agencies. Gary L. Rickman, director of Protection Plans, represented the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Powell told the participants that worship and work have never been competitors. "They have been companions."

He said, "We know how to worship God, but do we know how to serve God?" Powell said



CELEBRATING ANNUITY BOARD'S 75th anniversary Feb. 21 are William Willis, left, and Paul Powell, right, of the Annuity Board; and Thomas Dumser, Edgefield Church, pastor; and Johnnie Mary Clary, longtime church member.

the way to serve God is to find someone else who is in need, and reach out to them in the name of Christ.

He reminded the listeners that there are three essentials for serving God: little things, little people, and little thought of recognition are important.

One church member drew special recognition. Johnnie Mary Clary was baptized by William Lunsford in 1918 when she was nine. She proudly pointed to the pew where she sat the morning "I gave my life to Jesus."

The ceremony remembered Lunsford by incorporating some of his words in a responsive reading of Scripture.

"When the day's work of a minister is over he should not

suffer want for the necessities of life," he said. "If prematurely called home, his widow and children should not be cast on the charity of the denomination which he so unselfishly served.

"We never think of what we are doing for these worn-out men and women as charity. It is in the very highest sense, a debt, and shall be regarded as an imperative obligation to those who used their strength in the service of the churches. No blessing can be expected on a church which allows the veteran soldier of Christ to go down to his grave a dependent on charity, looking to a miserable pittance as bestowed upon a beggar for the bare substance of life." □

## Search committee recommends Mohler next Southern president

NASHVILLE — A search committee has announced that R. Albert Mohler Jr., Georgia state paper editor, is its choice to succeed retiring Roy Honeycutt as president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

According to Wayne Allen, Memphis pastor who chairs the seminary trustees' search committee, the 33-year-old Mohler will be recommended to the full board of trustees when it meets April 19.

Baptist Press reported that Mohler would not comment on his vision for the seminary during a press conference Monday until he meets the board of trustees.

Mohler served as special as-

stant to Honeycutt and director of capital funding for Southern before becoming editor of the *Christian Index* in 1989.

During the news conference Allen said that Mohler's selection by the committee was unanimous. Mohler was picked from among three finalists, including Timothy George, dean of Beeson School of Divinity, Samford University; and Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, SBC. Bob Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University, had withdrawn a week earlier.

Mohler holds doctor of philosophy and master of divinity degrees from Southern. □

# Draper urges cautious reaction to WMU changes

By Art Toalston  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist leaders should be "very careful how we react" to the recent Woman's Missionary Union decision to broaden its work beyond Southern Baptist Convention entities, James T. Draper Jr. is advising fellow SBC leaders.

Draper, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, confirmed in a Feb. 17 interview with Baptist Press that he voiced his caution to the Inter-Agency Council of chief executives of the SBC's 19 entities and in a Jan. 21 letter to Don Kammerdiener, interim president of the Foreign Mission Board.

Draper released a copy of the letter to Baptist Press during the interview.

WMU's executive board, in an unprecedented vote Jan. 10

in Alabama, adopted a vision statement, eight "core values," and six action statements or "recommendations," the latter including a commitment to provide prayer support and resources for any Southern Baptist group involved in missions "at their request."

Draper, in his letter, noted two contrasting images that emerged from WMU's deliberations:

(1) "In the original statement released by the WMU (the vision statement, core values, and recommendations), it appeared that they were going to promote aggressively the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship mission offerings as well as other potential mission offerings." The CBF, which was not specifically mentioned in the WMU documents, is a two-year-old organization founded by Baptist "moderates" as an alternative to the

conservative-led SBC.

(2) "However, in subsequent statements (WMU Executive Director) Dellana O'Brien has carefully disavowed the report in Associated Baptist Press" of an emerging tie between WMU and the CBF. And WMU has stated it will not be promoting the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship offerings or providing funding to the organization, he said.

Draper then stated his counsel to FMB leaders:

"I believe we have to take everything in context at this time and be very careful how we react. It is my judgment that we need to wait and see how things are really fleshed out in the implementing of what they have said before judgment is passed. I hope that none of our agencies or institutions will have a knee-jerk reaction to this situation. My own attitude is going to be

one of wait and see what they actually do. Should they make a decision to disassociate in some way with the Southern Baptist Convention and embrace other groups more specifically, then we may have further decisions to make."

Draper continued in the letter, "I guess what I am saying is that we need to look at the whole thing in context and allow time to see what developments before we take action that would precipitate a crisis."

In the interview, Draper added he believes SBC agencies should "ask WMU to continue to promote Southern Baptist missions opportunities with the same vigor and enthusiasm they always have, and then see if they respond positively to do what they've always done." □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen is the editor.
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## Evangelism is first priority with Baptists, survey shows

By Art Toalston  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — If a survey can be believed:

Foreign and home missions aren't among the top priorities of many grass-roots Southern Baptists.

Apathy, meanwhile, will be the most important issue in Southern Baptist church life as the next century begins, according to some 1,400 active Southern Baptists.

Still, the group held fast to another Baptist hallmark — evangelism and witnessing — ranking it first in priority, by far, for local church ministries, followed strongly by ministry to families.

Results of the survey were to be reviewed during the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee this week in Nashville.

Key facts about the survey:

(1) It was commissioned by the SBC's Inter-Agency Council of chief executives of the convention's 19 entities.

(2) It was supervised by the Coordinating Committee of the Inter-Agency Council. The committee, with some 25 other officials from SBC entities as members, handles study projects assigned to it by the council on a range of issues. The Coordinating Committee utilized the services of the Sunday School Board's research department to develop two questionnaires and tabulate the responses.

(3) The survey is part of the Inter-Agency Council's planning for SBC-wide emphases

beyond the year 2000. A key challenge facing the council is a denomination-wide coordinated emphasis plan to succeed "Bold Mission Thrust," the SBC's flagship emphasis since 1978 on world evangelization. The council is to develop its recommendations by June 15, 1994.

(4) The survey was done in two stages, with some 1,200 Southern Baptists responding to an April 1992 questionnaire and some 1,400 responding to one last October.

(5) A target group of 2,150 Baptists received both questionnaires. Their names were provided by executive directors of state conventions asked for active church members reflecting "the diversity of Southern Baptists in your fellowship," in urban or rural areas, ethnicity, gender, "and if known, alignment in denominational voting." Each convention named a number of Baptists equal to 0.125 percent of its resident church members.

(6) Pastors accounted for 38.9 percent of the 1,400 respondents to the latter questionnaire; other church staff members, eight percent; deacons, 21.6 percent; Sunday School teachers or officers, 35.5 percent; teachers/leaders in church programs other than Sunday School, 28.6 percent; church officers, 11 percent; others, eight percent.

(7) One problem in the survey, revealed in the data tabulation, was a shortage of respondents under age 30. Follow-up research is planned for the 18-30 age range.

Support for home and for-

eign missions was one of seven local church ministry areas, as identified in responses to the initial questionnaire, that the target group was asked to rate in importance in the second questionnaire.

According to the Coordinating Committee's report: "Home and foreign missions was clearly ranked as least important among the seven ministry areas. Only 7 percent of all respondents ranked the missions area either one or two ..."

The low ranking of missions "was remarkably consistent among all staff and layperson groups," the committee said, adding "nearly half of the persons in most groups gave a rank of six or seven (low importance) to the mission item."

Another missions-related area — "Ministry to groups outside the church (homeless, sick, hungry, jobless, imprisoned, lonely, etc.)" — was ranked sixth in the responses.

The second questionnaire also asked for a ranking in importance of "six primary issues," as identified in tabulations of the initial questionnaire.

"Over half of the respondents ranked 'apathy' first; nearly three-fourths first or second," the Coordinating Committee reported.

Last again was a missions-related issue: "Personnel and funding for foreign and home missions."

Ernest E. Mosley, executive vice president of the SBC Executive Committee and a member of the Coordinating

Committee, said the findings "are not being treated as a stimulus for hand-wringing or crying despair but as a guide to the inspirational and educational efforts that are needed during the rest of this decade and beyond ... to keep gloom and doom from becoming reality."

Among key results in the survey: Ranking of "primary issues that may affect Southern Baptist church life at the beginning of the next century": (1) Apathy, lack of commitment; (2) Personal involvement in evangelism; (3) Controversy in the denomination; (4) Adequate teaching-training for church leaders and members; (5) Financial support for church ministry; (6) Personnel and funding for foreign and home missions.

After the strong tally of apathy as the top issue, the Coordinating Committee reported, "The next-highest issue, 'personal involvement in evangelism,' was ranked first by one in seven persons, and first or second by nearly half of them." □

### Belmont's enrollment increases again

Belmont University reported a spring enrollment increase of 3.27 percent.

With a consistently increasing enrollment over the last two decades, the full-time equivalence is 2.3 percent higher than last spring.

The MBA program reported a 22.5 percent increase in enrollment, adding to the total of 272 graduate students. □

# Too much TV watching outweighs content, professor says

By Connie Davis  
assistant editor

NASHVILLE — Christians should be more concerned over the loss of time spent watching TV than the content of shows, claimed a Christian author and professor during a conference on families Feb. 15-16 in Nashville.

Approximately 200 people attended the meeting sponsored by the Nashville-based Baptist Center for Ethics.

Quentin Schultze, communications professor at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., said, "The Christian community loves to blast all the secular humanists in Hollywood ... but a lot of that anger is there because we don't have our own houses in order."

He reported the average child in the United States watches three and a half hours of TV a day but only spends an average of 12-15 minutes a day talking with his or her mother and an average of two to four minutes per day talking with the father.

