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Memphis church 'merges' with Mississippi church

OLIVE BRANCH, Miss. — Summerwood Church for 10 years was located here on Getwell Road, a highway that runs north across the Tennessee state line and up into Memphis. Some 12 miles north in South Memphis, Tenn., Graceland Church had a reputation of a strong community church.

Getwell Road originally was called Shotwell, but when the Memphis Veterans Hospital located on the highway, locals began calling it Getwell. Little did they know that years later, two Getwell churches would merge to help people "Getwell" spiritually. One would just move "down the road" a few miles.

Somehow, these two churches have survived declining membership and changing communities. They have blended together and have a bright future — but with a different name.

Here's how it happened.

Mergers normally are associated with big business, says Graceland pastor Ronnie Mitchell, "but mergers may be a big business word for churches in the future." Graceland and Summerwood have quite a story to tell.

Graceland in South Memphis had been a strong church for years, with strong leadership, but a changing community resulted in a declining membership. Innovative ministries were implemented to reverse

6 It is always best to save a ministry. I am completely supportive of the merger, even though Shelby County Association will miss Graceland.

— John McBride, director of missions, Shelby County Association

the trend, but with little success.

Finally, not without regret, the leadership mentioned relocation — despite the fact the word had been unmentionable in leadership meetings. Initially the church's options included: staying put, merging with another church, or relocating. Mitchell and church leadership worked hard to find a solution, to keep the church in South Memphis if at all possible.

Attempts to merge with other churches in the community were unsuccessful. Personal identity and staff concerns were important factors in resistance. The church, realizing

its limited future, began seriously to consider relocating.

"How can we relocate?," many asked. "There is no place to go." Already there were several churches in areas under consideration. Membership had been declining and the cost of buildings and property was excessive. Questions of concern were asked by transitional churches across the state conventions. Answers, however, may be found through the consideration of merging with another church, members began to realize.

Merging can be difficult. But in this case it was the answer. A funny thing happened

on the way to the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston last year. Ronnie Mitchell talked with John McBride, Shelby Association executive director, about Graceland's desire to merge with a church in an area where they had considered.

At the convention, McBride saw an old friend, Armond Taylor, pastor of Summerwood Church in Olive Branch. Taylor was planning retirement and was concerned about Summerwood's future. Begun a decade ago, the church in recent months had struggled with financial obligations and a highly competitive environment.

A seed was planted. Soon after returning from Houston, McBride met with John Perkins, director of missions for Northwest Association in Mississippi, and key leaders of Graceland and Summerwood.

Other meetings followed and in a short time the two congregations had voted to merge, voted on Summerwood — See Memphis, page 2

WMU board votes on accepting CBF gift

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The Executive Board of Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala., is taking a mail ballot vote to determine whether to accept a one-time, \$100,000

gift from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The action follows a request for WMU to not accept the funds by Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin last month.

During a Missions Education Council meeting in conjunction with the Feb. 21-22 meeting of the SBC Executive Committee, Rankin expressed concern about the gift and suggested that WMU refuse to accept it.

"I asked them to consider not accepting the funds and thereby send an unequivocal message to Southern Baptists of their commitment to the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board," he said.

The CBF gift was in appreciation for WMU's contribution to world evangelization and was not requested by WMU.

WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien said Rankin's comments came as a surprise to her since the FMB accepts money channeled through the CBF, an organization of "moderate" Southern Baptists based in Atlanta. Last

year, the FMB reported receiving more than \$1.6 million through the CBF.

WMU leaders have taken Rankin's suggestion seriously and in telephone conference calls, have discussed the gift, which was in accordance with current WMU policy, and the impact of accepting or rejecting it. Results of the vote are expected later this month.

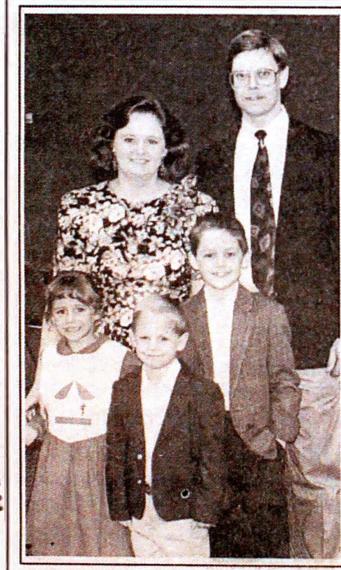
In the weeks following the Executive Committee meeting rumors have circulated that the FMB would cut WMU out of Lottie Moon Christmas Offering promotion if the WMU accepted the CBF gift. Rankin has denounced those rumors.

"The rumors are absolutely untrue. My goal is to strengthen the relationship with WMU. I would do nothing to weaken it," he said.

Rankin, in an interview with Missouri's *Word and Way* said the FMB is "still in partnership with them," regardless of WMU's decision. "It would be unthinkable for us to sever that relationship. ... We are very dependent on that partnership," he affirmed. □

Camp Staffers

Joining the TBC family are Keith and Dori McKinney and their children, from left, Shauna, Jason, and Jonathan. The McKinneys are from Hot Springs, Ark. Effective March 16, McKinney became the manager of Camp Carson in Newport. Mrs. McKinney will serve as dietician/housekeeping coordinator. McKinney previously served as a plant production manager for a Hot Springs business. The couple have been extremely active in their local church.



- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Decreased income means 1995 HMB budget cuts

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The Home Mission Board is projecting a 1995 budget that is 6 percent less than this year's budget, requiring reductions in missions projects and personnel, officials said.

"The revenue flow has just not caught up with the costs," said Ernest Kelley, HMB executive vice president for planning and finance.

The estimated income from all sources in 1995 is \$4.1 million less than 1994's total budgeted income, Kelly said. Much of the reduction reflects a decrease in surplus funds carried over from previous years, he said.

President Larry Lewis said the cuts must come both at the Atlanta office and in cooperative missions funding with

state Baptist conventions. "We're all going to have to bear that burden," Lewis said.

Reductions initially will target unfilled positions and projects that are low on the priority list, Lewis said. "To me, taking money from missionaries and congregational support funds will be my absolute last choice."

Nevertheless, HMB officials said they are not optimistic all cuts can be made without eliminating some filled positions.

Lewis emphasized all options will be explored. He repeated his call for Southern Baptists to redouble their efforts in support of the 1994 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. A good home missions offering above projections will reduce the impact of the budget cuts, Lewis said. □



True Love Waits

Don Mauldin of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Discipleship Training Department "plants" True Love Waits Commitment pledges in front of the Baptist Center in Brentwood as a symbol of commitments made by Tennessee youth to the national sexual abstinence campaign sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board. More than 5,000 commitment cards have been received thus far. The convention hopes to have 10,000 commitments by June 1. Cards will be shipped to the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla., for display.

SEBTS endows chair of evangelism

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees established a professorial chair of evangelism, approved curriculum changes adopted by the seminary faculty, and formed a committee to study the feasibility of offering undergraduate courses at the seminary.

Trustees voted to name the chair, established by a \$1 million gift from an anonymous donor, in honor of Atlanta-based evangelist Bailey Smith.

Trustees also approved faculty-approved changes to

Southeastern's current master of divinity degree program, effective by the fall 1994 semester. President Paige Patterson said the revision will "have a stronger emphasis upon biblical languages of Greek and Hebrew, should more adequately equip God's ministers for the pastorate and for church growth, and will reflect a return to classical theological education."

A committee of trustees and faculty also will study the possibility of offering upper-level undergraduate courses.

"What we envision is a curriculum which would offer up

to 70 hours toward the completion of a B.A. in biblical and theological studies," Patterson said. He noted students take courses normally required for an undergraduate degree, such as math, history, and science in their freshman and sophomore years, before transferring to Southeastern to complete their undergraduate work. The committee is expected to report to the fall trustee meeting in October.

Trustees also formed a committee to determine if the seminary should continue granting tenure to professors. □

Memphis church 'merges' with ...

— Continued from page 1 as a new name, and placed the Graceland property on the market. The process is still underway, but the two churches have been given added life through a corporate merger.

"Merging is not easy," says Mitchell. "But it is an option for churches which can produce overwhelmingly positive results." He adds that mergers help keep critical areas from saturation with start-up churches, and combines strengths and weaknesses.

As for McBride, he says, "It is always best to save a ministry. I am completely supportive of the merger, even though Shelby County Association will miss Graceland."

In such corporate mergers, churches share assets and liabilities. This enables churches to have stronger programs, better leadership, and a new vision. It fosters cooperation, which is the key Mitchell appreciates McBride's openness and unselfishness in helping the churches to merge, even though Graceland is no longer in Tennessee. "His desire was to build God's kingdom and not some person's kingdom. With his leadership, staffs and members cooperated for the ongoing of both congregations."

Taylor has retired and Mitchell is pastor of Gracewood. There is a sales contract for the Graceland property. For a while, the congregations are alternating meeting on Sundays at Graceland and Summerwood. □ — Wm. Fletcher Allen

Adult Homes' Ford has heart attack

J. L. "Pete" Ford, executive director/treasurer of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes is in stable condition at Baptist Hospital after a heart attack at his home March 17.

Reports on Ford's condition continue to be favorable, said Mark Anderson, an associate in Adult Homes.

Anderson said, as of Monday, no determination has been made regarding surgery.

Ford was a longtime Tennessee Baptist pastor before assuming the leadership of Adult Homes in 1987.

Ford is the third Baptist Center employee to have a heart attack in the last three months. Richard Easterly, vice president for Tennessee Baptist Foundation is back at work while TBC Evangelism Director Jerry King is recovering at home. □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



March -

- 24 — Focus on Juan Flores and his daughters, Fabiola and Patricia, who are lost without a Savior.
- 25 — Pray for Alicia Rodriguez and son, Juan, of Consti-tucion, who do not know Jesus as Savior.
- 26 — Pray for the salvation of Jaime Gonzalez in Molina.
- 27 — The home mission work of Chilean missionary David Zapata in Coquimbo
- 28 — Central Coast association seeks seminary students to work with pastorless churches and missions.
- 29 — Medical and evangelism teams are being recruited from Tennessee to serve in Chile.
- 30 — Missionary Connie Andrews on her birthday today
- 31 — Pray for the remaining nine months of the Chile/Tennessee Partnership and coordinator Jarvis Hearn.

Southwestern trustees issue second defense of Dilday firing

By Art Toalston
For Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees hardened their stance against former President Russell H. Dilday Jr. in a second statement defending their March 9 firing of Dilday.

Trustees said in a March 21 press release they dismissed Dilday "because of mismanagement of the institution, and doctrinal and policy differences that caused gridlock between him, and trustees and Southern Baptist Convention leadership." The press release also accused Dilday of insubordination and cited a decline in enrollment of 1,000 students in less than 10 years.

The press release was issued in conjunction with a March 21 meeting between trustee representatives and pastors in the Fort Worth area.

Trustees earlier had cited "irreconcilable differences" in a March 11 press release defending their action against Dilday, 63, who had been president of the seminary since 1978. With more than 4,000 students, Southwestern is the nation's largest seminary.

Meanwhile, one of the seminary's accrediting agencies issued a written rebuke of the trustee action.

James L. Waits, executive director of the Association of Theological Schools, wrote, "We view with utmost seriousness the dismissal of Russell Dilday from the presidency of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Such precipitous action on the part of any board of trustees is a clear violation of accepted governance practices and places in jeopardy the vitality and basic integrity of the institution. I urge the trustees immediately to reconsider their action."

Waits told Baptist Press he has written a letter to trustee chairman Ralph W. Pulley Jr., which is not being released to news media, and that Pulley's response on behalf of trustees would be evaluated by ATS staff and elected officers. A decision would be made whether to convene ATS' Commission on Accrediting to "raise the question of whether there should be any further inquiry into this matter" that could lead to Southwestern being placed on probation.

"We would routinely ask that question about any institution where obviously a precipitous action had taken place," Waits said.

Pulley, a Dallas attorney, declined comment to news media about the ATS statement.

The trustees' March 21

Dilday responds to latest charges by SWBTS trustees

By Herb Hollinger
For Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Russell H. Dilday Jr. said every charge raised in a March 21 news release by trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is false. Dilday was president of the seminary until fired by the trustees March 9.

"All of these concerns would have been legitimate concerns to be raised at every (annual) personal review," Dilday told Baptist Press. "But this is the first time I have seen these. Last year's (evaluation by the trustees) was positive, and this year's."

"This is a group that took action precipitously and now they are trying to find reasons for (the firing)," Dilday said. "There is not one specific evidence (in their charges)."

Dilday did say the "golden parachute" offer was offered and was generous.

"But I refused it in integrity because it isn't right to be bought out."

Trustees said they offered Dilday, 63, a retirement package worth \$400,000 if he would take early retirement "for the good of all concerned, but he refused."

Dilday took exception to every charge of mismanagement, disobedience, doctrinal differences, arrogance and gridlock.

