

Baptist and Reflector

January 12, 1994

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STATEWIDE EDITION

■ **this
week's
news**

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Tennesseans minister near Mexican uprising

By Mary E. Speidel
For Baptist Press

TUXTLA GUTIERREZ, Mexico — Mexico's first armed conflict since the 1970s occurred in one of the country's most responsive areas to the Gospel, according to a Southern Baptist representative there.

Indian rebels retreated into the mountains of Mexico's Chiapas state Jan. 4 after a three-day uprising that killed nearly 100 people. Guerrillas of the self-proclaimed Zapatista National Liberation Army had seized abandoned San Cristobal de las Casas and at least three other towns in the area.

The insurgency started shortly after the North American Free Trade Agreement became official in Mexico on New Year's Day. The rebels protested the agreement, denounced the vast disparity between Chiapas' rich and poor, and alleged human rights abuses against the region's poverty-stricken Indian peasants.

Southern Baptist represen-

tative Charles Collins, a native of Jackson, last visited the area in early December to train Baptists who represent some of Mexico's indigenous people.



C. COLLINS J. COLLINS

"I saw nothing at that time that would indicate any unrest. It was very calm and quiet," Collins said in a telephone interview.

But then, and in an earlier trip to the area, he observed "tremendous excitement about and interest in the Gospel."

He noted "it's probably one of the best-growing areas in the country as far as (spiritual) decisions are concerned ... There's a tremendous response to the Gospel among these people," he said.

That's one reason Collins

and his wife, the former Jan Hollowell, of Yuma, moved to the Chiapas state capital of Tuxtla Gutierrez in September. The couple earlier worked among the Quiche people in Guatemala, which borders Chiapas. Their new assignment is assisting one of the state's two Baptist associations.

Baptists have grown so rapidly in Chiapas during the past four years a second association had to be added, said Larry Gay, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist representatives in Mexico. Both associations already have doubled in the number of churches, he said.

While the Collinses now are the only Southern Baptist workers in the state, at least one couple is being sought to fill another assignment there, Gay said.

Since their arrival, the Collinses have sought the best way to invest themselves in the region. So far they've found a big need for leadership training among indigenous people

who have become Christians.

Collins already has led two training conferences near where the uprising began. At least 10 Baptist mission congregations meet in the area, he said. All have bivocational pastors.

During the next few months Collins plans several trips to the area where the insurgency began. In the meantime, he and his wife will continue to try to apply their skills.

During a recent leave of absence, Collins, a former pastor, completed paramedic training. Mrs. Collins finished a degree in nursing. Collins already has put his training to use as a volunteer for the Mexican Red Cross in Chiapas.

"I'm 51, which means I only have about 14 more years to go here," he said. "That isn't very long as far as investing one's life in an area. I want to use these 14 years to really accomplish something that's important."

"I'm asking the Lord to show me what's really important to him." □

TBC President Newcomb offers goals for 1994

At the invitation of the editor, TBC President Ray Newcomb shares these 1994 goals. Newcomb is pastor of First Church, Millington. — Editor

The Apostle Paul gives us a great goal and challenge for 1994. He said, "I charge thee, therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom: Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine."

We can carry out this goal by following the example given us in Acts by glorifying the Savior, growing the saints, and gathering the sinners.

To glorify the Savior: We sing "To God be the Glory." Do we really mean what we sing and say? It is my prayer that every program, activity, and meeting will glorify the Savior. We need to grow beyond groups, individuals, and personal agendas to a unity in the Spirit of the Lord. Paul taught the Corinthians how to over-

come division, splinter groups, and personal programs (I Corinthians 10:31). This is my major goal, to give God the glory and to serve him. I ask each Tennessee Baptist to do the same.

To grow the saints: God has given us one of the great organizations to grow the saints. Each minister preaching the Word in the church will feed the people on milk and meat of the Word.

The Sunday School is geared to teaching the Word of God. Each person joining our churches should be enrolled in Sunday School. We must set goals to reach new enrollments and attendance in Bible study.

Discipleship Training also is a great tool for developing the saints. New members should be enrolled in classes to grow in their faith, the church, and the Lord. Courses should be offered to help members contin-

ue their growth until the Lord comes.

Our Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood should set goals to grow our members in missions and missions giving. Our people do not need just to study missions. They need to get involved in mission work at home, our state, the nation, and around the world.

We must pray about which country God would have us serve as partners the next few years. My goal is to help more churches get involved in mission work.

To gather the sinners: Jesus' purpose in coming to earth was to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). My goal is to see more people saved in 1994. Jesus calls us to be fishers of men (Matthew 4:19). If we are not fishing, we are not following.

It is a challenging goal to see every church baptizing at least one person every year, and for those who have been baptizing to increase the number by 10 percent.

When we let God's Spirit lead we will witness with bold-

ness like the Apostles in Acts 4:33.

Let's accept the challenges to glorify the Savior, grow the saints, and gather the sinners. And may the Lord receive all the glory! □ — Ray Newcomb

Tennessee Baptists' CP giving increases slightly over last year

Tennessee Baptist churches gave \$2,321,526 toward the Cooperative Program goal during December, according to a report from James Porch, executive director/treasurer.

This is a total increase of \$11,698 over last year at this time, or 3 percent.

The "plus" giving is \$7,615 more than December 1992.

Budget needs for the year thus far amount to \$4,596,756, and actual receipts are \$3,615,974 for the first two months.

Porch expressed his appreciation to the churches for their continued commitment to missions. □



NEWCOMB

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Land lists key issues facing Americans in 1994

By Ferrell Foster
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The primary social issue facing Americans next year is health-care reform and how the various proposals for reform impact "sanctity of life issues," according to Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Land identified four key issues facing Americans in 1994 during a recent interview in Nashville. The other issues cited by Land were race relations, violence and sexuality in media, and religious liberty.

Regarding health-care reform, Land said his personal belief is that "our medical delivery system is in significant need of reform." The difficulty is in identifying the most practical, legitimate approach to

reform, he said.

Land said the Christian Life Commission concentrates on three factors in analyzing various health-reform proposals: how the proposals treat (1) abortion, (2) choice of doctors, and (3) living wills and rationing of health care.

