

Baptist and Reflector

February 16, 1994

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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FMB trustees vote to increase volunteers

By Robert O'Brien
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees passed recommendations Feb. 9 to expand opportunities for volunteers to serve overseas and to expose more Southern Baptists to missions. Meeting Feb. 7-9 in Rich-

mond, trustees also appointed 45 new missionaries — including seven children of missionaries — and reappointed four others, bringing the total mission force to 3,958.

Trustees also heard challenges to raise their spiritual sights to more lofty goals to evangelize the world and honored two veteran staff mem-

bers retiring at the end of March: John Cheyne, who has led the board's worldwide human needs ministry since 1978, and Minette Drumwright, director of the international prayer strategy office since 1985.

Trustee chairman John Jackson of California also named a five-member search committee, chaired by Bill Sutton of McAllen, Texas, to seek a replacement for another retiring staff member, Alan Compton, who will step down Dec. 31 as vice president of the office of communications. He will be 65 in May.

FMB President Jerry Rankin and Henry Blackaby of the Home Mission Board issued challenges for Southern Baptists to join God's plan to reach the world.

Rankin urged trustees and staff to focus on the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust goals, which he said "were born in the heart of God," and refuse to focus on "trivial issues and secondary concerns."

Rankin said he wanted "to affirm as clearly and strongly as I can that these last six years of the century will be

given to meeting Bold Mission Thrust (Southern Baptists' plan to share the Gospel with everyone by the year 2000)," Rankin said.

Blackaby, a Southern Baptist leader in spiritual awakening, urged the board to "attempt the impossible" because "nothing is impossible for God."

Two FMB trustee actions will widen exposure of Southern Baptists to missions: (1) a decision to hold more board meetings and appointment services outside Richmond, where the board is headquartered, and (2) a policy to expand use of volunteers overseas.

Trustees voted to increase out-of-town meetings from one to three (four in years when they meet in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention). In the process, they would cut overall meetings from six to five, except in years when they meet at the convention.

The policy on volunteers grew out of a study by a committee of trustees and staff appointed in October 1992. It reaffirms the priority of career — See FMB, page 2



BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD trustees met last week in Nashville. Two Tennessee Baptists were re-elected to office along with new chairman Kirk Humphreys of Oklahoma. From left are Jerry Sutton, pastor, Two Rivers Church, Nashville, vice chairman; Humphreys, BSSB President Jimmy Draper, and Roy Miller, layman, First Church, Lexington, recording secretary. See story on page 3. — Photo by Jim Veneman

Youth Evangelism Conference set for March 11-12

The annual Tennessee Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference will be held March 11-12 at Vanderbilt Memorial Gymnasium in Nashville.

The event regularly brings 30,000 youth to the Nashville area each year for evangelistic messages, singing, and conferences.

Last year's Youth Evangelism

Conference was hindered by the Blizzard of '93 which limited attendance to about 15,000 youth.

Headlining this year's conference are Rick Ousley and Kelly Green, both of whom are popular youth evangelism speakers.

Ousley is pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birm-

ingham, Ala., while Green is an evangelist and youth communicator from Mobile, Ala.

Music will be provided by The Stone Brothers of Huntsville, Ala.

"True Love Waits" testimonials will be given by Paul Ballenger and Susan Fitzgerald, members of Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory. A testimony also will be given by Chelsea Parks of Shelbyville Mills Church, Shelbyville. Parks won last year's State Discipleship Training Youth Speaker's Tournament.

Scripture and prayer will be given by Kimberly Connor of Union Missionary Church, Henderson, state Acteen panelist, and Stephen Stewart, of Woodmont Church, Nashville, state Royal Ambassador president.

The All State Youth Choir, directed by Julian Suggs, TBC Music Department director, also will perform.

Because of the large crowds, the conference is divided into



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different time slots. The schedule is as follows:

Friday: West and Middle Tennessee (including Nashville), 4:30-6 p.m.; East Tennessee, 8-9:30 p.m.

Saturday: West and Middle Tennessee, 9:30-11 a.m.; East Tennessee, 1:30-3 p.m. On Saturday, conferences at various Middle Tennessee locations will be held as follows: East Tennessee, 9:30-11 a.m.; West and Middle Tennessee, 1:30-3 p.m. All times stated are Central Standard Time.

For additional information on the Youth Evangelism Conference, call the TBC Evangelism Department at (615) 371-2058. □

Ice storm closes Baptist Center

A major winter ice storm which wreaked havoc across Tennessee last week with hundreds of thousands of people left without electricity also shut down the TBC Baptist Center.

Offices were closed on Feb. 10 because of icy roads. The building was scheduled to open on Feb. 11, but downed power lines left the Center without electricity, so it remained closed. Phone lines also were out Feb. 11.

An AIDS conference set

for Feb. 10 at Judson Church, Nashville, and sponsored by the TBC Discipleship Training Department, was canceled. It is rescheduled for March 17 at Judson from 1-5 p.m., according to Johnnie Hall of the TBC Discipleship Training Department. A similar AIDS conferences is set for Feb. 18 in Union City.

All offices at the Baptist Center are back on regular schedule. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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One candidate, one possible for SBC election

By Herb Hollinger
For Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The election of a new president of the Southern Baptist Convention at the annual meeting June 14-16 has at least one announced candidate with another possible — both high-profile pastors.

The candidacy of Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., was publicly endorsed Feb. 8 in Jacksonville by two former SBC presidents: Jerry Vines and Charles Stanley.

Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, where the annual meeting of the SBC will be held, has been asked if he would allow his nomination and is seriously considering the possibility. Henry told Baptist Press he is "seeking God's will in the matter."

Wolfe, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee was "enthusiastically endorsed," according to Vines, co-pastor of

First Church, Jacksonville. The endorsement came during the final night of the church's annual pastors' school.

Though Henry and Wolfe are considered "conservatives" and are apparently friends, Wolfe has received the backing

of 60-70 "conservatives" who have met twice in the past year and have given him unanimous support. Leaders from those meetings, of which Wolfe was not present, asked Wolfe to be a candidate.

Wolfe said he has "not

sought, nor am I running (for president)." He said, however, if he were elected he would not consider a second term as Executive Committee chairman.

Current SBC president Ed Young concludes his second term at this year's meeting. □

Disaster relief workers meet needs across state

Tennessee Baptist disaster relief workers have responded to needs caused by last week's ice storm in at least two locations in the state.

Disaster relief workers from First Church, Bemis, set up their mobile feeding unit at the Jackson Civic Center Feb. 12 and began feeding victims of the ice storm who had moved into a Red Cross shelter at the Civic Center.

According to Dick Staggs, unit coordinator for the First Church, Bemis, unit, there are two shelters in operation at the center, one for medical

needs and one for people who just lost their electricity and had no heat.

While most of Jackson has had its electricity restored, the Bemis feeding unit will remain in place until electricity has been restored to all residents in the shelter.

In addition to Staggs, other team members of the Bemis unit, which is a support unit for the Tennessee Baptist Convention's state unit, included Richard Askew, John Buckley, Loran Newton, and George Tosh.

Several Tennessee Bap-

tists also were involved in feeding operations in Lawrence County Association over the weekend. About 3,000 meals were fed, according to J. C. Carpenter, director of missions.

The TBC disaster relief van, headed by Cameron Byler, left Feb. 14, for the Lawrence County Association office in Leoma, where they will continue feeding operations.

Many homes in Lawrence County apparently are still without electricity. □

Mother Teresa decries abortion as president listens

By Tom Strode
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — With the pro-choice president of the United States sitting nearby, Mother Teresa decried the practice of abortion, calling it the "denial of receiving Jesus," at the annual National Prayer Breakfast Feb. 3.

The slight, elderly Roman Catholic nun's denunciation of abortion in the presence of Bill

Clinton was "as bold a prophetic confrontation as I've ever witnessed," said Robert Dugan, director of the National Association of Evangelicals' office of public affairs. "It was electric in that ballroom because most people there knew (Clinton) was hearing something that he would rather hear in private."

Mother Teresa, who won a Nobel Peace Prize for her ministry to the sick and needy in

Calcutta, India, said in her keynote speech the "greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because Jesus said, 'If you receive a little child, you receive me.' So every abortion is the denial of receiving Jesus, the neglect of receiving Jesus.

"And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?"

Abortion "just leads to more abortion," she said. "Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love one another but to use violence to get what they want."

Although "the place just came alive with vigorous applause," the president did not applaud when she denounced abortion, Dugan said. A review of a video of C-SPAN's live coverage showed Hillary Clinton, as well as Vice President Al Gore and his wife, Tipper, also not applauding at the head table.

Speaking after Mother Teresa, the president praised her for her "moving words" and "lifetime of commitment" but told the audience, "We will always have our differences; we will never know the whole truth" □

FMB trustees vote to increase ...

— Continued from page 1

the missionaries while acknowledging the importance of volunteers to the board's overall strategy, according to trustee Bob Oxford of Colorado, chairman of the committee. It aims to increase the number of volunteers going overseas through the board and outlines principles for cooperating with Southern Baptist volunteer groups working outside board channels.

"Volunteers are a resource that can impact a lost world," Rankin said.

Jim Furgerson, director of the board's volunteers in missions department, noted that while volunteers cannot take the place of missionaries, they "can sure hold the board while (missionaries) drive the nails."

In separate actions, trustees:

- Approved a motion to refute comments attributed to former FMB President R. Keith Parks and former vice president Harlan Spurgeon. The

two reportedly said that the board has adequate resources to support missionaries if income drops because of increased contributions to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Both Parks and Spurgeon now work with the CBF, an organization of Southern Baptist "moderates."

