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National media focuses on 'True Love Waits'

"Sex Can Wait" said the headline of the lead article on the cover of *USA Weekend*, a nationally-distributed news-magazine on March 27.

The article featured the True Love Waits campaign of the Baptist Sunday School Board, and the cover also carried a photo of four teenage members of Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory. Tulip Grove teenagers kicked off the program last April for the BSSB.

Nationwide distribution of *USA Weekend* through daily newspapers each Sunday is 37.5 million.

The Tulip Grove teenagers include Andy Britton, Laura Richardson, Carmen Gama, and Brent Scoggins.

Excluding the cover, the news article was more than two pages, explaining the True Love Waits idea and giving differing evaluations.

A *USA Weekend* poll shows

that seven of ten Americans back the message of the plan. A separate poll question for teens has the same percentage.

The article notes that True Love Waits steers clear of divisive issues, underscoring that sex education should stress saving sex for marriage. So far thousands of teenagers have signed pledge cards for sexual abstinence before marriage.

Richard Ross, youth minister at Tulip Grove Church and

BSSB national youth consultant, was quoted as underscoring the need for stating the case for abstinence.

The article carried messages from several celebrities who practice premarital sexual abstinence, such as A. C. Green, Los Angeles Lakers basketball player, and Dave Johnson, an Olympic decathlon medalist.

USA Weekend is taking a national poll with results to be included in its April 29 issue. □

Shelby County, Judson churches lead in baptisms

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Buoyed by having three of its churches among the top 10 in the state in baptisms, Shelby County Association congregations once again led the state in baptisms in 1992-93.

Shelby County, led by Bellevue Church, 621, Germantown Church, 121, and First Church, Millington, 112, had a total of 2,422 baptisms last year. Bellevue led all Tennessee churches.

Nashville Association churches were close behind with 2,113 baptisms. The association had two churches in the top 10 — Two Rivers, 185,

and First Church, Hendersonville, 119.

Following in number of baptisms were the following associations: Knox County, 1,669; Hamilton County, 1,067; Holston, 723; Madison-Chester, 576; Bradley, 572; Cumberland, 571; Chilhowee, 543; Concord, 516; Wilson, 492; Clinton, 472; Nolachucky, 463; McMinn-Meigs, 445; and Sullivan, 442.

Other churches in the top 10 were Central, Hixon, 211;

Sevier Heights, Knoxville, 170; Higher Ground, Kingsport, 130; Hilldale, Clarksville, 117; and First Church, Mt. Juliet, 117. See page 7 for complete list of top 50 churches.

Judson Association churches led the state in baptismal ratio to resident church membership with a ratio of 17.81.

Judson was followed by Indian Creek and Alpha associations with 18.75 and 19.22 ratios, respectively.

Other leading associations

were: Truett, 20.43; Haywood, 20.72; Stewart, 22.20; Crockett, 22.47; William Carey, 23.09; Cumberland, 23.22; Tennessee Valley, 23.61; Lawrence County, 24.00; Sequatchie Valley, 24.12; Dyer, 25.24; Wilson, 25.68; and Cumberland Plateau, 26.22.

For the year, there were 23,538 baptisms in Tennessee last year, down from 26,081 reported for 1991-92. Figures were provided by the TBC Evangelism Department. □

State Evangelism Conference set for April 21-22

For *Baptist and Reflector*

The program for the 1994 State Evangelism Conference, to be held April 21-22 at First Church, Hendersonville, has been finalized. The theme is "Serve in Christ's Spirit ... Share the Gospel."

The conference was postponed in January due to a winter snowstorm.

Heading the list of speakers will be Herschel Hobbs, pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City.

Other speakers back from the original program include: Manuel Scott, Dallas; Tom Madden, Murfreesboro; Franklin Paschall, Nashville; Forrest "Woody" Watkins, Stuart, Fla.; and Jack Stanton, Bolivar, Mo.

New speakers include James Sullivan, president emeritus, Baptist Sunday School Board; Ralph Langley, pastor emeritus, First Church, Huntsville, Ala.; and Bill Walker, evangelist from Batesville, Ark.

