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Beane resigns as top administrator at HCBA

SEYMOUR — Michael Beane, top administrator at Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy has resigned after one year in office. The resignation was effective March 1. The school is one of four educational institutions operated by the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and the only high school.

The decision was announced at the March 1 meeting of the HCA board of trustees. According to school officials, Beane and the trustees "feel this is a mutually constructive decision." Beane had come to the post as a successor to



BEANE

William Palmer who retired in 1992 and became chancellor.

The board, which is chaired by Loren Miller of Knoxville, subsequently named Walter Grubb as acting headmaster. He has served as academic dean. School officials said Grubb's professional experience and "love for the school will help ease the time of transition and provide stability for students during the coming weeks."

Chancellor Palmer will be responsible for liaison with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, churches, and other entities. He also will work wherever needed "to effect an efficient transition through an interim period."

During his tenure, Beane had initiated some innova-

tions, including renaming the academic area of HCA as King's Academy.

Miller said the trustees appreciated the positive efforts of Beane. He added, "We feel the school must seek to move in a positive direction and remove any clouds of doubt that frequently exist as we have sought to be a first class Christian boarding/day school. The academy will continue to provide quality Christian education as outlined by the Tennessee Baptist Convention."

Beane said he loves the academy and "everything it represents in providing an education in a Christian setting."

"I understand this is a critical time in the history of the school. Both the school and I feel this is the best course to be

taken at present, for the institution, for my family, and myself," he said.

HCA has 145 students this year, an improvement of about 50 over last year. Many of its students are international. One of its valuable contributions is the HCA Preachers' School which meets on Saturdays during the school year.

The board has not yet named a successor to Beane, and apparently established no deadline for naming a new administrator.

The TBC, through elected trustees, also operates Union University, Jackson; Belmont University, Nashville; and Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City. □ — Wm. Fletcher Allen

Annuity Board offers states \$35 million over five years

By Toby Druin
For Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Southern Baptist Annuity Board is offering state conventions \$35 million over the next five years if they will approve changes in the Church Annuity Plan, the basic retirement program the board administers for the convention's 38,000 churches.

Outlining the proposal to Annuity Board trustees during their Feb. 28-March 1 meeting in Dallas, W. Gordon Hobgood Jr., executive vice president and chief operating officer, said if the changes are approved by the various state conventions, the Annuity Board will fund the states' entire protection section — the amount the states provide to encourage ministers' participation and which pays for supplemental disability protection and survivor benefits.

The bill for that is \$7 million annually. The Annuity Board will pay it for the next five years, if the states approve the changes. State conventions will be asked to consider the changes this fall. If all approve, the changes will go into effect Jan. 1, 1995, Hobgood said.

Under the proposed amendments, states would determine requirements for coverage of non-ministerial employees. The current provision is that all employees of a church using the Church Annuity Plan automatically are covered as of Jan. 1, 1998.

The changes would provide for withdrawals of funds from the plan regardless of a participant's age if he or she discontinues service. Currently, if a person has \$20,000 or more in the retirement plan, it cannot be withdrawn until the person is 55.

Another change would permit participants to borrow from their retirement accounts, although the amount has not been determined.

Participants in the old Plan A would be permitted to receive a reduced retirement benefit at age 55, regardless of whether he or she had terminated service with all churches and associations, which is the current provision.

Other changes will bring the Church Annuity Plan into conformity with standard provisions of other plans, simplify and clarify it, and conform to administrative practice, a summary stated.

— See Annuity, page 2

TBC's King recovering from heart attack

Jerry King, Tennessee Baptist Convention director of evangelism, suffered a mild heart attack at his home March 5 while working in his yard.

He is at Park View Hospital, Nashville, and is expected to remain there several days. Doctors are hopeful his condition can be treated successfully

with medication.

This weekend's Youth Evangelism Conference in Nashville, which is expected to draw 30,000 youth, will proceed.

The State Evangelism Conference cancelled in January and reset for April 21-22 also will be held as scheduled, TBC officials said. □

Tennessee CP gifts up in February

Cooperative Program giving through Tennessee Baptist Convention churches in February was \$2,181,452.

That amounts to a small increase over February 1993 with that month's total at \$2,175,864.

There was snow and ice on one or two of the February Sundays, depending on location.

Tennessee Baptists' giving for the first four months of the fiscal year shows a slight drop from \$8,255,571 in 1993 to this year's \$7,948,368. □



MARTHA COUCH, a recent retiree of the TBC Sunday School Department, and her husband, Bob, are greeted by Doris Carter during a retirement reception in her honor. Couch and her husband, recently retired from the Baptist Sunday School Board, have been active in the state for many years in preschool work. The couple will live in Panama City, Fla.

Annuity Board offers states \$35 million ...

— Continued from page 1

"We are proposing it because we are able to do it and because of the ease in administration that it will provide," Hobgood said. "It is very difficult now to have people understand the difference between the church plan and other corporate plans.

"We are trying to make the Church Annuity Plan more understandable so the people can feel better about it and about us."

In other business, trustees

were told Annuity Board assets had risen to almost \$4.5 billion through Jan. 31 and were growing at the rate of \$1.4 million daily. Treasurer Harold Richardson reported total contributions to retirement accounts were \$223 million in 1993 and \$140 million in retirement benefits were paid. The total number of people covered in the adopt-an-annuitant program, providing supplemental retirement benefits, is now 1,506.

Richardson noted that be-

ginning in October all funds received by the Annuity Board through the Cooperative Program — \$1,080,000 — will go to relief.

Elected as new trustee chairman was Richard C. Scott, dean of the Hancamer School of Business at Baylor University, Waco, Texas. Elected as vice chairman was S. A. Adkins, pastor of Forest (Miss.) Church.

Both President Paul W. Powell and trustee chairman William A. Willis spent much

of their reporting time explaining the discussions concerning the Annuity Board during the meeting of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville, Feb. 21-22.

Willis noted that during a discussion in an Executive Committee subcommittee about the board's Cooperative Program allocation, a list of the salaries of the top administrators of the board was distributed by one of the Executive Committee members.

Willis said he told the Executive Committee members distribution of the list was contrary to Annuity Board trustee action. Many of the Executive Committee members apologized for the member's impropriety, Willis said.

Powell, in turn, said if an Annuity Board trustee had provided the list it was an example of "very poor trustee-ship."

In his report to the board, Powell said trust is the greatest asset of the board, not its almost \$4.5 billion in financial assets or its \$1.4 million daily growth rate.

"The people of the Southern Baptist Convention trust us," he said. The board has a stewardship to protect that trust, he added. □

SBC Cooperative Program gifts above budget

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for February were down from the previous year but the year-to-date totals are still above the budget requirement, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

February 1994 CP totals were \$10,425,108, compared to February 1993 of \$10,996,497, a decrease of \$571,388 or 5.20 percent.

However, the fiscal year-to-date totals (for five months) were .49 percent above the

similar period a year ago.

Year-to-date figures for 1993-94 stand at \$59,047,066, compared to the 1992-93 amount of \$58,760,504.

Chapman said he was encouraged that the 1993-94 year-to-date figures are 2.52 percent above the program allocation budget requirement for five months: \$57,597,806. The \$1,449,259 overage is for the October 1993 through February 1994 budget period. The monthly budget requirement is \$11,519,561.

Designated gifts for the month fell slightly, \$35,103,734 compared to a

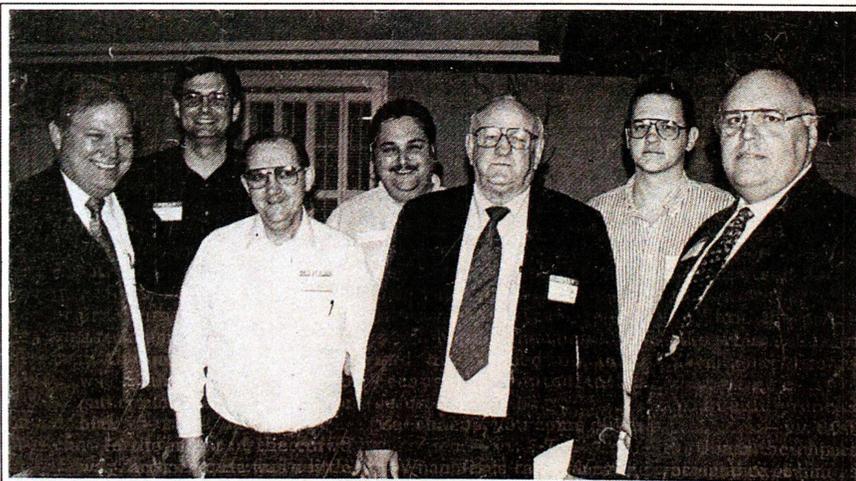
year ago of \$35,369,335, a .75 percent decrease. Year-to-date designated gift totals also are down: \$63,217,513, compared to last year's \$64,929,599, a 2.64 percent decrease.

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

Belmont Heights hosts deacons' meeting



THE STATE DEACON CONFERENCE was held March 4-5 at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville. Participants chose from 11 workshops, which featured the theme, 'Praying Deacons.' Below, six deacons from First Church, Madison, attending with pastor Jack Carver, left. Others: Brian Anauo, Bill Stubbs, John Cox, Ralph Fike, Grant Croley, and Lloyd Layhew. Photo at left, a workshop group. Leonard Markham, pastor of Bluegrass Church, spoke. TBC Discipleship Training Department was the sponsor.