"I was never disobedient," Dilday said. "Not one time did I refuse to carry out policy of the board. To individual trustees, I have not responded every time. The board governs only when it is in session. Those are the times when the board speaks. I would love to see a listing of when that (disobedience) has taken place."

Dilday said his style of management, called arrogant and isolationist by trustees, is collegiality and shared governance.

"Anyone watching my work knows my approach has not been one of arrogance," Dilday said. "I secured Lily grants to help our board and the president learn to work together. The 1989 covenant agreement was a great success,

in spite of our differences."

Dilday said he had never discouraged dissent by trustees — "even if I had wanted to." Respecting dissent, he said, has been a hallmark of his life.

Also, Dilday said he had never been criticized by the board for being wrong doctrinally. And never, he said, has he refused to take direction from the board. "Give me one incident (where he did)," Dilday said. Individuals might call and suggest something that I would not do but not the board, he said.

Dilday questioned the trustees' accusation that gridlock had enveloped the school.

"In spite of our differences, the school has moved to its greatest days. I don't see any evidence (of gridlock). They approved every recommendation I have ever brought, except for one faculty recommendation in the past, and then they deferred all of them at this meeting. But regularly and consistently, they have approved them."

Dilday said he hasn't criticized the Southern Baptist Convention or its officials since the 1989 covenant agreement, although "I spoke out strong about the takeover movement (in the SBC) before 1989."

Regarding the declining enrollment, Dilday said all six SBC seminaries have suffered about a 20 percent decline since 1985-86.

"I admit the staff has grown during that time, because of the complexity of our work. But I brought a major, drastic, reduction in staff to this meeting and they refused to accept it," Dilday said.

The Fort Worth, Texas, school is at its highest quality level and accreditation has just been completed, Dilday said. Christianity Today magazine named SWBTS the best school in the country, he added, and the Institute of Biblical Research just voted to build its library on campus because of the school's reputation.

"They (trustees) said I have damaged the school's reputation. I don't have any idea what they mean," Dilday said. □

press release charged that Dilday "failed a number of requirements for the presidency, and that he declined a 'generous golden parachute' retirement forcing board action."

"Dr. Dilday's refusal to retire under extremely generous and justifiable circumstances has brought embarrassment and potential permanent injury to the seminary," Lee Weaver, Fort Worth petroleum engineer and vice chairman of the board of trustees, was quoted as saying in the news release.

The "golden parachute" offered to Dilday approached \$400,000, according to the trustees' news release.

"We had hoped and prayed he would accept early retirement for the good of all concerned, but he refused," Weaver was quoted as saying.

Almost 80 percent of the 34 trustees present voted to change seminary leadership, trustees said. Trustees represent 30 different state Baptist conventions and are elected by the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Mismanagement of relation-

ships with both conservative and liberal segments of Southern Baptist life cannot be tolerated," Weaver said in the press release. "Disobedience of rightful and legal authority is unacceptable. Dilday's style of management with those in authority and to anyone taking a different position on issues was one of arrogance, isolationism and disdain for authority."

Weaver was quoted in the news release as saying Dilday discouraged dissent and debate on current issues important to students, faculty, trustees, and the American society in general. Those issues, Weaver said, included biblical reliability, abortion, ordination of women, and the right of the Southern Baptist Convention to revise its overall direction.

"The charge of insubordination," the press release said, "stemmed from the fact that Dilday regularly refused to take direction from the board of trustees which led most of the members to discuss their frustration in handling their responsibilities as trustees. All

of this led to gridlock, a term used by many other trustees in discussing the termination.

"The president repeatedly criticized the convention, and its elected officials and leaders," the press release continued. "He is on record constantly damaging the reputation of members of the board, who are leading business, professional and religious leaders. Dilday led by intimidation and confrontation."

Weaver was quoted as saying the seminary's annual enrollment had climbed to 5,070 students in 1985-86 and has steadily declined to 4,022 in 1992-93, a decline of 1,048. During that same period, the school's administrative staff grew from 96 to 116.

"Trustees are concerned about the failure to strengthen and advance the school," Weaver said.

"Up to now we (trustees) have not been the best source of information. This changes effective now. We promise to keep you informed about major issues and activities," he said.

The press release noted, "A

president's search committee has been appointed and all candidates will be considered carefully and prayerfully, according to the committee's chairman Miles Seaborn, pastor of Birchman Baptist Church, Fort Worth."

Pulley, addressing seminary supporters, was quoted as urging them "not to abandon the ship. This is an opportunity for students, faculty and staff members and friends to support our great seminary."

Pulley's statement came in the midst of reports that Dilday's firing had caused several foundations and individual fund-raising leaders, including key seminary supporter, aerobics author, and clinic founder Kenneth H. Cooper, to back away from their commitments in behalf of Southwestern.

But, Pulley said, "We feel this is an opportunity for all of us to re-evaluate our relationships to determine our support, concern, and loyalty. Our commitment must be to the seminary, not to a personality. We anticipate the future with a conviction that the seminary will emerge a new and vibrant school of which all Southern Baptists will continue to be proud."

In their March 11 press release, trustees alleged Dilday's "reluctance to move in concert with policies established by the board brought constant concern to the trustees and often led to gridlock within the administration and to his stonewalling the board."

"Also, Dr. Dilday has continued to speak out on political issues fostered by others, in contradiction to his earlier agreement with the trustees not to do so," the trustee statement said.

Trustees said they had written letters to the faculty and members of the Southwestern Council expressing their desire to see the seminary continue "its great heritage and the vision of the school's founder and first president, B. H. Carroll."

Both statements were in sharp contrast to a news conference trustees held two hours after firing Dilday at the end of their three-day meeting on campus. Pulley gave the media no reasons for the action except "... the institution needed a new direction for the 21st century." He acknowledged there had been some discussion about the termination prior to the meeting by some trustees but refused to elaborate further.

Since Dilday's firing, a group of Texas Baptist pastors at a rally near the seminary asked that the action be reversed. □

■ 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. □

Questions action

As a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, I was happy to hear that our trustees have finally shown true biblical character. However, it distressed me to realize that the character they chose to emulate is that of a Pharisee, such as private called meetings, ugliness of actions in public display, defending their actions by stating they were doing "what was best" for

God's work, white-washed tombs, dead inside, and tongues of pride and hatred.

I am not comparing Dr. and Mrs. Dilday with Christ himself, but I do admit the true spirit and meekness of our Lord was evident in the Dildays' actions and countenance yet lacking in that of the trustees.

Our Father must be sickened when we his children do what we wish for our own personal gain.

May we be more like our Lord Jesus Christ who prayed "not my will, but yours be done."

R. G. Hunter
Springfield 37172

Symbol of protest

Many of Jesus' teachings on hypocrisy, love, compassion, tolerance, bigotry, and the priesthood of the believer came to mind when I heard of the firing of the president of Southwestern Seminary, Dr. Russell Dilday, by the trustees of that institution. I will not list them, for I presume those inerrant teachings by our inerrant Lord are well known to those individuals.

In recent months I have known inexpressible grief in the deaths of my father and husband. In a different way and degree, I feel a real bereavement in the loss of my beloved alma mater, SWBTS, as I knew it. I grieve for faculty members and students who remain there in the throes of a struggle illustrated by such vindictive acts as the trustees' order to immediately change locks on the president's office doors. Dr. Dilday has invested long and loving labor as its occupant. That Dr. Keith Parks' planned commencement

address, especially when his son is scheduled to receive his doctorate then, should be the point of exit for Dr. Dilday is ludicrous to any thinking, caring person. The situation is untenable.

And I grieve over the removal of the SWBTS sticker on my car, my own small act of protest, for I am embarrassed and chagrined over such actions as occurred in Fort Worth last week, similar to actions that have occurred since 1979 in many places in so many ways.

Would that the trustees of that fine school live with themselves as easily as must Dr. Dilday and Dr. Parks.

Betty Davis Reeves
Knoxville 37918

Making it clear

In light of Russell Dilday's firing, two things are crystal clear: 1) it is not your theological but your political correctness that is necessary in Baptist life today; and, 2) the same forces that worked the shameful and rude dismissal of Dr. Dilday are working to take over all state conventions. These forces held meetings in Memphis last summer and in Nashville last month.

Let's get one thing straight. Be it known that there are Tennessee Baptists who wish to cooperate and work with all other Baptists in our state work. However, be it also known that, should some Baptists try to do to Belmont, Carson-Newman, and Union what they have done to Southwestern, Southern, and Southeastern, there are those of us who have drawn the line, will stand up and be counted, and will not let it happen! Set your political agenda aside.

Let's do the work of the Lord.
Bill Sherman, pastor
Woodmont Church
Nashville 37215

Supports trustees

I speak in support of the trustee firing of Russell H. Dilday, president of the Southwestern Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. The only fault I find with the trustee board is that they didn't take this action several years earlier.

Mr. Dilday's heart has been with the moderate faction headquartered in Atlanta (the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship) for many years, while he has drawn his salary from the Southern Baptist Convention. I'm disappointed that he is being given the "golden parachute" of \$85,000 salary for more than a year, housing allowance, medical and annuity benefits, and \$3,000 per month for a off-campus office. I just do not think he deserves all that. I predict that he shortly will become an official spokesman for, and an open supporter of the dissidents in Atlanta.

I note that according to your editorial comment, you are apparently in support of Mr. Dilday — stating that "damage to the seminary is beyond comprehension."

I believe quite the opposite — that after the dust settles, Southwestern will be a much better institution in which to educate our sons and daughters.

George L. Gassett
Dickson 37055

Sees fallout

In regard to the letter by Jay Pennington (March 9,

third paragraph).

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

Baptists have been called Disciples, People of the Way, Christians Montanist, Novationist, Donatist, Paulicians, Albigenes, Waldenses, etc. and Ana-Baptist.

Baptists have never been Catholics or protestant, if so, when did they protest.

Nora Belle Davis
Spring City 37381

About Reformation

I was astonished at Mrs. Paul Sliger's comments in the letter in the *Baptist and Reflector*, about her church. Apparently, she was referring to a little event that we call the Protestant Reformation.

She indicated that her church, a Southern Baptist Church, in no way has ever broken from the Catholic Church. She said that the church which Jesus set up was her church, or a Southern Baptist Church.

The Bible and church history say otherwise. John the Baptist was not a Southern Baptist, and his baptism of Jesus did not make him a Southern Baptist. I almost feel absurd in stating such obvious facts.

Our Southern Baptist heritage did in fact break from the Catholic tradition in the little event known as the Reformation. Perhaps we should inform ourselves on church history and bury the landmark tradition in the grave of obscurity that it dug for itself many years ago.

David Boyd, pastor
Cross Roads Church
Springfield 37172

'Definite' facts do not always reveal complete truth

Facts and truth are not the same things. Truth is eternal. Facts are transient, ever changing. Truth produces harmony. Facts frequently cause misunderstandings that lead to controversy.

This lesson was taught me in a graphic way as a young pastor attending the Baptist World Alliance. The lesson had such an impact on my thinking that it has affected my actions ever since.

Here is what happened.

Just as my wife and I had stepped into the meeting hall, I saw what I thought was a tramp clothed in faded and tattered clothes. I recognized that it was the face of Dr. W. O. Lewis, our associate executive secretary of the world Baptist body. I heard him speak and recognized his

■ a historical view

By James Sullivan, retired BSSB president

voice. There was no doubting. Dr. Lewis had come to a worldwide meeting dressed disgracefully.

With a deep feeling of resentment, I was mentally condemning him for his carelessness to come dressed like a tramp at such an auspicious meeting.

At just that moment, a stranger stepped out of the same side room with the comment, "I have just seen the most Christian act I have ever witnessed." The stranger explained that Dr. Lewis had been the seminary classmate of a pastor in one of the Baltic countries. They had been the

best of friends but the war had cut off all communications.

Dr. Lewis reasoned his friend in wartorn Latvia had not been able to buy any new clothes recently. He wanted to do something about it. By underground communications, he sent a message to his friend behind the Iron Curtain, "If you can meet me, I will be at the Convention Hall at the Baptist World Alliance the afternoon before the first session is to begin."

The word got through. When Dr. Lewis entered the hall, his friend appeared in tattered, worn out clothes. Without comment, Dr. Lewis proceeded to exchange clothes, hat, shoes, and all, with his friend of the years.

After this thoughtful, chari-

table act, Dr. Lewis was returning to his hotel room. That was when I saw him in the "tramp" clothes. I had framed my opinion on some very definite facts that almost made me dogmatic. I knew I had identified him correctly. I knew how he was dressed. But there was one fact I lacked which would have changed the meaning of all the other facts.

How frequently we put together a few of the facts we have heard or experienced. Then we draw our conclusions from incomplete or inadequate information.

