

Baptist and Reflector

January 5, 1994

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STATEWIDE EDITION

■ **this
week's
news**

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- Ed Young's church buys booklets to back up pledge to pray for the president. — See page 3

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Jan. 17-18 in Nashville

Hobbs, Criswell headline State Evangelism Conference

For *Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — Two of the Southern Baptist Convention's most renowned pastors are among the speakers at the 1994 State Evangelism Conference Jan. 17-18 at Two Rivers Church in Nashville.

Herschel Hobbs, pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City, Okla., and W. A. Criswell, senior pastor of First Church, Dallas, join seven other speakers. Both are former SBC presidents.

Hobbs, 86, has held numerous offices over the years. He was chairman of the committee which drew up a revision of the "Baptist Faith and Message" adopted by the SBC in 1963.

The Alabama native has written a book for adult teachers each quarter on *Studying Adult Life and Work Lessons* for the Baptist Sunday School Board since 1969. His column, "Baptist Beliefs," appears regularly in the *Baptist and Reflector*.



CRISWELL



HOBBS



MADDEN



OAKLEY



PASCHALL



SMITH

Hobbs will deliver a series of theme interpretations on "Serve in Christ's Spirit ... Share the Gospel."

Criswell too has served the denomination in numerous capacities. He became pastor of the 28,000-member Dallas church in 1944.

The 84-year-old Criswell has written 54 books.

Five of the other speakers are well-known to Tennessee Baptists: Tom Madden, retired TBC Executive Director; H. Franklin Paschall, former SBC president and retired pastor, First Church, Nashville; Woody Watkins, retired TBC Evangelism Department director; Evangelist J. Harold Smith of Newport, and W. B.

Oakley, evangelist from Dyer. Other speakers are Jack Stanton, Home Mission Board, and Manuel Scott, who is pastor of Saint John Missionary Church, Dallas. Southern Baptist businessman S. Truett Cathey will speak during "Layman's Night" on Tuesday. Cathey is founder and chairman of the board of Chick-fil-A, Inc.

William A. Cox of Nashville will lead the music. Special music will be provided by The Speers.

The conference begins Jan. 17 at 1:45 p.m. The final afternoon message begins at 3:50.

The evening session begins at 7.

Tuesday, sessions begin at

9:30 a.m., 1:45 and 6:45 p.m.

Prior to the State Evangelism Conference, the Fellowship of Tennessee Evangelists will hold their annual conference on Monday, Jan. 17, from 9:45 a.m. until noon. The meeting will be held in the old sanctuary at Two Rivers Church.

Speakers for the conference are Skip Youngcourt, New Johnsonville; Benny Jackson, Memphis; and Toonie Cash, Johnson City. Fellowship President Rob Finley of Memphis is directing the program.

For more information about the State Evangelism Conference or the Fellowship of Tennessee Evangelists conference, call the TBC Evangelism Department at (615) 371-2058. □

Volunteers, saving families, top 1993 in news

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
For *Baptist and Reflector*

What were the top news stories for Tennessee Baptists in 1993? It was a busy year in convention life as churches and individuals continued to make news.

What were the top newsmakers for 1993?

Cooperative Program giving: For the first time in several years, CP giving was close to budget needs. With October gifts ranking high on the all-time list, 1992-93 receipts were 1.8 percent above the previous year.

Messengers change budget: At the Annual Meeting in November in Nashville, messengers voted to allocate \$30,000 of the TBC budget to Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes to operate its two homes for developmentally disabled adults.

After lengthy debate the budget was amended internally from the floor.

Special Study Committee Report: Convention messen-

gers turned back most of the committee's report. The report contained several recommendations on convention committees nominating process, which were referred to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Anniversaries, volunteers, families: It was a year of celebrations for many churches with anniversaries of a century or more. Leading the way was Warrensburg, Mo-hawk, which observed its 200th birthday.

It was a year which again saw the volunteer spirit of Tennessee Baptists, as hundreds helped flood victims in Missouri, Iowa, and Kansas, and hundreds more worked in other places, in evangelism, health care, and construction.

It was a year of continued involvement in the Chile and Michigan partnerships, a year for scores of Tennessee youth to build and clean as World Changers. It was a year in which many college students volunteered to serve wherever needed.

It was a year for bolstering

marriages and family life. The *Baptist and Reflector* printed a series on saving marriages written by nationally syndicated columnist Mike McManus, reporting on two meetings he held in Nashville and Franklin, initiated a family strengthening series by Memphis Baptist psychologist Paul Barkley, and threw support behind the Baptist Sunday School Board's Festivals of Marriage and True Love Waits programs.

Reviewing history, the *Bap-*

tist and Reflector launched a search for longtime readers. Nearly a hundred readers responded, many of whom had read the paper for more than 40 or 50 years.

The champions, however, proved to be two members of First Church, Jefferson City, who have read the paper faithfully for more than 80 years: Bonita Sharp Holt and Beatrice Farrow Rives.

Other top news includes: — See Volunteers, page 2

Search committee is named

Jarvis Hearn, Partnership Missions director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will retire later this year, and a search committee has been named to find a successor.

The director coordinates the entire volunteer partnership program for home and foreign missions for Tennessee Baptists. Current partnerships are with Chile and Michigan.

The search committee is composed of Bill Northcott, chairman; Frank Hawkins, Elmer Crosby, Russ Dunham, chairman of the Convention Missions Committee; James Porch, executive director; and Bill Wilson, Convention Ministries Division director.

The committee has determined three concerns for potential nominees: appreciation for a comprehensive approach to missions, capability for "bridge building," and having creativity and an innovative approach based on sound Christian principles.

— See Search, page 6

Volunteers, saving families, top 1993 news

— Continued from Page 1

Newcomb elected: Ray Newcomb, pastor of First Church, Millington, was elected TBC president in November. Vice presidents elected are Frank Samuels, Memphis, and Doug Baker, Bolivar. David Crocker was elected president of the Executive Board; David George remains chairman of the Executive Committee.

True Love Waits: Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, initiated a Baptist Sunday School Board plan for teenagers to pledge sexual purity until marriage. This was the beginning of a national program with thousands of names to be presented at the SBC sessions in Orlando in June.

HCBA changes: Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour, got a new leader in Michael Beane of Dallas, with the title of headmaster. The school became The King's Academy, a conference center is planned, and the retired Bill Palmer became chancellor. The "umbrella" facility still is HCBA.

Edgefield honored: Edgefield Church, Nashville, was honored in February as the SBC Annuity Board met there to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the board's beginning. William Lunsford, Edgefield's pastor at that time, had the idea of helping retired pastors with an annuity plan.

Shelby leads: Shelby County Association was the leader in baptisms, baptizing 2,936 in 1992. Four Shelby churches were among leaders: Bellevue, 788 (1); Korean (6),

First Millington (7), and Germantown (11). Statewide there were 26,081 baptisms.