Casinos among top liquor buyers in Mississippi

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi's casinos dominated the state's liquor purchases for the last half of 1993, according to figures released by the Alcoholic Beverage Control division of the Mississippi State Tax Commission.

Casinos occupied 17 of the top 20 places on the list, which identified total cases purchased by organizations licensed to distribute liquor by the drink in Mississippi. Beer and package store figures were not included on the list.

Paul G. Jones II, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Christian Action Committee, said no one should be surprised since most casinos ply patrons with free drinks while they gamble.

"As early as 1988, we were warning legislators and county voters about the radical increase in alcohol consumption that goes along with legalized casino gambling," Jones pointed out. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Churches report to reveal national, state statistics

	Churches	Baptisms	Total Membership	SS Ongoing Enrollment	Discipleship Training Enrollment/Participation	WMU Ongoing Enrollment	Brotherhood Enrollment/Participation	Music Ministry Ongoing Enrollment	Missions Expenditures
Southern Baptist Convention Report									
1991-92	38,458	367,847	15,365,486	8,262,521	2,226,013	1,190,908	614,366	1,886,121	\$751,773,457
1992-93	38,741	349,073	15,404,621	8,246,250	2,328,082	1,149,085	613,774	1,876,875	\$761,639,840
Tennessee Baptist Convention Report									
1991-92	2,934	26,081	1,104,213	578,868	163,487	78,344	36,718	142,133	\$52,751,722
1992-93	2,945	23,538	1,107,168	578,417	160,926	75,841	35,918	142,115	\$54,440,452

U. S. Senate approves amendment on prayer

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — School districts that prevent constitutionally protected prayer in public schools could lose federal aid under an education amendment bill approved by the U.S. Senate.

The Senate voted 75-22 in February to approve the amendment offered by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., after Helms agreed to add the words "constitutionally protected."

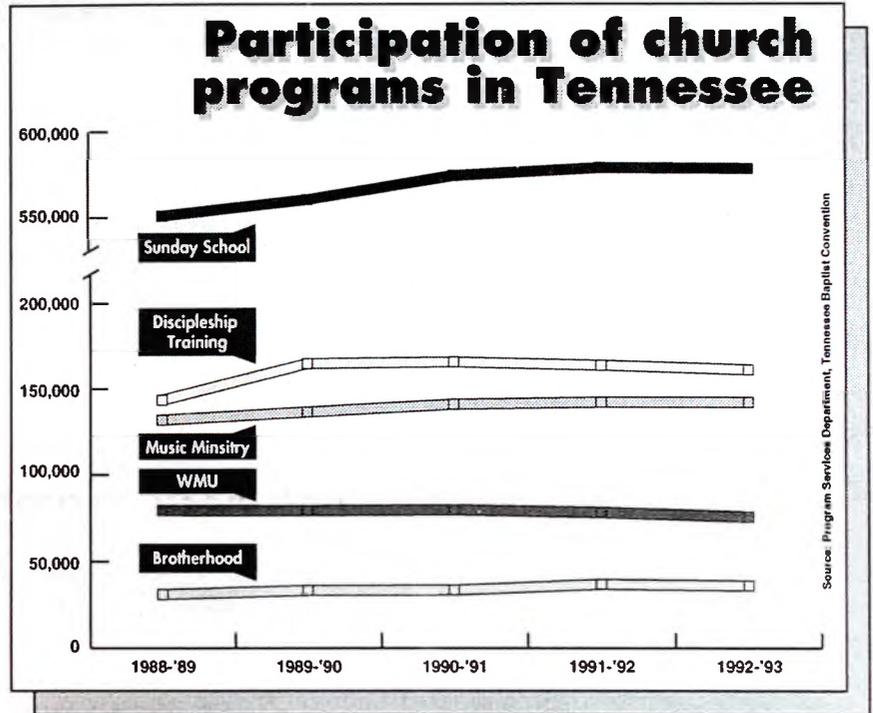
The Helms rider was attached to the Goals 2000: Educate America Act (S 1150) — the Clinton administration's proposal that would provide more than \$420 million in education funds and establish education goals to be met by the year 2000.

The legal impact of Helms' amendment, if it becomes law,

is uncertain, since it would not expand opportunities for school prayer beyond what is already permitted by federal court interpretations of the Constitution.

Opposing senators and representatives of religious liberty agencies expressed concern about the amendment's practical impact. School officials fearful of losing federal dollars could be pressured into sanctioning more than "constitutionally protected" prayer, they said. Helms insisted that his proposal does not require a school district "to do anything in favor of voluntary prayer."

The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has gone on record favoring the amendment while Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs officials termed the amendment "unnecessary." □



Graphic by Gina Dykeman

CLC seminar speakers warn of family, cultural breakdown

By Louis Moore
For Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — The breakdown of American family life can be reversed by a concerted emphasis on the role of the husband and father in the traditional two-parent family, where husbands and wives share mutual affection and respect and where children are disciplined in love, speakers to the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's "Family in Crisis" 1994 annual seminar said.

At the same time, speaker after speaker criticized the elements in American society today that are destroying the family, such as sex outside marriage, drug abuse, pornography, homosexuality, and educational institutions, government entities, and media outlets that enable or glorify such

immoral behavior.

Over and over speakers said the traditional family of a man and woman with children is God's ideal presented in the Bible.

The event, held at First Southern Church, Del City, Okla., had 746 registrants.

"The family is the most basic unit of society. God intended it that way," said R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

CLC Executive Director Richard Land said, "The family has almost ceased to function in a nurturing, moralizing way in major segments of society."

"We must not only reawaken intact families, revive intact families," he said, but Christians must reconstruct within communities of believers a biblical understanding of the family as God meant it to be.

"There is a way back from this moral abyss, but it is only found in God's Word and God's institution of families."

Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. said the hope of America lies in returning to biblical principles of the family. "The crowning achievement of God was the creation of the family," Draper said. "When sin entered the world, things changed, but God did not abandon his plan for the family. It was his plan for a unified world," he said.

Draper said authority, affection, and admonition are the principles God laid down for a unified family.

Several speakers said pornography and homosexuality are two of many ways Satan is attacking families today.

Every Christian needs to be involved in the fight against

pornography, said Jerry Kirk, founder and president of the National Coalition Against Pornography.

"Pornography is anti-child, anti-woman, anti-man, anti-marriage, anti-family, anti-church, and anti-God," he said.

In his keynote address, former U.S. drug czar William Bennett said happiness "has moved ahead of commitment in modern American thinking."

Bennett, a Roman Catholic, said he believes the United States is on the "edge of a moral, religious revolution" which will re-establish the family in this country.

While ministering to the ills of families in society, Christians must guard against erosion in their own homes, said Harold O'Chester, pastor of Great Hills Church, Austin, Texas, and his wife, Barbara.

The O'Chesters said the

breakdown of Christian families because of infidelity is increasing rapidly.

"People today are asking why immorality is wrong," O'Chester said. "God says, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery.' That's why it's wrong. God forbids it."

During the seminar the CLC presented Fort Worth dentist Richard Neill with its 1994 Distinguished Service Award.

Neill told seminar participants about his personal campaign to remove the Phil Donahue talk show from the airwaves in his hometown.

To conduct such a campaign, Christians need to take a positive perception of what they are doing, to work with passion, to be persistent, and to let their motivation evolve from their Christian commitment, Neill said. □

Parting company

I agree with W. T. Barnes that we moderates need to leave the SBC and to form our own denomination. Having been a conservative, I understand their feelings. But being a moderate, I understand our feelings toward them. If the pleased majority cannot listen to a displeased minority, then the minority has no other choice but to leave. History is full of such examples!

While conservatives can see the beam in our eyes, they cannot see the speck in their eyes. I don't expect conservatives to compromise their beliefs, values, or convictions to accommodate me. Should conservatives expect me to compromise my beliefs to accommodate them? The opposite of conservatism is not liberalism. The opposite of liberalism (freedom) is bondage.

Christians have always (read Acts) divided over issues. If they had not, then we would still be Catholics!

I do not have to be a Southern Baptist to be a Christian and to serve Christ. The onus is on conservatives to show what Christian love and spiritual maturity are. So far their example has not impressed me.

Jay Pennington
Johnson City 37603

Stand up now

It looks as if liquor lobbyists are going to win the battle to prevent drinking while driving, unless Christian citizens contact their legislators immediately to pass this measure, including extending the ban to passengers.

If open containers are not banned, we can guess how effective the ban on drinking

drivers will be! The liquor industry and its lobbyists, and, I regret to say, some of the legislators, are using the flimsiest of excuses not to extend the ban in the measure to passengers.

I was shocked to learn that it was not already a state law not to drink and drive. I had always heard that it was against the law. Christian citizens need to insist now that this measure be passed, and not give in to the liquor lobby. Rep. David Coffey's bill should be passed. Let us all stand up and express ourselves!

Marjorie Haynes
Columbia 38401

Investigative news

While Ed Young's objections to investigative reporting by Christian journalists sounds biblical and sincerely righteous, he ignores the fact that investigative reporting is a means to expose the unethical and sometimes illegal behavior of unscrupulous religious personalities. Investigative reporting by editors of Christian publications also serves the role of keeping religious leaders, high-profile pastors, and denominational executives accountable to their constituents who usually have a particular set of standards to which they expect their spiritual leaders to adhere.