Hastily we begin to label people on our own terms and by our terminology by putting together a few but not all of the facts. It is error to try to draw a conclusion unless we are wise enough to have all the facts

and can put them together. No wonder Jesus said, "Judge not" (Matthew 7:1). Facts within themselves are unreliable because of our human nature and limitations.

A speaker very wisely said to the local pastor's conference, "When it comes to religion, I am a conservative. When it comes to eating, I am a moderate. When it comes to giving, I'm a liberal. What am I?"

It is easy for us to take any one or two of those aspects and label the man in a totally incorrect way because we are doing it on our terms rather than in God's way. He alone sees and knows all. Judging is His prerogative. □ — Sullivan wrote this series of articles for his church newsletter three years ago. Future articles in this series will be reprinted every other week.

Citizens should have all facts on lottery issue

Movements that are patently harmful to society frequently are disguised as something desirable or beautiful.

That spectacular person at the masquerade ball might be an alligator dressed up in a tuxedo. The sage voice on the telephone might be a precocious teenager or someone anxious to get something for nothing.

Tennesseans are playing a waiting game with the General Assembly. Gambling interests more than likely are putting pressure on Tennessee's senators to "let the people speak" on the lottery issue.

There is nothing wrong with letting the people speak through a lottery referendum if they are given all the facts and if they know exactly what the vote means.

Up until now there has been no real effort to do that. All we are told by gambling interests, legislators who want a state lottery, and lottery lobbyists is that citizens should have the opportunity to vote.

Let's look more closely at the issue of whether citizens should have that opportunity:

■ Doing the politically correct thing is not necessarily the best way for the people. It may be expedient to say that the people should have the vote instead of

the senators, but let us remember that the House of Representatives already has voted.

Since some senators are so eager to let the people vote in a referendum, would they also let the people vote on all major issues from now on?

■ What is to be gained by not explaining thoroughly? Simple. If the people should vote for a state lottery, that's not the only thing that would be legalized.

Once that happens, the legislature would be free to open up Tennessee for all kinds of gambling. Why? Because the attorney general has ruled that removing the prohibition against a lottery from the state Constitution would allow gambling in general.

Would Tennesseans have opportunity to vote on other types of gambling? Probably not.

■ Who profits from lotteries? Mass media gets advertising income. The profit goes to the company handling the lottery and to gambling interests. Some comes to the state — but never enough to pay for increased criminal activity, to pay for counseling for masses of addicted gamblers, for rehabilitation of thousands of additional alcoholics, for tremendous increases of welfare funding for hapless losers. You get the picture? That is only part of the financial burden.

■ Shouldn't citizens be allowed to risk getting rich on one big lottery ticket. Perhaps they should, if that would be the end of it. Only a minuscule number of people win on one ticket and never buy another one. The more they lose, the more welfare dependent they become. The weekly paycheck is better spent on the necessities and family enjoyment.

■ It's time to stand up for what we believe. Though the senate calendar seems quiet as the session nears closing, Baptists and other caring citizens need to thank their senators who work hard and give good representation — and remind all of them that a lottery is not needed.

Christians have a responsibility to stand up for what is right. "Sitting this one out" is not a wise plan of action. The lobbyists for gambling are not sitting down. Taking the high road of civic responsibility is a right and a privilege. We owe it to our state, to our homes, to our children. Schools will not be helped by tainted lottery income. Honesty demands that senators and citizens say "no" to a state lottery.

The senate can and should hold the line by voting down any attempt to give away their responsibility or to hide behind a mask of false decency. They must be brave and keep Tennessee clean. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

From the window

Friday blessed us with an outrageously gorgeous Tennessee morning.

I did my usual running, and marveled at nature's capricious spirit, buoyed by a God who is spectacular in his wisdom, creativity, power, and love. He pushed a cold front through Middle Tennessee in that early hour.

I heard the rumbling from distant thunder as I looked to the north. Ominous clouds soared from horizon almost to the crown of the sky. I felt rain.

Then the wind swished through the cloud and there, before my eyes, the clouds were strung out low to the treeline for endless miles, like enormous gray sheets along a colossal clothesline.

The sun popped up and shattered the remnants of clouds. Just like that, God's breath had rushed across our portion of creation and left us an ethereal Tennessee sky.

So it was with amazement 90 minutes later as I drove to work, I heard the newscaster reporting on the weather. He gave the time and temperature, and then he said, "It's cloudy outside."

What? I knew we were less than 15 miles apart, but where were the clouds?

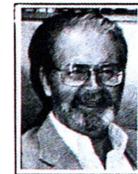
I thought about it. He had not looked out the window, he had not seen the beauty of the day. He had not asked anyone. He had missed the sun.

I remind myself now: don't forget to look out the window. Don't let assumptions rob you of joy that God so freely shares with his children.

In his lesson about gracious giving, God says to us, "Test me in this, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

Is it not overwhelming that the Almighty One is willing to let us test him? The way we live is our response, gracious, generous, compassionate living. Have you tested God lately. I mean tested him by generously giving self and service, money and moments?

Open the window. Look out at the blessings. ☼



ALLEN

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ just for today
By Fred Wood pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

More ways of growing the family

■ families matter
By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

Last week we began talking about an important "Vitamin C" that helps us grow the kids of families we

all dream of having. We looked at two sources of this ingredient of happy families: Caring relationships and communication.

Now we turn our attention to three other sources of this special "Vitamin C," which we call Certainty in our quest for healthy and growing families.

Another source of this important vitamin for growing families is Confidence. It is important in the family that we have confidence in each other and trust that we can depend on mutual commitment.

This is the reason that marriage vows usually contain a phrase like "for better or for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part."

There are so many things done in the family that cause family members to lose credibility with each other. We all need to be reminded that once we have lost confidence or credibility, more than words will be required to rebuild it.

Only through actions and experience can this important facet of healthy families be restored.

For 20 years I have tried to help families rebuild the confidence or trust in relationships. Nothing that family therapists do is more difficult or depressing. In speaking with adolescents about the subject of premarital sex, this is one of the major areas I emphasize.

It is almost impossible for young people to have the level of trust and credibility that is required to build stable marriages when there is a background of premarital sex even if it is with the one they marry and especially if it is not.

Camaraderie is another good source of this essential element. The rushed pace of most of our lives makes it difficult to make time to spend together as a family. Healthy and growing families will do whatever is necessary to achieve this important goal. Togetherness is an integral part of this good spirit. But togetherness in enjoyable activities is an understood prerequisite.

Families can be together

(physically present with each other) in fights, but they don't usually build the kind of relationships that we are trying to build.

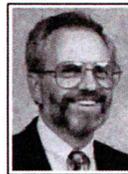
The final source of this "Vitamin C" is Celebration. I believe it is biblically and practically true that no family can be truly healthy and growing that does not frequently spend time in celebration and worship of Almighty God.

This focal point of the family has helped many a family keep the course in the midst of controversy and calamity.

Celebration of the presence of God in our families puts us in touch with the Power who brings the peace that passes all understanding and explanation.

In our health-conscious generation, I want to recommend habitual helpings of these primary parts of healthy family relationships. □

Readers may contact Dr. Barkley with questions for discussion. He may be reached at Union University, BMH Campus, 999 Monroe, Memphis 38104; or The Counseling Center, 6385 Stage Road, Suite 1, Bartlett 38134. — Editor



BARKLEY

Start with a smile

The young girl said to her friend concerning a third girl, "Why don't you like her?"

She replied, "I didn't say I don't like her. I said her only polish is on her nails."

Take this thought

James McNeil Whistler gave us an artistic classic, but his private life was unhappy. Customs, conveniences, and status meant nothing to him. His quarrels produced for him a rough exterior. He enjoyed feuds and disputes. He published under the title "The Gentle Art of Making Enemies!" His dedication read: "To the rare Few, who early in life, have rid Themselves of the Friendship of the Many, these pathetic papers are dedicated."

Memorize this Scripture

"Let your speech be always ... seasoned with salt" (Colossians 4:16).

Pray this prayer

Lord, Help me to be careful to make my words nice and sweet. I never know which ones I might have to eat! □

Churches can heal family violence

Spring festivals of marriage set in Nashville, other sites

By Louis A. Moore
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Family violence, including child and spouse abuse, has reached epidemic proportions in the United States today.

This abuse takes three forms: physical, emotional, and sexual.

Sadly, Christians find that the finger of guilt sometimes points back to them as well.

"Before we become smug and perhaps self-righteous, consider that incestuous abuse tends to involve religious, churchgoing men as perpetrators," said Joe E. Richardson Jr., a psychologist who is a personnel counselor at the Baptist Sunday School Board. "Abuse also crosses all races, religions, and socioeconomic backgrounds. In other words, abuse is also a Southern Baptist problem."

"The church must accept the fact that abuse — physical, sexual, emotional, and neglect — occurs within the church," he said.

Ocala, Fla., police chief Lee McGehee, an active Southern Baptist and a Christian Life Commission trustee, said, "While I feel that a majority of child abuse occurs in unchurched families, I have seen abuse — especially emotional abuse — within Christian families. Within these families, however, are other signs of dysfunctionality: pressures for success, financial security, community or church reputations, and so forth. Just because we are a body of believers doesn't isolate us from Satan's attacks."

Whether inside or outside the church, abuse is becoming a front-burner issue for many Southern Baptists.

"Churches seem to have a growing awareness to openly address child

Facts —

- Some parents hit their children so hard their necks break or their internal organs collapse.
- Parents or caregivers each year kill more than 2,000 children.
- Some children shoot their parents with guns, stab them with knives or strangle them with ropes.
- Some husbands break their wives' bones, knock out their teeth, and leave permanent scars.
- Parents abuse more than 2 million children each year.
- One of four females under age 18 and one of every 10 males under age 18 say they have been sexually abused.
- The incidence of wives injuring and even mutilating their husbands is on the increase.
- Abused children are much more likely to grow up to become abusers themselves. This keeps the cycle flowing through many generations.

— Louis A. Moore for Baptist Press

abuse," McGehee said. "I have noticed increased discussion on SBCNet among churches who are developing policies to ensure positive, healthy programs for children and youth."

Churches can do many things to address this issue, said David Gushee, assistant professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "The greatest answer to this problem in our society is that we have lives tamed by the Spirit of God."

"The Bible clearly teaches that in marriage men and women are to be loving, gentle and kind to one another, and to exhibit the fruits of the Spirit. That contrasts markedly to the scenes of domestic violence."

Pastors need to address from their pulpits the family-abuse issue, Gushee said. "It is not God's will that we would take the family and make that a place where people get abused, and that fact ought to be said from the pulpit. Therapeutic approaches are part of the answer, but straight-out preaching is what is most needed from our churches."

Also, churches need to offer ministries that grapple with and address directly the issue, he said. "The church ought to be a place of community support — a trusting environment — where people can deal openly and authentically with things they are wrestling with, such as family violence and abuse."

As a police chief, McGehee said he is gravely concerned about the statistics that show child abusers were themselves victims of child abuse.

Gushee said this generational connection between those who abuse and those who were abused helps explain how abuse turns up among Christians as well.

"Christians can't exempt themselves from having grown up in that kind of environment," he said. In an article in *Church Administration* magazine, Richardson advocated that churches tighten their guidelines and procedures to keep incidences of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse from occurring in church settings.

"In several cases of child sexual abuse with which I'm familiar involving an active church member, the family was allowed to simply disappear," he said. "The abuse never was reported or investigated. Doing nothing generally springs from not wanting to accept the reality of the problem."

McGehee said he also believes Christians must confront underlying societal evils, such as alcohol and drug abuse, pornography, and television violence, which contribute to family violence and physical, sexual and emotional abuse today. □

NASHVILLE — A Spring Festival of Marriage is scheduled April 8-10 at the Doubletree Hotel downtown. The festival is one of several sponsored by *Home Life*, the family oriented magazine of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Theme for the spring weekends is "Celebrating Sex in Your Marriage."

Dan and Sandra McGee of Arlington, Texas, are marriage enrichment leaders for the weekend. They co-authored the book which is basis for the theme. Participating married couples may choose several from 21 topics provided by five workshops. 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, a general session, and a mini concert/drama. A renewal of vows is part of the program. Sunday morning has workshops concluding with worship in the final session, which ends at 12:30 p.m.

Four other marriage weekends are scheduled this spring: Glorieta Conference Center, N.M., April 29-May 1; Arrowhead Springs, Calif., March 25-27; Ridgecrest Conference Center, N.C., April 15-17; and Anchorage, Alaska, April 29-May 1. Costs vary for the weekends, but information can be obtained by contacting Spring Festivals of Marriage, P. O. Box 24001, Nashville, Tenn. 37203, or telephone (615) 251-2294. The fall festival schedule will be released later. □

Speakers offer counsel on affair-proof marriages

By Dana Williamson
Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — All couples marry with the intention of being happy, said Barbara O'Chester. Meanwhile, her husband, Harold, pastor of Great Hills Church in Austin, Texas, said the breakdown of Christian families because of infidelity is rising faster than we think.

