

Baptist and Reflector

February 9, 1994

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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week's
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New form developed to simplify TBC nominations

A revised and more widely distributed form will provide a simpler and more efficient method for Tennessee Baptists to make nominations to their boards and committees.

Resulting from wide discussions at eight regional meetings last year, the enhanced form will be distributed to every Tennessee Baptist church and to all moderators of

the 68 state associations.

The new form was developed from input at the regional meetings, from discussions at recent state conventions, and from suggestions coming from former Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees members.

The recommendation form was reviewed and finalized last week at a meeting of the

Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees. The form will be used for nominations to the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board, the Committee on Committees, and the Committee on Boards. Nominators will be able to check the area where the nominee is most qualified to serve. There is a check-off box for every TBC entity.

The form, when completed, gives the Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards more valuable and necessary information on the nominee. It is an inclusive form, gathering information about the nominee's expertise, previous service on boards and committees, place and type of work (church staff and laity), some information about church membership, and information about church and convention involvement.

Other than being distrib-

uted to churches and association moderators, through the associational office, the form also will be published in the *Baptist and Reflector* in the near future. It may be duplicated for wider distribution.

The new form is an effort to give Tennessee Baptists a better opportunity to nominate persons for service. Potentially, distribution would make it possible for many more nominations than committees have received in the past. According to committee members who have served in recent years, there has been a general dearth of nominations.

An explanation for proper use of the revised form is printed on the form. Completed forms should be mailed to: Chairman, Committee on Committees, TBC, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. Deadline for recommendations is March 15. □

Weather slows down CP receipts

A winter snow/ice storm which struck most of Tennessee in January hurt Cooperative Program giving for the month.

Tennessee Baptists gave \$2,150,943 in January, compared to \$2,475,430 last January, a 5.1 percent decrease.

"The Cooperative Program was affected by inclement weather," said TBC Execu-

tive Director James Porch, who noted January gifts from churches slowed down because many East Tennessee churches were unable to hold regular services.

On a positive note, CP giving during the first four days of February was good, said William Maxwell, TBC Central Administrative Division director. □

TBC joint conferences examine worship experiences

Two Tennessee Baptist Convention departments are combining to present two conferences on worship.

The Church Music Department and Discipleship Training Department have scheduled the TBC's first conferences on "Worship that Honors God and Reaches People and Edifies Believers."

The two conferences are set for Feb. 21-22 at Wallace

Memorial Church, Knoxville, and Feb. 28-March 1 at First Church, Franklin.

The conferences are planned to develop the theme of "How to plan for effective and authentic worship for growing churches."



BRYSON



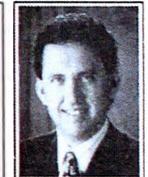
McCLUSKEY



FORLINES



WHITE



DAWSON

Everyone who attends will participate in two different worship experiences. A highlight of the two-day conferences is the worship experience itself with two worship experiences at each location, one each evening.

Seminars are scheduled for practical planning to equip worship leaders in becoming more effective in their roles as leaders of spiritual, authentic worship. Three special interest conferences will be held on prayers in public worship, children's emphasis in the worship experience, and the use of laypersons in worship.

Seminars also will be held on trends and worship ideas that work in churches.

The faculty includes Harold Bryson, Tom McMinn, David Carter, Bruce Grubbs, Fred Kelly, Norris Smith, and Joe Stacker, Sunday School Board; Ross Brummett, religion department, Carson-Newman

College. There are several staff members from the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and pastor and staff members from the host churches. Home church staffers James McCluskey and Bruce Forlines lead some of the worship at Wallace Memorial Church, while hosts Richard White and Denny Dawson lead at First Church, Franklin. Other worship leaders include Ron Herrod and Bill Crawford, Central Church, Oak Ridge; and Mark Gregory and Jerry Neely, First Church, Murfreesboro.

The program begins at each location at 2 p.m., local time, on Monday, closing after 8:15 worship on Tuesday evening.

There is no registration fee, but registration forms and other information can be obtained by calling the TBC Church Music Department at (615) 371-2040 or the TBC Discipleship Training Department at (615) 371-2053. □



BENNIE CREEL, right, of Sweetwater Association, incoming president of the Tennessee Baptist directors of missions group, presents a plaque to outgoing president **Charles Earl**, Holston Valley Association, during the group's meeting Jan. 31-Feb. 1 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. With them is **Roy Fowler**, McMinn-Meigs Association, who was re-elected secretary-treasurer. The group's vice president will be **Thurman Seber**, Salem Association.

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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901 COMMERCIAL ST SUITE 400
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Florida church will appeal judge's ruling

Baptist Press

SANFORD, Fla. — A Florida church will appeal a ruling by a circuit court judge which ordered the church to open its financial records to a woman, who the judge ruled, was improperly removed from the congregation.

According to William "Bob" Parker, pastor of First Church, Markham Woods, in Lake Mary, the church plans to appeal the ruling.

Parker, a member of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, said he felt lower courts sometimes rule on church-state issues which are then overruled on appeal because higher courts understand that church disputes are not the province of the judicial system.

Ann B. Haynes filed suit Aug. 27, 1993, asking to inspect church financial records. However, Parker claims Haynes was removed from membership prior to her request on Aug. 17.

Haynes questioned whether the pastor had properly spent a \$416,000 bequest, had received interest-free loans from the church, and used the church's tax-exempt status to avoid property taxes on his home by transferring the title to the church.

Parker says an audit of the

church records revealed nothing to substantiate those charges.

Haynes's membership was terminated Aug. 4 by the church's deacons. In its response to the lawsuit, the church said Haynes was ousted because of poor attendance, unchristian conduct, and re-

fusal to work out conflicts within the church.

Haynes contends the church's constitution requires terminations to be voted on at regular church meetings. The church claims, however, an amendment allows deacons to remove members. □

Volunteers needed for Cross Over Orlando in June

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — With 173 churches in central Florida planning to participate in Cross Over Orlando, churches and individuals from other areas are needed to help carry out the pre-convention evangelistic thrust.

Participating churches represent more than half the churches and missions in the six central Florida associations, said Jerry Pipes, national missionary for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's evangelism section.

"We want to match a

partner church (from outside the area) with every participating church in central Florida," Pipes said.

Cross Over Orlando is jointly sponsored by six local associations, the Florida Baptist Convention, and the HMB. Church and individual volunteers will be matched with Florida churches by May, and most Cross Over events will be Sat-

urday, June 11, Pipes said.

Previous Cross Over activities have included neighborhood surveys, block parties, street evangelism, evangelistic rallies, and church planting. Last year, 1,267 professions of faith, 196 rededications, and 1,449 prospects were reported in Houston.

HMB evangelism personnel will provide witness training for Cross Over Orlando participants. Tom Kyzer, FBC evangelism associate, is leading prayer support efforts.

For more information about Cross Over Orlando, call the HMB at (404) 898-7687. □

Cross Over Orlando



Feb. 13 is Race Relations Sunday

'He hath broken down the wall between us' (Ephesians 2:14)

By Clarice Dixon
SBC Christian Life Commission

NASHVILLE — Anti-semitism. Ethnic-cleansing. Political injustice. Economic injustice. Institutionalized injustice. Racist gangs. Hate crime. Racial hostility. Police brutality. Murder. The atrocities go on and on representing themselves as the walls that separate and divide humanity. We are constantly reminded of the deep-seated racial tensions on our televisions and radios, in our newspapers and maga-

zines, in conversations, and through personal experiences.

The world is full of places where one ethnic group is feuding with another: Sinhalese kill Tamils in Sri Lanka; Muslims and Christians do battle in Nigeria; Liberia's ethnic groups engage in mutual slaughter; the Chinese snuff out an ancient culture in Tibet (*Newsweek*, 8-17-92); ethnic minorities bear the brunt of British racism in England; and America's ethnic minorities are gripped with social unrest, conflict, misunderstanding, and hatred for one another.

Where is the missing "peace?"

What progress will America and the world have made in race relations as we prepare to depart the 20th century? What must we do today to ensure and experience the peace that is spoken of in Philippians 4:7, the "peace of God, which passeth all understanding?"

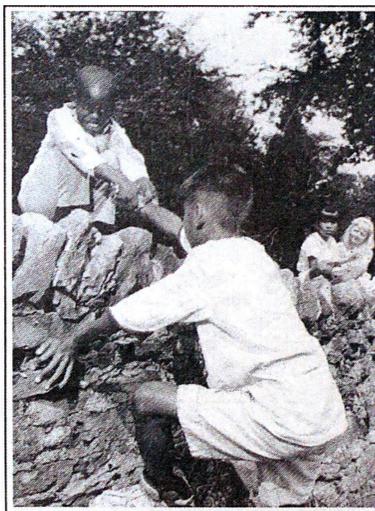
Is it possible, so far as it depends upon each one of us, to live peaceably with all (Romans 12:18)? We can, when we recognize the sacredness of all hu-

man life which was created in the image of God. We can, when we realize the hatred, discrimination, and spiritual unrest in our own hearts and allow God's peace to change us from within. For it is in him alone that we experience genuine peace in personal relations, with other ethnic groups, and other nations.

We can, when we recognize that God "is our peace" and that, through Jesus' death on the cross, God "has broken down the wall" of hostility that separated man from him (Ephesians 2:14-15). Even to-

day Christ enables each of us to turn the dividing wall of hostilities into connecting bridges of racial harmony, love, peace, understanding, and respect.