Adults watch an average of four and a half hours of TV a

day. In contrast to 31 and a half hours of TV per week, spouses spend 17 minutes communicating each week, Schultze said.

"Outside of working and sleeping, it is what defines us as a culture," said Schultze, who is the author of *Redeeming Television: How TV Changes Christians — How Christians Can Change TV*.

Relatively speaking, he cited, the flap over Murphy Brown is not important. He referred to the criticism by then-Vice President Dan Quayle of TV producers who ignored family values in a show in which a character had a baby out of wedlock. Schultze claimed the single most important factor rising from TV viewing is the "shifting of our use of discretionary interpersonal activities."

He pointed out God made people communicative beings not only to spread the Gospel but to witness through relationships. When Christians choose to watch TV rather than communicate, they are choosing selfishness and desire for immediate gratification

through the power of the remote control, he said.

In his research, he has determined families suffer because time is not spent on building families. Crucial events in the memories of grown children like playing games, physical activities, and vacations are disappearing, Schultze said.

Rather than boycotting TV, which results in ostracism of youth by peer groups, he recommends Christians develop discernment for TV watching.

Parents should protect youth and children from inappropriate viewing by considering their developmental needs, he said. Children younger than 8 years of age cannot grasp abstract messages. Individual fears of children should be considered. Very young children need slow-paced programming, he continued. Fast-paced images grab attention but are confusing, he said.

"We (Christians) need to be careful of looking for truth in TV that merely confirms our own biases," Schultze said.

Conference participants also were encouraged to tell their



MEMBERS OF WOODMONT CHURCH meeting during the conference on families are, from left, Miriam Tate, Robert Parham, director, Baptist Center for Ethics, Dewey Dunn, and Brenda Bryant. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

children more Bible stories.

"One of the best ways to help parents teach children right from wrong is to teach children Bible stories," said Barbara DaFoe Whitehead, historian at the Institute for American Values in New York.

Minister-author Guy Greenfield of Albuquerque, N.M., told the group how to prevent becoming "wounded parents" who are in despair if their youngster gets into trouble. His advice included:

Make friends with your chil-

dren and have fun with them;

Give them quality time, not leftovers;

Teach them early how to select friends;

Be unashamedly Christian without being "preachy;" and

Learn child-rearing techniques such as those of Christian author and radio show host James Dobson of Focus on the Family. — Portions of a BP release by Ray Waddle are included in this report. □

## Africa turmoil continues to displace missionaries in Togo and Zaire

By Donald D. Martin  
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Tense political climates in Togo and Zaire continue to block the resumption of most Southern Baptist ministries in the two besieged

### To missions

## 1992 Brotherhood volunteerism worth \$67 million

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — The time and labor of Southern Baptist Brotherhood missions volunteers equaled an estimated \$67.4 million in 1992, said James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president.

With 27 state Brotherhood directors reporting volunteer activity, Williams said there were 75,341 missions volunteers recruited through Brotherhood who participated in 8,905 national and international projects.

"If you add other volunteers recruited through other Southern Baptist entities and reported through the Volunteers in Missions network, the number would easily exceed 100,000," Williams said. "This is good news and Southern Baptists need to celebrate the 'good news.'"

The inter-agency Volunteers in Missions Task Force assigns a dollar value to the volunteers' work. The task force estimates that each vol-

unteer spends an average of three days on a project and that the average missionary salary is \$30,000 per year. Applying this formula to the 60,883 Brotherhood missions volunteers reported in non-construction projects, the volunteers' time and labor is valued at about \$24.9 million.

African nations. In Togo, recent failed peace talks between feuding political parties have dampened missionaries' hopes of quickly returning to Lome, the capital of the west African country. Seventeen Southern Baptist

mission workers evacuated Lome Feb. 3. While most drove to Cotonou, in neighboring Benin, two couples drove to northern Togo, an area free of the unrest, to stay with missionaries there. At that time, both groups planned to return

to their work in the coastal capital in about a week. But they revised their plans when talks aimed at ending Togo's political crisis collapsed Feb. 9.

In Zaire, meanwhile, political turmoil forced the last Southern Baptist missionaries to leave Feb. 13. Steve Seaberry of Laredo, Texas, and his wife Anne, of Denton, Texas,

temporarily transferred to Senegal in west Africa. The Seaberrys had returned to Zaire's capital, Kinshasa, last October after evacuating with two other missionary families in 1991. The missionaries were part of a large expatriate evacuation after mutinous national troops rampaged through the city in protest for not being paid for months. □

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## India judge dismisses charges against medical missionary

Baptist Press

BANGALORE, India — A judge in the southern Indian state of Karnataka has cleared a Southern Baptist medical missionary at Bangalore Baptist Hospital of criminal charges alleging she violated the state's factory labor laws.

In 1988, union workers, angered over personnel cuts at the hospital, filed a criminal complaint against missionary Rebekah Naylor, who was the hospital's medical director at the time. She now serves as senior surgeon at the hospital.

The complaint said Naylor, a surgeon from Fort Worth, Texas, broke a law that protects factory workers when she laid off 39 hospital employees in 1988. The prosecuting attorney claimed the hospital was subject to the same laws which

govern India's factories and the handling of their labor forces.

For the past four years, as the case moved through India's court system, Naylor faced the possibility of a prison sentence.

But when the case reached Karnataka's high court, a judge ruled the prosecution had no basis for its complaint. He said it was "ridiculous for anyone to ever think that a hospital was a factory," reported missionary Clyde Meador, associate to the area director for southern Asia.

The judge strongly disagreed with "the idea that such a prosecution should ever have been pursued, and he categorically declared Dr. Naylor innocent," Meador said. □

## ■ about letters to the editor

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- Name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Include address and phone number.
- Avoid personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone.
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- 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. □

### Tribute to B. B. Powers

On Dec. 29, my 91-year-old Dad, B. B. Powers, made a peaceful journey to God's eternal home. His memorial service was a celebration of victory. He loved the Tennessee Baptist family dearly. With one exception, all of his pastoral ministry was in Tennessee.

I always loved him. He gave me reasons to admire and respect him, and I want to share some of them.



He had a genuine love for God, but never tried to parade it. He trusted God with a simple and strong faith. He loved his family and prayed for all of us daily. He gave love and friendship freely and unconditionally.

He believed, preached, and tried to practice the teachings of the Bible. He was grateful for every kindness, favor, consideration, and gift. He was a generous giver. He was an encourager, a peacemaker, and had a sharp delightful sense of humor. He loved music.

I thank God for parents who were blessed with long lives (Dad — 91, Mother — 84), who walked together for 66 years, who trusted the Lord Jesus in their early years, who led me to know him, and now experience the joy of seeing him face to face.

Vern Powers  
Baptist Hospital  
Nashville 37236

### Praises league

I express my appreciation to Wayman Jones and all the staff at United Tennessee League for extraordinary work. For the past seven years, our church has sent our youth to the United Tennessee League Drug Institute. In my opinion, this has been one of the best programs in encouraging our youth to remain drug free. Every year our youth return enthusiastic and well educated on the dangers of drugs. I encourage as many churches as possible to participate in this worthwhile program.

Don Mathis, pastor  
Salem Church  
Liberty 37095

### Students as leaders

College students who are dedicated to Jesus Christ can be positive role models for members of a youth group.

Members of Memphis State University's Baptist Student Union recently led our youth in a Discipleship Impact Weekend. The students presented excellent creative drama and music, provided well-prepared Bible studies, and became friends with members of my youth group. We were blessed by Dawn Edmonds, Tonya Heathcock, Jimmy Moore, Esther Cannon, Marc Hays, Isaac Armstrong, Jeannine Collins, Stacia Shreve, Stacy Wilkerson, Travis Thompson, Angela Potter, Kelly Jernigan, Amy Lee, and Janet Hightower.

I strongly recommend using Baptist Student Union students in assisting our ministry. Memphis State has an excellent BSU. I encourage you to contact director Ronnie Hawkins (901) 458-7589 to enlist these committed-to-Christ students to help in your ministry.

Bill Sorrell, youth minister  
Audubon Park Church  
Memphis 38111

### Women, authority

The action of Oklahoma pastor Wayne Keely concerning women preaching and teaching as reported in the Jan. 20 issue is, in one of the words he reportedly used, ridiculous. I think he is being destructive, embarrassing, and he is wrong.

Apparently some SBC pastors let St. Paul usurp the teachings of Jesus who was struggling to overthrow just such an attitude as that of I Timothy 2:11, if indeed, St. Paul wrote, or said, that.

Other information in the same issue concerning the recent action of the WMU and the reaction caused among the Executive Committee SBC is revealing as well. Obviously a

segment of SBC life does not understand what is happening today. If the Executive Committee does not understand the effects of a degrading prejudice toward women that has been evidenced in the last few years they will contribute nothing toward the freeing of women and Morris Chapman may be more than saddened.

Most certainly we must "explore interpretations and implications" in depth. And then, most certainly, do what is right.

Eugene Keele,  
Chaplain, USNR (ret.)  
Grand Junction 38039

### Different opinion

Last week's edition (Feb. 17) carried an article dealing with the recent discussions between leadership of our WMU and FMB trustees. The closing paragraph quoted the WMU executive director:

"I think it is significant that there was not a kind word for WMU after a century of support for the FMB."

The entire dialogue to which her statement refers was videotaped and is available at cost from the FMB. I would encourage Southern Baptists to order the video in question to check the veracity of that charge for themselves.

As a trustee of the FMB, I applaud the ministry of WMU. My wife is a BYW leader, my mother is a WMU director. Less than a year ago I invited two of our WMU leaders to accompany me to a FMB meeting and never have I been in an adversarial role with the WMU leadership in our church. I am the product of a missionary home, and the church where I serve as pastor has more than tripled the Lottie Moon offering in the last five years, in addition to supporting well the Cooperative Program (10 percent) and associational missions (three percent). I still believe, however, that the national leadership of the WMU has taken action which does not represent the convictions of the vast majority of our WMU leadership in the local churches.