The O'Chesters spoke on affair-proof marriages at the opening session of the "Family in Crisis" conference, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission at First Southern Church in Del City.

"God made us with needs," said Mrs. O'Chester, who leads a women's retreat ministry. "Affairs normally come when those needs aren't met."

She said statistics tell us how many marriages are ending but do not tell us how many marriages are drifting apart.

"After the honeymoon, the husband gets really busy at work, and the wife finds something to occupy her time. Mothering takes over. Then when the children leave for college, we realize there is no relationship anymore," Mrs. O'Chester said.

Stressing "if you don't like the direction your marriage is taking, you can change its course," Mrs. O'Chester said there are six kinds of intimacy that need to be developed in a marriage.

One is recreational intimacy. "You need to be doing something together just for fun."

Emotional intimacy, she said, is easier for women than

for men. "It is difficult for men to share emotions. Ask God to show you the emotional needs of your husband."

A third kind of intimacy is social, she said. "You need mutual friends."

Mrs. O'Chester cautioned wives not to be spiritually con-ceited. "In spiritual intimacy, the husband is the spiritual leader. He does not need another Holy Spirit."

Intellectual intimacy should keep us from getting into ruts, she said. "Knowledge is exploding around us. Be able to talk about current issues."

Possibly the greatest need a man has, Mrs. O'Chester said, is physical intimacy. "Don't fall into a rut in this area either," she cautioned.

Noting today's complex culture, Mrs. O'Chester said, "After a man had been out plow-

ing behind his mule all day, his wife looked pretty good to him. Today, however, a man sees beautiful women in the work world, and then comes home to someone who perhaps has not taken care of herself.

"Sometimes a man's self-esteem is wrapped up in his wife," she said. "A man wants an attractive wife. Do the best you can with what you have. Accentuate the positive and, if you can't eliminate the negative, cover it up."

Mrs. O'Chester said a man needs love and esteem from his wife. "Choose to do things that show love. Spoil your husband, and not your children. Don't try to control your husband. He doesn't need another mother."

O'Chester, who has been pastor at Great Hills 23 years, said the road to immorality involves a four-step process.

First, he said, is a reasoning process which begins in the mind. "When you begin to fantasize in your mind, it's the beginning of an affair. You are the only person who can filter your mind. The only sin God tells you to run from is sexual sin."

The reasoning process leads to a relief process or emotional attachment, he said. "Next reality sets in and what was in your mind and emotions moves to the flesh. And finally comes rationalization. Intercourse is always marred by guilt. We rationalize by saying, 'We are only human.'

"It's true, we are only human, but we're also spiritual. We don't have enough Christian leaders standing up today and saying sexual immorality among Christians is not trivial — it is devastating." □

Fatherless society will pay

By Art Toalston
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — What accounts for society's 14-year-old boys with guns and 14-year-old girls with babies?

"An increasingly fatherless society," said David Blankenhorn.

The founder-president of the New York City-based Institute for American Values warned of "a massive separation — historically unprecedented — of men from their offspring that is cutting across the entire society."

Fatherlessness will exact a terrible toll on American society, noted Blankenhorn, a native of Jackson, Miss., who spoke on "The State of Fatherhood in America" during a March 14-15 ethics conference in Nashville sponsored by the Baptist "moderate" organization Baptist Center for Ethics. Blankenhorn essays on family issues have appeared in *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, and other national periodicals.

"Thirty-six percent of all children will go to bed (tonight) in homes where their fathers don't live," Blankenhorn said. More than half of America's children will spend a significant part of childhood apart from their fathers, he added.

Fatherlessness is becoming as common for America's children as a home with a father, he said. Society is depicting fatherhood as less and less necessary, he said.

But the truth is, "The father's contribution to his child is unique and irreplaceable," Blankenhorn said.

"Fathers are not assistant mothers," he said, nor are they simply a source of financial support.

From the moment of birth, a father's relationship to a child is different than a mother's. The father tends to be playful and to encourage a child to new challenges while the mother tends to provide soothing comfort attuned to a child's emotional needs.

"The child very much needs both," Blankenhorn said. But especially with the father, he is "the first 'other' for the child," a kind of "gateway to the world."

"When you don't have it, you get some big social problems," Blankenhorn said, such as 14-year-old boys with guns and 14-year-old girls with babies.

"The most important predictor of criminal activity among young males ... is whether or

not these boys have fathers," a cause that "overwhelms all other factors," Blankenhorn said.

And with pregnant teen-age girls, the underlying problems "relate more closely to the absence of a father" than economics or other factors, Blankenhorn said.

The problem "is across the board" in society, not just a problem of the poor — and not one that can be remedied simply by reforming the welfare system to give economic incentives for two-parent homes, Blankenhorn said. A third of all children are born outside marriage, Blankenhorn said.

Among divorced men, only about 10 percent cooperate with their former wives in regular visitation and other ways to meet the children's needs, Blankenhorn continued.

A father's abandonment by choice is far different than a father's death, Blankenhorn said. Instead of experiencing

grief, the child experiences anxiety and self-blame.

Meanwhile, the church is "abandoning and leaving to others the task of socializing men into the role of fatherhood," Blankenhorn said.

Said Don Garner, chairman of the religion department at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, "Our culture rewards and produces economic providers," he said, suggesting the church should strive to develop "emotional providers," fathers who are not so intent on "real income," but "real relationships."

Garner reminded, "There are absentee fathers in two-parent families, physically present ... (but) absent emotionally."

Ray Higgins, assistant professor of ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, said churches should provide a "network of relationships for families." He also gave models for fatherhood (see below). □

Ten models for fatherhood

Ray Higgins, assistant professor of ethics, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, suggests the following models, noting not all men act out each role and some men might act them out in harmful ways. (See story above.)

1) **father as friend**, "fathers who will accept (their children) as they are, fathers who enjoy being with them." Without this relationship, children are unable to conceive of God as a friendly parent. Higgins warned, however, being too much of a "pal" or "buddy" can become an "unfair burden" for their children.

2) **father as coach**, teaching children "how to compete and to cooperate," but avoiding any sort of "winner-loser" emphasis.

3) **father as protector**, helping children anticipate dangers. Without such protection, children might go through life without a sense of a loving God, Higgins said. If, on the other hand, a parent is overprotective, his children may become too dependent, unable to take risks.

4) **father as disciplinarian**. "Children need boundaries. They are not wise enough to set all of the rules on their own," Higgins said. Two extremes should be avoided, he said: dumping all the discipline on mothers and relating to children only as a disciplinarian. Nor should fathers be too lenient, Higgins said, because children may grow up not knowing how to set boundaries and keep themselves out of trouble. Also, they may become angry if they later try, unsuccessfully, to begin using rules.

5) **father as teacher**. "The most powerful way fathers teach their children is through who we are," Higgins said.

6) **father as caregiver**. "Children need nurturing" and it shouldn't be seen as anti-masculine, he said.

7) **father as provider**. Higgins cited the apostle Paul's admonition for fathers to work to support their families, but added, "Many fathers have been too narrow ... bringing home the bacon but not bringing up the kids."

8) **father as male**. "Our children mean something different when they say Dad than when they say Mom and they need both," Higgins said.

9) **father as leader**. A passive father, he said, fails to help children learn how to take risks and make commitments. An authoritarian father, however, shows children how to misuse power for selfish reasons, he said.

10) **father as Christian**. "Children are spiritual beings created in the image of God," Higgins said. Fathers shouldn't try "to make our children become Christians on our timetable" or in a certain way, yet neither should they be uninvolved. □

Single parents are fastest growing population segment

By Terri Lackey
Baptist Press

GULF SHORES, Ala. — Single parents are the fastest-growing population segment in America today, and churches that aren't ministering to them are "missing the bus," an official with the Missouri Baptist Convention said.

"About 50 percent of American adults are single, and a high percentage of those are parents," said John Sisson, who works in discipleship and family ministry for the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Sisson said statistics show anywhere from one in four to one in seven of today's unmarried single adults are parents.

Sisson led classes at two separate events for leaders and ministers of single adults, recently in Gulf Shores, Ala. Conferences for the National Single Adult Leadership Convention and the Southern Baptist Association of Ministers to Single Adults were sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board and co-planned with a network of Southern Baptist single adult ministers.

"In 1990, 27 percent of all children lived with only one parent, and 50 to 60 percent of all children spend some portion of their childhood in single-parent homes," Sisson said. "Thirty percent will have had two to three different living arrangements by the time they are 18."

These statistics verify the fact that churches need to be dealing with this specialized population, Sisson said.

"Single-adult families are our neighbors, our friends, our co-workers," he said. "Folks, they is us. And I think the church is still missing the bus with this population."

Sisson said churches should consider beginning a single-parent ministry because it is a biblical mission (Luke 4:17), because of the biblical model (Genesis 21:17-21; I Kings 17:7-24), and the biblical mandate (Matthew 2:18-19).

Sisson listed several ideas for churches wanting to begin a single-adult ministry.

■ **Successful models for single-parent family ministry are built around well organized Sunday morning Bible studies, complimented**

by needs-focused throughout-the-week programs.

■ **The ministry will vary with the size of church, the community demographics, and the availability of resources.**

■ **Start where you are with who you have and trust God to build it from there.** "Indicate to single-adult parents you care," Sisson said. "It only takes two people to start a support group ..."

■ **Utilize existing in-reach and outreach programs.**

■ **Focus on life relevant Bible teaching with sensitive leadership.**

■ **Recognize that single-parent ministry must be family ministry.**

■ **Make sure children's program leaders are aware of the unique needs of single-parent children.** "Avoid negative terminology such as broken homes," he said. "Church leaders should also be aware that the custodial parent doesn't have the child every Sunday," Sisson said. "They should avoid placing the child at a disadvantage such as rewards for attendance."

■ **Find ways to facilitate same-gender role models.**

■ **Examine the financial ramifications of your programs.** "Some reasons your single parents aren't involved is because of the price tags."

■ **Recognize that single parents do not come in "one-size-fits-all."**

■ **Lay off the guilt trips when attendance is sporadic or nonexistent.** "Single parents are already strapped for time."

■ **Watch the days you schedule events.** "Steer clear of Sunday nights because it could conflict with the custodial parents rights."

■ **Involve single parents in outreach and leadership.** "You get more involvement when people have ownership. You can build confidence, excitement and self-image."

■ **Develop a needs-based ministry.** "Survey needs and meet them."

■ **Think holistic.** "There are lots of support groups in our society, but the church is the only institution that can meet their spiritual needs, too," Sisson said. □

Chinese gather in Johnson City

JOHNSON CITY — Lee Ray Robertson describes his ministry with Chinese students as just helping them.

That leads him to dealing with used cars, broken sinks, and applying for telephone service.

In China, he explained, most people don't have cars or telephones, so the desire for them is understandable. And household repairs even stump Americans, he added.

Robertson is one of the leaders of the Chinese ministry at Central Church, Johnson City. He explained Chinese students study at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, which has had an exchange program with North Beijing University. Others study at

King College in Bristol. Chinese residents also are drawn to the area to work at Tennessee Eastman Corporation in Kingsport, and Green Valley Hospital, Greeneville, he noted.

Seven years ago about 10 members of Central Church, Johnson City, started a ministry to Chinese which became Tri-Cities Chinese Christian Fellowship.

Chinese Christians have become leaders of the ministry, Robertson reported, which draws about 70 each week. Lidia Kao, a physician who practices in Kingsport and a member of Central Church, teaches new Chinese Christians on Friday evening. Her husband, Race Kao, leads activities which are held twice a

month on Saturdays. He is a research physician at ETSU.

Other teachers are Steve Wu, a member of Colonial Heights Church, Kingsport, and a researcher at Eastman, and Ping Shao, a psychiatrist at Green Valley Hospital and a member of Towering Oak Church in Greeneville.

Tennyson Chen teaches Bible study on Sunday. He is a computer scientist in Erwin.

Chen is one of the students Robertson has met at the airport on their arrival in Tennessee. He learns about arriving students from their friends, he explained.

Robertson and his wife, Adah, are glad to help the internationals, he said.

They and the other volunteers might spend as few as a couple of hours a week involved in the ministry. They help the internationals read the newspaper, buy groceries, and do business at the post office and bank, he said.

Twenty-three have become Christians because of the ministry, he noted. Tennyson Chen was one of those.

"We encourage other churches to get involved with international students," said Robertson. □ — Connie Davis

Knox County Baptists begin building project for Baptist Center

When the Montgomery Village Baptist Center was begun in south Knoxville six years ago by Knox County Baptist Association, the center was open two days a week and was run by volunteers.

Today a staff helps 125 adults, youth, and children a week who can come five days a week for clothes, Bible study, and other activities.

Richard Lewelling, Southern Baptist home missionary who has directed the center for six years, reports the ministry has outgrown its facility, a one-and-a-half story frame house.

