

Baptist and Reflector

March 24, 1993

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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Regional forums begin Thursday in Seymour

Eight regional forums begin Thursday with an open meeting on the Harrison-Chilhowee Academy campus at Seymour.

The meetings, open to all Tennessee Baptists, were scheduled by the Special Study Committee which was appointed last November. The committee was commissioned to study election processes for the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board, and the committees on committees and boards.

Tennessee Baptists are asked by the committee to be present for discussion and dialogue. Fred Steelman, committee chairman and pastor of Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, said there will be opportunity for participants to "talk back" to the committee and share their views about the election processes.

"We hope many Tennessee Baptists will be present for the forums," Steelman said.

Other meetings: North Central Region, First Church,

Cookeville, April 1; Southeastern, Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, April 6; Northeastern, Holston Association office, Johnson City, April 15;

Southwestern, First Church, Bolivar, May 24; Northwestern, First Church, Trenton, May 25; Central, Belmont Heights Church, Nash-

ville, May 27; and South Central, Lawrence County Association office, Leoma, June 1. All meetings begin at 7 p. m.

Other committee members, all pastors, include Wayne Allen, Ken Altom, Lloyd Bardowell, Raymond Boston, Edward Futrell, Jackie Kay, James McCluskey, and Ralph

McIntyre.

Included by reason of office are Leonard Markham and Ron Phillips, present and past TBC presidents; and James Porch, executive director.

The committee will report to the convention messengers in November in Nashville at the annual meeting. □

Committee seeks resumes for TBC division director

In a called meeting last Friday, the Executive Committee acted to begin the process to fill the position of director for the Central Administrative Division, Executive Board in Brentwood.

The position was created in 1988 and for the first time will be filled.

Action on the vacancy follows the retirement of Martha Grove, longtime Accounting Office director, and James McDonald, Business Office director.

Grove joined the TBC Executive Board Staff in 1950, and McDonald came in 1972. Both retired in December, and Grove has stayed on the job until the position is filled.

David George, Executive Committee chairman, appointed a search committee to be

chaired by Larry Williams, pastor of Ooltewah Church, and Executive Committee member.

According to Executive Board policies, the search committee will present a nominee to the Executive Board for action. The next board meeting is scheduled for May 11.

The search committee will receive resumes and recommendations for the position through April 15. Mail should be sent to the office of the executive director/treasurer, James M. Porch, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

The director for the Central Administrative Division will be responsible for offices of accounting, business, program services, and properties management. □

HMB affirms resolution on WMU; acts on Masons

By Martin King
For Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board dealt with the issue of Freemasonry, addressed concerns regarding Woman's Missionary Union, and elected new officers during their March 17 meeting in Atlanta.

HMB President Larry Lewis also announced during the meeting that Gary Leazer, director of the board's interfaith witness department, had requested to be relieved of responsibilities as director and transferred to a field position within the department. Lewis reported he granted the request because Leazer's leadership had been discredited following comments Leazer made in a personal letter regarding a study of Freemasonry conducted by his department.

Leazer's new assignment will be to lead conferences, teach, research, write, and assist in development of materials for the interfaith witness department. Tal Davis, an associate director in the department, will serve as interim department director.

The board received as information the lengthy study of Freemasonry (see story on page 3), and approved a report and recommendation on the organization submitted by its administrative committee. Both documents resulted from a motion approved by the 1992 SBC in Indianapolis. Copies of the report and study may be ordered from Home Mission Board Customer Services, (800) 634-2462. The cost for the study is \$6.

More discussion was generated by a resolution concerning WMU than the Freemasonry report. The administrative committee recommended directors affirm a resolution of concern and commitment passed last month by the Southern Baptist Executive Committee. The resolution praised the organization for its vital support of missions but expressed concern over "historically significant" changes adopted by WMU's executive board in January to broaden its work beyond SBC agencies.

Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director, addressed board members during a dinner prior to the board meeting. She assured them there would

be no erosion of support for the mission boards and WMU would continue to do everything it presently does. "Woman's Missionary Union has recommitted ourselves to missions," she said.

During a question and answer session, HMB directors



LEWIS



O'BRIEN

focused on potential WMU involvement with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and production of generic missions education materials. O'Brien emphasized, as she has with other SBC agencies, WMU will not conduct a missions offering for the CBF, but it must respond to missions education needs of all Southern Baptist churches.

During the board meeting, June Tate, a member of First Southern Church, Fountain Valley, Calif., asked her colleagues to trust WMU. She

said she has been a "full supporter of Woman's Missionary Union and I urge you to vote down this resolution."

Walt Carpenter, a member of Second Church, Houston, Texas, said, "WMU took a precipitous action ... All this resolution is doing is saying, 'We're going to wait and see.'"

The motion passed with seven dissenting votes, all cast by female members of the board.

Directors also elected new officers. Brad Allen, pastor of First Church, Duncan, Okla., was elected chairman, succeeding Hixson pastor Ron Phillips. Missouri pastor Bob Curtis was elected vice chairman and Wade Armstrong, a retired West Virginia pastor, was elected second vice chairman. Elected as secretary and assistant secretary, respectively, were Linda Principe, Brandenburg, Ky., and Cloma Odom, Warner Robins, Ga.

In his annual report to the board, Lewis highlighted areas of growth such as church starts, volunteers, and intercessory prayer.

He expressed concern that baptisms were down last year — See HMB, page 2

WMU leaders issue special report

By Susan Doyle
For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM — Confusion and misunderstanding about recent decisions made by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union have prompted national WMU leaders to issue a 12-page special report.

"There has been some confusion surrounding action taken by the WMU Executive Board during its Jan 9-13 meeting," said Dellanna W. O'Brien, national WMU executive director. "This special report has been prepared to help provide background information and to bring clarification and understanding to the board action."

The report is being distributed by mail to all pastors, church staff members, retired pastors, directors of missions, and other SBC state and national workers. It is also being distributed at each state WMU spring meeting.

The report includes a line-by-line overview of WMU's work and involvement with the Southern Baptist Convention before the board action and after the board action. Most of the items are exactly the same in both instances.

Only six of the 16 items list-

ed show differences following the board action. These items include WMU's decision to place greater emphasis on encouraging Southern Baptists to volunteer in response to mission needs, to aggressively market generic missions materials to evangelical groups, and to provide materials to support in prayer any Southern Baptist group involved in missions.

The special report also describes WMU's action as "similar to the practices of several SBC agencies."

With action taken by the board, WMU will begin to aggressively market missions education materials for other evangelical groups. The report cites the Baptist Sunday School Board's similar practice of producing generic Christian materials which it sells to Southern Baptists and to other Christian organizations.

"The Foreign Mission Board works with other evangelical Christian entities to do mission projects in various parts of the world," the report says. "The Radio and Television Commission routinely makes air time available to non-Southern Baptist groups on the ACTS network."

The report also cites the practice of the Southern

Baptist Convention Executive Committee of making exhibit space available to non-SBC groups at its annual meeting.

In addition, Southern Baptist seminaries admit and graduate students from other evangelical denominations, the report says.

"We commend these agencies and commissions for their attempts to broaden their ministry and influence beyond their former boundaries," O'Brien said.

Also included in the report:

(1) Extensive background material for each of the six recommendations approved by the WMU executive board.

(2) A column from Carolyn Miller, national WMU president, including information about the formation of the 17-member special committee which drafted the recommendations approved in January by the executive board.

(3) Comments from O'Brien concerning WMU's commitment to missions.

(4) A summary of responses to the WMU board action by the Foreign Mission Board trustees and the SBC Executive Board.

(5) A timeline showing WMU's history of partnership with the SBC. □

State government still considering lottery, horse racing

Tennessee Baptists should be aware of moves in the State General Assembly toward pari-mutuel betting, horse racing, and legalization of lotteries.

Bill Bates, a former TBC president and now TBC public affairs consultant, is "on the hill" weekly as such matters are debated.

According to Bates, several items proposed by the 98th General Assembly concern moral and social issues.

Bills may be voted on by House and Senate members very soon concerning possible lotteries, legalized racing and betting, simulcast betting, and video gaming machine controls.

Some already have passed from committees to Senate and House floors, some may be scheduled or rescheduled for debate.

Concerned Tennessee Baptists may express personal concern to their local senators and representatives. The *Baptist and Reflector* will try to secure roll call votes on these issues as they are presented. □ — See editorial in this issue, page 5. — Editor

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Southeastern trustees elect eight faculty members

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees elected eight professors and adopted a \$6 million budget during their March 15-16 meeting.

Trustees also addressed a motion on retirement benefits from last year's SBC in Indianapolis and changed tuition rates.

For more than an hour, trustees met in an open and informal question-and-answer

session, where each candidate voluntarily submitted to questions ranging from home life to theology.

Trustees then went into executive session to further meet with the candidates and, without the candidates present, to discuss their salaries.

Each candidate was elected individually, said President Paige Patterson.

Elected to the faculty were Daniel L. Akin, assistant professor of theology; Paul B. Carlisle Jr., assistant professor of pastoral care and coun-

seling; Gerald P. Cowen, professor of pastoral leadership and church ministries; Gary A. Galeotti, professor of Old Testament; David E. Lanier, associate professor of New Testament; Kurt A. Richardson, assistant professor of Christian theology; and R. Philip Roberts, professor of church growth and evangelism.

All but Roberts and Richardson had taught at Criswell College in Dallas where Patterson was president until his election at Southeastern.

Responding to a motion concerning severance benefits, which was referred to all SBC institutions from last year's

convention in Indianapolis, Southeastern trustees adopted a severance package policy which says in part: "Under normal conditions, the financial settlement may approximate the value of earned sabbatical eligibility, not to exceed a maximum of one year."