Bill Blanchard, pastor  
First Church  
Soddy-Daisy 37379

### Abortion proposal

I call to the attention of readers that the so-called Freedom of Choice Act, called FOCA, probably will be introduced soon in the U.S. Congress and we need to write our senators and congressmen concerning the bill. It was written by pro-abortion people, and would go far beyond the Supreme Court decision in that it would mandate abortion on demand in all cases, and not pro-

vide that states could place any restrictions or limitations on abortion (which 37 states have already done).

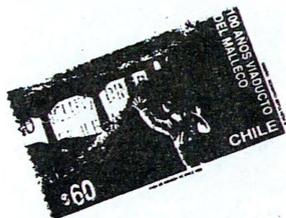


More-over, it would invalidate "conscience" laws which give religiously-affiliated hospitals the right not to perform abortions and would permit abortions even during the second trimester of pregnancy.

Though President Clinton told pro-abortionists he would try to get this bill passed, he has issued many conflicting statements, and seems to believe some restrictions and limitations should be allowed. This is certainly a time when Congress needs to hear opinions from the grassroots. Our senators, Jim Sasser and Harlan Mathews, may be addressed at the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510, and U.S. Representatives at the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. The number of the bill in the House is H.R. 25.

This bill would provide federal funding of abortion if it were deemed necessary. I believe most Americans are willing to sacrifice for our economy, but not willing to sacrifice our morals and Christian standards. Write now!

Marjorie Haynes  
Columbia 38401



## Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership

February —

- 23 — Pray for missionary evangelist Buz Parks on his birthday. Pray the Lord will grant him an opportunity to plant the Gospel seed in the heart of a lost person today.
- 24 — Pray for Natalia Geldres, an 8-year-old Chilean who struggles with cerebral palsy.
- 25 — Pray for Pichi Baptist Mission, Puerto Montt, which desires to organize into a church this year. Pray for leadership and maturity of the members, and for their success as they plan to build a pastor's home.
- 26 — Pray for the Llanquihue Baptist Church as they seek a pastor.
- 27 — Pray for the ministry in Antofagasta, The Center of Prayer, a Christian counseling and soul-winning effort conducted by several area churches. Pray God's will be done in this evangelistic work.
- 28 — Tomorrow is the birthday of Betty Alexander. Pray for her today as she and her husband, Charles, are retiring this month from many years of service as missionaries in Chile. Pray for the nationals she has trained in preparation for these days.



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# Does good happen when families break up?

When families fight they always begin majoring on minors and minoring on majors. In short, family members lose their emphasis on matters of importance and focus on those of insignificance.

It becomes easier to shift the efforts toward "me first" and subscribe to exclusivity. And it becomes easier to choose friends based on who agrees with certain points of view and interpretations of the rules and guidelines.

At the same time, family members find it more difficult to include those who disagree with them. They push them aside and may even call them outsiders. They are excluded from decision-making.

Members of the family also can lose respect for the other side, and eventually forget the days when there was room for diversity and differences of opinion. No longer can those differences be tolerated.

When families fight among themselves, the rules of civility and Christian conscience become blurred.

When part of the family becomes stronger than the other, authority can replace love and cooperation may lose out to pride.

In these circumstances, it is hard to make up, exceedingly difficult to take the first step toward reconciliation. It becomes almost impossible to remember that the "others" ever did anything good or right.

It becomes horrifying to the family and to those who used to depend on the family

for pace-setting standards and leadership. Everyone is bereft of the family's best efforts — because family members don't cooperate anymore. Like little selfish people, they become dwarfed and blinded by their image they see in the smudged mirror.

Who is the most beautiful of all? They ask, as they look into the mirror that distorts the realities of what the family has done to itself.

Southern Baptists face this kind of situation. It may be too late to be awakened. For years now, Southern Baptists as a united body have not been about the Father's business. Oh, we haven't completely abandoned the causes of Christ. Some good has been accomplished in his name. But Southern Baptists have not put the best foot forward because the feet aren't working together.

It's hard to comprehend how once-cooperating family members think they can get along without each other.

The argument about the SBC nominating and election process continues and about half of the body feels excluded. The distinct change in direction bears evidence to that.

Despite the family breakdown, hope springs eternal. The optimists among us still speak of opportunities for "making up." And despite the pessimists, they may be correct.

Spiritually, financially, and relationally, Southern Baptists need reconciliation that

is real, tangible, complete. Promises won't do. Bouquets of flowery words are insufficient. It is difficult to extend a hand of fellowship when it's clenched into a fist.

Baptists have been too busy listening to rhetoric when actions speak much louder.

Herschel Hobbs, Southern Baptist elder statesman, recently called for leaders of Southern Baptist groups to meet in Houston in June with a plan to end the stalemate that has gripped the convention for fourteen years. He made his proposal in a mailing to Baptist state papers. Responses thus far are not favorable. Both Morris Chapman (SBC Executive Committee) and Cecil Sherman (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship) apparently see no reason for such a plan.

James Draper, Sunday School Board president, on another front, asked Southern Baptist leaders to be "very careful how we react" to recent WMU moves to broaden its work. He urged patience in waiting to see WMU directions before having a "knee-jerk" reaction. That is wise and proper.

We plan to say more about the Hobbs effort. In view of early remarks from several fronts on the WMU decision, Draper's advice is good news.

Any move toward peace and reconciliation merits strong consideration. Restoration to full fellowship and cooperation is necessary. The people and the churches deserve both. God's work is weakened without it. □

one word more  
By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
editor

## A lively witness

Children often have that priceless kind of lively witness that reflects the boldness of Christ himself.

He talked about children frequently, the Gospel writers tell us, and said that we need to become like the little ones.

Children have the heart-felings that personify the best attitudes toward others. The father of one shared with me recently about his youngest.

She was an active witness, he told me, from the time she let Jesus into her heart. She was an active witness.

But there is much more about Maggie. From the time she became desperately ill last summer, until she went home a few days later to meet face to face the One for whom she witnessed, thousands of people prayed for her.

She may not have told about Jesus because she understood the brevity of life.

But it is true she witnessed out of sheer extravagance, joy bubbling over, pure delight.

She prayed for her friends, classmates — and she told them without fear of rejection — how Jesus had come into her heart.

Mr. Ware was a teacher she had in early school life. He liked to read to the children, and let them bring books for the reading times. Maggie always took her Bible story book. And she asked Mr. Ware if Jesus lived in him.

Her dad, Mike McCullough, told me that Mr. Ware was very ill for a long while and Maggie always prayed for him. He got well, and when Maggie's short, sweet life was all filled out, Mike saw him at the funeral.

They talked about Maggie, I'm sure, and Mike looked straight at the teacher who loved Maggie. "She prayed for you every day," he said.

Just like the child she was, that Maggie, not perfect, but a lively witness. "I'm not saying she wasn't a pain sometimes," Mike said. "But that girl sure was a witness." (Maggie, nine-year-old daughter of Nevada editor Mike McCullough and his wife Sara, died last fall of a brief but deadly illness. She was a witness). □



ALLEN

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

## Editors name Davis as first staff member

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Lynn M. Davis Jr. has been elected executive director of the Southern Baptist Press Association, in a newly created part-time post for the association of state paper editors.

Davis, a retired Baptist Sunday School Board marketing specialist, was elected by the editors during their annual meeting here Feb. 16-18. He began work immediately.

An ad hoc committee of seven editors was named two years ago by the then president of the group, Wm. Fletcher Allen, *Baptist and Reflector* editor. Allen named Presnell Wood, Texas, to chair the study committee.

The task of the committee was to strengthen the organization. A year-long study determined the need for a written history and employment of a part-time staff. The committee recommended Davis and reported that the history project is underway.

Davis will supervise the general administrative duties of the association, facilitate training opportunities for members, promote the importance of the state Baptist paper among Southern Baptists, assist in planning the annual meeting and other

SBPA meetings, and promote the fellowship and mutual understanding.

As executive director, Davis becomes the first and only SBPA employee. He will receive \$3,500 in total annual compensation and expenses although officers of the group will monitor the operation with authority to amend as needed.

Davis, 62, was among the 191 employees offered retire-

ment when the Sunday School Board underwent reorganization last fall. He was editor of the *Ohio Baptist Messenger* from 1962-66. A native of Jacksonville, Fla., he earned degrees from Ohio University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife Karen live in Brentwood, and have four grown children. □



THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST PRESS ASSOCIATION held its annual meeting Feb. 16-18 in Scottsdale, Ariz. Jack Brymer, left, editor of the *Florida Baptist Witness*, was re-elected president. Other officers elected were, Jim Walters, left center, editor, *Northwest Baptist*, president-elect, and Bob Terry, right center, editor, *Missouri Word and Way*, secretary. Lynn Davis, right, was elected as the new executive director of the association.

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

### Start with a smile —

A young man said to a girl he had been dating for three years, but toward whom he had shown no serious intentions, "I had a strange dream last night. I dreamed that I proposed to you. I dreamed what that's the sign of?" She answered, "It is a sign you have more sense when you're asleep than when you're awake!"

### Take this truth with you —

Is there something that you've really been wanting to do, but lacked the courage? Why not decide you will do it today? The decision to act may change the entire course of your life. You could bring happiness to your family or help a friend by taking a step for the right that you should have taken long ago.

### Memorize this Scripture —

"Behold now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation," (II Corinthians 6:2).