The conference begins at 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 21. After a welcome and invocation by host pastor Glenn Weekley,

speakers include Hobbs, who will give four theme interpretations throughout the sessions, Paschall, Watkins, and Stanton.



HOBBS



SULLIVAN



LANGLEY

present special music.

After a devotional by TBC President Ray Newcomb of Millington, messages will be delivered by Hobbs and Scott.

People attending the conference may be reached by calling (615) 826-0026 or 826-8931.

Motels closest to the church (approximately 10 miles) are located at Long Hollow Pike (exit 97 on I-65). They are Budgetel, 851-1891; Comfort Inn, 859-5400; Econo-Lodge, 859-4988; Motel 6, 859-9674; Red Roof Inn, 859-2537; and Shoney's Inn, 851-1067. Numbers are in the (615) area code.

For information on other motels or the conference, call the TBC Evangelism Department at (615) 371-2058. See page 2 for directions to First Church, Hendersonville. □

Former Two Rivers pastor to run for SBC presidency

By Herb Hollinger
For Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Nashville native and former Two Rivers Church pastor Jim Henry ended speculation about his candidacy for president of the Southern Baptist Convention with an announcement March 27 to his congregation at First Church, Orlando.

Henry said he will be nominated but "not have a structured campaign effort."

"After much prayer, thought, and counsel, I believe it to be God's will that I offer myself as a candidate (for president)," Henry told his congregation in a prepared statement following the morning worship service.

— See Former, page 2

WMU board accepts CBF gift; reaffirms 1993 board action

Piland leaves BSSB for FBC, Dallas, post Baptist Press

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Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union executive board unanimously has reaffirmed its January 1993 decision to accept contributions to be used for WMU and related missions needs and has accepted a one-time gift of \$100,000 from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The coordinating council of the Baptist "moderates" CBF approved the no-strings-attached gift at its February meeting in appreciation for WMU's contribution to world evangelization. WMU did not request and was not aware of the donation prior to the decision.

Although some SBC leaders, including Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin, have suggested WMU not accept the gift, WMU joins the ranks of other Southern Baptist entities, including the FMB and Home Mission Board, to receive money

through CBF channels.

Rankin was traveling March 24 and could not be reached for comment.

In the last three years, more than \$8.5 million has been given by Southern Baptists through the CBF to SBC agencies.

The board's vote reaffirmed its 1993 decision to accept contributions to be used for WMU and related missions needs. While WMU has always accepted gifts, the 1993 decision allows WMU to plan for and use gifts from those who want to express their support of WMU and WMU-related missions causes.

According to WMU board policy, the finance committee of the WMU executive board has the authority to receive any undesignated gifts on behalf of the board. However, since several board members have been elected to their positions since January 1993, the committee felt the entire board should be included in the decision.

"Despite our varying backgrounds and viewpoints, the WMU executive board has unusual unity," said Janet Hoffman, board member from Louisiana and chairman of the finance committee. She noted the committee felt all board members should have the opportunity to discuss the matter.

Small group discussions were held by telephone conference calls prior to the vote. The 36-member board then voted by mail ballot to accept the gift and contribute it to the WMU VISION Fund, which was established in 1993 for WMU missions activities and projects not funded through other channels.

Board members also were united in their desire to reaffirm their earlier decision to take a stand for the cause of missions, not a political side within the convention. "Missions has been and always will be WMU's only purpose for existence," said WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien. □

NASHVILLE — Harry Piland, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Bible teaching-reaching division, will become associate pastor/minister of education at the 25,000-member First Church, Dallas, beginning May 29.

Piland, 65, will conclude his work at the board April 30. He said he began almost a year ago to consider returning to a church staff position, reducing travel and having more time with his family.

He said the word "retire" is not in his vocabulary and that he would continue "to be the biggest supporter of the Baptist Sunday School Board, its literature, and its ministries."

Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. described Piland as "Mr. Sunday School" for Southern Baptists. Draper noted Piland would be available to lead conferences for the board. □

Alcohol warning legislation slated to receive first vote

Legislation requiring warning messages for alcohol advertising soon may face a first vote in the U. S. Congress before the Senate Commerce Committee, according to James Smith of the Christian Life Commission's office in Washington, D. C.