Trustees approved a change in student fee structure, departing from the flat fee of \$500 per semester to \$50 per tuition hour. Registrar Sheldon Alexander said students now enroll an average of 12 hours per semester. Under the new policy, effective Aug. 1, students enrolling for 12 hours will pay \$100 more per semester. □

HMB affirms resolution on WMU ...

— Continued from page 1
after four consecutive years of increases. He also said he is concerned that a recent survey found foreign and home missions not among the top priorities of the local church and that this year's Cooperative Program budget is 1.4 percent less than last year's.

"Doors of opportunity for sharing the Gospel are open in America and around the world as never before. We must walk through these doors or God will raise up another who will," he declared.

Special tribute was paid to

Joshua Grijalva for 52 years of mission service. He recently retired as president of Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary in San Antonio, Texas.

During the meeting 30 new missions personnel were appointed, 27 chaplains were endorsed, and three new staff persons were elected — Richie Stanley, director of planning and services research; Katherine Williams, associate director of editing; and Taylor Frost, associate director of mass evangelism. □ — Sarah Zimmerman contributed to this story.

HMB trustee resigns position

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — A director of the Home Mission Board resigned in March, saying the HMB refuses to appoint "moderate" candidates.

Orris Bullock, a Washington, D. C. pastor, said only candidates who respond to questions about the Bible with words such as "inerrancy" are appointed.

However, Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis said, "We're not concerned

about catchwords, but concepts. We do insist that missionaries respect the authority and authenticity of Scripture — that the Bible is truth without any mixture of error. But we don't say they must use the word 'inerrant' or 'infallible,'" Lewis said.

Lewis said no effort is made to determine whether a missionary candidate is involved in "moderate" or "conservative" political aspects of the SBC. □



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Broad support expressed for HMB report on Masons

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Masons and anti-Masons have expressed support for a report approved by Home Mission Board directors which concludes many teachings of Freemasonry are not compatible with Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine while others are compatible.

The report recommends to the Southern Baptist Con-

vention that "consistent with our denomination's deep convictions regarding the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the local church, membership in the Masonic Order be a matter of personal conscience."

Passed March 17 with one dissenting vote, the report was a result of a recommendation from messengers at the 1992 SBC meeting in Indianapolis that the HMB study the mat-

ter and bring "a report with recommendation" on Freemasonry to the SBC meeting in Houston June 15-17.

HMB President Larry Lewis expressed strong support for the report. Following approval, he said, "I don't think many Baptists believe the denomination ought to dictate to the individual concerning Freemasonry. It's my impression you don't win people to Christ by condemning them.

Board chairman Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Church, Hixson, called the report "fair, balanced, and Baptist. It's my prayer Southern Baptists will pass it (the HMB report) overwhelmingly."

That view was shared by a leading critic of Freemasonry, Texas physician Larry Holly. Within minutes of the board's adjournment, Holly released a statement supporting the recommendation and called for SBC approval.

The HMB report, while "not as I would have it," offers little support to Southern Baptist Masons, Holly stated, maintaining they "should immediately remove themselves from the Masonic lodge."

Fred Kleinknecht, head of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, commended the board for recognizing Masonic membership as a matter of personal conscience.

"While I disagree strongly with several points critical of Freemasonry in the report, I compliment the Home Mission

Board for its intent to report evenhandedly on Freemasonry," Kleinknecht said.

The report was based on a study completed by the board's interfaith witness department.

The study states, "There is no agreement among Southern Baptists whether Christians can, or should be, Masons. Many fine conservative, Bible-believing, soul-winning men can be found on both sides of the issue."

The interfaith witness study suggests critics mistakenly interpret the personal views of some pagan or anti-Christian Masons as applying to the entire organization.

"It was not found that Freemasonry is anti-Christian or satanic, nor does it oppose the Christian church. While a few Masonic writers glorify non-Christian philosophy and religions, they are clearly a minor voice," the study states. "Every organization, including the Christian church, has some individuals who espouse positions not held by the vast majority of members," the study added. □

Vatican appointment elicits disapproval

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton's invitation to Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn to be the next ambassador to the Vatican elicited expressions of protest and disappointment from some organizations which had asked the new White House to end diplomatic relations with the civil state which serves as headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church.

"As the first organization which requested the president to sever diplomatic ties with the Vatican and as the denomination with which Bill Clinton's home church is affiliated, we are saddened and chagrined by the president's decision," said Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian

Life Commission.

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church, said in a written statement his organization was "deeply disappointed" and called the policy an "entanglement between the institutions of church and state."

Both the CLC and Americans United wrote the president in early December asking him to rescind the policy.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs also expressed disagreement with the decision. The BJC earlier had said it chose to express its concerns "verbally and directly to White House officials," rather than through a joint letter.

"Such an appointment is a clear violation of the principle of church-state separation, a

dangerous and divisive precedent of government meddling in church affairs, and the occasion for practical problems for all those engaged in the far-flung missionary venture in developing countries," said BJC Executive Director James Dunn, in a written statement.

"These are precisely the words I used to describe President Reagan's decision nearly a decade ago to establish full diplomatic relations between the United States and the Roman Catholic Church. The constitutional principle abandoned then continues to be ignored by Mr. Clinton's decision to maintain diplomatic ties with a church. I am deeply disappointed by this," Dunn said.

Both the CLC and BJC will oppose Senate confirmation of the appointment. □

Southwestern trustees adopt record budget

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH — A \$22.7 million budget received unanimous approval from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees, who also re-elected their full slate of officers during the board's semi-annual meeting March 8-10.

Trustees also used their three-day meeting to honor President Russell H. Dilday, who is in his 15th year as president.

The budget for the 1993-94 fiscal year is a 6 percent increase over the current budget and will be the largest in seminary history.

Trustees re-elected chairman Damon Shook of Houston, vice chairman Pat Campbell of St. Charles, Mo., and T. Bob Davis, Dallas, secretary.

In a formal appraisal of Dilday's performance, the executive committee gave him the highest rankings in the 10 categories of presidential evaluation. Shook said trustees remain confident in the president's administrative and organization skills and his effectiveness in leading the faculty.

But Shook said trustees expressed concern about the

appointment of faculty members. He said even though recently appointed faculty were conservative theologically, board members questioned why people "who hold to the politically conservative view" have not been elected.

"It's not that we're trying to pick people politically," Shook said. "We just felt that there needs to be a diversity there."

In other action, the board's student services committee recommended trustees "encourage the administration and faculty to create an atmosphere that would embrace a pro-life organization if a current student felt led to begin such an organization on campus whose purpose statement follows the guidelines established for a club or organization."

When asked if the recommendation opens the door to a pro-choice group, committee chairman Paul Balducci said such a group "must follow the guidelines" for clubs. But a pro-choice group would "be divisive so I don't think we would allow a pro-choice group because it would, in itself, be divisive," he said.

Trustees also heard from SBC President Ed Young. He told them during a question and answer session that trustees boards of SBC agencies "need to be representative" of the denomination and should be balanced."

He said the SBC boards should represent the denomination while avoiding extremes in both the left and right wings.

Acknowledging his input of specific names for trustees is limited after he appoints the Committee on Committees, Young said he will nonetheless encourage suggestions from SBC agency heads.

When asked about former SBC President Herschel Hobbs' recent suggestion (see page 8) that Baptist moderates and conservatives come together at the SBC this summer in Houston, Young said that day is past. "If I had not been on the Peace Committee, I would think let's do something like that. But I think that day has passed. That's not being hard line," Young said.

Instead, he said, there is an "evolving of the denomination" into more openness. □

WMU seeks missions volunteers for pre-SBC efforts in Houston

Baptist Press

HOUSTON — Carlos is one of seven children. For him, Christmas means only one gift — if it has been a good year for his parents. He doesn't always get the essentials. Treats are out of the question.

The long, hot days of June will find Carlos wandering the streets while his parents work.

But Southern Baptists have an opportunity to make a difference in his life and in the lives of thousands like him, said June Whitlow, associate executive director of national WMU.

"If you can play with children, paint buildings, sort food and clothing, style hair, make fudge, tell Bible stories, or talk with people, Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union urgently needs your help," Whitlow said.

WMU is responding to needs which have been identified in Houston by sponsoring several mission projects June 7-11. The mission projects precede the annual meetings of WMU and the SBC.

Volunteers are needed for projects in four Baptist centers and in an apartment ministry. Work in the centers includes painting and sorting and sacking food and clothing. Volunteers will need to bring their own brushes. Paint will be provided.

"Any woman or man who is willing to give any amount of

time — from one to five days — to help meet these needs will make a world of difference in the lives of some people who do not know Jesus," Whitlow said.

Volunteers willing to participate in the projects must register by April 15. For more information, call (205) 991-4016. Packets of information, including specific project assignments will be mailed to volunteers in by mid-May. □

Crossover volunteers needed for outreach prior to Houston SBC

Baptist Press

HOUSTON — Block parties, local church revivals, door-to-door evangelism, street events such as puppet shows and concerts, and a three-day prayer conference will be part of Crossover Houston this year.

Volunteers are needed for the evangelistic emphasis set for June 9-13, prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. It is coordinated by the Home Mission Board.

To be part of Crossover Houston, write Bobby Sunderland, evangelism office, Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street, N.W. Atlanta, GA., 30367-5601. □

Another answer

Fraught with philosophical fissures, Mr. Keele's Feb. 24 letter portrays Paul and his contemporaries as products of a sociologically deficient culture whose dynamics conspire to keep women shackled to the pew. Yet, the apostles who recorded Christ's teachings Mr. Keele fails to cite are the same who vindicate Paul's authority by acknowledging his apostleship. Really, who's usurping who?