In regard to Southern Baptist life, the need for investigative reporting could be reduced by more honest communication from our executives and leaders, a greater openness to all Southern Baptists, and the avoidance of the "executive session" strategy in meetings of our boards and agencies.

Jack Carver, pastor
Madison 37115

**Treasurer's Report First Quarter
Nov. 1, 1993 - Jan. 31, 1994**

Last week's issue of the Baptist and Reflector carried the record of Cooperative Program giving of TBC churches November through January. The Treasurer's Report section, as received from the TBC Accounting Office, was incomplete. The completed record is printed below. It ordinarily prefaces the listing of churches' giving.

GIFTS AND OTHER INCOME	
Cooperative Program	\$ 5,766,916
Designated Cooperative Program	228,837
Cooperative Program from TN Baptist Foundation	
Designated to SBC/TBC Institutions	585,813
Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions	4,102,351
Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions	129,694
Golden State Offering for State Missions	292,909
Other Income (from Annuity Bd., Home Mission Board, Baptist Sunday School Bd., Camps, earned interest, and refunds.)	463,964
Total Receipts	\$ 11,570,484

Allocations

	COOP PROGRAM	DESIGNATED	TOTAL
SBC GIFTS			
Foreign Missions	\$ 1,062,766	\$ 4,150,438	\$ 5,213,204
Home Missions	415,541	143,479	559,020
World Hunger	0	181,765	181,765
Six Seminars	430,851	0	430,851
Radio & TV Comm.	85,021	0	85,021
All other SBC gifts	<u>131,276</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>131,419</u>
TOTAL SBC	\$ 2,125,456	\$ 4,475,824	\$ 6,601,280
WORLDWIDE SPECIAL MISSIONS	\$ 10	\$ 6,091	\$ 6,102
TBC GIFTS			
Belmont University	\$ 471,835	\$ 5,450	\$ 477,285
Carson-Newman College	471,835	52,166	524,000
Union University	471,835	110,385	582,220
Harrison-Chilhowee Academy	71,229	11,237	82,466
CRV Scholarships	17,445	0	17,445
Children's Homes	259,040	154,107	413,146
Hospitals	0	0	0
Adult Homes	52,360	686	53,046
Foundation	71,272	0	71,272
Audits for Institutions	17,367	0	17,367
Convention, Administrative Services	173,872	0	173,872
Baptist & Reflector	68,682	0	68,682
Central Administrative Departments	224,017	0	224,017
Church Programs Departments	216,691	0	216,691
Convention Ministries Departments	130,850	0	130,850
Annuity Office & Programs	140,252	0	140,252
Missions Programs	434,267	0	434,267
Student Campus Work	203,519	0	203,519
Woman's Missionary Union	113,807	0	113,807
All other TBC gifts	<u>0</u>	<u>294,820</u>	<u>294,820</u>
TOTAL T B C GIFTS	\$ 3,610,173	\$ 628,851	\$ 4,239,024
Preferred (Annuity)	<u>260,114</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>260,114</u>
TOTAL GIFTS CHURCHES	\$ 5,995,754	\$ 5,110,766	\$ 11,106,520
OTHER INCOME	0	463,964	463,964
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 5,995,754	\$ 5,574,730	\$ 11,570,484

Percentage of Gifts from Churches Allocated to:

SBC:	59.44%
WW:	.05%
TBC:	40.51%
	100.00%

**Daily prayer requests
for Chile/Tennessee
Partnership**



March -

- 10 - Chile Prayer Coordinator Richard Poe's birthday is today.
- 11 - Open doors of opportunity for our missionaries as they seek to reach the unchurched
- 12 - Newly elected president of the Chilean Baptist Convention, Eduardo Rios
- 13 - Brazilian missionaries Silas and Aldair Gomes are leading the Coniefi Mission in Antofagasta in the absence of Betty Hart who is on furlough.
- 14 - Missionary Steve Cook desires his ministry with the national youth organization to be more focused and effective.
- 15 - Missionary Mark Andrews is celebrating his birthday.
- 16 - These following missionaries are also serving as newly elected officers of the Chilean Mission: Grundy Janes, chairman; Wanda Dobbins, administrative president; Mark Driggers, treasurer; and Ruth Driggers, hospitality coordinator.

Home Life sponsors 'Spring Festival of Marriage'

NASHVILLE - For the first time, the Baptist Sunday School Board's Home Life magazine is sponsoring a series of Spring Festivals of Marriage. Patterned after the successful Fall Festival of several years, the spring series actually began last weekend in San Antonio.

Nashville's Spring Festival of Marriage is scheduled April 8-10 at the Doubletree Hotel downtown. Theme for the spring weekends is "Celebrating Sex in Your Marriage," the same emphasis used for the 1993 Fall Festival series.

Dan and Sandra McGee of Arlington, Texas, are marriage enrichment leaders for the Nashville weekend. They co-authored the book which is basis for this spring's theme. Participating married couples may choose from 21 topics provided by five workshops. Many of the workshops are repeated, so there is opportunity to attend several.

Some of the topics include Better Communication, Spiritual Oneness, The Language of Love, Sexuality, Conflict Resolution, The Bible and

Sexuality, Understanding the Differences between Men and Women, and Affirmation in Marriage.

The weekend begins with registration at 2 p. m. April 8. The first session is at 6:30 p.m. Saturday's schedule includes workshops and a general session and a mini concert/drama. A renewal of vows is part of the program. Sunday morning has workshops concluding with a worship time in the final sessions, which ends at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call (615) 251-2294. □

You bet, they are giving free rides to Tunica

Secular news media and billboard advertising assures us that there is everything to gain and nothing to lose if you just throw caution to the wind.

The Tennessee state Senate has not yet brought the lottery issue to a vote. It's a gamble (pardon the pun) whether it will come up, or if it will come up during this term. It is a moral concern.

One thing is certain. There is tremendous pressure from all sides on the senators. *Christians must speak up.*

We are told that gambling is all around us, that sister states are delighted with lotteries and other betting. Poor little Tennessee! What about those victims who bet everything and lose it? We seldom hear their stories of degradation. Look at the record.

Advertising is going all out to paint the gambling industry as being good clean entertainment. People who see the true picture know better.

Television constantly shows the happy winners all around us. We hear the pitiful cries of those who deplore *having* to go to other states to buy lottery tickets. They think, as say gambling interests, Tennessee would reap a huge amount of income for schools and other needs — if Tennessee only had a lottery. Advertising income would skyrocket for the news

media if a lottery is approved. It would be very lucrative for TV, radio, papers.

Memphis and Jackson newspapers, and some advertising in the Nashville area and elsewhere in Tennessee, print advertising extolling the casino gambling in Tunica, Mississippi.

Listen to this. Gambling interests provide you with a free bus ride, and what is more, free parking, free entrance, and free food. Sometimes they offer free dollars as a stake. (It is good to have the free ride because you might not have money for the trip home.)

Now why would they provide all those free items? Are they really that concerned about the welfare of those who gamble? Are they generous to the point of charity? **Question:** With all that "free" material, what do the casino operators get? **Answer:** Millions of dollars from people who will never win. Can good come from this?

Continuing the scenario, why bring up casino gambling and other such stuff when the lottery bill of the Senate would only allow Tennesseans to vote in a referendum this year whether the legislature should remove the lottery prohibition from the State Constitution?

Let's get this straight. That innocent looking bill, while allowing a vote on

loosing the lottery, says nothing about whether the legislature could or would enact other gambling legislation.

And here is the clincher. The lottery referendum, if there should be one, would be the *only* such issue the citizens would be allowed to vote on. At present, there is no way, except at election time, that citizens could prevent legalization of other forms of gambling. The state attorney general has ruled that most gambling can be categorized as "lottery."

So are the bus rides, entrance tickets, food, and parking really free at Tunica? Perhaps — if you don't gamble while you are at the casino!

And could there be another reason? Many people who make that trip to a casino or race track — make more trips. And many will buy liquor there. And some (too many) will be gambling and liquor addicts. Is that family fun?

Baptist Press reports that casinos occupied 17 of the top 20 places on Mississippi's list of liquor purchases licensed to distribute liquor by the drink. Gulfport's Grand Casino was first with 7,000 cases bought between last July and December! Tunica bought 3,350 cases.

Support senators who are under great pressure to approve the referendum. Let them know you stand with them in wanting the best for Tennessee. □

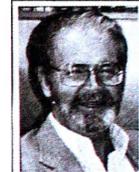
■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Place of honor?

Last time I told the story of Tip the faithful Yorkshire sheep dog who lived to serve and honor his master.

He shunned the warmth of the fireplace or kitchen stove so he could remain on the job, at the call of duty, hour by hour, day by day.

The farmer and the veterinarian discussed Tip's peculiar sense of responsibility after his death. They concluded that he had occupied the place of honor. Why?



ALLEN

They deduced that Tip had set such a sterling example, that his younger chum had taken up the spartan watch just as

Tip had.

He liked what he saw in his older friend, and so he became another Tip. *Place of honor!*

Does that connotation have a hollow ring to us? Do we Christians dislike being called on to give unstintingly, instantly, constantly?