- Reversed a decision to dedicate a new history of the board to Parks and his wife, Jean. Instead they voted to dedicate the book, to be published in connection with the board's 1995 observance of its 150th year, to the 10 men who have served as president, including Parks and Rankin.

The decision to change the dedication "is appropriate because we felt it's important to give equal recognition to all 10 presidents because the book (by church historian William Estep) is a history of the board" and has chapters on each president, said Bill Hall of Kentucky, who chaired a trustee subcommittee. □

Persistence knocks show off air

Baptist Press

DALLAS — An effort led by Texas Baptist dentist Richard Neill to have the Donahue talk show taken off a local television station has succeeded.

Neill, of Fort Worth, declared moral victory when Dallas ABC affiliate WFAA-TV decided to cancel the show several months before the contract runs out in December 1994.

Neill said the station's general manager had told him they wouldn't renew the contract because "advertisers had blackballed the program and they were losing money. I assumed business as usual but they decided to stop the program at the end of September. That was a surprise to me."

The station broadcasts the show at 9 a.m., an hour Neill

says children have easy access to the show that frequently deals with subjects he says are inappropriate for youngsters.

And, according to some newspaper reports, during the school year about 1,000 children watch Donahue daily on WFAA. The number grew to 8,000 in the summer.

Neill circulated petitions requesting the station change the time slot to perhaps late at night, but to no avail.

Neill then contacted the program's advertisers, both local and national, and asked them, many of whom sell family-oriented products, to withdraw support. Many have, Neill said, noting 221 sponsors have dropped Donahue as of the day he found out that WFAA would cut short its commitment to run the program. □

BSSB trustees hear reports of improving performance

By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Reports on ministry and financial performance by the Baptist Sunday School Board signal positive results in efforts to operate more efficiently and to reverse downward trends in product sales, according to the agency's president, James T. Draper Jr.

During the Feb. 7-8 semi-annual trustees meeting in Nashville, Draper said a long history of financial success is permitting today's leadership to address changes to help the church programs and publications agency meet the changing needs of individuals and churches.

Draper told trustees the board "is a financially strong institution with a long history of operational successes. Those successes have enabled the creation of reserve funds that give us flexibility we need as we acknowledge and address some operational problems." He added that the board already is beginning to "see some positive results."

Draper cited implementation of a 1993 operational study of the board's business and finance and corporate

services group which has reduced corporate overhead expenses and is expected to realize a 1993-94 net savings of more than \$2 million.



DRAPER

The 1992-93 financial report, Draper said, shows real sales growth of 0.2 percent, while "holding the line on expenses in many areas." Total revenue of \$208 million was below budget by 2 percent but above last year by 2.8 percent.

The year-end results were not a surprise, Draper said, reminding trustees a year ago he had estimated three to five years to achieve financial and product goals.

For the first quarter of 1993-94, Jerry Rhyne, director of the business and finance department, said revenue was 8.1 percent above the same period for the previous year, but 5.4 percent below budget. Sales for the first quarter, which began Oct. 1, 1993, represented real growth — an increase in sales excluding price increases — of 5.1 percent.

Areas of the board showing

real growth are discipleship and family development, 12 percent; Genevox Music Group, 47 percent; ethnic and language, 4 percent; Broadman & Holman Publishers, 11 percent; Baptist Book Store and Lifeway Christian Stores, 5.7 percent; and direct marketing, 93.1 percent.

Declines in real growth were registered by church music leadership, 3.1 percent; Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, 9.9 percent; Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, 12.4 percent; and the Bible teaching-reaching division, 5.1 percent.

Rhyne cited a trend toward slowing the decline in unit sales and anticipated improvements in Bible teaching materials to be released in October as a basis to expect improved figures in the near future. While Sunday School dated literature sales registered a decline of 4 percent for January-March 1994, he said it represents a slowing of the decline, which was 4.5 percent for the October-December 1993 quarter.

Operational cash flow continues to be a problem, Draper reported. "This is caused primarily by our need to invest sizable amounts of money to do

catch-up work in areas such as bookstore facilities and business systems. We elected to take major steps in a short period of time rather than spreading the costs over several years. We believe this will bring positive results sooner," he told trustees.

In an ongoing effort to refine the agency's product mix, trustees approved publishing several new products, stopped publishing several products, and redesigned some existing ones.

Trustees delayed action until September on an administration proposal to delete *Growing Churches* magazine, pending study of the product mix and visibility of church growth issues in church leadership periodicals. The recommendation had been for deleting the periodical, effective August 1994, because circulation had plateaued at about 13,000 and an estimated annual loss of \$50,000 in fixed production and editorial costs.

In another matter, trustees in the business and finance committee declined to approve immediate purchase of a building owned by Street Piano Co. of Nashville and located next to the board's Frost Building.

They urged the administration to explore the possibility of purchase at a later time when the cash flow situation might be more favorable.

Gene Mims, vice president of the board's church growth group, and Harry Piland, director of the Bible teaching-reaching division, reported on improvements in the youth and adult Life and Work Sunday School periodicals scheduled for introduction in October.

Mims said efforts to reverse declines in unit sales of dated literature have "no short-term solutions." Dated Sunday School literature registered declines compared to the previous year of 4.5 percent for October-December 1993 and 4 percent for January-March 1994.

During the meeting trustees elected Theodore R. "Ted" Warren of Dallas as chief financial officer and vice president of the business services group.

Warren is an executive with 25 years' experience in the oil industry. The Missouri native is a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Park Cities Church, Dallas.

Warren will oversee the work of the business and financial aspects of the board. □

Home Mission Board executive committee affirms Lewis, staff, Masonic report

By Martin King
For Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Rejecting calls to review its handling of a report on Freemasonry, the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board approved a resolution affirming actions of its president, staff, and board members relating to the controversial issue.

The resolution declares in part that the executive committee "deplores any statements attacking the Christian integrity and motives of the HMB directors and staff ... and affirms the actions and statements of its president, Dr. Larry Lewis and the Home Mission Board's trustees and staff."

"This issue is not going to go away," declared Walter Carpenter, board member from Texas, who wrote and introduced the measure. "It's time to respond to these attacks on our president, our staff, and our own characters."

The Home Mission Board was directed to conduct a study of Freemasonry during the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention. A lengthy paper and a brief report from the board have received wide acceptance across the SBC except from

persons critical of the fraternal organization.

Board leadership has resisted calls to revisit the Masonry issue. Last month a HMB board member, Walter Collett of Maryland, sent fellow board members a three-page letter asking that the study be withdrawn from circulation and that several issues be clarified.

Collett, although not present when the resolution was considered, told Baptist Press, "I don't have any problems with the resolution. I never intended to attack the motives and integrity of the president, staff, or board members."

Collett met with the board's administrative committee the evening prior to the executive committee meeting for what he termed a "wonderful time of sharing. We were able to communicate clearly about our numerous areas of agreement as well as the few areas of blessed disagreements," Collett told Baptist Press.

Greg Martin, board member from Mississippi, cast the lone dissenting vote against the resolution saying he opposed it because he had not had sufficient time to review it.

"I really believe, though, that passing this resolution de-

feats its very purpose. It just focuses more attention on the whole matter," Martin said.

Board chairman Brad Allen, concluded the Feb. 8 meeting declaring, "I'm tired of spending hours and hours discussing Freemasonry. We need to close this thing and get on with what we're here for."

Collett said it is not his responsibility to pursue the matter further with the board and has no plans to do so. "I'm done with the issue," he said.

The 20-member committee did deal with a number of additional matters, including appointment of 24 new home missionaries and 53 Southern Baptist chaplains and filling of three vacant staff positions.

Included in staff approvals during the meeting was Philip Roberts, elected as director of the interfaith witness department. Roberts is presently a missions professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He will assume his new responsibilities June 1.

Roberts fills the vacancy left by previous director Gary Leazer who resigned last year in the wake of the Masonry controversy. □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



February -

- 17 — El Redentor Church in Valdivia is completing their pastor's home and seeking the right pastor.
- 18 — The South Association is planning an Evangelism Campaign, Nov. 1-14, 1994. They need 20 Tennessee volunteers to help the churches as they prepare for this experience.
- 19 — Haydee Fonseca, Children's Home director, and each person working in this Temuco ministry
- 20 — A Women's Camp is being held in Lican Ray today through Feb. 23.
- 21 — Belia Perez, director of the Baptist Clinic in Antofagasta, and those who serve with her
- 22 — Retired missionary Bill Geiger on his birthday
- 23 — The GA Camp is being conducted at Lican Ray Feb. 16-28.

Prioritize unevangelized, BWA urges

Baptist Press

LARNACA, Cyprus — With more than 1.3 billion people yet to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Baptist World Alliance will encourage Baptists around the world to make reaching "unevangelized people" a priority.

This is part of a BWA "blueprint for action" for unevangelized people which received the support of Baptist and other mission leaders from 30 coun-

tries who met in Larnaca, Cyprus, Jan. 20-24, for a "Baptist International Conference on Unevangelized People."

Ninety-one percent of Christian missionaries and 94 percent of missionary budgets are directed to the most evangelized 33 percent of the world.

Because of this, the BWA will encourage Baptist mission societies to look at their missionary personnel and budgets and recruit new people to reach the unevangelized. □

How they did it

In response to questions about how we did it (*Baptist and Reflector*, Jan. 26, page 2), the answer is simple: prayer. God in his magnificent way used all of us together at First Church, Concord, to commit in excess of \$100,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. (Incidentally, we contributed \$50,501 last year to Lottie Moon.)

The Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions was launched Nov. 28, with our traditional Parade of Flags. Men, women, boys, and girls participated in this ceremony — all bearing flags which were handmade by women of the church, and representing countries in which Southern Baptists have missionaries. The Woman's Missionary Union sponsored churchwide daily prayer meetings led by the Baptist Women. All age-level missions organizations (Mission Friends, GAs, RAs, and Acteens) focused intensely on the order of the week — prayer. The season of giving was underway.

It was our fervent prayer throughout the week that God would open the hearts and minds of all our fellowship that we would be led to generously respond to this effort for foreign missions. We asked not for our goal, nor for any dollar amount, but only for God's di-

vine guidance. It was also our prayer that all churches would catch a vision in their giving, particularly in view of proposed Foreign Mission Board budget cuts.

Well, God opened our hearts at First Church, Concord, and we responded. The March for Foreign Missions on Sunday, Dec. 5, was overwhelming. To God be the glory!

Prayer made the difference. What more need be said when we put him in charge of our affairs?

Now we are praying for the upcoming Week of Prayer for Home Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Should we do less for this effort? I don't think so.

Delores Pugh, WMU director
First Church, Concord
Knoxville 37922

Stop the murders

A lot of the killings and shootings is being done by young folks and even school children. They take guns to school and even shoot people sometimes.

We need to get out the message across our land that the Bible, in Exodus 20, says God commands us not to kill. The *Baptist and Reflector* and other such papers is the best way to get this message across our land.

Preachers should preach

about it, and they should tell parents through the messages that they should teach their children that it is wrong to kill, and wrong to have abortions.

A lot of people read the papers and it could have a chain reaction, people telling each other.

There is so much wrong stuff on TV for our young to see; they think it is real when it may be only action in movies.

Carmon Davis
Savannah 38372

All Christians should unite in every feasible effort to battle crime and evil in reality and as it is portrayed by media. Christian family values are very important in this fight to save our nation.

— Editor

Bad news for NYPD

Ever wonder if your actions make a difference? Enclosed is a copy of an article from the Jan. 11, *Atlanta Constitution*. The headlines say it all: "Latest on 'NYPD Blues': Hit losing big money."

Last fall when that show went on the air, ABC repeatedly said the program was completely sold out at full price, \$260,000 per minute with seven minutes to sell.

At the TV critics meetings in Los Angeles in early January, ABC President Robert Iger admitted the program was losing money. The program

was never sold out and full price was never paid.

Our estimate is that ABC is losing between \$1-1.5 million every time the program is shown. We plan to continue our efforts against the program to ensure they continue to lose that money.

I ask for prayers as we continue this battle. We must stop the destructive effect which the entertainment media is having on our society.

Donald E. Wildmon, president
American Family Association
Tupelo, Miss. 38803

The newspaper article also said 40 ABC affiliates do not carry the program, and the number is growing. ABC has no plans to cancel the show, Iger said. He also said ABC has no plans for another "R-rated" show, as NYPD has been called. — Editor

Some members of Congress tried, but settled for a promise by television producers and broadcasters that they would try to develop a rating system.

No doubt films and videos with a high content of violence and pornography will continue to be shown as long as it is profitable to do so. If the viewing of such productions should drop off significantly, advertisers would not fund them, the producers would lose money, and the viewing of them would be greatly curtailed.

However, as Mr. Raspberry concludes in his article, the problem is that the majority of people want to view such films and shows. Other articles have published results of polls showing that both Christians and non-Christians view such programs.

Can that attitude be changed, at least among persons who profess to be Christians? If pastors and leaders of churches would unite and initiate campaigns to obtain from committed Christians promises to abstain from viewing all such productions, that might have a significant impact on ratings and, therefore, on profitability to the producers.

Why not try it? It would be more effective than simply wringing our hands and doing nothing.

Carlie A. Gentry
Knoxville 37921

Shown at right are the new forms which have been developed for Tennessee Baptists to use to make nominations for people to serve on TBC boards or committees. See last week's page 1 story for details.

The forms are smaller replicas of the original forms which are being sent to every Tennessee Baptist church and to moderators of all 68 associations in the state. Tennessee Baptists are encouraged to use a copy of the original form. Recommendations for the Committee on Committees or Committee on Boards should be made by March 15.

RECOMMENDATION FORM

Convention Committees
Tennessee Baptist Convention

Please use this form to recommend resident members of Tennessee Baptist churches to the Committee on Committees. A separate form should be used for each recommendation. Mail all recommendations to Chairman, Committee on Committees, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. All recommendations will be considered by the Committee on Committees. However, no person submitting a recommendation should assume his recommendation will automatically be submitted to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The deadline for recommendations is March 15.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone (Home) (____) _____ (Business) (____) _____
Approximate Age _____ Sex: M _____ F _____
Resident Church Membership _____
Address _____
Sunday School Enrollment 0-250 _____ 250-500 _____ 500 _____
Church Staff Member? Yes _____ No _____ Title _____

Check the Convention Committees you feel this person could best serve.
 Committee on Arrangements Committee on Credentials Committee on Audits
 Committee on Resolutions Committee on Boards Historical Committee
 Committee on Committees Church Staff Compensation Study Committee Committee on Constitution & Bylaws

- Please respond to the following questions.
1. Do you have this person's permission to submit this recommendation? Yes _____ No _____
 2. List this person's present and/or past experiences on any TBC Committee(s) and dates of service.
 3. Indicate the percentage and amount of mission gifts through the Cooperative Program in 1993 by this person's church. _____ % \$ _____
 4. Indicate this person's occupation. Please be specific.
 5. Is this person you are recommending acquainted with the duties and responsibilities of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Committee for which he is being recommended?
 6. What gifts, abilities, or experience does this person possess that qualifies him for consideration on a Tennessee Baptist Committee?
 7. Describe this person's involvement and activity in his/her local church.

Name _____ Address _____ Phone (____) _____
Person Submitting Recommendation Age Code

RECOMMENDATION FORM

Executive Board/Boards of Trust, Committee on Committees
Tennessee Baptist Convention

Please use this form to recommend resident members of Tennessee Baptist churches to the Committee on Boards. A separate form should be used for each recommendation. Mail all recommendations to Chairman, Committee on Boards, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. All recommendations will be considered by the Committee on Boards. However, no person submitting a recommendation should assume his recommendation will automatically be submitted to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The deadline for recommendations is March 15.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone (Home) (____) _____ (Business) (____) _____
Approximate Age _____ Sex: M _____ F _____ Ordained _____ Lay person _____
Resident Church Membership _____
Address _____
Sunday School Enrollment 0-250 _____ 250-500 _____ 500 _____
Church Staff Member? Yes _____ No _____ Title _____

Check the board you feel this person could best serve.
 Executive Board Children's Homes Belmont University
 Baptist Health System, Nashville Carson-Newman College Baptist Health System, East Tennessee
 Union University Baptist Health Systems, Memphis Harrison-Chilhowee
 Tennessee Baptist Foundation Committee on Committees Adult Homes

- Please respond to the following questions.
1. Do you have this person's permission to submit this recommendation? Yes _____ No _____
 2. List this person's present and/or past experiences on any TBC Board(s) or Committee(s) and dates of service.
 3. Indicate the percentage and amount of mission gifts through the Cooperative Program in 1993 by this person's church. _____ % \$ _____
 4. Indicate this person's occupation. Please be specific.
 5. Is this person you are recommending acquainted with the duties and responsibilities of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Board/Committee for which he is being recommended?
 6. What gifts, abilities, or experience does this person possess that qualifies him for consideration on a Tennessee Baptist Board?
 7. Describe this person's involvement and activity in his/her local church.

Name _____ Address _____ Phone (____) _____
Person Submitting Recommendation Age Code

Christian education is vital to shaping future

Knowledge is a process of piling up facts; wisdom lies in their simplification.

Martin Fischer said that, and he was right. But we will add to his definitive statement that wisdom also is the proper application of those facts. The statement itself is a simplification.

However, we can take it, and work with it. Even in compiling historical data, knowledge is lacking unless there is simplification and proper application.

February 20 is the day set aside on the denominational calendar for recognizing our Baptist educational institutions.

The Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention has supplied us with a valid theme interpretation, "Faith Produces Commitment."

Tennessee Baptist's three colleges and academy are committed to the intellectual and spiritual development of their students. This tenet is basic and is not negotiable.

Professors and staff members integrate their personal faith and professional disciplines in a way that fosters the personal growth and academic excellence of their students.

Students are encouraged to develop a faith that produces a lifelong commitment to Christian witness and ministry. It is important that, as you observe this special day at church or home, remember in prayer the more than 6,500 professors and administrators and the more than 190,000 women and men who are students at the 71 Southern Baptist-re-

lated educational institutions.

Remember especially those who are engaged in serious study and life commitment at Carson-Newman College, Belmont University, Union University, and Harrison-Chilhowee Academy.

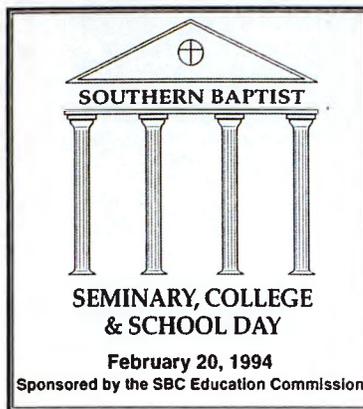
One of the best qualities about Tennessee Baptist educational institutions is that they are progressive. Holding fast to historic accomplishments of other generations, leadership of our schools know how to build the curriculum and management styles that compete with the future.

And what about students and faculty today? They also benefit from the excellence that forward-thinking Christian institutions have as foundation.

For all these generations, the investment of Tennessee Baptists and other friends pays dividends as churches send their young people to our Baptist schools where they are provided with the best of academics in an atmosphere that fosters faith. It is no secret that many graduates of our schools serve on home and foreign mission fields, and staff literally hundreds of Baptist churches.