Only the Holy Spirit's mediating presence enables one to work through the conceptual limits of biblical language and engage the epistemological import of truth's total significance of himself. By retaining

the binary veracity apparent paradox produces, the Spirit, through discourse, creates a structure that proceeds from himself. Biblical particulars are valid and coherent syntheses of an arbitrary ideal that refuses self-negation when incorporating the whole composition. In other words, God doesn't need syntax stamped on his tongue.

Language indigenously forms a linguistic labyrinth, harboring corridors of connotations as the culturally coded concepts the difference of "prejudice" brings into play. Words like fairness, equality, etc., consistently serve as self-righteous conduits and fallacious references people use in trying

to circumvent spiritual responsibility and supercede



God's subjective will.

Fairness as a structural element is myth, its content being formed by God transcends its definition. This makes its performance arbitrary. Read Christ's response to Peter's envious eyeing of John's devotion or David escaping execution. Fairness allows homosexuals

to adopt; holiness doesn't. This more than opens the possibility that women may prophesy and not hold pastoral position. Paul closes it with certainty.

Steve Padgett
Crossville 38555

No to gambling

Tennessee Baptists should contact their state representatives and senators to oppose legislation (SB 747) which lowers the tax on proposed pari-mutuel gambling. With taxes this low, the state would be subsidizing gambling interests. The state will have tremendous expenses fully staffing a racing commission (we are already almost a million dollars in the hole), monitoring horses

for drugs and cruel treatment, and auditing gambling records.

Should taxpayers statewide pay these start-up costs when the tax is so low (and the chances of a horse track succeeding so slim) that taxpayer outlays can never be recovered?

Horse racing is failing nationwide because of the proliferation of casino gambling. Casinos are blossoming in Mississippi an hour away from the proposed track site. Please help stop these huge state start-up costs with no chance of recovery without a fair tax on gambling.

Jon Densford
Memphis 38128

SBC examined as case study for denominational future

By Mark Wingfield
For Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Schism within the Southern Baptist Convention is similar to transitions in most American religious denominations, speakers said at a conference on "The American Denominational Future."

However, a Tennessee pastor supportive of the SBC's new conservative leadership countered that only a "statistically insignificant" number of churches are moving away from the SBC, which he said remains in excellent health despite the declines of other religious bodies.

The March 12-13 conference at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary was funded by the Lilly Endowment and focused on the SBC

— America's largest Protestant denomination — as a case study.

The program featured a variety of perspectives on the SBC's past, present, and future — including representatives of the convention's moderate and conservative wings as well as non-Baptist observers.

Yet all speakers agreed the SBC is significantly different today than it was in 1979. Whether that change is a sign of denominational breakup or merely transition drew different assessments.

"While something called the Southern Baptist Convention continues to exist, it is only a shell" of what it used to be, said Bill Leonard, a church historian and chairman of the religion department at Samford University in Bir-

mingham, Ala.

Leonard advised SBC moderates who are waiting for the pendulum to swing back the other way to quit waiting. "The pendulum fell off in 1985," he said. "It was in all the papers."

Leonard suggested the SBC is losing coherence because it has lost its "denominational center." He described the previous center as a tolerant majority which held together a variety of diverse factions on either side.

"The denominational center was willing to tolerate ... extremes so long as they did not threaten institutional stability," he explained.

This unity through toleration — the "genius" of the SBC — was achieved initially through southern identity, but ultimately through a programmatic approach to doing church, Leonard suggested. The centrist programming developed by the SBC was general enough to cover a variety of Baptists yet flexible enough to allow for some differences, he said.

In Leonard's assessment, this center was lost when one

faction — "fundamentalists" — moved to replace programming with a uniform theology as the denominational center.

Conservatives have not been able to create a new center based on their strict theology, leaving a host of subgroups trying to create a new center, he said.

Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville, challenged Leonard's assessment during a pastors' panel later in the conference.

At most, the SBC might lose 600 of its 38,000 churches due to distaste for leadership changes, Sutton said, calling that number "statistically insignificant."

"Relatively few people are scrambling for a new center," he said.

What has happened in the SBC in the past 14 years is merely a course correction, Sutton said. "The leading center was out of place with the real center."

The "conservative resurgence," as it is identified by its supporters, merely brought the SBC's leadership back in line

with the conservative theology of the people in the pew, he explained.

Such a clash was inevitable, according to David Dockery, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Dockery said the SBC entered the second half of the 20th century divided between "progressives" in leadership and "traditionalists" in the pews.

William O'Brien, director of the Global Center at Samford University, traced a similar problem to 1925. In that year, Southern Baptists adopted the Cooperative Program unified budget and the convention's first statement of faith, he noted.

Those events represented two polarities, O'Brien said, a "what" and a "how." The problem is that some Southern Baptists have been trying to preserve one of those ideals, while others have been trying to preserve the other.

In his estimation, however, "we don't need one, we need both." □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership

March —



25 — Remember Miquel Vegar of Temuco in prayer today. He is a third year student at the Baptist Theological Institute, a husband, a father, sells newspapers for a living, and is the leader of New Life Mission.

26 — Pray for the 52 churches in the Temuco area who will gather for associational meetings.

27 — Pray as Santiago members of Woman's Missionary Union minister in the prison and share the Gospel to a group of AIDS carriers.

28 — Pray for Chilean Home Missions and the work will continue to be strengthened. Pray for more than 20 home missionaries supported through the Chilean National Baptist Convention.

29 — Pray for Chilean lay leader Luis Cabezas as he continues to grow spiritually and assume leadership roles.

30 — Pray God's peace and joy for retired missionary Connie Andrews who is celebrating a birthday today.

31 — Pray salvation for these: Manuel Sanchez, Temuco, Miquel Rubio, La Serena, Marcela Damke, La Serena, Camilo and Anita Maria Araya, La Serena, Juan Fernandes, Santiago.

Gregory 'at peace' over decision to resign church

Baptist Press

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, Ill. — Joel Gregory says he has experienced great peace since resigning as pastor of First Church, Dallas, and has no malice or bitterness about the decision.

Gregory preached three times during the Illinois Evangelism Conference at First Church, Fairview Heights, March 11-12, then spoke to the *Illinois Baptist*, state convention newspaper, following the conference.

Since his resignation, Gregory said he has preached "all

over the country" in churches and conferences and has served as guest lecturer at schools. He still lives in Dallas and plans to continue his "itinerant ministry" for the foreseeable future.

Gregory stressed he has "no malice or bitterness" toward First Church, Dallas, or its senior pastor, W. A. Criswell.

Gregory became pastor of the Dallas church in November 1990 and resigned in September 1992. Criswell, who has served the church 48 years, continued as senior pastor.

Two months ago, Criswell,

in an interview with the *Illinois Baptist*, said he did not understand Gregory's decision to resign. Gregory responded, "We mutually do not understand one another."

"I love Dr. Criswell. I do not understand why he told me it would be a brief transition," Gregory said.

Before Gregory's resignation Criswell had indicated a desire to stay as senior pastor until his 50th anniversary at the church. Gregory interpreted that as an extension of the transition to four years. "I didn't come for a four-year transition," Gregory said. □

It's time for the annual battle on gambling

To emphasize cooperation and strength of purpose, this paper often renews a pledge to Tennessee Baptists to tell about good news, to accentuate the positive.

In addition to this reaffirmation of purpose, the same standard governs daily operations. The staff discusses news as it is received, and makes a judgment on what is best for the readers.

Even then we look beyond the readers, seeing an even greater host of Tennessee Baptists as potential or "should be" readers.

When bad news outweighs good news by weight of numbers or by measure of importance, the *Baptist and Reflector* staff tries to temper that news by reminding readers of even small victories.

The editorial role of the paper also is to speak to issues, to acquaint readers with needed information. Such is the case now.

Some groups are interested in promoting pari-mutuel horse race betting and lottery gambling in Tennessee and some are whining about Christian opposition.

The issue does not look, sound, or smell like good news. Indeed the issues are regularly brought up in the Tennessee General Assembly. Even now, forces are busy trying to get enough votes in the Senate and the House to legalize both.

Behind this charade of gross exaggerations, some politicians say that they want the House and Senate to approve measures to permit lotteries and horse race gambling so that "the people can have a chance to vote on these moral issues."

It may be convenient to forget that tactic when other questionable matters are

approved sans approval by the citizens. Never mind, that attitude can be counted on to justify all sorts of issues in the guise of "doing my duty."

Not all that happens on Nashville's Capital Hill is bad — far from it. But shenanigans concerning moral issues often are disconcerting, especially when gambling is involved. Whether or not you oppose legalized gambling, each citizen should demand from the local legislator all the ramifications of it.

Nashville media, and perhaps media from other areas, continue to remind Tennesseans of all the millions of dollars spent by Tennesseans in other states. It's as if Tennessee citizens are shorn of the right to lose money — when in truth no one is forced to gamble here or anywhere.

One definition of gambling says, "betting on something with an uncertain outcome." Supporters of gambling minimize that accurate assessment.

When that malarkey isn't bought, the advertisers point out how much fun it is to gamble — but omit the likelihood of repeated losses.

A few days ago in the Tennessee legislature, SJR-0747 was sent back to the calendar committee when sponsors realized there were not enough votes for passage. That bill would allow the pari-mutuel betting on horse races. It also would dictate that race track owners would pay the

state one percent of the first \$600,000 of income, and two percent of all above that \$600,000.

Does anyone think that is a fair cut? The bill also would allow one day of pari-mutuel betting by simulcast (televised) on races from other sites for every two days of on-site racing. The more the merrier, except the bettors are losers and the owners are winners and the state strikes out.

The bill failed passage by one vote on March 18. Two supporters were absent.