Race relations observation should take place every day of the week, all year long. But we give particular emphasis in February of each year. So on Feb. 13, as you observe this emphasis day, make it a day to begin praying about the peace of God in your own heart and continuously chip away at the wall of hostilities that divide you and me. □



Observe Race Relations Sunday
February 13, 1994
Sponsored by the Southern Baptist
Christian Life Commission

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



February -

- 10 — Ken and Cathy Yinger — our newest missionaries appointed to Copiapo
- 11 — Missionary Martha Miller gave a Christian music concert in Puerto Varas. More than 80 people attended. Pray for the follow-up efforts with these prospects.
- 12 — Caroline Jones as she celebrates her birthday in the states ... Caroline, her husband, Archie, and daughter, Elizabeth, have begun their final furlough before official retirement.
- 13 — First Church of Arica needs to experience healing and harmony, as well as the Lord to provide them with a godly pastor.
- 14 — The salvation of Manuel Sanchez in Temuco
- 15 — Missionary Steve Cooke and his ministry with the national youth organization
- 16 — Mary Jo Geiger is celebrating her birthday. She is in the states on medical disability. Pray for God's strength and freedom from pain for her.

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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- **Office** — Baptist and Reflector, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027
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SBC Cooperative Program gifts continue trend

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for January, although down slightly from January last year, continue the trend of monthly increases for the fiscal year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

The CP gifts for January 1994 totaled \$14,254,071 compared to January 1993 of \$14,292,208 or a decrease of \$38,137 which is .27 percent,

said Chapman. But the year-to-date figures, October through January, showed the CP receipts at \$48,621,957 compared to the previous fiscal year-to-date of \$47,764,007 which is an \$857,949 increase or 1.80 percent.

"The January figures continue the trend we hoped we would see," Chapman said. "The figures are a testimony to the faith and support of Southern Baptists in our cooperative mission endeavors."

Another key, Chapman said, was that for the 1993-94 fiscal year, the totals were above the

budget requirements. The monthly budget requirement is \$11,519,561 which was surpassed in January by \$2,734,510 or 23.74 percent.

The four month totals, fiscal year-to-date, show \$48,621,957 compared to that period's budget requirement of \$46,078,245 or 5.52 percent above the requirement which is \$2,543,712. The year-to-date totals show receipts above the budget requirement for the first time this fiscal year.

Designated gifts for January 1994 were down slightly compared to January 1993:

\$21,655,020 compared to \$21,986,820 or 1.51 percent decrease. For the year-to-date, 1993-94 has \$28,113,779 compared to 1992-93 of \$29,560,263 or 4.89 percent decrease.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, world hunger, and other special gifts. □

Southern Seminary acts on CBF-related events

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will not sponsor exhibits or hold alumni gatherings in connection with any event or organization which competes with the Southern Baptist Convention or the Cooperative Program, according to seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr.

In a Feb. 1 meeting, members of the seminary's trustee executive committee unanimously concurred with that decision, which was made by Mohler and first announced to the seminary's national alumni officers in April 1993. Mohler indicated the policy will include state and national events sponsored by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The seminary policy states: "The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to maintain trust and allegiance with the Southern Baptist Convention and to reach out to the diverse constituency of the Southern Baptist Convention."

"As a statement of affirmation and trust with the Southern Baptist Convention, Southern Seminary will not exhibit nor hold meetings in connection with the assembly of any group in competition with the Southern Baptist Convention or the Cooperative Program."

The formal trustee action was in response to a motion made at the 1993 Southern Baptist Convention and referred to trustees of the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries. The motion, presented by Jerry Brown, a layman from Edmond, Okla., asked seminary alumni associations "which have exhibited at Cooperative Baptist Fellowship gatherings be discouraged from doing so, and if they continue to exhibit, the Cooperative Program allocations for those seminaries be withheld and divided

among our other seminaries."

Although the trustee statement was adopted in order to report back to the annual meeting of the convention in Orlando in June, the seminary policy actually predates the SBC motion and its referral, Mohler explained.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was established in 1990 by Southern Baptist moderates displeased with the current leadership of the SBC and its agencies. The Fellowship attracts support from about 1,200 Southern Baptist churches to fund missionaries and other programs.

Despite dropping the seminary's presence at the Fellowship meetings, the school plans to seek a relationship with alumni who affiliate with the Fellowship, said Tom Mabe, supervisor of alumni relations.

"We have very aggressive plans to have regional roundtables to reach out to all our alumni and ask them to talk about what's going on at the seminary and express their opinions," he said.

The concept is to be presented to the school's alumni advisory council the second week of February, he said.

Howard Cobble, president of

the national alumni association, said he hopes the seminary will maintain its ties with all alumni.

Richard D. White, pastor of First Church of Franklin, and chairman of the seminary's trustees, emphasized the strong support of trustees for Mohler's policy.

The need for such a policy is due to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's increasing attempts to divert funds from the Cooperative Program, Mohler explained. □ — Associated Baptist Press also contributed to story.

Oak Ridge senator urges Tennesseans to contact legislators about lottery bill

NASHVILLE — The key to whether a proposed Senate bill which would delete the word "lottery" from the state constitution is defeated is how vigorously the public participates, said State Senator Randy McNally of Oak Ridge.

"Right now, opponents of the measure have enough votes to stop it," McNally told the *Baptist and Reflector*.

He said it is their fear that professional gambling companies will come to Nashville "and spend a lot of money to get the bill passed."

"If the public contacts their legislators and lets them know their concerns, I think it can be defeated," the Republican senator said. (A list of state senators was provided in the Jan. 19 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*.)

McNally said the public needs to realize the legislation does not just allow legalization of paramutual lotteries, but that it would legalize casino gambling, slot machines, and all types of gambling.

He said bill opponents are trying to educate Senate mem-

bers on the other side that there are hidden costs associated with the lottery issue. "It is not the solution it is reported to be," he said.

"Most states (that have legalized gambling) have seen little economic growth," said McNally, who represents Anderson,

Campbell, and Knox counties.

He noted that most of the money spent on lotteries goes to pay the winners and the companies that run the games. And, McNally cautioned, some of the "companies are alleged to be linked to organized crime." □ — Lonnie Wilkey



WAYMON JONES, left, executive director of the United Tennessee League, and Bill Bates, right, Tennessee Baptist Convention public affairs consultant, recently presented the Bill Bates Legislative Award to Senator Randy McNally of Oak Ridge for "his tireless effort in dealing with moral problems in the area of substance abuse and gambling. The award is presented annually by the United Tennessee League.

TBC workers give aid to earthquake victims

Two relief teams of Tennessee Baptist men have arrived in California to assist local authorities at the Los Angeles earthquake site.

According to Cameron Byler, five relief specialists from Knoxville and Trezevant and three from Hardeman Association are helping other disaster relief workers.

Four from Knoxville's West Lonsdale Church made the trip, including coordinator Curtis Fowler, Jim Jones, Robert Covington, and Don Byrd. The fifth worker is Ed Simpson from First Church, Trezevant. They are working Feb. 3 - Feb. 12.

The Hardeman Association team includes Deryl Watson, director of missions, Charles Manley, and Mike Taylor who are working Feb. 8-14.

Donations will be forwarded quickly.

— Byler

The Tennesseans are working in the Van Nuys area with the California No. 1 Unit at the Valley Red Cross Chapter Center. They are assisting disaster relief workers from various states to feed 9,000-10,000 victims a day, Byler reported.

Seven Baptist disaster relief mobile units from six state Baptist conventions and from California are assisting Californians. The units have fed 750,000 Feb. 2-6, he added.

Byler also said his office is the clearing house for funds donated by Tennessee Baptists. "They will be forwarded quickly to the appropriate California relief office," he said. Any donations should be marked for the special account, and sent to: Brotherhood Department, California Earthquake Relief, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027.

There is no need yet for out-of-state cleanup workers or other feeding unit workers, Byler said. He added that his Brentwood office will give reports on those needs as they are received. □

■ 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. □

Pen Pals, here's a letter from Aunt Polly

Last fall in our search for longtime readers, Aunt Polly wrote. A former staff member, she had written a column for young people, called "The Young South." After her departure, others wrote the column. We asked the original Aunt Polly to explain the idea behind the column. We want to know if there are any Pen Pals who would like to comment about the Young South, and whether such a venture would be helpful in today's world. — Editor

I began work at the *Baptist and Reflector* in December 1939, and became Aunt Polly soon thereafter. In the Nov. 28, 1940, issue I wrote, "When it was decided that I should be your Aunt Polly I shall never forget how unworthy I felt but at the same time how directly I felt that God was giving you to me that through the Young South page we might give ourselves to the bringing about of our part in God's plan for the world."

We had a page in the *Baptist and Reflector* each week. Each page carried a letter from Aunt Polly to the boys and girls, and letters received from them. We also had stories, articles, puzzles, games, poems, Who's Who, and sometimes photographs.

□ The Baptist and Reflector was in our home. He picked it up and began to read.

Dr. O. W. Taylor, *Baptist and Reflector* editor then, gave this letter to Aunt Polly prominently on a page of the *Baptist and Reflector*:

"May I begin by writing first that I love you. I am a girl 20 years old. I have only been a Christian about two years. I am engaged to a boy 24 years old who is now in the service of our country. Until his last visit to me he was not a Christian. The *Baptist and Reflector* was in our home. He picked it up and began to read. He came to the Young South page and I know read every word. He turned to me and I believe with tears in his eyes. He said to me, 'Maralyn, I want to be a Christian now.' So you see why I love you. Because of your page in the *Baptist and Reflector* I have been made very happy. —Maralyn Forrester"

The Young South page of Jan. 29, 1942, carried a photograph and this letter from Dorothy Willene Howell, who

gives the Young South page credit for leading her to the Lord. She said:

"I wrote Aunt Polly a letter and asked her to pray for me that I might become a Christian. Mrs. Helen Bridges saw the letter in the paper and wrote me telling me to read Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:8-9, and Acts 8:26-40. I did as she said and felt it upon my heart to accept Christ as my Savior. I joined Boiling Springs Church, near Sparta, and was baptized in July 1941. Our pastor is Rev. James Williams. My Sunday School teacher is Miss Marie Cass."

