

Baptist and Reflector

February 23, 1994

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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Disaster relief workers aid Lawrence County

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

LAWRENCEBURG — The ground didn't shake nor did tornado-force winds blow, but the mid-February ice storm which struck the state was indeed a disaster to many Tennesseans, particularly those in Lawrence County.

"It (the ice storm) was just as bad as if it were a tornado. It disrupted the lives of a lot of people and that's what a disaster is," said Cameron Byler, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Department and disaster relief coordinator.

Lawrence County Association Director of Missions J. C. Carpenter agreed. "People get agitated when you disrupt their normal pattern of living,"

he observed.

Byler and a crew of about 17 volunteers from across the state were called to Lawrence County on Feb. 14 to take over feeding operations for the county, which according to one Lawrenceburg official, was one of the hardest hit counties in the state.

At its peak an estimated 90 percent of the county's residents were without electricity. Six days after the ice storm hit, approximately one out of five families was still without power.

Byler said the setup at Lawrence County Association's office in Leoma was the 27th time the TBC disaster relief unit has responded to a need since its beginning in 1978. However, as far as he knew, it was the first time the unit has

responded to needs caused by ice, he said.

Byler cited the "secondary spinoffs" from the storm — power lines down, frozen water pipes, stores closed, and no communications — made it a disaster-type situation.

Even before the TBC unit was called in, Baptists in Lawrence County were playing a major role in providing help to the county's residents, Carpenter said.

Feeding stations and shelters were opened across the county on Feb. 11, the day after the ice storm, Carpenter said. Some of the area churches also opened their doors for shelters as early as the night before.

Several pastors in the association played prominent roles including Jack Taylor, Oak

Hill Church; Bob England, Immanuel Church; association moderator Thomas Mattox, Summertown Church; and Jerry Geho, Gum Springs Church, said Carpenter, who also worked at one of the shelters. The association's WMU director, Dene Taylor of Meadow View Church, also worked tirelessly cooking meals, he said. Many others also were involved. "It's hard to single out any one individual because everyone pulled together and did the job in their area," he said.

Taylor was the county's Red Cross disaster coordinator.

Both Taylor and Carpenter were impressed with how all the county residents came together.

"Nobody wanted to see this — See Disaster, page 2

Anti-gambling forces hear new research, organize

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The participants of the first International Conference on Gambling Feb. 11-12 in Nashville, didn't have to be persuaded against gambling.

Instead, they learned of mounting research which further strengthens their position.

Michigan's Attorney General Frank J. Kelley told participants of the state's slide into gambling which began when it legalized lottery gambling. Casino gambling in Detroit has been defeated three times, but it prospers in the state on Indian reservations. Now non-Indian businessmen are trying to designate land in downtown Detroit as a reservation, said Kelley, so they can prey on "poor and desperate people."

The issue of gambling and its impact on Michigan has been the most troubling of his 33-year term, said Kelley.

Tennessee's state legislature is currently considering legalizing lottery gambling. Wayman Jones, director, United Tennessee League, Nashville, helped plan the conference, which drew 26 from 10 states.

The group heard the results of national research which confirmed Kelley's view. John Kindt, commerce and legal pol-

icy professor at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, reported gambling is the "black hole" of any economy, sucking money out of the local businesses.

Citing field research, Kindt said legalized gambling activities "are directly and indirectly subsidized by the taxpayers.

"For every dollar the legalized gambling interests indicate is being contributed in taxes, it really costs the taxpayers at least three dollars — and a more reasonable number is seven dollars."

For every job created by gambling activities, the rest of the economy will probably lose

two jobs, Kindt said. It is true in Alton, Ill., which has riverboat casino gambling, he said. Local merchants report drive-by business is only 10-20 percent of what they predicted it would be. The city's unemployment rate rose from 7 percent to 9.2 percent.

— See Anti-gambling, page 2



THOUGH GAMBLING surrounds the state, Tennessee Baptists are encouraged to fight the legalization of gambling. Contact your state senator to express your view. — Graphic by The Tennessean

Disaster relief workers aid Lawrence ...

— Continued from page 1
(ice storm) happen, but we've gained spiritually and in experience," Taylor said.

Carpenter agreed. "It's been an experience in dedication and of a community coming together helping one another," he said.

"Through this type of adversity, the community has bonded together. I'm proud that our Baptist people responded so well in a time of need, just helping people," he continued.

And, it was not just one denomination carrying the load. People from differing religious backgrounds were pulling together, Carpenter said.

He noted worship services were held at the different shelters on Sunday morning. Carpenter preached at one center along with a Church of God pastor.

Danny Pettus, a Church of Christ minister from Leoma, also saw it as "a total community effort." "We found something to do for anybody willing to work," he said.

In addition to the bonding of the community, the ice storm provided many opportunities to share the Gospel, especially for Taylor.

"Every time I get a chance I put in a 'plug,' (for God)," said Taylor, who also is a chaplain to the local fire department. He noted that once people called the Red Cross office and discovered he also was a minis-

ter, they opened up to him spiritually.

"We've had people call crying for food. When they found out I was a pastor and chaplain they asked me to pray for them," he said.

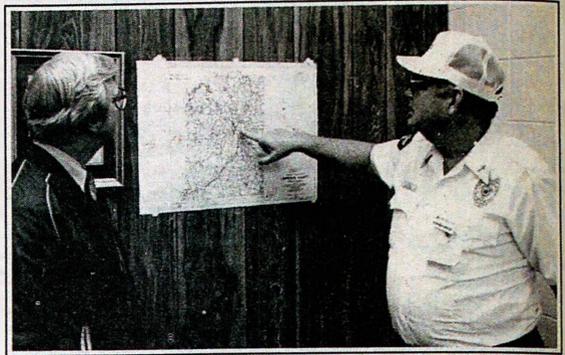
Ironically, Taylor said, a lack of power (electricity) has reminded people there is a greater power above. More people are calling on that power (God) than before, he observed.

Carpenter and Taylor said the decision to call in the TBC disaster relief crews was made after it became apparent on Feb. 12 that many residents would not have power until later the next week. After getting approval from city officials, Byler was called. He then enlisted trained workers from across the state to help in the mass feeding operation.

Beginning with the evening meal on Feb. 14, TBC volunteers cooked about 10,000 meals through Friday (Feb. 18), Byler reported.

When the volunteers left on Feb. 19, everything was almost back to normal in the county, Byler said. There were about 180 homes still without power, but they should have it by this week, he said.

Byler noted that a team from Hardeman County left Feb. 20 for Clarksville, Miss. That state also was hit hard by the ice storm. The team is expected to feed 2,000 meals per day, Byler said.



LAWRENCE COUNTY ASSOCIATION Director of Missions J. C. Carpenter, left, looks over a map showing power outages in Lawrence County with Jack Taylor, Red Cross disaster coordinator and pastor of Oak Hill Church. See page 6 for more photos.

Volunteers for the Lawrence County disaster relief unit had varying degrees of experience.

For Frank Atkinson of Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain, it was the first time he has been called to a disaster site, despite being certified for five years. He noted things were "better prepared than he had expected."

On the other hand, Ray Siler, pastor of Eagan Church, Eagan, has been involved in disaster relief work for 13 years. "I have a desire to help people. This (disaster relief work) is something the Lord has given me the ability to do."

Shelly Bostick, a retired layman from Brainerd Church,

Chattanooga, missed his wife's birthday, but noted she understood and encouraged him to participate. "She knew we were helping folks who needed it," Bostick said.

Looking back on the experience, Carpenter saw some irony. On the Monday before the ice storm the association began a new program, "Lawrence County Baptists: Offering Help and Hope," he said.

"There were 66 people present, little knowing that in a few days we would be involved in more than a minor way.

"I'm thrilled at how our churches responded and I'm proud of our pastors and people. They have been out in the forefront," Carpenter said. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Anti-gambling forces hear new research ...

— Continued from page 1
In Chicago, Kindt continued, "field research indicated that 2 to 2.75 jobs would be lost if a land-based casino were built and that is why Gov. Edgar vetoed the proposal."

Because of costs associated with gambling, which have mounted in South Dakota since it legalized casino gambling in 1989, Kindt said, legislators have proposed a 50 percent tax rate on gambling activities. The state had the second highest number of bankruptcies in 1992, he added.

Why are states accepting such odds? Kelley said it's because of the declining revenue states receive from the federal government. When faced with the choice of leading a statewide campaign to raise taxes or "raising revenue from people who gleefully look forward to spending it," gambling has "some immediate appeal," said Kelley. "But if we have learned one lesson from our current economic and governmental crisis, it clearly is that we must consider the future

consequences of our immediate actions," he said.

The industrial base of business has been "eaten away by business practices that maximized immediate profits, while disregarding improvements in technology and plant facilities," said Kelley. One of those practices is gambling, he added.

More importantly, America's work ethic is being eroded by gambling interests, said Kelley.

Kindt noted socio-economic costs of legalized gambling include those related to pathological gamblers - a recognized addiction pursuant to the American Psychiatric Association. "Each newly-created pathological gambler costs society \$52,000 per year," he reported. Because of increased gambling activity, he estimates an increase of \$80 million in socio-economic costs to the nation.

Increased crime is expensive, Kelley reported. Atlantic City reports an increase in larceny per capita of 476 percent in nine years. The incidence of

all crime combined increased by 138 percent, he added, according to the FBI.

Atlantic City and Las Vegas have been infiltrated by organized crime because of the gambling industry there, said Kelley. Hawaii has set a better example by declining to legalize gambling. He credited the influence of missionaries.

Citizens also should consider the fact that most often the legalization of gambling isn't reversed, said Kindt. Bucking the odds, Iowa repealed video lottery last year, he noted.

Both Kelley and Kindt deferred from holding a moralistic position on gambling.