Division head hired: William Maxwell, Mississippi, was hired as director of the Central Administrative Division, TBC. Martha Grove, who had headed Accounting since 1955 retired after 43 years.

Big donation: Belmont University received a gift of \$1 million from the Anne Moech family honoring the late Ernest Moech, to train ministers with practical studies in church finances and organizational administration.

Local boy makes good: Missionary Sam Stallings, Bolivar, was chosen mission administrator for Southern Baptist missionaries in the Philippines. Stallings is a veteran of the Mindanao hill country, planting 50 churches in his 11-year stay.

Missionary killed: Paris native missionary to Argentina, John Johnsonius, was killed Aug. 1 in Concepcion, while avoiding a collision with another vehicle. He and his wife Janice were appointed in 1991.

Anniversaries: Two Tennessee groups celebrated 10th anniversaries: Special Friends Camp and Baptist Fellowship of the Blind.

Planning Committee: Truman Brown was named to lead a 30-person Long Range Study Committee. The committee was mandated by the Executive Board and named by convention president Leonard Markham. It began work in October.

Leading givers: Bellevue

Church, Cordova, led churches in CP giving with \$578,785. New Hope, Judson Association, led in percentage giving with 32.7 percent. Two Rivers Church, Nashville, led Home Missions Offering giving with \$43,002, and New Home Church, Martin, led per capita with \$62.89 per member.

Youth minister honored: Debbie Harned, minister of youth at Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville, was named 1992 Youth Leader by a non-denominational magazine for youth ministers.

Cooperative users: Belmont Heights Church in Nashville, and Belmont Uni-

versity, signed an agreement on joint use of the church's property and land. It is a lease-purchase agreement.

Mission statement: Executive Board staff leaders led the staff in celebrating a new mission statement called One Servant Family. The statement is a shared vision for the lost, training and discipling believers, promoting quality resources, and fulfillment for employees.

These are some of the top news stories of 1993, a good year in the life of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership January —



- 5 — The Baptist Convention of Chile as it meets in annual session.
- 6 — David George of Nashville as he speaks at the convention in Chile.
- 7 — Missionary Betty Hart requests prayer for the opening of a new mission point in Jardines del Sur Alto in Antofagasta.
- 8 — Juan Lara, Chile's foreign missionary in Ecuador.
- 9 — The Tennessee team of camp staffers volunteering in Temuco at the MK Camp/Retreat for Workers.
- 10 — Chile missionaries and their families as they gather for their semi-annual mission meeting.
- 11 — The congregation of New Life Mission in Temuco as they seek to officially organize as a church in 1994.
- 12 — That the Lord will continue to open doors in a possible future mission work in Retiro in the central valley, which was a receptive area during the recent medical project there.

Moroccan man jailed for becoming a Christian

Baptist Press

CASABLANCA, Morocco — A Moroccan man has been sen-

tenced to three years in prison for converting from Islam to Christianity.

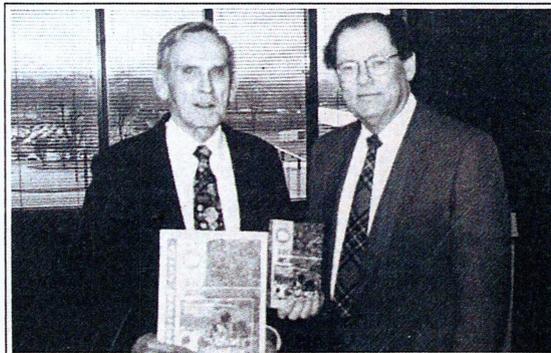
A French-language newspa-

per identified him as Mustapha Zemamda of Casablanca. He was sentenced in the district court of Casablanca in November.

Nineteen Moroccans who signed up for a correspondence course in Christianity mailed from France were summoned by the court in October. Officials ordered them to sign a statement agreeing to sever relations with the correspondence school.

Eighteen signed, but Zemamda refused. Summoned to court again four days later, he still refused to sign or renounce his Christian faith. Sentencing followed.

Christians in Morocco requested prayer for Zemamda and all Christian believers in the country, which is almost 100 percent Muslim and considered one of the countries most closed to the Gospel. □



WHEN PAUL HALL, left, teaches the Winter Bible Study on Hosea at Wrigley Church in ALPHA Association early this year, it will be the 47th consecutive year that he has taught a Winter (formerly January) Bible Study. Hall is retired from the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Missions Department. He taught his first Bible study in 1948 on Ephesians. He is shown with Jim Harvey, Baptist Sunday School Board consultant.

Toll-free line's success too costly

Baptist Press

DANVILLE, Va. — A toll-free phone line offering recorded criticisms of Jehovah's Witnesses' beliefs was too successful to continue because of rising costs, said its sponsor.

The line received more than 20,000 calls from almost every area code in the nation during its 15 months of operation,

said George Kesterson, director of Watching the Watchtower.

A lack of financial support, however, failed to pay more than \$6,000 worth of phone bills, said Kesterson, a former Jehovah's Witness and a Home Mission Board Mission Service Corps volunteer. "The phone line was more successful than one person could handle." □

'Experiencing God' teleconferences scheduled across state

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Satellite technology and biblical principles for knowing and doing the will of God will be paired for a nationwide teleconference sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The seven-hour "Experiencing God" teleconference will be broadcast by satellite Saturday, Feb. 12, beginning at 10 a.m., Central Time, to at least 145 sites across the country, including 10 in Tennessee.

Henry Blackaby and Claude King, authors of *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God*, will lead the teleconference.

"As of now, nearly 150 churches and associations have signed contracts to be host sites for the teleconference, but we expect more to sign on before the broadcast time," said Jay Johnston, teleconference coordinator.

"We anticipate being able to involve more people less expensively by way of this teleconference than we could through national or regional conferences. They will have the added benefit of a local facilitator," Johnston added.

States with the largest number of viewing sites include Texas with 19; Georgia, 14; Alabama, 11; and Tennessee, 10.

The teleconference will be broadcast live from Nashville's Two Rivers Church.

"There will be time for small-group discussion and prayer throughout the teleconference. Participants are expected to bring their own lunches," Johnston said.

A \$25 registration fee for the teleconference includes an "Experiencing God" members book and a three-hole punch notebook, he said.

Each viewing site will have "Experiencing God" resources for purchase, Johnston added.

Resources presently include a LIFE course, a leader's guide, a video, and audiocassettes.

A similar "Fresh Encounter" teleconference featuring Blackaby will be broadcast April 23 at many of the same sites, Johnston said.