Also riding the news waves is proposed legislation to strike the 159-year-old prohibition against lotteries. Such a measure would delete that reference from the state constitution. The House and the Senate seem to be close on that one, but the state attorney general last week ruled that passage would not necessarily open the door to any game of chance.

In any case, approval would have to be granted for any lottery or similar games of chance. The attorney general also ruled that the lottery bill, HJR-073, has to be read three separate days, then voted, and that passage would require a two-thirds majority.

The gambling question is getting complicated. While it may seem that anti-gambling folks can't win against these "odds," all that should be done, must be done.

You can "bet" gambling proponents will muster all their forces before the current legislative session ends in May. All who oppose the evil spawned by gambling must do the same. Eternal vigilance also involves determined, positive action. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Found faithful

Each February some 70 cold weather veterans and their teams of sled dogs hurl themselves at the hazardous, unfriendly Alaskan winter in a mad race called the Iditarod.

With loaded sleds, the "mushers" and their huskies set out on the 1,100 mile gauntlet fast and smooth.

The rules are thorough, and tend to be stringent, careful especially for the health and safety of the competitors.

The race attracts keen interest, but not big numbers. There are substantial prizes, and there is much recognition for the speediest teams.

Invariably, however, the attention goes to mushers, the human element.

Animal specialists regard this as a true test of the stamina and loyalty of the huskies, so it seems fair to call the names of the winning huskies.

After all, they do the labor, and never whimper about it. The dogs are content to rest

on clean straw, gulp down plenty of food and be prepared for the next call to serve. People along the route appreciate the mushers and the dog team.



ALLEN

And there is another amazing attribute about the dogs. They can withstand intense cold and bear up well under extreme conditions and stress and privation. Despite all this, they are loyal. Teamwork is put above self, and beyond that, commands of the musher come first. They are loyal, and there is mutual trust.

I'm intrigued by these traits of huskies. Listen again — trust, loyalty, obedience, courage, stamina, teamwork.

Transposed to Christians, wouldn't these be desirable attributes? Never to question the commands of our Lord, to always trust and obey him, to be courageous, and to use all our stamina in cooperation for the work he assigns — yes, these are desirable.

When the Iditarod is over, the dogs still are eager, leaving honor for the mushers. We can learn from them. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

of gambling

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Share hope, start a church

Start-a Church Commitment Sunday offers a unique opportunity for highlighting church starting, said L. David Wigger, director of research development for the new church extension division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Wigger said the emphasis day on starting churches (which will be observed March 28) can be a time where churches or associations can make commitments to begin churches or as a time when churches can celebrate what they already are doing in the area of church starting.

"Southern Baptists' priority to proclaim the Gospel cannot be achieved without churches establishing new congregations," Wigger said.

"All congregations cannot be started in the same way because of the diversity and complexity of America," he said.

Church starting today must be contextualized, he added, noting the HMB focus is on unentered counties and multihousing communities.

In the first two years of Impact Tennessee (1991-92) there have been 23 new church starts — 11 Anglo, four black, seven ethnic, and one deaf.

Paul Woodford, former pastor of First Church in Lewisburg, began working with the TBC Missions Department in February as part-time church starter strategist for Middle Tennessee.

He is working with directors of missions and associational development councils to plan strategies for starting more churches in the state.

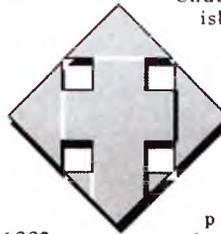
The best kind of new start is where a church sees a need for a mission, begins it, and supports the new work, Woodford said.

"I want to join our associations where they are now and help them go further," Woodford added. □

Share Hope. Start Churches. In Unentered Counties and Multihousing Communities

Celebrate Start-a-Church Commitment Sunday, March 28, 1993

For information call 1 800 634-2462



Start with a smile -

After a little tiff at breakfast, the wife said to her husband, "I'll be glad when you get important enough at your office you can be cranky there."

Take this truth with you -

An old song says, "We hurt those we love the most." Billy Sunday used to say, "Our reputation is what people think we are. Our character is what our wife and God Almighty know we really are."

Memorize this Scripture -

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25).

Pray this Prayer -

Lord, help me to treat my companion, my parents, and my children as kindly in the privacy of our home as I do in public before others. □

Monterey church shelters 64 from storm

MONTEREY — Sunday, March 14, wasn't a typical day for First Church, Monterey, a mountaintop community just east of Cookeville covered with 18-20 inches of snow.

Several men and women worked in the kitchen cooking breakfast. And 28 people, mostly men, sat among blankets where they had slept in the church's fellowship hall, visiting with Richard Holloman, pastor.

Still distraught from canceling worship, Holloman noticed at about 10 a.m. everyone was gathered together. For a while the truckers entertained the whole group, telling traveling stories. Then trucker Wayne Pierce from Bowling Green, Ky., said he was thankful to God for the church's help.

"That gave me the opening I was praying for," said Holloman. He told them why the church members were helping those stranded — God's love.

"None of them expressed any commitment to me, but the Gospel was shared and now the Holy Spirit can do His

work in their hearts," added Holloman.

■ ■ ■
In the home of David and Jill Horner, the Horners visited with the only black family in Monterey, one they were sheltering from the storm.

The Horners, members of First Church, weren't hesitant when asked to take in the family though no blacks live in Monterey. As they became friends, the Horners decided the family should move to Monterey.

The families also helped each other in another way, reported Holloman. The Horners, owner of Horner Funeral Home, could advise the family on funeral plans they needed to make for a relative when they arrived in North Carolina.

■ ■ ■
Holloman was prepared for snow on Saturday, March 13, but not the blizzard-like conditions which left travelers stranded in a fastfood restaurant on Interstate 40. The interstate skirts the community.

The storm eventually led to the closing of the interstate that day. And the restaurant would close, leaving them without any shelter besides their cars.

So Holloman offered his help and left a sign on that restaurant and a message at a service station directing travelers to the church.

The church, which has an average attendance of 250, hosted 64 travelers that night and the next day, reported Holloman. Because of the large number, families and single women — many who were college students on spring break — were sheltered by families of the church. Single men — mostly truckers and colleges students — stayed at the church building, he explained.

The church members met two travelers from England who had never seen so much snow. Some got to know two football players from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. They became friends with the family — the last to seek shelter after arriving at 1 a.m. —

who had two small children and were moving to Millington to serve in the Navy, reported Holloman.

Scott Pionthouski left Monterey considering a new relationship, said Holloman. He told Pionthouski about God just as he was able to with many others during the experi-

Holloman left a sign on the restaurant directing travelers to the church.

ence, he added.

Pionthouski was not a Christian. He and his wife were recently separated. They had two small children. "Scott did not make a commitment at this time to the Lord, but we had a very frank discussion about his life and his relationship to Jesus Christ," said Holloman.

The seven Church of Christ college students admitted after their stay in Monterey they had a better view of Baptists,

said Holloman.

The church was able to feed the crowd three meals with the help of member Don Bohannon who owns Papa Don's, a pizzeria, and the local Nazarene church. Monterey Mayor Jack Phillips and several other citizens helped provide transportation for the whole operation, noted Holloman.

By 7 p.m. on Sunday everyone had resumed their travels except two college students trying to get to Knoxville. Their truck needed repairs. Then Holloman got a call from a member who is a truck driver. He was leaving for North Carolina and would be glad to give the students a ride to Knoxville.

In all of his years of ministry, including a stint as Baptist Student Union director at Union University, Holloman can't remember a more thankful group. The folks of Monterey "are very proud of our community," Holloman declared. □ — Information provided by Richard Holloman

Belmont students minister in Kentucky mountains

By Karin Hogrefe
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE—While most Belmont University students were packing their shorts and sandals for a beach trip during spring break, a handful were packing their thermals and sweaters for a trip north to the mountains of Kentucky.

These students participated in the Belmont University BSU annual spring break missions trip called SPOTS, or Special Projects Other Than Summer.

Dane Anthony, campus minister and BSU director, along with 20 Belmont students traveled to Williamsburg, Ky., to work with the

missions outreach ministry at Cumberland College. The program encompasses Mountain Outreach, which provides af-

Tennessee Baptist students —

- First, Franklin — Stephen Dean
- Woodbine, Nashville — Valerie Edmonds
- Brentwood, Brentwood — Harry Frankenfeld, Julie Williams, Kelly Glasco, Debbie Matthews, Tim Powell, Sara Beth McPherson, and Teresa Sefcik
- Bellevue, Nashville — Chris Holland
- Two Rivers, Nashville — Russ Jackson
- Dalewood, Nashville — Angela Nollner
- Park Avenue, Nashville — Katie Tenpenney
- Bluegrass, Nashville — Duffy Walls

Other Belmont students were Heather Devaney and Adam Davidson, Nashville; Timothy Dean, Basking Ridge, N.J.; Lindy Grief, Paducah, Ky.; Dave Hunt, Owensboro, Ky.; and Penny Pine, Pensacola, Fla.

fordable housing for low income and/or homeless residents in the Williamsburg area, and Love in Action, an outreach to the children of the area. The team worked with Mountain Outreach by day and Love in Action by night.

"The program is an outgrowth of the college's commitment to meet the needs of the

area that the college is in," says Anthony.

One of the team's major construction projects with Mountain Outreach was stripping and reroofing a house for an elderly couple, Albert and Vivian. Although the couple had very little, "they were appreciative and content with their situation in their very rural and rundown dwelling," says Julie Williams. At one point Albert played his mandolin while another student played the guitar. Lindy Grief said the music was beautiful. At the time she thought, "How dare we feel sorry for them! He is a gifted man who has been given so much."

When the weather would not permit the team to work outside on the roof, the team knocked down walls in a dormitory on the campus of Cumberland College that was in the process of being gutted. Grief says the situation was ironic because, "While we were tearing down walls, we were working for God so we were also building."