Kindt explained the socio-economic facts form his opinion.

Kelley termed his position one of common sense.

But he quoted Richard Whately, an English logician, who said, "All gaming, since it implies a desire to profit at the expense of others, involves a breach of the tenth commandment."

Although the Tennessee legislature has considered legaliz-

ing the lottery for several years, this year is critical, noted Lamar Cooper of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, Nashville. Changes in the constitution, which would be required to legislate gambling, are tied to the gubernatorial election year, said Cooper. "If it's defeated this legislative session, it's dead in the water until 1998."

The only other possibility for a constitutional change, a constitutional convention, is unlikely, said Cooper, because it opens the constitution up to other revisions by special interest groups.

"We must continue to be vigilant," said Jones.

The conference was an outgrowth of the American Council on Alcohol Problems, which includes organizations which deal with moral and ethical issues from 36 states.

The group organized the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling. Southern Baptist Dan Ireland, executive director, Alabama Citizens Action Program, Birmingham, Ala., was elected president. □

Baptist editors discuss work, hear leaders, elect officers

Baptist Press

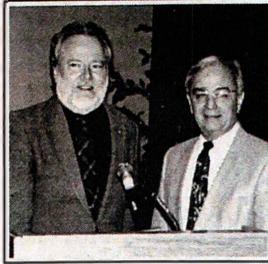
KANANASKIS VILLAGE, Alberta, Canada — Refusal to accept mission funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship by the SBC Home Mission Board would be "an insult to individual Baptists who want to support our missionaries," according to HMB President Larry Lewis.

Lewis told members of the Southern Baptist Press Association at their annual meeting Feb. 14-16, however, he was not speaking for HMB directors, some of whom have called for the agency to decline money from the splinter mission agency. In addition to hearing Lewis, the state editors elected new officers and held sessions designed for professional and spiritual renewal.

SBPA members visited the campus of the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary and offices of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists, both located at Cochrane, near Calgary. The spiritual renewal track was led by Barbara Wyman, professor at the seminary and a missionary of the Foreign Mission Board. Part of the sessions dealt with renewal of spiritual call.

Referring to the CBF funds, Lewis said, "I believe not accepting the funds would also cause even deeper division in the convention and make reconciliation more difficult in the future," Lewis told Baptist Press after the session.

According to Lewis, a meeting to discuss the matter has been scheduled with officials of the two mission boards and the



NEW OFFICERS of the Southern Baptist Press Association include James Watters, left, president and Toby Druin, president-elect.

SBC Executive Committee.

Lewis appealed to the editors to help put an end to the Freemasonry controversy. "When is this issue no longer news?" Lewis asked. "Dr. (Larry) Holly would like to use you

to get publicity for the issue and himself." He repeated his call for the convention to move on to other issues.

During the meeting representatives of the 39-member publications elected Toby Druin, associate editor of the *Texas Baptist Standard* as president-elect, the first associate elected to the position.

James Watters, editor of the *Northwest Baptist Witness*, was affirmed as president for 1994-95. Missouri *Word and Way* editor Bob Terry was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

William Junker, retired HMB official, was approved to write the history of the press association which has been in existence since at least 1926.

Professional renewal sessions were led by Dan Lattimore, chairman of the journal-

ism department at Memphis State University. Lattimore is a member of Second Church, Memphis.

Lattimore had four sessions with the editors when they discussed editorial writing. Types of editorials were discussed, as well as editorial topics and the relationship with readers.

By request, editors sent Lattimore copies of their papers from specified dates. Faculty members from MSU studied and commented on them.

Editors also met with FMB president Jerry Rankin and Mike Arrington of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Jack Brymer of the *Florida Baptist Witness* is outgoing president. Lynn Davis, Brentwood, is executive director □ — Wm. Fletcher Allen contributed to this story.

China bans unrestricted churches, religious work by foreigners

By Erich Bridges
For Baptist Press

HONG KONG — Just as the Clinton administration has begun praising China for improving its record on human rights, the Chinese govern-

ment has cracked down anew on unauthorized religious activities.

Two government decrees — signed Jan. 31 by Chinese Premier Li Peng and announced Feb. 5 — ban churches not registered with officially recog-

nized religious bodies and forbid "proselytizing" by foreigners.

The first forbids the existence of "house churches" and other congregations not belonging to the government-sanctioned Three-Self Patriotic

Association, which represents Protestants, or the Catholic Patriotic Association.

The law also limits activities inside approved churches, including sermons or programs that might "destroy national unity, ethnic unity and social stability, damage public health, or undermine the national education system."

A second decree warns that foreigners "must not establish religious organizations, organs for managing religious affairs, or centers or schools for religious activity. (They) must not recruit religious followers, appoint religious teachers, or conduct any other proselytizing activities among the Chinese people."

Foreigners can preach in China only with government approval.

Many Southern Baptists live and work in China. Most of them, however, teach English in universities or provide

other professional skills and social services.

Just days after the new laws were announced three American Christians were held for five days on charges of violating the laws. They were released Feb. 15.

None of those detained were Southern Baptists.

Several other Christians also have been arrested including seven Chinese Christians. Three of those reportedly are still in custody.

Reports said the foreigners participated in an unregistered house church meeting attended by at least 70 local Christians in the city of Fangcheng. One report said they were sleeping in a private home Feb. 10 when police conducted a midnight raid on that home and several others. Another reported 90 Christians, including the foreigners, were sleeping in a building when it was surrounded by police. □

House bill threatens home, private schools

By Tom Strode
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Nearly all home-schooling parents may lose freedom to teach their children if an education bill pending in Congress becomes law, the country's leading home school attorney has warned.

The House of Representatives is scheduled to vote Feb. 24 on reauthorization legisla-

tion which may be interpreted to require home school parents and private school teachers, to be certified by the state.

Such a requirement would be "an effective ban on home education for more than 99 percent of all home schoolers," said Home School Legal Defense Association President Michael Farris in a Feb. 15 written statement.

The language, introduced by an amendment by George

Miller, D.-Calif., also could cripple many religious schools.

"We look at it as a blatant power-grab," said Gary Deedrick, administrative assistant for the American Association of Christian Schools. "We have not minded the government having some say-so in our physical plant," but when it tries to dictate on personnel matters, the government has "crossed a line which we feel like government has no business" crossing, he said.

Probably less than 1 percent of the teachers in about 1,000 AACS schools are state certified, Deedrick said from his office in Kansas City, Mo.

The measure defines school as a "nonprofit day or residential school" which provides education. The word "nonprofit" is not included in the definition in current law, Farris wrote.

The addition of "nonprofit" clarifies the "intent of this law is to all forms of private education to the federal definition of school," Farris wrote.

Opponents of the Miller language are expected to introduce on the House floor an amendment which would protect private, religious, and home schools.

Defeating the entire bill is a "long, long shot," Farris said. It also will be difficult to pass the amendment, he said. □

FMB asks for ban on Lebanon work to be lifted

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Southern Baptists are asking U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to lift a ban that ousted all Americans — including 22 Foreign Mission Board missionaries — from Lebanon seven years ago.

The ban came as murders, kidnappings, bombings, and plane hijackings became frighteningly commonplace and threatened the lives of Americans more than U.S. diplomatic officials were willing to allow.

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin asked in a letter to Christopher that the travel ban be lifted — at least for those who want to perform religious, charitable, or humanitarian services.

Baptists' voice join those of Arab Americans, many of whom want into Lebanon to share in profits from rebuilding as the country finds a measure of stability under Syrian occupation.

Last year, on Christopher's recommendation, President Bill Clinton extended the travel ban for a seventh year. Clinton's decision whether to allow the ban to expire or stretch into an eighth year is expected soon.

The "overriding factors" in Clinton's decision must be a concern for the security and safety of Americans, according to a State Department official quoted in news reports. A recent car bombing and the assassination of a diplomat in Beirut suggest security problems persist, the State Department official added. □



HAMILTON COUNTY Association Pastors' Conference met Feb. 7 at the association office in Chattanooga. From left, Joe Walker, Second Church, Chattanooga; James Hensley, Middle Valley Church; John Burkett, Covenant Church, president; and David Myers, director of missions. Wm. Fletcher Allen, Baptist and Reflector editor, was guest speaker.

■ about letters to the editor

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

Commends Southern

We commend Dr. Albert Mohler Jr. and Southern Seminary trustees for their recent actions unanimously adopted to discourage all cooperation by Southern alumni and Southern Baptists from cooperating in any way with the CBF on any CBF-sponsored programs that compete with the Cooperative Program or other agencies of the SBC.

I have previously stated in Baptist state journals that I have watched as closely as a blind man can prior and since this inception, the actions of the displeased minority group and what they have done to many churches. I have observed first hand how our own church stewardship has diminished some 50 percent with membership dropping even more. CBF program giving emphasis by far exceeded SBC cooperative stewardship and continues so.

I reiterate my position that there is not any useful purpose served with the CBF continuing in the SBC.

As an alternative to local churches where divisiveness exists, I urge moderate leaders with their followers to start their own establishment with help of CBF and carry on their

work commensurate with their calling.

W. T. Barner
Memphis 38111

More on funds

The post-convention editorial last Nov. 24 dealt with the 1993 annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. I take exception with your final sentence, "We really don't have a villain among us."

A motion was made to give to Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes an additional \$30,000 of Cooperative Program money. Many voted for the motion because they believed disabled residents would be turned away for lack of funds.

Later, Dr. Ford was asked for information about the use of the \$30,000 and if TBAH had accumulated funds; if so, how much.

His reply indicated that no specific plans had been made for the use of the \$30,000. He also said TBAH had accumulated funds of \$200,000.

Had the messengers known those facts, I believe the additional \$30,000 would not have been given TBAH at the expense of others.