Well, there is much to be learned by imitating Christ. He occupied a place of honor, not because he was the Son of God, but because he gave totally, continuously, with abandon. I don't think he wasted anything of himself or his time. And I do not believe he watched for the audience to gather before he began to serve, help, heal, and comfort.

Place of honor! Sitting at the Master's servant feet? Walking with him along the servant path? Suffering a bruised heart and mangled body with him on the servant cross?

Take time right now to thank God for some whom you know who have taken the place of honor. Go past those familiar ones — Corrie ten Boom, Bill Wallace, John Huss, Wycliffe, Tyndale, Paul the Apostle, and others.

Think of those nameless ones who started the fires, stoked the flames, bathed the sick, scrubbed the floors, opened doors for others, fed the hungry, visited the imprisoned bodies and minds.

As we remember, we know they took the place of honor. You and I know them, the humble servants. O Savior, be like those dear ones, without honor — save from You. ☪

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Wife to husband: "Darling, I have good news and bad news. Which do you want first?"

Husband: "Give me the good news first."

Wife: "That air bag you decided to get when we bought the new car was a good investment!"

Take this truth

When we feel good, feelings are good to have. When we feel bad, we usually wish we did not have such things as feelings. Yet, they are always with us.

When you get two letters and you think one contains good news and one contains bad news, which one do you open first? Your answer reveals much about your emotional state!

Memorize this Scripture

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country" (Proverbs 25:25)

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to live in such a way that I build resources for whatever comes to me — either good or bad. □

Neglecting and rejecting parent

There has been an alarming rise in the neglecting-rejecting parent style in the past few years.

This type parent is so wrapped up in his own problems or plans that he has not time nor energy to invest in his children.

We remember the Chicago couple who claimed headlines about two years ago after leaving their children unattended while they vacationed in Mexico. That incident has become the rallying point for those concerned about this growing problem.

I live in Memphis. There have been nine children under two years old who have been killed by caregivers in the last eight months of last year.

We have lived in the "me" generation age for so long that even the basic instinct of parenting has been anesthetized. We live in a time of "entitlement" when everyone is yelling about what he or she is entitled to have.

Everyone is "entitled" to health care, welfare, farm subsidies, job protection, child care, good grades, etc.

Have I left out anyone?

Some parents have lost sight of even the basic responsibilities that accompany the rights of parenthood. Children

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

have an innate right to be cared for and provided for. The popular bumper sticker is correct: "It shouldn't hurt to be a child."

And the old one is good also: "Have you hugged your child today?"

We should try to give understanding to these parents, and realize how easy it would be to slip ourselves.

My pastor, Mike Day, recently used an illustration which I think is very good for this application. There once was a robin. A worm vendor offered the robin a juicy worm for a feather.

The robin thought that was a pretty good deal since I have many feathers and certainly won't miss just one.

The robin enjoyed the vendor a feather and enjoyed the worm. The vendor kept coming back and the robin continued to say, just one more worm. Finally, in a moment of danger, the robin attempted to fly, only to discover that he no longer had any feathers on his wings. He surely was in danger — all because he surrendered his

feathers one by one in exchange for the worms.

I do not think that any parent whom I know

would intentionally decide to become a neglecting and rejecting parent.

It just sneaks up on you gradually as a moment is stolen here and there.

We all must heed the warning to be vigilant in our efforts as we meet our responsibilities as parents in the midst of busy, hectic schedules and pressing important duties.

We all have been the authoritarian, authoritative, permissive, and neglecting-rejecting parent at one time. Let us focus on being the authoritative parent most of the time. □

Baptist and Reflector readers may contact Dr. Barkley with questions they would like addressed on this page. We 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.

Questions may be sent to the paper directly also. — Editor



BARKLEY

■ Tennessee features

Lewisburg church secretary never doubted her calling

By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Frances Hill's "lifelong dream" to attend a national seminar for church secretaries and to attain certification has been fulfilled.

Hill, whose 43-year career as a church secretary is still going strong, recently thinking about coming to the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville in the 1950s, shortly after she began her work. She finally made the 50-mile trip from her Lewisburg home in late February for three days of classes, culminating in successful completion of the certification examination.

"I wanted to do this years ago," she reflected during a break in classes, "but I didn't have a chance to come here and take the tests."

Hill began her work at First Church, Lewisburg, where she remained for 28 years. In 1979, she moved to Parkview Church in the same town, where she has continued her secretarial work.

She had spent her first year out of high school working in a law office when Leonard Sanderson, then pastor of First

Church, Lewisburg, visited her to ask her to consider becoming church secretary. "I had attended Sunday School and morning worship, but I had never been in the church office," she recalled. "Brother Sanderson would not let me answer but said for me to pray about and to come to his office to talk on Wednesday."

Hill agreed but said she did not think she would be interested because "she very much enjoyed" her work in the law office. "I was excited because I was beginning to take minutes at court trials and I thought this was special. I did pray, but I told the Lord I wanted to stay where I was."

Before she kept her appointment with the pastor, Hill had a dream about the church office, a place she had never seen in spite of her regular church attendance. In the dream, she said, she could see the inside of the office, including a desk, typewriter, telephone, "and a funny looking machine with a cover over it and a crank sticking out. I didn't know what it was, but this seemed to be very prominent in the church office."

When Wednesday came, she went to the church, intending

to tell the pastor she would stay at the law office. When she arrived, she saw the desk, typewriter, telephone, and "that funny looking machine with a cover and a crank sticking out ... just like in my dream."

At the end of her lunch-hour visit with the pastor, she started back to her law office with tears streaming down her cheeks.

"I thought, 'What have I done? I told him I would come!'"

Today, Hill declares she is just as sure God called her to be a church secretary "as I am of my salvation."

"Being a church secretary is not just a job, but a calling from the Lord," she said of her career. "I love the Lord; I love serving him. It's a joy. I'd not change any of the 43 years. I feel it's a called ministry. I felt that way even when it wasn't popular for ladies to feel called," she laughed.

While some might describe their work in terms of specific details, Hill talks of "helping the pastor and supporting the other staff people. I just enjoy helping and serving. I'm responsible to the church members because I'm their secre-



NEWLY CERTIFIED CHURCH SECRETARY Frances Hill, left, shares a laugh with Donna Gandy, a growth consultant for church staff development at the Baptist Sunday School Board. Gandy taught the certification seminar which enabled Hill to fulfill a "lifelong dream." — Photo by Jim Veneman

tary, too," she added. "But the pastor is my boss first, and I support him."

She said she believes her spiritual gift is that of "encourager" and she likes "being needed and helping people. I like being an encourager. It's a joy to know I'm doing what God has called me to do. I enjoy having responsibility. I like to feel I'm part of a team working to win people to Jesus."

While some might be in-

clined to coast toward retirement after 43 years of work, Hill came to the Sunday School Board to "learn new things and new terminology."

"My next goal is to learn to use the computer," she volunteered. "I really am excited about it, and I hope we do get one (at the church)."

"I hope I'll know when it's time for me to retire, but as long as I have joy in my work, I hope to continue." □

M. B. Howard continues construction project in Mexico

The man who might be known among Brotherhood circles as "Mr. Volunteer" has done it again. M. B. Howard has returned from another missions trip. He's been on so many he's lost count — somewhere between 25-30, he estimates.

Howard of Covington, a Missions Service Corps volunteer at the Memphis-based Brotherhood Commission, even decided to retire from the postal service nine years ago because he was taking too much leave to do missions work.

And he's still going strong. He and his wife, Cathryn, worked in Guadalajara, Mexico, during December on a continuing project to furnish Mexican churches. This project was unusual in that the volunteers weren't Americans, but were Mexicans.

The Brotherhood project began last year as Howard led hundreds of Southern Baptists attending Jericho and Chautauqua meetings at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist assemblies to build furniture. Then he visited the Mexican churches and installed pews, pulpits, Lord's Supper tables, deacons'

benches, and nursery toys in three churches in Mexico.

But the project took a different twist when George C. Swan, a missionary in Mexico, invited Howard to get Mexican Baptists involved.

That's how 35 Baptist Young Men of Mexico built four large tables for a Baptist congregation and a picnic table for another.

This furniture was easier to deliver since it was made in the country, but Howard reported Southern Baptists need to continue the project.

Materials bought in Mexico for each table cost \$40 while the same materials in the U.S. cost \$15, he explained. He also had trouble locating some materials. This was despite the fact he transported several saws, a drill, and a belt sander.

The project will continue this year at Jericho and Chautauqua weeks at the assemblies, he reported.

The builders were young men attending the second national meeting of Baptist Young Men or Heraldos del Rey. It was a significant meeting, reported Swan, because the organization is new and

because it allowed the men "to do something constructive to help the mission which began only four months ago," reported Swan. He referred to Baptist Mission in Zapotlanejo, Jalisco, which received the tables. Bob and Evelyn Pemberton, missionaries, work there.

Howard especially enjoyed working with Vincent Lara, who is blind. He was able to help more than most imagined, reported Howard. When they began building keepsakes — miniature tractors — a trademark of Howard's, Lara became the center of attention.

Though Lara had never constructed anything in his life, he assembled the tractor without help, gluing and hammering each piece in its appropriate place, reported Swan.

