

Baptist and Reflector

February 2, 1994

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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week's
news**

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MOVING? Cut out and mail address label and new address to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024

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Set for April 21-22, Hendersonville

Will there be a 1994 State Evangelism Conference? Yes!

Yes, there will be a State Evangelism Conference this year, and it's not likely to be blasted by ice and snow.

Jerry King, Tennessee Baptist Convention Evangelism Department director, says the conference has been rescheduled for April 21-22 at First Church, Hendersonville.

Inclement weather, featuring sub-freezing temperature and icy conditions, forced cancellation of the regularly scheduled conference last month. Only about 30 were present.

King says he is trying to enlist the original faculty for the Hendersonville meeting. Thus



COX



HOBBS



MADDEN



PASCHALL



SCOTT



STANTON

far he has assurances from Herschel Hobbs, Manuel Scott, Tom Madden, Jack Stanton, and Franklin Paschall. "Our people can be sure we will have the best possible lineup, but some of the original staff may not be able to be with us," King says.

Bill Cox, a former staff member with the Baptist Sun-

day School Board and resident of Donelson, will lead music.

King also said the Thursday-Friday sessions should prove helpful to many lay persons, and that he is trying to enlist a lay speaker for Friday night.

The new date may have conflicts, but King said it was the best possible time available.

Two Rivers Church, site for the January meeting, was not available on the open dates on the TBC calendar.

The Hendersonville church can well accommodate attendance and parking, said King. "We appreciate both churches for their cooperation."

More details will be reported later. □

FMB releases healthy report card for 1993

By Don Martin
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's 1993 overseas report card is out — recording new highs in churches, church membership, and baptisms.

Totals for newly constituted churches, mission and preaching points, and membership in Bible teaching ministries also hit record levels in 1993, according to annual statistics compiled by the office of Jim Slack, the board's church growth consultant.

The year's healthy report card — reflecting work of missionaries, their overseas Baptist partners, and more than 11,000 Southern Baptist volunteers — is a welcomed beginning for the FMB's new president.

"I believe we're seeing a spiritual momentum that can't be deterred," said Jerry Rankin, who was elected president last June after 23 years as a missionary and field administrator.

"Over the years we've dealt with gains and losses, peaks and ebbs, but we've moved into a new era of steady increases," he said. "This spiritual momentum means God is moving. My concern is that we be part of that. This goes back to what I've said before, that God will achieve his goals in the world. Our task is to join him and be part of his plan."

Churches: Churches that Southern Baptist missionaries relate to have nearly doubled in six years, increasing from 17,769 in 1987 to 35,188 in 1993. In the last year alone, the number grew by 2,391, a 7.29 percent increase.

"We're seeing a growth rate in which the number of churches is doubling in six years, and we can begin to envision the world literally being evangelized through the multiplying rate of the network of churches," Rankin said.

Church membership: It climbed from 3,450,888 to 3,735,949, an 8.26 percent increase. "It shows that we have a methodology in church planting that works," Slack said. "It's providing solid growth in membership."

Baptisms: The 262,758 baptisms by overseas Baptists, missionaries, and volunteers was a record for the third straight year. Baptisms increased by 4.31 percent, climbing from 251,901 in 1992. That signals the board has broken out of its cycle of

radical ups and downs in baptism growth rates.

"A number of things cause this," Slack said. "One year overseas crusades will result in a large number of professions of faith, followed by a wave of baptisms. Then they move into discipling (the new Christians). These cycles, with huge variances in numbers of baptisms, hit because we can't maintain crusade levels every year. But now we see signs that we've moved into patterns based more on strong church growth rather than crusades."

Newly constituted churches: The emphasis on church growth helped set the record for the number of congrega-

tions constituted into churches, from 1,606 to 2,019.

Mission and preaching points: Missionaries, overseas Baptists, and volunteers also helped mission and preaching points increase from 23,889 in 1992 to 25,327 in 1993. This is a 6 percent growth rate for preaching points, which are the Gospel outposts that one day may mature into churches.

Currently, preaching points take 11.8 years on a world average to mature into churches.

Bible teaching ministries: 1993's record total of 2,230,282 people enrolled in Bible classes now falls under a new title of "Bible Teaching Ministries." — See FMB, page 2

LEADING THE WAY

Bumper years in church growth

The number of overseas churches relating to Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries has doubled since 1987.



Source: FMB Church Growth Office

(BP) GRAPHIC By Marty Croll

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Baptist leaders approve Disney SBC specials

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — A number of arrangements have been announced for the 1994 session of the Southern Baptist Convention June 14-16 in Orlando, according to SBC officials, including a special package with the popular Disney World.

The annual meeting is at the Orange County Convention Center. Rooms, especially close to the convention center, are going fast, but there are still plenty of rooms in the area, according to Jack Wilkerson, vice president for business and finance for the SBC Executive Committee and the Orlando convention manager.

However, Wilkerson warned, a World Cup Soccer game, scheduled for the weekend after the SBC meeting, is already sold out. He urged people planning vacations at the SBC to do so prior to the June 14-16 meeting.

A "minimal" shuttle service is planned, costing \$1 per person per ride, basically along the main International Boulevard where many of the hotels are located. Although the convention center is expanding and under construction, there still will be parking available in close proximity, about one-quarter mile, with about 5,000 spaces. Parking ranges from \$3-4 per day.

Although no attendance forecast has been made for Orlando, its popularity as a family recreation area has led SBC officials to work out an agreement with Disney World for a special package for Southern Baptists.

SBC officials urged convention-goers and families who plan to enjoy Walt Disney World to arrive early. Special — offered only to SBC attendees — two- and three-day passes for all three Disney parks are available. The spe-

cial tickets will not be available at the gate or to the general public. They are good for admission to the Magic Kingdom, EPCOT Center, and/or Disney-MGM Studios.

Ticket order forms are available by writing the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce Street, Suite 750, Nashville, Tenn., 37203 or calling (615) 244-2355 to ask for the order form.

The special SBC packages for the Orlando meeting are available from June 1-21, but exclude June 14-15, the first two days of the SBC annual meeting.

Earlier SBC officials had sent a letter of protest to the Walt Disney Corporation over a company subsidiary's advertising on "NYPD Blue," a controversial ABC television program.

Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president, said the SBC had ex-

pressed its concern over the matter to Disney officials but also understood that many Southern Baptists will be going to Orlando for vacations and will want to visit the popular attractions in the area. □

SBC childcare registration opens

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Registration for on-site childcare for preschool children of out-of-town messengers to the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-16, is now being accepted.

For registration material, write to SBC Preschool Child Care, Shirley Dusek, 4585 Saint Brides Court, Orlando, Fla. 32812.

Childcare registration will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis. □

Foreign Mission Board releases healthy report card ...

— Continued from page 1

not Sunday School. The name change more accurately reflects the various forms of Bible teaching in the world of missions. But the bulk of it still comes from traditional Bible teaching in Sunday School, Slack said.

Overseas mission force: As overseas figures grew, so did the number of people serving in the largest mission force in the board's 148-year history. The mission force closed out 1993 with 3,954 missionaries, up from 1992 when the total stood at 3,893. The board also appointed a record 495 personnel — 223 career and associate missionaries and 272 two-year personnel.

That's a 22.5 percent increase over 1992 when the board appointed 404.

World A advances: Another high point in this year's summary comes from "World A," that part of the world with little or no access to the Gospel, often because of religious or governmental restrictions. In

1993, the board sought to reach 85 of the world's 212 least evangelized people groups which will number one million or more people by the year 2000. People groups share the same heritage, culture, belief system, and language.

Also in 1993, mission workers in World A helped establish 37 churches and baptized 746 people. They also began 237 preaching points and now work with 131 churches with a

total membership of 54,553.

"I doubt anybody would have said four years ago that you would get 37 new churches in a given year in these areas," Slack said. "I thought it was going to take a lot longer than this. When you consider the restrictions these people face and all the handicaps they work under, it's beyond expectations."

World A's solid showing is joined by the other regions of

the world, Rankin added.

"In the past, most of our growth was represented by a handful of our largest missions and our most responsive areas," Rankin said. What's reflected here is that the growth is global. Every region and area reflects increases in baptisms and churches.

"We're seeing God moving, not in just a few isolated places, but around the world," he concluded. □

Church, state needs to integrate to resolve health care problem, surgeon general says

By Sarah Zimmerman
For Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Integration, not separation, of church and state is needed to resolve America's health care problems, the U.S. surgeon general told 150 religious leaders.

"You've got power, prestige, and positions of influence. We've got scientific knowledge

and no power. We need your leadership to get things done," Joycelyn Elders said during an interfaith meeting in Atlanta.

The Jan. 23-25 meeting was sponsored by the Interfaith Health Program of the Carter Center, an Atlanta-based public policy institute led by former President Jimmy Carter.

Elders said her brother, a United Methodist minister, made her aware of an informal network of ministers when she tried to start school-based health clinics in Arkansas.

She credited the ministers' support, in part, for changes in the Arkansas health system, including a reduction in teen pregnancies.

Churches can be involved in preventive medicine by becoming partners with public health agencies, she said.

Fred Loper, physician and Southern Baptist home missionary, affirmed the need for churches to cooperate with

other groups to provide health care.

Most churches do not have the professional staff or the financial resources to independently address health needs, noted Loper.

During another session, participants discussed potential conflicts in church and health department partnerships. Two examples were church support of sexual abstinence outside marriage and criticism of drug abuse while some health departments distribute condoms and promote needle exchanges to lessen transmission of the virus that causes AIDS.

Congregations should wrestle with the issue to develop their response, said Dwight Jackson, a St. Louis Baptist pastor.

If churches do not address health concerns, "solutions will be based on economic rather than moral principles," he said. □

TBC's Sunday School Department seeks suggestions for openings

Recommendations and/or resumes are being accepted for two positions in the Tennessee Baptist Convention Sunday School Department.