"Fresh Encounter," also by

Blackaby and King, seeks to spearhead national revival by challenging churches to identify and overcome self-defeating habits and renew relationships with God. □

Tennessee sites and facilitators

1. Tommy Williams, Fort Robinson Church, Kingsport
2. Don Farmer, Concord Church, Chattanooga
3. Terry Stewart, Greenhills Church, Collierville
4. Michael Prowse, Stone Association, Cookeville
5. Steve Morris, Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville
6. Mack Bingham, Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville
7. James Clegg, Pleasant View Church, Clarksville
8. Sam Galloway, First Church, Dyersburg
9. Larry Murphy, Englewood Church, Jackson
10. Richard Sisk, Broadmoor Church, Memphis

Student ministry program reports several gains in 1993

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist student ministry program reported several gains in fiscal year 1993, including an increase in the total number of students reached, involved in missions, and preparing for church vocations.

According to the 1993 Student Ministry Information Report, compiled by the Baptist Sunday School Board's national student ministry, 193,094 students were reached by

Southern Baptist campus ministries in 1993, up from last year's total of 191,919. The statistic includes all students who participated in a student-ministry related program or activity during the year.

Involvement in missions also was up, from 26,698 students in 1992 to 27,156 in 1993. This number includes semester and summer missionaries sponsored by state conventions, the Home Mission Board, and local Baptist Student Unions, as well as those

involved in partnership projects and other mission programs.

Total expenditures for student missions — which includes contributions to state BSU mission funds, campus-sponsored mission trips, and state convention budgets for student missions programs — was up, from \$2,474,669 in 1992 to \$2,597,674 in 1993.

"We were strongly up in several categories that speak to the future well-being of Southern Baptists," said

Charles Johnson, director of national student ministry. "God is calling students out (for ministry) in unprecedented numbers," he said.

Johnson noted that while decreases were shown in baptisms and conversions he predicts those numbers will increase in 1994 because of a joint emphasis on student evangelism begun last year by his department and the Home Mission Board.

In Tennessee, the number of students in semester and summer mission projects was down slightly, from 327 in 1992 to 263 in 1993, said Ircel Harrison, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Student Ministries Department.

Part of the decrease can be attributed to the Blizzard of '93, Harrison said. Several Tennessee Baptist students

who were scheduled to participate in SPOTS (Special Projects Other Than Summer) had to cancel because of the snowstorm that struck the South last March.

However, the number of students involved in local community missions projects increased from 597 to 689, he said.

Expenditures for student missions was down from \$233,202 in 1992 to \$201,103 in 1993, Harrison said.

Among increases shown in Tennessee's 40 Baptist Student Unions were the number of students involved in witness training, 335 to 438, the number of students involved in campus Discipleship Training activities, 684 to 887, Bible study groups, 907 to 1,337, and an increase in black (509 to 549) and international students (255 to 267) in BSUs. □

Houston church backs up prayer commitment

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Second Church, Houston, has backed up its commitment to use the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission's "Pray for the

President" booklet with an order for 1,000 packets — which translates into 10,000 individual copies.

It is the largest single order thus far for the booklet, a tract-sized guide to "fervent prayer" for the president and vice president of the United States. To date, more than 200,000 copies have been distributed.

"We've purchased 10,000 copies of 'Pray for the President' so that each family can use one as a guide for their prayer time," said Edwin H. Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston, and SBC president. He said they will hand out the booklets in January.

Young was the driving force behind approval in September by the SBC Executive Committee of a 40-day season of prayer for the president, starting in January. The idea came after a meeting Young and Morris H. Chapman, Executive Committee president, and others had with President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore Sept. 16 at the White House.

A subsequent mailing to all Southern Baptist pastors, coordinated by the Brotherhood

Commission, contained a letter from Young encouraging them to join in the prayer effort, along with a suggested sermon outline, a list of planning helps, and a sample copy of the booklet. □

Tennessee pastors to write Sunday School commentaries

Three Tennessee Baptist pastors will write the Sunday School lesson commentaries for the 1994 winter quarter.

J. Edward North, pastor of First Church, Humboldt, will write the Bible Book Series.

A native of West Monroe, La., North has been pastor at First Church since 1985.

He also has served churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas.

He is a graduate of Louisiana Tech University, New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, and the University of Southern Mississippi. He has master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from NOBTS.

North has been a trustee of Union University, Jackson, and currently is on the board of trustees for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

He and his wife, Sallie, have

three children.

Kenneth R. Clayton is the writer for the Convention Uniform Series.

A native of Rockwood,

Clayton has been pastor of Tulip Grove Church in Old Hickory since 1983.

Clayton has been pastor of churches in Kentucky and Tennessee. He and his wife, Joy, are former Southern Baptist missionaries to Spain.

Clayton is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where he obtained his master of theology and doctor of ministry degrees.

The Claytons have two children.



BRYAN



CLAYTON



NORTH

Charles N. Bryan of Central Church, Alcoa, will write the Life and Work Series.

The Memphis native has served at the Alcoa church since 1987.

In addition to Central, Alcoa, Bryan was pastor of Central Church, Kingston, and held a student pastorate in Indiana. He also has been a summer missionary in New York.

Bryan holds degrees from Union University and Southern Seminary.

He and his wife, Patricia, have three children. □

BSSB consultant John Hack dies

NASHVILLE — John A. Hack, 52, an architectural consultant with the Baptist Sunday School Board, died Dec. 16 in Nashville's St. Thomas Hospital of complications following a fall on Nov. 29.

Hack was a 25-year employee of the Sunday School Board. The Kentucky native began as a consultant in church media library work in 1968 and became a church architectural services in 1983. In that role he worked with several Tennessee Baptist churches.

He is survived by his wife, Joy, and a daughter, Sandra Hack Polaski of Durham, N.C. □



HACK

Knoxville 'fireman' balances pastorate with chaplaincy

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Gibbs Hammond sometimes likes to use the analogy between Christianity and fire.

Fire, he says, is an intense burning that consumes everything around it. "That's the way our Christianity ought to be," he notes.

Hammond is qualified to make that comparison. For 30 years he has served on the Knoxville Fire Department, first as a firefighter, and now as the department's first full-time chaplain.

And, for the last 15 years,

he has served as pastor of Timothy Street Church in Knoxville.

Hammond recently was elected vice president of the Federation of Fire Chaplains International.

As far as he knows, he is the only full-time, paid fire department chaplain in Tennessee.

The Knoxville Fire Department has a staff of 375 people, Hammond says. "For many of them I am the only spiritual help they have."

Beginning as a firefighter in 1963, Hammond rose through the department to the rank of captain.

In 1978 a series of events

led to the area of fire prevention. At that time, because of his ministry background, he was asked to also serve as chaplain. In 1992 he was named the department's first full-time chaplain.

Over the years, he explains, his duties began to change as the role of firefighters began to change. According to the American Heart Association, Hammond says, firefighting is the most stressful occupation in America.