Therein lies the "villain among us." The villain is the

perceived unwillingness of the convention leadership to give complete information to the messengers.

People on the convention floor knew the facts; Dr. Ford, TBAH board members, and, I would hope, the members of the TBC budget committee. Yet not one person shared the crucial information.

Because of the setting and timing, the disclosure was an embarrassment to Dr. Ford, and an additional indictment upon the entire convention process. A huge chunk of convention integrity was lost in those few moments.

J. William Bargiol,
director of missions
Big Emory Association
Harriman 37748

Dr. Ford has stated that the \$30,000 requested of the budget and financial committee was to be used to operate Stoneway Acres and Rainbow Acres. Both are homes for developmentally disabled adults. — Editor

God still only hope

Your editorial of Feb. 9 on the influence of the media, especially television, was the most accurate I have ever read. Good for you! It just makes me sick to see the trashy talk shows and "family programs" on the idiot box.

So in my house I have 56 channels and hardly ever watch a one. The only hope I see is your call for us "to pray for God's guidance in restoration of family values." God still answers prayer!

Bill Delaney, pastor
Bartlebaugh Church
Chattanooga 37416

Link up at home

As a young man at age 27 with a wife and two children, I began to experience something new in my life, Jesus Christ. I am glad I chose to be not only Baptist, but missionary Southern Baptist, a religious body built on reaching out to help others find Jesus. However, I feel we are losing touch with our calling. We seem to focus our attention on things other than worldwide missions, including home.

I am blessed to be pastor of a mission that started two years ago in an area of more than 5,000 people with only two small Baptist churches.

Our church constituted last May and began to plan to build a sanctuary to replace the trailer we now worship in. Our people are really trying, and I see our church growing rapidly. We run 35-40 in worship service.

We are about \$25,000 short in finishing our building that

we will begin this April.

Our own Home Mission Board has no help available for this type of work. Only a constituted church for at least one year can get money.

Our Tennessee Baptist Convention has been great and went to the limit.

I commend Jere Phillips and the staff of our state convention, but our church still needs help in this building program.

I would like to challenge churches in Tennessee to link up at home. Link up with Crossroad Church if God leads and let's put Christ and missions to work in this area. Please pray for our church and the ministry that God has given us.

William Baker, pastor
Crossroad Church
Cookeville 38501

Changing minds

I have read statements in recent years decrying the resolve of dogmatic conservatives and calling for a restoration in our conventions. Recently, I came upon a statement by C. S. Lewis originally given as an answer to a question on April 18, 1944, concerning re-union of British Christians and printed in the book *God in the Dock* by Eerdmans Publishing Company (1970). Mr. Lewis said:

"The time is always ripe for re-union. Divisions between Christians are a sin and a scandal, and Christians ought at all times to be making contributions toward re-union, if it is only by their prayers. I am only a layman and a recent Christian, and I do not know much about these things, but in all the things which I have written and thought I have always stuck to traditional, dogmatic positions.

"I get letters from Jesuits, monks, nuns, and also from Quakers and Welsh Dissenters, and so on. So it seems to me that the 'extremist' elements in every church are nearest one another and the liberal and 'broad-minded' people in each body could never be united at all. The world of dogmatic Christianity is a place in which thousands of people of quite different types keep on saying the same thing, and the world of 'broad-mindedness' and watered-down 'religion' is a world where a small number of people (all of the same type) say totally different things and change their minds every few minutes. We shall never get re-union from them." (Walter Hooper ed., p. 60)

Chris Francis, pastor
Fellowship Church
Knoxville 37920

Danger from both directions

Southern Baptists are and have always been theologically conservative. For that reason we have been apprehensive about any encroachments on that conservative stance in our Baptist life and institutions.

The question we must ask here, however, is "Is theological liberalism the only danger we face?" No. To illustrate, let me relate my teenage experience and lessons my father taught me growing out of it.

It happened when I was sent to drive a herd of cattle to another feeding place. The field where I found the cattle had grown such luscious underbrush that the only possible walking route was along established paths.

At a crucial moment I heard a loud snort behind me. Turning around I saw a mean bull coming. In order to escape him, I fled full-speed down the one escape route open to me. Suddenly I saw a huge poisonous cottonmouth moccasin ahead in the path with his mouth wide open and coiled to

■ a historical view

By James Sullivan, retired BSSB president



SULLIVAN

strike. Peter Pan never flew through the air more quickly or successfully.

Upon returning home, I told my father of my narrow escape. His calm comment was, "Son, you're more apt to get bitten by a snake when you are running from a bull than any other time." Dangers lurk on both sides in so much of life.

We as Baptists can get so preoccupied with the dangers of theological liberalism that we fail to see possible harm just as deadly from the other side.

Christ was concerned, of course, by the Sadducees who were the liberals of his day. They had hooted at the idea of the resurrection.

From where Jesus stood, however, he saw an even greater danger on the other side — that being pharisaical legalism and literalism which he labeled "whited sepulchers full of dead men's bones" (Matthew 23:27).

This other extremism which manifests itself in creeds and binding regulations of Old Testament legalism from which Christ delivered us can become unbearably enslaving.

Paul expressed the same fear in his letter to the Galatians.

Do we have a problem with legalism today? Sure. I saw it when I served on the staff of a religious youth camp and was told, "The boys can wade, but they cannot swim." The difference between wading and swimming is the space between the upper lip and the lower part of the nose. Such legalism leads to ridiculous conclusions.

God gave Moses exactly ten commandments. The Pharisees multiplied that number into hundreds, even thousands, of strict, tedious regulations as though they could improve on God's revelation. For instance, a Sabbath day's journey was declared to be a couple of miles, meaning a traveler had to sit down and wait until the next day to proceed.

As Baptists we find ourselves with "a snake on one side and a bull on the other." It is not a comfortable position to be in but there we live and must serve.

Extremism to the left or right is deadly. □ — Sullivan wrote this series of articles for his church newsletter three years ago. Future articles in this series will be reprinted every other week.

The world at our doorstep — Baptists all around

"Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.

"When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.'

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you,"

"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." — Matthew 28: 16-20.

The command from Jesus is a never-ending challenge to all Christians to be world changers. It is no less true for Baptists.

Southern Baptists, and others, call these verses from Matthew "The Great Commission." The command still has the authority of Jesus Christ, and carries the ring of truth. It is an imperative.

The Baptist World Alliance, now with 165 Baptist denominations in spiritual fellowship, has a membership of 170 Baptist unions and conventions around the world.

More than 38 million baptized believers worship in a community of 80 million worshippers.

February traditionally is the month when Baptists all over the world unite as they are encouraged to pray for the BWA. Brothers and sisters in Christ

share this commonality.

Even more so is it important to pray this February because of the Seventeenth Baptist World Congress scheduled for August 1-6, 1995, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Southern Baptists comprise the largest number of Baptists in the BWA, and have the honor and blessing in sharing the task for evangelization in old worlds and new worlds.

The globe has fewer boundaries and blockades now than ever before in BWA history. However, no one knows how long borders will be open. The Gospel is best told by friends and neighbors, by witnesses of the same customs and language. It is imperative that Baptists march along together in telling the Good News of Jesus Christ.

As Baptists across the earth unite in a mission to evangelize the world's peoples, the power of prayer is a choice tool. Each

February Baptists are called upon to pray for the Baptist World Alliance. Each church can use one Sunday as a day of prayer — to undergird the efforts of Baptist sisters and brothers in all the nations. Make it a day of power!

Along with the day of prayer, Baptists can note the worldwide gathering of the family next summer. The Seventeenth Baptist World Congress is scheduled in Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 1-6, 1995.

The Congress convenes each five years. The theme, "Celebrate Christ: the Hope of the World," calls Baptists to gather in Buenos Aires, for Bible study and inspiration, for fellowship and challenges, for renewal of hearts and relationships.

As Tennessee Baptists, pray for all Baptists this month, and plan for a spiritual renewal during the Baptist World Congress in August 1995. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Saying no to gambling is not enough

Gambling is not good for people and is harmful to the welfare of any community or state.

Just saying that gambling is harmful will not halt gambling. Being weak in facing up to the negative aspects of gambling will give power to gambling proponents.

The most important vote in the Tennessee General Assembly in 1994 will deal with a lottery proposal. The Senate may vote whether to authorize a statewide refer-

endum on elimination of a lottery prohibition in the State Constitution.

A vote to eliminate would open the door for the legislature to rule on all sorts of gambling — without citizens' approval. That would be a colossal mistake.

Tennessee Baptists should continue to contact local senators with preference on such a referendum. It would be a sad day in Tennessee if the Pandora's box of lottery goodies were opened. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Yokes not equal

Any attempt to declare understanding or the correct attitude on the equality of life is futile. Nonetheless many folks try to do it.

I have learned that life is not fair, but I also have learned that my Father is fair. Moreover, his desire is for his children to treat others fairly.

Jesus taught it and lived that lifestyle.

When we sit around in self-pity long enough to attract a party of like-minded spirits, we may null the situation.

Don't do it. I give myself the same advice. Life does not "pick" on me. I may not have the material possessions that some have, but I possess all the love I want. God loves me.

Life is not fair. Betty and I were in western Canada recently.



ALLEN

While on a marvelously relaxing sleigh ride through a beautiful forest, on a snowy afternoon, I was reminded of a lesson I learned as a farm boy.

The sleigh was pulled by two strong horses. A group of friends helped us fill the sleigh for that trip, but the snow was packed and the horses did not have to struggle.

We rounded a curve and started up a hill. The driver and I noticed at the same time that one horse was "laying back," letting his partner do all the pulling.

I remembered those farm mules immediately. Kit had a tendency to walk slowly when she was paired with Cricket or Rose to pull the wagon. Even mules know how to be lazy!