But their work went beyond that of construction. In the evenings they worked with the youth of Williamsburg. Two teams of students took turns traveling to local churches in the rural area. They provided a program filled with music,



BELMONT UNIVERSITY students reroof the home of a family in Kentucky through Cumberland University's Mountain Outreach program. — Photos by Dane Anthony

skits, games, Bible studies, and a lot of love.

One evening mud prevented the team from getting their van up a hill as they were taking the children home. Forced to abandon the van, the team walked the children up the hill. What they saw at the top were a few meager trailer homes where the children lived. "It was a humbling experience to think that they lived like this," says Grief. "But, they are blessed by God in so many ways that we don't understand. And, despite their poverty, they had just as much

joy in their faces than any other child."

The team did a lot of hard work, both physical and spiritual. They reroofed a house, helped pour a foundation, tore down the walls of a dormitory, and ministered to children. The underlying lesson of the trip can be summed up in six words: "We learned a lot about servanthood," says Williams. □ — Hogrefe, student at Belmont, writes for the public relations office.



DUFFY WALLS found a new friend through Love in Action.

Tennessee Baptists shelter, feed victims of blizzard

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

When two-thirds of Tennessee was buffeted and blanketed by the "blizzard of the century" which hit March 13, Tennessee Baptists stepped in to assist victims.

■ First Church, Nashville

First Church members weren't sidetracked from their downtown ministries because of the storm which dumped about four inches and stopped travel east and south.

They prepared for a few more homeless men than the usual 20. They ended up sheltering that day and the next about 200 — including youth stranded after the Tennessee Youth Evangelism Conference and passengers from a nearby bus station — and serving 525 meals.

That morning during the church's worship service, church members met a group

of 55 youth and sponsors from Mosheim near Greeneville. They were from Brown Springs Church and Mount Carmel United Methodist Church.

Because of the group's dwindling funds, the church served them four meals and hosted them in their recreation center when it wasn't being used by the homeless. The youth had lodging at a nearby motel.

The church also assisted the Red Cross by hosting 95 stranded bus passengers Sunday night.

Then on Monday, a group of 46 from North Knoxville Church, also in Nashville for the Youth Evangelism Conference, stayed at the church and were fed a meal.

Brian and Stacy Poynter, who lead the "Room in the Inn" ministry to the homeless and directed this crisis project, predicted the church's crisis ministries will expand because of the efforts. The project was manned by

about 25 volunteers.

■ Baptist Student Union, Tennessee Tech, Cookeville

A group of Tennessee Tech students eating at a restaurant near Interstate 40 Saturday afternoon met a youth group from Kingsport stranded after attending the Youth Evangelism Conference in Nashville.

BSU President Shane Clark, one of the students, invited the group from Cedar Grove Church, Kingsport, to the Baptist Student Union building, where members hosted them for the next two and half days.

It was a meaningful time for the youth group of about 20, according to youth minister Alan Heard.

With the help of program assistant Rhonda Abbott, about 25 students made all of the arrangements for the group, reported BSU Director Joe Wiles. Wiles was snowed in at home and didn't arrive until Monday. They also led

programs and a worship for them.

The students provided one meal for the group and First Church, Cookeville, hosted the group in its family life center one afternoon, he added.

"They (the students) did as much ministry in some ways as if they had gone on a SPOTS (student mission) trip," said Wiles.

■ Baptist Center, Copper Basin Association

Al Patterson, director of missions, reported most of the residents of the southeastern-most association adequately prepared for the 24 inches which covered the area.

On March 17 some residences were still without power, he said. But no more than usual contacted the Baptist Center, Patterson reported. Assistance also was provided by the National Guard and state natural resources department workers, Patterson noted.

He delivered food to six families Monday which were regular deliveries, he said.

■ Colonial Heights Church and First Church, Kingsport

Two Kingsport churches were sites of Red Cross Shelters, assisting mostly Kingsport residents without electricity.

First Church sheltered several one night and Colonial Heights hosted people three nights, the largest group totaling 21.

Colonial Heights Church member Pat Hunt, who directed the shelter at the church, said the church was prepared for the crisis when several members got Red Cross training after the church was targeted by the Red Cross because of its proximity to Interstate 40.

Stanley Miles, minister of music, and Bill and Brad Burris transported many to the church, said Hunt. □

Chile/Tennessee partnership reaches midway point



CHILE COORDINATOR Richard Poe, left, of Oak Ridge, visits with Bill Wilson, TBC Convention Ministries director.

SANTIAGO, Chile — At the midpoint of the Tennessee/Chile Partnership, "everybody is pleased at the progress that is being made," said Jarvis Hearn, Partnership Missions director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Hearn, along with Katharine Bryan, Tennessee WMU director, and Bill Wilson, Convention Ministries Division director, recently returned from Santiago where they met with Chilean leaders and Southern Baptist missionaries to assess the three-year partnership.

The Chilean Baptists are pleased with the partnership and at the success of the three major thrusts we have had in evangelism, construction, and medical work, Hearn reported. Hearn noted that 98 percent of the projects requested in Chile since last fall have been filled or are in the process of being filled.

While in Chile the Tennesseans discussed projects for next year and began making plans for the close of the partnership on Dec. 31, 1994, Hearn reported.

He said leaders of the Chile convention will visit Tennessee in November 1994 to be at the TBC annual meeting in Memphis. □



KATHARINE BRYAN, Tennessee WMU director, goes over prayer concerns with Wanda Dobbins, director of the Chilean Baptist Mission in Santiago. The Baptist and Reflector regularly prints prayer concerns related to the Tennessee/Chile Partnership. — Photos by Jarvis Hearn



FOUR CHILEAN young ladies sang a special for the Tennessee group at a church in Chile where Tennessee volunteers will work during the fall.



TWO MEMBERS of the committee that sanctions project requests for Chile are Raquel De Catalan, right, and Miguel Becerra H. Chilean pastors send requests to the committee at the Chile Baptist Convention, who approves them and forwards them to the Foreign Mission Board. Requests are then sent to Jarvis Hearn, TBC Partnership Missions director, who fills the requests.

Baptist theologian Herschel Hobbs provides 'food for thought'

By Herschel Hobbs
Retired SBC pastor, Oklahoma
SBC president, 1962-63

What I am about to write is not intended as criticism of anyone. But it occurs to me that in the "bubble bubble, toil and trouble" of recent years two self-evident things have escaped our notice.

One thought is that from the beginning of Southern Baptist life our churches have appointed messengers, not delegates, to compose Baptist conventions and associational meetings. Delegates are chosen by the churches, instructed how to vote, and the actions taken by the various gatherings are binding upon the local churches which delegated their authority to their delegates.

On the other hand, messengers are not instructed. They go to the meeting, listen to and participate in discussion of the various issues, and then are free to vote their own consciences and judgments. In turn, the actions taken by that body are not binding on local churches or any other separate entity of Southern Baptist life. They are binding only upon the body taking the action.

Now if someone is appointed or elected as a messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention and is instructed by the church, pastor, or anyone else as to how to vote on an issue — and agrees to do as instructed — that person ceases to be a messenger and becomes a delegate. The Southern Baptist Convention does not seat delegates. So that person is not qualified to be seated as a messenger.

Now I do not expect that to be enforced. Unless the person admitted that such was true, there would hardly be a way to know it. I mention it only that it might rest on the conscience of each messenger.

The other thought concerns actions taken by the Southern Baptist Convention and its elected officers. As stated above, such actions are not binding upon the local churches or other Baptist bodies. Those entities may voluntarily agree to abide by them. But that is a decision made by each of these entities—state conventions, district associations, local churches.

But what about the convention's elected officers? They certainly must act in harmony with the constitution and bylaws. Is this not also true of other actions taken by the convention? I am thinking of motions, not of resolutions which are nothing more than concensus of messengers present when they are adopted.

More specifically I am

thinking of the recommendations made in a given report. Even more specifically I have in mind the report of the Peace Committee. There are those who say that the Peace Committee failed in that it did not bring peace. Not so. We were not instructed to bring peace. The convention instructed that committee to determine the source of the controversy, report our findings, and make recommendations. We did just that! (Incidentally, findings are information, not recommendations. They should not be cited as though they are recommendations.)

One of the recommendations was to stop the politics. The contending parties have ignored it. Another recommendation was to appoint balanced committees and boards. That is the focus of interest now.

According to Lee Porter, who supervises the taking of ballots, the Peace Committee's report was adopted by voice vote by a margin of 97 to 3. I cannot imagine the Southern Baptist Convention being nearer to unanimous, especially on so controversial an issue. In my judgment one great factor in it was the messengers saying that they are sick and tired of the controversy and want it to end. It takes two to make a fight, and it takes two to make peace! So it is incumbent upon both parties to work to that end!

But more to the point — the elected officers are to act in accord with convention action. They are not free to act contrary to it, no matter how worthy are their motives. The convention has called for balanced committees and boards. In keeping with our polity the elected officers should act accordingly.

If that were done the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship would have no valid reason to exist. Judging by their own statements, I believe that organization would vanish like smoke in a strong wind. We have the polity that will end this controversy. But we must give it a chance to work!

Three months following Israel's exodus from Egypt she came to Mt. Sinai. There she agreed to a covenant in which she would be a priest-nation to Canaan and serve Jehovah. From Mt. Sinai God led Israel to Kadesh-barnea in order to lead her into Canaan, the land of her destiny. But there Israel rebelled. As the result God said that Israel would wander in the desert wilderness until that generation 20 years and older died.

Eventually in her wil-

derness wandering Israel spent a long time near Mt. Seir, the land of the Edomites. Finally God said to Moses, "Ye have compassed this mountain long enough, turn you northward" (Deuteronomy 2:3). "Northward" pointed toward Canaan from which Israel was to carry out the covenant.