The positions are program associate, director of youth, college, and single work, and program associate, director of preschool work.

Persons interested in either position should have a combi-

nation of education and/or experience in these specific areas.

Details as to job description may be obtained by contacting Greer Ruble, TBC Sunday School Department director.

Recommendations and/or resumes should be sent to the Executive Office, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024-0728. □

New postal rules threaten church bulletins, newsletters

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Religious Press Association coalition has launched a protest campaign over changes and proposed changes in rates for second- and third-class mail.

Prior to changes enacted in late December, nonprofit publications with less than 10 percent advertising were mailed at second-class nonprofit rates, explained Bob Terry, editor of the Missouri Baptist Convention's *Word & Way* newsjournal and postal representative for the coalition.

Nonprofit organizations — including most state Baptist newsjournals — paid for-profit rates only on the amount of advertising that exceeded 10 percent, Terry continued.

Under the new regulations, he noted, second-class mailers pay for-profit rates for the entire portion of the publication that contains advertising.

The greatest danger, Terry said, is in third-class proposals, which would affect most newsletters published by 20,000 or more local Southern Baptist churches.

The proposals require nonprofits to use the third-class for-profit rate, not the third-class nonprofit rate, for publications that contain any advertising not substantially related to the purpose of the organization. Ads need not be paid under the U.S.P.S. definition.

The differences could cost nonprofit mailers using third-class mail an additional 40 percent, Terry said, urging nonprofit mailers to protest the changes before Feb. 9 to Manager, Mailing Standards; Marketing Systems, U.S.P.S.; 475 L'Enfant Plaza West SW; Washington, DC 20260-2419.

Three AIDS conferences slated in Tennessee during February

Three AIDS conferences, sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Discipleship Training Department, will be held in February.

The theme of the conference is "AIDS: Crisis for Church and Families."

Dates and locations are as follows:

Feb. 10 — Judson Church, Nashville

Feb. 17 — Shelby County Association, Camp Cordova, Cordova

Feb. 18 — Beulah Baptist Mission Center, Union City.

Feb. 9 is the last day for public comment on the proposed third-class regulations.

The Religious Press Association coalition includes the Southern Baptist Press Association, Evangelical Press Association, Catholic Press Association, and Associated Church Press.

Concerning the third-class regulations, Terry further explained, for example, if in a weekly church bulletin a pastor encouraged attendance at an upcoming annual meeting or asked youth choir members to buy T-shirts for their upcoming missions trip, the bulletin could not be mailed third-class at the nonprofit rate, but only for the for-profit rate, Terry said.

The U.S. Postal Service has adopted a "substantially related" test, Terry explained, under which nonprofits can be charged higher postal rates for any materials whose purposes do not match those for which the organization was founded and granted a nonprofit mailing permit.

Terry stated, "For the postal service, the decision means more paperwork and more checking of each third-class mailing submitted by nonprofits since the guidelines propose that each mailing be accompanied by a letter verifying that all advertising in a mailing is substantially related to the purpose of the organization. Does the postal service really need more papers to check, more filing to do? Does the postal service have the excess work capacity in its present work force to absorb these extra tasks? Present compliance with delivery standards indicates the answer to both questions is 'no.'" □

Registration at all three sites begins at 12:30, with sessions lasting 1-5 p.m. Topics to be discussed are "The Realities of AIDS from a Medical Perspective," "Pastoral Care to Persons with AIDS and their Families," and "How Churches Can Respond to AIDS."

Neil Knierim, church growth consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board, will speak at all conferences. Other speakers will vary at each site.

For more information, call the Discipleship Training Department at (615) 371-2053. □

Senate could debate lottery any time

The "lottery" question has not come to the Senate floor this term. But Tennessee Baptists should be aware that it can be put on the calendar for debate and vote at any time.

The Tennessee House of Representatives debated the issue last year and approved it 74-22. That body voted that the state Constitution be amended to allow a state lottery. If the Senate approves a similar measure, citizens would vote in a referendum in August. If it is not approved by the Senate this term, it could not come up for approval again until 1998. It would then have to be voted three times, beginning that year.

Sources say, however, that if the Senate fails to approve a measure removing prohibition of a lottery from the Tennessee Constitution, it is likely the House could pass another bill for Senate consideration.

Any proposed change in the Constitution would have to be brought to the citizens either by referendum or via a Constitutional Convention. A bill calling for a limited Constitutional

Convention (only items listed in the bill) already has been introduced. If there is to be a Constitutional Convention, this paper will keep readers informed. Right now, SJR-025 (the Senate version of the bill already approved by the House) seems to be the most likely route for removing the lottery prohibition from the Constitution.

One of the claims of lottery proponents is that the citizens should be allowed to vote on the issues. Opponents, in response, ask if the Senate is also willing to let citizens vote on other such bills, particularly on any measure that would determine how much and what kind of gambling would be allowed.

There is also a possibility that a bill will be introduced in the legislature to name a casino gambling commission of 12 to exist between now and 1996.

The *Baptist and Reflector* reminds readers to contact local senators to express personal views on the lottery, and to ask pertinent questions. — Editor

Supreme Court hands setback to pro-lifers

By Tom Strode
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court ruled anti-abortion protesters could be sued under a law targeted for use against organized crime, thereby dealing another blow to the activist wing of the pro-life movement.

The nine justices agreed in *National Organization for Women v. Scheidler* that the 1970 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act could be applied to social protest organizations such as Operation Rescue and Pro-life Action Network and their leaders.

Overturning lower court rulings, the court said RICO does not require proof of an economic motivation for a suit to be brought under the law.

Three days prior to the Jan. 24 opinion, the Supreme Court agreed to accept another pro-life protest case. In *Madsen v. Women's Health Center*, the court will rule whether a protest-free zone can be established around an abortion clinic.

While the NOW ruling only means pro-abortion groups may use RICO as a weapon in court but may not necessarily

win such cases, it serves as a setback to activist efforts by some pro-lifers to shut down abortion clinics.

It comes on the verge of what appears to be the certain passage of a law making it a federal offense to block the entrance to an abortion clinic or to use violence or force against a clinic and its employees.

The Senate and House of Representatives passed different versions of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act before adjournment in November. Shortly after reconvening, a conference committee from the two houses is expected to try to work out differences before returning the legislation to both chambers. President Clinton has pledged to sign it.

"It's a good thing Martin Luther King marched and advocated civil disobedience before this ruling or he would have been hit with RICO too," said Joseph Scheidler, executive director of the Pro-life Action League in Chicago.

"I think this is a step toward the downfall of RICO. We are not racketeers, and we are not going to back down from our pro-life activities. If anything, we'll step it up. Social protest is at the heart of what America stands for and

has been since the Boston Tea Party," Scheidler said.

Pamela Maraldo, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said the court "has empowered women and reproductive health care providers with a concrete means of defense against anti-choice terrorism — a pervasive and most insidious form of organized crime by any standard. But while we welcome the court's decision, it is by no means a solution to clinic violence. Groups like Operation Rescue ... will continue to pose a serious threat to women and providers until they are reined in on all fronts."

She called for passage of the FACE Act.

In the case, NOW and other pro-abortion organizations alleged Scheidler, Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry, and others formed a national conspiracy to close abortion clinics through a pattern of racketeering which included extortion. Under RICO, a pattern of racketeering includes at least two incidents of criminal acts, such as murder, arson, and extortion. The penalties for RICO include prison sentences of as much as 20 years, large fines, and forfeiture of property. □

VBS clinics to be held in four locations across state

The 1994 state Vacation Bible School clinics will be held in four locations across Tennessee Feb. 14-17. Associational teams are encouraged to attend for an orientation to the 1994 curriculum.

This year's VBS theme is "Trail of Treasures." The motto is "The earth is the Lord's," based on Psalm 24:1-4.

There are changes in VBS materials this year, with an all new design, team concept,

packaging approach, and administration material.

Conferences will include babies/ones; 2- through 3-year-olds; 4- through 5-year-olds; young, middle, and older children; youth; adult; general officers/VBS directors; evangelism (pastors' conference); special ministries; and mission/Backyard Bible Clubs.

Dates and sites are:
Feb. 14 — Manley Church, Morristown

Feb. 15 — First Church, Athens

Feb. 16 — Judson Church, Nashville

Feb. 17 — Englewood Church, Jackson

The schedule for each clinic is 9 a.m.-2 p.m., local time.

Associational reservations must be made by Feb. 7 for meal and childcare to the Tennessee Baptist Convention Sunday School Department at (615) 371-2054. □

■ 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. □

Capable women

I did not notice it but my wife did. All the persons who were appointed to search for a replacement for the retiring Partnership Missions Director were men. Yet, the very heart of missions for Southern Baptists has been the Woman's Missionary Union. Surely, there are some capable women whose input would be very helpful in seeking to nominate the next Partnership Missions Director for Tennessee Baptist Convention.

I didn't notice and most likely many other Baptists did not either. But God did.

Donald K. Dixon,
pastor, Highland Church
Tullahoma, 37388

Move 'onward Christian soldiers'

"Put on the whole armor of God." Ephesians 6:11

Paul closes Ephesians by likening a Christian as a soldier in Christ's army. He was chained to a Roman soldier. So he likens his armor to that of a soldier, mentioning everything except a spear and greaves or shin guards. Those were not worn for guard duty.

Each Roman soldier wore a large belt. It gave strength to his back. Paul likened it to truth. He wore a breastplate to protect vital organs. This he

Mission needs

I read about the shortfall in gifts to Home Missions. I was not surprised. Since I entered the ministry in 1978, I have noticed a change of attitudes toward the Home Mission Board, a growing lack of confidence in how we go about the task as Southern Baptists. What worked in 1955 may not work in 1995.

I went to a Northern state to assist a mission for a week. The mission was mostly transplanted Southerners, meeting in an old building.