And Cricket would take the whole load and pull with all her might. It took a flick of the reins to remind Kit she was an equal partner in the task.

On that sleigh ride, the driver clucked to the horses and tapped the recalcitrant slacker lightly with the reins. It was reminder enough.

The pair that was equally yoked was supposed to share the load equally.

Life is not fair. But pulling our share of the load is fair. Our gifts are different too, not equal necessarily, but always sufficient. For what God has assigned, he equips us. That much is fair. ☺

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

A president, trying to convince a broker the economy was good, said, "If I weren't president, I would invest heavily in the stock market."

He replied, "If you weren't president, so would I."

Take this truth

People are different. One person's trash is another's treasure. If you don't believe this, visit a flea market or a garage sale! Don't build your life on what someone else is doing. Be yourself! Be the best self you can be and keep trying to improve, but be yourself!

Memorize this Scripture

"Be not wise in thine own eyes; fear the Lord, and depart from evil" (Proverbs 3:7).

Pray this prayer

Lord, in this highly competitive world, help me to realize peace and success come from setting my own goals. Help me refrain from letting others plan my agenda. □

Looking at the authoritarian parent

This week we look at the second of four styles of parenting. Last week, we discussed the authoritative parent.

Now we will look at the authoritarian style of parenting.

There are some who genuinely see this as the preferred Christian style of parenting since the ten commandments enjoin us to honor or obey our mother and father.

Paul even reminds us that this is the first commandment with promise (Ephesians 6:2).

The authoritarian parent expects immediate and complete obedience with no discussion or back talk.

The parent says, "Boy, when I say frog, all you need to reply is 'how high' and 'which direction.'"

These parents see it as a God-given job to make all the decisions for their children. They usually have a smug sense of spiritual superiority over their weaker and more permissive counterparts.

Paul was quick to go on to help parents understand that even though it was the child's role to obey the parent, it was the parent's place not to make the child angry and resentful by the way they scolded or nagged

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

them (Ephesians 6:4).

In order to help children develop self-control and be able to make their own wise decisions, parents need to allow them to participate in the decision-making all along.

Children raised by authoritarian parents grow up with low self-esteem and lack of confidence.

They sometimes are the ones who rebel so drastically when they get away from home because they have the power to make decisions without having wise decision-making skills.

My best friend in college days was such a young man. He was raised by strict Sunday School-teaching parents who forced him to do everything they said.

When he got a thousand miles away at college, he no longer was under their authority, but he also did not have their value system for making decisions. My friend started drinking and partying, and almost flunked out of college.

Another reaction to the authoritarian parent is the compliant child who will do almost anything that someone in au-

thority or leadership suggests.

Having never been allowed to make decisions, the child comes to believe that he/she never could.

It is best to leave the decisions-making to those who are good at it.

Many authoritarian parents, with the best intention of protecting their children, have set them up to be devoured by those assertive and aggressive people who are just looking for those of whom they can take



BARKLEY

advantage.

As we saw in last week's discussion, it is good to be authoritative, but authoritarian parenting is counterproductive. □

Readers may contact Dr. Barkley with questions they would like addressed on this page. The paper would be pleased to provide 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

FMB trustees appoint missionaries with state ties

Baptist Press, foreign bureau

RICHMOND — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board recently approved 45 people as missionaries, several of whom have Tennessee ties. They also approved representatives of Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization.

Charles and Martia DeMore were named CSI representatives. They will live in north Africa where they will use their skills in development of CSI-related projects in developing nations.

DeMore is the son of Virginia DeMore of Fayetteville. The couple consider Nashville their hometown and First Church, Nashville, their home church.

His wife, Martia, is the daughter of Martin and Ruth Bradley of Nashville. Ruth Bradley recently retired from the staff of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The DeMores have two children.

John and Deborah Dorr were assigned as representatives to Lebanon, but will live in Larnaca, Cyprus, where he will direct the Baptist Center for Mass Communication and together will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Both are children of former Southern Baptist missionaries.

Dorr, the son of Dr. and Mrs. David C. Dorr of Maryville, considers Maryville his hometown. Monte Vista Church there was influential



DEMORES



DORRS



MORRISONS



RIDGWAYS

in his Christian growth. The Dorrs have two children.

Victor and Jodi Morrison will serve in Japan where he will start and develop churches. Together they will be involved in outreach ministries.

Morrison is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Morrison of Milan. He considers Milan his hometown and First Church there his home church.

He is a Union University, Jackson, graduate.

Paul and Judy Ridgway were appointed to serve in Bulgaria where he will promote music in the churches and together will be involved in outreach ministries.

Until last fall he was professor and chairman of the keyboard department at Carson Newman College, Jefferson City. He has been a staff member at First Church, Gatlinburg. The Ridgways are members of First Church, Morris-

town. The couple has three

children.

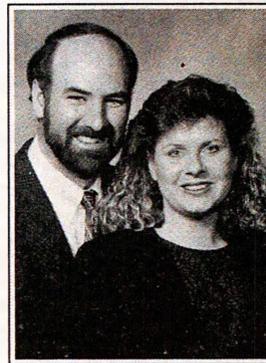
David and Kelly Rogers were appointed to serve in Spain where he will start and develop churches and together will be involved in outreach ministries.

Rogers is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Adrian Rogers of Memphis. The elder Rogers is pastor of Bellevue Church, Cordova. The couple both consider Memphis their hometown and Bellevue their home church. Mrs. Rogers is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Mason of Memphis.

The couple has one son.

Danny and Leann Rollins were appointed to serve in south Brazil where he will start and develop churches. Together they will be involved in outreach ministries.

Rollins was born in Memphis but considers Olive Branch, Miss., his hometown. Mrs. Rollins is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Irby Crawford of



ROGERSES



ROLLINSES

Memphis. The Rollins' have four children.

Also appointed were the following people with state ties:

Randy Rains, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Rains of Clinton, and a Union University graduate, will live in southern Asia and the Pacific.

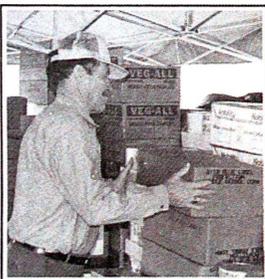
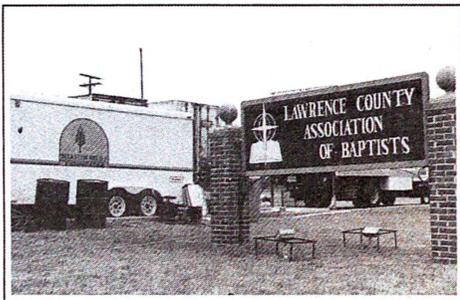
Donald Dalton and his wife, Mary Jo, will serve in Belarus.

He is a Union graduate and she was born in Memphis.

Philip Wakefield, who will serve in Indonesia, was born in Chattanooga.

Donna Weirich, appointed to Portugal, lived in Chattanooga while growing up and considers Highland Park Church there influential to her Christian growth. □

State disaster relief workers rush to aid of ice storm victims in Lawrence County



ABOVE, Lawrence County Association's parking lot became headquarters for the Tennessee Baptist disaster relief unit. In photo to left, Jack Smith of Southeast Church, Murfreesboro, moves boxes of food provided by the Red Cross.



RELIEF WORKERS, from left, Ed Simpson, McLemoresville Church, McLemoresville, Richard Todd, Haywood Hills Church, Nashville, and Earmel Bean, Glenwood Church, Oak Ridge, cook a dinner meal.



DON DAVIS, right, of Two Rivers Church, Nashville, operates a "steam genie" to clean canisters used to transport food to shelters in Lawrence County as Ray Siler looks on. Siler is pastor of Eagan Church, Eagan. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey

Bethel Church, Townsend, helps make movie

Film maker chooses East Tennessee for filming of *Christy*

By Julia Duin and Art Toalston
Baptist Press

TOWNSEND — People who were close to the late Catherine Marshall know it was her dream to see her classic novel *Christy* come alive on the screen.

But it took a persevering Christian film producer to bring her dream to pass more than 10 years after Marshall's death.

Finally, after a 27-year wait, *Christy* has made it to the movies.

In March, millions of Ameri-

cans will tune in to watch CBS-TV's adaptation of Marshall's 1967 best seller about a young woman's struggles to teach mountain children in Appalachia.

A two-hour premier is to be followed by six one-hour segments.

Ken Wales, producer of the CBS movie, spent the fall filming just a quarter mile from Bethel Church in Townsend, a tiny town on the western slopes of the Great Smoky Mountains.

Wales attended Bethel Church, Townsend, while film-

ing there. Pastor Curt Franklin said Wales, a Presbyterian layman, told him whenever he's on-site for a film he likes to attend a local church.

"He's quiet but very strong in his faith, a real student of the Scriptures," Franklin said of Wales. And he's "very much trying to change the movie industry to a more spiritual stance on some issues," the pastor said.

Franklin said Wales at times asked for counsel with hymns to be sung during the movie's church scenes and chalkboard Bible verses for the

schoolhouse scenes.

Church members also got to know Kellie Martin, who plays *Christy* Huddleston, the main character of the book. Martin, 18, starred in the popular ABC series "Life Goes On."

"She really made everybody comfortable, no matter who you are," said Franklin of Martin.

The film crew was well-received in the community, Franklin said, and a number of residents got parts in the film after attending a local tryout.

Franklin's son, Curtis, 12, played Festus Allen, one of the schoolchildren taught by *Christy*. And Franklin, his wife, Sherry, and daughter, Noel, 10, were stand-ins.