Two significant things happened at the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston in 1979. One was a giant rally in the Astrodome to launch "Bold Mission Thrust" whose goal was to preach the Gospel to everyone on earth by the year 2000. It could have been our finest hour.

But something else also took place at that convention. The controversy began which has ravaged our convention fellowship for almost fourteen years. Without going into the merits or demerits of the controversy, depending upon which side you are on, I said at the time that it was the devil's effort to defeat "Bold Mission Thrust," the greatest missionary venture of all time. To do his work the devil would rather use good people than evil people anytime. And the good may become the enemy of the best, the best being "Bold Mission Thrust."

In Houston we came to our Kadesh-barnea. We looked over into our Canaan but rebelled. We refused to enter it. Consequently we have wandered in the wilderness of controversy for 14 years. In a negative sense we are biblical. We are like Paul said of the Galatians, like two animals fighting and devouring one another. In this struggle there are no white or black hats. We are all gray. And each side has something good to give the other. Only we are not sharing it.

Recently a young pastor said to me, "All of my ministry Southern Baptists have been in controversy. I am confused and discouraged." His name could be Legion. Of all things, we are even confused as to how to do mission work!

We are now camping about our "Mt. Seir," but in separate camps. Surely God is saying to all of us, "Ye have compassed this mountain long enough, turn you northward." "Northward" points us toward our "Canaan" — a renewed emphasis and effort in missions and evangelism, the very reason for our being.

I am just one Southern Baptist who has and does pray and work for a return of our his-

toric Baptist position — "Unity in Diversity." We are brethren in Christ. The word "brother" translates the Greek adelphos which comes from "out of the same womb." We have the same source of salvation life — God in Christ through the Holy Spirit. We need revival in our hearts. And as Jesus said to Peter, "When thou art converted [changed], strengthen thy brethren" (Luke 22:32). The old revival text still holds. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land [our Southern Baptist Convention]" (II Chronicles 7:14).

Not a single member of the Peace Committee was happy with our report to the convention. Why? Because no one got everything he/she wanted. In mediation no one ever does. But we were convinced that God had led us to a solution to our problem. In such case there is but one weakness — the human element — will the people do it?

After the Peace Committee had unanimously adopted its report to the convention, one of its most conservative members said, "Brother chairman, if the spirit which has developed in this committee could develop in the Southern Baptist Convention our problems would be behind us." I agree wholeheartedly!

But, unfortunately, 14 million Southern Baptists cannot

sit down for two years and talk and pray themselves together. But the leadership of the two factions can do so for a sufficient time to agree to stay, work, and pray together.

Therefore, as one Southern Baptist I call on the leaders of the two factions to come together before June 1993 and come to the convention with a recommendation that we lock hearts and hands as through unity in diversity we do together the work God has for us to do. We are fellow-laborers belonging to God.

The controversy began in Houston. Let it end there! We need an entire session in which we transact no business, have no debate. A time when we confess our sins to God and to each other, forgive one another, and pray for God's forgiveness. A time when we lay ourselves afresh upon God's altar, dedicating ourselves to "Bold Mission Thrust" for the remaining years before 2000.

If we do, I am certain that we will have a Hallelujah time. And we will shout to the world that we are Christian brethren dedicated to the cause of Christ in reaching a lost and hurting world!

The Bard of Avon said it for us. "There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries ... On such a full sea are we now afloat, and we must take the current when it serves, or lose our ventures." — *Julius Caesar*, Act IV, Scene 3, Lines 217, 222. □



HOBBS

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■ the leaders

■ **Donald G. Smith** began his new ministry as pastor of **Stuart Park Church, Cleveland March, 7.** He has been pastor of several churches in Georgia, most recently **Taylorville Church, Taylorsville, Ga.** Smith graduated from New



SMITH

Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Covington Theological Seminary.

■ Members of **Glenwood Church, Kingsport,** welcomed **R. Steven Taylor** to his new service as pastor March 21. A native of Kingsport, Taylor previously served as minister of youth at **Sullivan Church, Kingsport,** and bivocational pastor at **Fall Creek Church, also in Kingsport.** He most recently was pastor of **Friendship Church, Jonesville, Va.**

■ **Bill Ponder** recently

accepted the pastorate of **Zion Church, Elizabethton.**

■ **William Perkins** is the new music and youth director at **Mack's Grove Church, Dresden.**

■ **Tim Parker** is youth director at **Butler Church, Butler.**

■ **New Mountain View Church, Oliver Springs,** called **Bill Walker** as pastor.

■ **Russ Maples** has been called to serve as pastor of **Northview Church, Memphis,** where he has been interim pastor since August 1992. He plans to graduate in May with a master of divinity degree from **Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.**

■ **Paul Hicks** is the new pastor of **First Church, Clifton.** He began his service Feb. 14.

■ **Bakers Gap Church, Mountain City,** recently called **Henry Colvard** as pastor.

■ **Leroy Davis** is serving as pastor of **Looneys Chapel Church, Surgoinsville.**

■ **Persia Church, Rogersville,** called **Robert Tucker** as pastor.

■ The congregation of **Little Flat Creek Church, Corryton,** recently welcomed new pastor **Linden Wolfe.**

■ the churches

■ **Danny Wood,** pastor of **First Church, Ruston, La.,** will lead revival services March 28-31 at **Brook Hollow Church, Nashville.**

■ Revival will be March 26-28 at **Minnow Branch Church, Lynnville.** **Glenn Denton,** pastor of **Hillcrest Church, Lebanon,** will be evangelist. **Rusty Townsend** will preach on Sunday morning, the **Young Christians** and the **Heirs of Christ** will sing in the afternoon.

■ Members of **Central Church, Oak Ridge,** recently voted to begin a mission church in cooperation with the **Tennessee Baptist Convention** and the **Clinton and Knox County associations.** The mission will be called **Providence Community Church** and the pastor will be **Lance Robertson.**

■ **Howard Olive** will lead revival March 28-31 at **Sharon Church, Knoxville.**

■ Revival will be March 28-31 at **Lucy Church, Millington.** Evangelist will be **Frank Samuels.**

■ **Rodney Alexander** will speak at revival March 26-28 at **Bethpage Church, Kenton.**

■ A lay renewal team will lead revival March 26-28 at **First Church, Trenton.**

■ **Richard Adams** will serve as evangelist for revival March 28-April 2 at **Hillcrest Church, Dyersburg.**

■ **Trinity Church, Cookeville,** will celebrate the 48th church anniversary March 28. Dinner will be served.

■ The congregation of **Cumberland Church, Beersheba Springs,** will celebrate the church's first anniversary March 28. **Jerry Roper** will speak. Lunch will be served, followed by a time of singing in the afternoon.

■ the people

■ **Jim Underwood** was recently ordained to the deacon ministry of **Richland Church, Lynnville.**

■ **East Side Church, Elizabethton,** ordained **Woody Hensley, John Brookshire,** and **Keith Davenport** as deacons Feb. 14.

■ **Emmette Thompson III** is the new manager of the **Knoxville Baptist Book Store.** He succeeds **Loren Miller,** who retired. A native of N.C., **Thompson** graduated from **Western North Carolina University, Cullowhee.**



TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION Missions Department Associate **Terry Sharp, right,** was presented with the **Kaleidoscopic Award** for his work in deaf missions by **Oscar Romo, director of the Home Mission Board Language Church Extension Division.** The award, given by the **HMB** division, was presented during the group's annual leadership conference in **Detroit** recently. **Sharp** was recognized for his work in helping to begin five new deaf ministries in **Tennessee** in 1992. **Sharp** is responsible for language church extension and interfaith witness in **Tennessee.**

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

A holy Lord in fellowship

Joseph Swinford
minister of music/education
Ridgeview Church, Chattanooga

What does it mean when we say "Let's worship our Lord?"

Does it mean we are going to watch something being done such as the choir singing or the pastor preaching? Perhaps worshipping our Lord means that we have to go to church with our sisters and brothers and sing hymns and songs. Perhaps worshipping our Lord is more than our actions. Perhaps it is an action first from God to us.

Often when we have a worship experience that seems to be meaningful we attempt to focus on what was said or sung. When we want to experience meaningful worship again, we try to recreate those actions. Sometimes this reproduces the experience and sometimes it does not. This is because the particular songs that are sung, Scriptures read, or words spoken are not what brings the presence of God.

Worship occurs when we

have an encounter with God and through this revelation we realize our need and change accordingly. **Robert Webber,** professor of theology at **Wheaton College,** says, "Worship is first and foremost God's action towards us ... God's gift to us." It is God who calls us into being as individuals and as a body of believers. He has promised that his spirit is ever present with us, and in the Gospel of **Matthew** he promised "where two or three are gathered, there am I in their midst." He has begun our worship through his promise to be there with us.

Our actions can facilitate our vision of God but it is up to each of us to seek his face. We know he is present, by his word, our actions in worship should be an attitude of looking for him in every aspect of the service. He is there in the prelude. He is there in the Scriptures, and prayers. He is there in the sermon. He is there in the words of the hymns we sing. As we experience worship let us commit ourselves to look for his presence, joy in the gift of that presence, and react by noting our need to be more like him. If we

do then as did **Isaiah** we can say, "Here I am, Lord, use me your willing servant." □

Running the race

Russ Stephens, pastor
Silver Springs Church, Mt. Juliet

We can turn back the pages of literature and we can find that the analogy of life as a race has been used time and time again.