The pastor lived on a small retirement income. The church was barely hanging on. I visited several missions there and they were the same.

The goal seemed to be to start as many missions as possible, and none were strong. Baptists were "poor cousins" of the Christian community.

A cult group moved into Clarksville with a different approach. Headquarters of the group in Utah bought choice property across from the local high school. They built a modern facility, and are growing rapidly. They represent themselves as a Christian church, but aren't, and are attracting people who need Christ.

Why don't we use similar methods? Instead of beginning 10 struggling missions, why not pour strong financial support into two? Why not build a first class facility and support the minister and give them the resources to be successful? I was told this would "violate the autonomy of the local church." That would be true only if the HMB kept control.

Churches everywhere are trying to reach this generation. We are challenged by leaders like Ed Young, to use new methods of outreach to reach this generation. We need to change our methods without changing the message.

This should be true of the

Home Mission Board. Perhaps when the HMB looks at new ways, the support and the confidence of our people will grow.

E. H. "Buster" Gilliam, pastor
Willow Bend Church
Clarksville 37041

On RFRA

The recent article quoting Richard Land about the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 is somewhat misleading. While it is theoretically possible that the Court will declare RFRA unconstitutional, the likelihood that it will do so is rather slim.

Numerous constitutional scholars have reviewed RFRA and confirmed its constitutionality. Moreover, Congress is not trying to tell the Supreme Court how it must decide cases. It only creates a statutory right where the Supreme Court, in *Employment Division v. Smith* (1990), failed to recognize a constitutional right to Free Exercise of Religion. Third, the Constitution sets a floor on our rights; it does not erect a ceiling. There is nothing at all improper about Congress according greater rights than those which the Supreme Court says are in the Constitution itself.

Finally, in *Smith* — the very case that spawned the need for RFRA — Justice Scalia invited disappointed litigants to go to the legislative branch for relief rather than coming to Court.

That is precisely what we have done. I think the possibility that the Supreme Court will strike down this very important and much needed legislation was overstated.

J. Brent Walker
general counsel for BJCPA
Washington 20002

Thanks to staff

When Gary Rickman became Director of Protection Plans, he brought many assets to that

ministry including an exemplary commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord, a pastor's heart of love for people, a dedication to servant-hood, developed communication skills, and some computer utilization abilities.

He quickly acquired an understanding of Annuity Board Programs, with the capable assistance of Libby Shepard and Doris Carter, and quickly won the confidence and respect of Annuity Board staff members and state representative colleagues.

The record and personal comments bear witness to the effectiveness of Gary's ministry in the enrollment of new churches and participants, upgrades in coverages and contributions, and a growing awareness among churches that they are responsible for wise planning of pastor/staff support.

I want to express, my appreciation for Dr. James Porch and the entire Brentwood staff. I know and love these folk. They have strong convictions about the strategic importance of our local churches, a genuine desire to serve them, and a multitude of skills to help them. I thank God for these friends and pray for them as they live out their personal commitments to our Lord.

Vern Powers
Nashville 37236

Vern Powers retired as director of Protection Plans in 1992. — Editor

Staffer needed

Dear Friend in Ministry:
Olivet Baptist Church, Honolulu, Hawaii, is seeking a minister of education.

Olivet is a multicultural congregation of 1,100 resident members. Our Sunday School attendance averaged 401 in 1993. Although not a large church by mainland standards, Olivet is one of the leading churches in Hawaii.

Duties of our education minister include leading education and outreach ministries, and working closely with one age segment such as youth, singles, or young married adults. We prefer someone with a seminary degree in Christian education and solid ministry experience.

Besides myself and the minister of education, our ministerial staff also includes a minister of music and worship, a Japanese language pastor, and a minister of weekday early education.

We have an extremely competent support staff.

Our budgeted total compensation package for this position is \$54,276.

It's important to know that the cost of living in Hawaii is considerably higher than on the mainland. Also, this budgeted amount may change, depending on the experience and qualifications of the candidate. We are open to a married or single person, male or female.

Please send resumes to: Martin Thielen, Olivet Baptist Church, 1775 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96826-1126.

Martin Thielen, senior pastor
Olivet Church
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



February -

- 2 — Vacation Bible School will be held in Chile this month. Pray for responsive pupils and responsible teachers.
- 3 — Missionary Betty Hart is preparing to go on furlough in March. Brazilian missionaries Silas and Aldair Gomes have agreed to assume the leadership for the Coviefi mission in Antofagasta.
- 4 — Birthday blessings and joy for missionary Martha Bowman.
- 5 — Our Tennessee team is in Temuco. Several team members will be laboring at the Baptist Academy refinishing the gym floor.
- 6 — Two medical teams are needed in Chile in April and August. Ask the Lord to touch the hearts of Tennessee medical personnel who could share their skills in Chile.
- 7 — The Tennessee team is assisting in Bible School ministry at the New Hope Mission in Temuco. (Pray for this team though Feb. 15.)
- 8 — Missionary Karen Wright expresses thanks for the three people making professions of faith recently and requests prayers for their continued spiritual growth and their non-Christian family members.
- 9 — Nolberto Ruiz has decided to remain at First Church of Puerto Montt after announcing his resignation last month. His staying has been well received, but there are many needs in the church, especially in the areas of administration and doctrine.

■ Baptist beliefs

By Herschel Hobbs, Baptist theologian



HOBBS

likened to righteousness. He wore hobnailed sandals — "the Gospel of peace."

A shield he likened to faith. Ancient armies shot flaming arrows into the air which fell on the enemy. Shields above the head protected the soldiers. A hel-

met protected head and brain. The Christian's helmet is salvation.

The sword is "the sword of the Spirit," which is the word of God. Note that there is no protection for the back. A Roman soldier was not supposed to turn his back to the enemy. "Praying" represents the army's line of communication and supply. If this was cut the army was helpless.

"Having done all, to stand" (v. 13). After the battle the soldier was to be on his feet, victorious and awaiting orders. □

Missions: to God be the glory, as we go

A pertinent question for Tennessee Baptists as we plan for the future, is, who will go?

"I am resolved, and who will go with me? Come friends, without delay," says the old hymn. The words admonish us that nobler and higher things involve "the heavenly way."

Missions does not always mean going to another country or state. It does not necessarily call for spreading the Gospel in a megalopolis or a foreign country.

Missions also means putting aside the glamour and glory, and starting a mission down the street, on the back side of the mountain, five valleys away, or in some forgotten part of town. Maybe on the wrong side of the tracks. No, there is no glaring spotlight there, and there is glory sufficient only for God.

Sometimes we get so busy building onto already existing church bodies, that we overlook the spiritual needs of places that others ignored.

But there is little glory in those places, only forgotten people. We will also find that Christ has arrived before we did, and is setting the stage for spiritual breakthrough. He is like that.

This is something of which we all need

to be reminded periodically.

As the Long Range Planning Committee continues working, as other groups and individuals have ideas, suggestions, plans, and goals for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, we must never overlook this.

Our plans always must include everyone. Goals must include every person and every church. What we reach for spiritually must include the most remote sections, the seemingly least important, the toughest places to work.

If these are overlooked or neglected, success will be shallow and incomplete.

It may be more difficult to find men and women willing to work in these areas and circumstances. After all, there is little "glory" or recognition in scratching the side of the mountain for prospects to start a church. Who cares, anyway!

There must be a willingness to acknowledge the call to the back roads and remote places. Glory? If we are seeking man's applause for that kind of stuff, we probably will be disappointed.

However, careful attention is needed as the committee strategizes for the future. Tennessee Baptists are quite able to strike boldly for the Gospel; we also must be willing.

A. J. Cronin's *The Keys of the Kingdom*, tells of the vast difference in God's glory and the accolades of men. One priest worked with Chinese people in a forsaken

part of China. A fellow seminarian sought the glory road. The missionary spent his possessions *and himself* in a long struggle to preach and live the Gospel, only to be chastised by the glory-seeker, who had become a bishop and his overseer, for not gathering huge crowds and building great churches. He was ridiculed for not accepting those who wanted to buy their way into the Kingdom.

Glory? Who was right in that story? There are two kinds of glory. There is the "well done" from the Lord, and there is the prize given by mankind.

All across Tennessee there are pastors and lay people who labor for love. Some are caught up in the forgotten places. They are dealing with unnerving situations, against stiff competition.

To those who have been overlooked in the scheme of things, a word of affirmation, friendly encouragement, and steadfast prayer support will help.

While the Long Range Planning Committee's assignment does not deal with such, perhaps an attitude of genuine togetherness can be developed. Even in planning and goal-setting, there is a need for seeing everyone as equal partners.

Strong churches in every city, neighborhood, and community, can offer support to those whose struggles show little "success" and whose sacrifices are generally unnoticed. Yes, there is glory! □

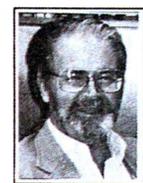
■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Small groups bless

Early in January, a group of about 25 journeyed to Camp Linden for a TBC staff leadership retreat.

In this kind of retreat, I think the word means that you draw aside from daily routines and worship God for a while in the stillness of that "away" place.

It does not mean deserting your post, or moving back from the front lines where your advance has taken you.



ALLEN

In those few hours, some hurts were healed, some hearts were affirmed, and some physical restoration took place.

There is precedent for retreats. The word and the intent have been abused, but there is precedent.

Jesus practiced the one person retreat — when he needed to be especially close to the Father. He encouraged small groups in retreat settings often when he went aside with his disciples.

In our day, we know the spiritual value of small groups born of revival, hurting, and Lay Renewal Weekends.

In our own minds, we recognize the strategic need for quiet time and deep study. Our group learned some things about each other as we met at Linden. We saw beneath the work face, the church face, all the way to the real face.

The real face is vulnerable without fear. The real face gives and is willing to receive.

The small group is a blessed place where wrongs are forgiven and forgotten, where our best is accepted and our worst is pardoned.