Many children wrote from Christian homes. From the March 14, 1940, issue here is a portion from such a letter from Lionel King:

"I sure do like to read the stories and letters. Oh goody, Aunt Polly, I got a card from a little boy in Memphis. His name is James H. Perdue Jr. He read my letter and saw my picture in the *Baptist and Reflector*. I wrote him a letter this week. Thank you for the extra *Baptist and Reflectors*. I gave them to some of my friends who do not take it. It might cause them to start taking it. I like the new 'Link-o' game in the Young South page. Mother had to help me with some of them. I am not that far over in my Bible yet.

"I read my Bible every day. When I was 3 years old, I started reading in the Bible. This is how I did it. Daddy would read a few words. I

would repeat them. He used the Intermediate and Adult readings in Training Union. We did this for three years. I know it was not really reading but I liked to do it anyway. I liked the Bible for mother had read me a lot of good stories out of it before we started doing this. Mother taught me to read and write before I started to school. When I was 6 years old mother and daddy got me a Bible for my birthday, Aug. 6. I started reading that very night out of my own Bible. I haven't missed a day since and I will be 10 in August. I read out loud so mother and daddy can help me with the hard words. Mother and daddy and I read our Bible readings at the same time. I am going to read my Bible through.

"You asked me which part of the *Baptist and Reflector* mother and daddy like best. Daddy said he likes all of it. Mother doesn't know which part she likes best. She likes the WMU page a lot."

The Young South page gave Aunt Polly the opportunity to witness for Christ, allowing her weekly to present the Gospel message to the boys and girls. God blessed this witness as evidenced by the above letters.

Forty-eight years later my faith is renewed as I read in the *Baptist and Reflector* God is still at work through Young South "boys" such as W. Clyde Tilley.

This is why I can still say that editing the Young South page is one of the great experiences of my life, and I am thankful. Wouldn't it be great to hear from other Young South "boys and girls!"

Aunt Polly (Nettie Chandler)
Nashville, Tenn. 37221

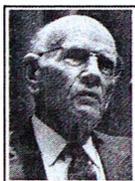
Youthful search for self-identity

Baptists have been around a long time. But we as Southern Baptists are still in our teenage years as

■ a historical view

By James Sullivan, retired BSSB president

denominations are measured. That is why we act as we do so often. This fact first struck me when I came to the Baptist Sunday School Board in 1953 as chief executive officer. The first year here I had Ethel Allen as my personal secretary.



SULLIVAN

Miss Allen had been the personal secretary of T. L. Holcomb, my predecessor, over his long tenure just as she had been the personal secretary of I. J. Van Ness, who had preceded him. She was also personal secretary of J. M. Frost, founder and leader of the Sunday School Board for eight years.

The fact of one long tenure touching so many administrations was phenomenal.

That impression was deepened and reaffirmed when I was invited a few years later

to speak at the unveiling of a historical plaque in Greenville, S.C., at the spot where Elford's print shop had been located. That was where our first church literature was produced for Southern Baptist churches on Southern Baptist Convention authority.

Since I then headed what was in a sense the successor of that first denominational publishing endeavor, I had been invited to speak on the life and influence of Basal Manly Jr. He was the man who had secured the Convention permission and produced our first church literature before the Civil War.

At a banquet preceding the unveiling, I was seated between a Mr. Manly and Mrs. Goldsmith, both advanced in years. I had assumed they were grandchildren of Dr. Manly. Instead, it turned out that they were the two surviving children in the large family of Basal Manly Jr., who had been one of the founders of our

oldest seminary and producer of our first Sunday School lesson courses.

Maybe the fact of our youthfulness will partially excuse our present denominational hassle on the grounds of our growing up and the inevitable sibling rivalry. Are we not at times like a group of children of a large family — brash, overbearing, and super sensitive, fussing among themselves in the effort to establish an acceptable "pecking order" in the family as we quest for personal self-identity?

Our present struggle toward solution has been so violent that it has reminded me of the proverbial "throwing the baby out with the bath water" method of solution. That is inexcusable.

With 95 percent of Southern Baptists considered to be conservative by leaders on both sides of the controversy, and to be ardent believers in and adherents to the Bible, such drastic means seem unnecessary.

Surely there is a better way. □

Day of Prayer for student ministries

Last August during Student Week at Ridgecrest, 12 Baptist Student Union state presidents met together. We discussed several aspects of BSU ministry, and we collectively expressed a desire for coordinated ministry on a national level.

In response to this desire, Feb. 16, 1994, has been designated as a National Day of Prayer for BSU Ministries. Every state director of student ministries has been notified and encouraged to participate.

In Tennessee each campus BSU president and council decides how to participate in the Day of Prayer.

The purpose of this day is to lift up student work on local,

state, and national levels for a day and to increase the awareness of student work as more than the work of isolated campuses and churches.

Of special prayer importance are the many mission trips soon to be taken by BSUs during spring breaks. Also, more than 50 summer missionaries from Tennessee, funded entirely by college students, will work on a state, national, and global level to share the Gospel this summer. Keep student ministries in your prayers as college students work together this coming year.

Regina Bartlett
state BSU president
Vanderbilt University
Nashville 37212

Families should 'have done with lesser things'

When a show can't make it on television these days, it probably doesn't have enough violence, irresponsible sex, or crudity.

If ratings are low, the show most likely is too tame, makes fathers look responsible and caring, and has only one traditional family starring in the main plot.

If there is a major culprit in the demise of Christian values in homes as depicted by the media — television is guilty.

And, if there is to be a serious attempt to bridle the violence, sex, and crudity, TV has to improve its wasteland image.

In television, the world has a potentially powerful ally in promulgating decent and moral values. Sadly, that potential has not been tapped. Rather, the medium too often shows the seamy side of life.

This may be true largely because Christians find it easy to loudly protest one or two vulgar programs, but remain strangely silent on many others which denigrate family life. Could it be that we contribute to the situation by shrugging off questionable programming and shady comedy?

Notice that when there is a slump in ratings or at the ticket office, the writers have a quick fix. Just throw in several more murders, lies, cheating spouses, more alcohol, and build the plot around a weird and/or dysfunctional "family."

Usually those moves can bring success out of sure failure. Success often breeds

greed. Such changes ensue "success."

Lest we dump all irresponsible "entertainment" on television, remember there is enough blame to include printed pornography, perverted movies, and filthy radio programs. Smut titillates the sordid side of thinking. The attraction for brash language and shocking tactics is phenomenal. Too many good citizens relax while tuning in to ridiculous portrayals of human aberrations — on television and radio. The gurus (show hosts) who gamble with human lives, earn millions, know no conscience, and call themselves experts. Wow!

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

We are calling out in alarm for all Christians, especially Tennessee Baptists, to pray for God's guidance in restoration of His concept of family life.

Rarely now do we see a family represented on television as having a father and mother actively involved in leadership roles, doing their best to teach morality, civility, compassion, purity, and love to children, other family, and friends. Nasty has almost totally replaced nice.

We see instead a manufactured "family" that shouts and screams epithets and obscenities at each other, knows no limits on ill manners, and, in the midst of all that, finds time to laugh at each ignorant, crude, and insulting remark. Children and adults are equally guilty.

Frederick Buechner, in *Whistling in the*

Dark, has this to say about families: "A family is a web so delicately woven that it takes almost nothing to set the whole thing shuddering or even to tear it to pieces. Yet the thread it is woven of is as strong as anything on earth."

"It is within the fragile yet formidable walls of our own family that you learn, or do not learn, what the phrase Human Family means."

We know what he means. Most of us have been there. But we never get through with family. Whether we have a home full of babies or teenagers, whether we are single or grandparents, whether there is compassion and love or severe abuse and acrimony, we never finish with family.

Should we not then call on our Heavenly Father to instruct and teach us in undertaking the long overdue repair of family?

Whatever is best for HIS family, Christians should try to do. Put God first, then family. Don't take short cuts. Don't ignore prayer. Look out for danger signals. Do not give in to the banalities of life. Protect children from wrong influences — even from themselves. Take every opportunity to be together. Rely on praying together. Spend time together. Don't let the world trivialize God's pleasures of husband-wife relationships or of family warmth.

Family life is as much or as little as we invest in it. We should not only care for our family, we must care for others. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

It can't be hidden

Racism is ugly, and the object of scorn and the hater are victims.

People who have not been abused by racists may offer sympathy and affirmation, but they can never understand.

Most people around my family on the farm were black. In that small world, I only read about Indians, Eskimos, Chinese. I did not know any.



ALLEN

When we studied Africa in the geography class, it did not occur to me that the people on the farm were black like those in my book. Even

though my black friends were not treated as equals, I did not see them as Africans. I did not sense nor comprehend the societal and cultural differences forced on most blacks. I did not see their loss of freedom.

They drank from separate fountains and entered a separate door and sat in a separate balcony at the theater on Saturday. That was not equality. They stood in a separate line and sat at the back of the same bus whites traveled on.

My black friends went to a separate school that was by no means equal, and they usually walked to get there. They could not vote. I never thought about the great discrepancy — until I was much older.

That is one of the worst things about hate and racism. It is passed on from other generations, without good reasons given for its continuance; there are none. It was easy to seize on some crime or uncouth thing committed by a black person — and make that a means of judging all black people. That seldom happened to whites. Justice was often absent.