### Pray this prayer —

Lord, help me today to "act in the living present" by making a positive move in the direction I have wanted to go. Remove timidity and fear. Replace them with boldness and faith. □

# Race Relations Sunday — with love in Clarksville

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — When Gracey Avenue Church and its new mission, Greater Saint James, met together Feb. 14 to observe Race Relations Sunday of the Southern Baptist Convention, it had a special significance.

Gracey Avenue is a white congregation and Greater Saint James is black. It's the first interracial sponsorship between congregations in Clarksville, reported James Redding, pastor, Gracey Avenue Church.

The occasion was unique in other ways besides race. The sponsoring church is not much larger than the mission. Gracey Avenue has about 80 in Sunday morning worship and Greater Saint James has about 60.

Just a week prior to the observance, though, Gracey Avenue voted to adopt the Greater Saint James congregation.

James Brigham, pastor, Greater Saint James, stated during the service the new status of his congregation as Southern Baptist under the guidance of Gracey Avenue "is the greatest event in our history."

Just a few months ago the congregation was meeting in Mason Rudolph Golf Course Club House. An offering of nearly \$600 given by the crowd

of about 100 at the service will pay rent on the mission's new site just a few blocks from the church and repair a piano given to the mission, reported Redding.

Why is a struggling church sponsoring another congregation? "We know we're not going to reach the black community," said Redding.

It has drawn black children to Vacation Bible School. The church also leads a Tuesday afternoon Bible study in a nearby housing project with the help of Baptist Student Union members from Austin Peay State University. It draws about 30 black children each week. But blacks have not chosen to integrate into Gracey Avenue.

So when the association was contacted by Greater Saint James for help, Wes Pitts, director of missions, knew just the answer and started planning meetings.

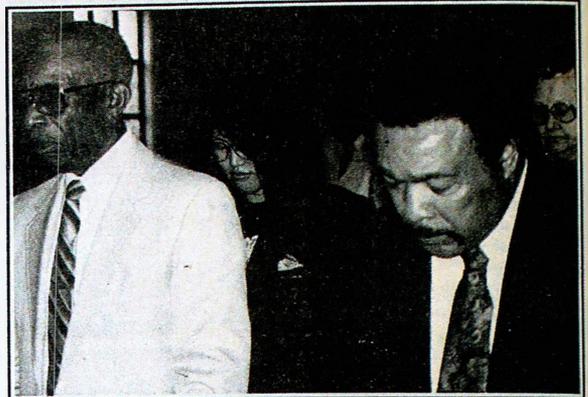
Now that commitments have been made, Pitts applied for financial help provided for new missions through the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Home Mission Board, noted Redding.

Both congregations are optimistic about their futures. "We can't expect the races to cooperate on police forces, athletic fields, or in schools if we don't love each other in the church," Redding said during the service.

Bill Moore of Owensboro,

Ky., former pastor of Gracey Avenue who was an interracial worker for the Home Mission Board for 26 years, reviewed some history. He said after the convention's abysmal beginning condoning slavery, it has made a reversal by adding black staff members to most of its agencies, colleges, all of its seminaries in the U.S., and by appointing black home and foreign missionaries. Black Baptists have responded and 1000 black churches are currently members of the convention, Moore added.

Both groups must continue learning from each other, said Moore. Many Southern Bap-



**BLACK AMERICANS** from left, James Adkins and Bennie Sanders, are joined in a prayer during the Race Relations Sunday service at Gracey Avenue Church, Clarksville, by a Korean American and a white American. Members of Gracey Avenue Church, Greater Saint James Mission, and Korean Mission, Northside Church, and several other Clarksville churches participated. — Photos by Connie Davis



**RECEIVING MEMBERS** of both congregations during an invitation in the service were both pastors, James Redding and James Brigham.

tists never did learn how to pronounce Negro correctly, he said, thus the adoption of the term black. "It's pretty hard to mispronounce black," he explained.

The ladies' choir of the Korean Mission of Northside Church, Clarksville, also joined the service. □



**GRACEY AVENUE** member Ann Davenport, right, visits with Tekia Green during a reception following the service.

## Eight missionaries with Tennessee ties are appointed

Of the 27 missionaries appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Feb. 9 at Ridge Church, Richmond, Va., eight had ties to Tennessee.

■ Rickey F. (Rick) Funder-

burk and his wife, the former Lori Dean, were appointed to Sierra Leone, where he will work as business manager for the mission.

Rick Funderburk was born and reared in Memphis, where

his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Neal Funderburk live. He attended First Church, Manchester, and Towering Oaks Church, Memphis.

Funderburk is a graduate of Memphis State University. He has been a tax auditor with the Tennessee Department of Revenue in Nashville.

■ Edward E. and Bettie Hitt Lockwood will serve in Rwanda, where he will work as business manager for the mission.

Edward Lockwood is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lockwood, Dover.

■ Mark L. and Tatjana Pabalnis McNiel will live in Germany, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Tatjana Pabalnis McNiel of Germany is the daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Pabalnis of Kingsport.

■ Philip A. Pinckard and his wife, the former Sandra Reynolds, will live in Macao, where he will start and develop churches.

Philip Pinckard was born in Chattanooga and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Fred Pinckard of Cleveland. He considers Mount Carmel Church, Cleveland, his home church.

He graduated from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

He has been a pastor in Kaufman, Texas, a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board summer church planter in Illinois, and a Baptist Student Union summer missionary in Alaska. □

## Fourth team from Haywood Association goes to Philippines

Six volunteers from Haywood Association formed the fourth team sent by the association to the Philippines. Tennessee Baptists participated in a partnership with Baptists in the island country 1989-92.

The team, which left Feb. 17, will work on Luzon Island just north of Mount Pinatubo, the volcano which has been erupting. They will begin construction of two church buildings, work on another, and lead a crusade in Pangasinan Province.

Team members include Charles Pratt, director of missions, Jerry Foster, Bill Presley, Tad Mathews, Ralph McKenzie, and Danny McSpaddin. □



The Funderburks



The Pinchards

## Knott learns about life 'within the wall' American prisoners in Caracas receive visit

NASHVILLE — Linda Knott has been involved in Baptist missions for years. Yet she claims her current work with inmates is her most rewarding spiritual experience.

Knott has led Woman's Missionary Union work for Nashville Association and continues to lead it in her church, First Church, Donelson. After her children dispersed, she served a stint on the staff of Tennessee Baptist Convention WMU.

She also has served as a short-term missions volunteer in Burkina Faso, Africa, and Venezuela.

But as she looks back on these experiences, they just don't stack up to her volunteer work at the Tennessee Prison for Women in Nashville, said Knott.

"There are strong Christians in prison. I constantly wonder why I didn't know all of this," she observed.

"Since I've been involved in prison ministry, I know more about the Christian life," Knott added. Her teachers, she explained, are her students, who face all kinds of obstacles to a joyful life. Yet they are a source of inspiration to her and others at First Church, Donelson, who have become involved in the ministry.

Knott teaches the *MasterLife* course, a six-month study for Christians produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board. (See background story, "Ray Maynard finds friends 'behind the wall,'" in the February 17 issue of *Baptist and Reflector*, page 8.)

She describes the women as overcomers. Christians "within the wall" face opposition from evil — Satanists and homosexuals, reported Knott. Most of those she has taught since she began a year ago suffered from abusive behavior before they

entered prison. Thus, they may take three months to trust her and fellow students, said Knott.

Not to be discouraged, when she leads a new group she starts out hugging the students and holding hands during prayer time. Initially, "it just blows their mind," she explained. But she has noticed they are more sensitive to the needs of fellow inmates than she is. Prayer requests for others are often not shared during the study but before or after so as to protect others from embarrassment, said Knott.

She finds commonalities between herself and these women. Most have families they rarely see which is another source of pain and guilt, said Knott. Some are accomplished women. One student has mastered law and has been named a legal advisor for other inmates, reported Knott.

All of the students make sacrifices to participate in the *MasterLife* study because of their busy schedules, she added. The women inmates are employees of a telemarketing company and a uniform manufacturing program, explained Knott. They have very little private time to complete assignments for the weekly *MasterLife* sessions.

But the four current students are committed students of the Scripture, reported Knott. One measure of their faith is a concern for people they may never meet — young people in the United States today, she explained. They often ask her to try to influence others to help young people because of the young age of inmates who enter their institution.

When the *MasterLife* study called for a retreat, Knott wasn't to be stymied by the prison walls. She invited her

women's Sunday School to help her hold a retreat at the institution.

Four women from the Donelson church joined the group for the retreat. That led to several ongoing relationships which have "been blessings to all of us involved," continued Knott.

Judy Humphreys of the Donelson church goes nearly every Saturday to visit her new friend at the prison. And when she found out the woman hadn't see her 11-year-old son



KNOTT

for almost a year, Humphreys and Knott brought the boy to Nashville. He stayed in the Humphreys' home and was reunited with his mother over the weekend, noted Knott.

The relationship — labeled unlikely by most of the world — continues to blossom between the two women, continued Knott.

Knott teaches the only *MasterLife* study at the institution. Worship is led each week by women from First Church, McEwen. No Baptists are currently ministering at the prison's annex which houses about 100 women.

"Without the Lord these women have nothing — no hope," she said. — Connie Davis □

By Connie Davis  
*Baptist and Reflector*

Nine Americans in prison in Caracas, Venezuela, were visited during January by a health care team led by Dr. Dewey and Mrs. Bobbie Dunn of Woodmont Church, Nashville.

Though several hundred prisoners were killed last year in a Caracas prison riot, the eight-member team was glad to enter the prison and treat them, reported Dewey Dunn. Of course, the prisoners were overjoyed at the visit, he added.