There then comes a realization that the group is family. We care about the innermost feelings of despair and the hopes for things to be made right. It happens.

In that place, we sought and found the Father, and the healing grace of Jesus Christ. Some new relationships were begun, brothers and sisters all.

Away from the busyness of doing the ordinary business, we found strength in our commonality, and strength for all our days. Servant? Yes, we are that. Will we need renewal again? Yes, and it will be just as awesome then. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

The father reprimanded his son, "I hear you got in a fight with two boys at school. Why did you do it?"

He replied, "You see, dad, they're twins. I gave one of them a black eye so people can tell them apart."

Take this truth

To distinguish things that are different is important. How do you evaluate people? By how much money they are worth or by their spiritual ideals, ethical insights, and moral character?

Memorize this Scripture

"He despises those whom God rejects, but honors those who obey the Lord" (Psalm 15:4 GNB).

Pray this prayer

Lord, give me the insight to see the difference in people without being self righteous or overly judgmental. I've seen the difference; lead me to be helpful rather than harassing in dealing with everyone. □

Guarding the family is necessary

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

We all are concerned with escalating violence and crime. What can we do to guard our families?

I suggest that we monitor their activities and model the kinds of actions that we would like for them to have.

Years ago a trailing message was telecast on the TV screens asking, "It's 10 o'clock. Do you know where your children are?"

There was a national push to encourage parents to be more involved with and aware of the activities of their children.

I cannot over-emphasize the importance of parents knowing where their children are, who they are with, and what they are doing.

Some folks tell parents today that this is being excessively nosy and not allowing their children to have the freedom to develop their own lives. God gave children parents because he knew that children were not able to make some decisions, provide for, or protect themselves.

I suggest to parents that it is not only appropriate for them to question their children about their associates, but I think it is absolutely necessary.

Research has shown the number one predictor of whether a child will use drugs, become sexually active, or start smoking is whether or not the crowd they hang out with is doing these things.

I have been shocked even in the church to question my children about movies or television programs they had watched when they were visiting with friends.

Parents who want to guard their families in the best sense will care enough to find out where, who, and what.

I also have heard comedians turn the phrase around and ask, "It's 10 o'clock. Do you know where your parents are?" It would seem obvious that as parents we have a responsibility to model the kinds of behavior we expect from our children.

The old adage is that attitudes are often more caught than taught.

There are two such actions that seem to me to be very important: being respectful, and being responsive.

Since Adam and Eve, parents have complained as does

Rodney Dangerfield that they get no respect.

I believe sometimes it might be true, but because we do not give respect.

Children need to experience respect before they will be able to exhibit respect.

If I could suggest one action that would go far toward building that respect, it would be to simply say, "I am sorry," and "I was wrong."

When we realize that we have done or said something that was wrong, we can be sure that the child has recognized it also. We gain much credibility and teach the child respect when we can admit that.

I remind all of us to be responsive. Sometimes in the busy and pressing life that we adults live, we forget the important things in the life of a child.

Many parents would be surprised at the problems that could be avoided with a little time spent in listening to their children. □

Readers are invited to contact Dr. Barkley with questions concerning family relationships and/or conflict problems, at The Counseling Center, 6385 Sage Rd., Ste. 1, Bartlett, Tenn. 38134. — Editor

Kentucky 13-year-old decides not to wait for missions future

By Don Martin
For Baptist Press

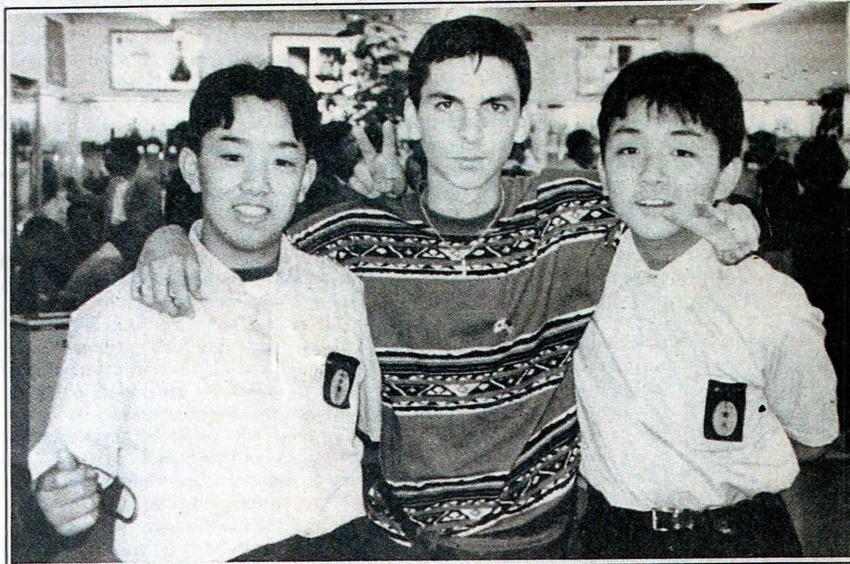
LEXINGTON, Ky. — Parents often worry today's kids are growing up too fast. Not Adam Dedman's.

"He's a 13-year-old going on 40," explained Adam's father, David Dedman. "He has said that he'd like to get this childhood out of the way so he could do some things."

Adam isn't straining to break away from his parents but rather to break through to a culture. He believes God is calling him to Japan.

"I'm only 13 years old, but I have seen God work in my life and I feel I could be of service in Japan," Adam said in a letter to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. "I feel that God is calling me to be a missionary to Japan. Japan needs more missionaries. Look at Billy Graham. He's brought millions of people to Christ. I'm not saying that I can bring millions, but even if I just bring one, that's something."

The Lexington, Ky., teenager isn't just dreaming. He has learned Japanese and visited Japan twice. He regularly talks about Jesus with Japanese classmates whose religious backgrounds include Buddhism, Shintoism, and atheism. In his letter to the Foreign Mission Board, he asked for specific information on



ADAM DEDMAN, center, greets friends Takashi Iyoda, left, and Hitoshi Shimizu at Nagoya International Airport during his trip to Japan last summer. Dedman, 13, recently wrote the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board expressing interest in becoming a missionary to Japan.

evangelizing internationals, especially Japanese.

Adam, who became a Christian at age 9, also wrote about seeing a Lottie Moon missions poster at his church, Calvary, in Lexington. It said "Change the World Now!"

Despite his youth, Adam took "now" very literally.

"A lot of teenagers think they can't do anything now. They have to wait until they get older," he said in a phone

interview. "But I don't want to just hear about God's work, I want to do it. I want to go out and actually help spread God's kingdom."

Adam's exposure to Japanese culture began in 1987 when Toyota opened an auto assembly plant in Georgetown, Ky., near Lexington. Today about 800 Japanese people live in the area because of the plant.

Adam was in second grade

in school when the plant opened. He didn't pay much attention to the economic fanfare over the plant opening. But he did notice a slightly dazed Japanese child who was ushered into his classroom one day. The new student, Tonohiro Nakazawa, could only smile. He didn't know English.

"When he came into our class, I realized that not everyone spoke English," Adam recalled. "I thought that was

neat. I went up to him and made friends with him and we've been friends ever since. Later, after Tonohiro learned English, I began to think that since he had made the effort to speak English, I should make an effort to speak Japanese."

Adam began learning Japanese from a neighborhood friend who is Japanese.

Soon he was playing with Tonohiro's Japanese friends, who taught him more and more of the language. Today he can keep up with any conversation.

Some of those conversations turned toward God.

"My Japanese friends are just like anybody," Adam explained. "They have questions about who they are and what they believe in. And I've found that a lot of my Japanese friends don't believe in anything. So I just talk to them and witness to them because the good news is too good not to share with others."

Adam will get another chance to take his Christian witness to Japan when he visits friends this summer in Toyota City.

Besides seeing his friends, what's Adam excited about?

"I'm going to be staying with friends that live just one block from Southern Baptist missionaries (Mark and Wendy Hoshizaki) in Toyota City. Isn't that neat?" □

Burger King vice president dishes out decisions seasoned by saving grace

By Sarah Zimmerman
For Baptist Press

MIAMI — Twenty-four hours after her divorce was final, Rachele Hood-Phillips moved from Chicago to Miami with two suitcases and a 2-year-old daughter.

Drowning in debt and loneliness, she had a job but remembers all she wanted was peace.



WHILE BURGER KING keeps track of the number of Whoppers sold each day, Rachele Hood-Phillips says her highest priority is people.

Hood-Phillips grew up in Detroit where she says she had many encounters with God. It wasn't until she reached the end of her rope in Miami, however, that she made a personal commitment to him.

"I pulled over to the side of the road and prayed, 'Jesus, if you're real, you've got to help me out. I can't hold on any longer.'"

Now Hood-Phillips exemplifies the growing number of lay people who consider their jobs their mission fields, says Reid Hardin, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board coordinator of marketplace evangelism.

"I was born again and then I jumped in with both feet," recalls Hood-Phillips, a member of Wayside Church in Miami. Nearly 10 years later, she adds, "My life is so full of miracles."

One miracle is her marriage. As she began to study the Bible, she became convicted about divorce. "I prayed, 'If it's your will, get us back together.' But I thought, 'There's no way.' Little by little God removed the barriers and we were remarried seven years ago."

Hood-Phillips moved to Miami to work as director of advertising and promotion at Burger King Corporation's world headquarters. She has since been promoted to vice president for human

I wanted to leave the work place and go into full-time ministry. Now I realize I can't separate the two.

— Rachele Hood-Phillips

resource development and diversity affairs.

Part of her task is leading management to respond appropriately to more women and non-Anglos entering the work force. In essence, she's paid to be a peacemaker, and she uses the opportunity to share Christ.

"I wanted to leave the work place and go into full-time ministry. Now I realize I can't separate the two," Hood-Phillips says. "It's a lifestyle. If I'm going to be here, I'm going to make a difference."