Other "Christy" stars include Tyne Daly, Emmy-winning actress of the TV series "Cagney and Lacey" who plays Alice Henderson, the Quaker woman whose quiet spirituality shapes *Christy*'s emerging faith; and Tess Harper, featured in "Tender Mercies" and "Crimes of the Heart," who plays mountain woman Fairlight Spencer, whose dramatic death impacts *Christy*.

No one can explain exactly why it has taken so long for a movie of *Christy* to be made. An overwhelmingly popular book, it has sold 8 million copies to date. Marshall sold the movie rights to MGM in 1968 but the novel sat untouched in a Hollywood vault for years.

Wales said industry insiders are watching to see how successful "Christy" will be.

"It's a test case," he said. "There isn't another viable best-selling book property that's better than *Christy*. If *Christy* succeeds, that will send a tremendous signal."

Wales was working at MGM when the film studio bought the rights to Marshall's book. When the company was sold in 1969, all films in preproduction were canceled, and the *Christy* project went on the shelf for 17 years.

Christy caught Wales' attention because his father had met Marshall's husband, Peter Marshall Sr., at Yale Universi-

ty. Wales also was impressed after seeing "A Man Called Peter" — the 1955 film based on Marshall's book about her husband's experiences as chaplain of the U.S. Senate.

In 1976 Wales contacted Catherine Marshall and later pledged to her he would complete the project someday. In the meantime, he produced other films, including "The Prodigal" for World Wide Pictures, the film ministry affiliated with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

In 1986 the window of opportunity opened. One Sunday, by some coincidence, Wales attended the same church in Pacific Palisades, Calif., as an MGM executive. When he inquired after the service as to the fate of the film, the executive informed him media mogul Ted Turner was planning to buy MGM. For a brief time, he explained, MGM officials would be willing to unload some of their old properties.

But could Wales come up with the money and a script? He immediately mortgaged his home to come up with the necessary finances.

But finding a company with the money to actually film "Christy" took another six years.

Wales did not have TV in mind when he bought the rights to *Christy* in 1986. He wanted investors to help him finance the filming of a full-length feature film, but all arrangements fell through. CBS began pursuing him in 1991, no doubt helped by the fact that the wife of CBS president Jeff Saganasky is a fan of the book.

Finally, Wales signed an agreement with CBS in January 1993 for a pilot film and began filming in September.

The film version of "Christy" follows the real-life story of Marshall's mother, who was a schoolteacher in the Great Smoky Mountains in 1912. There she met and married Presbyterian pastor John Wood. □ — Adapted by permission from *Charisma* magazine's February 1994 issue.

Carson-Newman missionary in residence helps students 'discover their futures'

JEFFERSON CITY — As a young boy growing up in the small town of Greenbriar, Rick Lane never anticipated becoming a missionary. He completed 15 credit hours of Spanish language courses ... but not because he thought he'd visit Spain.

Today, after 11 years as a missionary to Madrid, Lane is secure in the knowledge that he is living God's plan for his life.

Lane, his wife, Laura, and their two children are currently on furlough in Jefferson City, where Rick is missionary-in-residence at Carson-Newman College. In addition to teaching courses in both missions and the Spanish language and culture, he assists in campus ministries, helping prepare student and faculty teams for mission assignments.

Lane was the first full-time Baptist student ministry worker in a country whose population is comprised more and more of the younger generation.

The couple found that while the underlying interests of Spanish and American students are similar, they are dissimilar in other ways.

"The closest thing to what we did in Spain that you would know in the United States would be campus ministry or a BSU-type of organization," says Lane. "We did a lot of the same kinds of things as are done in American youth programs — lock-ins, short-term mission trips, discipleship groups, music groups. However, there was a big difference in what would work with Spanish youth."

Simply developing pro-

grams and opening the doors didn't draw people to the church in this country where religion and the dictatorship of Franco continue to be so closely identified. Evangelical Christians are looked upon as sectarian, and "churchy" language created more of an obstacle than a bridge, according to Lane.



RICK LANE

"We found that the most effective thing was working through young people who had already come to know the Lord, helping them to share the faith," Lane states.

Even though evangelical Christians are a small minority in Spain (8,000 Baptists among a population of 40 million) and following Christ often means a break with families, traditions, and jobs, most "are strong on sharing their faith; they assume that's part of what it means to be a Christian."

Because of the social ramifications of Christianity, it takes an average of three years from the time a Spanish citizen begins attending a church before he becomes a member.

Despite the commitment of

Spanish Baptists and of the American missionaries that serve there, the process of leading the people to the Lord is painfully slow. Informal surveys conducted by the Lanes and other missionaries reveal that 95 to 98 percent of the Spanish claim to be either atheist or agnostic.

"The majority aren't all that interested in religion, but, at the same time, they're searching," Lane laments. "You see a lot of astrology and all kinds of popular psychology- and psychiatry-type groups. However, once you overcome the barriers, you find the people to be very open."

When Lane and his family return to the foreign mission field in June, they will be travelling to Costa Rica instead of Spain. "One of the differences we know we'll find in Latin America is that there is a lot more openness there. Christianity is growing very rapidly," Lane says. "On the one hand, that will be enjoyable, but I hope it won't also mean a lesser degree of commitment."

Although neither are natives of Jefferson City, the Lanes have strong ties to the area. Rick is a graduate of Carson-Newman and Laura attended there in the 1970s and is currently enrolled as a master's degree student.

"If I weren't a missionary, I'd probably be a professor," Lane said. "Since Carson-Newman and my professors here had a major impact on me, I decided that to have the opportunity to do that for other students is probably a good way to spend a furlough. I want to help students discover their futures." □

'Christy' is a 'test case' on the success of Christian-oriented films.

— Ken Wales, producer

Record participation expected in 1994 at 25 World Changers missions sites

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — When the first group of World Changers takes saws, hammers, and paintbrushes in hand and heads out for a work site March 27, it will mark the fifth year for a way of "doing missions" that started with 135 from six Tennessee churches.

This year, more than 6,000 youth, collegians, and senior adults are expected to take part in World Changers work projects in 25 different locations across the United States and in Puerto Rico.

"The growth in the World Changers mission option has exceeded our greatest expectations," said James D. Williams, president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, which sponsors World Changers.

World Changers stresses "hands-on" missions involvement by participants through involvement in home construction and renovation work. The week-long projects generally occur in "high need," low income communities where most people are living at or below

the poverty level.

Work crews of 10 to 15 members from various churches spend Monday learning basic skills and then work together on building, renovation, and repair work the rest of the week.

This year, seniors and college-age youth will become World Changers for the first time at four pilot locations. Collegians will gather at New Orleans March 27-April 2. Senior adults will work at Big Lake and Craig, Mo., northwest of Kansas City, April 9-16 and April 16-23.

World Changers senior high projects, for those who have completed the ninth grade, include

June 11-18 — Orlando, Fla., Shelby County (Memphis), and Houston

June 18-25 — Birmingham, Ala.

June 25-July 2 — Tuscaloosa, Ala., Poplar, Mont., and Danville, Va.

July 2-9 — Poplar, Mont., Quitman County, Miss.

July 9-16 and July 16-23 — Anderson County and Savannah, Ga.

Union hosts bivocational pastors conference

JACKSON — The sixth annual West Tennessee Bivocational Pastors Conference will be held Feb. 25-26 at Union University.

Registration takes place at 5:30 p.m. in the university's office of religious affairs. The \$10 registration fee covers all sessions and materials, including a banquet. Pastors are responsible for their own hotel reservations.

The conference will examine a variety of topics including Bible study, coping with stress and burnout, family matters, and more.

Officers for the 1993-94 West Tennessee Bivocational Pastors Conference are Tom-

my Stutts, president; James Brown, vice president; and Keith Pence, secretary-treasurer.

The event is sponsored by Union, the Home Mission Board, and the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

For more information, call (901) 661-5160. □

July 16-23 — Vicksburg, Miss., and Kansas City, Mo.

July 23-30 — Puerto Rico

July 30-Aug. 6 — Shreveport, La., Lee County, S.C., and Murphy, N.C.

A junior high World Changers project also is scheduled June 20-25 in Memphis.

Participants pay from \$235 per person for senior high participants to \$150 for seniors and collegians. Transportation costs are not included.

To register or for more information, call World Changers at (901) 272-2461. Participation forms and balances are due May 1 for June projects. □

Pre-registration a must for SBC Missions Day Camp

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — While parents are attending to business at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention here June 14-16, their children may be involved in action-packed activities at SBC Missions Day Camp.

Missions Day Camp is for boys and girls who will have completed grades one-six this year and whose parents are attending the annual meeting. It is sponsored by the Children/Royal Ambassador department of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Several major changes are in affect this year, according to Tim Seanor, coordinator of the program.

Among the changes are a restructuring of the type of

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



February —

- 24 — Bill Dyches celebrates his birthday today. Ask God to give him wisdom in his family and ministry.
- 25 — The Nueva Espereanza Church of Arica has begun to search for a national pastor. Pray for continued strength, harmony, and outreach.
- 26 — Many missionaries home-school their children.
- 27 — On this day of worship, pray for national pastors and lay leaders, as well as our missionaries who serve in many roles on Sundays.
- 28 — Pray for the missionaries assigned to your association. Also, pray for Betty Alexander, retired, served for many fruitful years as a music missionary. Ask God to bless her today as she observes her Leap Year (Feb. 29) birthday.

events to be done, the registration process, and the number of campers.

A 300-camper limit has been placed on the number of children who can attend, Seanor said.

This year the registration process also has changed. Pre-registration is now required.

To pre-register a child, write SBC Missions Day Camp, Brotherhood Commission, SBC, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn., 38104 or call (901) 272-2461, and a registration packet will be mailed to you. Pre-registration must be received by the Brotherhood Commission no later than

March 13.