Stress and burnout begin to take a toll on people in professions such as firefighting and police work, Hammond says.

He observes that firefighters are taught to expect death. "That's not true. Seeing a two-year-old die in a fire is not part of the job," he says.

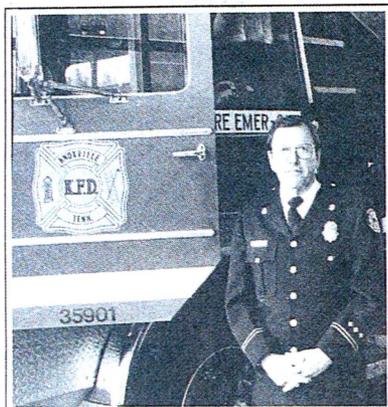
Dealing with firefighters in those type situations forms the basis for Hammond's role as chaplain. The department established the first critical instance stress debriefing team in East Tennessee.

Critical instance stress occurs when someone sees a child or co-worker die or a fire that causes multiple deaths, Hammond explains.

"If you can get to the person soon enough and get him or her to talk and share feelings, it helps," he says.



KNOXVILLE CHAPLAIN Gibbs Hammond visits with captains Doug Wilkerson, left, and Buddy Blankenship, center, at the Bearden station in Knoxville. Wilkerson and Blankenship both attend Baptist churches — Wilkerson at Southside and Blankenship at Ridgeview. Hammond is a bivocational pastor at Timothy Street Church.



GIBBS HAMMOND stands beside a fire engine at the Bearden station in Knoxville, similar to one he worked on when he joined the department 30 years ago. Hammond calls firefighting the "hardest work" he has done in his life. He is the Knoxville Fire Department's first full-time, paid chaplain.

Tragedy at birth an 'omen' of things to come

My middle name is Lenox. A Mississippi doctor, the physician of two feuding families, heard shots being fired nearby. Recognizing what was happening, he thought he might be able to quell the controversy and save bloodshed.

Instead he was shot by either or both sides and killed instantly. The murdered man was Dr. Lenox, who was a friend of my father. That sad event occurred on the date of my birth. It led my father to say, "I want his name to be perpetuated." That was how my middle name became "Lenox."

Maybe it was an omen of things to come. Much of my life has been spent in trying to correct misunderstandings and reconcile disagreeing factions.

It is costly, even perilous, but someone has to pay the price. A mediator runs the risk of being attacked by both sides simultaneously.

My love for people has spared me any spirit of retaliation. Regardless of what might be said or done, I have tried to carry out the mission of a peacemaker.

In the present Southern

Baptist Convention argument, as it has raged back and forth since the early '60s, I have not

and error on both sides.

In trying to answer the question, "What is happening

■ Baptists: a historical view

By James L. Sullivan

Retired president, Baptist Sunday School Board

affiliated with any side, read any of their tabloids, or attended any strategy planning meetings. Nor did I attend the historical Atlanta meeting.

Attending conventions, but not being a messenger since 1978, has meant that I have not voted for or against anybody or any issue. I have sat in annual sessions watching objectively, analyzing things as I have seen them, and expressing amazement at a few unbelievable things which occurred.

I have complimented and criticized both sides when I thought they deserved it. I have done this knowing that each side would think I was on the side of the other.

My passion is healing, and our convention is hurting. Since I have monitored this controversy from its beginning, I have been able to see validity

to Southern Baptists?" I will try in subsequent articles to explain where we are, give some general background causes, state what the controversy is costing us, and discuss how I think we can rectify our current situation.

I will not call names or deal with specifics. I could, but I prefer to leave that to historians who will mesh my observations with those of others after the smoke has cleared. In that way, facts can be separated from rumor and truth can be ascertained fully for history.

All I have said or will say is in the interest of and love for all Southern Baptists and our great convention. □ — Sullivan wrote this series of articles for his church newsletter three years ago. Future articles in this series will be reprinted every other week.

Hammond, who is one of seven people in the Knoxville Fire Department trained to defuse such situations, also explains to the people involved they will experience flashbacks and depression and offers tips on how to handle those instances.

Hammond also counsels fire department employees on other matters including divorce. The divorce rate among firefighters is twice that of the national average, he says.

Acknowledging the important role volunteer fire department chaplains play across the state, Hammond feels he does have an advantage when counseling.

"Because I am a member (of the fire department) they know I know their problems. I have an advantage because I have been a fireman for 30 years and have been in their situations. They can relate to me," he says.

Asked how he balances his job with his pastorate at Timothy Street, Hammond replies, "I'm used to it. I don't know how not to do it."

He notes he has a "wonderful congregation" who supports his chaplaincy role fully.

And because much of his work involves stress counseling, he says that handling both jobs is simply "a case of practicing what you preach."

His role at the fire department is flexible to a certain extent which allows him the opportunity to get away during the day for funerals if the need arises, he says. "The fire chief is very supportive and understanding," Hammond adds.

Hammond has even found time to be active in Knox County Association, having served on various committees.

In recent months, Hammond has been carrying on both roles despite pain. In November he was diagnosed with Lupus.

Yet, he does not feel angry or distressed about the disease.

"God has been awfully good to me and has blessed me in more ways than I could ever tell.

"He has given me a wonderful church, allowed me to marry a fine Christian lady, and provided me an opportunity to work for a fire department that appreciates, as a whole, what I try to do." □

C-N professor 'grades' hymns

JEFFERSON CITY — Carson-Newman College professor

Louis Ball is an inventor of sorts — a Thomas Edison of music who, out of desperation, devised a method to grade hymns.



BALL

His method was needed to pair up students (pianists) with hymns. Some hymns

were too difficult for some pianists to play.

Ball's newest ratings for the 1991 edition of the *Baptist Hymnal* were printed in the last two issues of *Pedalpoint*, a quarterly magazine for church keyboardists, published by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Hymns are graded easy, medium/difficult, and difficult.

Ball feels his work is helpful not just to church keyboardists but to music students everywhere. □

Tough, clean, committed: challenge for 1994

The information on Page 1 underneath the banner reads: Volume 160, Number 1.

A new year is beginning and we are publishing this paper in the 160th year of its existence. Certainly the world is different and the paper's style has changed. There have been twists and turns, and some detours, along the road from then until now.

But in this 160th year since 1834, in this year of 1994, Baptists of Tennessee can still hold onto a tradition of progress and optimism, ministry and missions. And if readers, after seeing the heading for this editorial, think they are experiencing symptoms of *deja vu*, they may be right.

We used the same headline in last year's early January issue. It's here again, to introduce the *Baptist and Reflector's* theme for the new year: "Healing the hurting, guiding the seekers, helping families to grow." It's a large order, God-size, in fact.