Students with this kind of superb education, which inculcates the Christian spiritually and atmosphere of learning, also perform in their communities in business, medicine, law, education, politics, and other lifestyles.

One of the most important things about education in a Christian setting is that the students also learn intangibles so important to competent and caring



citizenship, and family and home life.

Not only do many of these graduates serve in community leadership roles, they are able to serve God faithfully in the local church.

Of course many out-of-state students enroll in Belmont, Carson-Newman, and Union, and many students do not know their goal in life. Our schools help them, too.

The dedicated administrative leaders and faculty offer support outside the classroom. Also, the Baptist Student Union on the campuses give guidance and opportunities for service.

As we celebrate Seminary, College, and School Day on February 20 (or on another day), remember these were founded out of need. We still need each other. Pray, give, support our schools. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

On bearing fruit

There is a great, classic, discourse on bearing fruit. You will not find it in some anthology written by a famed author.

You know where it is. Called the fruit-bearing chapter, it is John 15. But it is more than Jesus' last teachings to those disciples about bearing fruit as Christians, winning people.

He talked about pruning and burning, weak branches and unproductive branches. He grasped the idea completely by using as example those hill-side vines that all Israelites were familiar with.

He also explained something important about expectations, such as, what the vinedresser expects from the grapes. He expects the branches (we who are Christians) to produce exquisite fruit.

If I walk into a plant nursery and tell the owner I want to return a fruit tree because it produces only bad fruit, he probably would discard the tree. He might even give me a refund if there was a guarantee. He would have said, "I really expected that fruit to be better than that."

The expectations were high, but the branches did not produce the best fruit.

Am I able to produce fruit myself? No. Does God expect me to produce it by myself? No.

There is that incredible ingredient, the Holy Spirit. He can produce the fruit when I invest my life totally in Christ and accept the Spirit as the Divine Helper he is intended to be.

There is another analogy applicable here. We can consider our lives also as a tour on a big river. Sometimes we are in the main current. Sometimes we get caught up in the eddies and go around and around. Sometimes we may venture onto a tributary, and be lost.

It is important to know my source, to know my strength, and to know my destination. Again, the Helper comes to my side. Christ is the constant and powerful river. He is available for me to flow on. He is strong, pure, straight. I want to produce sweet, exquisite, healthy fruit for my Master gardener. I want to flow straight on that great river, with the Source. ☪



ALLEN

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Charlie: "I put up a sign in the office for all my employees. It read 'do it now.'"

Carl: "How did it work?"

Charlie: "Too well. The first day, my accountant skipped town with \$100,000, my sales manager eloped with my secretary, two clerks asked for a raise, and I found my tires flat.

Take this truth

The Bible speaks many time about the importance of timing. Shakespeare reminds us "there is a tide in the affairs of men that taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." He warns us, however, that "omitted, all the voyage of life is bound in shallows and in miseries."

Memorize this Scripture

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4)

Pray this prayer

Lord help us to realize we "must take the current when it serves or lose our ventures." □

Family: the authoritative parent

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

Remember the basic parenting styles that we discussed here last week? We talked briefly about them: authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and neglecting-rejecting.

We want to take a closer look now at the authoritative parent. This is the healthiest and most productive style of parenting, I think, because it is the style that God enjoins us to practice.



BARKLEY

You do not need a terminal degree in one of the human sciences to understand that God in his word placed the responsibility for rearing children squarely with the parents. It is not enough to manage the behavior of our children. We must also mold the beliefs. For this reason the authoritative parent will set limits and stimulate learning.

Children not only need limits, they want them. One of the most frightening experiences

in life is not to know where we can feel safe and secure. Suppose you are driving down a newly paved road late at night. There has not been time yet for workers to re-stripe the road, so there is no center line.

You begin to meet the lights of an oncoming 18-wheel tractor trailer. It looks as though he is in the middle of the road and is going to run all over you. Where can you drive so that you will be relatively sure that the truck will not run over you?

All of a sudden you realize that the purpose of the stripe that should be in the middle of the road is not just to keep you from having fun and driving anywhere you please.

Children have the right to know where the boundaries are. What kind of activities will produce the happy and secure life that we all want?

Children also need to develop beliefs that will help them have a foundation out of which

to learn to make their own decisions.

These beliefs, however, will not be taught as well

as they will be caught from parents who are interactive with their children in decision-making skills.

The authoritative parenting style has shown in research to produce the most competent and self-confident children.

They have the security of set boundaries from which to explore the new world awaiting them.

They also have the road map placed inside them by parents who were willing to take the time to explain the reasons for the boundaries. □

Readers may contact Dr. Barkley with questions they would like addressed on this page. The paper would be pleased to act as a forum for subjects of interest to families. He can be reached at Union University, BMH Campus, 999 Monroe, Memphis 38104 or The Counseling Center, 6385 Stage Rd., Ste. 1, Bartlett 38134. — Editor

Southern Baptists to observe first 'Season of Home Missions'

By Susan Doyle
Woman's Missionary Union

For the first time ever, Southern Baptists across the country will observe the "Season of Home Missions."

In years past, Southern Baptists have observed four separate home missions events or emphases in the spring — the Home Mission Study, the Week of Prayer for Home Missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, and Home Missions Day in Sunday School. Never before have all four of these events been coordinated.

Beginning this year, the four elements have been coordinated to create a "Season of Home Missions." They will have common themes, graphic elements, and emphases.

"The Season of Home Missions is a simplification of the whole process," said Dan Euliss, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's promotion office.

The season is a coordinated effort by the HMB, the Brotherhood Commission, the Woman's Missionary Union, and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

"We brought all of the elements under one promotional effort in order to make it easier for Southern Baptists," Euliss said.

"Southern Baptists should see a much better coordinated home missions presentation by their church's missions leadership."

Euliss believes the outcome will be positive for Southern Baptists and the home missions cause.

"We have developed materials for the church leadership to help them do a

1994 Season of Home Missions

- Home Mission Study
Feb. 20-23
- Week of Prayer for Home Missions
March 6-13
- Home Missions Day in Sunday School
March 13
- Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions

National Goal: \$40 million
Tennessee Goal: \$3.25 million

IT'S YOUR SERVE

Minister in Christ's Name

better job," he said. "If they follow these materials, Southern Baptists will be more informed, will be better able to pray for home missions, better able to study about home missions, and should give more to home missions."

Season of Home Missions includes:

Home Mission Study — This year's study will be observed Feb. 20-23. The focus of this year's study is ministering to the nation's homeless. The study shows what home missionaries are doing and gives practical steps which any church can follow to begin its own ministry.

Resources for the study include a planning kit, books, teaching guides, videos, and take-home leaflets. Some of the items are available from the HMB and others from WMU.

Week of Prayer for Home Missions — This eight-day emphasis will be observed March 6-13. During this focus, Southern Baptists will pray for a renewed missions commitment, for home missionaries, for increased giving, for increased ministry with the homeless, and for their own involvement in home missions. The observance offers prayer opportunities for individuals, members of WMU and Brotherhood and the entire church family.

Suggestions for prayer observances can be found in WMU and Brotherhood age-level organization magazines. In addition to these resources, a prayer guide and poster are available from Tennessee WMU, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024.

Home Missions Day in Sunday

School — On March 13, home missions will be highlighted by Sunday School leaders.

Resources for home missions in Sunday School are available in the Sunday School Board magazines *Sunday School Leader: Smaller Church Edition* and *Sunday School Leader: Larger Church Edition*. A planning and promotion kit for the January-March quarter is also available.

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions — the national goal for this year is \$40 million.

Promotional posters and offering envelopes are available free of charge from state WMU offices.

Resource materials can be ordered from:

HMB, Customer Services, 1350 Spring St., NW, Atlanta, Ga., 30367, or 1(800) 634-2462.

WMU, Customer Service, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, Ala., 35283, or (205) 991-4933.

Sunday School Board, Customer Services, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn., 37234, or 1(800) 458-2772.

Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn., 38104, or 1(800) 727-6466.

A complete list and description of all promotional and instructional materials available for the "Season of Home Missions" is included in a new resource, the Master Planning Guide. This guide has been distributed to all church WMU directors, church Brotherhood directors, and pastors.

For additional copies of the Master Planning Guide, contact the state WMU office. □

Baptists in Annie Armstrong's hometown fight pioneer image

By Sarah Zimmerman
For Baptist Press

BALTIMORE — If Babe Ruth could visit his hometown, he might be delighted to find the Baltimore Orioles playing at Camden Yards.

If Annie Armstrong returned to Baltimore where she was born, baptized, and buried, "she would be grateful for those who are laboring in the harvest, but she would ask, 'Where is everybody else?'"

speculates Mike Fahey, director of missions for Baltimore Baptist Association.

Born in 1850, Armstrong was instrumental in the creation of Woman's Missionary Union. Southern Baptists' annual Easter offering for home missions was named in her honor in 1934.

Armstrong was known for leading Baptists to send boxes of supplies to home missionaries on frontier fields. At that time, the "frontier field" was Indian

Territory — now Oklahoma.

Today, Oklahoma is a strong Baptist state and Baltimore could be considered a pioneer area. Fahey fights that image.

"We've developed a welfare mentality," says Fahey, a Baltimore native. "We say, 'We can't do things because we're small, we're so few, we still need help from the South.' We use that as an excuse and it's one reason we don't grow."

Armstrong was baptized at Baltimore's Seventh Church when she was 20. At the time, Seventh was a community church in an upper middle-class suburb, notes Ellen Udovich, church and community ministries director for Baltimore Baptist Association and Seventh Church.