The potential for ministry in the area is great, he noted. The Montgomery Village housing project has a capacity for 2,100 residents and the community has many needs.

To meet those needs the association has hired two part-time workers to assist Lewelling. About 15 other volunteers work there also. During the summer, when children are out of school, they are joined by a summer missionary to help lead additional activities.

Now Knox County Association churches want to provide a bigger facility for the center. Last year Bobby Turner, former chairman of the program and budget committee of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, agreed to

serve as chairman of "Churches and Community Together Building Hope," a fund-raising effort for a new facility.

Knox County Baptists have given \$120,000 of the needed \$300,000 for materials to build a new center. Plans are on schedule to begin construction in May, reported Walter Taylor, director of missions, Knox County.

Now Knox County Baptists need the help of other Baptists, he added. The center will be built by volunteers.

The greatest need is for skilled block and brick masons, said Taylor. That work will take place from mid-June through July. The project is scheduled for completion in September of this year.

The construction volunteers will join Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, and other individuals who are buying blocks and bricks with their gifts of money, reported Taylor.

Builders will work under the direction of Charles E. Guthrey, retired architect, and Mission Service Corps volunteer who will be providing services through his firm, Community Tectonics of Knoxville. Guthrey and his wife, Hazel, have led church building projects the last three summers in Florida, Georgia, and Colorado. He also has served as a consultant to the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga.

Volunteers should contact Knox County Association, Walter Taylor, P.O. Box 11028, Knoxville, Tenn. 37939-1028, (615) 693-9097. □



LEWELLING



CHINESE ADULTS ATTEND A BIBLE study at Central Church, Johnson City, just one of the activities of the Tri-Cities Chinese Christian Fellowship of the church.

Carson-Newman's McDougal to retire

For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — She has sat with students in those silent moments too difficult for words to express. She has asked the questions to guide them. She has prayed with them and for them.

Counseling students is one of the jobs Barbara McDougal, Carson-Newman College vice president for student development, will miss when she retires in May, she said.

Known by faculty and students as "Dr. Babs," she holds the distinction of being the first female vice president of the college.

McDougal, a member of First Church, Jefferson City, is a native of Waterville where she attended a one-room schoolhouse.

When she and her sister finished high school, her father moved the family from Alabama to Jefferson City so his daughters could attend Carson-Newman College.

While studying home economics at Carson-Newman, McDougal participated in the centennial anniversary of the college in 1951. She fondly re-

calls the pageantry of the occasion.

She began teaching home economics at her alma-mater after gaining several years of teaching experience in a public school and at the University of Georgia. While leading students at Carson-Newman, McDougal earned a master's degree in home economics and a doctor's degree in education from the University of Tennessee — Knoxville.

In 1980 she added administrative duties to teaching when she was named assistant dean of students. McDougal was named a vice president in 1989. She had taught at Carson-Newman for 32 years.

As director of student development she coordinates student activities, residence life, counseling, campus ministries, campus security, the Wellness Center, and summer programs.

She is especially proud of the completion last year of the school's Student Activities Center.

She said her work "has strengthened my faith in God. I have seen Him give peace to families. I have seen students



MC DOUGAL

learn from these experiences and come to understand that life is a vapor — that if they are going to do anything of importance with their lives that they had better get started.

"I have been so fortunate that the doors have opened for me," she commented. She also credits her achievements to the support of her family.

After retirement McDougal plans to continue freelance writing. She has had numerous articles published, especially in Southern Baptist publications like *Home Life* and *Christian Single*. □

Bob Brian, Jackson minister, dies

Bob Brian, 50, minister of music/golden agers, West Jackson Church, Jackson, died suddenly March 13 during a youth choir practice session at the church.

Services were held March 16 at the Jackson church. Jerry Tidwell, pastor; Bill Northcott, a former minister; and Paul Clark Sr., retired pastor, Calvary Church, Jackson; led the service. Sixty-one members of the Tennessee Baptist Chorale, of which Brian was a member, led the music.

Brian, who had served the church for 14 years, also had been minister of music for First Church, Maryville, First Church, Rockwood, and in churches in Louisiana. His

work in churches spanned 31 years.

He was a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention committee on boards, president of the Tennessee Baptist Church Music Conference in 1983-84, and pastor for TBC music camps. He also taught at Union University, Jackson.

Brian was a graduate of Louisiana College, Pineville, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Lee Brian, and three children, Erin, Paul, and Phillip.

Memorials may be sent to West Jackson Church Building Memorial Fund, 259 Deaderick, Jackson 38301. □

Ridgways adopt four homes in one year

The dateline on this story could be *Morristown, Richmond, Louisville — or even Sofia, Bulgaria*. These are the places the Paul Ridgway family will have called home within a year's time. The editor caught up with them last fall when they made a brief trip home to Morristown from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Since that time, they have hosted Judy Ridgway's parents' 50th anniversary, returned to Southern to complete classroom work, been commissioned by the Foreign Mission Board, and begun orientation for missions service in Bulgaria. Here is a firsthand report from the Ridgways. — Editor

By Paul and Judy Ridgway
For Baptist and Reflector

RICHMOND — After our move to Louisville to prepare for foreign mission service last year, our youngest son Anthony asked, "Will we go back to America soon?" For a five-year-old, from Morristown to the seminary campus was a long journey. It was for us too. Andrew, 11, and Zachary, 9, probably felt the same tugging toward familiar places.

After 18 years at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, where Paul had taught piano, we had left the familiar and entered the world of the unfamiliar. Anthony thought we had already made the "big move" to Bulgaria where we will serve as Southern Baptist missionaries. We will do that soon enough! The boys will be the first MKs (missionary kids)

in Bulgaria, and they share our excitement in being missionaries.

In many ways we had indeed made the big move. We had made firm our commitment to the Lord by breaking many ties that could bind us to comforts of the familiar. When we complete our journey, Paul will be promoting music in the churches, and both of us will be involved in outreach ministries.

So what could drag a piano professor from his studio, a homemaker from her home, and three lively boys from friends and activities halfway around the world to an economically depressed Eastern European country? Nothing ordinary could do that, only an overwhelming, undeniable sense that God was calling us out from where we were into another place of service.

We sensed this call first as our whole family experienced a time of spiritual renewal and awakening to our need for God's presence and leadership in our daily lives. Through much prayer and some extraordinary circumstances we felt called in the direction of foreign missions and contacted the Foreign Mission Board to begin the application process in late 1992.

Of course we experienced mixed reactions when we shared this with family and friends. After the initial shock, most have been extremely positive and supportive. Randy Davis, our pastor at First Church, Morristown, has been a great friend and encourager along the way.

The church family affirmed us over and over again. Finally we were approved for appointment and commissioned in Richmond later.

Though Paul has a DMA in music and Judy a M.S. in education, the Foreign Mission Board still requires 20 hours of seminary training. That's why we ventured out to Louisville, studied, graduated, and completed work there in January. Orientation at the FMB's Rockville, Va., center has begun. We hope to be in Bulgaria in May.

God's preparation for us continues to astonish us. At seminary, he placed us two blocks from a Bulgarian family, Parush and Nikolina Parush, who came to Southern to study. We found out that they were the only Bulgarians in a seminary in the United States. They are from the very church where most of our time will be spent — the Sofia Baptist Church!

Also, Parush will be involved in the leadership of the Bulgarian Bible School where Paul will establish classes for the training of church musicians.

Our contact with this dear family provided us with early language training and the opportunity to learn more about the Bulgarian people and their needs. Less than 1 percent of the 9 million people there are evangelical Christians. About 2,000 are Baptists, double what it was before the arrival in 1991 of missionaries Bill and June Wardlaw.

There are about 30 congre-

gations in the country and only four church buildings. Half the churches have pastors, men who have had little opportunity for training. The Bulgarian Baptist Union has received the promise of land and permission from the government to build an orphanage to house 400 children. With it will be built the Bible School, church facilities, and an editorial house.

This will be the only Protestant school in Bulgaria. The editorial house will provide for the development and translation of books and literature for the churches and general society.

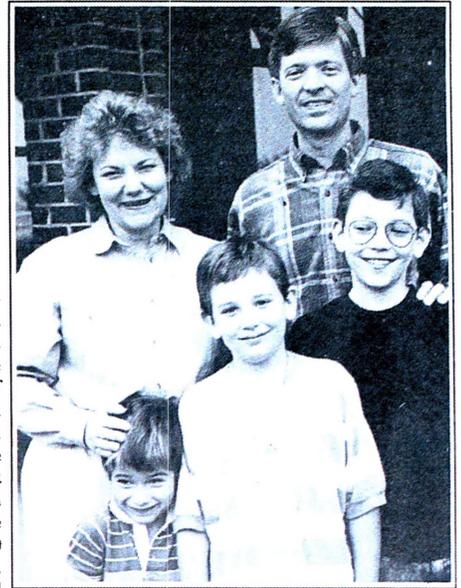
The possession of a Bible or other religious materials was illegal under the old Communist government and the Bulgarians are working hard to get much-needed materials into the hands of a hungry people who are searching for truth.

The present government seems to be tightening control

on religious activity. There may be legal efforts to prohibit Baptists and others (some cultic groups) from providing religious education for children.

There is some resistance to long term visas. We will go with a 30-day visa, praying to upgrade to 90 days, and then to a year's visa. Pray with us about the visa situation, the Bible printing, and the construction.

You can see that we have journeyed far — but the longest trip in faith and geography is yet to come. We are eager to continue our adventure! □



THE RIDGWAYS— Judy, Paul, and sons, from left, Anthony, Zachary, and Andrew.

WMU members honor leader, future leaders

By Susan Doyle
For Baptist and Reflector

CLEVELAND — Woman's Missionary Union members at North Cleveland Church and others in the Bradley Baptist Association are honoring the memory of a leader and changing lives in the process.

The women accepted a statewide challenge for 1,000 women to give \$100 each to the Second Century Fund, a permanent endowment which was created by Southern Baptist WMU during its centennial year in 1988 as a gift to future generations of women in missions.

The North Cleveland women kicked off their offering to the Second Century Fund on the same day they celebrated Baptist Women's Day, an annual observance for the church.

They chose to give their gifts to honor the memory of Pauline Townsend, a long-time church member and WMU leader who died in 1992 at the age of 81.

Townsend was known as "Miss WMU" to fellow church members and to friends throughout Bradley association.

"Her first love was missions," said Nancy Paul, her daughter. Townsend was active in WMU in her church and association, holding most every office in the organization. She also attended state WMU meetings and the national WMU Centennial Celebration in Richmond, Va., in 1988.

Even houseguests during Paul's growing-up years were representative of her mother's love for missions. Memories of missionary speakers and WMU leaders are still vivid for Paul.

"Mother always wanted to be on the mission field," Paul said.

Townsend and her husband had planned to do volunteer missions work, but he died before their dream was realized.

"Pauline Townsend may not have been able to personally go to work with a missionary as a missions volunteer,

but through her influence, missions work will be multiplied," said Mary Helen Dixon, national WMU development specialist.

"Through contributions to the Second Century Fund, the efforts of our WMU leaders in new work areas and missionaries at home and abroad are strengthened."

All contributions to the Second Century Fund are invested permanently. The interest earned on the principal is given each year in grants to develop women's missions work in the U.S. and abroad and to foster education about missions and WMU among Southern Baptist seminary students and faculty. Since the fund was established, more than \$364,000 in grants have been awarded.

Recent grants have allowed Baptists in Indonesia to publish missions education materials for young girls.

"For the first time, they have been able to start GAs in Indonesia," Dixon said. Girls in Action is the WMU-spon-

sored missions organization for girls in grades one through six.

"The Second Century Fund allows missionaries to dream bigger than they've ever dreamed before," Dixon said. "So many of them have so many things they want to do, and the money just isn't available. They are able to apply for grants from the Second Century Fund to help them realize those dreams." □

Medical volunteers needed urgently April 9-18

A health care team which will work in Chile April 9-18 needs an eye doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

The team, led by Dewey Dunn, Nashville physician, will serve in Puerto Montt, Chile, to support the Tennessee/Chile Baptist Partnership.

Contact Jarvis Hearn, partnership mission office, (615) 371-2028. □

TSSAA withdraws 'death penalty' from HCBA athletics

For Baptist and Reflector

SEYMOUR — The Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) has lifted the "death penalty" against The King's Academy (Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy) football and basketball programs, following an appeal hearing March 9 in Hermitage, according to a statement released by Walter Grubb, interim headmaster of the academy.

Academy officials made the appeal following an earlier TSSAA decision to assess the academy a \$750 fine, suspend the basketball and football programs for the 1994-95 school year, and to suspend all other sports from post-season play for 12 months.

The penalties were levied against the academy for alleged recruitment of middle school-aged football players from Pigeon Forge and the failure to comply with financial

aid procedures for a Bosnian student who played basketball for the school.