We invite all Tennessee Baptists, all Tennessee Baptist churches and families, all pastors — to join this effort.

Last year's lead editorial posed a challenge for 1993:

"Last October [1992] the Scottish Baptist Union met in Edinburgh. From news accounts the messengers were apprehensive about several items, some which they could not control.

"The Union's leader, Peter Barber, came

through with a keen observation fitting for all Baptists, indeed all Christians.

"The question has to be asked," he said, "whether as Christians we are developing a Christianity that is tough enough, clean enough, and committed enough to withstand the onslaught."

Missionary David Moench spoke to those points forcefully while he was on furlough recently. A product of Woodmont Church, Nashville, and later a staff member at Brentwood Church, Moench, his wife Laura, and their four children, are serving in Dundee, Scotland.

They work with the five Baptist congregations there, and can testify firsthand to the malevolent surroundings. Evil is alive and well. The churches are under siege, and the congregations small in number. They have dwindled from "prosperity" to a handful of Christians. Hatred from the community is not unusual. The church buildings are protected by barbed wire and iron bars.

They are under siege but not giving up, and God's amazing fortresses of grace and power keep them safe.

So the message of Peter Barber is true. And his answer to the problems is also correct: *Christians must develop a Christian lifestyle that is tough enough, clean enough, and committed enough to withstand the onslaught.*

When times are hard, when human an-

swers seem insufficient, we cannot afford to respond with another quick fix. We cannot just relax with another popular video game or movie. We cannot sip another soda with good old friends, or take a vacation from reality.

Tough enough, clean enough, committed enough! That God-size strategy is not new, and needs no improvement. It is simple and authentic, hard to live, but necessary.

It is successful when applied to any problem, to any need, to any decision. It is a faith that requires time spent with Christ, studying his Word, living as he lives and taught.

It is a lifestyle burnished by heartaches, hammered smooth on the anvil of grace, cleansed by his blood.

In this new year perhaps our sternest challenge will be protecting the family.

It will be costly. Those who expend time, possessions, and self freely will be a sweet-smelling offering to Christ and families. Deserted family values pave the road to a quick and severe calamity for America.

Let's rescue families from the ashes. A worthy task faces Tennessee Baptists: *"Healing the hurting, guiding the seekers, helping families to grow." Pastors, laity, churches, be faithful. Nurture children in love, save marriages, teach Christian family values. Give families a high priority. Let us not even think of failure. Peter Barber and David Moench don't think that way.* □

■ one
word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Finding the place

Have you used the glove compartment in your car lately?

Specifically, have you placed your winter gloves in the glove compartment. Do you know what a glove compartment is? Does your car have one?

I grew up with family cars that came equipped with glove compartments. We used them.

But we didn't use them for glove storage. Granted, it would be easier to keep up

with gloves if they were kept in the same handy, convenient place when not in use. Then again, I don't remember family members having any gloves.

Through the years, we have used that little place of storage — but not for gloves. We put car registration papers there, and a flashlight. Maps find the "box" to be a resting place, and so do pencils, band-aids, hand creme, and perhaps a lap game for travel entertainment.

I imagine the original name for the glove compartment began when a pair of work gloves were kept available when you changed a tire, turned the hand crank, or drained the water from the radiator.

We are beyond that now. Tires don't blow out very often, we have an ignition switch and electric starter — and coolant-antifreeze lasts forever.

Somehow this reminds of Christians who misplace their assignments, renege on their duties, ignore witnessing and visiting — the most ordinary but vital forms of ministry.

We don't always "wear" equipment needed for the work, forgetting Bible study, prayer, and service. Sometimes we forget why we are here or the price the Savior paid.

When the old glove compartment is used for the wrong things, the label does little good. In fact, it's a false label.

When Christians put the wrong labels on life's wonders, we miss life's extras.

There is a way to store things in the proper places. Just remember Who told you about them and get yourself ready for a "fresh encounter" with God.

It is called repentance, confession, and commitment. □



ALLEN

■ just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

"Granddaddy, when did you learn to do frog impressions?"

He replied, "I don't know what you're talking about. Why do you ask?"

He said, "Mom told us that when you croak, we will all be rich."

Take this truth

What do people really think about you? Have you ever thought some people might be relieved when you pass on?

This is a terrible thought, but we should consider it once in a while. How kind are you? How considerate are you of others?

Memorize this Scripture

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to so live that at least a few people will be influenced enough by my life that they will miss me when I die. □

Taking a look at defining the family

In our discussion this week, we are looking at how we define the family.

From the first family God created in Eden's garden, mankind has struggled with the issue of what it means to be family. It's not an easy definition to discover.

God asked Cain where Abel was after Cain had killed his own brother. Cain's response was, "Am I my brother's keeper?" That answer framed a problem for all his descendants. What makes us "family," and how do we relate to those whom we call family? Jesus asked the question in Mark 3:33, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"

Some futurists predict that by the year 2000 the traditional family of father and mother in their first marriage, with biological children, will make up only four percent of our population.

Young people are choosing to put off marriage until after college and starting a career, many of them staying at home while they wait. Others are coming back to their parents' home, bringing their children when their family breaks up in divorce.

The rise of unmarried mothers giving birth to children and choosing to raise their children rather than giving them up for

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

adoption is also changing the landscape of the American family.

Without addressing the moral questions of how these situations come about, let us acknowledge that the answer to the question, "Who is family?" is not as simple as it used to be. I think the late humorist Will Rogers was right when he said, "Things ain't like they used to be, probably never was."

In Jesus' day the religious leaders tried to trip him on the issue of divorce, by asking whether it was lawful. Jesus said that because of the hardness of men's hearts, God instructed Moses to allow it. We decry the predicament of the family, but the church must minister to the family as we find it.

This affects everything from the way we teach Sunday School to the design of church socials. Many children cannot be at church every Sunday because they spend every other weekend

with another parent in another "family."

When calling the children on our Sunday School roll we might consider asking to speak to the mother or father of Johnny Jones rather than Mr. or Mrs. Jones. Johnny Jones may live with the Smiths because of a previous marriage.

Teaching the children to honor their father and mother takes on an entirely different perspective in blended families. I remember when my son Kirk was in first or second grade and came home crying one day.

When we asked what was upsetting him, he informed us that all his friends had stepfathers and he wanted one too. He had no concept of what he was talking about, but the word was freely used in his circle of playmates.

Without oversimplifying too much, I want to encourage each reader (and families) to stretch our definition of family to include all those who live in our immediate circle of relationships, whether biological, step, adopted, half, or whatever. □

Baptist and Reflector readers may contact Dr. Barkley with questions or problems at The Counseling Center, 7385 Stage Rd., Ste. 1, Bartlett, Tenn. 38134.