As the suburbs moved farther from downtown, Seventh's neighborhood became a white working-class community, then a black lower-class community, Udovich says. Now it's the stereotype of an inner city.

"I think Annie Armstrong would cry if she came back here," says Barbara George, nurse and Mission Service Corps volunteer working in a

clinic sponsored by Seventh.

Armstrong was not known for tears, however. Instead, history portrays her as an outspoken, strong-willed leader who challenged Southern Baptists to become involved in ministries with children, the sick, immigrants, and blacks.

In that respect, Armstrong would be proud of Seventh. In response to its changing community, the church began an after-school craft club, nursery school for preschoolers, and clothing thrift shop.

Seventh now owns row houses across the street from the church, housing senior adults with low incomes, facilities for weekday ministries such as literacy and tutoring programs, and the Good Shepherd medical clinic where more than 100 patients are treated each month.

Within a year of joining Seventh Church, Armstrong and her parents left to help start Eutaw Place Church, which is now Woodbrook Church. Armstrong was a member there until her death in 1938.

Church starting is still a priority in the association which has a goal of three new

congregations a year, Fahey said. His goal is for the association to double its 77 congregations by the year 2000.

Yet the association loses one or two congregations a year, Fahey says. Most of the dying churches are Anglo congregations in the city of Baltimore.

Typically, church members move to the suburbs, African-Americans move into the community, the church does not reach out to the new neighbors and the church dies.

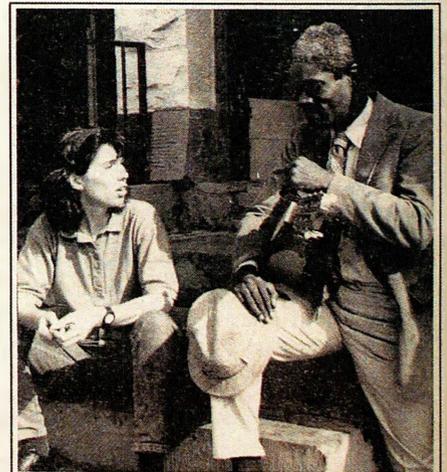
Fahey encourages inner-city churches to start African-American churches. He also challenges suburban churches to "keep an eye on the city and look for

meaningful partnerships" with inner-city churches.

Fahey calls the association's staff and volunteers a "good team with a great future" but says Baltimore's hope depends on the prayers of God's people. "In prayer, people become aware of where God is at work, and he moves them to respond." □



ARMSTRONG



ELLEN UDOVICH, left, and Garth Johnson catch up on neighborhood news on the porch of a row house owned by Seventh Church.

Pilgrimage from India prepares Oak Ridge deacon

By Connie Davis
Assistant Editor

David Paul has a news flash for Americans. They could learn something from internationals about forming deep relationships.

"Americans throw out the word 'love' a lot, but from an international's perspective,

they don't do anything to back up those words," said Paul, an Indian. "I get more love and affection from my Hindu friends than from my Christian friends," he said.

Paul doesn't blame Americans. It's a matter of the American need for independence, which doesn't allow for vulnerability, he explained. In con-

trast, he continued, internationals learn dependence on "community," which is necessary in other countries because of the lack of resources.

This cultural disparity is a barrier to ministry with internationals, he added.

Paul is used to holding different opinions in his adopted country, even after nine years here. But he has found affirmation at Central Church, Oak Ridge. Paul holds the distinction of being the first international to be ordained a deacon by the church. He also leads the church's ministry to internationals.



DAVID PAUL, the first international to be elected a deacon by Central Church, Oak Ridge, stands with his wife, Bee.

Retired pastor begins another career at 75

By Lonnie Wilkey
Associate Editor

NEWPORT — At the age of 75, F. M. Blevins is still going strong.

Shortly after his "retirement" as pastor of Wilsonville Church in Newport, where he served for about 10 years, Blevins launched another career in evangelism.



BLEVINS

What's more, he recently returned from his honeymoon. He remarried after his first wife of 53 years died about a year ago.

His desire to continue preaching is simple and sincere. "I've always had a burning evangelistic heart," said Blevins, who surrendered to the call to preach in 1939 and was ordained in 1940 by Pleasant Hill (now Baptist Hill) Church in Jasper.

He later became the pastor of Pleasant Hill, which was his home church. During a revival at the church four of his five brothers accepted Christ under his preaching. All four of those brothers, C. E., Winfred, Glen, and John became pastors. C. E. Blevins is still active, serving as pastor of High Point Church, Ooltewah. The five brothers have a combined ministry of 254 years.

About that experience, Blevins said, "The Lord was in it. He did it."

Blevins has served as pastor of churches in Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, and South Carolina. Prior to his pastoral ministry Blevins served as an evangelist for about eight years.

He returned to his home state and settled in Newport, where he continues to reside and from where his evangelism ministry will be based.

One of his members at Wilsonville was J. Harold Smith, a well-known Southern Baptist evangelist himself. Smith, Blevins said, was instrumental in his decision to enter evangelism.

"He told me my message was needed in churches in the field of evangelism. He urged me to pray about returning to the evangelistic ministry," Blevins recalled.

Blevins had almost decided to make the move until he learned his wife was dying of cancer. He then put his plans on hold. About six months after his wife's death, Blevins again talked with Smith, who was still encouraging Blevins to become an evangelist.

Blevins, who has conducted evangelistic campaigns in 11 states and has ministered in Italy, South America, Cuba, and Jerusalem, has conducted four revivals and has several more scheduled in the next few months.

In the few months he has been back in evangelism, Blevins knows the ministry has changed considerably from when he served back in the 1940s. Yet, he feels strongly that today's churches still need an "old-fashioned revival message."

In his early days in evangelism, he said, there were no TV or places to go except church. "We had great crowds of teenagers," he recalled, noting that now when he goes to churches there are few young people there.

Blevins has a great desire to "see our homes turn back to God. When that happens, churches will consequently turn back to God," he is convinced.

Meanwhile the 75-year-old (almost 76) evangelist plans to do all he can to make that happen. "I still go like a house on fire," he said. □

Many internationals work at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where Paul did research on "super conductors" to complete his doctorate in electrical engineering. Other internationals attend schools in Knoxville. Paul estimates about 3-4,000 live in the area.

He and his wife, Sor-bee, who is from Malaysia, have tried to minister to internationals in the area for about two years. He has met many who have been "turned off" to Christianity, said Paul.

American Christians confront internationals with the Gospel though they have no relationship with them, noted Paul. This doesn't meet the expectations of the international, he explained.

Paul understands because he is an exception among internationals and many Christians. He grew up in a Christian home in India, which is about 2.6 percent Christian.

He beat other odds while a student in New York. Although he attended church and read the Bible daily, he was disciplined by Christians who were members of International Students Incorporated. It took almost a year before he admitted

to God and himself he wasn't a Christian, recounted Paul.

He considers himself a Christian first and then a Baptist, which is why he's proud to be a member of the church. Even though it is large, it provides the visitors with a chance to meet the pastor, he said. When Pastor Ron Herrod met the Pauls the first Sunday they visited, he told them he had been praying for someone to help the church with its international ministry. They took him up on the challenge.

The Pauls develop relationships with internationals by simply forming friendships with them, Paul explained. They have many new friends into their home, he cited. Several weeks into the relationship, the person may be willing to attend a church social event, said Paul.

But Americans should understand that non-Christian internationals generally feel uncomfortable in a church, he explained.

To allow for this, the Bible study for internationals led by the Pauls on Sunday morning will soon be held on Friday evening in a home, he said.

Other church members teach English to internationals. The Pauls also provide many special events for their new friends.

"The Lord has done a lot for me in my life by bringing me out of my country," said Paul. American Christians have many opportunities other Christians don't, he continued. Christian messages on radio and TV and Christian publications are rare in India, he added.

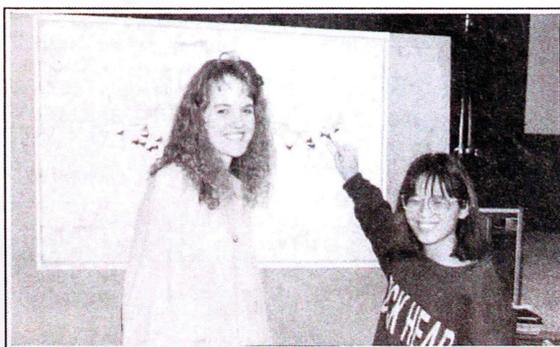
Since God prepared him to work with internationals, he accepts the role of deacon despite his astonishment at being selected. About 1,000 people actively attend Central.

"I feel that there's so many people, older folks, who I believe have progressed in their walk with their Lord more than me," said Paul.

In his deacon ministry, Paul writes notes to leaders in the church to encourage them. He also plans to teach the *Experiencing God* course.

His wife refers to him as the 3-D man — doctor, deacon, and daddy. The couple had their first child, a boy, Dec. 30. □

International students from across state gather



STATE BSU PRESIDENT Regina Barrett, left, and Sherry Yang, a student from Taiwan attending East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, look at map which identifies homes of students attending conference.

One hundred and twenty five participants from 21 countries and 17 Tennessee campuses attended the annual Tennessee International Student Ministry Conference at Henry Horton State Park Jan. 28-30. In addition to the students, Baptist Student Union leaders and church leadership joined into the Bible study, training, and fellowship.

Roy Fisher, pastor of First Church, Donelson, and Coreen Jackson, an assistant professor at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, spoke. Fisher is from England and Jackson is from the Bahamas. □

Missionaries offer ideas for homeless ministries

Home Mission Board

ATLANTA — Redemptive ministry with the homeless is the subject of this year's Home Mission Study and an everyday concern for many home missionaries.