Parents or guardians of children who attended day camp in Indianapolis in 1992 or Houston in 1993 will receive registration packets automatically. A three-day package rate of \$62 per child is available. Two-day and single-day rates also are available with varying prices. □

For BEST SEATS at THE GREAT PASSION PLAY in Eureka Springs, Ark., reserve now at KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT (for groups of 12 or more) — just \$30 each, includes lodging, meals, taxes, and BEST (\$12.50) TICKETS! Call (501) 253-8418.

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CLASSIFIED

STAFF POSITION: New Hopewell Church, Knoxville, is seeking a full-time associate pastor of music/education. Church has two morning worship services. Submit resumes to Search Committee, New Hopewell Church, P.O. Box 13159, Knoxville, Tenn., 37920. All replies will be confidential.

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

Ministering in a Changing World

March 29
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Eye Institute
Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee

This conference is for all ministers and also may appeal to laity. Speakers will examine how churches and ministers can effectively minister in a changing world. The featured speaker is James Hightower, former Baptist Sunday School Board staffer and now staff counselor at First Church, Huntsville, Ala. Other speakers include Dick Denson, Knoxville; Aubrey Hay, Brentwood; and Terry duPont, Oak Ridge.

HIGHTOWER

No registration fee, complimentary lunch, free parking — To register, call Aubrey Hay at (615) 371-2010 or Dick Denson at (615) 632-5252

Sponsored by Church-Ministers Relations Department TBC, Brentwood Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee, Knoxville

TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the people

■ **Tracy Parkinson**, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, is one of only three students to receive a Pi Delta Phi National French Honor Society scholarship. He will study for six weeks at the American University, Paris. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Parkinson of Cleveland.

■ **Calvary Church, Lenoir City**, licensed **James Barrett** to preach and ordained **Michael Henline** and **Jim McKinney** as deacons.

■ **Stuart Park Church, Cleveland**, ordained **Herbert E. Malone** as a deacon.

■ the leaders

■ **Bill Witt** was named pastor of **Nina Church, White Pine, Jan. 23.**

■ **J. W. Smith** has been called as pastor of **Antioch Church, Lenoir City.**

■ **Donnie Dalton** will be ordained to the ministry by **Notchey Creek Church, Madisonville, March 6.** He has been called as pastor of **Mount Verd Church, Athens.**

■ **Calvary Church, Lenoir City**, has called **Scott Cagle** as pastor.

■ **A. R. Nelms** has been called as pastor of **Riverview Church, Loudon.**

■ **Terry Blankenship** has been called as pastor of **East Hills Church, Loudon.** He was ordained by **West Broadway Church, Lenoir City.**

■ **Germantown-based evangelist Benny Jackson** recently completed his 20th year in full-time vocational evangelism. During those 20 years he conducted an average of 30 crusades each year.



JACKSON

Jackson, a former pastor in the state, has held crusades in 28 states and 15 foreign countries. Meetings have been held primarily in local churches.

■ **North Cleveland Church, Cleveland**, has called **Tommy Gray** as minister of music and education.

■ **Gum Springs Church, Georgetown**, has called **Greg Martin**, as pastor.

■ **Jimmy Storrie**, youth

specialist, **Discipleship/Family Development Division, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville**, has been called as minister of youth at **Hickory Hills Church, Mount Juliet**, effective Feb. 2. **Storrie** was minister of youth, **Shiloh Terrace Church, Dallas, Texas.** He also has served churches in Texas. **Storrie** is a graduate of **Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas**; and **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.**

■ **Lee Village Church, Hariman**, has called **Billy Douglas Jones**, pastor, **Crouches Creek Church, Jellico**, as pastor, effective, Feb. 20. **Jones** is a native of **Middlesboro, Ky.** He has been pastor of churches in **Florida, Georgia, and Ohio.**

■ **Gladeville Church, Gladeville**, has called **John Adams**, growth consultant to bivocational ministries, **Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville**, as associate pastor for church ministries. **Adams** has served churches in **Missouri and Iowa** as pastor. He also was family ministry director and church development division director for the **Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship.**

■ **Leland Lyon**, pastor, **Euclid Avenue Church, Knoxville**,

was incorrectly reported as being called to **Park Lane Church, Knoxville**, in the Feb. 16 issue. He continues to serve **Euclid Church**, while his father, **L. Gale Lyon** began serving **Park Lane Church** in January.

■ the churches

■ **Long Hollow Church, Hendersonville**, will host the video production of "The Mind of Christ" with **T. W. Hunt**, author of **Disciples PrayerLife**, **March 13-16.** The video is a production of **LifeWay Press.**

■ A conference for single adults will be held **March 25-26 at First Church, Murfreesboro.** The **Relationship Recovery Conference** will feature **Dianne Swaim**, a single adult consultant.

■ **Hillcrest Church, Lebanon**, will host **Squire Parsons** for a concert **Feb. 27.** **Parsons** is a former member of the **Kingsmen Quartet.** He also is a composer.

■ **West End Church, Fayetteville**, will hold the dedication and open house of its new educational building **Feb. 27 at 2:30 p.m.**

■ the associations

■ **Nashville Association** will hold a **True Love Waits Rally** **March 4** at **Two Rivers Church, Nashville.** **Miles McPherson**, former member of the **San Diego Chargers** professional football team, and **DeGarmo and Key** and **Kenny Marks**, musicians, will lead the rally.

■ **Loudon County Association** will hold its **Evangelism Night** **Feb. 28** at **Calvary Church, Lenoir City.** **Charles Sullivan**, director, **State Convention of Baptists in Indiana**, will speak.

■ **Bradley Association** will hold its **Evangelism Conference** **March 14-16.** It will feature **John Bisagno**, pastor, **First Church, Houston, Texas.**

■ the schools

■ **Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City**, has received a **\$225,000** grant from **Andersen Foundation** of **Bayport, Minn.** Initiated by **Holston Builders Supply** of **Kingsport**, the donation is an unrestricted gift. The foundation has supported the college for 28 years.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Making resolutions

Ronnie Mitchell, pastor
Graceland Church, Memphis

Resolutions are in the air. It seems that resolutions are getting more attention this year than they have in some time. Some are committed to losing weight, some making more money, some establishing new relationships and ending old ones, some to doing better with obligations, and, thankfully, some are committed to making the world a better place.

Well, I don't want to be left out. Let's talk resolutions for 1994. I found a few good ones in the 1975 *Baptist Hymnal*.

A wonderful old hymn written in 1896 by **Palmer Hartsough** gives good direction to all of us for a new year. I ask you to make this a part of your new year's commitment.

All the words are important, but consider the first line of each stanza. "I am resolved no longer to linger" — the time for lingering has passed. Things that are higher and nobler have our attention, and we must move forward.

"I am resolved to go to the Savior." For answers, for the wisdom we need for the direction we seek, the time has come for us to go to the Savior.

Sadly, some go in the wrong direc-

tion for justice and truth and life. He is the true One. He is the just One. He has the words of life.

"I am resolved to follow the Savior." As we walk into a new year, with a new opportunity, we walk following the Savior, not tradition or convention, not flesh and blood. As we follow we will heed what he says, and we will do what he wills, for he is the Living Way.

"I am resolved to enter the kingdom." We enter the kingdom once, but in one sense we continue to enter the kingdom daily as we leave the old paths of sin.

As we grow in Christ we experience more of his kingdom, his power, his victory. As we enter a new year we are entering into his kingdom, his opportunity, his answered prayer for his church. Friends may oppose me, foes may beset me, still we will enter in.

The final stanza is an invitation and a challenge. "I am resolved, and who will go with me? Come friends, without delay. Taught by the Bible, led by the Spirit, we'll walk the heav'n-ly way."

Without question God has opened a door of opportunity for our church (churches). Without question it is within his will. He will bless our efforts. We are entering a very exciting year. We will walk the heavenly way.

I am resolved, our deacons are re-

solved. Come friends without delay. Taught by the Bible, led by the Spirit, we'll walk the heavenly way. □

Delighting in the Lord

Michael Shea, pastor
Parkway Village Church, Memphis

"Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:4)

This psalm was written to help us understand how to respond to a culture that is growing more prosperous as its wickedness increases. We are told not to worry or be angry. We are also instructed not to harbor secret desires to do the things that others seem to be getting away with.

When things go well for the wicked and poorly for the righteous we are to "trust in the Lord and do good" and we are to delight in Him. When we do these things, then we will receive the desires of our hearts.

This doesn't mean that we can expect to gain the desires created by envy of the things that wicked enjoy, and it doesn't mean that we will automatically receive success, material gain, and wealth. If your greatest delight is the Lord, then you won't love the world nor the things of the world; your desires will be pure ... in fact,

you will desire the things he desires.

What if my desires are not godly? This happens to all of us at one time or another. It is a sure indication that my delight is in something or someone other than Jesus. The key to having pure desires and holy passions is not in what rules we keep but in what we find delightful. The idea behind delighting in something is that the object we delight in brings us pleasure. We cannot separate the idea of pleasure and delight.

We enter the New Year living in a world that is troubled. We are in a society that has been trained to ignore the consequences of sin and figure out ways of breaking God's commandments without any shame whatsoever. What are we to do? Delight in; find enjoyment in; take pleasure in the Lord. □

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.

Adventure Week mailing causes confusion with VBS

By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A mailing received by some Southern Baptist churches about Adventure Week, a recreation-based event designed by the Baptist Sunday School Board primarily for non-Southern Baptist churches, has created some confusion about SBC-produced Vacation Bible School materials.

Adventure Week was promoted in late December 1993 and early January 1994 to mailing lists purchased from other publishers, according to John Garner of the board's church recreation program and project director for Adventure Week. No BSSB customer lists were used.

However, Garner said, some

SBC churches did receive the mailing, creating confusion about distinctives of the materials.