In the decision following the appeal, TSSAA Executive Director Ronnie Carter sustained the \$750 fine and extended the school's probation through the

1995-96 school year.

Grubb said, "We could not be more pleased with the decision. We are happy to get back our sports programs which are so vital to the life of our school. We believe we received a fair hearing."

The academy's attorney, Dwight Stokes of Sevierville, who is an alumnus of the school, also was pleased with the results. "Ronnie Carter and the board of control members were fair and open during our hearing." □

SBC 'impacted' by outside funds

Associated Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — An Executive Committee study on "the impact" of funds coming to the Southern Baptist Convention agencies through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is unnecessary, a CBF spokesman said.

"I think the 'impact' is rather evident," said David Wilkinson, communications coordinator for the Atlanta-based alternative missions organization for Baptists dissatisfied with the SBC's "conservative" leadership.

"Over the past three years the Fellowship had forwarded more than \$8,773,000 to the work of the agencies and institutions of the Southern Baptist Convention."

The study was ordered at the Executive Committee's Feb. 21-22 meeting in Nashville. It will include a recommendation regarding "the acceptance or rejection" of Fellowship funds by SBC entities and is to be reported to the Executive Committee's business and finance subcommittee at a June 13 meeting in Orlando, Fla., prior to the annual SBC meeting.

Wilkinson acknowledged that while it is the Executive Committee's "prerogative" to study funds earmarked for the SBC through the Fellowship, "I doubt that a study is neces-

sary to conclude that the missionaries and the seminary professors and the others whose work is funded in part by these contributions would have a hard time distinguishing between dollars routed through Nashville and dollars routed through Atlanta."

One SBC executive is on record to that effect. Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis told Baptist state paper editors last month that refusing Fellowship money would be an "insult" to individual Baptists who choose to support SBC work in a non-traditional manner.

Lewis told editors he planned to meet with administrators of the SBC Foreign Mission Board and the Executive Committee to discuss how to handle CBF funds. Asked about that meeting, Lewis said "it was a good dialogue time" but that the leaders did not "come to any specific conclusions." □

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To be considered for appointment, candidates should submit a letter of application, a current vita, and a list of five references by April 8 to:

Dr. David A. Midkiff, Search Committee, Vice President for Student Affairs
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TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the leaders

■ **Larry Brant** will begin serving First Church, Camden, as minister of music and youth, effective April 10.

■ **Sidonia Church, Sharon**, has called **Bob Guetterman** as pastor, effective March 13. **Bill Knight** served as interim pastor.

■ **Edmond Long**, interim pastor, Westview Church, Chattanooga, has been called as pastor. Long has led churches in Georgia and Florida. He also was a trustee for Georgia Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministry. Long is a graduate of Valdosta (Ga.) State College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **Mount Hermon Church, Savannah**, has called **Greg Wolfe** as minister of youth.

■ **Gerry Gallimore**, pastor, Hodge's Chapel Church, Palmersville, was surprised recently with a special service honoring his 20th year in the ministry.

■ **First Church, Greenfield**, has called **Lee Brown** as youth director.

■ **Pine Ridge Church, Benton**, has called **Floyd Boggess** as pastor.

■ **John Newman** was

called Feb. 20 as pastor of Hiwassee Union Church, Re-lia-see.

■ **Bryan Watson** has been called as youth minister of Sharon Church, Knoxville.

■ **Valley Grove Church, Knoxville**, has called **Tim Alexander** as minister of education and outreach and **Thad "Chip" Bevis** as minister of youth.

■ **Charles Jay Robinson** began serving as minister of education/youth and children at Whitehaven Church, Memphis, March 10.

■ missions

■ **Chris Campbell**, pastor, First Church, Trimble, participated in an eight-day mission trip to Nigeria involving 33 other Southern Baptist pastors. The effort, organized by an evangelistic organization, resulted in a total of 33,800 Nigerians making professions of faith. Campbell saw 3,921 make those decisions during four meetings in Benin City. He also spoke in local high schools, where 2,630 made spiritual decisions.

■ **Lucy Church, Millington**, dedicated six volunteers March 6 who are serving March 11-26 in Argentina, helping former members Gene and Melanie Vincent, Southern Baptist missionaries. Volunteers are Joe Hendren, Scott Hendren, Robert Huber, Keith Tucker, Virgil Whitlock, and

Wayne Vincent. They are doing construction work in Concepcion del Uruguay.

■ the churches

■ **Second Church, Union City**, held a revival which resulted in 13 professions of faith and over 50 decisions. Harold Hunter, Nashville, led it.

■ **East Athens Church, Athens**, voted Feb. 20 to build a multi-purpose building. It has raised \$78,000 and received \$118,000 in pledges for the building.

■ **Concord Church, Chattanooga**, dedicated its new children's building March 6.

■ An April 22-24 youth revival at **Lakeview Church, Selmer**, will be led by Vance Pittman of First Church, Muscle Shoals, Ala.

■ **Prosperity Church, Auburtnow**, will hold a revival April 3-7. Mike Bond will be the speaker.

■ **Lucy Church, Millington**, will hold revival April 24-29. It will be led by Bill Oakley, pastor, Frayser Church, Memphis.

■ **First Church, White Pine**, will hold revival April 17-20. Phil Glisson, evangelist based at Leewood Church, Memphis, will lead it.

■ **Two Rivers Church, Nashville**, is holding an Authentic Faith Leadership Conference April 28-29. Jerry Fal-

well, pastor, Thomas Road Church, Lynchburg, Va., and Ronnie Floyd, pastor, First Church, Springdale, Ark., will speak. The conference is in conjunction with David Ring Ministries' Touch of God conference held each evening April 27-29. Registration is \$65 and \$55 for each additional church member.

■ **Range Hills Church, Memphis**, will hold revival April 24-29. Roger Haney, First Church, Stillwell, Okla., will speak and Mark Ham, Summer Avenue Church, Memphis, will lead the music.

■ **Valley Grove Church, Knoxville**, has established the O. Gay Harris Scholarship Endowment at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City. Gifts given, designated for ministerial students, total \$15,000.

■ **Hillcrest Church, Lebanon**, will hold revival March 27-30. Harold Hunter, Nashville evangelist, will lead it.

■ the associations

■ **Cumberland Gap Association** will hold a Tri-State Crusade for Christ at Tex Turner Arena in Harrogate March 27-31. Evangelist Jay Strack will lead it.

■ **Campbell County Association** held its Evangelism Conference March 7. Bill Wilson of the Tennessee Baptist Convention spoke. David Scott and the Men's Victory Quartet

from First Church, Jacksboro, led the music.

■ **Shelby Baptist Association** held its fourth annual Children's Bible Drill Round-Up which drew 565 children and their leaders to three different churches. Germantown Church, Germantown; Bellevue Church, Cordova; and Southland Church, Memphis; held the events. They were directed by Harriet Maynard and David Sparrow, director of education of the association.

■ the schools

■ **Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City**, has received an annual grant of \$44,000 from the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation for scholarship aid. The gift is \$4,000 more than last year. The founder, who had ties to the Coca-Cola Company, designated the funds for female students.

■ **Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour**, will hold the final session of the 1993-94 Preachers School March 26 - May 14 on Saturday mornings. The course, "The Psalms," will be taught by Ted Huckaby, a retired pastor. The cost for qualified ministerial students is for textbooks. For more information, contact (615) 573-8321.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Trust in government or 'True Love Waits'?

Ernest James, pastor
First Church, Bolivar

An elderly woman was standing on a busy street corner confused and hesitant to cross because of the heavy traffic. Finally a gentleman came up to her and asked if he could accompany her across the street.

Gratefully she took his arm, but grew progressively alarmed as he zigzagged randomly across the street as horns blared and tires screeched. When they finally reached the opposite curb, she said angrily: "You almost got us killed! You walk like you're blind." He replied, "I am. That's why I asked if I could cross with you."

When we place ourselves in the care of others we need to make sure they know what they are doing. Our government has assumed the role of provider when it comes to sex education and sexual disease prevention.

Yet when one listens to those in-

volved clinically with AIDS, their advice contradicts that which the government promotes. It is amazing to me they could ignore the advice of Dr. Susan Weller of the University of Texas Medical Branch.

From an analysis of 11 independent HIV transmission studies, she concluded, "When it comes to the sexual transmission of HIV, the only real prevention is not to have sex with someone who has or might have HIV."

Another study of married couples in which one partner was infected with HIV found that 17 percent of the partners using condoms for protection still caught the virus within a year and a half.

It's also amazing that the government never mentions that more women will die from genital cancers associated with the human papilloma virus and from strains of gonorrhea that are resistant to penicillin than those who die from AIDS.

Rather than trust a government which promotes its own social agenda rather than save lives, we as Christians need to spread the truth about

the need for sexual abstinence and moral purity.

The "True Love Waits" Campaign is the opportunity for Christian youth and their parents to take a stand, make a statement, and lead out concerning these critical issues. □

You are the light of the world

Michael Lester, pastor
North Etowah Church, Etowah

A popular and fast growing motel chain promises, "We'll leave the light on for you." The image this advertising conveys, of course, is one of thoughtfulness or care. It is rather appealing, isn't it?

Leaving the light on may seem trivial but it's small gestures such as this that often speak louder than billboards along the interstate. At least one motel chain is gambling on the idea that travelers want and need kindness, care, and thoughtfulness more than expensive amenities.

Perhaps there is a message here for churches today. Many churches are feverishly competing for prospective members by attempting to offer everything that anyone might want in a church.

Such a goal is frustrating and impossible to reach. Can we always be what people want? In spreading ourselves too thin we risk the danger of failing to be what people need. And people need a church which really cares.

We demonstrate care when we are faithful in church attendance, regular in our giving, positive in our witness, and more concerned with others than ourselves.

Let's be the kind of church which "leaves the light on." □

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.

'End times' focus of 1994 Baptist doctrine study

By Terri Lackey
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — That Christ will physically return to earth someday is one fact about the end of the world Bill Stephens is sure of.

From that point on, though, multiple theories about the second coming exist, said the author of the 1994 Baptist doctrine study book, *The Bible Speaks to End Times*. Baptist Doctrine Study Week, an annual emphasis, is scheduled for April 18-22 on the Southern Baptist Convention calendar.

"Southern Baptists have never made belief in a particular view of Christ's return a test of faith," Stephens writes in the introduction to his book. "We have insisted that one must believe in the literal, bodily return of Christ ..., but a variety of views about how he will return has been common among us."

While some Christians do relate the high crime rate and recent natural disasters to a sign Jesus' return is imminent, Stephens, an author, teacher, and speaker, does not make that correlation.

"I don't like trying to relate things now to end times. What's happening in the world today could be a foreshadow of end times, but this game has been played out throughout Christian history, and I think it's dangerous to look for too many signs."

The point of studying the doctrine of end times is not to determine exactly how the world is going to end, but to discover one's ministry in society, Stephens said.

"The doctrine of end times has to do with what God intends this world to be," he said.

"If, through studying end times, I get an idea of what God is working toward, I will have an influence," Stephens said.

"As a Christian, I can contribute to making this world what God wants it to be."

That, he says, is a world without anger or war — "just full of love and compassion."

Stephens noted "it took me a lot of years to come to a firm opinion of what I think the Bible teaches about end times, and it's been a growing kind of thing. Early in my ministry I didn't focus on this doctrine as a way to make a ministerial decision. Only after I came to the Sunday School Board did the significance of this doctrine become compelling to me. My work as editor became more focused toward what God is trying to do in this world."

Stephens, who retired in 1992 from the board, said he continues to contribute a spiritual influence through his writing.

Stephens' interest in the doctrine of end times has seemingly come full circle. He said that

while in college he worked as a carpet layer with an independent Baptist preacher.

"This preacher told me a lot of things about the end of the world that I knew I needed to research. So I made a decision then to give myself a thorough education in it, but not until later in my study at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary when I would have a more solid doctrinal base."

Now, the handiness with tools that allowed Stephens to get a job laying carpet is yielding a country house where he will write novels, his first love, and use his ministry "to contribute to making this world what God wants it to be."

Baptist doctrine study is sponsored by the BSSB discipleship and family development division. □

Miller to speak to Nashville ministers

Calvin Miller, professor of communications and ministry studies and writer-in-residence at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, will speak at Belmont University, Nashville, this week.

Miller, a noted author and conference leader, is a former Nebraska Baptist pastor. He is scheduled to speak to Belmont students on March 23-24.

On March 24 Miller is the guest speaker at the Middle Tennessee Ministers' Association meeting. The ministers' meeting takes place at 10:45 in the Belmont University Boardroom. □

Migrant workshop set for Morristown

A workshop for people involved in ministry to migrants will be held April 22-23 at Calvary Church in Morristown.

The event begins April 22, at 6 p.m. with a missions rally, followed by a testimony by Miguel de La Cruz, a migrant consultant with the Florida Baptist Convention, and conferences.