In my growing up, with help from my family I realized the essence and truth in God's equal treatment of all people.

Though I wanted to, it was too late for me to find my boyhood friends and apologize to them for careless rudeness.

I feel no compulsion now to assess blame nor to beg forgiveness for all crimes to all people because of racism. But, O my soul, for Christ's dear sake, I can strive to be a man without prejudice.

That will be the best way to give my own apology. ☺

Parenting is governing the family

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

It seems that everyone is an expert on raising children.

I know people who don't even have children and aren't even married, yet they go around telling others how to be married and how to raise children.

Let's consider this week four patterns that have been identified in research and make a suggestion about the strengths of the pattern that seems to produce the most confident and competent children.

The first pattern is known as *authoritarian* parenting. Authoritarian parents make strict rules, expect implicit obedience, and don't accept discussion.

These parents usually are seen by their children as dictators. These parents can't understand why other parents let their children get by with so much. They see all issues as black and white, right and wrong. And they are always right!

The second pattern of parenting is *authoritative*. These parents make rules, set boundaries, and expect obedience. They differ from the authoritarian parents in that they talk to and with their children about the rules so that the

child feels he had a part.

The authoritative parent also enforces the rules in a consistent way which helps the child understand that he/she is responsible for the outcomes and consequences.

Permissive parenting is the third pattern. This kind of parent does not make many rules, lets the child determine his/her own boundaries and sees himself as more of a resource than a guide. This style of parenting was popularized 20 and 30 years ago by Dr. Benjamin Spock. The assumption usually is that this style will produce the more confident child since the child is allowed to make personal decisions.

The opposite usually occurs. Struggling with these decisions before being ready, and without guidance, these children may become anxious and tentative in their decision making.

The neglecting and rejecting parent sets the fourth style. These parents are disengaged, expect little from their children, and invest little in them.

These parents usually are so wrapped up in their own problems or lifestyle that they don't have time even to properly feed or clothe their children.

This style of parenting produces the most child abuse.

This kind of parenting was almost unheard of in our parents' day, but it is a growing problem in the juvenile justice system of our country.

Research indicates the *authoritative* parent produces the most confident and competent child. This undoubtedly is because the child learns to take responsibility for the rules and for the consequences.

The child also is challenged to think for himself and to develop his own abilities.

We will take a closer look at strengths and weaknesses of each of these parenting styles in the next four weeks. □

Readers may contact Dr. Barkley with questions they would like answered on this page, at The Counseling Center, 6385 Stage Rd., Ste. 1, Bartlett, Tenn. 38134. — Editor



BARKLEY

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Willie: "I do a good deed every day."



WOOD

Teacher: "What good deed have you done today?"

Willie: "We had enough castor oil for only one so I let my little brother have it."

Take this truth

We may have strange motives for doing things. If Satan cannot get us to do the wrong thing, he'll get us to do right things for wrong reasons. That suits him as well.

Memorize this Scripture

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit ... look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4 NIV).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me always to be sincere and true, and know that all the work I do — should be done for others. □

BSSB releases new VBS materials to meet varying needs

By Chip Alford
For Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — After five years of research and planning, the Baptist Sunday School Board is releasing a newly designed Vacation Bible School curriculum to meet the varying scheduling needs of churches.

"We've tried to respond to the expressed needs of churches and provide more flexibility and simplicity," Willie Beaty, the board's VBS administration consultant, said.

"We've made the materials more visually appealing and also built in options that will allow every church to build a VBS schedule that meets its needs," he said.

"Trail of Treasures" is the theme of the 1994 Convention Press curriculum which includes materials for preschoolers, children, youth, and adults. Beaty said administrative and teaching materials provide for a basic schedule of five three-hour sessions, but optional resources and suggestions in the *VBS Plan Book* allow churches to expand or

abbreviate the schedule as needed.

The new curriculum was introduced earlier this month to 460 leaders enlisted by state conventions who attended the 1994 VBS institutes, training meetings held in Kansas City, Mo., and at Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist conference centers.

The state leaders, in turn, will train workers to lead more than 1,400 associational VBS clinics across the country this spring.

"There is a trend of more churches moving to a night schedule (52 percent in 1992), and night schools almost dictate a shorter schedule," Beaty said.

One possible explanation for the trend, he said, is a rise in the number of working mothers which often means a small-

1994 VBS clinics in Tennessee

The 1994 state Vacation Bible School clinics will be held in four locations across Tennessee, Feb. 14-17.

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

For more information, call the Tennessee Baptist Convention Sunday School Department at (615) 371-2054.

- Dates and sites are:
 Feb. 14 — Manley Church, Morristown
 Feb. 15 — First Church, Athens
 Feb. 16 — Judson Church, Nashville
 Feb. 17 — Englewood Church, Jackson □

ents get off work," he said.

Whatever schedule option a church uses for VBS, this summer's workers will notice a number of other curriculum and organizational changes, Beaty said, such as:

- the re-introduction of crafts as an enrichment activity;
- an organization built around a "team concept" using general officer teams and age-group teams;
- additional music resources including a theme song, "VBS Song Book," and VBS "Trail of Treasures" musical;
- a worship service planned at the beginning of each day's VBS and featuring a processional of students;
- a new packaging approach designed to make ordering easier by using team leader packets for each age group and the

VBS director;

■ worship and Bible study materials written to relate to the New International Version of the Bible and Scripture memory verses printed in both the King James Version and NIV.

Other new resources include booklets filled with ideas for promoting VBS and using crafts and recreation, as well as *New Horizons in Vacation Bible School*, a new book by Beaty explaining the new curriculum.

The design changes are the result of five years of work by the BSSB's VBS redesign work group, Beaty said. The group made its recommendations after receiving input from thousands of Southern Baptists, including state convention personnel, pastors, ministers of education, church staff, VBS directors and teachers, and seminary professors.

"Because of the changes and improvements, this will be a really critical year for church volunteers to attend associational VBS clinics and begin faculty training early," Beaty said. □

er number of available teachers for daytime VBS.

Adult VBS classes usually are held at night as well, allowing parents and children to attend at the same time, he said.

Even so, Beaty said a growing number of churches are finding they can reach more children through VBS by providing an expanded daytime schedule that meets the needs of working parents.

"That way children who are normally dropped off at day care can be dropped off at the church (for VBS) instead and then picked up when the par-

Statistics, testimonies show VBS as effective outreach tool

By Chip Alford
For Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — There may be some pastors and church leaders who believe Vacation Bible School is a thing of the past, a Southern Baptist relic no longer effective in reaching communities of the '90s for Christ.

Those leaders have never

talked with Harold Dinsmore.

"I am absolutely sold on VBS as a tool for outreach. I don't know of another program that allows us to touch so many families, especially the unchurched," said Dinsmore, pastor of the 204-member Northland Church in Kansas City, Mo.

The annual training process for 1994 Southern Baptist Va-

cation Bible Schools began earlier this month with training institutes at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist conference centers and Kansas City, Mo.

In 1993, Northland Church enrolled 85 children in VBS and three made professions of faith.

The church also sponsored three Backyard Bible Clubs in nearby apartment complexes, averaging about 10 children at each club.

"In the last three years, we've probably had 40 children accept Christ as Savior through Vacation Bible School," said Dinsmore, whose two sons, Joshua, 12, and Thomas, 10, also became Christians as a result of VBS.

"I follow up with the children's parents on the day they make their decision if I can reach them, either by phone or a card," he said. "We also make as many personal visits as we can."

Parents of children attending Northland's VBS also hear the Gospel during the church's annual VBS carnival on the last night of the summer Bible study program.

"We have our crafts on display and all kinds of activities for the kids. I also have a booth with tracts and literature about our church. Since

In the last three years, we've probably had 40 children accept Christ as Savior through Vacation Bible School.

— Harold Dinsmore, pastor

it's an informal atmosphere, parents tend to stay longer and I get an opportunity to visit with them," Dinsmore said.

Northland's VBS success story is not unusual. Consider these other examples:

■ With an average Sunday School attendance of 155, **Fairview Church in Mohawk**, set a VBS enrollment goal of 226 last year and exceeded it the first night.

Forty-two prospects were discovered, eight people made professions of faith, and four people joined the Sunday School and church.

■ **Prestonwood Church**, Dallas, recently reported the largest VBS held in one year, with 3,360 people enrolled.

Approximately 65 percent of enrollees were not members of the Sunday School at Prestonwood and 40 percent were totally unchurched.

"Vacation Bible School is very much alive and well in

the Southern Baptist Convention," said Willie Beaty, VBS consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

VBS enrollment in the SBC has experienced growth for six years in a row, increasing from 3,044,685 in 1987 to a record enrollment of 3,709,174 in 1992.

The 1993 VBS statistics are scheduled to be released in early February.

In many churches, Beaty said one-third to one-half of VBS enrollees are not actively attending Bible study at any church.

He also said smaller churches with Sunday School enrollments of less than 150 often enroll in VBS one and a half to three times their total Sunday School enrollment.

"I don't know of a project or event in our convention that will do a better job in putting churches in touch with lost people," Beaty said. □



MARTHA COUCH, state Vacation Bible School promoter, receives a plaque for the Tennessee Baptist Convention Sunday School Department from Willie Beaty of the Baptist Sunday School Board. The department was recognized for having all but two of the state's associations conduct a VBS clinic in 1993.

■ Tennessee features Slaying in Clarksville restaurant of Kevin Campbell stuns BSU



BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD staffers, from left, Art Burcham, Steve Harbin, and Alan Tungett visit with Charles Earl, director of missions, Holston Valley Association, and Sei-Hun Kim, catalytic missionary, Nashville and Concord associations. The BSSB staffers trained Great Commission Breakthrough consultants Jan. 24-25 at the Baptist Center, Brentwood.