As early as 500 years before **Christ,** **Pythagoras,** the philosopher and father of mathematics, had laid the foundation of what we call western rational philosophy. Someone asked **Pythagoras,** "what is your business?" "My business? It is like going to the olympics — races. There are those who go to be contestants and compete for prizes. Not me. There are those who meet their friends there and visit, socialize. Not me. There are those who go to sell their trinkets and profiteer. Not me. I am an observer of life. I go just to watch. I am a watcher — a spectator of the race of life, and I draw my conclusions and build my philosophy out of observing those who run the race." □

Pythagoras has a good figure of speech, but it is inadequate because life is not just another race — it is your race and it is my race!

There was another man of letters, **Francis Bacon,** who observed what **Pythagoras** had said. **Bacon** said, not so. He is wrong. "It is given only to God and the angels to observe; every man must run the race himself!" □

The hope of springtime

Robert Tyson, pastor
National Avenue Church, Memphis

March brings with it the hope of springtime. Spring brings with it the hope of trees budding, flowers blooming, birds singing, and warmer weather. After the coldness of winter, we need to feel the warmth of a springtime sun. After the deadness of winter, we need to see the bursting forth of life with new energy and beauty. We know that **March** does not automatically give us the warmth and beauty of spring and that there will still be some

cold days and possibly snow, but we know it provides us with the hope of spring because **God** uses his power to prepare our world for new life.

You may be wondering what **March** and **spring** have to do with the church. **March** is the month when our members who have been closed-in during the winter are able to start getting out again. It is also the month we are reminded of **God's** ability to take our spiritual deadness and work miracles of new life. Who is there among us who has not known the deadness of spiritual stagnation! What a joy to know that **God** does not leave nor forsake us. What a comfort to know that he is ready to bring forth new life within us.

It does not matter how young or old we are, neither does it matter how good or bad we have been. **God** is able to take us and breathe the new life into us. As we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins. As we give our lives to him, he is able to create within us a new heart. As we follow his **Lordship,** he is able to use us to perform a good work. This is the hope of springtime. □

Baptists join relief efforts in Rwanda; Tennesseans still there

By Martha Colwell
For Baptist Press

KIGALI, Rwanda — The Rwandan government and the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front signed yet another cease-fire agreement March 9.

But the primary concern for an estimated 900,000 people displaced by the civil war is not the latest in a series of

high-level agreements.

Survival is. Aid workers, including Southern Baptist missionaries, dream of the people in the tiny central African community returning to their farms and fields in time to salvage something from the growing season.

But if this cease-fire collapses like the ones before it, 200,000 refugees in camps out-

side Kigali will have to be moved again. About 350,000 displaced people are "old pros" at being shuffled around. Some have relocated more than 10 times already. But 450,000 are not in any camp. They are on the move searching for family, food, and a place to rest.

Knoxvillian David Hooten, human needs coordinator for the Baptist Mission of Rwanda, is implementing \$25,000 in emergency aid from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Requests for more money and an enlarged

effort have been submitted to board administrators. Hooten's wife, Janet, also, is in Rwanda.

The International Red Cross also is involved in relief efforts there. Red Cross spokesmen say the country needs 400 tons of food immediately and the cost of simply keeping the people alive could be \$150 million.

Most work by the Baptist missionaries has continued

uninterrupted, though there are some travel restrictions and curfews. None live in areas of fighting.

In addition to the Hootens in Cyangugu, another Tennessean, Katrina Knox of Columbia, is in Butare. Two Tennessee Baptists also are in Rwanda, serving as International Service Corps volunteers — Marvin and Anice Ogle of Greeneville. □

Spring Bible conference set for Union

JACKSON — Union University will host its 22nd annual spring Bible conference March 29-31. "Responding to Trials and Difficulties in the Christian Life" will be the theme.

Speakers are Bob Norman, pastor, Clearview Church, Franklin, and David Dockery, dean of the School of Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Inspirational music will be provided by Russell Newport,

a concert artist from Springfield, Mo.

Conference sessions will be held at 10 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m., and 8 p.m. Monday and Wednesday in the G. M. Savage Memorial Chapel. Tuesday's sessions are scheduled for 9:25 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m., and 8 p.m.

For more information, contact the university's office of religious affairs at (901) 668-1818, ext. 243. □

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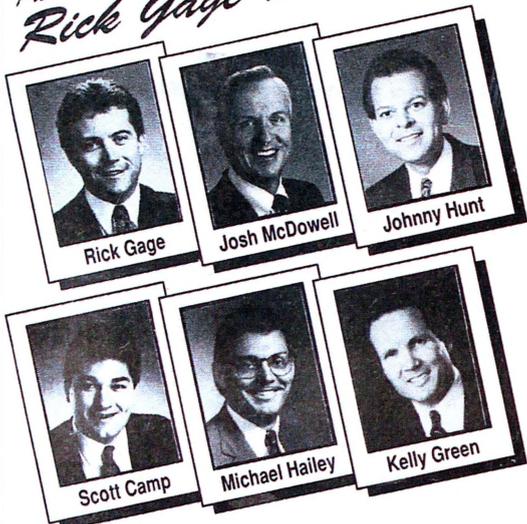
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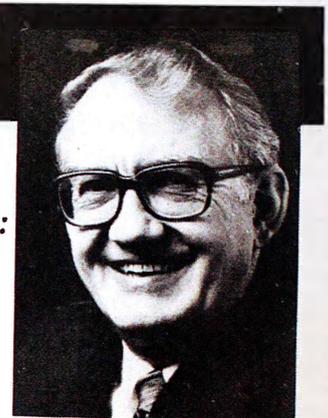
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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Responding to God in celebration — Bible Book Series for March 28

By Bill Wolfe, pastor, First Church, Counce

Celebration! What a word! It expresses the idea of joy, happiness, oneness, applause, and excitement. The Bible is a book of celebrations! Every time we read about the wonderful works of God, there is a celebration that takes place inside of us. When we read about the life, the death, the burial, the resurrection, and the soon return of Christ, there is a celebration.

Psalm 81

The 81st Psalm bears the inscription: "To the chief musician upon Gitteth." Gitteth was a title probably given to a musical instrument which was used in the home of Obadedom the Gittite during the time the ark of the covenant rested in his house. God blessed his

house while the ark was there.

The Psalms that have this inscription are psalms of praise. There is always a certain joy that abides in a home where the Lord is worshipped.

Verses 1-5 are evidence of a celebration among God's people. Worship is to be a celebration. Often times we make it a ritualistic formality and take the celebration out of it. God had given Israel a song. He wanted the people to sing. They sang of their glorious past and all of their triumphs.

Verses 6-7 tell us what God had done for Israel. These verses speak to us right where it hurts — our daily lives. We have times of "bitter waters," but God is able to lift our burdens.

The exhortation in verses 8-16 is spoken to Israel. God would fill our mouths if we would open them. But we are like Israel was in verse 11. We will not hearken.

Notice the heartfelt plea in verse 13. Is that not the prayer and desire of every Sunday School teacher and pastor as they look for an aim in their teaching and preaching?

Psalm 95

Psalm 95 abounds in praise. It opens like Psalm 81 and ends with a word of exhortation from God.

How important is praise in our worship? Praise is a delight. The reason for all the praise in verses 1-2 is summed up in the statement about God in verse 3.

Verses 4-5 tells us we can find God wherever we go. Go to the mountains, the seashore, the plains, the forest. You will see God. You will want to come and kneel before him (v. 6).

Important lessons are given in the remainder of this Psalm.

Basic Passage: Psalms 81; 95; 150

We are his sheep. You cannot trust sheep alone. Sheep need a shepherd to find their way back to the fold. A lost sheep will listen to the voice of the shepherd. We must listen to the voice of our Good Shepherd — Jesus Christ! His sheep hear his voice and recognize it above all others.

We must not harden our

hearts to the Shepherd as Israel did. Forty years were wasted in wilderness wanderings because they refused to listen to his voice (vv. 8-11).

Are you listening to him?

Psalm 150

What a fitting climax to the book of Psalms! We know that "Praise ye the Lord" can also be translated "Hallelujah!" This psalm tells us where to praise him (v. 1); why to praise him (v. 2); how to praise him (vv. 3-5).

Every book in the Bible has a key verse. The key verse to Psalm, the longest book in the Bible, is in its last verse, Psalm 150:6: "Let every thing that breathes praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord!"

Hallelujah! □

□ Coming to life — Convention Uniform Series for March 28

By Terry Bradshaw, pastor, Zion Hill Church, Sevierville

In today's lesson you find another of the many signs given by our Lord to reveal God's plan for man. I am convinced that in the Bible things do not happen by chance. They have a purpose (reason) and the purpose for today's lesson can be found in verse 4. Jesus said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby." As in last week's lesson of the healing of the blind man (John 9) Jesus focused on bringing glory to the Father. In today's lesson Jesus takes this reality one step further. He says not only will the Father be glorified, but the Son will also be glorified through these miraculous events.

Human tragedy, vv. 1-4

Sickness and death takes its toll on the best of us, especially

if it involves one that we love. We are told in the text that Lazarus had fallen ill. Mary and Martha, Lazarus' sisters, took action and sought out the great physician Jesus. "Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, 'Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick,' (v. 3). We are also told in verse 5 that Jesus, "Loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus." The book of Proverbs says in chapter 18:24, "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly, and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Jesus had become that kind of friend to this family — a friendship based on a genuine love for one another.

Divine delay vv. 6, 20-21, 32

Why did Jesus delay his coming after receiving word of Lazarus' sickness? Scholars

have offered a wide variety of opinions. Here are a couple.

First, it has been suggested that Jesus waited that the people might absolutely know that Lazarus was dead. They conclude that this delay would impress upon the people the miraculous power of God used by Jesus to meet the needs of humanity. Secondly, and probably the closest to the truth, is that the delay was deliberate and that Lazarus' miracle would be done on God's timetable. To Jesus it was irrelevant as to whether Lazarus was in the grave one day or four. Jesus knew God's power was limitless, and what God commanded would come to past. The lesson then was not why God waited, but rather what God was teaching during the wait. It is important to remember that God will never

desert the righteous. Even in those times of waiting, God is still working good for those who love him.