The team's admittance was a "very trusting gesture on the part of the prison officials," he noted. The Americans were allowed to bring their own equipment and supplies and to privately treat the inmates.

Though all of the inmates have access to Venezuelan doctors, explained Dunn, several factors restrict that treatment. So many of the men were worried about their health, he added.

Dunn conducted complete physical exams for an ambulatory setting, noting how important it is to touch the patient. He made diagnoses which comforted several of the men, issuing medicine for blood pressure and skin rashes. Dentist Bobby Brooks of Georgia also pulled several teeth.

"We didn't hear complaints. They were thankful we were there," explained Dunn.

Another aspect of the ministry, he added, was the witness to the Venezuelan Baptists and Venezuelan health care officials assisting other teams. When shared, it communicated that God loves everybody, even those in prison, he continued.

Dunn learned about the American prisoners last year during another mission trip to Venezuela. Missionary Tommy Berry, pastor of the English-language Bethel Church in Caracas, serves as chaplain at the prison. At that time, a visit couldn't be arranged, Dunn explained.

The Americans were delayed before being allowed to enter the prison, reported Bobbie Dunn, but the prison isn't a safe environment. One team member reported seeing a man in the prison with a big knife or machete.

This experience was just one of many reported by a total of 66 American volunteers who treated 7,589 patients in

Venezuela. They reported 876 Venezuelans made spiritual decisions, including many who enrolled in Bible studies.

An academic team of six Americans served two weeks while the rest worked one week.

One contact made by the academic team with the country's minister of preventive dentistry resulted in a visit by this official to the final meeting of the project at Central Church in Caracas, reported Dunn.

The Venezuelan ministry of health also was supportive of the project, said Dunn. During a visit to that office, Venezuelan officials noted physical needs were great, but spiritual needs were more important, he cited.

Representatives from this office attended the orientation for health care workers and the final celebration. Officials were assured of further cooperation when the Duns return with another team July 9-19, he added.

The Duns also will lead a group to Chile March 13-23. Those interested should contact them at (615) 383-8499. □

David Archer, volunteer from Kingsport —

I worked in clinics in two locations. The clinic at El Junquito — the clinic in the clouds — was held in a very nice preschool facility in a middle class area. The patient load was light, but the spiritual counselors were kept quite busy and the patients were very receptive to Bible study. We met a young man who had become a believer while in jail and who is now involved with Ebenezer church.

At Nueva Tacagua, a poorer group of people were served and there were twice as many patients as seen the first part of the week. The people had more severe physical needs and several were referred directly to a hospital.

The Venezuelan physician in the area was moved by our care and compassion for the people and brought medicines from his clinic to help treat the patients. He came to church with us on the following Sunday and was presented a Bible.

We were able to share the Gospel with every Venezuelan health practitioner with whom we worked. Several of the teachers from the school at Nueva Tacagua (our clinic site) received Christ as Savior. It was a wonderful week. □

## Youth Evangelism Conference set

The 1993 Tennessee Youth Evangelism Conference is expected to draw 30,000 youth March 12-13 again this year, reported Jerry King, Tennessee Baptist Convention Evangelism Department director.

Once again it will be held at the Vanderbilt Memorial Gymnasium in duplicate sessions Friday and Saturday to accommodate the crowds.

Speakers this year are Frederick Haynes III, pastor of Friendship West Church, Dallas, and Jack Millwood, pastor, First Church, North Mobile, Ala.

Haynes has led his church from a membership of 100 to



HAYNES



MILLWOOD

over 1400. He has led evangelism work for the National Baptist Convention and a Southern Baptist association.

Millwood also has led his church to grow dramatically — from 380 to 3500 members.

Millwood also has led the Jack Millwood Evangelistic Association.

Leading the music will be Charles Billingsley, a music evangelist and recording artist from Birmingham, Ala., and Vernard Johnson, a saxophonist of Los Angeles, Calif.

Interpretation will be provided for hearing impaired people. Special parking areas and seating areas are provided for handicapped people.

For more information, those interested should contact the TBC Evangelism Department at (615) 371-2058. □

# Southern Baptist churches give sacrificially to home missions

For Baptist and Reflector

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — From Alaska to Tennessee to New Mexico to New Jersey, Southern Baptist churches that give sacrificially to home missions are as different in personality as they are geographically.

Candlewood Church in Danbury, Conn., is located 70 miles outside of New York City. Most of the church's 117 members are white-collar professionals who commute to the city. Some of the church's strongest leaders travel a great deal, said Gwen Gary, director of the church's missions development council. Because they have traveled the country, they know firsthand the need to share God's love.

Candlewood includes in its Week of Prayer for Home Missions emphasis each year a special prayer emphasis, a women's prayer breakfast, and a Home Mission Study.

Layton (Fla.) Community Church is located in the Florida Keys, hardly more than a small island dissected by a big highway. Most of the city's almost 400 residents make their homes in Layton only in the winter months, traveling north again when Florida summers begin.

Few of the people on the island have a Southern Baptist background. But Layton Community Baptist is the only church in town, so a very diverse congregation of mostly retired, nontraditional Baptists has formed, said Nellie Lanier, the church's secretary.

Although an Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions and a Week of Prayer for Home Missions may be new concepts for many of those attending the church,

they soon become convinced of the needs across the country and welcome opportunities to help, said Lanier.

People in Texas joke with people in the rest of the country that everything is bigger in Texas. Pansy Church in Crosbyton, Texas, can lay claim to this slogan, and they aren't joking.

The church has 24 resident members. The church's attendance in Sunday School ranges from eight to 10. The rural church is made up of retired farmers and several widows. There are no children in the congregation. The population of the community has steadily declined during the last 30 years.

Pansy Church, however, is determined that means that they plan to continue to support missions as they have in the past.

Last summer, one member participated in an associational missions trip to New Mexico. The church has seen two members become pastors, one member become a foreign missionary, and one member become a home missionary.

The church supports missions financially. In 1991, they had a total budget of \$22,277. They contributed \$12,013 of

this money to missions causes, keeping only \$10,264 for local expenses.

"We don't have any 'hypes,'" said Bobbie Trull, a member of the church's Baptist Women organization. "We just give the people the information, set our goal, announce the ingathering date, and that's it."

Members of Glorieta Church learn about missions through ongoing WMU and Brotherhood programs. During the Sunday morning worship service each week, the church prays for missionaries having birthdays that day.

During the special missions emphasis weeks, the church dedicates regularly scheduled church programs to missions education.

Near Columbia, Ala., members of Hebron Church give to home missions because they see themselves as accountable to God for every area of their lives, said Pastor Ted Forrester.

When people are educated about missions, their devotion, commitment, and love for the Lord, along with a willingness to be used by God, naturally brings about generous giving, said Betty Sue Forrester, the pastor's wife.

Larry L. Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, knows the value of members committed to missions in churches across the country.

"Contributions from churches which give so sacrificially to home missions are essential to

reaching our Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal, and consequently reaching our nation for Christ," Lewis said.

Last year was the first time gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions exceeded \$36 million. This year's goal is \$38 million, and any money received over

the goal will be used exclusively for starting new churches.

All money received from the offering supports the work of 5,000 home missionaries serving in the United States, Canada, American Samoa, and the Caribbean. No offering funds are used for administrative expenses. □



## Do Something!

Week of Prayer for Home Missions

March 7-14, 1993

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

National Goal: \$38 Million  
Tennessee Goal: \$3.1 Million



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Everyone is invited to attend the Live Wisely conference. We will teach you how to make a difference in money management. 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. with a snack provided. \$5 registration fee for materials — couples may share. Contact the church office for registration.

Archer Thorpe, Jr., Director of Cooperative Program and Stewardship Promotion, Tennessee Baptist Convention, will be the conference leader.

## Home Mission Board facts

- Less than half (42 percent) of all Americans attend church in a typical week.

- 76 percent of America's population lives in 277 metropolitan areas. Yet, only 41 percent of Southern Baptist churches and 57 percent of resident members are in urban areas.

- 459 counties in the United States have no Southern Baptist church or mission. Of these, 425 urgently need at least one new church. Pray that congregations will be planted so four million unchurched people living in these counties can be reached for Christ.

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March 1, Monday  
Holston Association  
Johnson City

March 8, Monday  
Wallace Memorial Church  
Knoxville

March 9, Tuesday  
East Athens Church  
Athens

March 11, Thursday  
First Church  
Morristown

March 22, Monday  
First Church  
Cookeville

March 23, Tuesday  
Shelbyville Mills Church  
Shelbyville

March 25, Thursday  
Brainerd Hills Church  
Chattanooga

March 29, Monday  
First Church,  
Hohenwald

March 30, Tuesday  
Tennessee Baptist Convention  
Brentwood

April 5, Monday  
Cumberland Association  
Clarksville

April 6, Tuesday  
First Church  
Paris

April 19, Monday  
Beulah Association  
Union City

April 20, Tuesday  
First Church  
Halls

April 26, Monday  
Eudora Church  
Memphis

April 27, Tuesday  
Madison-Chester Association  
Jackson

May 10, Monday  
First Church  
McMinnville

May 24, Monday  
First Church, Huntingdon

# TenneScene ■ the people, their work

## ■ the leaders

■ **Hugh Triplett** is the new pastor of Cookson Creek Church, Cocee.

■ **Oak Grove Church, Benton**, called **Pam Cantrell** as youth director.

■ **Stephen McCollum** is the new pastor of First Church, Cornersville.