Deaths of Don, Joey Adams impacts church

When Don Adams, pastor of First Church, Andersonville, and his son were killed Oct. 13 while bicycling in the small East Tennessee community, many thought nothing good could come from the tragedy.

Voids left by the absence of Adams, 32, and Joel, 8, still remain three months later. Suzanne, wife and mother, and Lyndsey, 6, and Jonathan, 5, vacated the church's parsonage a week ago to move near friends in Spartanburg, S.C.

Adams' church office has remained empty until a week ago when Terry Moore of Clinton was called as interim pastor.

And of course, emotional voids exist. But Moore is coming to a congregation, said Joey Herrell, minister of music/youth, which has matured during its grieving.

The church members are simply following the example set by Don to continually minister, explained Debbie Barnes, church secretary and member.

During hospital visits, Adams would visit anyone hospitalized from the Adamsville area. When visiting in the community, he didn't limit his outreach to those who attended the church, said Barnes. He visited anyone he learned had a problem.

Church members have found solace in ministry to the Adams family, noted Barnes. In addition to continuing financial benefits through March, the members have intervened in many other ways. One member paid for the family's garbage pickup, which must be delivered to Clinton. Others have stayed with the family and cared for the chil-

dren.

Four families helped them move, traveling to Spartanburg to help them get settled, said Barnes. First Church, Spartanburg, has loaned use of a house to the family.

By these ministries to the family and as grief has been experienced, said Barnes, voids have been filled.

The congregation of about 400 resident members has endured. Attendance has been constant and offerings even have increased, reported Barnes. Also members have bonded.

The congregation has bonded with others in the community. The Sunday following the accident, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Norris, joined the congregation for worship and grieving. A family counselor led the congregation to understand the grieving process.

Other voids have been filled as lives have been changed spiritually, said Barnes. Adams' words and example have lived on as people have remembered his life, she said, and acted on those memories.

Two lives, those of Don's father and brother, were changed during the funeral as they committed their lives to God, reported Herrell. The service, a "revival," noted Herrell, was attended by thousands.

Another positive outcome may be new legislation regarding driving licenses issued to people who are legally blind, said Herrell. The driver who hit the Adams was legally blind.

"It's been a faith building experience for a lot of us," said Herrell. □ — Connie Davis

The recent slaying in a Taco Bell restaurant in Clarksville has brought grief to the community, including the Baptist Student Union of Austin Peay State University.

Kevin Campbell, a member of the Baptist Student Union, was one of four people slain Jan. 30.

Campbell and the other three employees — all in their 20s — were completing work at the restaurant when they were killed during a robbery in the early hours of Sunday.

All regular programs of the Baptist Student Union are suspended for at least a week as students grieve, reported Jim Alexander, BSU director.

Campbell — a student, employee, and new father — was preparing to co-lead a Bible study at the center, said Alexander. He and his wife, Lori, had a three-week-old baby. But the subject of the Bible study — the minor prophets of the Old Testament — was a special interest of Campbell's, said Alexander.

Just three years ago, when Campbell became a student at Austin Peay and began visiting the BSU, he had not made an initial commitment to God, recounted Alexander. He not only made that decision but was a junior studying philosophy to prepare for study at a Southern Baptist seminary, Alexander added.

Students are gathering in small groups at the BSU center remembering Kevin's involvement as a former BSU officer and work on a BSU-sponsored mission trip to Baltimore, Md., noted Alexander.

The grief counseling will be ongoing, said Alexander. Some students are fearful because of the senseless violence of the act. "We're always searching for meaning and there's no meaning in this act," said Alexander.

Others are dealing with the absurdity of the killings. That's where Kevin's life is a comfort, said Alexander.

Campbell probed the meanings of his faith and lived it,

said Alexander. "He gently, confidently, and genuinely shared his faith," he said.

In Alexander's eulogy at First Church, Clarksville, where Campbell was a member, he read the following excerpt from Campbell's journal — "I suddenly realize that I have no clue as to how my life will turn out. ... I must allow the Lord to lead me where he will."

"We're going to miss him, but we're better because he's come our way," said Alexander.

The tragedy has impacted Middle Tennessee. A fund set up by a Nashville radio station for the 11 children of the victims received \$24,000 in two days. Taco Bell donated \$5,000 to each child. People placed flowers at the restaurant site for several days after the slaying, noted Alexander.

But it's important for those affected to talk about the tragedy. Those moved to tears should cry, he said. □ — Connie Davis

Church starts out with new building

In just six months a congregation has organized, built its building, and constituted or become autonomous.

Caney Spring Church in Marshall County, which celebrated these events Jan. 23, had some help, reported Harold Smith, director of missions, New Duck River Association.

Stanley Penn, pastor of First Church, Unionville, until Feb. 1, supervised the construction. The Unionville church sponsored it. And the Tennessee Baptist Convention gave the beginning church a building grant of \$62,000. □



LEADING THE EFFORTS AT CANEY SPRING are, from left, Marvin Moore, Hoyt Haskins, Everett Williams, deacons at Caney Spring Church; Ralph Carroll, pastor; Stanley Penn, pastor, First Church, Unionville, which sponsored the church; and Danny Warhurst, deacon at Caney Spring.

Jordans honored by Carson-Newman College



RECEIVING THE ABUNDANT LIFE AWARD of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, are Moncrief Jordan, pastor, First Church, Jefferson City, and Diane Jordan, his wife, from Dorothy Scott of the college. The Jordans teach a course on world religions at the college.

Brotherhood leaders examine new program options, revisions

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Brotherhood leaders representing 29 state Southern Baptist conventions reviewed a number of new and revised program offerings at a meeting termed "historic" at Brotherhood Commission President James D. Williams.

An Occasional Word
By Lonnie Wilkey
associate editor

Race relations

Southern Baptists' observance of Race Relations Sunday on Feb. 13 brings to mind a boyhood friend. Roger Cruell lived in a black community everyone in Marietta, S.C. knew as "Gold Mine."

Roger was a star athlete — football, basketball, you name it. He went on to play college football before injuries ended his career.

At Slater-Marietta High School I can't remember any racial tension. There probably was some, but it was very minor. Blacks and whites, particularly those who played sports, were friends.

During my sophomore year in high school when Slater-Marietta High consolidated with its arch-rival, Travelers Rest, I encountered race problems for the first time. That school had some inner city blacks and it was there I encountered racial tension.

At a track meet one of those blacks tried to "start something" with me. He did it, however, within earshot of Roger Cruell, star athlete who was respected by all the blacks.

I never knew exactly what Roger told that person, who also was a prominent athlete, but I never had any more problems. Roger did not side with him because he was black; rather, he sided with his friend, regardless of color. I have never forgotten that gesture of "race relations."

I'm fortunate today to attend a church where race does not matter. I have friends at church who are black and Hispanic. Members of both races hold positions of leadership in the church.

As we observe Race Relations Sunday, it's my prayer that there comes a time when we don't even have to have a special "day" to make us remember race relations because it would come naturally every day. After all, aren't we all one in Jesus Christ? □

"I am evermore convinced there is a host of Southern Baptist men and boys out there who have not yet been touched and reached, and who can be," Williams said.

He noted they can be reached through "new approaches" that include Challengers for young men, the EZRA method for leading Royal Ambassadors, and men's ministries.

Williams made his comments Jan. 26-29 during a Brotherhood Leadership Conference.

Challengers will combine the agency's Pioneer Royal Ambassadors (grades seven-nine) and High School Baptist Young Men's programs and offer materials designed specifically to meet the needs of male youth in grades seven-12.

State leaders also examined EZRA, an acronym for "Easy Royal Ambassadors," a leadership method introduced last year in a pilot experiment in Ohio. Of the 30 churches sign-

ing on, 22 started new RA units.

EZRA relies on shared leadership of boys involved, a simplified meeting plan, and multiple options for grouping of boys, according to Tim Seanor, director of Royal Ambassadors at the Brotherhood agency.

Both Challengers and EZRA will be offered starting in October.

The agency's involvement in men's ministry also was reviewed by state leaders. Williams said the "Men Making a Difference" rally concept, first announced to state convention executives last December, continues to develop.

The leaders also were asked

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ORGANIST NEEDED: First Church, Murfreesboro, is seeking an organist to play Skinner Pipe Organ for two morning services and Wednesday choir rehearsal. Contact Jerry Neely at (615) 893-2514. Salary plus travel expense.

STAFF POSITION: First Church, Joelton, is seeking a full-time minister of youth and education to work with approximately 50-70 youth. Church has two SS and three morning worship services. If interested in this position, submit resume to Personnel Committee, FBC, Joelton, P.O. Box 86, Joelton, Tenn., 37080.

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DATES AND

LOCATIONS:

• Monday, Feb. 14, Union University, Jackson, Coburn Dining Room, 6:45 p.m.

• Tuesday, Feb. 15, McLean Baptist Church, Memphis, 9 a.m.

• Monday, Feb. 21, Hamilton County Associational Office, Chattanooga, 6:45 p.m.

• Tuesday, Feb. 22, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Music Building Recital Hall, 7 p.m.

• Thursday, Feb. 24, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood, Chapel, 6:45 p.m.

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Gary Rickman, director

by Williams for ideas and recommendations regarding the "future direction" of programs and personnel responsibilities in the area of men's work.

"I want and need your input as we consider the future direction of the adult area, structuring adult missions education and making the personnel decisions we need to carry us into the 21st century," Williams said.