"I've made a commitment to witness to everyone I work with, but not every one has accepted," she says. She quit counting how many people made professions of faith because God convicted her it was becoming a matter of pride.

The length of her daily quiet time is determined by what Hood-Phillips faces at work that day. She prays over meetings, deals, people, and proposals. Major decisions require "mega-praying," she adds.

"I always pray for the executive com-

mittee (Burger King's decision makers). I've seen a change in the way we treat people. This is a more compassionate, caring company."

That was evident in 1992 when 300 Burger King Corporation employees, including Hood-Phillips, lost their homes in Hurricane Andrew. The corporation created a relief fund to help employees get re-established, and Hood-Phillips was named chairman of the committee to distribute the grants.

"Marketplace ministries will express itself in infinite ways — ethics, compassion, listening," says Hardin. "It is not a program to take home but a concept to interface our faith with our work. It is learning to be God's person in the flow of life, not something extra you do one night a week."

Hardin encourages churches to host marketplace ministry weekends during which people who witness on the job encourage others to do the same.

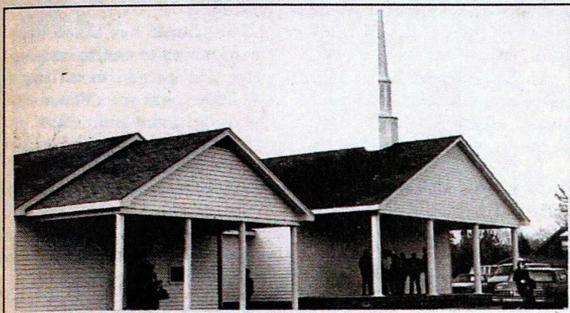
A national marketplace ministries conference is scheduled Nov. 17-20 in Miami. □

Porter's Creek pastor takes 'long journey' for dedication

By Aubrey Hay
For Baptist and Reflector

MIDDLETON — In 1949 an 11-year-old boy named Adrian Knipper made a profession of faith at Porter's Creek Church here.

Forty-five years later, on Jan. 9, Knipper led his boyhood church in the dedication of a new worship facility and classroom space.



PORTER'S CREEK CHURCH, a 149-year-old church in Harde-man County Association, now has new facilities. The church's pastor was baptized in the church as an 11-year-old boy.

It has been a long journey for this pastor, who also works as a full-time chaplain at the Elvis Presley Trauma Center in Memphis.

In due time the journey took him to Union University, Jackson, to Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., and then back to Tennessee.

Knipper has served as pastor of two other churches in

Haywood County and Madison-Chester Association, each for more than 10 years. He is in his sixth year at Porter's Creek.

Though he "grew up" with many of the members it has not been an awkward situation, he noted. "It has been a good experience," Knipper said.

It also has been a long struggle for the church. Organized in 1855, it came through years of struggle and growth. It grew from a one-room building to a modern worship area with 12 classrooms and a fellowship hall.

The construction of its new building was a lay-led effort. A "spiritual" committee was formed to study the needs of the congregation and to make recommendations.

On May 23, 1993, the church members voted to build the worship center and six classrooms.

A contractor was hired, the structure was finished, and the first service was held in the



JOINING PASTOR ADRIAN KNIPPER in celebrating the new facilities of Porter's Creek Church were, from left, building committee members Bobby Stewart, Monroe Willis (contractor), Johnny Trantum, Faye McKee, Knipper, Betty Rixie, Helen Woods, Dan Goodman, Travis Trantum, Gary Brown, and Carl King. — Photos by Aubrey Hay

new facility in early December.

The new structure is not the most important thing for Porter's Creek Church, the pastor says.

The church has a great fellowship, a committed member-

ship, and a bright vision of the future, he added.

"The Lord has provided" is a phrase heard over and over from members of Porter's Creek Church. □

McMinnville church exceeds Lottie Moon goal in memory of missionary

For Baptist and Reflector

MCMINNVILLE — A tragic story resulted in something positive at First Church, McMinnville.

In December retired missionary Ruth Womack, a member of First Church, was killed in an automobile accident.

Her tragic death led the church's deacons to consider a

challenge interim pastor Carroll Owen had made about a week before her death.

"I preached a sermon on missions," Owen said. "On impulse, I observed they had a

worthy goal (\$11,000) for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, but I told them I thought First Church, McMinnville, should have a more challenging goal of \$20,000.

"Nobody fainted," Owen said, but church dismissed and nothing else was said about it.

After Womack's death and funeral, however, the deacon body talked about raising the Lottie Moon goal to \$20,000 in memory of Ruth Womack.

Owen noted Womack was loved and respected by the entire church. After her retirement as a missionary in Nigeria in 1987 she returned to McMinnville and became active in her home church.

She was Woman's Missionary Union director and taught a children's Sunday School class, Owen said.

The church voted to accept the challenge.

On Sunday, Jan. 23, the church received the news it had received \$20,054 for the offering, exceeding the challenge goal.

"We called attention to it in the bulletin and stopped and sang the doxology," Owen said.

"It (meeting the challenge goal) truly happened in memory of her," he said. □



WOMACK

Bledsoe churches respond to challenge to increase baptisms, offerings, attendance

For Baptist and Reflector

During the 1993 Tennessee Baptist Convention at Two Rivers Church in Nashville, Greer Ruble, state Sunday School director, asked Neil Jackson if it were possible to lead the majority of the churches in an association to use the Sunday School growth spiral as a guide to help them

increase in baptisms, offerings, and attendance.

"It can be done," Jackson, the ASSIST director of Bledsoe Association, answered with conviction.

Five days after the convention Jackson led 30 of the 31 leaders of churches and missions in Bledsoe Association to give the needed information to participate and receive a print-

out/profile of their churches.

The printout/profile would then be used as a guide to help the churches know what needs to be done to reach more people for Christ in baptisms, offerings, new units in Sunday School, training, and attendance, Jackson said.

At the annual SALT (State Associational Leadership Training) meetings on May 16-17 and 23-24, Jackson will lead a step-by-step session on how ASSIST directors can lead over half of their churches to use the growth spiral. "Hand-out helps" will be given to all ASSIST directors who attend the SALT meetings.

The state goal is to have 500 churches on the growth spiral by Sept. 30, 1995, Ruble said.

Presently there are 260 churches using the tool to reach people, he noted.

A church may participate in the "IMPACT" church program as a growth spiral church by contacting the TBC Sunday School Department at (615) 371-2054. □



TBC SUNDAY SCHOOL Department associate Roy Miller, right, charts progress with Brent Lay, left, director of missions, Bledsoe Association, and Neil Jackson, association ASSIST director.

Volunteers needed for various mission trips to Chile

The Tennessee Baptist Convention's Partnership Missions Department is seeking volunteers for missions in Chile.

This is the final year of the Chile/Tennessee Partnership.

Three new projects have been received.

One team of two-three married couples is needed to lead conferences on the Christian family June 11-20 in Talca.

A two-four person team is needed for youth ministry Aug. 9-16 in Santiago. Volunteers will work with youth in creative ministries such as music and puppets.

Two women are needed Oct. 29-Nov. 7 to conduct seminars in arts and crafts with women in Santiago. They also will take part in evangelistic visits.

Volunteers also are needed for the following projects which have been listed previously in the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Six to eight men for church construction. Concepcion, March 5-14.

Two teams of 12-14 people for medical missions, Puerto Montt, April 9-18.

For information, call Jarvis Hearn at (615) 371-2028. □

Increasing number of churches taking security precautions

By Toby Druin
For Baptist Press

DALLAS — Southern Baptists' commitment to the "security of the believer" is well established as one of the linchpins of Baptist belief.

Unhappily, however, they are learning more and more about another kind of "security of the believer" — securing in this case the physical well-being of pastors, church members, church facilities, and the ability of the denomination and its institutions to operate.

Use of security guards and other measures such as video camera surveillance, controls on doors, and burglar alarms are commonplace in the 1990s, both for churches and denominational entities.

The Baptist Building in Dallas has a mesh gate that controls entrance to its underground parking garage. Visitors have to identify themselves and the purpose of their visit. A security guard sits at the reception desk in the foyer.

A similar setup is found at the Southern Baptist Convention headquarters in Nashville

and the Southern Baptist Annuity Board in Dallas.

Locked doors, opened only after a visitor's identity and purpose are determined, are becoming the rule rather than the exception at more and more churches.

The need for security was underscored in Dallas Dec. 28 when a man robbed the members of a non-Baptist church at gunpoint at an evening service.

A similar robbery took place at a black church in Nashville before Christmas.

First Church, Dallas, has a security department that maintains a 24-hour presence at the church and its five blocks of buildings in downtown Dallas, said Tim Hedquist, church administrator.

Guards patrol the buildings, which also house the church's academy during the week, on a daily, round-the-clock basis and additional off-duty police handle traffic control on Sun-

day. None of the church's security guards are armed, Hedquist said.

It's not so much that they perceive the threat of robbery, Hedquist said in commenting on the need for security. "We have the problem of people causing disturbances or someone perceiving he is sent from God to speak.

"We have two high profile people (pastor O. S. Hawkins and

senior pastor W. A. Criswell) for whom we have responsibility. We don't want to become an armed camp. What security we have is discreet; we don't put uniformed guards on the front pew. We want our people to see our security measures as a means to help them."

Phil Lineberger, pastor of First Church, Tyler, Texas, said his church has armed and licensed officers patrol the church buildings and parking lots during any evening serv-

ice. The church has a contract for security of its property and the guards are Tyler police officers.

Lineberger is well acquainted with the need for security. When he presided over the 1991 meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Waco he wore a bullet-proof vest because of threats he had received and three security guards patrolled the platform area during the convention.

"But I have been threatened at every church where I have been pastor," Lineberger said.

In Little Rock, he noted, a paroled mental patient was arrested after he brought a gun to the worship service.