■ **Mark Grubb** is now serving as associate pastor at Higher Ground Church, Sul-



**JACKSON NATIVES** Ron and Yvonne Hale were appointed to mission service by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in January. They will serve in Kansas City, Kan., where he will be a church starter strategist and she will work in family and church service. Hale is a graduate of Union University, Jackson. He has served as pastor in Tennessee and Kansas, and was on the board of directors for the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists. Mrs. Hale is a graduate of Mid-America Nazarene College, Olathe, Kan. The Hales have a son, Jason.

ivan Association.

■ **Joe Shelton II** recently became bivocational pastor of Mill Creek Church, Fall Branch.

■ **Douglas Nash** is now serving as interim pastor at Buchanan Church, Buchanan.

■ Members of Clear Springs Church, Mascot, recently welcomed **Ben Knisley** as interim pastor, and **Robert Bales** as minister of music.

■ **Dwight Guy** is the new pastor of First Church, Sparta.

■ **George McCoy** has been called as pastor of Bethel Church, Rogersville.

■ **Gilbert F. Westberry** celebrated his 10th anniversary as minister of music at Highland Park Church, Columbia, Jan. 19. The church honored him and his family with a special worship service and reception Jan. 31.

■ **Jerry Massey** is the new pastor of First Church, Paris.

■ **Scenic Drive Church, Smyrna**, called **Don Frensley** as pastor.

■ **Indiana Avenue Church, LaFollette**, called **Mark Partin**, Saint Albans, W.V., as pastor. He began his service Jan. 11.

■ **Jim Wilcox** is the new pastor of First Church, Caryville.

## ■ hospitals

■ The cancer center at **Baptist Hospital, Nashville**, will offer a free seminar and

ovarian cancer screening March 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Women participating in the seminar who have a confirmed personal and family history of the disease may be screened through a free blood test to detect an antigen called CA 125 which has been found in the blood of women with ovarian cancer and may be a sign of the disease.

## ■ the people

■ **Renee Cook**, a Baptist Student Union semester missionary from Tahlequah, Okla., is working with local volunteers at the Johnson City Baptist Center. She is a junior at Northeastern Oklahoma State University.

■ **Olivia Pitt** died Jan. 30 at a nursing home in Lebanon. She was the widow of William H. Pitt Sr., who was director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Stewardship Department from 1960-1968. She is survived by three sons.

■ **Pianist Davey Brown**, a senior at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, won first place in the Tennessee Federation of Music Clubs student auditions in Clarksville Jan. 23. His parents are missionaries to Liberia.

## ■ the work

■ The **Royal Ambassadors of Pleasant Grove Church, Maryville**, held a football game to raise money for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. More than \$600 was collected.

■ **David and Pamela Emmer**, missionaries to Ethiopia, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service. Write them at P. O. Box 5539, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He considers Waverly his hometown.

## ■ the churches

■ **Jim Henry** will lead revival Feb. 28-March 3 at **Dalewood Church, Nashville**. Ken and Lois Holland will be guest musicians.

■ **Ron Barker** will lead revival March 7-10 at **Indian Springs Church, Kingsport**. Rocky Hodge will lead music.

■ A building program has begun at **Grace Church, Collinwood**. It will include an addition to the auditorium, a fellowship hall, and Sunday School class rooms.



**PAUL WOODFORD** retired in January after serving almost 12 years as pastor of First Church, Lewisburg. He and his wife Betty were honored at a reception at the church. Woodford, who has served on numerous Tennessee Baptist Convention committees and boards, began serving as part-time church starter strategist for the TBC Missions Department, Feb. 1.



**BILL WILSON**, left, director of the Convention Ministries Division of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Brentwood, accepts a plaque from Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr., during the agency's semi-annual trustees meeting Feb. 8-10. Wilson was among five trustees whose service ends this year. — Photo by Jim Veneman

# Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

## Sunday School is important

Dennis W. Foust, associate pastor  
First Church, Chattanooga

Someone asked me, "Do you think Sunday School is really all that important any more?" My answer was not earthshaking, but it was a resounding yes!

You see, Sunday School is not an alternative for the church. Oh, some congregations might use different names such as church school or Bible study. They may even meet at times other than Sundays at 9:30 a.m. But the Sunday School is the church organized to be and do church most effectively.

To be faithful to the command of Christ, we his followers must go, teach, baptize, and nurture others to obey Christ's lifestyle principles. This means the story of God's revelation in

history — especially in Christ — must be central to our living. Therefore, the Biblical record is studied in Sunday School. The Bible and its key truths/themes serve as the primary textbook for Sunday School.

As we study Scripture, we learn of God's initiating, unconditional, inclusive, redemptive nature. We then find that we are God's people, re-presenting this good news to broken lives and incarnating God's love to hurting hearts. We respond by reaching out to include others in our experiences, relationships, and perspectives. *Love-reaching-out!*

These two callings upon our lives as Christians (teaching/reaching) must be held in a healthy tension as we obey Christ individually and congregationally. If we decided to do teaching and reaching by any other name, it would still be Sunday School.

Is Sunday School important?

Yes! Through the Sunday School we learn the Christian story and we let it shape our story. Through Sunday School we grow in godliness/christlikeness as we reach out, through God's love, to others. Through Sunday School we, God's people, organize ourselves to incarnate Christ in the world. □

## Gather at his table

Thomas E. Dumser II, pastor  
Edgefield Church, Nashville

Two men meet on the street. As they come together, they reach out to one another and shake hands. What these two are doing is enacting ritual of greeting. Through gesture and sign they express who they are and what they want to be in relationship to each other.

In some traditions, Christians enact the "passing of the peace" prior to celebrating the Lord's Supper. The Peace is an ancient Christian greeting of

peace and reconciliation. It arises from Jesus' instruction in the Sermon on the Mount: If you remember at the altar that your brother has something, a legitimate claim, against you, first go, be reconciled to your brother, and come, offer your gift.

William Willimon writes in *Glad and Generous Hearts*. "Christian worship is made into a mockery when we gather, sing hymns, smile, and think warm, religious thoughts while we hold grudges, old hurts, and past wrongs against our brothers and sisters." The Peace offers us an opportunity to affirm our unity in Christ, our willingness to forgive, and desire to be forgiven. Such unity is an essential ingredient in the recipe for a vital church. We call it grace.

The wonder of the Lord's table is that we gather as his guests. We experience shock and surprise as we see insiders

become outsiders, and outsiders become insiders. We find the strangest sort of people where two or three gather in Jesus' name. Even the betrayer comes to the table with Jesus' full knowledge. Still, he serves all, reaching out to include them in his party.

Of all the dinners described in the Gospels, this "Lord's Supper" is the only one in which he acted as host. When we gather for worship, we will enact our unity in Christ through passing the peace and sitting at the Lord's table. Remember, Jesus invites you to come and gather with all his people at his table. □

The articles included in "Tennessee Sampler" are taken from newsletters of Tennessee Baptist churches and associations. The Baptist and Reflector does not necessarily concur with the views expressed.

# Abortion battle in Congress turns to Freedom of Choice Act

By Tom Strode  
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The latest battle on the legislative front of America's war over abortion will be fought over the Freedom of Choice Act. If the rhetoric from both abortion advocates and abortion opponents is any indication, it will be a volatile fight in Congress.

Pro-life legislators and organizations contend FOCA will mandate abortion on demand at any stage of pregnancy throughout the 50 states. No state legislature will be able to pass meaningful restrictions on the practice, they say.

Supporters of FOCA say it will do no more than write into law the Roe v. Wade decision, the 1973 ruling which legalized abortion. At least, abortion advocates say, it would codify Roe as it existed before the Supreme Court allowed some state restrictions in its decision in the 1989 Webster v. Reproductive Health Services and 1992 Planned Parenthood v. Casey cases.

"FOCA is the most radical pro-abortion legislation Congress has ever considered," said James A. Smith, director of government relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "It is a federal mandate which would require every state to allow abortion on demand from conception to birth."

"The abortion lobby is deceiving Americans by asserting that FOCA merely codifies Roe. As far as we are concerned that is bad enough, since Roe has given America nearly 30 million abortions since 1973," Smith said. "But FOCA is even worse than Roe," he added.

State regulations allowed in the Casey decision, such as parental consent for minors, informed consent for women,

and waiting periods are "in essence, 'Jim Crow' abortion laws, designed to obstruct women's exercise of a legal right," the National Abortion Rights Action League said in a January written statement. "Like the poll taxes and literacy tests used earlier this century to prevent African-Americans from voting, these restrictions are attempts to place obstacle after obstacle on a woman's right to choose."

The bill is clear in its "intent and scope ... in the face of misinformation and distortions by opponents of choice," NARAL President Kate Michelman testified in a Senate hearing last summer. The Freedom of Choice Act establishes a national standard to protect every American woman, no matter what state she calls home.

"We will not rest until the Freedom of Choice Act is the law of the land," she said.

Congress' consideration of FOCA may begin soon. A hearing is likely by the end of February before a subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee in the House of Representatives, a subcommittee spokesman said. On the Senate side, it is uncertain when a hearing will be held, a committee aide said.

The Senate bill, with Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Me., as the chief sponsor, has 39 co-sponsors. In the House, FOCA has 100 co-sponsors, with Rep. Don Edwards, D-Calif., as the lead sponsor.

FOCA was passed last year by both the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee and the House Judiciary Committee, but it never reached the floor of either chamber. Last year, then President George Bush promised to veto FOCA. During the campaign Bill Clinton prom-

ised to sign the bill.