In other action, the state leaders:

- Heard a report on Fami-

lies Making a Difference, the agency's pilot program for directing entire families into direct missions involvement.

• Chose Bob Dixon, director of Texas Baptist Men, as co-convenor-elect of the Brotherhood Leadership Conference, succeeding Rob Carr of Illinois.

• Honored retiring state Brotherhood director Ron Martin of Ohio.

The next Brotherhood Leadership Conference will be Jan. 25-28, 1995 in Memphis. □

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Rooms have been blocked at the following Jackson hotels.

Reservations must be made to the desired hotel by Feb. 18.

Garden Plaza Hotel (Headquarters hotel)

1770 Hwy. 45 Bypass, Jackson 38305 (901) 664-6900

\$55 plus tax (1-4 persons)

Fairfield Hotel

535 Wiley Parker Road, Jackson 38305 (901) 668-1400

\$39.95 plus tax, double or king

Hampton Inn

1890 Highway 45 Bypass, Jackson 38305 (901) 664-4312

\$40, king

For more information, call Tennessee WMU at (615) 371-2038

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TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the leaders

■ Calvary Church, Lenoir City, ordained **Michael Henline** and **James McKinney** as deacons and licensed **James Barrett II** to the ministry Jan. 23.

■ **L. Gale Lyon**, pastor, Euclid Avenue Church, Knoxville, has been called as pastor of Park Lane Church, Knoxville. Lyon has served Calvary Church, Oak Ridge, done missions work in East Africa, and disaster relief work.

■ North Cleveland Church, Cleveland, has called **James Thomas (Tommy) Gray** as minister of education and worship. Gray is a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Troy (Ala.) State University.

■ **Jay Lauritsen**, associate pastor, Speedway Terrace Church, Memphis, has been called as pastor of First Church, Centerville.

■ **Betty Holt**, secretary at First Church, Union City, retired after 17 years.

■ **Dewey Roach**, former dean at Belmont College (now University) 1951-59 and pastor of Una Church, Nashville, and First Church, Portland, has returned to Nashville. Will serve as interim or supply pastor. He may be contacted at (615) 871-9986, 2501 Winter Hills Drive, 37214.

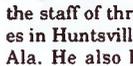
■ Byerleys Chapel, Mascot,



MARK AND SHERRIE GAW hold a gift bowl at the appreciation day held for them by Washington Avenue Church, Cookeville, recently. Mark has served the church as minister of music and youth for 12 years.

has called **Arthur Pedigo**, pastor, Bethel Church, Knoxville, for 19 years, as pastor effective Dec. 12. Pedigo also served as pastor of Bells Chapel Church, Seymour, and Shady Church, Strawberry Plains.

■ **Matthew Mitchell**, college minister of music, Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham, Ala., has been called as minister of music and youth, Grace Church, Tullahoma. Mitchell, a student at Samford University, Birmingham, has served on



the staff of three other churches in Huntsville and Bessemer, Ala. He also has done music

ministry work in several countries in Europe.

■ **Louis Rideout** is interim pastor at Lincoln Heights Church, Tullahoma. He previously was interim pastor at Grace Church, Tullahoma. Rideout served nine years as pastor at Fosterville, Church, Bell Buckle.

■ **Bob Dowdy** has been called as interim pastor of First Church, Hermitage, effective Feb. 6.

■ the churches

■ **Zion Hill Church, Friendship**, received a bequest by Victoria Clark, widow of member Bryan Clark, of \$23,500, which helped retired a debt of \$70,000 for remodeling completed in 1992. A notice in the Jan. 26 *Baptist and Reflector* stated the bequest was from Bryan Clark, which was incorrect.

■ **First Church, Nashville**, will host a Winter Bible Study on Hosea Feb. 13-15 led by Frank Pollard, pastor, First Church, Jackson, Miss. Pollard is the former president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and speaker on programs produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **Lincoya Hills Church, Nashville**, will hold Baptist College Day Feb. 27. Bill

Troutt, president, Belmont University, Nashville, will speak at 7 p.m.

■ death

■ **Clifton Jay Dexter**, 69, died Dec. 15 in McMinnville. He was pastor of Forest Park Church, McMinnville. Dexter served as pastor of five churches in Tennessee and four in Kentucky. He is survived by his wife, Euphema, and three children.

■ the associations

■ **Gibson County Association** is having a World Missions Conference March 20-27. Ken Sparkman, director of missions, said every church in the association is participating.

■ **Lawrence County Association of Baptists** holds its Evangelism Extravaganza Feb. 28 at First Church, Lawrenceburg. Jeff Noblitt, pastor, First Church, Muscle Shoals, will speak and the church's choir will perform.

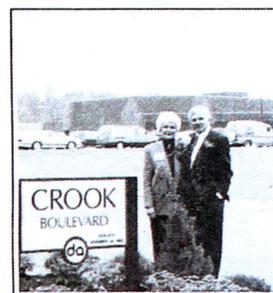
■ the hospitals

■ **Baptist Hospital, Nashville**, opened the nation's first specially constructed, self-contained Early Morning Admis-

sion center Jan. 30. The 41-bed unit will be a one-stop facility which will serve as a pre-admission testing and pre-operative unit for patients scheduled for surgery, as well as a post-operative unit for patients who have same-day surgery in the hospital.

■ the missionaries

■ **John and Janie Harmon Basham**, missionaries to Kenya, are in the states and can be reached at Riverview Pharmacy, 1204 Hixson Pike, Chattanooga, 37415. She is from Chattanooga and he grew up in Bristol and considers Chattanooga his hometown.



BILL AND MARY JEAN CROOK, members of Grace Church, Nashville, have been honored by Davidson Academy, a private school in Nashville. School officials named the main drive into the school "Crook Boulevard" in honor of the couple. Crook is a trustee of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Can I have a moment of your time?

P. A. Michel, pastor
Belmont Heights Church, Nashville

The story goes that on a busy workday in Chicago, subway workers (the people who run the trains, take the tickets, etc.) called a sudden "wildcat" strike and walked off their jobs. All the trains came to an immediate halt.

At 5 p.m. thousands of commuters poured out of offices and stores in downtown Chicago and headed for the subways. A steady stream of people crowded down the steps of the many subway stations to board their trains for home.

To their dismay, they discovered that the trains were not running. A steady stream of humanity flowed down the steps on one side, expecting to board the trains; and up the steps on the opposite side of the stairway after discovering the trains were not running.

A reporter for a Chicago newspaper observed that not once did he see anyone coming up one side of the stairs in-

forming the people just inches from them that the subway was not running.

Not one! It would have taken only a few seconds to pass the important information.

Are we Christians like that? Do we go about our pressing schedules without saying something to the dozens of people we brush against every day about Christ or his church? Will we not so much as offer a friendly invitation to come to the worship and fellowship of Christ's church?

There are masses of people crowding life's stairways on the way down. Stop for just a minute in the daily push of your schedule. Invite someone.

I can easily imagine that our Lord, in the final gathering in his courts will say, "I expected you to say something!"

Every knee shall bow

Leonard Markham, pastor
Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville

God's word assures us of the return of Jesus Christ and the fulfillment of God's kingdom. The time between the

giving of the promise and the promise becoming actuality is the most difficult time for Christians. Habakkuk spoke to such occasions when he wrote, "for still the vision awaits its time. ... If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay," (Habakkuk 2:3).

As we consider our world, we see a time of moral decay, poverty, and war. The vision seems so slow in coming. What kind of world is it? A world filled with war. According to the *Canadian Army Journal*, a former president of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences, aided by several historians, came up with some fantastic figures and findings.

Since 3600 B.C. the world has known only 292 years of peace. There have been 14, 531 wars in which 3.6 billion people have been killed. The value of the destruction would pay for a gold belt around the world 97.2 miles in width and 33 feet thick.

What kind of world is it? A world where children are sexually harassed and abused. A world where young people can receive condoms but not a New Testament in their schools. A world where some citizens can use the filthi-

est possible language, yet, others can't say "the sweetest name of tongue or pen, the blessed name of Jesus."

In the age to come, the Bible tells us wars will cease. "They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning books. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore," (Micah 4:3).

Also, we are told a day is coming, "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow ... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father," (Philippians 2:10-11).

Until that day we must wait in patience and hope because we know "it will surely come, it will not delay." □

Articles included in "Tennessee Sampler — views, insights" are written by Tennessee Baptist church and associational leaders. The articles are chosen for publication from newsletters of churches and associations. The *Baptist and Reflector* does not necessarily concur with the views expressed.

Churches would indirectly pay for abortions under proposal: Mitchell

By Tom Strode
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's health care proposal would cause churches and denominations to indirectly pay for abortions or face the consequences, a Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission staff member told a congressional hearing.

"Every congregation as an employer would be coerced to take money from the offering plate and offer it up to abortionists," said Ben Mitchell, the CLC's director of biomedical and life issues.

The CLC will "oppose vigorously" the Clinton proposal and any other plan which includes abortion coverage in its basic benefits package, Mitchell told a House of Representatives subcommittee.

Mitchell spoke during a Jan. 26 hearing on women's

health and the Clinton plan before the Health and Environment Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mitchell's testimony included pointed criticism of the "conscience clause" language in Clinton's plan.

"The so-called 'religious exemption' or 'conscience clause' is a presidential placebo for the pain of a wounded conscience, intended to try to make religious persons feel better about their participation in the morally nauseating practice of abortion," Mitchell said in a written testimony also prepared for delivery but removed because of a time limit.

The CLC and other pro-life groups have described the "conscience clauses" as meaningless. Though the Clinton plan does not require pro-life physicians, nurses, and hospi-

tals to perform abortions, an administration official has said the "conscience clause" does not apply to health care plans. Taxes and employer contributions, apparently even from those morally opposed, would underwrite abortions indirectly, Clinton has told reporters.