The Clinton administration's proposal would provide coverage for abortions. Land said he is opposed to that proposal as long as it includes abortions. If that obstacle were removed, he said he would consider other issues in the plan.

Regarding choice of doctors, Land is concerned that Americans have real choices, with a specific question involving mental health care. For instance, will a person who needs psychiatric treatment have the freedom to see a "Christian psychiatrist?"

All three factors listed by

Land focus on a broader "philosophy of life."

Another critical issue in 1994 will be race relations, Land said.

"We are seeing literally a worldwide assault on the human race based on old ethnic hatred and racial prejudice," he stated. "We are in very grave danger of the virtual tribalization of the globe."

Bringing people together from varied cultures is difficult, but Land believes "those who have been the oppressors, ... the perpetrators of prejudice, have the majority of the responsibility for reconciliation."

White Americans need to communicate a "desire for a fundamental change in the relationship," he said.

Concerning violence and sexuality in the media, Land said, "The public is fed up.

Television and media violence is a direct contributing cause" to violence in America.

On religious liberty, Land asked, "Can we navigate between the devil of establishment and the deep blue sea of restricting legitimate right to religious expression?"

Government has increasingly intruded on the free exercise of religion, Land said.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act, recently enacted into law, "does not get us out of the woods," he said. "RFRA will be challenged in court," and the Supreme Court can overturn it, Land said.

Dangers to religious liberty include restrictions regarding the practice of religion in public places and zoning restrictions that ban Bible studies in homes or keep church buildings out of an area, the CLC head said. □

SBC Cooperative Program gifts up for month, year-to-date

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Cooperative Program receipts for December were up 14.56 percent over the same month a year ago which also helped the first quarter of the fiscal year to show an increase, according to Morris H. Chap-

man, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

CP gifts for December 1993 totaled \$12,495,334, compared to December 1992 of \$10,906,778, or a 14.56 percent increase. The year-to-date figure, the first quarter of the 1993-94 fiscal year, shows \$34,367,85, compared to the

same period of 1992-93 of \$33,471,798, a 2.68 percent increase.

"This report is extremely encouraging," Chapman said.

"Hopefully, we are re-establishing the upward trend in Cooperative Program giving. God has much work for Southern Baptists to accomplish. If we will be faithful our impact for Christ around the world in the coming years will be incalculable."

Designated gifts for December also were up, \$3,162,701,

compared to last year of \$3,088,574, a 2.4 percent increase. However, year-to-date designated gifts decreased 14.72 percent, from \$7,573,443 in 1992 to \$6,458,758 in 1993.

The December gifts also surpassed the monthly budget requirement for the SBC Program Allocation budget by \$975,773 of the required \$11,519,561. However, for the year to date, total gifts are \$190,798 short (or 99.45 percent) of the budget requirement for the first quarter. □

Study shows 6,001 churches reported no baptisms in 1992

Baptist Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A study of 1992 baptisms in Southern Baptist churches shows 6,001 churches baptized on one, while less than 3 percent of the churches accounted

for nearly 24 percent of the baptisms.

Produced by Steve Whitten, Home Mission Board director of program research, the study was based on Uniform Church Letter data.

Other figures from the report show that half of the churches reporting no baptisms had fewer than 100 members, yet 18 percent of the churches with no baptisms had 200 or more members; most churches reporting no baptisms are rural; churches with no baptisms are typically older than churches with baptisms; and churches baptizing no one were 16.5 percent of all Southern Baptist churches.

Also, 97 percent of churches reporting 100 or more baptisms had at least 500 members; 87 percent had at least 1,000 members. Almost half the churches, 47.2 percent, accounted for 7 percent of the baptisms.

Of the 2,694 churches in Tennessee reporting in 1992, 391 had no baptisms, 915 baptized 2-4; 1,073 baptized 5-19; 259 baptized 20-49; 39 baptized 50-99; and 17 baptized 100 or more. □

Smyth & Helwys shows growth

Baptist Press

MACON, Ga. — Smyth & Helwys Publishing has grown from eight books in print during its inaugural year, 1991, to 38 titles in 1993, according to a news release marking the Baptist "moderate" publishing house's third anniversary.

And, according to publisher Cecil P. Staton Jr., the company this year will construct a \$1 million, 20,000-square-foot facility in Macon, where it has been based since its founding.

The publishing firm grew from one full-time employee to 23 currently.

In early December the company had an income of \$1,680,000 and expenses of \$1,790,000 for a deficit of \$110,000, Staton said. □

Cook taken off Oklahoma committee

Associated Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — A Lawton, Okla., pastor has been bumped from his position on a Baptist state convention strategic planning committee because of public support for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger reported Dec. 16.

The pastor, Gary Cook of First Church, had been selected for the committee — which is charged with developing a strategic plan to guide the work of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma — in part to represent Oklahoma Baptists who feel disenfranchised by the "conservative" resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention, committee chairman Dave Willets told the paper.

However, Willets said he asked Cook to serve not knowing his involvement with the Oklahoma chapter of the CBF.

Cook said he regrets being removed from the committee. He said he has "not come to any firm conclusions" about

long-term involvement with the CBF. "I have simply tried to maintain relationships with people on both sides and thought I had been fairly successful with that."

Cook said his church is a state leader in Cooperative Program giving and last year increased its Lottie Moon offering receipts by 25 percent. □

Willis Bennett dies

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — G. Willis Bennett, retired provost at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, died Jan. 5 of an apparent heart attack.

Bennett, 74, joined the faculty of Southern in 1959 as associate professor of Christian ethics. He was named William Walker Brookes professor of church and community in 1969, a position he held until 1990.

Prior to becoming provost in 1987 Bennett served the seminary in a variety of administrative capacities. □

Students with state ties graduate from SBC seminaries

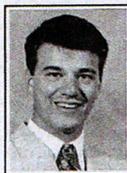
Southern Baptist seminaries held commencement services in December. More than 30 Tennesseans graduated from four of the seminaries — New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS); Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. (SEBTS); Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. (SBTS); and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas (SWBTS).

Photos and information were provided to the *Baptist and Reflector* by each seminary. In some cases, home churches were provided.