BARKLEY

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

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Lawrenceburg layman visits relatives in Cuba after 25 years

For Baptist and Reflector

LAWRENCEBURG — "It was a good trip but I almost didn't get to come back," said Jose Fernandez, Brotherhood

director at Meadow View Church here.

Fernandez returned recently from a trip to Cuba to visit relatives he left 25 years ago as he and his family fled the

Fidel Castro regime.

He was detained for two hours before he was allowed to leave the country.

The Lawrenceburg layman said he was glad to see family

members after 25 years although he did not recognize some of them. "But they recognized me," he said, noting "there were some tears shed."

Fernandez described some of the conditions he found in Cuba when he went visiting with cousins Carlos and Edgar, who had saved 100 liters of gasoline before he arrived. "We went searching for some of my relatives who live in Havana. I couldn't find anybody home because they were standing in line to get food."

Sometimes they could get food in four or five hours and sometimes the food ran out so they would stay there until the next shipment came in. "The local grocery stores were always empty," he said.

Fernandez had the opportu-



JOSE FERNANDEZ, with tie, visits relatives in Cuba he has not seen for 25 years.

nity to witness in indirect ways, such as saying the blessing for his food. He even shared the plan of salvation with some of his relatives. His cousin, Edgar, accepted Christ before he left Cuba. "I hope they are all saved when I hear from them again," he said. □

Union offers seminary courses in 10 locations

Union University will offer seminary extension courses in 10 West Tennessee locations beginning in January. Classes meet for 13 weeks. Costs vary in each association. Interested individuals should contact their local association for cost details.

Registration will be held the first night of class at the course location. All classes meet one night per week. Sites, courses, meeting dates, and instructors include:

Memphis — "New Testament Survey, Part 2," Feb. 3, 7-9 p.m., Ardmore Church, Wrex Hauth

Lexington — "Romans," Jan. 4, 7-8:30 p.m., Beech River Association Center, Michael Moore

Tiptonville — "Colossians and Philemon," Feb. 8, 7-8:30 p.m., First Church, Tiptonville, Judd Lambert

Covington — "New Testament Survey, Part 3," Feb. 14, 7-9 p.m., Big Hatchie Association Center, Paul Moore

Dyersburg — "Romans," Feb. 7, 7-9 p.m., BSU Center, Dyersburg State Community College, Charles Halliburton

Trenton — "Romans," Feb. 1, 7-9 p.m., Gibson Association Center, Wayne Perkins

Bolivar — Contact Hardecman County Association at (901) 658-9378 for details.

Adamsville — "Revelation," Feb. 10, 7-9 p.m., Shiloh Association Center

Dresden — "Southern Baptist Heritage," Jan. 18, 7-9:15 p.m., Weakley Association Center, Richard Skidmore

Paris — "Systematic Theology," Feb. 3, 7-9 p.m., Western District Association Center, Bill Holbrook

Courses are open to laypersons as well as ministers regardless of denomination, said John Adams, Union's vice president of religious affairs.

For more information about the seminary extension program, contact Adams at (901) 661-5160. □

Search Committee named ...

— Continued from page 1
Christian principles.

While nominees are not required to have prior missionary experience, the director will maintain a close working relationship with the Home and Foreign Mission boards on

a day to day basis.

Resumes and/or nominations should be mailed to Partnership Missions Search Committee, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. Nominations and resumes will be received through Feb. 15.

The committee encourages Tennessee Baptists to join them in prayer as they seek God's person for the position. □

John Tillery dies

John Tillery, former associational missionary (now director of missions) for Sweetwater Association from 1954-64, died Dec. 7. He was 96.

He served as a pastor for 25 years in Tennessee and North Carolina. Tillery also served as a home missionary in Hawaii and worked with Cuban refugees in Florida.

Tillery was born in the Bluegrass community, about 14 miles from Knoxville.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, a daughter, and a stepson. □

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The Ministry Of The Evangelist One Of God's Gifts To His Church

Perhaps you have received a gift for Christmas that you have stored on the back of your closet shelf to remain unused. The Father who only gives perfect gifts to His children has given to His church the gift of men He has specifically equipped for reviving the church and evangelizing the lost! Come and learn the importance of not allowing these gifts to remain unused as the Fellowship Of Tennessee Evangelists present their annual conference prior to the State Evangelism Conference.

Monday, January 17, 1994
9:45 AM to Noon
Two Rivers Baptist Church
Nashville
(Old Sanctuary)

Messages focused on the call, the character, and the commission of the evangelist will be presented by Skip Youngcourt, New Johnsonville evangelist for four years; Benny Jackson, Memphis evangelist for 20 years; and Tonnie Cash, Johnson City evangelist for 22 years. The program will be directed by Memphis revivalist Rob Finley, current president of the fellowship, and the music will be co-ordinated by McEwen music evangelists Duane and Mary Alice Jeffrey.



A love offering to be shared by all of the state evangelists will be collected at the meeting.

■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Witnesses to Jesus — Bible Book Series for January 9

By Edward North, pastor, First Church, Humboldt

Following four years of increases, Southern Baptist churches have experienced two consecutive years of decreases in baptisms. Soul Winning Commitment Day on Jan. 9 is a needed stimulus to make the "main thing" our main business. The passage before us provides helpful insights into the process of witnessing.

The witness of John the Baptist — vv. 19-34

This section begins and ends with the assertion that it is John's testimony. The theme of his witness is the uniqueness and supremacy of Christ. John is simply the voice; Christ is the Word. John is the forerunner; Christ is the expected One. John baptizes with water; Christ will

baptize with the Holy Spirit. In every way John lifts up Jesus.

Focal Passages John 1:19-49

John bears witness that Jesus is divine (v. 34), that He is Spirit-anointed (the Spirit not only descends, but remains on him, v. 33), and that he is redeemer (v. 29). Jesus' baptism was his identifying event. Prior to that John insists, "I did not know him ..." (vv. 31, 33). As cousins John and Jesus certainly were acquainted. But the baptism event revealed Jesus' true nature to the point that John declared, "I have seen ..." (v. 34).

The messenger must never preempt the message. As the first prophet in Israel in 400 years, John could have developed a cult following. Instead he pointed men to Jesus, the end of all our witnessing. The Baptist put it all in proper perspective when he said, "He must increase, I must decrease." (John 3:30)

The witness of Andrew — vv. 35-42

Two of the disciples of John the Baptist, Andrew and, probably, John, the writer of the Gospel, were directed to Jesus by their mentor. Andrew is an example of people who are saved because they seek after Jesus. Some are compelled to satisfy the hunger of the soul.

Andrew's witness is characterized by the fact that he went to his family, to those nearest and dearest to him. Often this is the most difficult witness of them all, but how critical it is that we reach our own. The text says Andrew first found his own brother Simon ... (v. 41). He brought his brother to Jesus. Jesus accepted Simon as he was and for what he could be. The most amazing thing about salvation is not that we believe in Jesus, but that he believes in us.