Rep. Barbara Vucanovich, R-Nev., noted that under the Clinton plan "every American who pays taxes would be funding abortions. Abortion without restrictions, funded by taxpayers, has no place in basic health coverage," said Vucanovich, one of 20 witnesses

in the hearing.

Those on the opposing side, including Rep. Nita Lowey, R-N.Y., disagree. The president's plan "recognizes that the abortion option is basic to women's health and must be covered," Lowey said. □

Woodmont hosts commissioning service

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will add five new members to its global missions team with the anticipated appointment of four career missionaries and one short-term missionary during a Feb. 18 appointment service in Nashville.

The service at Woodmont Church begins at 7 p.m. with a reception following. It will be among the highlights of the winter meeting of the Fellowship's Coordinating Council

Feb. 17-19 in Nashville.

Pending approval earlier in the meeting by the council's Global Missions Ministry Group, the new missionaries will bring the organization's global missions team to 31, including 28 career missionaries.

The appointment service will include testimonies from the five new missionaries and a challenge from R. Keith Parks, CBF's global missions coordinator. □

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Convocation

March 11-12 at First Church, Jackson, Miss.

The Mississippi River Ministry Convocation is designed to encourage, inspire, and help church staff, directors of missions, and laypeople to participate in MRM volunteer projects.

Keynote speakers include Mississippi humorist Jerry Clower and Arkansas Baptist Convention director Dr. Don Moore.

Registration fee: \$20. To pre-register, contact: Ray Gilder, Missions Department, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024, phone (615) 371-2044

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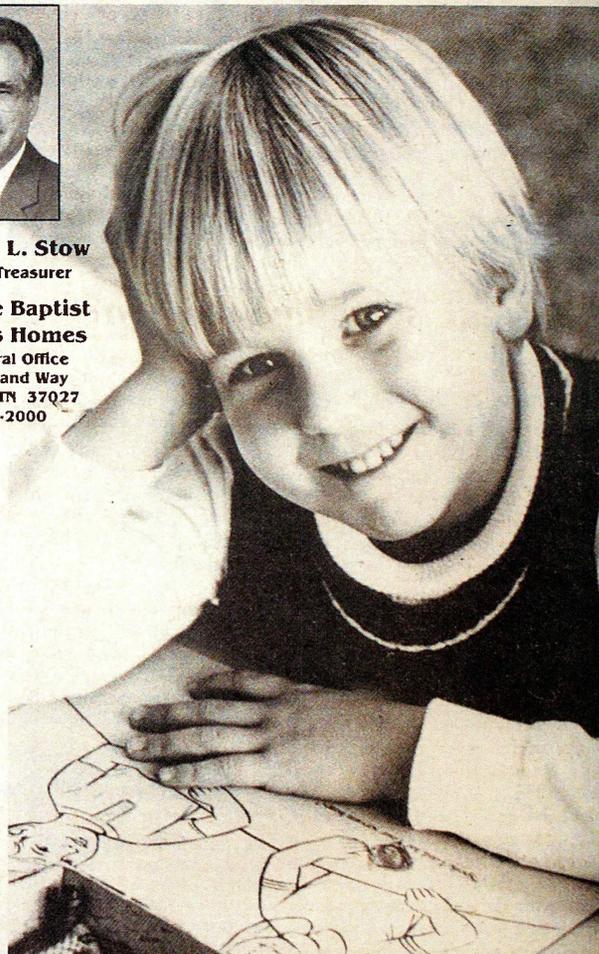
To renew the faith of a child in others, in him or herself, and find an eternal faith in God are the heartfelt goals we strive to accomplish every day at Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes — Home with a Heart.



Dr. Gerald L. Stow
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Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

TBCH Central Office
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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Jesus heals the nobleman's son — Bible Book Series for February 13

By Edward North, pastor, First Church, Humboldt

Following a fruitful two-day stop over in Samaria, Jesus continued his journey from Judea into Galilee. He had left Judea because of the anger of the Jews, aroused primarily by his cleansing of the temple. This explains the insertion of the proverb, "... a prophet has no honor in his own country" (v. 44). At Cana, the site of his first miracle, Jesus performed his second sign, the healing of the nobleman's son.



NORTH

Humility of the nobleman
A certain nobleman came from Capernaum, a distance of about 20 miles, to ask Jesus to return home with him to heal a son at the point of death. The word translated "nobleman" is

used for a royal official. In all likelihood this man was an attendant at the court of Herod.

Here is a man of royal standing coming to a carpenter, an itinerant preacher, to ask for help. This man made a day's journey in a matter of a few hours, and swallowed his pride in an effort to save his son's life.

In order to experience the supernatural power of Christ, we must be willing to humble ourselves. The Lord Jesus stands ready to help, to heal, to deliver, but we must approach him in humility.

Persistence of the nobleman
This man not only humbled himself, but he persistently sought the help of Jesus. The word "implored" in verse 47 is in the present tense which suggests that he "kept on asking" the Lord for help.

Furthermore, his first request is met by a stern state-

Focal Passages John 4:43-54

ment from Jesus, "Unless you people see signs and wonders you will by no means believe" (v. 48). Obviously, Jesus meant this statement for the entire crowd, but, it served as a rebuke to the nobleman. However, he is not deterred, but requests once again, "Sir, come down before my child dies" (v. 49). The man might have become irritated and simply walked away from the Savior, but he persisted in requesting help.

In a number of his parables, our Lord taught the value of persistence. When we need the help of Christ we must not be easily put off, but we must keep on asking until his response satisfies the soul.

Faith of the nobleman

Jesus said to the man, "Go your way, your son lives" (v. 50).

The next sentence is truly amazing — "So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and he went his way" (v. 50). The man had intended to bring Jesus personally to his son's bedside, but now he turns and walks back down that 20 mile road with nothing but Jesus' word that his son will live. He believed that word! The only way to know the power of Jesus is to simply take him at his word.

The genuineness of his faith is revealed in the fact that the man was in no hurry to get home. Indeed, the text says that his servants came to meet him the next day with news that the son had recovered. His was a faith of confidence.

The progress of his faith is indicated by the fact that he and his entire household believed on

the Lord Jesus Christ. I am convinced that this refers to spiritual conversion. As the result of the evidence of the Lord's power in their experience, they received Christ as Savior.

The meaning of the sign

As with all of the Lord's miracles, there is a deeper, kingdom meaning. The healing of this boy was wonderful in and of itself, but Jesus performed that sign for a higher purpose. He had come to inaugurate a new age and to give new life.

When Jesus said "your son lives," he meant more than restoration of physical life. As in the raising of Lazarus from the grave, Jesus was announcing his power to give eternal, spiritual life. The fact that the father, the son, and the entire household came to faith in Christ suggests that spiritual life was the final intended goal of this miracle. □

□ God's patience and justice — Convention Uniform Series for February 13

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

Are we the owners of possessions like money, houses, land, clothing, cars, etc.? Our society tells us we are owners. Often in our society, we are rated by how much we own.



CLAYTON

But the parable of the vineyard owner challenges that way of looking at life. The parable reflects the government in Palestine in Jesus' day. Rome "owned" the region, but left it in the hands of local gov-

ernors like Herod and Pilate.

The parable is, of course, autobiographical. In story fashion, Jesus summed up the history of Israel and his place in that history. The parable is given during the last week of Jesus' earthly ministry before his arrest and crucifixion. Jesus told the reason for the parable in verse 11. The kingdom of God would not be completed immediately, and Jesus wanted his followers to realize they had a job to do in the meantime. We all have been given resources to manage (v. 13). Our resources include not just our money, but

also our time, energy, skills, and gifts. One day we will have to give an account of how we have used these resources for the glory of the Lord (v. 15).

Jesus tells of tenants working in a vineyard who plot to keep the profits from being collected by the rightful owner and finally plot to kill the owner and steal the vineyard itself. They value the land more than they do the lives of the messengers they mistreat and kill (vv. 10-12). Finally, they kill the owner's own son (vv. 14-15).

In the same way, the religious leaders of Israel were plot-

ting to kill Jesus (v. 19). However, Jesus was so popular, they could not carry out their desires at that time. They would seek a time and place to have their way. In the past, Israel had rejected God's prophets and would reject God's Son in order to maintain control of the nation.

The parable challenges us to realize we are not "owners." We are tenants — left to work and manage our resources for the glory of the Lord and his Kingdom. The real owner of all things is the creator of all things. The Lord has loaned us our resources, our families, and

Focal Passage Luke 20:9-19

our lives. We must not become slaves to our possessions. Our "stuff" should not control us. The person at the end who has the most toys does not win, but really loses. The greatest possession is eternal life which comes to us as a gift from the Lord Jesus Christ.

When tenants rejoice and receive Jesus, the true owner, they are invited to enter into the celebration of his homecoming. Will you be found faithful when he comes? □

□ What is genuine religion? — Life and Work Series for February 13

By Charles Bryan, pastor, Central Church, Alcoa

As I read this week's title and the lesson for the first time, a book I got during my college days came to mind, *Christianity Rubs Holes in my Religion*. The main theme of that book, as well as our lesson this week, is that "genuine religion" (Christianity) — when a person's walk and talk Monday through Saturday is the same as on Sunday — gives life purpose and meaning, not just some rituals to perform.



BRYAN

One of the ways in which genuine religion is shown is by inward change (vv. 37-41).