Abbreviations of degrees are as follows: master of divinity (M.D.), master of divinity with biblical languages (M.D.B.L.), master of divinity in Christian education (M.D.C.E.), master of arts in Christian education (M.A.C.E.), master of arts in religious education (M.A.R.E.), master of church music (M.C.M.), doctor of divinity (D.D.), doctor of education (D.E.), doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.), doctor of musical arts (D.M.A.), and graduate diploma in theology (G.D.T.).

Photos were not provided for the following graduates:

SBTS: Jay D. Jones, Nashville, M.A.C.E.; James M.



E. B. Pullen Jr.
Manley
Morristown
NOBTS
M.D.



William R. Scott
Locust Grove
Washburn
NOBTS
D.E.



C. D. Rittenhouse
Knoxville
SEBTS
M.D.B.L.



C. G. Sparks
Knoxville
SEBTS
M.D.B.L.



C. L. Brown
First Church
Hermitage
SBTS
M.A.C.E.



Miriam Brown
First Church
Erwin
SBTS
M.A.C.E.



Tracey Gholson
Nashville
SBTS
M.D.



Buddy Harrell
Central (FC)
Knoxville
SBTS
M.D.C.E.



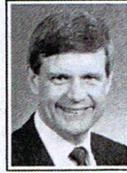
Michael Martin
Wallace Mem.
Knoxville
SBTS
M.D.



C. D. O'Rear
Hope
Nashville
SBTS
M.D.



Steve Saunders
Woodmont
Nashville
SBTS
M.D.



Dale Austin Jr.
Kingsport
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



Timothy Brown
First Church
Winchester
SWBTS
M.D.



M. Brenton Cox
Cleveland
SWBTS
D.M.



Bartley Damons
Calvary
Union City
SWBTS
M.D.B.L.



D.K. Duggan Jr.
First Church
Tellico Plains
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.

Matheny, Union City, D.M.; John W. Campbell, Beth Page, D.M.A.; Connie C. Bull, First Church, Knoxville, M.C.M.; Sharon Lawhon, Springfield, D.M.A.; and Marc Jolley, Cleveland, Ph.D.

SWBTS: Robert Hale, Parkway, Knoxville, M.D.B.L.; Randall Harmon, Central Church, Athens, M.D.B.L.; David Skidmore, Emanuel, Jefferson City, M.A.R.E.; and Everett Zachery Jr., Armona, Alcoa, M.D.B.L.



Kevin Hall
First Church
Memphis
SWBTS
Ph.D.



Michael Helton
Pine Orchard
Oakdale
SWBTS
G.D.T.



J. L. Hodge
Southland
Memphis
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



W. P. McGinnis
Central (B)
Knoxville
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



Nena Powell
Chatanooga
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



L. T. Watkins Jr.
First Church
Fountain City
SWBTS
G.D.T.

Kingsport youth experience hunger; raise money to feed hungry

For *Baptist and Reflector*

KINGSPORT — The youth of West Colonial Hills Church in Kingsport participated in a "hunger alert" in late November.

They needed to experience the feeling of hunger that vast numbers of children, adults, and senior adults experience every day, according to Pastor Paul Sheaffer.

Prior to the weekend "hunger alert," youth from the church collected pledges from church members, friends, and neighbors, explaining they would go without food for 30 hours, said Judith Headrick, a missions action worker with the youth at West Colonial Hills. At the time the church did not have a youth director.

The youth began their fasting after breakfast at 6:30 a.m.

on a Friday, Headrick said.

During lunch at school, they drank juice and explained to their friends they were sacrificing so others might live, she said.

After school, Headrick continued, the youth met at church and wrote down how they felt then and throughout the fasting. After the local high school football game they worked on a float representing world hunger.

The float was part of the Kingsport Christmas Parade. After completing work on the float they went back to church and had Bible studies dealing with hunger, skits, and other activities.

On Saturday the youth conducted a "Food Scavenger Hunt" by visiting members of the church and collecting staple food items.

At 12:30 p.m. on Saturday the youth ended their fasting with a meal of rice, gravy, and bread. Going without food for 30 hours made an impression on the youth, Headrick observed.

During the Christmas parade the youth passed out

fliers explaining the "hunger alert." The fliers asked those viewing the parade to prayerfully consider making a donation to a local charity for world hunger.

Pledges for the fasting totaled \$844.15, Headrick said. The money was sent to Brinkley Heights Church in Memphis to be used for the Mississippi River Ministry. The church distributes food to more than 100 families monthly in that area entrenched with poverty.

Tim Cox, pastor of Brinkley Heights Church, said the money "was a tremendous help to us."

"We have no way to fund our ministry without what God provides. We see this as God's provision from West Colonial Hills," Cox said.

The Memphis pastor said the money will be used for food for families in crisis or emergency situations in inner city Memphis.

In addition to providing money to purchase food, the West Colonial Hills youth indirectly will be involved in spreading the Gospel of Christ.

"We do spiritual counseling with every family we help," Cox explained.

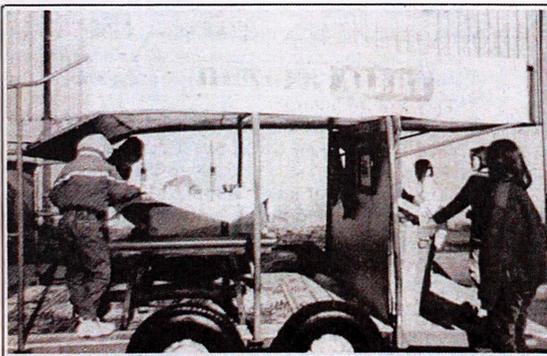
Cox observed that the way the money was raised by the Kingsport youth was special. "It touched all of us in a special way and had a real impact on our church," he said.

The West Colonial Hills youth did not stop at just collecting food for a state missions need in Memphis.

With the use of a Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission world hunger calendar and rice bowls, the youth collected another \$205.51 for the Dorothy Street Mission in Kingsport plus the food they collected during the scavenger hunt.

Headrick observed that though it was a youth project the entire church as a whole supported their efforts.

"The youth and adults of our church became more aware of the hurt that so many people in the United States as well as foreign countries feel daily. We now want to do more and be better prepared to help those who are hungry and hurting," Headrick said. □



YOUTH FROM West Colonial Hills Church, Kingsport, ride a float designed to inform Kingsport residents about the problem of hunger around the world. Fliers were distributed to those viewing the parade, asking them to consider making a donation to the charity of their choice for hunger relief.