Another important worker was Cathryne Howard, who has accompanied her husband twice to Mexico. She agreed to work as a cook though she received short notice when other cooks had to cancel. She worked with Jackie Swan, wife of George, to feed the crew.

It was a challenge, noted Howard, because of the limited budget provided for food and the different foods which are

popular in that country.

Apart from the construction project, the Heraldos attended conferences on evangelism, led by a professor from the Border Baptist Theological Seminary in Ciudad Juarez. Other activities included worship, testimony services, and recreation.

Swan reported the young men voted to focus on disaster relief at their third annual meeting next year. But they also want to continue their construction project and the

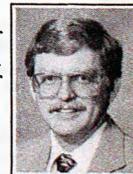
Howards have been invited back.

"As Southern Baptist missionaries, we are truly indebted to those who have offered their help in our ministry in Mexico," wrote Swan.

"Thank you for your faithful contribution to the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Thank you for your continued prayer support for missionaries and missions." □ — Connie Davis

Wilson leads Nigerian mission

IBADAN, Nigeria — Tennessee native Philip Wilson is now serving as executive secretary of the Baptist Mission of Nigeria.



WILSON

Wilson, who was appointed as a Southern Baptist missionary to Nigeria in 1982, was born in Humboldt but considers Memphis his hometown. He is a graduate of Union University,

Jackson, and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Wilson served as a youth worker at First Church, Grand Junction; youth choir director at Poplar Heights Church, Jackson; and minister of music at Ellendale Church, Ellendale. He also spent one summer as a Tennessee Baptist Convention summer missionary, serving all over the state.

Wilson is married to Sandra Alexander Wilson of Memphis. They have two children, Lendy and Jordan. □

Ministry to juveniles prevents crime and more — volunteers

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

The teens are all 17 years of age or younger and have committed a crime. Their stay at Woodland Hills Youth Center in Nashville ranges from months to years.

While at the center, the boys and girls attend school and work on campus. Some earn the right to leave campus to attend vocational institutions and accept jobs.

They live in dorm-type facilities which have private rooms. They are often supervised by motherly-type female guards.

But they represent fear for most Southern Baptists — juvenile offenders are the fastest

growing criminal element in American society.

Dan Boyd, 29, doesn't fear them. A volunteer minister at Woodland Hills, Boyd explained the young men he visits are more aware than most of their need for God.

"I've never felt scared or threatened," said Boyd, a psychiatric resident at Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

Part of the reason is the modern facility, he explained. He's never visited another correctional institution, but this one is neat, clean, and less prison-like than he imagined it might be, said Boyd.

The other reason he's not afraid is he's gotten to know some of the students, he explained. Boyd, a member of Woodmont Church, Nashville, is a part of a ministry which leads Sunday morning and evening programs at Woodland Hills.

During his visits, which Boyd makes twice a month, he met one young man who is typical of many of the residents.

The teen's family didn't provide "leadership, structure, or love," explained Boyd. Currently the boy's mother is sick and father is absent.

He is dislocated — his mother lives in another state. And his skills are minimal. Boyd explained many have such limited reading skills the King James Version of the Bible is inappropriate.

But as Boyd and the young man met together, something "pretty exciting" happened, Boyd added.

The youth became consistent in meeting with him and other Christian volunteers, reading his Bible, and praying. He began making plans for his future, continued Boyd. He eventually rededicated his life to God, said Boyd.

"A lot of the responses I've had would have gone on whether I was there or not, but it was fun to be a part of it," said Boyd. "God was ready to move in somebody's life and just kind of let me be around to watch."

Massive opportunities

Directors of the ministry, Ken Conley and Asa Ambrister of Nashville, won't minimize the importance of Boyd or any other volunteers. In fact, they're dumbfounded at the reluctance of Christians to help the youth at Woodland Hills.

"When I got involved I could see they've just made a mistake and they wanted to turn their lives around. I could see that it was worthwhile to help them develop their potential," said Ambrister, an attorney.

"A man was saved last Sunday night and this happens quite often," he added.

Conley, an architect, nodded his agreement with his longtime friend's statements. The two became friends at Harpeth Heights Church, Nashville, 20 years ago. For 13 years they have visited Woodland Hills Center at least once a week.

6

I've never felt scared or threatened by any of the boys.

— Dan Boyd, volunteer

9

They coordinate about six to eight workers who visit the center each Sunday from 9-10 a.m. and about 25 from 6-7 p.m. Woodland Hills Youth Center usually has about 150 residents. The program is overseen by the state volunteer department for correctional institutions.

Other religious groups visit the center, but aren't as consistent as the regular Sunday ministry. The only exception is a group organized by the center's volunteer chaplain which meets weekly in one of the four dorms, they reported.

The argument for intervention in the lives of juveniles offenders can be a practical one, said Ambrister. Taxpayers pay \$28,000 to incarcerate one resident of Woodland Hills. "You could almost send a boy to Harvard for that," he continued.

Admittedly, volunteers may report a lack of measurable results, they agreed. Factors are the varying stay of residents and the suggested lack of contact between residents and volunteers outside the facility.

One exception was the former resident who returned to thank volunteers, recalled Conley. He had become a Baptist minister. However, that kind of report is rare, the duo admitted.

"The volunteer has to be somebody who's not going to be

looking for something out of it," explained Conley.

He or she also must be committed to a non-denominational approach, a strict guideline for ministry in the correctional setting, they agreed.

Volunteers have few demands placed on them, Boyd commented. The students need the basics in Christian instruction, so preparation and presentation is non-threatening, he said.

Conley thanked the Baptists who have volunteered. Through the ministry he has met "a world of great people. I wouldn't give anything for having known them," he added, as Ambrister agreed.

Baptists should be proud of the Baptist tradition of the ministry. Most volunteers — about 100 are currently involved — have been Baptist and it has been directed by Baptists for its 36-year history, Conley reported.

Ambrister, 70, and Conley, 72, would like to retire as coordinators, but they don't want the ministry to die after all of these years.

They're not worried, though, because their faith is strengthened every Sunday night. "Asa warns me every Sunday night that we're going to be short (of volunteers), but we rarely are," said Conley.

For more information, contact Connie Davis at (615) 371-2003. □



DAN BOYD



COMMITTED TO HELPING juvenile offenders in Nashville are Asa Ambrister, left, and Ken Conley.

Crime doesn't pay — former drug pusher tells students

Alton Edmondson, 31, was forced into the alley in West Nashville at gunpoint. The hired gunman pointed the gun at Edmondson's temple and shot him.

Minutes later he had been shot nine times, Edmondson told the Baptist Student Union at Tennessee State University, Nashville, at a "Stop the Violence" program on Feb. 20.

Edmondson's brush with death and God was six months ago, and he still has no health problems though several bullets remain embedded in his skull.

"I am a new creature," said

Edmondson, who claims God healed him.

"I used to think being on the streets, selling cocaine and going to The Club and sleeping with a lot of women really made me a man," explained the former comic with Def Comedy Jam, a touring company which produces shows on TV's HBO channel. He has performed at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, Nashville.

"There's pleasure in sin," he admitted. But he said he doesn't miss the fame and fortune.

Ironically, Edmondson's rise as a comedian, which be-

gan in Nashville nightclubs, was fueled by curses against preachers. Now he's one, he proudly states.

The former TSU football



ALTON EDMONDSON

player speaks to groups mainly in churches. Edmondson subsidizes his income by working for a company which cleans churches. He's a member of Mount Nebo Church, Nashville.

Edmondson attended church during the nine years he gambled with money and his life. "Nobody knows what happens when the door at home closes," he said.

To fulfill his promise to God, he visits people from his former life and kids in Nashville's housing projects.

Today's youth think they're "down" — happy — when totting a gun, listening to rap mu-

sic, or hanging out with gang members, said Edmondson.

Most of the rap music encourages premarital sex, murder, especially of the police, drinking alcohol, and taking drugs, said Edmondson. He recommends kids listen to Mike E, a Gospel rapper.

"I tell them how the enemy (devil) has got them out there selling drugs and killing their own brothers."

He changed his life because God "always does something for a reason."

"I'm not supposed to be here," reminded Edmondson. □ — Connie Davis

■ An
**Occasional
Word**
By **Lonnie Wilkey**
associate editor

A 'good' youth

In the last few weeks a cursory glance at the Nashville newspapers would lead one to believe all the teenagers in the city are bad — guns and knives at school, drug and alcohol problems, teens killing teens, etc.

In reality, there are thousands of "good" teenagers in Nashville and throughout Tennessee.

There is one, however, of whom I am particularly proud — Kenny Clayton. Kenny is the son of Ken and Joy Clayton. His dad is pastor of Tulip Grove Church in Old Hickory where my family and I are members.



WILKEY

On a recent Sunday night, Kenny went forward, and at the age of 15, announced God was calling him to be a missionary.

Kenny is an "A" student and played a prominent role as a freshman on his high school football team which went to the district playoffs last fall. Yet, despite his "worldly" accomplishments, he is very much aware of the importance of God in his life.

I'm proud of Kenny for making public what he knows God wants him to do. It would be easy for him to keep it a secret because many of his peers probably won't understand that decision.

I have known Kenny since he was about five years old. I've taught him in Royal Ambassadors, and I've played many "pickup" basketball games with him and his dad. It's a good feeling to see someone you've known for so long grow up and begin to mature in Christ.