In an episode of the old Andy Griffith show, Andy and Barney attempt to "clean up" Ernest T. Bass. They get him bathed, shaved, dressed in suit

and tie, and teach him some rules of etiquette so that he can attend a party and see a young lady he wants to "court." When Ernest T. Bass arrives at the party, no one knows him because he has been cleaned up on the outside. However, before the party is over, the real Ernest T. Bass shows up, not the dressed up version, but the running, jumping, yelling, rock-throwing version.

While Andy and Barney had changed him on the outside, Ernest T. Bass was the same person on the inside.

This is what Jesus is talking about to the Pharisee who was more concerned with outward rituals than with inward repentance. Jesus recognized that the real problem was not ritual uncleanness, but sinfulness. A person must be washed from within in order to be clean before God.

Another way in which gen-

uine religion is shown is by living out the true meaning of God's law (v. 42). The Pharisees made sure they paid their tithe on everything, even mint and rue which possessed no real value. They became so involved in calculating their tithe that they missed the importance of serving God. They kept every point of the law, but missed its true intent and purpose.

As Christians, we must remember that we can't pick and choose those areas in which we will or will not participate such as tithing or witnessing. We must accept and do all that is involved in the Christian faith.

A third proof of genuine religion is a proper attitude (v. 43). The Pharisees liked to hear others call them "rabbi" in public because it signified prominence in the community. They loved the attention. However, genuine religion and worship is not a performance, but a serv-

Focal Passages Luke 11:37-46, 52

ice to God.

Preachers and music leaders today are not to be performers who entertain and receive man's praise, but are to be God's conduit who lead worshippers to praise God.

Being a positive influence on other people is a fourth sign of genuine religion (v. 44). Knowing that the Pharisees believed contact with a grave made a person unclean, Jesus referred to the Pharisees as unmarked graves because they made the people unclean before God. This verse reminds us that our lifestyle is either a testimony for or against God. We must strive to be the best witness possible through word and deed.

The final evidence of genuine religion given in our les-

son is the proper handling of God's Word (vv. 45-46, 52). The religious leaders of Jesus' day used the Scriptures to make legalistic demands on the people rather than to help the people, but created loopholes for themselves to get around those demands. The leaders had a responsibility to help the people understand the Scriptures, but instead created a situation whereby people became afraid of the Scriptures.

For those of us who are preachers and teachers, these verses should be a loud and clear reminder that we are to point people to God through his Word, not create a barrier through misuse of his Word.

Genuine religion is the result of inward change that results in humility, a positive witness before others, and the correct use of God's Word. What kind of religion do you have? □

Injured volunteers show improvement

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi Baptist medical volunteer Danny Clifton, critically injured in a Jan. 18 truck crash in Honduras, has been transferred out of intensive care, but remains hospitalized in Jackson.

Four other Mississippi Baptist volunteers also injured in the wreck have been released from Jackson hospitals and are recovering at home — David and Ann Sneed, Anthony Presley, and Doug Phillips.

The accident, which occurred at night on an unpaved mountain road during a volunteer medical project in Honduras, claimed the life of Mississippi Baptist Bradley Boatner, 17, the only child of Gary and Paula Boatner of Brandon, Miss. □

Former Hawaii executive dies

Baptist Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Edmond R. Walker, Hawaii Baptist Convention executive secretary-treasurer for 19 years, died Jan. 19 following an extended illness. He was 75.

Walker, who held the Hawaii post 1963-82, was also editor of *The Hawaii Baptist* during that time.

He was a former pastor in Arkansas, Kentucky, Indiana, and California. He is survived by his wife, Lurie, and two sons. □

Seniors class gives to foreign missions

Baptist Press

CAMDEN, S.C. — How do you give generously to the Lot-

tie Moon Christmas Offering when you do not have much to give?

The women of the Esther Bible Class — a class of senior adults, all retired and on fixed incomes — of Wateree Church in Camden found a way.

Elizabeth Lyles set the standard in 1992 by putting aside \$1 each week. It added up to \$52 by the end of December and she happily gave it to the offering.

Her classmates were impressed, intrigued, and challenged to do it as a class project.

Last December their dollars amounted to \$825. They are now inspired and are busy saving for the 1994 offering. □

Christian educator Donald Ackland dies

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Donald F. Ackland, 90, widely known Southern Baptist Christian educator and writer, died Jan. 18 at a Nashville health care facility following a lengthy illness.

Ackland was known for many years as the editor of *Open Windows*, a high-circulation devotional guide published by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

He retired from the board in 1968 but continued to write Bible study materials until 1992. He was the author of *Broadman Comments*, a widely used Bible study book published by the BSSB.

A native of London, England, Ackland entered religious journalism in 1922.

He is survived by his wife, Olive, and three children. □



ACKLAND

Cold greeting hides warm heart from missionary

By Craig Bird
For Baptist Press

GULU, Uganda — The teacher on duty at Gulu High School curtly announced: "These people are from Bible Way Correspondence School and they have a presentation for us."

Then he sat down — facing away from the Christian visitors.

Southern Baptist missionary Linda Rice wasn't shocked. A little irritated perhaps, but not shocked. She had encountered unenthusiastic teachers before and felt he was making it very obvious he'd rather be doing anything else than listening to a Bible presentation.

So Rice and four Ugandan Baptists went ahead with an explanation of the program, signed up interested stu-

dents, shared their Christian testimonies, and asked if anyone wanted to accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior.

After two girls came forward to pray with the visitors, the teacher stood up to dismiss the meeting. Or so Rice thought.

Instead, he shocked the restless students — and the visitors.

"This is not my first time to meet Bible Way," he declared. "None of you students know it, but in 1986 I was in Luzira prison where I was given these courses. I completed all the books and I have all the certificates which you have seen today."

As the students stared, he concluded: "I can tell you this: These courses can change a life."

Rice was stunned, partly by the unsolicited testimony

but mostly because she had so misjudged the man's aloofness. "His agitation was with the memories of prison and his struggle about if he should tell the students about his hidden past," she said.

His comments gave Rice something to take back home to Kampala, Uganda, and to other schools and cities where she will promote Bible Way.

"Sometimes we get discouraged with our prison students because we know a lot of copying of answers goes on and we suspect many of our books are just torn up to be used for cigarette papers," she explained.

"But now when we get down, we'll remind each other of the chemistry teacher at Gulu and remember how God is at work all the time." □

Church loans division has banner year

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's church loans division closed a record high of \$28.2 million in loans last year, said Bob Inlow, division director.

That compares to \$18 million in 1992 and \$14.8 million in 1991, Inlow said. The previous record was \$21.7 million in 1989.

The average loan was \$235,000, and 75 percent of the loans were for less than \$300,000. The smallest loan was \$2,489; the largest, \$1.3 million.

Churches buying their first property can get a seven-year loan with the first 12 months

interest free. The division now also offers refinancing.

Interest rates are competitive, Inlow said, and many congregations prefer to secure loans through the church loans division because their interest payments are invested in other loans for churches. □

Don R. Mathis resigns West Va. post

Baptist Press

SCOTT DEPOT, W. Va. — Don R. Mathis, executive director of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, has resigned to accept the pastorate of Central Church in Winchester, Ky.

Mathis has served in West Virginia since 1991. Previously he served as pastor of churches in Kentucky for 27 years.

He is a former trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board and a past Kentucky Baptist Convention president. □

Baptists Today faces turmoil, transition

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Three staff members have resigned from the "moderate" newspaper *Baptists Today* in a conflict with editor Jack Harwell.

The newspaper's board of directors in December came one vote short of forcing Harwell to take a leave of absence to deal with stress produced by personal problems. Instead, they agreed to pay for Harwell to get counseling.

The directors, meeting by conference call, also agreed to grant severance benefits to the three staffers — Amy Greene, Michael Usey, and Karen Cheponis — who submitted a formal list of complaints against Harwell. As part of the severance agreements, the staffers were prohibited from talking about their complaints.

Harwell said the dispute concerned "long-standing philosophical differences as to the direction of the paper," which he has served as editor since 1988.

Greene told ABP that while she was not free to discuss specific grievances Harwell's statement "pretty well sums it up." □

Christian leader slain in Iran

Baptist Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — A Christian leader in Iran, earlier reported missing, has been killed.

The body of Haik Hovsepian-Mehr, 49, superintendent of the Assemblies of God churches in Iran, was found along a road in the Tehran area, police told his family Jan. 30. One of his sons identified the body from a photograph.

Hovsepian-Mehr, who had been working to stop a campaign by the Iranian government against evangelicals, is survived by his wife and four children.

One observer familiar with the case openly blamed the Iranian government for Hovsepian-Mehr's death. □

WMU awards \$69,300 in missions grants

Baptist Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union has awarded \$69,300 in Second Century Fund grants to finance 28 women's foreign and home missions projects.

The grants — 13 foreign and 15 domestic — were announced during the WMU executive board meeting in January at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly here.

The board's Second Century Fund committee considered more than 50 requests totaling more than \$300,000.

The fund is a permanent endowment created by WMU during its 1988 centennial

year as a gift to future generations of women in missions. All contributions are invested permanently.

Only interest earned on the principal is given each year in grants to develop women's missions organizations abroad, enhance WMU leadership development in the United States, and foster education about missions and WMU among Southern Baptist seminary students and faculty.

Foreign grants awarded this year will fund construction of a WMU headquarters building in Nigeria, educational and promotional materials in Indonesia, leadership development in Estonia and Romania,

a WMU handbook in Panama, and more.

Two of the 15 grants for work in the United States will allow the national WMU office to provide literature for new work areas and expenses for a consultant to promote missions education on college campuses.

Other grants will fund leadership development in New York and Ohio and provide scholarships for one student at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and two students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

This is the seventh year Second Century Fund grants have been awarded. □