■ about letters to the editor

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

A fruitful life

Robbie Giles, former state, association, and church library officer died in November at her home in Murfreesboro. She was the first secretary of the Concord Association TACMO, served as secretary of the state library organization, and started the library at Westgate Church where she was a member.

"Miss Robbie," as she was known by her fellow church members, started working with Calvary Chapel, a mission of First Church, Murfreesboro, at the time, in 1954, and continued her faithful attendance and support on through the time when it became Westgate Church. She served as pianist, organist, printer of the church bulletins, a Sunday School teacher, and kept a historical record of the church.

"Miss Robbie" was a faithful tither to the church. She made her weekly checks at the beginning of each month so the money would be accounted for. During her illness, she continued to send her checks to the church treasurer. The week following her death the church treasurer received her check from her niece for the month of November, according to "Miss Robbie's" instructions. This is dedication.

She was a secretary for the Middle Tennessee Electric Corporation for 34 years.

Edna Rhea Vaughn
Murfreesboro 37130

Gambling issue

A state legislator recently labeled "misleading" the claims that "legislation permitting a vote on a state lottery would open Tennessee to casino gambling." Not true!

The proposed vote supported by the legislator is specifically about removing the constitutional prohibition against all forms of gambling in Tennessee. This means the door is open for legislation on any type of gambling our legislators, not us, choose to support. Our legislators may choose lottery, casinos, or anything in-between.

For sure, the door is open to casinos if we vote to remove the constitutional protection against the gambling cartels.

The Rocky Top Bingo Scandal was about lobbyists, legislators, and bingo fronts doing whatever they chose about gambling. "Bingo" became a numbers racket, and as such was labeled "lottery" by the Tennessee Attorney General.

When the legislature and the lobbyists had control of even the mildest form of gambling — charity bingo — fraudulent activities finally resulted in the imprisonment of a state representative, state bingo regulator, state election commissioner, and the suicide of the secretary of state, who was then under investigation.

I would ask all Christians to consider what you are approving if you support the lottery. Also, consider if it is not moral to raise funds by gambling in the church, why would it be approved outside the stained glass windows?

Don't be misled. Ask your state Senator to vote no, and keep the door closed to gambling corruption.

Alan Buckles
Kingsport 37660

Answer to query

I write in reference to a letter by Bro. Max Pugh questioning the mentioning of a Mid-America luncheon at the TBC. As a Mid-America alumnus I share information that will prayerfully clarify this seminary's role in SBC life. Mid-America strongly encourages the churches who give to it on a regular basis to give to the Cooperative Program. So Mid-America does not use funds which would otherwise go to the Cooperative Program.

In fact every professor who teaches there must be a member of a cooperating Southern Baptist church as well as teach the inerrancy of Scripture. At Christmas time students are encouraged to give to the Lotie Moon Christmas Offering

through their churches and the seminary takes up an offering to send to the FMB for the Lotie Moon offering.

The same procedure is done at Easter for the Annie Armstrong Offering. I was strongly encouraged as a student at Mid-America to cooperate and promote the Cooperative Program in churches where the Lord leads me to serve.

I still hold that conviction as an alumnus. Although Mid-America doesn't receive funds from the CP it certainly supports it and the SBC. I have no quarrels about whether the luncheon is advertised within the TBC, but I pray the Lord will use this letter to clear up questions about Mid-America's support to the Lord's work through the SBC.

Steven Rowland
Dayton 37321

Pleasant surprise

When I saw the fall 1993 schedule of East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, I could hardly believe my eyes. The speech department was offering a class entitled "Religious Communication: Evangelism, Communicating Biblical lessons, and the Critique of anti-Judeo-Christian Messages." I was working on a graduate degree and thought this might fit into my program. I called to inquire about the content.

The course was to be taught from the standpoint of evangelical Christianity. Valerie Schneider, an evangelical Presbyterian and former contributor to *Pulpit Digest*, was the instructor. She said she offered the course because of the urging of students.

She said her department chair said that as long as the course was open to anyone and not restricted to any particular denominational viewpoint, the course would be acceptable. Class members came from a variety of religious backgrounds. The majority were Southern Baptists. Most of the students said the class interested them because they wanted to become better witnesses for Christ on campus. The class was practical and would benefit most ministers.

State universities are often looked upon as citadels of Satan — and many of them are. Dr. Schneider observed there is probably a more religious atmosphere on the ETSU campus than at some church-related colleges.

This is one state university

where some students and faculty try to make a difference in the university and the world for Jesus Christ.

John A. Owston
Kingsport 37663

Can you help us?

The retirement announcement of Robert Wilson, the executive director of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, has necessitated

ed a search for God's man to continue to lead our state work. Suggestions and recommendations for the job would be appreciated. All responses must be in writing and signed by the respondent. These will be prayerfully considered by the Search Committee.

We have a great harvest field to work in Michigan. Some estimates show six million lost people residing here. God has a man who can lead us into the future and into that harvest.

Please direct all correspondence to:

Damon Patterson
chairman
77 Wadsworth St.
Monroe, Mich. 48161

Thanks from Missouri

In this time when we have just acknowledged gratitude for God's gift of his son, it is

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership January -



- 13 — "Praise God for giving missionary Lee Walker the wonderful privilege of telling the Chileans about His plan for their lives and for giving Lee the power and special ability to do it well." (Ephesians 3:7)
- 14 — Retired missionary Neil Hardy celebrates her birthday today.
- 15 — Missionary David Miller requests prayer for the mission being formed in Calbuco and for the summer camps which will be held throughout this month and next in the Austral District.
- 16 — The Esmeralda Mission near Curico in the central valley has a new building which could be used as a real point of testimony and ministry to the people of the surrounding rural area. Three professions of faith were made during the recent building dedication which a large number of people attended.
- 17 — Remain steadfast in praying for the salvation of Manuel Sanchez in Temuco.
- 18 — David Zapata in Coquimbo and Julio Rousseau in Colina who serve as home missionaries for the Chilean Baptist Convention.
- 19 — Pedro de Valdivia Church of Temuco and Pastor Vincente Colli are in need of leaders who will reach out to this old, established community and minister to the people. Attendance is low.