In contrast to "Trail of Treasures," the 1994 VBS materials produced for Southern Baptist churches by the board, Adventure Week materials do not reference Southern Baptist causes or entities.

Adventure Week is designed to provide biblically based materials for non-SBC churches. Garner said, however, that the materials are suitable for use in SBC churches that want re-

sources for activities beyond VBS, such as a school spring break or other off-school events sponsored by churches.

"For churches whose children are involved in a year-around school situation, Adventure Week may be a resource for off-school time,"

Garner observed.

"We want Southern Baptist churches to choose Southern Baptist Vacation Bible School materials which are available for all ages and which have been redesigned and improved for 1994.

"For those who may not, we

would like for them to consider Adventure week before selecting materials from another publisher. Adventure Week is designed as a VBS complement in Southern Baptist churches, not a substitute," he stressed. □

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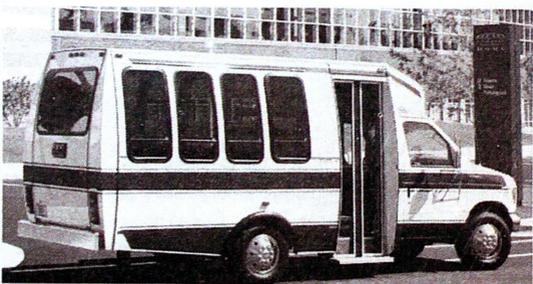
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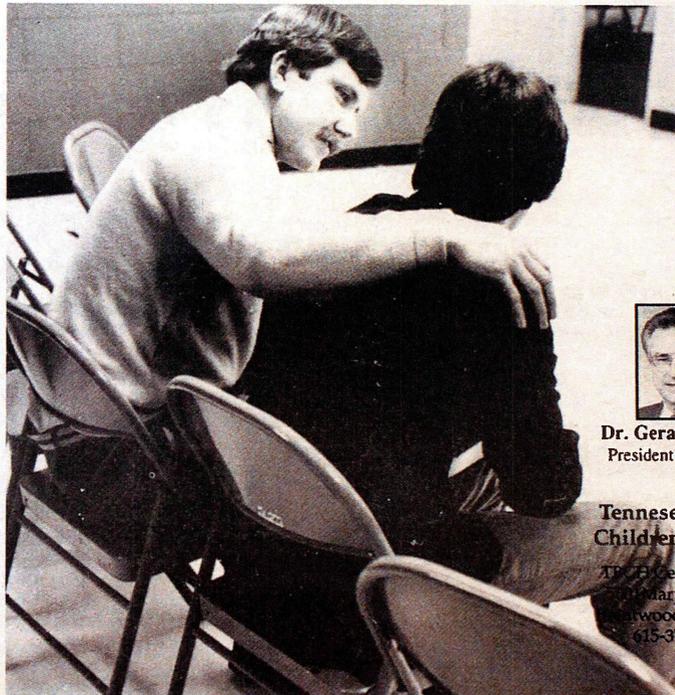
HONESTY



Children and teens at Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes learn at an early age that life can be tough. Rather than mask reality, our house-

parents and social workers meet kids on their level, at their point of need, with honesty and compassion. We help boys and girls adjust to their changing circumstances and teach them new ways of problem solving through Jesus Christ.

In the spirit of honesty, kids at Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes will meet the future with realistic expectations and a strong, life-long belief in a Savior who will make all things work together for good.



Dr. Gerald L. Stow
President / Treasurer

Tennessee Baptist
Children's Homes

TTB Central Office
Maryland Way
Brentwood, TN 37027
615-371-2000

■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ The miraculous feeding — Bible Book Series for February 27

By Edward North, pastor, First Church, Humboldt

Jesus had escaped to the mountains by the Sea of Galilee to spend a quiet time with his disciples. A crowd, drawn by this worker of miracles, found him there. It was meal time, and, in his compassion, Jesus sought to provide them food. This is a clear expression of Jesus' concern for the needs of men and his capacity to meet those needs.

Provision of physical bread — vv. 11-13

The feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle of Jesus recorded in all four Gospels. Jesus blessed the five barley loaves and two fish and, when it was distributed, they all ate

"... as much as they wanted" (v. 11). According to the custom of the day, food was left for the servers — one basket for each disciple.

This miracle underscores the truth that Jesus is more than able to provide our basic physical needs. It had, however, a much more profound purpose. It symbolized his desire and ability to meet spiritual need.

Provision of spiritual bread — vv. 32-40

Enthralled by the miracle of the loaves and fish, the crowd sought to forcefully take Jesus and make him king. Jesus successfully slipped away from them. The crowd followed and

found him in Capernaum. In the discussion which followed, Jesus declared that they should seek not perishable food, but that which would endure unto eternal life. At this point, Jesus stated, "I am the bread of life" (v. 35). Jesus identified himself as the source and sustainer of life. He and he alone can satisfy the hunger of man's soul. Those who receive this life are given by the Father (v. 37). This is a statement of the sovereignty of God who alone initiates salvation. Those who are given life are kept by the Son (v. 37). There is eternal security in Jesus. This life is not only abundant but eternal (vv. 39-

40). More than loaves and fishes, men need Jesus, the spiritual bread.

Man's choice of food — vv. 66-71

Jesus said those who followed him must "...eat the flesh of the Son of God and drink his blood..." (v. 53). The Lord was suggesting the intimate, inseparable link between himself and the believer. Many found this to be a hard saying and went away from him.

Our Lord questioned the 12 if they, too, would go away. Peter achieved another high moment in his life when he said, "Lord, to whom shall we go, you have the words of eter-

Focal Passages
John 6:11-13,
32-40, 66-71

nal life" (v. 68). Peter declared that the only choice available to them was Jesus Christ, because no one else could give them life.

Tragically, Judas did not share that choice. He opted for the loaves and fish (a political, economic Messiah) rather than the bread of life. The fundamental choice in life is between the physical and the spiritual. Man must attempt to sustain himself with the loaves and the fish, or find genuine soul satisfaction in the bread of life. □

□ From death to life — Convention Uniform Series for February 27

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

Although Easter is still five weeks away, our lesson from Luke concerns the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord.

This is the heart of the Gospel message and is an appropriate lesson for any Sunday.

The cross — vv. 32-33

Crucifixion was a horrible way to put a person to death. It was a form of execution used only for slaves, rebels, and the worst of criminals.

The person's hands and at times their feet, were driven through with nails to fasten them to a rough wooden beam. Already, their bodies would be a bleeding mass from the scourging.

Jesus had been so weakened by the terrible beating, he was unable to carry his cross all the way to Calvary. Suspended on the cross, Jesus was left to die of hunger, thirst, and exposure.

Being held on the cross only by the nails, the weight of his body would pull on the nailed flesh causing extreme pain. Jesus even refused to drink the vinegar, offered to help ease his pain (v. 36).

A difficult part of hanging on a cross was in being able to breathe. A person would lift themselves up a little higher on the cross in order to allow their lungs to expand and inhale. It is believed that many deaths were caused by suffocation when a person was no longer able to lift themselves up to breathe.

Oh, the wonder of our Savior's love for us! Jesus took our pain and death penalty upon himself and died for us.

The mockery — vv. 35-37, 39

These verses describe the jeers and taunts which were flung at Jesus by the people, the rulers, the soldiers, and one

Focal Passage
Luke 23:32-46; 24:33-34

of the thieves. The taunts all centered around one idea — kingship.

They rejected Jesus. They taunted him now because of his apparent helplessness on the cross. They really knew he had "saved others" (v. 35); and all that Jesus had done pointed to him as king (v. 37) and Messiah (v. 39).

The sign — v. 38

Pilate's charge against Jesus, the mockery, and the sign nailed to the cross above Jesus' head proclaimed him king.

The charge for which any criminal was being crucified was written on a board. The board was carried before the procession on the way to the execution, and later affixed to

the cross. The inscription, denied by the rulers, was true! The sayings — vv. 34, 43, 46

Jesus' prayer of forgiveness reveals his concern even for those who executed him. His prayer included both the Jews and the Romans.

The promise of Jesus to the dying thief was more assurance than he had hoped for. Not only would he have a place in the kingdom, but that very day he would enter paradise.

Paradise is a Persian word meaning garden in the Old Testament, especially the Garden of Eden. The idea came to mean the future dwelling place with Christ (Revelation 2:7).

Jesus' last words are words of trust in his Father. Luke stresses that in his death, Jesus was one with his Father. The word rendered "he gave up the ghost," is not the normal way to speak

of dying. Luke is bringing out the truth that Jesus' was indeed unusual.

The witnesses — vv. 33-35

The disciples, on their way home that first Easter, were joined by Jesus. They recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Immediately, the two disciples returned to Jesus and shared their joy of the Lord's resurrection with the other disciples. Leaving their meal unfinished, they started the seven-mile walk back to Jerusalem. They returned to share their experience with the risen Lord.

The desire to share the good news will be present in the heart of the true believer. Christian growth will occur in our lives as we share with others the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. □

□ Rejoice — Life and Work Series for February 27

By Charles Bryan, pastor, Central Church, Alcoa

Growing up on a farm, one of my responsibilities was to take food to the pigs. We called it "slop" because it consisted of leftovers and items which we as humans could not or would not consume.

I did not care for this chore because the bucket of "slop" was less than desirable and the smell of the pigpen was nauseating.

In our Scripture this week, we find a young man who has a job feeding pigs. His situation is so bad that he would gladly eat what he was feeding to the pigs.

Because of my boyhood memories of the "slop" we fed our pigs, this young man had to be in terrible straits to consider eating the food of pigs.

Let's look at why he was in this situation and how he got out of it. Let's also look at his brother and father and their reaction to his return home.