The witness of Philip — vv. 43-51

Philip is an example of those who are saved because Jesus seeks them. He is the "Hound of Heaven" pursuing us in love and grace until we respond. Upon his

conversion, Philip bore witness to Nathaniel. When Nathaniel appeared incredulous, perhaps even skeptical, about Jesus, Philip said, "Come and see" (v. 46). Jesus will answer every question, resolve every doubt, and fulfill every expectation if we can only persuade people to give him a try.

Gabriel Marcel said, "The call to be Christian is the call to bear witness." Our witness will be effective when it extols the uniqueness and supremacy of Christ, is directed initially toward those nearest and dearest to us, and demonstrates confidence that Jesus is all we declare him to be. □

□ Jesus heals the sick — Convention Uniform Series for January 9

By Ken Clayton, pastor, Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory

Jesus heals the sick

My mother has related to me an incident that occurred when I was just a few days old. I developed pneumonia. Our family doctor came to our house and did all he could. He told my parents that I might not live through the night. Throughout the night he came to our home to check on my condition. That story produced an image in my mind that physicians were caring and dedicated people.

Luke, whom Paul called "the beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14), had a keen interest in Jesus' healing powers. In our Scripture passage, Luke records an usually long day of healing ministry. The power of God that flowed through Jesus was further proof that he was

the Son of God. Jesus' loving and caring healing of others demonstrates that he is the Great Physician.

Dealing with the demonic — vv. 31-37

In biblical times, people believed in evil spirits and their powers to cause sickness. This belief has often been dismissed in modern times as mental illness. Yet, the increase in satanic activity in recent years shows us the grim reality of the devil and his demons. There are several interesting points to ponder: (1) Even the demons recognized Jesus as the "Holy One of God" (v. 34). Although many folk do not acknowledge Jesus, even Satan's forces know who is really King of Kings! (2) The people were amazed that Jesus

could command the unclean spirits to depart and they had to obey. They had never met anyone with such "power and authority" (v. 36).

Focal Passage Luke 4:31-43

Dealing with disease — vv. 40-43

Leaving the public service in the synagogue Jesus entered Peter's home. Peter's mother-in-law was "in the grip of a major fever." Luke's medical description reveals that she was bedridden ("in the grip") and had a high fever. Again, there are several points of interest: (1) There was a great concern

on the part of Peter and others for his mother-in-law (v. 38). All jokes aside, God gave us mothers-in-law to love. (2) The healing of this disease was instantaneous. Fever usually requires a longer recovery time, leaving the body in a weakened condition. (3) Yet, this woman arose, completely healed and recuperated, so that she could begin to serve them!

Dealing with the desperate — vv. 40-43

The news spread rapidly of the power and authority of Jesus to heal disease and demon possession. "All" the people began to bring all the sick to Jesus, desperate for help and healing (v. 40). Jesus healed with a touch. This procession of healing miracles continued all

night. At daybreak, a weary Jesus went out to be alone to pray. Jesus' privacy was invaded by the crowds (v. 42). Prayer is not an excuse to avoid the battle. Prayer is never a reason to be inactive in the service of Christ. In prayer we receive power to serve.

Jesus could not be constrained to be a local hero, a local healer. His primary focus was to "tell the good news of the Kingdom of God to other towns ..." (v. 43). Do you know the primary focus of the Christian life? The main thing still is to "tell the good news of the Kingdom ... to others ..." □

□ Can I be forgiven? — Life and Work Series for January 9

By Charles Bryan, pastor, Central Church, Alcoa

Has anyone ever said to you, "I forgive you, but I'm not going to forget!" If this statement was made then forgiveness was not really given. Forgiveness means letting go of the pain and hurt and allowing the relationship to be restored. As I think about God and his words concerning forgiveness, I am so thankful that when I call upon him and confess my sin, he is so faithful to forgive and forget my failures and to renew our relationship. When his forgiveness is given, we can trust the words of Psalm 103:12 which states, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." In this week's lesson, we will examine Jesus' gift of forgiveness to someone, his authority to forgive, the range of his forgiveness, and the far-reaching effects of his forgiveness.

In verses 18-20, we meet a man with palsy whose name and hometown are unknown to us. The name and place, however, are not important, but what Je-

sus did is of utmost importance. Jesus forgave the man of his sins and healed his physical problem. While the man's friends had brought him for physical healing, Jesus went beyond this to heal his spiritual as well as his physical problem. Let's note several things in these verses. First, a community of faith is vital to us all. Without the effort, care, concern, and faith of his friends, this man would never have made it to Jesus. Second, when we come to Jesus, we must admit our sin, be willing to change, and allow Jesus to change us. And third, anyone can come to Christ, and no qualifications are necessary except repentance and faith. Sometimes people get all excited over the testimony of someone who has received forgiveness from a life of murder or crime (and we should), but we should be just as excited for the eight or nine year old child who comes to receive the forgiveness of Christ. For you see, both of their needs are exactly the same and can only be

met by the One called Jesus.

In verses 21-25, the Pharisees and scribes are troubled by Jesus' pronouncement of forgiveness of sin. They knew that only God can forgive sins. With Jesus' act, he was claiming to have God's power which was "blasphemy" to the religious leaders. Jesus knew they were thinking this and he challenged them by asking whether forgiveness or healing was more difficult to give. Either way, Jesus' power and authority was of God. Following his healing, the man glorified God along with others who had witnessed the event (v. 26). Forgiveness can come only through Jesus Christ because of his divine nature and his sacrificial death on the cross. Everyone must be careful to remember that we plant the seeds, but only God can forgive and save. We must simply be faithful even as the friends who brought the man to Jesus were.

In Luke 5:29, Jesus leaves "the house of healing" and encounters Levi, a tax collector.

We know him better as Matthew. Levi plans a feast in his home with Jesus as the guest of honor. It was surprising that Jesus, a Jew, would accept an invitation to be among tax collectors and the like. The Jews of that day felt that people should first get their life straightened out and then come to God (and tax collectors certainly had not done this). However, this verse teaches us that a person first comes to Jesus Christ and then Jesus will straighten out his/her life. This verse also reminds us that no one is beyond the scope of his invitation. With Jesus, people are accepted on the basis of their need for God and his love for them, not on what others think of them.