In Wichita, Kan., a woman "street person" handed him a note telling him she would "blow my guts out" with a shotgun.

The Southern Baptist Convention paid more than \$6,600 for security personnel at the annual meeting in Houston last summer, "a little less" than has been the case in recent years when President George Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle have spoken

to the convention, said Herb Hollinger, SBC Executive Committee vice president for convention news.

Of course, in some areas security has been a problem for years. George Moser, pastor of Beckley Hills Church in south Dallas, a high crime area, said the church has been broken into six times in the four years he has served as pastor.

"It's only a matter of time until someone hits us (again)," he said.

The church has taken drastic measures to secure its property, including installing a steel door that rolls down over the doors to the auditorium.

Moser said it was installed last year after he drove up to the church one day and discovered all the handles on the doors to the auditorium were missing. Someone apparently had driven up to the door, attached a chain to the door handles and yanked them off.

Moser said he just sat down and cried.

"It was disappointing to know that people to whom we are trying to minister will steal from the church," he said. □

Preserving God's house



against outside forces

San Diego pastor cites reasons why churches plateau, stop growing

By David Winfrey
For Baptist Press

HOUSTON — Jerry Sheveland said he has learned not to kill sacred cows. "I just don't feed them."

The pastor of College Avenue Church, San Diego, says he doesn't waste energy and conflict on programs or issues

that are not useful to the church.

Instead, he said, he makes sure the congregation stays focused on members' shared vision.

"The issue of vision is that the church is full of competing visions of what a church is to become," Sheveland said during a "Leading the Innovative

Church" conference in January in Houston. The conference was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and 10 pastors.

The lack of a shared vision was one of 10 reasons Sheveland listed for why churches plateau.

Vision, as well as external factors and leadership are

among the elements that influence church growth, he said.

Other reasons Church plateau, Sheveland said, include:

- (2) The congregation does not want to grow. "Churches must be willing to pay the emotional price of change in order to grow," he said.

(3) The leadership style of the pastor or support staff no longer matches the growth stage of the church. A leader who is a director for a small church may have difficulty if his church grows to the size where he needs to be a delegator, Sheveland said.

(4) The sociological make-up of the congregation no longer matches the make-up of the community. "That's the first question I ask. Would the people who live next door come in and say, 'I would be comfortable here?'" Sheveland asked.

Communities in transition may require target ministries to reach different homogeneous groups, he said.

(5) External factors, such as financial recession or a declining population, may prohibit growth.

(6) The congregation fails to restructure its ministry for the recent phase of growth. "The larger you grow, the more you centralize decision making and decentralize the ministry."

(7) The congregation fails to increase the quality and quantity of its ministry events.

(8) The church lacks important ingredients for conversion

growth. Such ingredients include a high-profile prayer ministry, effective outreach strategies, and multiple points for people to enter the church and become involved.

(9) The necessary resources for growth are not provided in advance. Such conditions are temporary if members want to grow, he said. "If your church is convinced of its need to reach the community, you'll find the way."

(10) Internal crises or sheer self-centeredness may focus the church's energies inward.

"As pro-actively as you can, still hammer at the mission of the church over and over," he said. "It is not just making a nice comfortable place for second and third generation Christians." □

Preserving God's house



from anti-growth

Beware of fund-raisers who cannot fulfill their promises

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Carl Hoffman, executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission, is cautioning churches to beware of fund-raisers who make promises they cannot fulfill.

Hoffman said the recent recession propelled a number of indi-

viduals out of their established commercial fund-raising firms and into fly-by-night one-to-five person operations without proven track records or credentials.

Many of these new companies operate out of little more than a suitcase and a phone booth, he said.

"Unfortunately for unsus-

pecting churches who hire these outfits, these companies are more like the proverbial traveling salesman — unreliable and difficult to pin down," Hoffman said.

"Churches that hire these folks get only the limited experience of one or two individuals and no solid foundation to guarantee success.

Hoffman, who has helped Southern Baptist churches raise more than \$60 million through the Stewardship Commission's Together We Build program, said, "Hiring a consultant to help a church raise money is the best approach for a church to take, but the church needs to be sure the consultant it hires can produce the results the church expects.

Preserving God's house



from money schemes

■ the leaders

■ **Scott E. Cagle** has been called as pastor of Calvary Church, Lenoir City, effective Feb. 9.

■ Union University President **Hyran Barefoot** has been named the Jackson Exchange Club's 1993 Man of the Year. Barefoot joined the Union faculty in 1957 and later became

BAREFOOT

academic dean and vice president for academic affairs before assuming the presidency in 1987. A community leader as well, Barefoot is a member of the board of directors for several area civic groups.

■ **Ralph Hodge**, Baptist Sunday School Board contemporary church leadership specialist, has been called as interim pastor of Madison Creek Church, Goodlettsville.

■ **Burgess B. Vincent** is taking early retirement as pastor of Union Church, Hampton, due to a heart and lung condition. He has been pastor of Union for eight years and was pastor of First Church, Tracy City for nine years.

While at Union he was active in Watauga Association, serving on several committees and as associational Brotherhood director. He was one of the first people in the association to go to Venezuela on a



VINCENT

partnership evangelism/construction project. He and his wife, Shirley, will live in Gastonia, N.C.

■ **Vencent Jones** became pastor of Helton Springs Church, Rutledge, Jan. 19. He formerly was pastor of Southside Church, Rutledge.

■ **Evangelist Phil Glisson** of Memphis will lead revival services for churches in Judson Association Feb. 9-11. He also will hold revival March 6-10 at College Heights Church, Gallatin.

■ Higher Ground Church in Sullivan Association has called **Gail McMurray** as director of children's ministries.

■ the associations

■ **McMinn-Meigs Association** will hold its Associational Evangelism Conference Feb. 22 with John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention.

■ Twenty-three churches in **Big Hatchie Association** have agreed to participate in an upcoming World Missions Conference.

■ **ALPHA Association** will hold its Associational Evangelism Conference March 14 with evangelist Phil Glisson of Memphis.

■ **Haywood Association** will join hands with Zambian Baptists in early May. A volunteer team will work with missionaries Joe and Gloria Turman.



FAYETTE ASSOCIATION broke ground for a new missions center Jan. 9 on a two-acre plot of ground recently purchased. The land is located just west of Somerville at Highway 64 and Karcher Road. The Missions Center will be built by volunteer labor from the association, according to Director of Missions **Bob Campbell**. Building Committee members present for the groundbreaking, along with Campbell, were **Eddie Little, Hickory Withe; Jerry Culver, Shady Grove; Danny Dowdy, Liberty; Claudie Hammer, Liberty; Sue Dowdy, Somerville; Rickey Burns, Williston; and Ann Campbell, Rossville.**

■ **Watauga Association** will hold its 17th annual Music School Feb. 7-11 at First Church, Elizabethton.

■ the churches

■ **First Church, Mt. Juliet** will host a Super Spring Seminar March 19 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The conference, for both men and women, features **Evelyn Christenson**, author of *Lord, Change Me and Prince of Darkness*. The registration fee is \$15 and includes lunch. For more information, call **Joyce Nelson** at (615) 758-8395 or 449-4406.

■ **City View Church, Knoxville**, held a special celebration Jan. 30 on the 25th anniversary of its Day Care Center. **Earl H. Wilson**, president of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, who founded the center, was guest speaker.

■ the schools

■ **Kevin Singleton** is leading Spiritual Emphasis Week Feb. 2-4 at **Belmont University, Nashville**. As a part of the annual Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Lecture Series, he will speak on "Riots, Racism, and Reconciliation."

Riverside director of missions recuperates from heart attack

Ken McMillen, director of missions for Riverside Association, Livingston, had a massive heart attack Jan. 23, but is improving in Centennial Medical Center, Nashville.

McMillen was diagnosed with several blockages, and extensive tests were made.

He called the *Baptist and Reflector* Jan. 31 and said his condition is better. "I just want to thank the many

Tennessee Baptists who have prayed for me, written to me, and called. I'm grateful to each one of them and to God for my improvement."

McMillen said he is beginning therapy and probably will be at the hospital several more days.

Surgery is not likely in the near future, he said. He is also being treated for diabetes. □

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Hopes for new year

David Clay, pastor
Spring Creek Road Church, Chattanooga

When I look back as a child, it seems impossible that so many years could have passed and that I'm now six years away from the turn of the century.

But, here I am beginning another new year with frustration about past failures but also with anxious anticipation concerning the future.

I hope that this year I can be a better father and much more loving and kind to a devoted and loving wife and children.

I hope also that I will be more caring, patient, and supportive as a friend blessed with many friends and supporters.

I hope to be a better pastor, more loving and efficient as I serve my Lord.

I hope to see our church grow as we become students of the Word and disciples of Christ reaching people for Jesus.

I hope that our nation and world will turn their hearts to God and seek real peace through Christ.

I hope the hurting people of the world will come to know the security

and blessings of life I enjoy daily but too often take for granted.

I hope to serve my Lord Jesus more faithfully and be filled with the Holy Spirit in such measure that I boldly prepare and proclaim the message God wants me to preach. I hope to be pleasing to my Lord and bring honor and glory to God. 1994 will be a great year! □

Unknown blessings

Jerry Massey, pastor
First Church, Paris

Roy Fish tells of a man in Sydney, Australia, named Mr. Jenner. Mr. Jenner stood on George Street daily asking people: "If you were to die today, where would you be for eternity? The Bible says it will be either heaven or hell. Think about it, won't you?"

A British pastor, Francis Dickson, found nine people from five countries who had been led to Christ because of Mr. Jenner's pungent word of witness and warning.

When Francis Dickson met Mr. Jenner, he told him of those nine people whom he had met who had been brought to Christ through his testimony. Mr. Jenner broke down and sobbed

copiously, "I have shared the Gospel with thousands of people on George Street in Sydney," he said, "but this is the first time I have ever heard of anyone who came to Christ through my testimony."