With estimates of the U.S. homeless population ranging from 300,000 to 3 million, ministry to the homeless can seem overwhelming. But missionaries across the nation cite a number of ways churches and individuals can be involved.

Many homeless people are unemployed, mentally ill, addicted to drugs, people who chose to be homeless, or youth who run away from home, said Valerie Carter, home missionary and director of Hillside

Baptist Center in Richmond, Va. The fastest growing segment of the homeless population is women and children, she noted.

Regardless of their situation, homeless people typically feel dislocated because they have no place to belong, Carter said. They may feel like failures or victims.

"Some of them are very intelligent and many of them know the Bible, but they have lost their dignity," Carter said. "They probably will not initiate a conversation with you, but they will respond if you will."

This year's study material for the Season of Prayer for Home Missions is designed to help individuals and churches deal with spiritual and physi-

1994 Home Mission Study Facts: The Changing Face of America's Homeless

In 1993, families and single men tied as the largest group of the nation's homeless population.

Families — 43 percent
Single Men — 43 percent
Single Women — 11 percent
Runaway Youth — 3 percent

Source: U.S. Conference of Mayors, December 1993

cal needs of homeless people in their communities.

Carter said the best ministry with homeless people is to become involved "one-on-one for long-term changes."

Taylor Field, home mission-

ary in New York City, agrees. "Our focus is to become involved in people's lives," he said. "We want to know their names and walk through the next step in their lives with them. As the relationship becomes more personal, we can share Christ. That keeps it from being just relief work."

Some examples of homeless ministry include:

- First Church of Benton, Ark., provides an apartment where a family, often a single mother with children, can stay until they are independent again.

- Sacramento Association in California provides "breakfast bags" on Saturday, a day when many soup kitchens are closed. The bags include sandwiches, fruit, a hard-boiled egg, and juice. On Sunday, churches in the association prepare and serve breakfast.

- The "Angel Network" in Hawaii helps homeless people secure government-subsidized housing. Churches pay the portion of the rent not covered by the government until the family can make the payment. Church members help residents with job training and knowing how to make healthy lifestyle choices.

- Volunteers from Briarlake Church, Atlanta, and Peninsula Association in Virginia provide furniture to homeless families who find housing.

For more information about study materials, call HMB customer services at 1 (800) 634-2462. □

'It's Your Serve' focus of Baptist Women, BYW retreat

The annual Prayer Retreat for Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women will be held March 18-19 at the Jackson Civic Center. The theme for the Tennessee WMU weekend meeting is "It's Your Serve."

Nelda Seal, WMU executive director for Louisiana Baptists, will serve as Bible teacher.

Judy Trivette of Knoxville is prayer coordinator for the meeting. Trivette, prayer coordinator of the Chile/Tennessee Partnership, will guide prayer times to focus on Tennessee's partnerships and the needs of each.

Other speakers include Ken and Divina Park, retired missionaries to Chile, Marilyn Hopkins, who heads Woman's



SEAL



TRIVETTE



D. PARK



K. PARK

Missionary Union and coordinates church and community missions for the Michigan Baptist Convention, and Ray Gilder, program associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Missions Department and coordinator of the Mississippi River Ministry.

Glenda and Jonathan Nelms of Cookeville will provide music for the sessions.

Registration begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 18, with

the general session beginning at 7:15 p.m.

Saturday's sessions begin at 8:45 a.m. and adjourn at noon.

Registration fee for the meeting is \$10. Deadline for registration is March 4.

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

CLASSIFIED

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TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the leaders

■ Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, ordained as deacons Earl Lester, Danny Rowland, and Mike Hammond.

■ Imogene Kiestler was honored Jan. 23 by Mount Gilead Church, Bethel Springs, for 41 years of service as church clerk. She was given a study Bible, a plaque, and a reception.



KIESTLER

■ Mount Gilead Church, Bethel Springs, has called David Tull as minister of music and youth and has licensed Joy Dean Foster to the ministry. Tull is a graduate of Union University, Jackson.

■ Pat Van Dyke is serving First Church, Clarksville, as minister of music, effective Feb. 6.

■ Leland Earl Lyon, pastor, Euclid Avenue Church, Knoxville, has been called as pastor of Park Lane Church, Knoxville. In the Feb. 9 issue it was incorrectly reported L.

Gale Lyon was the pastor.

■ Neil Richerson of Athens is interim minister of music for Maple Street Church, Cleveland. A bivocational minister, Richerson also is a biomedical technician. He has been active in the Georgia State Singing Convention.

■ Bethel Church, Henderson, has called Ronnie Coleman as pastor, effective Jan. 23. The church also called Scott Lamb as youth minister Oct. 21.

■ the churches

■ First Church, New Tazewell, will celebrate its centennial anniversary June 26. Planners seek past history, especially photos produced prior to 1965. Send information to P.O. Box 248, New Tazewell 37825.

■ City View Church, Knoxville, will build a preschool educational wing. Its day care ministry, which is 25 years old, gave \$5,000 to the Earl H. Wilson Preschool Educational Building Fund. Wilson, Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Brentwood, led the

church to begin the day care ministry. It serves 90 preschoolers and 150 children.

■ the associations

■ Weakley County Association will hold Youth Night March 14 at Central Church, Martin. The program will focus on True Love Waits, an effort promoting sexual abstinence.

■ A Ministry to Children and Youth in Crisis Workshop will be hosted by Hamilton County Association Feb. 25-26 at Ridgedale Church, Chattanooga.

■ Hardeman Association will hold a Home Mission Study for Youth and Children Feb. 28 at First Church, Midleton.

■ Dyer Association is hosting a Rally and Pizza Blast for youth in grades 7-12 Feb. 25 at Dyersburg State Gym. The program will focus on True Love Waits, which promotes sexual abstinence. Brady Weldon will speak.

■ Western District Association will hold its Evangelism Conference March 1 at

First Church, Paris. Bob Hamlin of Tupelo, Miss., will speak.

■ Dyer Association will hold a World Missions Conference April 10-17, involving 34 of its 40 churches.

■ Ministerial Day With Union University will be held by Haywood Association on Feb. 20. Ten of the association's churches will host students who will bring messages during the evening service. This is the seventh year for this partnership.

■ death

■ Golden Faye Forderhase, 84, of London, Ky., died Feb. 1. She was the widow of Earl Forderhase, former pastor of Parkview Church, Clarksville, and First Church, Charlotte.

■ the missionaries

■ Wesley and Valeria Vaughn Crenshaw of Troy, Baptist representatives to Germany, are in the states and can be reached at 404 W.

Whitaker Mill Rd., Raleigh, NC 27608.

■ Ray and Ruby Edson Fleet, missionaries to Brazil are in the states and can be reached at 721 Devonshire, Richardson, Texas 75080. He is a native of Memphis and she lived in Memphis while growing up.

■ Donald and Julie Martin, missionaries to Guatemala, have completed language school in Costa Rica and arrived in Guatemala. They can be reached at Apartado 1135, 01901, Guatemala City, Guatemala. He is a native of Chattanooga.

■ Donald and Carol Peyton Minshew, missionaries to Angola, are in the states and can be reached at 342 Dixie Hills Dr., Hernando, Miss. 38632. He considers Memphis his hometown and she is from Memphis.

■ Ron and Carla Roy, missionaries to Uruguay, are in the states and can be reached at 925 W. Skyline Dr., Morristown, Tenn. 37813. They are from Michigan.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

What's important enough to pursue?

Kevin Goza, pastor
First Church, Woodbury

Everyone has heard of tennis professional Chris Evert.

Now retired, she made her mark on the tennis world by winning victories at Wimbledon, the U.S. Open, and other tennis championships.

I read recently the remarks of Joe Dean, athletic director at Louisiana State University, about Chris Evert. Before assuming his position at Louisiana State, Mr. Dean was a shoe representative for Converse, who supplied shoes for Evert. As you know, Evert made millions of dollars playing tennis.

"Chrissy," Dean said, "if you had to do it all over again, what would you do differently?"

"I'd go to my senior prom," Evert replied. "I missed that." She missed it because she was playing at Wimbledon.

This raises the question for us, is money everything in life? What about careers? Are they everything? Name anything else you might pursue in life, any goals, any ambitions. Are they the "icing on the cake," that which will bring lasting happiness and contentment?

The answer is, of course, that anything but a pursuit for righteousness will bring utter discontent and restlessness.

Remember Matthew 6:33, "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness..." Now, here is the formula for contentment. Are you seeking Him, before all else? □

How should a Baptist 'act'?

Joe Hudson, pastor
Tennessee Avenue Church, Bristol

The young Christian was excited about Jesus. Her joy of heart could be seen in her countenance and her actions. It seemed that each day brought more joy to her life and she ministered to others faithfully. Then one day she was told that she should "act" like a Baptist.

As I thought about this idea of "acting" like a Baptist several things came to mind.

■ It was evident that this unfeeling person was "acting" concerning their own Christian life, and "acting" is not what Christianity is all about.

■ If I was going to "act" like a Baptist exactly how would I accomplish it? In 18 years of pastoral ministry I have seen Baptists "act" in a multitude of ways. Some, thank God, reflecting the image of Jesus. Others, sadly mimicking the adversary.

■ It seems this may be a major shortcoming in our Baptist churches today. Maybe we have a number of people who have learned how to "act" like a Baptist and when the trial of faith

comes it messes up their "act." Then they begin to act like what they are and the church body is injured thereby. Eventually each of us will "act" according to what is in our heart. The old cliché, "When you get shook up what is on the inside comes out" is true.