Religious freedom rescued by BJC-led coalition

Many Americans were not aware of the threat to religious liberty that existed from 1990 until last November.

The lack of awareness was caused when religious media failed to report adequately, and because very few people thought the Supreme Court would tamper with the First Amendment.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

We paid more attention to the freedoms that Russians and East Europeans were beginning to enjoy than we did to the disappearance of our own.

But we would be remiss if we did not say thanks to those who did notice and did fight the battles in treacherous territory. Even if it's late, let's make

that acknowledgement.

When most of us were ignoring Supreme Court action of 1990, an old ally, the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee, rallied all who were willing to fight and began slogging in the trenches. Others were holding the high ground.

The BJC, gathering a most improbable combat force, marshalled the strange coalition and marched on the U.S. Congress. Joining with the BJC were the SBC Christian Life Commission, the American Jewish Committee, the U. S. Catholic Conference, the American Civil Liberties Union, and a few others.

Before 1990, government was permitted to interfere with religious practice only

when it had a compelling reason. That year the Supreme Court abandoned a tradition of a high level of protection for religion, saying almost any reason for meddling would do. But early on the BJC said, "No."

The BJC and others stood in the gap for full restoration of First Amendment rights. Congress was persuaded after a long hard struggle to approve the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). The overwhelming vote in the Senate and the House of Representatives recognized what had happened in 1990. President Clinton signed RFRA into law November 16.

Leading the BJC-led coalition, was Oliver S. (Buzz) Thomas, a Tennessee Baptist

attorney who is a native of Maryville. Thomas warned Baptist editors of the danger of the Supreme Court action when he spoke to them in February 1992. After the successful restoration of First Amendment rights, Thomas resigned from several years of outstanding work with the BJC and came back home.

If you see him around, thank him. If you feel grateful, say so. It was a brutal and costly fight, but because of the valor and savvy of the BJC and others, we won.

All Americans who believe in religious liberty won. A truly diverse coalition fought the battle, but we won. God does work in mysterious ways. □

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 16

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is January 16. The psalmist's contemplation of God's special and unique involvement with human conception and development compelled him to exclaim, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14).

What other conclusion could he have drawn as he described God's comprehensive knowledge of, and involvement with, each individual human being? God has revealed that before conception and to natural death, he has planned for and been involved with each human life.

This is an important and encouraging word in a day when human life is increasingly depersonalized and devalued.

God's knowledge of and provision for

each human life begins before conception (Jeremiah 1:5). It is God's intimate involvement with human beings that imparts to human life its sanctity, value, and uniqueness. Each human conceived is a miracle requiring God's involvement.

God tells us through his Word that he has invested each human life with sacred meaning and priceless value. Each is a conceived human being. Every time an unborn human is killed, all human life is devalued a little more. May God give us grace, wisdom, and strength to persevere in defending unborn life. In doing so, we defend all human life. □ — Adapted from a report by Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, SBC

one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Time and eternity

Much has been said and written about turning over a new page for the new year.

That is one way, a good way, to face January. We had the shortest day of the year just before Christmas; now each day is a few minutes longer. Oh, we're not done yet with iceberg weather, but the sun is creeping back from its horizon-skimming, back to its path straight overhead.

We will see more of the sun each day until the middle of June. That is how God does things.

Somehow, most of us feel we have lost

some days in that time of celebration and short days. But we haven't been cheated. God's seasons are faithful — for the farmer and for all the rest of us.

I remember visiting Bethlehem of Judea a few days before Christmas several years ago.

The shepherds' fields were bathed in December's gold. The shadows grew dark and long. Hovering above the hills, the sun crept along and finally dropped out of sight.

We envisioned the ecstasy of shepherds and angels, and the few others who knew what was happening in the stable.

And I recall seeing that same place weeks after Christmas. The fields, the shadows, the lowering sun, the stony fields and hills — were all the same. Only our vision had changed. While we could imagine the December scenes, it was indeed different.

But now, here at home, the same Lord measures eternity as he always has. There is an exciting sameness about his ways. I know he deals with eternal matters, and encourages us not to be bound by time. His "calendar" is a Master Plan for all people and for all existence.

The marvel is that he will always give you and me sufficient time to accomplish anything he gives us to do. He gives us enough time to be what he has designed us to be.

If we are short, we had better look at our calendar again to see how we have mismanaged. More important than length of time, said one writer, is how we spend each day.



ALLEN

just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Shaking hands with 8-year-old Billy, the preacher said, "Do you ever pray for me?"

He answered, "Yes, sir. Every time you start to preach, I say a prayer."

He asked, "What do you say?"

Billy replied, "Now I lay me down to sleep."

Take this truth

Growing and healthy bodies require proper sleep. The problem comes when we sleep at the wrong time. For instance, Rip Van Winkle slept for 20 years. The tragedy was the timing! He slept through a revolution!

Memorize this Scripture

"Awake thou that sleepest ... and Christ will give thee light" (Ephesians 5:14).

Pray this prayer

Lord, open my eyes to the wonderful things you have around me today. Help me to remember none are so blind as those who will not see. □

Defending families from indifference

What is threatening your family?

I know most of us would be vigilant to protect our families

against a thief who was breaking into the home. We would defend against exposure to a dreaded disease that would have fatal results.

There is an insidious unseen force that is more dangerous to our families than the most threatening thief or the most deadly disease. I am thinking of lack of love, a deadly danger.

Some will say that this is too broad a topic to try to deal with in this allotted space. Others might ask for statistics to back up my assertion.

My column this week is in reaction to what I observe on an every day basis in my practice.

The mention of lack of love conjures up visions of family fights and disturbances. Sometimes these pit one member against another in a volatile explosion that is emotionally upsetting at least and physically damaging and deadly at its worst.

But what I have in mind is more subtle, and therefore, I contend, more dangerous and deadly to the family.

The opposite of love is not hate; hence, my contention is that the lack of love is not

families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

demonstrated ultimately by heated arguments and bitter battles within the family. The opposite of love is indifference.

When we are fighting or arguing, we at least treat the other person as a person or recognize her/his existence.