Both bills include language enabling states to require a "minor to involve a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult before terminating pregnancy." This is not true parental consent, pro-lifers say. A "responsible adult" could be the person performing

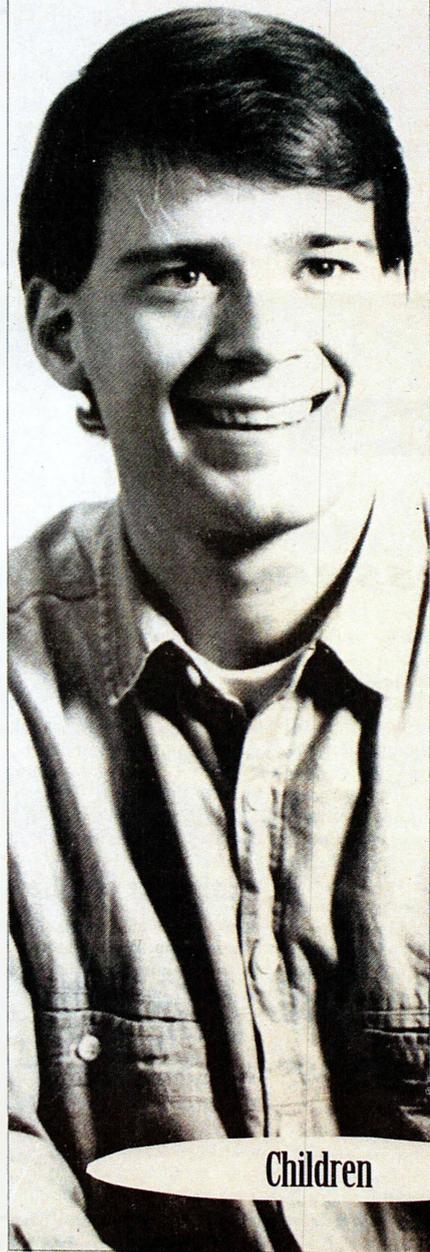
the abortion, they argue.

The Senate and House bills differ in one especially critical manner. The Senate bill allows states to protect "unwilling individuals or private health care institutions from having to participate in the performance of abortions to which they are conscientiously op-

posed." The House bill provides protection only for individuals, not private hospitals.

If the House language prevails in the final bill, a state could not protect Baptist, Catholic, and other private hospitals from being forced to allow abortions, FOCA critics say. □

## Love In Action



"Thanks to the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home, I'm making it now!"

-Mike Hanson...  
Tennessee Baptist Children's Home alumnus

"I got into a little trouble. Nothing bad, but a lot of small things rolled into one big mess. The state thought I'd do better at the Children's Home. It was one of the best things that ever happened to me."

"It's hard to find a place for teenage boys, especially a place near home. I hated the thought of leaving my own community and not being close to my family. Although I have let them down, my family is really important to me."

"The Children's Home helped me, through the Independent Living Program, get ready to move out on my own when the time came. They shared with me the skills I would need in order to enter the adult world. They talked to me about the importance of living for the Lord and doing right."

"The housefather worked out a budget and a menu with me. He helped me set up a checking account and showed me how to manage my money. Because of his help, I have my own apartment and a full-time job. I will be enlisting in the Navy soon. I hope to learn some skills that will help me be a success in life."

"I used to do things on a whim. My experience at the Children's Home taught me that there are consequences of my behavior. That's an important thing to learn."

"They prepared me for life on my own. Thanks to them, I'm making it now."



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Dr. Gerald L. Stow, President/Treasurer

Children

## Nine SBC study groups to report progress in April

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Nine study groups named in September 1992 by Southern Baptist Convention President Ed Young have been meeting, and chairpersons will gather in April to report on their progress.

Young appointed chairpersons of the nine groups who then worked with Young to select members. He named Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. general chairman of the process.

"We will be meeting in April

to discuss with all of the chairpersons the work of their groups and come to a good report on their work," Draper said.

The nine groups are theological, reaching the world, reaching children and youth, reaching America, women's ministries, multi-ethnic advisory, cords and stakes, family, and Cooperative Program and special offerings. □

**Looking for a conference center?**  
Windermere Baptist Assembly in central Missouri offers a complete conference facility located on Lake of the Ozarks. Accommodations for up to 750 persons. Many dates open, including this summer. Call (314) 346-2205, ext. 112 for more details.

# ■ Sunday School lesson commentary

## □ Personal thanksgiving for deliverance — Bible Book Series for February 28

By Bill Wolfe, pastor, First Church, Counce

Thanksgiving is part of worship for the New Testament church. When God's people come together to exalt Christ in worship, gratitude for all God has done is part of it. Thanksgiving is as vital to worship as the music, the offering, and the proclamation of God's Word.

In the psalms we read today, the writer gives genuine expressions of thanksgiving for all of the victories he has given them.

### Psalm 18

John Phillips, in *Exploring the Psalms*, divides this psalm into three parts: (1) The Rejected Prophet (vv. 1-19); (2) The Royal Priest (vv. 20-31); and (3) The Returning Potentate (vv. 32-50). This Psalm is found twice in the Bible — in II Samuel and in Psalms.

Psalm 18 provides the secrets of a normal spiritual life. As you begin to read this Psalm you notice its personal nature.

It reflects a real relationship between David and the Lord. He used eight references in verse 2 to tell what God meant to him. These should be our testimonies concerning God. David trusted the Lord at all times. He knew God was worthy of praise.

In verses 4-6, David described his perilous conditions as some great shaking or moving of the earth. David described God's appearance among his perils in verses 7-15. His deliverance begins in verse 16. Notice such phrases as he took me, he drew me out, he delivered me. David knew God was concerned. In verses 28-31 David spoke of God's ability to deliver him. In verse 31 the word "God" is Eloah — the God who is to be worshiped.

Verses 46-50 conclude this psalm with thanksgiving. Victory and deliverance over enemies can be an exciting experience.

All of the victories we have belong to the Lord.

### Psalm 66

The probable writer of this psalm is King Hezekiah. It was probably written after the final overthrow of Sennacherib and the extension of his life by God.

Verses 1-12 are a call to praise. A very definite exhortation is found in verses 1-2: "Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands; sing forth the honor of his name: make his praise glorious." While there are many who rejoice in Christ, they are still in the minority. But there is a day coming, as expressed in verse 4, when all the earth shall worship the Lord and sing to him.

In verses 5-7 we see the mighty works of God. The nations are summoned to Jerusalem to see evidence of God's power. The things God has done for his children are seen in vers-

es 8-12. There is protection in verses 8-9, a proving in verses 10-12, and a prosperity in verse 12b.

The second part of this psalm is a testimony of a worshiper who comes to the temple (vv. 13-20). The psalmist said in verse 14, "I will pay my vows." Jonah quoted this verse when

### Basic Passage: Psalm 18; 66; 121

he was in the depths of the sea. He remembered to pay his vow for the deliverance he experienced when he was in trouble.

Have we remembered the promises we made to God in exchange for deliverance? Jonah knew there was no saving power in the sacrifices he made, but they did serve as a reminder of his sins. We know verse 18 as well as any verse in the Bible. Sin hinders prayer, but God's

grace and power causes him to hear our prayers and to forgive us.

### Psalm 121

Men and women have come to this psalm time and time again throughout the ages to find help and strength in their time of need. This psalm was probably written in the days of Hezekiah when the Assyrian army was threatening Judea and Jerusalem. It is packed with words of encouragement and deliverance: (1) My help cometh from the Lord; (2) My Lord does not slumber; (3) The Lord is my keeper; (4) The Lord is my preservation.

One must find time to give God praise when he is the one responsible for delivering us from situations we cannot handle. Our thanksgiving should be that which reflects what God has done personally for us □

## □ Teach the truth — Convention Uniform Series for February 28

By Terry Bradshaw, pastor, Zion Hill Church, Sevierville

The text today reminds us of the times we have picked up the morning paper and read of another tragedy in the name of religion. The church, at times, has been a hotbed for every new thought that comes along. We often abandon the steadfast truths in God's Word for a seemly new and exciting way to serve him. This so-called new phenomena is not called at all. It's been going on since the beginning of time when Satan proposed to Adam and Eve a new and better way to serve God. Today, we have simply given it new names such as humanism, the new age movement, etc. Paul identified it for what it is — false teaching. Paul's love for Christ and his church compelled him to stand against heresy that he knew had the potential of destroying the body of Christ.

### A time of preparation II Tim. 2:14-16

The church at Ephesus had its hands full with the many pagan ideas that sought to influence it. One of the most influential was that of the idol Diana (Artemis). A temple had been constructed in her honor and was known as one of the seven wonders of the world. This illustrates in itself how strong false religions were in Paul's days.

It is against this backdrop Paul wrote young Timothy and encouraged him to be strong in the grace of our Lord, (v. 1). The situation called for a strong leader who knew the Word and was willing to use it. So, in verse 14, Paul encouraged Timothy to "Put them in remembrance." Paul told Timothy to keep reminding them of what had just been said in verses 11-13. Paul also called on Timothy

to point out the uselessness of words that are not profitable. He told Timothy these words of no profit work, "to the subverting of the hearers," (v. 14). He meant that these words and foolish quarrels worked for the ruin of those who listened.

Paul knew reminding people of their responsibilities is not enough when trying to eradicate false doctrine. So Paul told Timothy to prepare himself (study) that he might be pleasing to God and have the ability to rightly divide the word of truth (v. 15). This desire to please God required that Timothy "Shun profane and vain babblings," (v. 16). The word, "shun" means to avoid or stay away from. Timothy was not to entangle himself in "vain" (empty), fruitless discussions about alternative religions or false belief. Paul knew such conversa-

tion resulted not in a discovery of the truth, but rather an increase in ungodly activity.