Kenny's story may not be front page news in Nashville, but I'm sure it made page one in the "Heaven Good News Journal."

As for Kenny and the other "good" teenagers in our state, keep praying for them. They are our hope for tomorrow. □

Director of Missions

42-church association in southwest Virginia is seeking a person with DOM, pastoral, or staff member experience. Will be working with a diverse field of small to medium sized churches. Send resumes by April 1 to Walter Conley, 212 Jefferson Dr., Bristol, Va. 24201

Southern Baptist workers lie low in West Bank, Gaza

Baptist Press

JERUSALEM — Southern Baptist workers in the West Bank and Gaza stayed out of sight as an eerie stillness settled into the normally bustling Israeli-occupied territories Palestinian Arabs claim as their own.

An around-the-clock curfew — imposed hours after a Jew-

ish settler's massacre of Muslims worshiping in a Hebron mosque Feb. 25 — stilled angry Palestinians who took to the streets in protest.

In Gaza, Southern Baptist representative Paul Lawrence of Leeds, Ala., stayed inside with his wife, Harriet, and two children. They were joined by Glenn Glover of Birmingham, Ala., a Southern Baptist Inter-

national Service Corps worker unable to speak Arabic who otherwise would be shut in alone. As soon as they knew about the massacre, the Lawrences stocked up on groceries in anticipation of a curfew, they said.

Other representatives who live there were traveling outside Gaza.

Gaza and the West Bank were parts of Arab nations until Israel captured them in 1967 during the Six Day War. Since then, Jewish Israelis have settled there also.

Some Jewish believers use biblical references to lay claim

to the territories.

"About noon the curfew took effect, and it got absolutely quiet," said Southern Baptist representative Bev Hicks, who lives in the West Bank and works alongside her husband, Ray, to strengthen churches of Arab Christians.

Ray Hicks had traveled to Cyprus the night before the massacre to attend a planning meeting with other leaders of Southern Baptist work in the Middle East. Their meeting was to last through the first week of March. Contacted in Cyprus, he called the massacre "a senseless, awful ... event." □

Stewardship agency taps Ron Chandler

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Ronald E. Chandler, director of stewardship for the California Southern Baptist Convention for nearly 20 years, is the nominee of the SBC Stewardship Commission search committee to succeed A. R. Fagan as president.

Chandler, if approved by the full board of commissioners at their annual meeting March 24-25 in Nashville, will become president June 1. He will work alongside Fagan until Fagan's retirement Sept. 30, according to commission officials.

Chandler will receive a salary of \$81,000, according to Robert L. Ross, chairman of the search committee.

Chandler, 61, has been a pastor and director of missions. He and his wife, Joyce, have three grown children. □

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ORGANIST POSITION: Inglewood Church, Nashville, seeks organist to play Rodgers organ for Sunday morning and evening services. Contact Bill Chaney at (615) 860-5302 or 865-0420.

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



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TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the people

■ **Richard Lowell "Low" Finney III**, a member of First Church, Dresden, and a senior at Dresden High School, has been elected state and national Beta Club president. In addition Finney sings baritone with 2nd Timothy, a Gospel quartet which in January was voted "Group of the Year" at a Christian music convention in Dallas.

■ the leaders

■ **Fred Phanco** has been called as pastor of Charlotte Road Church, Nashville. Until recently he was director of corporate marketing for the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

■ During May **First Church, Bean Station**, will celebrate its centennial.

■ **Hillcrest Church, Manchester**, has called **Jeff Clark** of Orlando, Fla., as its first pastor, effective Jan. 23. Formerly Clark was a church starter in Michigan and Florida.

■ **Herman Lakin**, pastor, Locust Grove Church, Washburn, has resigned due to poor health. The church has called **Bobby Myers**, former pastor of New Corinth Church, Rutledge, as pastor.

■ **Bethlehem Church, Green-**

brier, has called **David Loehr** as interim minister of music.

■ the churches

■ **First Church, LaVergne**, is building a Family Life Center which will serve as worship center. It will include a gymnasium, kitchen, and baptistry.

■ The centennial celebration of **Dowelltown Church, Dowelltown**, will be observed July 24.

■ **Lucy Church, Millington**, held DiscipleNow Feb. 17-20. Seventy-three youth and 14 college/career adults participated. Seven local Baptists who are graduates of Union University, Jackson, opened their homes for the event. **George Miller**, First Church, Millington; **Ross Guthrie**, youth minister, Korean Baptist Church, Memphis; and **Chris Rice**, Nashville-based Christian songwriter, were guest leaders. **Robert Hooker**, youth minister, reported seven participants made professions of faith and over 30 made other decisions.

■ **First Church, Livingston**, will hold revival March 21-17. **Thurman Seber**, director of missions, Salem Association, will lead services.

■ **Oakwood Church, Chattanooga**, recently paid their debt on church property 11 years early. Leading the effort were members of the debt retirement committee — **Alene**

Vaughn, chairperson, **Wilda Lewis**, and **Claude Timmons**.

■ The International Department of **Brook Hollow Church, Nashville**, is hosting two 16-hour training courses for volunteer teachers of English as a Second Language. They will be held March 10, 12, 17, and 19. The courses are Conversational English and Adult Reading and Writing (Laubach Method) for teaching anyone. For more information, contact **Dorothy Jackson** at (615) 646-1180, **Katherine Bean**, 352-6562, or the church, 352-1295.

■ **Holly Grove Church, Bells**, will hold revival March 13-16. **Harold Hunter** of Nashville will preach and **John Kimberly Jr.**, will lead the music.

■ death

■ **Abner Donald Anthony**, an assistant pastor and minister of education with several Tennessee churches, died Feb. 6 at the age of 90. Anthony, who was active in various phases of Tennessee Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention life, served on the staffs of First churches, Jackson and Chattanooga; Union Avenue Church, Memphis; and Central Church, Johnson City. He also served churches in Louisiana and Kentucky. Survivors include a daughter, **Ann Anthony Jones**, associate



DIRECTORS OF TWO INSTITUTIONS, **Gerald L. Stow**, president/treasurer of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, and **J. L. Ford**, executive director, Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, lead a tour of their facilities in northeast Tennessee. Standing in front of Bethesda Cottage (TBCH) in Kingsport are, from left, **Stow**, **James Porch**, executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention; **Ford**; **David George**, chairman, TBC Executive Committee; **Richard Patton**, chairman, TBC budget and program committee; **Jim Henry**, TBCH vice president, northeast region; and **Eugene Cotey**, vice chairman, TBC Christian Services Committee.

professor of music at Carson-Newman College.

■ the associations

■ **Watauga Association** held its 17th Annual Music School at First Church, Elizabethton, Feb. 7-11. About 300 adults and 125 youth/children participated. **Joe Parks**, a composer who led previous music schools in the association, was honored. **John Bunn**, associational music director and minister of music and senior adults, First Church, Elizabethton, led the event.

■ The Association Evange-

lism Conference of **Riverside Association** will be March 14 at First Church, Livingston. **Roy Edgemon**, Discipleship and Family Development Division, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, and **Jerry Lowery**, coach at Cookeville Junior High School, will speak.

■ the schools

■ **Joe Stacker**, president of the Tennessee alumni group of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., attended a meeting of alumni leaders at the seminary.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

'Go for the gold'

Charles Bryan, pastor
Central Church, Alcoa

Were you tuned in and watching? Off and on over those couple of weeks, I was watching. Watching what? The 1994 Winter Olympic Games. The eyes of the world were watching.

I always enjoy watching the Olympics because there always seems to be a special atmosphere surrounding the competition. It is fun to cheer for the U.S. competitors as they "go for the gold." There are always disappointments and surprises, but it is always enjoyable to observe.

As we watch the Olympics, we need to remind ourselves that we Christians are also being watched and observed by the non-Christian world. There are eyes that are constantly watching us to see how we are living out our faith. We must remember that we have an important responsibility.

Just as athletes represent their country in the Olympics, we represent the kingdom of God before the world. Therefore, we need to strive to be the very best

representatives of Christ that we can be. We must "go for the gold" as Christians. □

'Focus on mangled, condemned'

John Coates, pastor
Calvary Church, Kingsport

The little old lady was not the typical American tourist. She had no camera. Her clothes, though clean, looked as if she had slept in them.

Obviously her schedule was overcrowded but she was certainly going to see Westminster Abbey. She looked at everything with interest and silently conveyed the idea that she was not impressed.

When at last she spoke, it was to break into the guide's monotoned description with a question that left him slackjawed and puzzled. With one quick gesture she swept Westminster Abbey, that citadel of church tradition, that rich storehouse of historic greatness, and said, "Young man, stop your chatter and tell me, has anyone been saved here lately?"

Isn't that the question that we all should stop and ask ourselves occasionally. With all our work and time has it resulted in the salvation of souls? The bottom line of everything that we do is souls. Our goal is souls.

There is a striking sentence on a church calendar in a little village in England which reads: "Those people who expect salvation at the eleventh hour often die at 10:30! Also those who wait to give their witness sometimes wait too long."