An example of this principle is the "acting out" child. The child doesn't get attention in normal ways so he/she misbehaves to be noticed.

Bad attention (spanking or other punishment) is better to the child than no attention.

In the busy world that we all live in with both parents working, children having to be transported to varied extracurricular activities, church involvement, and varied leisure and recreation quests, the family becomes a casualty in the skirmish of every day living.

We do not intend to come across as uncaring or indifferent. With time in such short supply and so many demanding activities to attend to, our fami-

lies sometimes are left out. They may feel that they are not important in our lives as the oth-

er "stuff."

If I could go back to my metaphors of thieves and disease, I want to suggest a strategy for defending our families from the threat of indifference.

Families who know that they are genetically at risk for certain diseases have regular checkups for early detection and treatment.

I suggest that most of us are genetically at risk of being indifferent to the ones who are most important to us. So we need to regularly check up on the involvement level that we have with them.

Many homes today are protected by elaborate and expensive security systems to protect against the thieves of our day.

I encourage every one of us to consider the installation of some type of emotional alarm system that will alert us to the invasion by the thief of indifference. □

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

Memphis church hosts 150 for Christmas at dinner theater

MEMPHIS — Audubon Park Church, Memphis, hosted guests from a housing project, two public elementary schools, and a children's home for a free presentation of the church's fourth annual Christmas Dinner Theater.

It was a "gift to the community," said Bill Sorrell, associ-

ate minister for youth and recreation.

The church invited children from Georgia Avenue Elementary School and Oakshire Elementary School. Students who had few opportunities to attend such an event were selected from each school by the ad-

ministration, explained Sorrell.

In addition, residents of Barry Homes, a government-sponsored center, and residents of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes — Memphis Campus, also attended.

Rick Marshall, minister of

music, coordinates the annual musical presentation. □



AUDUBON PARK CHURCH MEMBER Vicki Stewart, right, helps Vander Henderson, a guest of the church for its Christmas Dinner Theater.

CLASSIFIED

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(Mt. Juliet is just east of Nashville on I-40.) If you would like to be a hostess or serve on the steering committee in your area, contact us. For hotel or travel plans, call Villa Travel Agency at (615) 754-2727.

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Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

RESOLUTION

A new year is upon us, traditionally, a time for making resolutions and setting goals.

At the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, we've renewed our resolve to minister to the needs of children, to gather up our strength and plant the seeds of hope and change that will blossom in the years to come.

Dr. Gerald L. Stow,
President/Treasurer

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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Valuing human life — Bible Book Series for January 16

By Edward North, pastor, First Church, Humboldt

In a recent conversation, a woman insisted that women ought to have the right to choose abortion. When I asked her to support her opinion with Scripture, she replied she could not. Abortion has become the most graphic symbol of the loss of moral and spiritual values in American culture, and is symptomatic of how lightly human life is regarded in every context. At the root of the problem is an abandoned Bible.



NORTH

Human life comes from God
— Genesis 1:27

Human life is sacred because it is the handiwork of God and

bears his spiritual image. Such a concept places far greater value on life than the impersonal, accidental theory posited by evolutionists. The fact that evolution has achieved prominence in our culture explains, in large measure, the devaluing of human life. The life God creates begins at conception.

One of the two most common words used for infant in the Greek New Testament is translated "a breathing, nursing infant." It is significant that the one Gospel writer who was a physician, Luke, uses this word of John the Baptist when he was still in his mother's womb- unborn (Luke 1:41,44). The fetus both breathes and nurses through the umbilical cord. It is a human life, created by God!

Christians have a societal responsibility

— Matthew 5:13-16

As the "salt of the earth" and "the light of the world," Christians are to exert a redeeming influence upon society. Evil rules when good people are silent. When we see abortion, violence, homelessness, hunger, and prejudice stripping away the dignity and sanctity of human life we must act. We must bring to bear political, moral, and spiritual influence upon our culture. We must offer positive alternatives rather than simply cursing the darkness. Alternative homes for unwed mothers supported by Tennessee Baptists through our Children's Homes is a worthy example.

Christians are to properly value human life

— vv. 21-22, 27-28, 43-45a

Jesus insists that Christians

Focal Passages

Genesis 1:27;
Matthew 5:13-16,
21-22, 27-28, 43-45a

are to show the way by having the proper regard for all human life. Not only are Christians not to kill (the word refers to murder rather than to acts of war or capital punishment), but we are not to treat another disparagingly. Respect for the rights and value of personhood would go a long way toward eliminating the drive-by shootings and senseless murders which plague our culture. It would also help to end the most common murder of our day — abortion on demand.

Our Lord's teachings on adultery underscore the sacred-

ness and inviolability of relationships. To engage in adultery is, first of all, to demean the object of one's sexual pursuit. It is to fail to properly value that person. In the second place, it is an offense against marriage and family, both of which have been blessed of God.

Finally, Jesus challenges us to love and value all persons, even our enemies. The word love is "agape," God's kind of love. To love in this way means we sincerely want what's best for people even though we don't like them. Wow! We are called upon to love the abortionist, the woman who aborted her baby, the murderer, the pornographer, etc. These, too, were created in God's image. Jesus died for them, and they need his redemptive love. □

□ Jesus teaches his followers — Convention Uniform Series for January 16

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

Arturo Toscanini, a world renowned musical conductor, directed the National Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra from 1937 to 1953. Toscanini once said: "I burn or I freeze, but I cannot be lukewarm." Luke-warm? How can believers be lukewarm and silent when faced with a world estranged from God, running headlong into greed, corruption, and immorality?



CLAYTON

Four beatitudes
— vv. 20-23

Matthew, with his emphasis on the teaching of Jesus and

seeking to appeal mainly to a Jewish audience, presented a much more detailed account of the "Sermon on the Mount" than did Luke. The "blessing" of verses 20-23 are contrasted with the woes of verses 24-26. This should help us come to an understanding of the Lord's perspective on wealth and poverty.

The word "blessed" is an exclamation — "O the happiness of the poor..." The blessing comes from the Lord and involves a deep sense of inward peace and joy in knowing that we are in the Lord's will for our lives.