### A time of identification II Tim. 2:17-19

As we can see by reading verse 17, Paul was not timid. He identified two false teachers who were disrupting the fellowship. Hymenaeus and Philetus. Paul stated these two had erred from the truth (vv. 17-18). They taught that the bodily resurrection of believers had already taken place. Most likely they believed the resurrection occurred when one was spiritually renewed by regeneration. It was clear to Paul in his statement in verse 18 that this kind of teaching could "overthrow (destroy) the faith of some," (v. 18). This kind of heresy simply had no place in the life of the New Testament church.

Paul closed this section with

a clear and precise call for purity concerning the faith. "Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity," (v. 19).

### A time of realization II Tim. 2:20-26

In verses 20-21, Paul used a metaphor to emphasize his point concerning purity. He said

### Basic Passage II Timothy 2:14-3:9; Titus 2

simply that within the church there are all types. Some will bring honor, some dishonor. He challenged them to be vessels that bring honor and glory to God (v. 21). They were to do this by cleansing themselves of the false teachers and their false doctrine. Paul's point is clear. False doctrine should find no forum in the New Testament church. □

## □ Worship and renewal — Life and Work Series for February 28

By Toby Everett, pastor, Walker Memorial Church, Franklin

Webster's Dictionary defines worship as "reverence paid to a divine being." If I asked the average person in church what worship is, he or she might respond like this: "Worship is getting together in church once a week to sing, pray, and hear someone preach," or they might say, "Worship is something we do at church when we listen to the preacher."

Each of us would have our own answer to this dilemma of worship. Jacob had been home for a while and the fences were mended with him and his brother Esau. The time came for God to move him to a higher level of commitment. The text, in this final lesson on Jacob shows us

how to come to that "place" of worship and renewal for our life. Here are four things that must happen.

### Divine invitation, v. 1

For 20 years, God had been strangely silent in the life of Jacob. Though we can see definite activity of God during this time, the wrestling match of chapter 32 is the first recorded communication. This was a desperate time for Jacob, for his fear of retaliation by the neighboring tribes of Canaan because of his sons' revenge on Shechem possibly made him more sensitive.

It is important to note that God initiated the return to communication through the invitation to go back to Bethel. There

are for us those precious moments when we sense God saying, "Come, bow down, make an altar, and worship me."

### Collective preparation vv. 2-4

Recently, I made a mission trip to London. We were told in our preparation for the trip to not take excess baggage, because we would have to pay additional for overage.

Jacob realized his family carried a great deal of "excess baggage" that would hinder their worship and his worship. We bring our own forms of foreign gods, dirty clothing, impure thoughts, etc., into our worship of God. We must learn to bury hindering allegiances that keep

us unprepared for worship.

### Acceptable revelation vv. 9-12

When we married 23 years ago, something happened to my wife. She got a new name. That revelation came home to her the first time she signed her name.

### Basic Passage: Genesis 35:1-15

Jacob had received a new name. It was time to accept this revelation from God. In accepting that name, he accepted the revealed truth that the God of Abraham and Isaac was the God of Israel. We experience renewal in worship when we hear

and accept the revelations that we are under new identity.

### Spiritual commemoration vv. 13-14

"Out of sight, out of mind" is often said about those things we forget to do. Jacob, now Israel — The Prince of God — had no intention of forgetting what had taken place this time. Though he had struggled time and again, he "marked the spot." When we can worship God fully in collective or private experience, we want to identify that which caused it to happen. We recognize that we are on "Holy Ground" and we commemorate the spot. □

## Broadman releases Swindoll book series

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Popular author Charles "Chuck" Swindoll is featured in a new five-book study series being released in February by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press.

The series breaks down the text of Swindoll's best-selling book, *Growing Deep in the Christian Faith*, into five separate books. Titles in the series include: *Salvation, Eternity, The Bible, The Trinity, and The Family of God*.

Broadman Press editor Vicki Crompton said study questions have been added throughout each chapter of the books by long-time Sunday School curriculum writer and conference leader Val Harvey of Franklin. With the questions, the books can be used in individual or small-group Bible studies. □

## Brotherhood, BWA join for international training in May

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and the Baptist World Alliance men's department are teaming up for international Baptist Men's and Baptist Young Men's training May 27-30 in Nashville.

Hosted by the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., of Nashville, the Sixth World Conference of Baptist Men will include Baptist Men's University, the Brotherhood Commission's triennial training event for adult division programs.

Featured BWA speakers include E. V. Hill, pastor of Mount Zion Missionary Church, Los Angeles; Denton

Lotz, BWA general secretary; Theodore J. Jemison, president, National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.; J. Rea Grant, secretary, Baptist Union of Ireland; Jack Stanton, Bolivar, Mo., evangelist; and Jerry Clower, Christian comedian and Baptist layman from Yazoo City, Miss.

For additional information on the conference, contact BWA Men's Department at 2300 Quail Drive, SE, Bessemer, Ala. 35023. For information on Baptist Men's University, write the Brotherhood Commission at 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, 38104. □



**THE BROTHERHOOD COMMISSION**, along with the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship held a surprise 80th birthday party for Henry Love of Memphis, the fellowship's executive director. About 150 people attended the event which raised almost \$3,500 for an endowment fund for medical missions.

## House bill introduced to encourage giving

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A bill designed to encourage charitable giving was introduced Feb. 4 in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The legislation would make all gifts of "appreciated property" fully tax deductible. Appreciated property includes real estate, stocks, and tangible items such as collectibles which increase in value after purchase.

The Tax Reform Act of 1986, which subjected the appreciated portion of charitable gifts to taxation, caused a decline in large gifts to universities, hospitals, museums, and other charitable institutions.

The bill would exempt gifts of appreciated property from the special tax, allowing a donor to receive a tax donation equal to the gift's fair market value. If approved the tax code amendment would apply to taxable years after Dec. 31, 1991. □

## Golden Gate trustee chairman resigns

Baptist Press

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — John D. Morgan, pastor of Sagemont Church, Houston, Texas, has resigned from the board of trustees at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here to devote more time to his church.

Morgan, elected chairman in 1992, has been a trustee since 1986.

In a Feb. 8 letter to seminary President William O. Crews, the Texas pastor indicated he wanted to spend time "totally devoted" to his church.

Crews said the seminary regrets losing Morgan's leadership. "He and his church have been tremendous supporters of the seminary. We know they will continue to believe in our mission of training a new generation of church leaders.

Board vice chairman Roy Zinn of San Bernardino, Calif., will assume chairmanship. □

## Somalis thank FMB for assistance

Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND — The Somalia Coalition for Action plans to thank the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board formally for its help in supporting peace talks between warring Somali clans.

Ali Mohamed Aden, a leader of the coalition, was scheduled to meet this month with Jim Houser, associate area director of FMB work in southern and eastern Asia, to express appreciation for the board's support in the talks. □

## Hong Kong Baptists to get new seminary

Foreign Mission Board

HONG KONG — The Hong Kong Baptist Convention recently granted approval for Hong Kong Baptist Seminary to build a new campus for the seminary.

By trading the land on which the seminary is now located to a local property development company, the seminary will receive a new campus built to its specifications and a development fund worth the equivalent of more than \$14 million.

The anticipated moving date is the fall of 1994. □

## Fish accepts post at First, Dallas

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS — Seminary professor Roy Fish has been chosen interim pastor at First Church, Dallas.

Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth for 28 years, will lead the church until a new pastor is named to succeed Joel Gregory, who resigned last September in a dispute over whether he or Senior Pastor W. A. Criswell was the true leader of the congregation.

A church spokesman said Fish will not be a candidate for the position. □

## SBTS examines Korean instruction

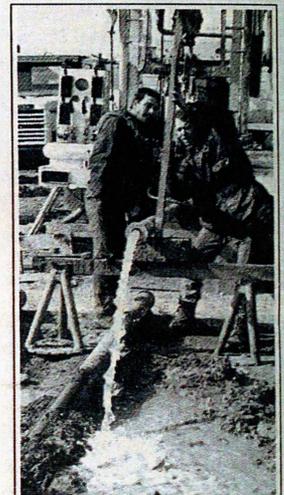
Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE — A January gathering of Korean-American pastors and church leaders at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here revealed a high-level interest among Korean-Americans in theological training, said Provost Larry McSwain.

We found that for most Korean pastors the instruction must be in their own language," McSwain said. "There is a great need for instruction in Baptist theology and history since about 90 percent of Southern Baptist Korean pastors come from some other denomination," he added.

The interest in theological education expressed by the Korean-American church leaders is consistent with climbing enrollment figures for Korean students at the seminary, McSwain noted. "Koreans are the fastest-growing group in our student body. We had one Korean student in 1978. We had 52 last year and now there are about 75," he said.

The consultation with Korean-American Baptists was hosted by the seminary to determine how it could better address the needs of Korean pastors. □



**AMERICAN ART BAKER**, right, and a Kurdish worker triumph over engineering problems to begin the life-giving flow of water from a well-drilling rig operated in northern Iraq by Global Partners, a humanitarian aid organization, which operates relief projects for the Kurds in northern Iraq. Baker is a Southern Baptist engineering graduate from The Citadel in Charleston, S.C.

## Southern hosts preaching conference

Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE — Princeton Theological Seminary preaching professor Tom Long will be the featured speaker during Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's eighth National Conference on Biblical Preaching March 8-12.

Long will deliver the seminary's E. Y. Mullins Lectures on Preaching. He is the author of several books and articles on preaching.

For more information, call 1-(800) 626-5525. □



**PAUL SMITH**, right, talks with Kurdish "peshmerga" soldiers in northern Iraq about the well-drilling medical and feeding programs for the beleaguered Kurdish people. Smith, from West Monroe, La., works with Global Partners, an England-based international humanitarian aid organization. Relief workers in northern Iraq work in an environment full of dangers but have been cordially welcomed by the Kurdish people, including the peshmerga. — Foreign Mission Board photo by Mike Creswell