"He that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together" (John 4:36). We are called to be sowers.

I wonder how many valued souls in heaven one day will say, "I'm here because George Baars gave me a tract." □

Think about his love

Mitch Fuller, minister of music
First Church, Donelson

"Think about his love, think about his goodness, Think about his grace, that's brought us through ..."

Do you do that? Do you think about God's love, his goodness, his grace? These are some of the words from a praise chorus we sang this past Sunday. But I wonder, do we actually think about what we are singing, or do we just stand and sing because that is what we are expected to do in church?

All of our music, the hymns, choruses, choir selections, solos, offertories, is selected because of its message. They

reflect emotion, inspiration, and biblical truths we can use to draw closer to our Lord, and each other. Through music, people are sometimes ministered to who may be unreachable through a sermon or testimony. Music has a way of cutting straight to the heart, providing strength, comfort, inspiration, and often pure joy. We may be uncomfortable with a particular song or song style, but that does not mean the song is invalid as a part of worship.

Have you ever considered the possibilities of that song ministering to those around you? It's all right not to like everything, but because I don't care for a particular song will not stop God from using it to touch someone else.

God created music so we can express ourselves. Above all, I believe God created music so we could worship him in a more personal way. I encourage each of you to actively participate in our music. Think about what you are singing. Meditate on the message the choir and soloists bring. Focus on God and his majesty during the instrumental worship. In doing this, I believe our worship times will be better because we will be actively involved together — celebrating our wonderful Savior. □

Baptists use 'Jesus' film to reach Cubans for Christ

By Mary E. Speidel
For Baptist Press

MIAMI — About 75 percent of Cubans who have viewed the "Jesus" film in Baptist churches during the communist nation's "special period"

have responded to the Gospel, said a visiting Cuban Baptist leader.

Thousands of Cubans have seen the film — which has become an effective evangelistic tool worldwide — in churches during the past several years,

according to Leoncio Veguilla, executive secretary of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba.

Veguilla, a pastor in Havana, Cuba's capital, was in the United States during January consulting with Southern Baptist and other evangelical mission leaders. He is vice president of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship.

What Cubans call the "special period" began after the November 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall and subsequent collapse of the Soviet bloc, according to news reports. With Cuba's close ties with the former Soviet Union, those events reportedly ended about 70 percent of all Cuban imports.

In 1990 Cuban President Fidel Castro announced Cuba had entered a "special period in time of peace," when the economy would function as if Cuba were at war, according to a U.S. State Department report. The Cuban government began rationing food and other goods. Since then, fuel shortages have caused transportation problems and power

blackouts.

Castro announced plans last July for economic reforms that included making it legal for Cubans to possess and use U.S. dollars. Legalization of the dollar has devalued the Cuban peso, creating even more economic hardship for those Cubans who do not have access to U.S. currency, reports indicate.

Against that backdrop, Baptists in western Cuba are seeing a response to the Gospel "like no other time in our history," Veguilla said.

"People are looking for something to place their hope in, and many are looking to the churches as the source of their

hope. Many are coming to know the Lord through this experience," he said.

Statistics from that convention reflect that response. Baptisms in 1992 numbered 1,052, a 244 percent increase over 306 baptisms in 1989. Statistics for 1993 are not available yet, but Veguilla predicts baptisms will exceed 1992 totals.

Western Cuba Baptists count 117 churches, including seven house churches and 50 mission congregations. Mission congregations are maturing into churches at a faster rate than ever before, Veguilla said. He cited one mission that became a church in just six months. □

WMU opens registration for NAC

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Registration has begun for the National Acteens Convention to be held here June 21-24.

Acteens, the missions organization for girls in grades seven through 12, is sponsored by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

NAC is held once every five years for Acteens members who have completed the seventh grade, as well as adult leaders. This is the first time the convention has been held in Birmingham, site of the WMU national office. More than 16,000 teens and their leaders are expected to attend NAC.

Registration will continue until June 3 on a first-come,

first-served basis. Only those who register in advance will be allowed to participate in NAC activities. "Heart of the Journey" will be the theme for the meeting. Daily Bible studies and issues conferences will be offered for the Acteens as will a special tour of the national WMU office.

NAC registration forms are available in the January issue of *Accent*, the magazine for Acteens members.

A registration fee of \$60 per person must accompany all registration forms. The fee includes entrance to all NAC sessions, a registration packet, and official NAC T-shirt. The fee does not include travel, housing, meals, insurance, or incidentals. □

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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Jesus: The source of living water — Bible Book Series for February 6

By Edward North, pastor, First Church, Humboldt

Any other Jew would have gone around Samaria not through it, but Jesus "needed to go through Samaria" (v. 4). Our Lord, moved by a holy compulsion, found himself at Jacob's well not only to deal with an individual woman, but with a whole group of people who needed to be included in God's redemptive plan. Jesus' dialogue with the woman at the well provides rich insight into the startling breadth and depth of his redemptive love.

Jesus knows and accepts us

The text indicates that this woman came to Jacob's well at the sixth hour or noon. Typically, the women came to the well early in the morning or late in the evening, and it was for them a social gathering. But this woman came at a time when no one else would be there.

Could it be that the other women of the village would not tolerate her presence? They knew her kind and wanted nothing to do with her. Could it be that she judged herself and deemed herself unworthy of their company? Whatever the reason, she came to the well alone and encountered Jesus.

The Bible indicates that Jesus knew all about her. He knew her sordid past and her present state of sin, and yet, Jesus accepted her. Praise God it is true! Whosoever will may come and whoever comes to the Lord is not cast out. Jesus knows us and accepts us. We come to the Lord just as we are.

Jesus knows our deepest need

When the woman came to Jacob's well for a pot of water

she was operating on a purely physical level. Jesus, who knew all about her, knew her real need was deeper. Jesus spoke to her of living water, the abundant life he could give. The woman did not grasp it, but Jesus was stating a universal truth. Nothing this world affords, can satisfy the soul of man. The woman said to him, "Give me this water." We are all represented in that statement, for we are all sinners, outcast, empty, miserable souls. Our cry goes out in the words of the woman at the well "Give me this water." Life's deepest need is not physical but spiritual. It is to know God in free pardon of sin and in his loving presence. Jesus knows our deepest needs.

Jesus moves to meet our need

There is still a sharp dispar-

Focal Passages

John 4:7-15, 24-26,
28-30, 35

ity between what Jesus is saying and what the woman is hearing. Our Lord is speaking from the top of spiritual truth and she is hearing from the bottom of sensual knowledge. Jesus now moves to meet her need. Let me briefly note how Jesus met her need and how he meets ours.

1. He brought her to confession of sin. When Jesus said to the woman, "Go call your husband..." (v. 16), he confronted her with her life of sin and led her to confession.

2. He moved her beyond intellectual discussion to a personal decision. When she sought to debate an old reli-

gious issue Jesus pointed her to a personal relationship with the Father (vv. 19-24).

3. He revealed his true nature. Jesus identified himself as the expected Messiah who would meet the deepest human need (vv. 25-26).

4. He led her to confess him. The woman went back into the city to declare, "Is not this the Christ?" (v. 29). Our deepest spiritual need is met when we confess Christ.

This story has a conclusion but no end. The woman came to faith in Christ, but our Lord remarked to his disciples that the fields are white unto harvest. Our world is full of people like the woman at the well who need to know about God's redemptive love in Jesus Christ. He is the Living Water who satisfies our deepest need. □

□ Who can be saved? — Convention Uniform Series for February 6

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

Billy Sunday (1862-1935) played baseball for Chicago, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia. One Sunday morning he was staggering down the street drunk.

He came to where a group of people were holding a service and he listened to the songs and the sermon. That night he gave his heart to the Lord.

Later the Lord used him in a mighty way as an evangelist. He once testified: "I stumbled drunk into the arms of Jesus."

Who can be saved? The answer is anyone who will trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In our Scripture passage for today, Luke records three responses to Jesus.

These responses are examples of modern day attitudes and actions.

Focal Passage Luke 18:15-30

Eagerness and dependence — vv. 15-17

In Jesus' day it was customary to ask famous rabbis to bless one's children. These mothers wanted more than a blessing, they also wanted the touch of Jesus (v. 15). The power of his touch had become well known. Luke does not explain why the disciples tried to keep the children away from Jesus. Perhaps they thought Jesus was tired or that they were protecting his valuable time. Perhaps the disciples were influenced by the Greco-Roman idea that children were insignificant.

But Jesus "rebuked" the dis-

ciples and invited the children into his arms (v. 16). Jesus' tenderness and high regard for children ("for of such is the kingdom of God") may have shocked the disciples and the crowd.

Jesus always welcomes those who eagerly seek him. Jesus desires that those who come to him, come with childlike dependence and trust.

Eagerness and independence — vv. 18-27

A wealthy ruler sought Jesus. The young man was wealthy enough for this life, but he was concerned about his prospects for eternal life (v. 18). He felt like he had kept God's moral demands, but was troubled by Jesus' emphasis on eternal life (v. 21).

Jesus did not debate the

man's moral qualifications, but focused on the things most important to the man — his wealth (v. 22). The one thing that stood between the man's dependence upon Jesus was his wealth. Would he make his wealth available to others? Jesus made service to others a visible proof that he understood that the way to eternal life was through dependence upon Jesus.

Real wealth is found in following Jesus, serving others, instead of being served. I have a feeling that the young man never really heard Jesus say, "come, follow me," because he was so sorrowful when he heard "sell and distribute" (v. 22).

It is impossible to buy your way into heaven (vv. 24-25). The only way is dependence

upon Jesus. Our God is the God of the impossible (v. 27). God is able to save anyone who will follow Jesus.