Divine intervention vv. 35-44

We are told in verse 35 that Jesus was so moved he wept. The question is, why did Jesus weep? The Jews understood it to be because of his love for Lazarus. The Jews' conclusion concerning the weeping of Jesus probably is somewhat true. John here was seeking to reveal the compassionate and loving nature of our Lord. But a careful study of this text also reveals these tears were tears of perfect understanding. Jesus fully understood the terrible consequences of sin which moved him to weep.

The weeping of the masses would soon be turned to joy because of the power of God. We

are told in verse 43 that Jesus, after praying, commanded that Lazarus come forth. It is clear in the text that when Jesus spoke those words death fled. "And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes: and his

Basic Passage John 11:1-44

face was bound about with him a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, 'Loose him, and let him go,' (v. 44).

In our lesson today Jesus demonstrates to all that he truly is the resurrection and the life. The promise found in verse 26 still remains unto this day, "And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." □

□ When others need help — Life and Work Series for March 28

By Toby Everett, pastor, Walker Memorial Church, Franklin

How easy it is to not do what we know we ought to when it comes to giving assistance. We are constantly being made aware of the needs of individuals around the world. We can look into the eyes of hungry, afflicted people and quickly dismiss our responsibility because we had nothing to do with their plight.

Then there are those who have needs and somehow we may have been touched in a negative way by those individuals, making it even more convenient for the rationale of our humanity to dismiss involvement. But, to believers, the compelling words of our Lord reach out to say, "By this shall all men know that you are my

disciple, if you have love one for another." Forgiveness and compassion are definitely a part of this meeting of other's needs.

Joseph helps us see how we need to respond when others need assistance. Strategically placed in the government of Egypt, he had all power at his disposal. What must he do to be able to help those in need?

Personal dilemmas must be by-passed, ch. 45: 7

Notice the last part of the verse, "whom you sold into slavery." There lay the out Joseph could have claimed for helping his brothers. He needed to get past the feelings that could have developed over the years of slavery and imprison-

ment that resulted from his brothers' actions toward him. Harboring malice and resentment will always stand in the way of helping those who need it. Joseph realized, "I am your brother," which outweighed any revenge potential.

Providential design must be broadcast, vv. 8-10

What perception Joseph had! Despite all he had been through, he recognized God's hand at work and was willing to let others know about it. We are many times placed by God in uncomfortable and confusing circumstances and situations so we can help someone else down the road. God's unfolding plan can be a grand opportunity to share a witness

with the needy. Those needs may range from physical (hunger, illness, etc.), to emotional (loneliness, despair, etc.) to psychological. Search for God's providence and broadcast it.

Basic Passage: Genesis 42 — 45

Provisional directives must be benevolence, vv. 9-11

Look at the perfect position Joseph had his brothers in. He could have offered them a token of generosity, but he provided the very best that Egypt had to offer. The potential anger for treatment he had received had given way to a potent affection the family need-

ed. When was the last time you could have done more to assist someone in need and you settled to give a token of what you could do?

Profound divisions must be bridged, vv. 14-15

First things first were necessary. For the generosity of Joseph to be received with complete confidence, the rift had to be bridged. It was one thing to show affection for Benjamin, but a great testimony for him to reach out to the "undeserving" and show love. It was extremely significant that Joseph embraced and kissed all his brothers. Thus, the meeting of their need is even more glorious. □

Bertha Smith feature to air on VISN/ACTS

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — "Bertha Smith: Handmaiden of the Lord," a documentary about the legendary Southern Baptist missionary who died five months before her 100th birthday in 1988, will air on the VISN/ACTS cable channel April 3.

The 45-minute profile — augmented by a 15-minute segment about spiritual revival, Smith's favorite theme — begins at 11 p.m. Eastern Standard time.

Smith worked 42 years in China and Taiwan, enduring wars, revolution, imprisonment by the Japanese, poverty, and isolation.

She also was at the center of the famed Shantung Revival in China, one of the great spiritual movements of modern times, and was the first Southern Baptist missionary to go to Taiwan, where she worked

alone for many months before others joined her.

After retiring at age 70 in 1958, she began a nearly 30-year second career in the United States as a popular speaker and conference leader. She also began the Peniel Prayer Center in 1973 across the street from the house where she was reared in Cowpens, S.C. Hundreds of spiritual seekers found direction for their lives under Smith's guidance.

The documentary is produced by her nephew, Bob Smith, and other family members. □

Annuity Board adds ethnic specialist

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Elias D. Pantaja, a missions department staff member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will become manager of special groups for the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, April 15.

Working in the board's member services division, Pantaja will spearhead a new emphasis on segmented marketing and ministry. Pantaja is a former staff member of the Shelby County Association where he was a Home Mission Board multi-ethnic catalytic missionary from 1977-83. He also has worked at the Sunday School Board in Nashville. □

Churches must change methods, Young tells students

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Churches must change to become relevant and attractive

as the 21st century approaches, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention told students, faculty, staff, and trustees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary March 10.

Ed Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston, Texas, called on future church leaders to change methodology without changing the message.

Young cited a recent Gallup Poll showing 86 percent of the churches in America are dying due to irrelevancy and lack of interest on the part of Americans. "This means we must do church in a way that we traditionally have not done church in SBC life," Young said.

"Without compromising the message, we must change the methodology if we are to see the church come alive in the generation in which you and I have been called to serve." □



YOUNG

Baylor survey encourages RA program, leaders

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — A Baylor University survey of church youth programs has "encouraged and challenged" the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, according to the director of the agency's Royal Ambassador program for boys.

The Baylor survey revealed that RAs is a suburban and urban organization, with most boys in churches between 200

and 1,400 in membership, said Tim Seanor, Royal Ambassador director.

"A lot of people think that RAs is a rural, small-church phenomenon when in fact it is metropolitan. That's where our strength is, and this bodes well for us because that's where potential for growth is greatest," he said.

The survey, by Baylor University's Center for Community Research and Development, also revealed areas that the Brotherhood Commission "must work on," Seanor said.

"We are exploring ways to meet the needs of the smaller church, to develop methods of using our existing programs and materials that would appeal to them," he said.

The commission also must develop materials to encourage interested adults to become involved as RA leaders, he said, adding that boys look to the adults for answers and as role models. □

BWA says goodbye to Russian leader

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — An emotional farewell was said to Vasil Logvinenko, president of the Russian Baptist Federation who, because of his retirement plans, attended his last Baptist World Alliance executive committee meeting March 1-4 in Washington.

In a farewell speech, Logvinenko, of Odessa, Russia, spoke of his concern for Baptist distinctiveness in the former Soviet Union.

"We now have a wonderful opportunity to show who we are," he said as he spoke of

new ministry opportunities in Moscow. □

Texas Acteens meet despite standoff at nearby-cult site

Baptist Press

WACO, Texas — Unexpected housing shortages presented a challenge, but Texas Acteens refused to allow the unrelated acts of a cult leader 10 miles away stop their annual meeting at Baylor University.

Although below the 2,200 capacity crowd that typically attends the Baylor session of Acteens IMPACT (In Missions Preparation as Christian Teens), about 1,800 attended the March 5-7 meeting.

The Feb. 28 shootout between Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms agents and followers of self-proclaimed "messiah" David Koresch at the cult's McLennan County compound resulted in a standoff that continued through the Acteens meeting.

When leaders of Texas WMU called to check on the status of the reservations, innkeepers told them they were working on the problem, but could not guarantee rooms because of the hundreds of law enforcement officials and media who were in Waco.

Between 50 and 100 people were housed in private homes, and as the standoff continued, hotel managers worked hard to meet commitments they had made to Acteens groups.

Law enforcement officers at one hotel doubled up to free rooms for Acteens, said Joy Fenner of Texas WMU. □

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Former Super Bowl winning coach knows true success

By Michael Clingenpeel
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Joe Gibbs is a success.

In 12 years as coach of the Washington Redskins, he amassed a record of 140 wins and 65 losses, leading the Redskins to four Super Bowls and three Super Bowl titles.

In his sophomore season as owner of a race car on the Winston Cup circuit, his car, driven by Dale Jarrett, won the Daytona 500 in February.

But none of these made Gibbs feel truly successful. Success, Gibbs said, is defined by relationships.

"I think finding Christ as my personal Savior is first. That's my greatest personal accomplishment. Then I think my relationship with Pat (his wife) and our kids ... that's

still the driving force in my life."

Gibbs, a member of Columbia Church in suburban Falls Church, Va., offered his testimony to 350 people at a breakfast in Richmond in early March. Five hours later Gibbs shocked the sports world by announcing his retirement as coach of the Redskins.

Christ and his family were not always his top priorities, Gibbs admitted.

Though brought up in a Christian home and a Christian since age 9, Gibbs bought into the world's standard for success as a young adult. "The world told me to be happy you have to gain a position of power. In my case, it was to win football games and make money.

"I bought into that. But I kept feeling that something

was missing."

While he was an assistant football coach at the University of Arkansas, Gibbs discovered God had a different plan for the world and his life. The combination of a faithful Sunday School teacher and the birth of his first child convinced Gibbs there was more to life than football and money.

"I finally realized there was another side to the issues the world was telling me. God had a different game plan. It is not in making money, gaining position. People are more important," he said.

Gibbs rededicated his life to Christ and has been an active church member and unashamed witness for Christ ever since.

It has not always been easy. Thirteen years ago his wife, Pat, suffered facial paralysis