Focal Passages Luke 5:18-25, 29-32

In verses 30-32, we again find the scribes and Pharisees upset over the actions of Jesus and his disciples. Why in the

world were they among publicans and sinners? Jesus' answer was that he was there for the same reason a doctor goes among the sick, they have a need which he can meet. Even the Pharisees would have to agree with this, but they probably didn't. The Pharisees had just as great a need for forgiveness as the publicans and others, but they would not admit it. Jesus wanted everyone to know that they were welcome and were good enough to come to him. Be careful when you begin to think some people are not "good enough" because they do not believe exactly like you believe and do not do exactly like you do. Remember Jesus welcomed everyone who would come and we would do well to do the same in our churches, associations, state and national conventions. Make Jesus Christ the criteria for receiving and accepting, not some man-made thoughts and ideas. □

■ the leaders

■ **First Church, Waverly**, has called **Pete Lumpkins** as pastor effective Jan. 1. He formerly was pastor of First Church, Dover. He also has served as pastor of staff missions at Calvary Church, Slidell, La., and as pastor of Hillsdale Church, Louisville, Ky. The native of Loretto has earned a doctor of ministry degree from Trinity Theological Seminary, Newburgh, Ind.

■ **New Prospect Church, McKenzie**, has called **Joe Williamson** as pastor.

■ **Jeff Clayton** has been called as interim pastor of Friendship Church, Buchanan.

■ **West Union Church, Dresden**, has called **Tony Terrell** as pastor.

■ **Shane Carper** was licensed to preach by Bethlehem Church, Henry.

■ **Jason Burns** has been called as pastor of New Harmony Church, Paris, effective Nov. 28.

■ **Jeff Amonett** has been called for the first time as a pastor. He will serve Moodyville Church, Byrdstown. He was ordained for the ministry by First Church, Byrdstown, where he was a member, Dec. 4. He also is administrator of a nursing home in Byrdstown.

■ **Kenneth St. John** is serving as the new pastor of West Pentress Church, Jamestown. He formerly served First Church, Algood.

■ **Keith Oliver** has been elected interim youth director at Fairview Church, Watauga.

■ **Barbara Brassell**, a member of Lockeland Church, Nashville, has been honored for 31 years of uninterrupted Sunday School attendance. She also is a member of the

church's adult choir.

■ **Jamie John** has been called as pastor of Peabody Church, Memphis.

■ **Hawthorne Church, Dyersburg**, has called **Paul Hogue** as pastor, effective Nov. 19.

■ **Eric L. Taylor** has been called as associate pastor and minister to youth, Elliston Church, Memphis.

■ **Tony Long** has been called as minister of education/administration of Third Church, Murfreesboro, effective Jan. 3. He formerly served First Church, Smyrna. He also has served First Church, Columbia. Third Church also recently called **Martin Gureasko** as pianist and **Kevin Bragg** as organist.

■ **Munford Church, Munford**, has called **Todd Wilson** as pastor, effective Jan. 1.

■ **Thomas Dumser**, pastor, Edgefield Church, Nashville, has been called as pastor of First Church, Lewisburg.

■ **Oak Hill Church, Paris**, ordained **Dwayne Thomas, Richard Owen, and John Paschall** as deacons.

■ **Rucker Church, Murfreesboro**, has called **Leonard Nabors** as pastor.

■ **Rusty Farmer** was ordained as a deacon Nov. 7 by Russwood Church, Springville.

■ the missionaries

■ **Charles and Jan Hol-lowell Collins**, Baptist representatives to Mexico, are on the field and can be reached at



FUAD SHORROSH, left, director of language missions, Hamilton County Association, receives a plaque from Terry Sharp of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department at the Dec. 13 Executive Board meeting of Hamilton County Association to recognize his retirement effective Dec. 31. Shorrosch also received a gift of money from the TBC and Home Mission Board, which supplemented his salary. He will continue to work part-time for the association and will be available to do pulpit supply in churches.

Avenida Caprice #639, 29020 Tuxtla Guiterrez, Edo. de Chiapas, Mexico. He is from Jackson and she is from Tuma and Trenton.

■ **Elizabeth Orman**, missionary to Ivory Coast, is on the field and can be reached at 01 B.P. 3722, Abidjan 01, Cote D'Ivoire. She is a native of Memphis.

■ **Ron and Carla Roy**, missionaries to Uruguay, are in the States and can be reached at 1600 E. 7th, Cookeville, 38501. Both consider Battle Creek, Mich., their hometown.

■ the churches

■ On Nov. 7 **New Hope Church, Ottumwa**, held its first service in its first building. Volunteers built the building during the summer. A \$100,000 grant from Weakley County Association made the work possible. In addition to Tennessee volunteers, Baptists



DISPLAYING COATS DELIVERED to Copper Basin Association by Western District Association are, from left, Margaret Patterson; Al Patterson, director of missions, Copper Basin Association; and Bill Smith, director of missions, Western District Association. The gifts, to be distributed from the Baptist center in the association, included clothing and shoes. They arrived before Christmas.

from Pulaski Association in Arkansas and Henderson, Texas, helped build the 4,000-square-foot sanctuary and educational building. A Baptist bricklaying team will complete the work this spring.

■ **First Church, Hunter**, started an early service Nov. 14.

■ **Calvary Church, Elizabethton**, gave a van to Hale Community Ministries of Watauga Baptist Association.

■ **Fairview Church, Watauga**, fed disadvantaged people on Christmas Day at Hale Community Ministries of Watauga Baptist Association.

■ **Central Church, Chattanooga** will host a seminar on marriage Jan. 9-11.

■ **First Church, Sevierville**, hosted a Christmas Store for needy people in Sevi-

er County. There were 165 volunteers who helped provide gifts, refreshments, clothing, food, and spiritual counsel for 924 people.

■ **First Church, Sharon**, has purchased a bus for its ministries.

■ **First Church, Trimble**, celebrated its 120 year anniversary Nov. 7. Joe Jones spoke during the service.

■ the associations

■ **Indian Creek Association** will hold a World Missions Conference in April.

■ **Dyer Association** will hold a training workshop for youth workers Jan. 8, 9:30 a.m., at Hillcrest Church, Dyersburg.



DEDICATING GATEWAY CHURCH, ATOKA, are, from left, M. B. Howard, moderator, Big Hatchie Association; William F. Northcott, pastor, First Church, Covington, sponsoring church; James Tanner; Martha Tanner; Jack Conner; Gina Conner; Mary Max; Wayne Max; Louise Vandergrift; Alicia Inman; Joe Rinehart, pastor; Charles Walker, mayor of Atoka; Eva Crawford; Palmer Crawford; and Charlie Davidson, chairman, building committee. The dedication was held Nov. 14.



CONGRATULATING JOE RAY, center, of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, who was named outstanding music educator by Baptist music leaders are Wesley Forbis, left, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church music ministries department, and Julian Suggs, director of church music department, Tennessee Baptist Convention. Ray is assistant professor of music and director of instrumental activities at the college and instrumental coordinator for SSB music leadership conferences at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.). He was honored during annual planning meetings of state music directors and associates, seminary church music deans, and SSB personnel. — Photo by Jim Veneman