1. The **poor** (v. 20). Out of Old Testament usage, the word "poor" had come to mean those common people of the land who had remained faithful to the

Focal Passage
Luke 6:20-36

Lord. Because of their faith, they had not gotten caught up in greed for wealth. Jesus' true disciples are those who are willing to forsake all, take up their cross, and follow Jesus. Their reward is the fullness of heaven.

2. The **hungry** (v. 21a). The powerful claims of Jesus on people's lives would not appeal to the many "window-shopping church seekers." It is when we have a deep spiritual hunger for Jesus that we are filled.

3. The **sad** (v. 21b). Those that are broken-hearted over their own sin, and weep for the sins of their people, and of the

world will one day rejoice. Jesus wept over Jerusalem. Have you wept for your sin and the sins of your nation?

4. The **persecuted** (vv. 22-23). The value system of the world is often impressed upon the casual church member. Anyone sincerely seeking to serve the Lord should expect criticism and rejection from those inside as well as outside the church. Jesus' promise to the faithful is a "great reward in heaven."

Four woes
— vv. 24-26

1. The **rich** (v. 24). The rich who have chosen wealth instead of Jesus have their reward.

2. The **satiated** (v. 25a). In a world of need, some have chosen to think only of their own needs.

Full now — empty later.

3. The **carefree** (v. 25b). These are those who have the "party" mentality, whose only concern is their own pleasure. Laughing now — crying later.

4. The **popular** (v. 26). These are those whose only goal is to please others. Are we pleasing men or are we pleasing to God?

Love's way
— vv. 27-36

Did Jesus really mean what he said? Is this impossible? Love my enemies!

Jesus challenged his listeners to respond to human need, to respond to others with love, to respond to others with mercy. Basically, Jesus would challenge us to respond to other people like he does (v. 36)! □

□ Valuing human life — Life and Work Series for January 16

By Charles Bryan, pastor, Central Church, Alcoa

In our land today, we have laws against murder and yet murders continue to escalate throughout America. In the United States, we continue to pass more and more legislation against assault and violence, and yet the violence on our streets becomes worse with each passing day. There are defined punishments on the books for those who commit sexual and/or physical abuse on a child, and yet we read every day of countless cases of child abuse in neighborhoods from the most exclusive to the ghetto. We continue to hear of the ongoing controversy concerning euthanasia or assisted suicide and about the struggles lawmakers are having with this issue.



BRYAN

There is also the ongoing is-

ssue of abortion with which our nation and our legal system continue to struggle and battle. Presently, the law of the land says that abortion is legal. Is this right or wrong? Each of us have our personal convictions concerning this sanctity of life issue as well as the other life issues I mentioned in the previous paragraph. I wonder, however, if the Roe v. Wade case was overturned tomorrow, would there be a change in the number of abortions performed or would women continue to find doctors to do the abortions?

My thinking is that we cannot legislate the value of human beings. No matter what the law says, people are still going to do what they want. The increase in violence, abuse, suicide, and murder shows that the law is not what will bring back the value of human life.

Instead of laws being changed, I believe that attitudes must be changed. Until we are

able to help people see the value of each and every human life, we will continue to see the senseless violence and deaths taking place across our nation and throughout the world.

Does this mean I think we should forsake our legal system? No, I think it is important and, for the most part, very good. There are areas of law that we as Christians, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and through our personal convictions, should strive to change. However, we must always remember as we strive for change that the ways and means of doing something are just as important as the end result. After all, people are watching us and, therefore, what we do "in the name of God" must be godly and righteous. We are to be the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world."

Do I think that people's attitudes can be changed overnight? Of course not! Just as it took us

a long time to reach this point where life has such little value and meaning, it will take us quite sometime to restore to people attitudes that value human life and see it as sacred. It must begin with us Christians. We must show others that we value human life. We must show forth the attitude that every human being, rich or poor, black or white, tall or short, American or otherwise has been created in the image of God.

If we will mirror this attitude before our children, before our youth, before other adults, slowly but surely the value and sanctity of human life will rise back to the high status it deserves. It will not come through laws, but through our living out the laws of God in our lives.

Let me close on a personal note. My daughter, Jenna, celebrated her first birthday last month. Before my wife, Trish, became pregnant with Jenna, we had decided that we would not

Focal Passages
Genesis 1:27;
Matthew 5:13-16,
21-22, 27-28, 43-45a

have anymore children since we were both in our mid-30s and our boys (now 7 and 5) were big enough for more family activities (without the diapers!). After finding out of her pregnancy, the doctor ordered an ultrasound due to our age. The person conducting the ultrasound told us there was the possibility of Downs Syndrome. However, ending the pregnancy never entered our minds even though it was unexpected and held the possibility of some severe problems. Why? Because our attitude was one that cares for the sacredness of life. And we now have the prettiest, sweetest, normal little girl that a person could ever want. Life is sacred and of great value. □

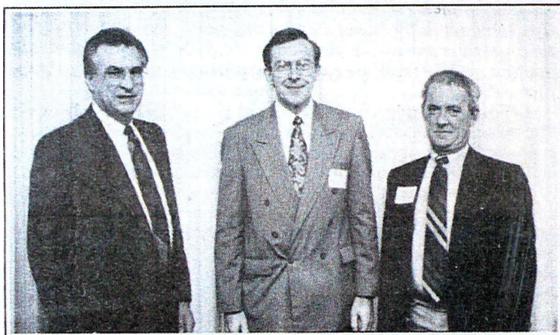
■ the leaders

■ **First Church, Joelton**, ordained **Dan Milliken** to the ministry Jan. 2. The church also ordained **Gary Adams, Nelson Gardner, Chuck Hanes, Michael Sarrett**, and **Chip Sullivan** as deacons.

■ **Pleasant Hill Church, Lenoir City**, called **Glenn Gregg** as interim pastor effective Jan. 2.

■ **Calvary Church, LaFollette**, honored the following members for reading through the Bible during last year — **Troy Christopher, Rose Brock, Ed Powers, Wanda Paul, Lewis Paul, P. J. Prim, W. H. Longmire**, and **Jean Longmire**.

■ **Mark McSwain** is the new pastor of **Maple Springs Church**, near **Medon**. He was formerly bivocational pastor of **Mansfield Church**, near **Paris**.