Eagerness and dependence — vv. 28-29

Peter spoke for all the disciples when he expressed that they had "left all and followed thee." Peter, Andrew, James, and John were successful in the fishing business. Matthew was a tax collector. They all had forsaken employment, families, and their homes to follow Jesus. They had been willing to do what the rich young ruler would not do.

Peter's expression of eagerness and sacrifice evoked from Jesus the wonderful promise of abundant spiritual blessings now and "in the age to come eternal life" (vv. 29-30). □

□ Who is a neighbor? — Life and Work Series for February 6

By Charles Bryan, pastor, Central Church, Alcoa

In our Scripture this week, we meet another person who is trying to trap Jesus and prove him wrong.

In this particular case, the questioner is a lawyer who was perceived as an "expert" of the law because he was responsible for copying and preserving the Old Testament. By posing his question, the lawyer wanted to put Jesus to a test concerning his belief about eternal life.

Jesus responds to the lawyer's question with a question, "What does the law say as you understand it?"

The lawyer's response was correct. He stated that a person is to love God with the totality of his being (Deuteronomy 6:5) and to love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18). Love for one's neighbor

is directly related to one's attitude toward one's self. Without valuing one's self as a human being, it is impossible to have a good attitude toward others. Jesus tells the lawyer to go and practice what he knows from the Scripture.

This is a reminder that the real test of belief is not one's knowledge, but one's actions. Giving the right answers is not enough. Our lives must be guided by love for God and for our fellow human beings.

The good Samaritan — vv. 29-37

Because the lawyer now found himself in an embarrassing situation (having known the answer to his own question), he finds it necessary to justify himself by taking the discussion a step further. He wants to know who Jesus de-

Focal Passages Luke 10:25-37

fines as one's neighbor. The definition of neighbor often depended on who was defining it. The lawyer had some definite limitations of who he identified as his neighbor. He was very exclusive in who he would consider worthy of his love, but Jesus was about to redefine his understanding of neighbor.

Jesus answers the query of the lawyer with a parable, the one we know as the good Samaritan. It could just as easily be called "The Real Neighbor."

Jesus introduces a traveler (race, nationality and religion unknown) who becomes the helpless victim of thieves. He is robbed and left on the side of

the road for dead. In the parable, three people come upon the injured party.

The first is a priest who has served God all week, and now has the opportunity to serve a man. However, by definition, this man is probably not his neighbor and to touch him would make the priest "unclean" so the best thing for him to do was to pass by as far away as possible.

The second person to pass by was a Levite who was a helper in the temple. He, too, decided not to get involved and to just ignore the situation.

Jesus then introduces a third person passing by the injured man, a Samaritan. The Jews hated Samaritans because they were neither Jew nor Gentile, but a "half-breed." The Samaritan does what nei-

ther of the Jews were willing to do by getting involved. He stops, he treats the man's wounds, he takes him to an inn and he pays for the injured man's stay at the inn.

Jesus concludes his answer with a question about who was "the real neighbor?" The lawyer could not evade the point of the story: there cannot be love for God without love for one's neighbor, unconditional, unlimited love.

Conclusion

Who is your neighbor? Could it be the person whose skin color is different from your own? Could it be the homeless person you pass each day on the way to work? Could it be the person infected with AIDS? Or could it be the person who ...? "Go and do likewise." □

Baptist relief workers begin mass feeding efforts in California

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Texas, Oklahoma, and Mississippi Baptist disaster relief teams were preparing 50,000 meals Jan. 25 for earthquake-stricken Southern Californians, and the American Red Cross had requested 80,000 meals for the next day.

The three units were at the American Red Cross mass care headquarters at the Van Nuys airport at the request of ARC officials. They wanted the Baptists in a single controlled secure area where they could mass produce meals that then could be distributed by ARC emergency response vehicles throughout the quake-ravaged area, according to Jim Burton, national off-site disaster relief coordinator for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. □

Fellowship leader declines pastorate

Associated Baptist Press

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — Cecil Sherman, head of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, has turned down an offer to leave the organization to become interim pastor of First Church, Asheville, where he earlier

served for 20 years.

In a statement before he left on a trip to Europe, Sherman said he had decided to continue as CBF coordinator, a position he has held two years.

"I have the clear conviction that staying at the CBF is the right thing to do," Sherman said. □

SBTS to teach D.Min classes in Korean

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will become the first Southern Baptist seminary to teach doctoral courses in a language other than English.

In July, the seminary will begin offering doctor of ministry courses taught in Korean, said Kwan Lee, the seminary's coordinator of Korean language D. Min studies. The program, he noted, will address the unique ministry issues facing the Korean-American community.

"This program is consistent with our commitment to the global mission of the church and to preparing people to minister effectively in any context," said David S. Dockery, vice president for academic administration at Southern.

"There is a great need in the Korean-American community for both beginning and ongoing theological education," Dockery added. □

Rosenbaum named director of B&H editorial department

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Richard "Bucky" Rosenbaum Jr., director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's trade operations department for Broadman & Holman Publishers, has been named B&H editorial director.

In his new role, Rosenbaum will oversee development of product ideas, acquisitions, and production of trade books, Bibles, academic books, reference books, and commentaries.

Rosenbaum was vice president for business and finance for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee before assuming leadership of trade operations in January 1993.

He is a member of First Church, Nashville. □



ROSENBAUM

Congressional vote expected on alcohol advertising bill

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Congress is expected to take its

first ever vote on an alcohol advertising bill early this year.

The Sensible Advertising and Family Education Act (S. 674), which requires rotating health and safety messages on broadcast and print alcohol advertisements, will go to the Senate Commerce Committee for a vote as early as late February.

The messages are similar to those already required to be placed on tobacco products and advertisements.

"This bill ensures that Americans, especially young people, will receive balanced information about the leading alcohol-related problems," said Robert Parham of the Baptist Center for Ethics.

"The primary source of information about alcohol comes from alcohol advertisements which promote drinking as a risk-free activity that advances social acceptance, sexual attractiveness, and athletic success," Parham said.

Ten votes are needed in the Senate Commerce Committee to move the bill from committee to the Senate floor. Parham urged Southern Baptists to call and encourage their senators to express support for the SAFE bill. Southern Baptists should "speak loudly" on this issue, Parham said.

Tennessee senator Harlan Matthews serves on the Senate Commerce Committee. □

Broadman & Holman video on best-seller list

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — With pre-release sales of more than 75,000 copies, a new children's video produced by Broadman & Holman made the best-seller's list in a national magazine published by the Christian Booksellers Association.

The January edition of *Bookstore Journal* ranks "Spin: Truth, Tubas, and George Washington" — first episode in B&H's new "Secret Adventures" video series for children — as the fourth best-selling Christian video in the country. The listing reflects sales for the month of November.

The video also was praised in the January issue of *Christian Retailing*, another trade publication for Christian bookstore owners. □

California college taps Sanders as interim

Baptist Press

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Jeff Sanders, a retired insurance company executive, has been named interim president of California Baptist College following the retirement of President Russell Tuck.

Sanders, a resident of Arkansas, will serve until a new president is elected. □

'Dodge City' residents in Nashville offered hope through BSSB courses

By Linda Lawson
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — While living in a Nashville public housing project known as "Dodge City" for its high rate of crime and violence, Barbara Larkins has taken steps to deal with problems in her past and move toward a brighter future.

Larkins, a resident of Cumberland View housing project, was involved in a drug and alcohol recovery program recently when she met Olivia Cloud, a coordinator in the Baptist Sunday School Board's black church development section. But she now acknowledges she had not given up either addiction.

Her biggest problem was spiritual, Larkins said.

Four months after beginning a study of the course, "Making Peace with Your Past" led by Cloud on Tuesday evenings, Larkins is drug and alcohol free. She is continuing to participate in daily therapy through a community program.

"When I first met Olivia, I

was active in my use of drugs and alcohol. I was spiritually bankrupt," said Larkins, the mother of four children. "I got the spiritual foundation here. I learned how to deal with my dysfunctional childhood."

Another participant in the Life Support course produced by the board's discipleship and family development division, Cherry Walker, said it "makes

me want to talk about things that are bothering me. It's very uplifting.

An average of two to three women attend the weekly sessions led by Cloud at the community center operated by Temple Church of Nashville. Cloud, who earlier took the course at First Church, Nashville, combines discussion questions with illustrations

from her own life.

Experience as director of a community center and a burden for the needs of women living in public housing combined to lead Cloud to offer the course at Cumberland View. Nashville Association contributed funds for materials, refreshments, and childcare during the course sessions.

"I know there's a lot of substance abuse and physical and verbal abuse (in the projects)," Cloud said. "That motivated me to help. I have a particular concern about helping women. Most households in public housing are headed by women," she said.

Cloud emphasized the principles of the course apply as effectively to public housing residents as to those in a middle-class setting. At the same time, some of her teaching methods are different.

For example, Cloud said the materials call for participants to sign a participation commitment contract. She elected to omit that part of the process.

"I'm working on building the trust factor," she ex-

plained. "I just got to be in the neighborhood. As I work with them, others are watching. I'm still having to prove myself. I've had to be more lenient with people about coming."

Cloud has found some of the illustrations in the material and from her life are not appropriate for life in public housing where one resident described the difficulty of learning to sleep amid gunfire in the neighborhood.

"I have to get out of my world and try to be in their world or we'll never meet," Cloud said.

During the sessions, she is at times more direct and confrontational than other course facilitators might be.

"There's a tendency in what we call the culture of poverty to look for authority figures," Cloud said, describing her role more as teacher than facilitator. She has not hesitated to challenge the women very directly about living out of old patterns from their past. They have responded with appreciation and a desire to break entrenched habits, she said. □



BARBARA LARKINS, left, a resident of Cumberland View housing project in Nashville, talks with Olivia Cloud, coordinator in the Baptist Sunday School Board's black church development section who taught the Life Support course "Making Peace with Your Past," at Cumberland View. — Photo by Jim Veneman