We need to be filled by the Spirit of God and when we are the evidence will spill over into our actions. You can no more contain the inward filling of the Spirit than the levees could hold back the mighty Mississippi River. The Spirit of God will be manifested in our actions when we are what the Lord saved us to be.

True worship will be the end result. That is where many Baptists have a problem. What fear grips so many of our people? Afraid they will be branded "non-Baptist" if they discover that God inhabits praise. Being filled with the Spirit, joy, worship, and praise are benefits of being born-again and not a monopoly of the Pentecostal denomination. Forgive me for not "acting" like a Baptist, I am having too good a time just being a child of God. □

Shaping today, tomorrow

Brian Smith, minister of youth
Island Home Church, Knoxville

Wayne Watson, a contemporary Christian singer, sings a song called *Water Colored Ponies*, in which he talks about the pictures that his two small

boys paint for the refrigerator door, and how children grow up so fast. This song touches me every time I hear it because it challenges me to be prepared to be a father and to teach and cherish the children that God will bless me with later in life.

We have some great young people in this church; some may be a little old for water colored ponies, but they still need to be encouraged. Young people, toddlers all the way to the youth department, need to be encouraged, loved, and prayed for. The youth are not only the church of tomorrow but they are a vital part of the church today and need help in growing like any other part of the church body. (I can't do it all myself.)

Take part in the lives of our youth and children now before time is up. Because like Wayne Watson sings, "Someday the water colored ponies will ride away." □

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.

Former anti-Christian radio personality tells of 'new life'

By James Dotson
For Baptist Press

MACON, Ga. — Many in the audience knew the voice, if not the face. But few would ever have believed the words coming from the mouth of David Paul Staves, known to hundreds of thousands of listeners to Atlanta talk radio as David Paul.

After detailing a career spent pushing the limits of aggressive shock radio — including regular hateful diatribes against Christians — Paul told Georgia Baptist evangelism conference participants that about a year ago one man began telling him what Christianity was actually about for the first time in his life.

And, Paul told how that consistent witness and testimony, through the leading of the Holy Spirit, had led him to regeneration through faith in Christ.

The testimonies of Paul and Bob Hughes, the man who introduced him to Christ, were highlights of the Georgia evangelism conference.

Paul's testimony was a classic case study in how individuals can share Christ through lifestyle evangelism, defined by Hughes simply as "walking the walk before, during, and after you talk the talk."

Paul, by his own admission, was a man consumed by money. In his business, he said, the way to get money was to get top ratings, and the way to get ratings in the 18-35 age market he was targeting was to be outrageous. He told of bringing in dancers, who would strip in front of him while he described their actions on the radio. Other times he would have prostitutes as guests on the air. And his ratings were No. 1.

His attacks on Christianity

also were notorious. "One year ago I believe if I were to enter this church, I would have made some of you nervous," he said after taking the pulpit. "I used to say that the only time I would enter a church was to blow it up."

He told of advising young people to steal from the offering plate, because Christians were supposed to "turn the other cheek" and if they were punished it would expose the church as non-Christian.

In late 1992, however, Paul's life began to change. As he was reaching the peak of his professional popularity with an appearance on the Joan Rivers Show in New York, his personal life was in shambles. His wife — who was a Christian and embarrassed by his behavior — divorced him. He ultimately left the Atlanta radio station over a contract dispute and took a job as a car salesman in Lawrenceville while he searched for another position. It was there he met Hughes, a member of Bethany Church, Snellville.

Paul said he had been turned off by Christians because of the way he saw the church portrayed.

"I thought their sole motivation in life was to take 10 percent of everybody's money in their congregation and live the good life. That's what I believed," he said.

In Hughes, however, he saw something different. Unlike the others in the dealership, Hughes did not have coarse language or behavior.

The two men became friends and Hughes began using what he later said was lifestyle evangelism techniques he had learned through wit-

nessing training courses.

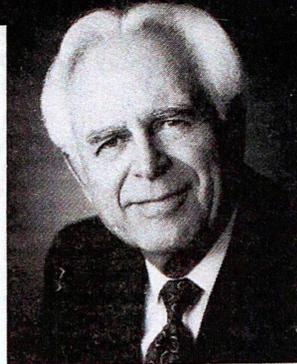
Paul began reading the Bible and one day over lunch in Lawrenceville, he prayed to receive Christ.

Has it changed him? Paul, now a member of Bethany Church, displayed his wedding ring, saying his wife forgave him and remarried him.

"I take my kids to church. I sit around with my wife and I discuss the Bible, something I never would have done before," he said. □

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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ The authority of life — Bible Book Series for February 20

By Edward North, pastor, First Church, Humboldt

Chapter five introduces the second major section of the Gospel of John which sets forth the nature of the person of Jesus. By his own testimony he is identified as the bread of life, the water of life, the judge of life, the light of life, and the shepherd of life. In our text he is the authority of life.

Authority claimed — vv. 1-9

Jesus lays claim to authority through the miraculous healing of a cripple at the pool of Bethesda. It was believed that the waters of that pool had curative powers. The first person to enter the waters when they were troubled would be healed. Jesus entered that scene and looked for the worst possible case. He found a man who had been there for thirty-eight years. The man had been unable to get into the pool because he was alone; there

was no one to help him. Jesus healed this man as an expression of his authority over the whole of life.

The essence of the miracle is seen in the authority of Jesus over disease and infirmity, and the desire of the man to be made whole. Jesus asked him, "Do you want to be made well?" (v. 6) That may seem to be a superfluous question, but the truth is we must choose to be whole. The authority of Jesus over life is effective for us as we open ourselves to his power.

Authority challenged — vv. 10-18

The Jews challenged Jesus, not because he healed the man, but because he did it on the Sabbath. Legalism is always more concerned about policy than persons. Verse 16 says they persecuted Jesus. The tense of the verb indicates they began and continued that per-

Focal Passages John 5:1-47

secution. They challenged his authority to set aside the rules governing the Sabbath. In verse 17, Jesus insisted that he was simply working as the Father had worked. They then accused him of blasphemy and were even more eager to kill him. The critical issue in religion remains to this day the authority of Jesus.

Authority clarified — vv. 19-30

Jesus declared that he had no authority on his own, but derived it from the Father (vv. 19, 30). His derived authority encompasses the spiritual life. When the Lord said, "...the hour is coming and now is when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live" (v. 25), he was speak-

ing of the spiritually dead. Jesus claims the authority to call people out of spiritual death to newness of life.

His authority also encompasses death itself. Jesus said, "...the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear his voice and come forth..." (vv. 28-29). Jesus holds in his hands the keys to death and the grave.

His derived authority encompasses judgment. Jesus insists that the Father judges no one, but has placed judgment in the hands of the Son (vv. 22, 27, 30).

Authority corroborated — vv. 31-47

Jesus recognized that in the culture of his day his witness could not stand alone, but must be corroborated (v. 31). He sets forth, therefore, four external witnesses.

First, there is the witness of

the Father. In verse 32, the word "another" means literally "another of the same kind." There is only one other of the same kind as Jesus, and that is God.

Second, there is the witness of John the Baptist (vv. 33-35).

Third, there is the witness of Jesus' works (v. 36).

Fourth, and finally, there is the witness of Scripture (vv. 39-47). Jesus insists that the Scriptures bear testimony to him, that life is not found in the written word, but in the living word. He nails his case down for the Jews by insisting that Moses, their chief source, bore witness to him.

The most critical question of life is "Who is in charge here?" The evidence in the Gospel of John is that all authority abides in our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. □

□ One who serves — Convention Uniform Series for February 20

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

The greatest of the three annual festivals in Israel was Passover. It commemorated the final plague when the firstborn of the Egyptians died. The death angel passed over the firstborn of the Israelites because of the blood smeared on their doorposts (Exodus 12:11-18).

Also, in obedience to the commands of the Lord through Moses, they baked their bread in haste, not using leaven, because they believed God would quickly deliver them from bondage.

Jesus gathered with his disciples in an upper room in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Jesus interpreted the elements of the Passover meal in light of his coming death. It was no longer bread

Focal Passage Luke 22:14-30

baked in haste, but his body given for them (v. 19). No longer symbolizing the blood of sheep on a doorpost, the cup was Jesus' blood of the new covenant shed for them (v. 20).

With a passage so rich in meaning and deep in Christian tradition, it would be impossible in a short space to write all that could be written. But one of the main teachings of the focal passage is the real meaning of discipleship.

Jesus the servant — vv. 19-20

One of the great truths that leap out from these two verses is the phrase: "for you." Jesus declared that what he was

about to do was for them — for you and me. The true servant is one who genuinely cares for the needs, concerns, and lives of others. Jesus provided the example of true servant-leadership: "...not to be served, but to serve..." (Matthew 20:28).

Are you in a position of leadership in your church? Some lead with an autocratic, authoritarian style. Most people reject this style of leadership as incorrect and destructive. Yet a more dangerous style has appeared, characterized by selfishness and manipulation. Jesus shows that real biblical leadership starts with humility, by serving others.

Judas the false servant — vv. 21-23

Among those that Jesus

chose to be his closest followers, was one who would betray him. Why did Judas do it? He always seemed to be interested in money (John 12:6). Perhaps he thought he could force Jesus to assert his power against the Romans. We do know that he was an unfaithful servant. Luke makes it clear that Satan entered Judas (ch. 22:3). We are responsible for our actions. Satan enters by our choice and by our lack of an invitation to Jesus and his love to enter our lives and lead us.

The faithful servant — vv. 24-30

Is it wrong to desire greatness? Shouldn't we all seek excellence in what we do? Jesus' words touch on this difficult issue. Jesus challenged

them to look at their motives for desiring greatness. Pagan rulers exercised lordship and authority over others for their own personal gain and personal power (v. 25). Contrary to the prevailing viewpoint, the one serving is greater than the one being served (v. 27).