Other speakers include Ray

Gilder, TBC Missions Department; Beverly Smothers, director of CCM, Holston Association; Carol Webb, Rocky Hill Church, Knoxville; and Gail Fox, director of day care, Manley Church, Morristown.

The program adjourns at noon the next day.

Registration forms should be sent to James Williams, director of missions, Nolachucky

Association, P.O. Box 326, Morristown, Tenn., 37815-0326 or for more information, call Williams at (615) 586-7331. □



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Boomers, busters contradict norms of ministry

By Terri Lackey
Baptist Press

GULF SHORES, Ala. — Single adult leaders who fail to realize the cultural differences of the boomer and buster generations will soon be staring at empty classrooms, a church leader said.

Baby boomers (born 1946-64) and baby busters (born 1964-83) have distinct philosophies of life, and churches planning to reach them had better account for the differences, according to Ron Proctor, minister to single adults at First Church, Euless, Texas.

Proctor led classes at two separate events for leaders and ministers of single adults Feb. 18-23 in Gulf Shores, Ala. Conferences for the National Single Adult Leadership Convention and the Southern Baptist Association of Ministers to Single Adults was sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board and co-planned with a network of Southern Baptist single adult ministers.

Baby boomers and busters "are two groups of people who are creating incredible havoc in our churches today," Proctor said.

For starters, boomers are materially oriented and busters are after meaning in life, Proctor said.

"For busters, meaning is more important than materialism," Proctor said. "That's an incredible opportunity for the Gospel in terms of the way we package it.

"Busters want to make a difference. But it's hard to get them committed to just anything. They will commit or volunteer for some things if the experience has meaning," Proctor said.

Boomers, on the other hand, are activity conscious, Proctor said. They always have to be doing something, but it doesn't necessarily have to be chocked full of meaning.

"Boomers are narcissistic. They do what benefits

them," he said.

As an example, Proctor gave an account of a recent benevolent visit his singles group made to a nursing home. Eighty-five percent of the nearly 60 people who went were busters, he said.

Boomers are not as interested in that type of activity, he said.

Proctor said baby boomers hold a "situational ethics value system."

"Circumstances demand their behavior as opposed to truth. The situation controls their actions," he said, explaining how they might drive the speed limit until they were in a hurry or they might not tithe at church on a certain week because they needed to make a house payment instead.

Busters believe everything is relative, Proctor said. "They don't believe in absolute truths. Anything goes. They live in a society where everybody does what's right in their own minds."

For example, Proctor said busters have expanded the sexual revolution to include bisexual and

ethnic relationships.

"The hot word for busters today is bi-curious. Because of their relativism, they are very experimental. And if you don't see things like they do, they call you biased or prejudiced."

Proctor, a baby boomer, said he "believes society is in serious trouble" but added he thinks the buster generation can offer hope for the future.

"If any generation has a chance, it could be (busters) because they are looking for the real stuff. But we have to tap it properly because they are growing up with so much garbage."

Proctor said never let baby busters know you are counting their numbers on Sunday mornings.

"If they think they are there to grow numbers,

they're history. But if they think you are concerned about them as a person, they are intrigued. Why? Because no one has ever done that for them.

"Personal testimony is the most significant way to communicate to busters," he said. What Proctor said he sees as the key biblical solution for keeping boomers and busters in church is "making them disciples."

"I really believe the key is the discipleship ministry and making them disciples as well as helping them develop a value system," he said, adding one way to do that is to teach doctrine.

"Don't tell them that's what you're teaching them. Slide it in under the title of 'Is God big enough to handle your stuff?' while you're really teaching them the attributes of God."

He also relies on small group Bible study with busters leading busters and boomers leading boomers. Their differences are too significant to expect success if they are together, he said.

"Besides, if there is one thing all busters have in common, it's that they don't like boomers," Proctor said. □



Boomers —

- seek authentic leaders
- more committed to function than form, don't care how it works, but if.
- seek heroes to worship
- relationally dysfunctional, yet seek fulfilling relationships
- activity conscious
- struggle with self-esteem and self-confidence
- idealistic
- secular in mind-set
- somewhat institutional
- tend to be non-traditional
- impatient
- narcissistic
- consumer generation

Busters —

- view the world as busted — economically, relationally, spiritually, and sexually
- struggle with self-esteem and self-confidence
- without purpose or hope
- surrogate parent is TV
- feel world is out of control
- have high desires for personal fulfillment but low expectations for achieving it
- allow experiences to determine value system
- feel unwanted because of abortion activity
- neglected by parents
- pessimistic
- lack work ethic
- "microwave generation" — demanding and impatient
- value personal time
- apt to change careers every three years
- distant from parents because of unresolved conflict
- preoccupied with self-fulfillment such as recreation and time
- concerning religion and God, ask, Is it true or does it work?

©Ron Proctor. Used by permission.

BSSB hosts seminar to help churches prepare for legal issues

Baptist Press

Can churches be sued for the sexual misconduct of their ministers?

Are churches liable for injuries sustained by members and visitors on church property?

How does the Americans with Disabilities Act affect churches' hiring and firing practices?

These are only a few of the

questions to be addressed at the "Legal Issues in the Church" seminar April 25-28 at the Baptist Sunday School Board headquarters in Nashville.

"Churches are being sued and pastors and church leaders need to be aware of that," said Jim Ryan, church business administration consultant at the BSSB and coordinator of the seminar.

"This conference will offer the latest information on important legal issues, some practical ideas for avoiding lawsuits, and an opportunity for church leaders to get their legal questions answered."

A variety of topics will be addressed at the seminar, Ryan said, such as child abuse, sexual misconduct/harassment, employment law, hiring and firing practices, taxes,

childcare law, copyright law, and many other legal issues.

One of the key seminar leaders will be Richard Hamner of Matthews, N.C., editor of *Church Law and Tax Report*, a bimonthly publication which provides legal and tax information for thousands of denominational and church leaders across the United States.

Other seminar leaders will

include Julie Bloss, an attorney for the Southern Baptist Annuity Board; Jim Guenther, general counsel for the SBC Executive Committee; and Jim O'Dillon, minister of education and administration at Ooltewah Church, Ooltewah.

The cost of the seminar is \$67. For registration, call the BSSB church program training center at (615) 251-2294. □

Ministry offers awareness of Delta region's needs

By David Winfrey
For Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Southern Baptists must be willing to cross their comfort zones if they are to successfully minister along the Mississippi River, speakers said during a conference on missions in that region.

"It's nice to be a missionary on the mountains of Colorado during ski season, but it's not fun to be a missionary in the

Delta during mosquito season," said Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

During the meeting on the Mississippi River Ministry, March 11-12, at First Church, Jackson, Moore and others challenged Southern Baptists to overcome racism, poor working conditions, and other barriers.

More than 200 Southern Baptists attended the conference, which highlighted the

problems, resources, and possible solutions for ministering to and evangelizing residents along the Delta region. The Tennessee Baptist Convention's Missions Department was one of the sponsors.

More than 125 counties and parishes from Illinois to Louisiana have been targeted for ministry, particularly to the poor. A 1990 federal government study found what many describe as "Third-World" living conditions,

including: one third of the families live in substandard or dilapidated housing, almost half of the adults have not graduated from high school, and 15 counties and parishes have infant mortality rates worse than Chile and Cuba.

Despite such daunting statistics, Moore said Christians should not be satisfied with the possible. "God's not accustomed to asking us to do what we can do in our own ability. I believe God is ready to do

things through Baptists in these states that never have been done before.

Chris McNairy, pastor of Westhaven Church, Memphis, said the MRM effort may open some people's eyes. "Sometimes it may take going to another ministry area for a person to see what's in their own backyard," he said.

For more information about the MRM in Tennessee, call Ray Gilder, TBC Missions Department at (615) 371-2044. □

Clinical ethics training available in Nashville

NASHVILLE — The Center for Clinical Research Ethics and the Vanderbilt Divinity School will host the third annual "Clinical Ethics Training Program for Clergy" Aug. 8-12. The ethics training program provides an opportunity for pastors, chaplains, and other clergy to experience the hospital setting from a clinical ethics perspective.

According to Stuart Finder, program director, the purpose of the week is to assist clergy in developing skills of identification, articulation, and clarification of ethical issues as they occur in the hospital setting. Clergy will spend two hours observing in intensive care units each of three mornings. There also will be discussions and lectures given by clergy, ethicists, and physicians.

"Tennessee Baptist pastors and chaplains have gained valuable experience in both of the previous years programs," said C. Ben Mitchell, director of biomedical and life issues for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"The clinical ethics intensive is truly a unique opportunity for Southern Baptists. There is no substitute for this kind of encounter," he added.

Enrollment is limited and interested clergy are encouraged to contact Stuart Finder, Center for Clinical and Research Ethics, CCC-5319 Medical Center North, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., 37232-2351 or call (615) 322-2252. The application deadline is June 15. □

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Money management seminars scheduled across state

Ten "Live Wisely" conferences are scheduled across Tennessee, beginning March 31. "Live Wisely" is a Christian emphasis on personal money management.

The area conferences, sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program/Stewardship Department, will be led by Archer Thorpe, department director.

The \$5 registration fee includes the book *Five Steps to Successful Money Management: How to Live Wisely and Worry Less* and the *Christian Money Management Workbook*. Both books are valued at \$8.20.

Also, a "Live Wisely" sample materials packet will be given to each church represented. These can be used for a similar

event in churches.

Preregistration is not required but is requested for planning purposes. For more information, call Thorpe at (615) 371-2018. All conferences are 7-8:30 local time.

March 31: Holston Association, Johnson City
April 4: Baptist Hospital East, Memphis
April 5: Madison-Chester Association office, Jackson
April 7: Lake Road Church, Union City

April 18: First Church, Concord, Knoxville

April 19: First Church, Morristown

May 2: Lawrence County Association office, Leoma

May 9: First Church, Donelson

May 10: Concord Association office, Murfreesboro

May 12: North Cleveland Church, Cleveland □

CLASSIFIED

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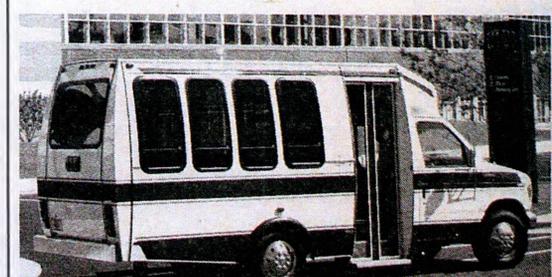
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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ The Good Shepherd — Bible Book Series for March 27

By Edward North, pastor, First Church, Humboldt

There is no better loved picture of Jesus in the Bible than that of the Good Shepherd. The imagery of the shepherd is woven deeply into the language of the Bible.

In the Old Testament God is often pictured as a shepherd and his people as the flock (Psalm 23, Psalm 100:3). Isaiah envisioned the Messiah as a shepherd (40:11). Against this rich background Jesus declares, "I am the good shepherd" (v. 11).

The Good Shepherd saves

Jesus alone provides entry to the fold (vv. 7-9). A Palestinian shepherd leads his sheep each evening into a fold of brush and brambles. He lies down across the entrance becoming, himself, the door. There is no entry except

through him. The fold of the Father (heaven) is entered only through Jesus Christ (14:6).

Jesus provides entry through the sacrifice of his own life (vv. 11, 15, 17, 18). The ground of our salvation is not what we have done, but what Christ has done for us. Unlike the hirelings and the pseudo-saviors who are looking to fleece the sheep, Jesus has willingly given his all for our redemption. Best of all, he has done it for all men (v. 16).

Salvation comes through responding to his call (vv. 3-5). There are other voices; the voices of "strangers" calling out in our culture.

Jesus denounces them as thieves and robbers intent on destroying life. But the Master

Focal Passages John 10:7-18, 26-30

beckons through the wooing of the Holy Spirit, and, when we dare to believe what he says (the Gospel) is true, we are saved.

The Good Shepherd secures

There is a lovely Hebrew idiom in verse 9, "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." "In and out" describes a life that is absolutely secure and safe.

Again, in verse 4 the Lord says, "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him for they know his voice." The shepherd does not drive

his sheep; he goes before them. What marvelous security to know that whatever life brings to us, even death itself, Jesus has already been there!

The security of the sheep is eternal. He is the door and no marauder can get through Jesus to steal or kill the sheep. Before Satan can get to me he has to come through Jesus. More than that, he has to overcome the Father in the bargain (vv. 27-31). Satan would have to dry up the blood of Calvary and reseal the tomb to take away my salvation. I am eternally secure.

The Good Shepherd supplies

Verses 9-10 assure us that while evil forces seek to rob us of the goodness of life, and even to destroy us and damn

us, Jesus has come to give life abundant. Our Lord supplies every need of life.