The prodigal son (sinners)

As we learn in verses 11-13, the younger of two sons went to his father and demanded his inheritance early.

Even though the father did not have to do so, he divided his estate and gave half to his younger son.

This young man, then, went off to another country and quickly wasted all that his father had given him.

When a famine came across the land, the young man found himself in need of food and income. The only job he could find was feeding pigs.

After assessing the situation, he realized he would be better off working as a servant for his father.

He got up his nerve and headed back home to tell his father what a fool he had been, how he had sinned, and that he was unworthy to be called his son. As he neared the house,

his father came running out to meet him.

The young man tried to apologize, but his father stopped him and said, "I'm so glad you are back. How I have missed you. Let's have a celebration." All the prodigal son could do was rejoice that his father had received him in such a loving way.

The jealous brother (Pharisees and scribes)

The older brother was out working in the field when his brother came back home. When he arrives at the house, he sees and hears the celebration so he asks a servant why there is a party.

When he finds out it is because his brother has come home, he does not go in and join the festivities nor does he rejoice. Instead, he is angry and jealous, and stays outside to pout.

When his father comes to

Focal Passages
Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

him, he explains how he has been dependable and faithful, yet never had a party in his honor.

He can't rejoice over his brother's safe return and his father's gracious reception because he had been the "good son" and his father should love him, not the "bad son" who left home and wasted his life.

The loving father (God)

The father allowed his younger son to leave home, but he never let go of his love for his son.

In my mind, I picture the father standing on his front porch each day watching and hoping that his son will come back home.

One day, he looks down the road and sees somebody coming. The person walks like his

son, and as he draws closer, the father realizes it is his son.

He doesn't wait on him, but runs to meet him.

He doesn't make his son beg for forgiveness, but hugs, kisses, and tells his son how glad he is to have him home.

He doesn't allow his son to become one of his servants, but instead restores him to his place as a son.

And he has a huge celebration because his son has come home.

The father rejoices because he has his loved one back safe and sound.

Conclusion

How do you respond when a prodigal child comes home to our loving Father (God), and the Father receives the person with grace and mercy?

Do you respond like the older son with anger and jealousy? Or do you rejoice with God? □

Georgia county plans to read Bible through

Baptist Press

ELBERTON, Ga. — Betty Williford has recognized a fundamental truth of literacy training: The main reason adults want to read is so they can read the Bible.

So, in an effort to bolster literacy awareness as well as to improve the spiritual and moral climate of society in general, Williford, a Georgia Baptist, has been the motivating force behind a campaign to get all citizens of Georgia's Elbert County to read the Bible through in 1994.

Sponsored by the Elbert County Council for Effective Literacy, the campaign worked through churches and other organizations to distribute a Bible-reading schedule for 1994. Thus far, nearly 5,000 schedules have been distributed.

Williford, who coordinates the Hometown Education Renewal Opportunity program in Elberton, a project of the literary council, said "one of the main impediments in enrolling students in the program is the lack of values — respect for people, respect for themselves — and misplaced priorities.

"So we realized that people need to return to the basic values taught in the Bible," she said. □

Minnesota-Wisconsin names Lindsey to post

Baptist Press

ROCHESTER, Wisc. — Detroit director of missions W. D. "Doc" Lindsey has been elected as the new state missions director for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention.

Lindsey, a career home missionary, has served in Detroit

since 1989, where he developed "Operation Lydia," a strategy for indigenous church planting.

Lindsey, who will assume his responsibilities March 1, is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He formerly served as a home missionary in Los Angeles. □

Senator calls off fight against TV violence

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — An initiative by the network executives eliminates the need for legislation to reduce violence on television, the U.S. Senate's most outspoken critic of TV violence said earlier this month.

Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill) announced an agreement by cable and broadcast network executives to obtain independent monitoring of TV violence.

Six months ago, Simon urged independent monitoring as the less-intrusive option that the federal legislation he was drafting that would have assigned the monitoring of TV violence to the National Institute of Mental Health.

Satisfied with the networks' commitment to independent monitoring, Simon said he will not introduce his bill and that he will "resist" any legislation on the issue in the current session of Congress.

"We've turned a corner in our culture," he said. "We've begun to recognize the harmful effects of excessive, glamorized violence." □

All-American sprinter challenges youth

Baptist Press

GATLINBURG — All-American long jumper and sprinter Clyde Duncan roused

more than 700 youth at this year's national High School Baptist Young Men's Rally to "keep pressing on" and "use what you've learned here to help someone else through the storm."

In line with the rally theme, "Never Alone," based on Matthew 18:20, Duncan said, "Jesus will never leave you nor forsake you. He will never abandon you, so when hard times come, you know what to do. Keep pressing on."

The national rally, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, was held Feb. 4-6 in Gatlinburg. The attendance of 729 set a record for the annual rally.

The two-day rally also featured various conferences and a hands-on missions projects directed by Tennessee Baptist M. B. Howard of Covington, who serves as national coordinator for volunteers on construction projects throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

Howard supervised as youth assembled and painted toys from handcrafted wood parts. The toys will be given to churches in Mexico and the Gatlinburg area. □

Draper challenges Southern Baptists in upcoming book

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. told trustees Feb. 7 he is writing a book to discuss with Southern Baptists "who we are, where we are going, how we are going to get there" and other issues.



DRAPER

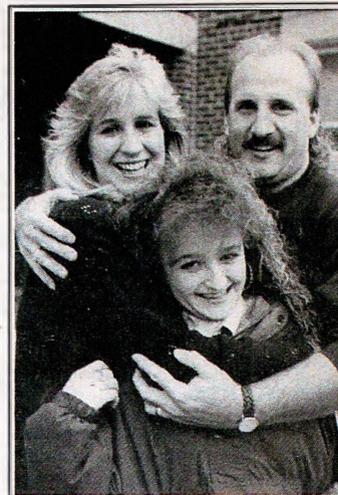
Tentatively titled *Bridges to the Future: A Challenge to Southern Baptists*, Draper said he is completing the manuscript and hopes the book will be available for the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Draper said he hopes the book, to be published by Convention Press, will "stimulate dialogue about who we are as Southern Baptists and, more importantly, who we can be in taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth." □

CLC asks court to disregard Lemon test

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Southern Baptist Christian



THE FEATURED MISSIONARIES for the Week of Prayer for Home Missions, March 6-13, are Brian and Carol Zimmerman. The Zimmermans work with youth, like Tina Gerber, center, at the Mallory Center in Baltimore. In addition to programs at the center, the Zimmermans and volunteers at the center walk the inner city streets to spend time with teenagers who are often unsupervised. The national goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is \$40 million. The Tennessee goal is \$3.25 million. — Photo by Bill Bangham

Life Commission has called on the Supreme Court to discard its two-decade-old standard in cases involving the separation of church and state, urging the justices instead to adopt a new test which "will promote religious liberty rather than obliterate it."

In a friend-of-the-court brief, the CLC contends the 1971 Lemon test has fostered secularism and hostility, not neutrality, toward religion. The CLC urged the court to establish a test based on the principle of accommodation of religion, thereby promoting "benevolent neutrality" by the government toward the church without establishing religion.

The case, *Kiryas Joel Village School v. Grumet*, concerns the New York legislature's creation of a school district for disabled children in the incorporated community of an orthodox Jewish sect. The lower courts ruled the action violates the First Amendment's establishment clause.

The Lemon test, which was instituted in the 1971 *Lemon v. Kurtzman* opinion, requires government activity to pass a three-part standard. To avoid being a violation of church-state separation, Lemon says an activity must (1) have a secular purpose; (2) not primarily advance or inhibit religion; and (3) not foster excessive entanglement with religion. □

SBTS hosts conference on children's ministry

Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is hosting a conference on "Children and Their Families in Crisis: The Church in Ministry," Saturday, March 5, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

The conference, sponsored by the seminary's Gheens Cen-

ter for Christian Family Ministry, will be led by Kathryn Chapman, professor of Christian education, at Southern. The program is aimed at addressing issues facing church leaders who care for children and their families.

Registration fee for the conference is \$35 and includes lunch and resources. For more information, call the seminary's continuing education office at 1 (800) 626-5525. □

Trustees dismiss president of Florida family agency

Associated Baptist Press

LAKELAND, Fla. — Richard Phillips, president of Florida Baptist Family Ministries for the past 10 years, was forced to resign Feb. 3 after a day long closed-door session of the agency's board.

"During that meeting, as well as prior committee meetings, it became apparent that the president and the board no longer share the same philosophies concerning growth, maintenance of the programs, financial management, and management techniques," the trustees said in a statement released by chairwoman Jacqueline Perrin.

Phillips declined comment, saying only that he agreed to the statement released by Perrin.

Florida Baptist Family Ministries has been in financial distress for more than two years. An agency of the Florida Baptist Convention, Family Ministries operates children's homes on three campuses, as well as a retirement center and group homes for the developmentally disabled.

Charles Hodges, the agency's vice president, will serve as acting president until a new president is found. □

Trustee leads robber to Christ

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board stopped Feb. 7 in a city where he had been robbed at gunpoint in 1991, this time to lead one of the men who robbed him to accept Jesus Christ as Savior.

Robert Cheek, 78, a retired pastor from Jasper, Texas, and his wife, Shirley, were on their way to Nashville in 1991 for the inauguration of James T. Draper Jr. as BSSB president when they stopped in Memphis to spend the night.

As they entered their motel room they were held at gunpoint, forced into the bathroom, robbed, and threatened with bodily harm before the two-robbers fled without hurting them.

Before stopping at a Memphis penitentiary to visit the inmate named James, Cheek said, "We bathed this thing in a lot of prayer."

After first expressing shock of seeing the Cheeks again, James wept upon learning they had come in friendship.

Then "he gave his heart to the Lord," Cheek said □