They knew the power and greatness of Jesus, yet he said, "I am ... the one who serves" (v. 27). For those who serve faithfully, Jesus promises a place in his kingdom. He promised to reward the disciples for their faithfulness (vv. 29-30). We are not to seek position and power as a means to personal gain, but as a way to serve others.

True greatness is being a servant to others because of our love for the Lord Jesus Christ. □

□ What is my priority? — Life and Work Series for February 20

By Charles Bryan, pastor, Central Church, Alcoa

What is important to you? The ways in which you spend your money and the activities in which you are involved reflect the priorities that you have in life.

This is true in my life. For example, one of my recent priorities was to refinance our home and take advantage of the lower interest rates. Another priority for me is to lose some weight and get in better physical shape. Therefore, I have begun playing basketball three days a week (and am I ever out of shape!). I have put a priority on getting in better fiscal and physical shape this year.

However, this week's lesson reminds us that our top priority should be our spiritual condition. Is this a priority in your life? Is your relationship with

God important to you?

As Jesus was teaching a multitude of people, a man stood up and asked Jesus to settle a dispute between his brother and himself (v. 13). Jesus used the occasion to teach about priorities. This lesson reminds us that the choices we make reflect the priorities we have.

In verse 15, Jesus takes the opportunity to warn against the love of money and material possessions. Remember, it is not money and possessions that are the root of all kinds of evil, but the love (greed) for them (I Timothy 6:10). The word Jesus uses in verse 15, covetousness, means never being satisfied, but always wanting more than you have. We, too, must guard against merely seeking after things.

In verses 16-21, Jesus tells the parable of the rich fool. We see several mistakes the young man made because of his self-centered priorities.

First, the man expressed no gratitude to God for the bumper crop he harvested. He forgot his prosperity was a gift from God.

Second, he did not include God in his decision-making, but reasoned within himself.

Third, he never thought about using his overabundance to help other people who were in need. He only wanted to enjoy a lifestyle of food, drink, and merriment.

And fourth, he did not take into account his own mortality. He forgot he could die and lose it all.

While many people might call this man wise, God called

Focal Passages Luke 12:13-21, 31-34

him a fool. Why? He was foolish because he devoted his life and efforts solely to gain more material possessions. He failed to receive spiritual riches from God. Unfortunately, there are many "rich fools" today who make the same mistakes as the man in Jesus' parable. Are you one of them?

What, then, is the alternative? Jesus gives us the better way in verses 22-34. First, he reminds his listeners not to be anxious but to trust God for his provision and care. He uses the examples of the birds of the air and the lilies of the field which are cared for by God. He will take even better care of us!

In verse 31, Jesus tells the

Baptists feed refugees displaced by revolt

Baptist Press

TUXTLA GUTIERREZ, Mexico — Mexican Baptists and Southern Baptist representatives are feeding refugees who fled their homes after Indian rebels began an armed uprising in Mexico's Chiapas state in January.

Baptists are operating a feeding station near Los Margaritas, one of several towns seized by guerrillas of the self-proclaimed Zapatista National Liberation Army.

In areas where the uprising occurred, many of the region's indigenous people have left their homes because of fear, said Southern Baptist representative Charles Collins, in a telephone interview. Collins and his wife, Jan, are both Tennesseans, from Jackson and Yuma, respectively.

Collins and seven Mexican Baptist volunteers have served two hot meals a day for some of the 850 refugees living in camps set up by the Mexican government and the Red Cross.

The government has authorized Baptists to set up four feeding kitchens funded by Southern Baptist disaster relief aid sent by the Foreign Mission Board. □

Mongolian Baptists gain legal recognition

Baptist Press

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia — The young Baptist church in Ulan Bator received legal recognition from the Mongolian government Feb. 1 — the first such action in Mongolia's modern history.

The government reportedly denied legal registration applications from as many as 10 other church bodies before granting the Baptist request. Christian groups of any kind have existed for only a few years in the formerly hard-line communist nation bordering China and Russia.

"This is a day of rejoicing!" declared Southern Baptist worker Gary Harthcock in a written message from Ulan Bator, the Mongolian capital.

"Just as God parted the waters for the Israelites, he has parted the waters for us," he

said. "He has opened wide the door that was closed for so long. I firmly believe that this act of God is his affirmation that our little group is here at the right time and at the right place."

The church will be formally constituted Feb. 24 in a public service expected to be broadcast on national television. Meanwhile, government officials already have asked the church to get involved in helping it fight drug and alcohol abuse, a Mongolian social ill.

The church began as a small Bible study in the living room of Harthcock, 74, and his wife, Evelyn, a Southern Baptist couple from Winter Park, Fla., who went to Mongolia in 1992 to teach English. □

2,000 attend funeral of slain Christian

Baptist Press

TEHRAN, Iran — More than 2,000 people from across Iran braved bitterly cold weather at the Christian Cemetery Feb. 3 to attend the funeral of Haik Hovsepian-Mehr, superintendent of the Assemblies of God churches in Iran.

Hovsepian-Mehr, 49, reportedly was found dead Jan. 20 on a street in the suburb of Tehran, Iran's capital. He had disappeared Jan. 19 on the way to meet visitors at the airport. His family learned of his death on Jan. 30.

Police told family members they originally had been unable to identify Hovsepian-Mehr, so they buried him in Iran's largest Muslim cemetery.

The police granted the family's request to exhume the body for Christian burial but insisted the reburial be done immediately. Church leaders had hoped many Christians from outside Iran would be able to attend the funeral. □

Rainer, Mims named deans at Southern

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has named an Alabama pastor and a current faculty member to deanships at the school.

Thom S. Rainer, senior pastor of Green Valley Church, Birmingham, will head the seminary's new Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth, and Lloyd Mims, associate professor of church music, will lead the School of Church Music.

The appointments were announced Feb. 1. Both men hold doctoral degrees from SBTS. □

Sunday School Board changes approach to special education

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Baptist Sunday School Board is changing its approach to resourcing special education ministries in Southern Baptist churches, but the agency is not diminishing its commitment to the work, said Louis Hanks, director of the youth-adult department in the board's Bible teaching-reaching division.

Restructuring has moved the special education work from a self-contained unit to age group and general leadership departments in the Bible teaching-reaching division.

As part of the new approach, Hanks said special education responsibilities have been assigned to editors and consultants in the different age groups.

The new organizational structure better reflects the approach most SBC churches use in meeting special education needs, Hanks said. □

Board won't refund church's missions gifts

Baptist Press

FRESNO, Calif. — California Southern Baptist Convention executive board members voted in late January not to return missions gifts contributed by a San Francisco church whose messengers were refused seating at last year's state convention meeting.

Board members also heard a call by convention president Milton Steck for a special prayer emphasis before next November's convention.

The executive board approved a committee recommendation rejecting a motion to return missions gifts to 19th

Graham delivers Clinton letter to North Korean president

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Evangelist Billy Graham delivered a personal letter from President Bill Clinton to North Korean President Kim Il Sung during an early-February visit to North Korea.

The two-sentence letter concerned North Korea's refusal to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities — a growing international crisis.

The Southern Baptist preacher, still in east Asia after an evangelistic crusade in Japan, "did carry a message from President Clinton to President Kim Il Sung," confirmed U.S. State Department spokesman Michael McCurry Feb. 3.

The spokesman said Graham brought back a response, which was to be given directly to the president.

Clinton's letter was not

made public but it reportedly stressed the need for progress in negotiations over North Korea's opposition to U.N. inspectors checking its nuclear facilities.

The trip was Graham's second visit to North Korea, where he met with Kim two years ago. On that trip he carried a letter from then President George Bush. □



GRAHAM

Kentucky school president dies

Baptist Press

ONEIDA, Ky. — Barkley Moore, a Kentucky Baptist layman who became a legend both in the mountains of Appalachia and in Iran, died Jan. 25 at age 52.

Moore died of apparent heart failure in his apartment on the campus of Oneida Baptist Institute, the Kentucky Baptist Convention-supported boarding school from which he graduated at age 16 and returned to serve as president for 22 years. He also served six years in Iran through the U.S. Peace Corps.

On his return to Oneida he led the school from the brink of closing to national acclaim. Today the school boasts an enrollment of 600 and annual income of \$4 million. □

America's children under attack, report shows

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Gun violence kills the equivalent of a classroom full of children every two days in America, according to a new report that indicates homicide is now the third leading cause of death for children ages 5-14.

The Children's Defense Fund released the report, calling on Americans to "cease fire" in the gun war that has seized the nation and added to the problems of childhood poverty and neglect.

In its "The State of America's Children Yearbook 1994," the child-advocacy group said that juveniles account for a

growing number of gun offenders, as well as victims.

"Our worst nightmares are coming true," said Marian Wright Edelman, a Baptist and CDF president. "After years of epidemic poverty, joblessness, racial intolerance, family disintegration, domestic violence, and drug and alcohol abuse, the crisis of children having children has been eclipsed by the greater crisis of children killing children."

She underscored her call with several statistics cited in the report:

- A child in the United States is 15 times as likely to die of a gunshot wound as a child in Northern Ireland.

- Between 1979 and 1991, 50,000 children were killed by guns — the equivalent to the number of American casualties in the Vietnam War.

- Every two hours a child dies from gunshot wounds; comparatively, a police officer is killed every five days and nine hours.

The CDF recommended federal, state, and local legislation and regulation of non-sporting firearms, particularly assault weapons.

Gun violence is the latest and most horrifying of the ways in which America fails to protect children, Edelman said. □