These verses take on rich meaning when read in light of the promises of Psalm 23.

In Jesus there is life abundant; in the shepherd of the psalm, "I shall not want." There is provision and material need (green pastures), emotional and mental peace (still waters), spiritual strength (he restores my soul), protection (in the presence of my enemies), loving care (he anoints my head with oil), overflowing abundance (my cup runs over), and eternal security (I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever). Here is a heart warming picture of the abundant life offered by the Good Shepherd to all who will receive it. □

□ Deliverance from sin — Convention Uniform Series for March 27

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

The apostle Paul had ended Chapter 5 of Romans with a promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Salvation is God's free gift to all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

There was a dangerous attitude prevalent in the early church and still present today. It is the attitude that "Since I am saved, I can do as I please." In order to counter this false thinking, Paul used two very familiar images to explain our new relationship with the Lord. These two images are: baptism and slavery.

Baptism — vv. 3-14

Paul assumed the members of the church in Rome had been baptized. But they may not have understood its deeper

Focal Passage Romans 6:3-14, 20-23

significance. The evidence of their lack of understanding was their lifestyle (v. 1).

Baptism symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, was placed in a tomb, and then on the third day rose from the dead.

Baptism pictures our deep involvement with Jesus. Baptism is a visible means for people to see our identification with Jesus. Our willingness to be baptized is a part of our commitment, both inwardly and outwardly, to our Lord Jesus.

On the cross, our Lord not

only died for us, but also we died in him. Our sins have been forgiven. They belong in the past.

As Christians, if we continue in sin, we repudiate our identification with him.

In the resurrection, Jesus not only conquered death, sin, and hell but also made possible our resurrection. When we are raised up out of the waters of baptism, we picture our own resurrection, as well as witnessing to the resurrection of our Lord.

After Jesus was raised from the dead, he had a spiritual body. The disciples could recognize him. They could touch him. Jesus ate with them. Yet Jesus was able to appear in the upper room when the doors

and windows were locked.

After the resurrection, there was change. There was a new life.

Baptism is an outward symbol of the inner miracle of grace. "We also should walk in the newness of life" (v. 4).

Paul listed several things that are true for believers because of Jesus and our identification with him:

- 1) The possibility of new life now (v. 4);
- 2) Our own resurrection (v. 5);
- 3) We are freed from sin (v. 7);
- 4) We will live with him (v. 8);
- 5) Death has no dominion over us (v. 9).

All this being true, Paul

challenged them to adopt behavior that is in keeping with their baptism in verses 11-14.

Slavery — vv. 20-23

Slavery was common in the Roman world. Paul was not thinking of slavery as an evil in itself, but was using this common condition to illustrate the idea of absolute allegiance. In our old condition, we were slaves of sin which lead to death (vv. 20-21). Now that we are slaves of God, we are free from sin and have eternal life (v. 22).

Verse 23 sums up this important truth: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." □

□ Savior — Life and Work Series for March 27

By Charles Bryan, pastor, Central Church, Alcoa

"I just want to know what counts. Don't talk to me of religion, I've been down that road. And please, stay off theology, I have a degree in that. Get to the heart of it, OK? I want to know what counts. What really matters? What counts? Tell me. Skip the periphery. Go to the essence. Tell me the part that matters."

These words of frustration from a gentleman named Ian are used to introduce Max Lucado's book *No Wonder They Call Him the Savior*. Have you ever felt that way, wondering what really does matter? Lucado admits that he could not really answer those questions at the time, but he can now. He cites I Corinthians 15:3-4 to say that the part that really matters is the cross and the one who died there for our

sins. No wonder that we, too, call him our savior. This week, we will look at some of the events that took place as Jesus hung on the cross for the sins of the world (for you and me).

Forgiveness — v. 34

It is sometimes difficult to imagine all that Christ went through as he suffered on the cross of Calvary. It is even more difficult to imagine how Jesus could ask the Father to forgive those all around the cross who had wronged him. However, that is exactly what he did. Even as he was being put through the worst experience possible, he still had forgiveness in his heart. If ever someone had the right to strike back, it surely was Jesus. Yet, he prayed for them because they did not understand what they had done. Do you think

we might be better Christians if we followed his example? Wouldn't it help if we let go our hurts, turned them over to God, and got on with our lives? After all, nothing anyone has ever done to us can compare to what was done to Jesus Christ!

Unresponsive — vv. 35-38

While Jesus had prayed for their forgiveness, many continued to abuse Jesus. The religious leaders of Judaism mocked him and chided him to do something if he really was the chosen of God. He did not meet their criteria and expectations for the Messiah so they rejected him. The soldiers also mocked him and saw him as a defeated political want-a-be. However, many people stood around and watched, but did nothing at all. They were unresponsive.

Focal Passages Luke 23:33a, 34-36

Responsive — vv. 39-43

While most of the people either mocked Jesus or did nothing, these verses show us one person who responded to Jesus and his forgiveness. We are unsure what caused the criminal to respond, but it probably had something to do with Jesus' words and actions on the cross. Whatever it was, the man asked Jesus to remember him, and Jesus gave him more than he asked. Jesus gave him salvation (would be with him in heaven). Please note this man's salvation was not based on what he had or hadn't done nor on who he was or wasn't. Instead, it was based totally and completely

on the grace of Jesus Christ. And so it is with everyone of us, we are saved only by the grace of God. What a Savior we have!

No Wonder — vv. 44-46

When Jesus Christ breathed his last breath, he completed the task for which he had entered the world. He had come to take our sins upon his shoulders and to be the sacrificial Lamb for us. He bled and died for our sins. He broke down every barrier that sin had created. He created direct access to God for each of us (as symbolized by the ripping of the veil in the temple). He bridged the gulf between God and us. He did it all and we owe it all to him. To borrow from Max Lucado one last time, "No wonder we call him the Savior!" □

Mississippi College taps former Tennessee Baptist as president

Baptist Press

CLINTON, Miss. — Howell Wayne Todd, 50, became the 18th president of 168-year-old Mississippi College March 15 after the official announcement on campus by board of trustee chairman Harry Vickery.

Since 1989 Todd has been executive director of South Dakota's board of regents governing that state's institutions of higher learning. He emerged from a field of about 75 candidates interested in replacing 25-year president Lewis Nobles, who resigned last August, amid allegations of \$3 million missing in contributions to the school.

Todd, a native of Huntingdon, was a member of Two Rivers Church, Nashville, while he served as a Tennessee educational administrator. He was a deacon, Sunday School teacher, and choir president. He credits former pastor Jim Henry as one of two people who "discipled" him. □

CLC trustees honor Russian dissident

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — In their semi-annual meeting March 3, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission trustees voted unanimously to present Father Gleb Yakunin,

an evangelical Russian Orthodox priest who was once imprisoned and exiled for his stand on religious liberty, the CLC's John Leland Religious Liberty Award.

Yakunin is noted for his stand for religious liberty for all Russian religious believers.

In 1965 the Soviet KGB barred Yakunin from performing his priestly duties because of his opposition to religious repression in the Soviet Union. In 1976 he founded the Committee for the Protection of Religious Rights in the Soviet Union. He was imprisoned repeatedly during the 1980s for his stand against religious repression in the Soviet Union. As the former Soviet Union began coming apart, Yakunin was released and given amnesty in 1987. □

Suspected arson, fire damages church

Associated Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — A fire believed to be intentionally set damaged an auditorium at First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., March 5.

The fire caused about \$45,000 damage to the 900-seat Hobson Auditorium, said Douglas Pigg, church administrator. The blaze was contained to the auditorium, which was built in 1903 and is used for weddings, funerals, and assemblies for the church's high school department.

Pigg predicted it will take about eight weeks to repair the damage. □

Letter-writing effort urged to help 'Christy' succeed

Baptist Press

LOS ANGELES — "I think we have the power to make this show work," veteran actor Tom Lester said of the boost Baptists and other evangelicals can give to the Easter night premier of "Christy" on CBC.

Christians should write letters to CBS voicing appreciation for the show and encouraging Hollywood to offer more family entertainment, said Lester, a Southern Baptist whose most memorable role was "Eb" on "Green Acres."

"Christy" is based on the best-selling novel with the same name penned by the late Christian author Catherine Marshall. The movie was filmed in East Tennessee. See story on

page 7 of Feb. 23 issue of *Baptist and Reflector*.

Its premier will be a two-hour movie following "60 Minutes," Sunday, April 3, pre-empting "Murder She Wrote." Six one-hour "Christy" episodes will be aired on subsequent Thursday evenings. Check local listings.

Letters, describing reactions to "Christy" and the desire for more family entertainment, should be sent to: Jeff Sagansky, President, CBS Entertainment, c/o CBS TV CITY, Los Angeles, CA 90036.

Lester said it is important that the letters be written as soon after viewing the program as possible to have maximum effect on network decision makers. It's also important to watch the Thursday shows, he added. □

Hymnal editor Forbis sets early retirement

By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Wesley L. Forbis, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church music ministries department and editor of *The Baptist Hymnal*, 1991 edition, has announced his intention to take early retirement from the board, effective June 1.

Forbis said he is choosing to retire from the board to continue his career in other areas and to accept opportunities as a conductor and clinician for which he has had less time since leaving his work as a college-level music educator.

He came to the board in 1981 and will have completed 13 years in leading the department that provides church music services and materials.

In making the announcement, Forbis, 63, acknowl-



WESLEY FORBIS, widely known as a choral conductor and clinician, is changing his career direction to spend more time as a guest director when he takes early retirement from the Sunday School Board June 1.

edged "the endorsement and support of all up-line administrators (at the board) and their assurance to continue in the position until the normal 65 retirement age." However, he said he feels "it would be unfair to develop long-range

strategies, plans, actions, and products for which my successor would have to be accountable."

Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr., who described Forbis as "a cherished friend of more than 40 years," said he "has made an incomparable contribution to the board. I am deeply grateful to God for his example of diligence and faithfulness and for the impact he has made on the work of the board."

During Forbis' tenure, the church music program increased in enrollment from 1.5 million in 1981 to 1.9 million in 1993.

Prior to joining the board, the Oklahoma native was professor of music and chairman of the department at William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo. He also has worked in music ministry positions for churches in Tennessee, Texas, and Oklahoma. □

Seminary takes on church starting role

Baptist Press

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary has joined the California Southern Baptist Convention, Home Mission Board, and local Baptist associations to start churches.

"Golden Gate Partnership in Church Planting" will send students out in pairs to start a new church with a HMB church planter strategist. Students will work with a strategist for one year to birth and grow a new church.

"The new program is unique among Southern Baptist Convention seminaries," said Gary Bulley, church planter strategist in northern California.

The program not only starts churches, but mentors students in church planting, Bulley said.

Funding, resources, and training are provided by the HMB, Golden Gate Seminary, and local Baptist associations. Each student receives a part-time salary and seminary credit. □

New 'utensil' proves vital in relief efforts

Baptist Press

LOS ANGELES — Along with pots and pans, food in cans, and a full range of other

items used by Southern Baptist volunteers who minister to thousands wherever disaster strikes, a brand-new "utensil" has proven indispensable.

Copies of a small, yellow, tract-like pamphlet called "Hope in Crisis" (and its Spanish-language companion, "Esperanza en la Crisis") were pressed into service for the first time in the weeks that followed the Jan. 17 earthquake in Southern California.

"It was used broadly and well by the great team (of disaster volunteers) that Southern Baptists sent," said Jess Moody, pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Church in Porter Ranch, Calif. "At our campus, there were 67 professions of faith" through the pamphlet, Moody said. □

HMB schedules evangelism schools

Home Mission Board

ATLANTA — The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has scheduled two 1994 Schools of Evangelism and Church Growth.

The first will be held May 17-20 at First Church, Snellville, Ga. (Atlanta area). The second is set for Sept. 6-9 at the Santa Clara Marriott in Santa Clara, Calif. (San Jose area). Theme of the schools is "Hope for a Changing World."

For more information, call (404) 898-7752. □

Pro-abortion protest fizzles against anti-abortion church

Baptist Press

CHICAGO — A pro-abortion rally in front of a Chicago Baptist church March 9 resulted in a giant prayer service of Christians opposed to abortion.

A coalition of 10 "pro-choice" groups planned the "night of resistance" rally at the building of Armitage Church, a congregation actively involved in "pro-life" efforts.

"The demonstrators 'failed on two fronts,'" said Charles Lyons, pastor at Armitage, in a telephone interview March 14.

They had only about 100 people demonstrate, while about 1,400 people gathered to support the church.

"We had a prayer meeting that literally was awesome," Lyons said.

"The protesters were totally blown away," he said. "They limped into the night."

The church normally has about 250 people at its Wednesday night service.

But on March 9, people from at least 50 other congregations and "numerous cultural and ethnic backgrounds," including "seven giant yellow school buses" filled with members of a black Baptist church in the city, swelled the Armitage crowd. □