The need for witnesses is evident. We need to get our spiritual eyes focused on the mangled, condemned lives of the world and feel our hearts hurt. Then we must realize that there are more lost people now than at any time in history. God help us to be faithful witnesses of his son Jesus Christ. □

Tap into Lord's resources through prayer

Greg Price, minister of music and youth
Monte Vista Church, Maryville

Real-life drama unfolds around us daily. The bizarre attack on figure

skater **Nancy Kerrigan** is a frequent topic of conversation these days. More recently, ice dancer **Elizabeth Punsalen's** father was murdered in cold blood. Rising above their respective tragedies, both **Kerrigan** and **Punsalen** competed in the Olympics in Norway.

If the human spirit is so gallantly inexhaustible, how much more is that of our Heavenly Father in whose image we are made? Just think about how often he forgives us, rising above his own grief over our sin.

He provides for us over and over, for his resources never end. His holiness is infinite. Go to our inexhaustible Lord in prayer — you may be amazed at the results! □

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.

Protests to Congress prompt home, private school exemptions

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Expressing an opinion to members of

Congress sometimes works. Action in the House of Representatives proved so recently. Responding to a deluge of

phone calls from home school and private school supporters, the House recently removed non-public schools from potential supervision by the federal government.

In two lopsided votes, the House approved amendments which clarified home, religious, and other private schools will not come under the jurisdiction of an elementary and secondary education act.

Without the amendments, the act may have been interpreted to mean home school parents and private school teachers would have been required to be certified by the state, many home and Christian school leaders said. If such certification were mandated, it would have had the effect of placing a ban on the home

school movement in the country and would have severely hampered many Christian schools, those leaders agreed.

An amendment which added the language, "Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect home schools," passed by a 424-1 vote.

After that amendment, legislators voted 374-53 in favor of an amendment specifying the bill would not be interpreted

to mandate certification of home school or private school teachers or to authorize federal control of any aspect of a home, religious, or other private school.

A home school legal representative noted the votes show "participatory democracy works." □

'Ministering' conference set for Knoxville

"Ministering in a Changing World" will be the focus of a conference March 29 in Knoxville.

The meeting, sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Church-Ministers Relations Department and Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee, will be held at the hospital's Eye Institute, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Featured speaker will be James Hightower, former staff member at the Baptist Sunday School Board, who is now min-

ister of pastoral care at First Church, Huntsville, Ala.

Other speakers include Dick Denson, chaplain, Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee; Aubrey Hay, TBC Church-Ministers Relations Department director; and Terry duPont, staff member, Central Church, Oak Ridge.

There is no registration fee for the conference. Lunch and free parking are included.

For additional information call Hay at (615) 371-2010 or Denson at (615) 632-5252. □

MRM conference set for March 11-12

A Mississippi River Ministry Convocation will be held March 11-12 at First Church, Jackson, Miss.

The convocation is designed to encourage, inspire, and help church staff, directors of missions, and laypeople to participate in MRM projects.

The TBC Missions Department is one of the sponsors of the meeting.

Registration fee for the weekend event is \$20. □

Crumpler to speak

NASHVILLE — Carolyn Crumpler, former executive director of SBC Woman's Missionary Union, will speak here at a meeting of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (Tennessee) on March 12 at Bellevue Church, beginning at 11 a.m. □

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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ True light and true freedom — Bible Book Series for March 13

By Edward North, pastor, First Church, Humboldt

The Feast of the Tabernacles or Booths was a harvest festival which also commemorated God's blessing on Israel in the wilderness when they dwelt in moveable tents. God provided their basic needs and guided them by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Against the background of this feast, Jesus makes some of his boldest and most profound assertions.

The light of the world — vv. 12-16

To remember the pillar of fire, there was a ceremony in the Feast called the Illumination of the Temple, held in the Court of Women. As darkness settled upon the people gathered, four giant candelabra were set ablaze as

witness to the light God had given during the dark uncertainty of the exodus. The people would sing and dance with joy and adoration all night.

On the last night of the celebration, the voice of Jesus suddenly rang out about the din, "I am the light of the world ..." (v. 12). The Pharisees, judging by the standards of the flesh, rejected his witness, but Jesus declared it to be true, and that it was affirmed by the Father (vv. 13-16).

Here is one of John's favorite themes — light vs. darkness. Light exposes the reality of darkness. Jesus came to expose the blackness and vileness of man's sin. Light gives life. In the Old Testament, light is synony-

Focal Passages

John 8:12-16,
31-38, 56-59

mous with God (Psalm 27:1, Isaiah 60:19, Micah 7:8). Jesus came to give men God's very life. Light illumines the walk of the Christian. Right decisions and directions are possible through the light Jesus brings to our minds and hearts.

The freedom of truth — vv. 31-38

The Pharisees conveniently forgot Israel's long history of bondage (v. 33), but Jesus confronted them with their slavery to sin (v. 34). Being descendants of Abraham did not assure them freedom from sin

(v. 35). Only the Son could provide freedom (v. 36), and he would do it through the truth (v. 32). Jesus means here the truth of God's love and redemption personified in the Son.

Our culture speaks a great deal about freedom, but freedom must be grounded in truth. Freedom standing by itself degenerates into license, and license becomes the enemy of freedom. The great problem of our day is that men want to create their own truth. So the standard is what is "true for me." This was the original temptation of the serpent in the garden. Genuine freedom is possible only through the absolute truth which Jesus came to make known.

The eternity of Christ — vv. 55-59

The third major assertion of Jesus was that he was the great "I Am" who existed even before Abraham (v. 59). Abraham once did not exist, but Jesus always existed because he is one with Yahweh (John 1:1-3). Although father Abraham never saw Jesus, he saw "his day" and was glad (v. 56). In faith, Abraham "experienced" the messianic age which would come in Jesus and rejoiced.

Incensed by this "blasphemy" the Pharisees sought to stone him but could not. Jesus simply disappeared from their sight. He was on God's timetable and his hour had not yet come. □

□ God's plan of redemption — Convention Uniform Series for March 13

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

In *Broadman Comments*, I saw a summary of what salvation is all about. I had copied a similar statement in the back of my New Testament nearly 25 years ago. It expresses well what justification by grace through faith means.

God thought it (Genesis 3:15). Jesus Christ bought it (John 19:30). The Holy Spirit wrought it (Matthew 1:20). The devil fought it (Matthew 4:1-11). Sinners have sought it (Acts 16:30). Believers have caught it (John 6:47). The church has taught it (I Corinthians 15:3-4). And you can have it (John 3:16).

The promise — not by law — vv. 13-15

The promise made to Abraham and his descendants by the Lord was not based on

Focal Passage Romans 4:13-25

the law but upon grace. The promise of blessing to all people was made before the law was given. Law leads to judgment, not to blessing. Law reveals sin and calls for the penalty for sin. Faith leads to forgiveness. Faith enables us to stand before the Lord with his righteousness covering us.

The promise — by faith — vv. 16-17

In these verses, Paul links faith and grace. Faith becomes effective as the Lord acts in grace toward the sinner. We are saved by believing what God has already done for us in Christ. Grace is open to all. This makes Abraham the

"father" of all who demonstrate faith in the promises of God. This includes both the Jews and the Gentiles in God's redemptive purpose.

The promise — believed by Abraham — vv. 18-22

Abraham was a man of faith. Paul pointed out Abraham's trust in the Lord to provide him a son. Abraham hoped in spite of the seemingly hopeless situation. Humanly speaking, the prospect of a child being born to a couple of their age was impossible. But Abraham believed he would be the "father of many nations," so he believed the Lord could do the impossible. Sarah is rightly included in this faith victory.

The promise — for us — vv. 23-25

The best commentary on the

New Testament is the Old Testament. The value of the Old Testament for the Christian is the insight it gives us concerning the New Testament.

Paul helps us understand that what was written was not just a history report, nor for Abraham's sake alone, but was given to help us understand the importance of faith.

The Lord has dealt with sin on the same basis throughout history. He has offered to make us righteous, to save us, based on our faith response to him. He did this for Abraham, and he is ready to do this for us today. The condition is "if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead ..." (v. 24).

Paul taught that faith in Christ is faith in God, faith in

the Son is faith in the Father, for they are one.

The death and resurrection of our Lord are the crucial elements of our faith. The cross and the resurrection are central to the teaching and preaching of the New Testament. Jesus did not die for wrongs he had done; he "was delivered for our offenses." The empty tomb was the Father's seal of approval upon the life and ministry of Jesus. Just as his death was for us, his resurrection was for us, because he "was raised again for our justification."

The law was our teacher to show us our sin. The law could not save. Faith in God's promises make possible our being right with God. It was true for Abraham, it is true for us. □

□ Saved! — Life and Work Series for March 13

By Charles Bryan, pastor, Central Church, Alcoa

Who can read this passage of Scripture without the song, "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man," running through their minds? I certainly can't. This is a very memorable passage of Scripture for many of us because of the song we learned as children.

However, this passage should also be memorable to us because of the way Jesus changed Zacchaeus' life. Let's look at this encounter between Jesus and Zacchaeus.

A wee little man — vv. 1-4
Jesus had now begun his final journey to Jerusalem and it took him through Jericho.

As word spread that Jesus was coming, crowds began to gather along the streets to see him.

In the midst of the crowd was Zacchaeus. He was a little man physically, but was also

perceived by other people to be a little man socially. Why?

He was the chief tax collector which meant that he was working for the Roman government and that he had probably cheated everyone in town since the system allowed him to collect as much as he could get. To say Zacchaeus was the most unpopular man in town is an understatement.