NEW OFFICERS OF TENNESSEE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES Board of Trustees are **Roy Fisher**, center, pastor, **First Church, Doneison**, chairman, and **Ronnie Batchelor**, right, member, **First Church, Greenfield**, secretary. They stand with **Gerald Stow**, **TBCH** president/treasurer. Another officer, **Jack Roddy**, pastor, **Siam Church, Elizabethton**, vice chairman, is not pictured.

This is his first full-time pastorate.

■ **Munford Church, Munford**, welcomed **Todd Wilson**, pastor of **Calvary Church, Brownsville**, as pastor, effective Jan. 2. **Truman Spurgin** was interim pastor there.

■ the churches

■ **Michael (Mickey) Nardin** of **Detroit, Mich.**, will lead the **January Bible Study on Hosea at Bread of Life Mission in Lyles** Jan. 23-26. **Nardin** is pastor, **Fairview Church, Detroit**.

■ The annual **Harvest Day Revival** will be held Jan. 16 by **Hillcrest Church, Lebanon**. **Benny Jackson**, a Memphis-based evangelist, will lead the church's three services that day.

■ **Lincoya Hills Church, Nashville**, will host a tax sem-

inar free to the public. The course will be two or three sessions lasting 45 minutes. No solicitations will be offered. First session is Jan. 16 at 5:55 p.m.

■ Training for workers with internationals will be offered by **Brook Hollow Church, Nashville**. Two 16-hour courses, **Conversational English and Adult Reading and Writing (Laubach Method)**, not just for internationals, will be taught Jan. 20, 22, 27, and 29. For further information, call **Dorothy Jackson, 646-1180**, **Katherine Bean, 352-6562**, or the church, 352-2195.

■ the schools

■ **Preachers School**, hosted by **Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour**, will begin Jan. 15. The school offers four eight-week sessions of classes per school year on Saturdays. The third session will include **Gospel of John, Galatians, and Colossians**. Expenses are minimal. For more information call 573-8321.

■ **Union University, Jackson**, will host its 1994 **Ministry Leadership Conference** Feb. 11-12. Topics to be covered include worship, women in ministry, recreation, getting started in ministry, rights and responsibilities of a Christian leader, counseling, trends in church staffing, conflict management and motivation, summer youth ministry, youth in crisis, and building a mission-minded church. For more information, contact the school at (901) 668-1818.



MUSICIANS OF BARTLEBAUGH CHURCH, Chattanooga, **Pat McCorkle**, left, pianist, and **Kay Stanfill**, right, organist, receive Christmas gifts from **Bill Delaney**, pastor. They have served the church a total of 35 years.

■ the hospitals

■ **Baptist Hospital, Nashville**, which runs the busiest hospital emergency room in

Middle Tennessee, plans to more than double the size of the facility. The number of emergency room patients grew 16 percent between 1989 and 1993.



OFFICERS OF HARDEAMAN COUNTY ASSOCIATION are, from left, **Mark Mangrum**, moderator; **Billy Sanders**, associate moderator; **Carolyn Grantham**, clerk; **Mary Louise Craft**, treasurer-secretary; and **Deryl G. Watson**, director of missions. They were elected at the association's fall meeting.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Meeting of the tools

Gene Wood, pastor **Stone Creek Church, Knoxville**

The **Carpenter's tools** held a meeting. **Bro. Hammer** provided power to nail. Several suggested he leave because he was too noisy. He said, "If I leave, **Bro. Screw** must go also. You have to turn him around again and again to get him to accomplish anything."

Bro. Screw said, "OK, I'll leave, but **Bro. Plane** also must leave. All his work is on the surface. His efforts have no depth."

Bro. Plane responded by saying, "Bro. **Rule** will also have to leave for he's always measuring folks as if he's the only one that is right."

Bro. Rule said, "OK, but **Bro. Sandpaper** must also leave. He's always rubbing people the wrong way."

In the midst of their discussion, I walked the **Carpenter of Nazareth**. Putting on his apron, he used the hammer, screw, plane, rule and sandpaper in making a pulpit from which to proclaim the Gospel.

This story illustrates some tremendous truths about how the church is to function:

1. Each member is needed to accomplish the work of the church.

2. Each member has their part to play that no one else can play.

3. The church will not accomplish the task of the Lord Jesus unless it submits to his using them as he wants.

4. Jesus determines when and how each member is to be used.

5. The church exists to accomplish Jesus' work not its own.

Picture a church yielded to

Jesus in this way. Think what it would accomplish for Jesus' glory and honor. Why not here? Why not you? □

Teamwork pays off

Pierce McIntyre, pastor **Brook Hollow, Nashville**

We live in a day when most of us have more to say grace over than we can adequately handle ourselves. Individually and collectively as a church family we must be willing to do our part to work together in sharing the load. I read an article recently about a horse-pulling contest at a county fair in which the first-place horse moved a sled weighing 4,500 pounds. The runner-up pulled 4,000 pounds. The owners of the two horses wondered how much the animals could pull if they worked together, so they hitched them up and loaded the sled. To everyone's sur-

prise the horses were able to pull 12,000 pounds. Sometimes in the Lord's work we try to pull the weight of a job all by ourselves. However, when we work as a team we work with greater efficiency and can accomplish so much more.

Let's keep on working, working together as a team. □

The Master's approval

David Reeves, pastor **Harmony Church, Whiteville**

Rudolph was a young musician in Vienna with a burning desire to write a symphony. Finally the time came when he was able to do so. After writing and rewriting it many times, he showed the score to some friends and asked for their opinion. Without exception they agreed it was an excellent work. But **Rudolph** continued to labor over it, polishing and perfecting what he hoped

would be a masterpiece. At last, he was ready to present it to the public.

The orchestra performed his symphony beautifully. After the last movement ended, there was a brief pause. Then the audience broke out in thunderous applause. **Rudolph**, however, seemed unmoved until an old white-haired man approached him.

Placing his hands on the young man's shoulders, he exclaimed, "Well done, **Rudolph!** Well done!" Only then did the young musician smile with satisfaction. He had received approval from the one he wanted most to please — his respected mentor.

That's how we should view our work — as service for our Master. Recognition from people is encouraging. But it's the Master's approval that really counts! □