Because of his physical size and his social standing with the people, he was not able to find a place to see Jesus so he finally ran ahead of the crowd. He came to a sycamore tree which had low hanging limbs and he climbed up in it because he wanted to see Jesus.

Zacchaeus, you come down — vv. 5-7

When Jesus came along, he saw Zacchaeus up in the tree

and told him to come down so that he could visit in Zacchaeus' home.

What an act of courage to go into the home of the most hated man in town.

By going into Zacchaeus' home, Jesus showed his acceptance of and identification with him.

This story shows us that Jesus did not concern himself with protocol and "the way he should do things." Instead, he showed forth his unconditional acceptance of Zacchaeus as a person.

While the people did not like what Jesus was doing, Zacchaeus' life was being changed.

What a difference he makes — vv. 8-10

Under the impact of Jesus' acceptance of him as a person worthy of his presence,

Focal Passages Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus became a changed man. The man who seemed to have made wealth his god was radically changed through the touch and acceptance of Jesus Christ.

Zacchaeus' desire to repay those whom he had cheated went beyond words or legal demands.

It went to a change of heart that was brought about by God's love through Jesus Christ.

Zacchaeus' life and attitude were to become his testimony of what a difference Jesus had made in his life.

Jesus' reply about salvation coming to this house demonstrates his purpose in going to Zacchaeus' home — to win

Zacchaeus. In *Broadman Bible Commentary*, Malcolm O. Tolbert states, "Just as the mighty acts of Jesus were concrete demonstration of God's power, so also were his acts of acceptance and grace concrete expressions of God's salvation."

Zacchaeus was not saved because he changed his attitude and actions. Zacchaeus was changed because he was saved by the acceptance, love, and grace of Jesus Christ.

This is the reason that Jesus Christ came — in order to seek us out, accept us as we are, love us for who we are, and bestow God's grace upon us just because of who he is.

Conclusion

Zacchaeus' life showed evidence that he had been changed by the presence of Jesus Christ in his life. Does your life do the same? □

HMB reports 14 more missionaries in 1993

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The number of home missionaries in 1993 increased by 14 from the previous year, with the most significant changes in Mission Service Corps volunteers and mission pastors.

At the end of last year, 4,882 people served as home missionaries, compared to 4,868 in 1992, according to Southern Baptist Home Mission Board reports.

"I'm encouraged to see the numbers continue to increase, and especially the great wave of volunteers," said HMB President Larry Lewis. "We are very close to our (Bold Mission Thrust) goal of 5,000 home missionaries by 2000."

The number of Mission Service Corps volunteers (those who serve four months or longer) increased by 149 in 1993, while mission pastors decreased by the same number. □

Baptist colleges face threat in upcoming federal guidelines

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Strict federal guidelines now being formulated to oversee colleges with students receiving federal loans and grants pose serious hazards for independent higher education, a Southern Baptist executive has warned.

Stephen P. Carleton, executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission, said regulations for implementing Title IV, Part H, of

the Higher Education Amendments of 1992 will radically alter the relationship between the independent college sector and federal and state government.

Carleton said the regulations could force Southern Baptist related schools "into a compliance which may well be at cross purposes with their missions statements."

Carleton said that while the act is now law, "what's still pending is how the regulations are applied and what criteria trigger a review by governmental agencies." □



CARLETON

'Conservative' group meets in Nashville

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — "Conservative" leaders from California to Virginia gathered at a hotel in Nashville following the SBC Executive Committee meeting but the organizer of the meeting said it was an informal group which discussed "a lot of different topics."

James W. Richards Jr., pastor of Southminster Church in Baton Rouge, La., and chairman of the SBC Christian Life Commission, told Baptist Press the meeting was of "like-minded people who meet for support and encouragement."

Asked if the group, numbering from 40-50 men, talked about strategies of "conservatives" at the state convention level, Richards said the group

has a broader base than activities in the convention although individuals did share their experiences in the states.

"There was no format, no planning strategy," Richards said. "There was nothing of a 'here's what you should do' in any state," he said.

The private meeting — Bob Terry, editor of the Missouri *Word and Way* was asked to leave — included men who have met over the past two or three years. Richards said they met for a concentrated time of prayer. □

Expert warns against cloning mega-churches

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Attempts to "clone" mega-churches often have produced more congregational frustration than church growth, according to a Southern Baptist church growth professor.

"A lot of pastors have tried to clone Willow Creek and have failed miserably," said Mark Terry, associate professor of evangelism and church growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Those pastors, he noted, usually have failed to take into account the differences between the situation of their congregation and the setting of churches like the huge Willow Creek Community Church in suburban Chicago.

"A lot of pastors are crashing and burning," Terry said. "They go to a conference and get all excited and come back and think, 'In six months I'm going to transform a 150-year-old church into a mega-

'Experiencing God' course helps boost church discipleship statistics

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Contemporary Christian resources that enlighten both spiritually and emotionally are responsible for the increase in Discipleship Training enrollment increases in churches, a leader in the field said.

Discipleship Training enrollment/participation in churches showed an increase of 4.59 percent for 1993, according to figures released by the Baptist Sunday School Board's strategic information and planning unit.

Roy Edgemon, director of the BSSB discipleship and family development division, said he believes the involvement of churches in using

"Experiencing God" and LIFE resources is a major factor in the increase.

"We are seeing an 'Experiencing God' phenomenon in churches across the country," said Edgemon, who reported over 245,000 units of the "Experiencing God" course were used in churches in 1993. That's a 115 percent increase over 1992, he said.

Currently, more than 1,500 copies of "Experiencing God" and 1,000 of the course's youth edition are being shipped to churches each day, Edgemon said.

"It is obvious that the Holy Spirit is moving and working in the lives of individuals and churches in an unusual way," he said. □

Yeman newspaper praises Jibla hospital

Baptist Press

SANAA, Yemen — Yemen's English-language newspaper has profiled the success of Southern Baptists' Jibla hospital in the wake of a highly publicized court case that threatened to close the hospital.

"The nation (should) be more appreciative of Baptists and their help," the *Yemen Times* concluded after an interview with Southern Baptist representative William Koehn, hospital administrator.

The *Times* is a weekly newspaper read primarily by the business community in the Mideast nation.

"As a result of the court case last year, a judge ordered Koehn to close the hospital and leave the country. But the decision has not yet been enforced, and hospital officials have filed an appeal. The hospital remains open. □

Consider home missions, Lewis urges

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Missions is more a matter of vision than geography, stressed Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis.

"Missions isn't crossing the sea," said Lewis in an address at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "It's seeing the cross. It's seeing God. It's seeing Jesus dying on the cross and seeing the cross of Jesus Christ as God's only provision for a lost world." □

church.' Then in six months they are gone."

There is no single church growth method that will fit all churches, Terry said, advising that strategies must be focused to suit both congregations and communities. □

S.C. blacks, whites link in missions effort

Baptist Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina Baptists have completed the first year of a productive and far-reaching partnership linking the state's black and white Baptists in volunteer missions.

The three-year partnership is believed to mark the first time volunteers from a Southern Baptist state convention and a black Baptist convention have worked together in volunteer missions overseas through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"It's an historic partnership," said Zack Weston of the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina, the largest black religious organization in the state.

Volunteers from that convention and the predominantly white South Carolina Baptist Convention completed 40 joint projects in Kenya during the first year of the partnership formed in cooperation with the mission board and the Baptist Convention of Kenya. Through their efforts, 3,395 Kenyans accepted Christ as Savior and 17 missions were started.

About 80 volunteers and officials from both conventions recently celebrated their achievements — in missions and race relations □

Southern Baptists make Olympic effort

By Mike Creswell
For Baptist Press

LILLEHAMMER, Norway — They didn't win medals, but a Southern Baptist team competed hard at the recently concluded Olympics.

A 15-member team of Foreign Mission Board missionaries and Southern Baptist volunteers from the United States put in long hours in sub-freezing temperatures to spread the Gospel among athletes and visitors.

While Bonnie Blair and Dan Jansen speed-skated into Olympic history and figure skaters Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding faced off on Olympic ice — more than 12 people were praying to receive Christ as personal Savior.

But those spiritual decisions, registered as of the mid-

point of the 1994 Winter Games, were only part of the Baptist team's work. The workers prayed with scores of others seeking a closer relationship to God. They also evangelized hundreds, passed out cases of Christian literature, provided personal counseling to many, and made numerous contacts for follow-up.

"We're not just passing out paper," missionary team coordinator Fred Dallas of Friendswood, Texas, said in an interview in Lillehammer. "Lots of groups can do that."

Instead, team members tried to build friendships so they could establish a meaningful dialogue on the Christian faith. Repeat visits and conversations were sought.

Team members talked to people on the icy walkways before and after events, as well

as in restaurants, coffee shops, and other public places where crowds took refuge from temperatures hovering in the teens.

Dallas, who has now coordinated three Olympic ministries, directed a mammoth outreach effort at the 1992 Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain. As a missionary to Spain, Dallas lives near Barcelona, but he has spent most of his time in Lillehammer since last October preparing for the Winter Games.

Hundreds of Baptist volunteers from several countries took part in the Barcelona effort. But this time weather and other factors led Dallas to assemble a small team of Southern Baptist ministry professionals who could adapt more easily to Lillehammer's chilly confines. □