The Sensible Advertising and Family Education Act (SAFE Act), S. 674, would require health and safety warnings to be in all alcohol ads broadcast on radio and television or printed in newspapers, magazines, or promotional displays.

The legislation calls for seven rotating messages in print and broadcast advertising. The

print warnings include a toll-free telephone number providing more details on alcohol use.

Chief sponsors for S. 674 are Senators Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), and Paul Simon (D-Ill.). The bill as yet has not been before the House of Representatives.

Smith says that Tennessee Baptists may want to contact

Tennessee Senator Harlan Matthews, who is a member of the Senate Commerce Committee which now has the bill.

Ten of the 20 committee members must vote affirmatively to move the bill to the Senate floor. Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.), is chairman of the committee and favors moving the bill.

As of last week, Sen.

Matthews had not committed.

Smith says the warning label bill may not be approved without help from Southern Baptists. "Baptists should contact the senators," he said.

Sen. Matthews' Nashville office address is 3322 West End Ave., telephone 736-5129. His Washington address is United States Senate, Washington, D. C. 20510. □

Former Two Rivers pastor to run for SBC ...

— Continued from page 1

Instead of a "structured campaign effort," Henry told the church he will "trust the Holy Spirit to speak to the hearts and minds of my broth-

ers and sisters in Christ as they choose their leadership for the near future. In that process and in the sovereignty of God I have complete trust."

The announcement assures messengers to the June 14-16 annual meeting of the SBC — in Orlando — of at least a two-person ballot. Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., also is a candidate.

Wolfe was publicly endorsed Feb. 8 by two former SBC presidents — Jerry Vines of Jacksonville and Charles Stanley of Atlanta.

Both Henry and Wolfe are high-profile pastors who are friends and share some similarities. Both are considered "conservatives" among South-

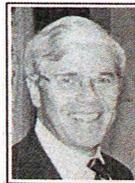
ern Baptists. Both are 56 and have held their current megachurch pastorates for a long time. Henry has been at Orlando for more than 16 years and Wolfe has been at Mobile for 23 years.

Neither has indicated who will bring nominating speeches at the June meeting.

There has been speculation that Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church, Dallas, would nominate Henry. However, Graham told Baptist Press March 28 that it was Henry's decision and it would be inappropriate for him to comment on the matter.

Henry said he wants to focus on the future and "build community and fellowship and love in this body (SBC)."

Wolfe told an Orlando paper he was not disappointed Henry decided to run for the presidency and that he expects the race to be close. □



HENRY

Directions to First Church, Hendersonville; site of 1994 State Evangelism Conference

First Church, Hendersonville, will be the site of the 1994 State Evangelism Conference April 21-22. The church is located at Bluegrass Commons Blvd., off Gallatin Road (Highway 31E) approximately five miles north of the city of Hendersonville.

Directions from I-40 and I-24: Take I-65 to Vietnam Veterans Parkway, Highway 386. Go north on Highway 386, approximately eight miles to exit 8 (Saundersville Road). Keep right at exit

ramp to Gallatin Road (Highway 31E). Turn right on Gallatin Road and church entrance will be on left, approximately .8 miles (go past entrance to Twitty City) at Bluegrass Commons Blvd. Since most motels are located at Long Hollow Pike, exit 97 on I-65, here are directions from that area: Take Conference Drive 1.5 miles to Vietnam Veterans Parkway (Highway 386). Go north on Highway 386 and follow directions already given. □

Southern Baptist reaction continues to March 9 firing of Dilday

Compiled from Baptist Press

DALLAS — Southern Baptists are continuing to react to the March 9 firing of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Russell H. Dilday.

Among those speaking out against trustee action was prominent "conservative" Jack Graham, a Southwestern graduate and pastor of the 12,000-member Prestonwood Church in Dallas.

The way Russell H. Dilday was dismissed recently only fuels the belief that "conservatives" are "unloving and mean-spirited," Graham said.

He noted the seminary trustees "showed very little, if any, compassion" when it ended Dilday's tenure of nearly 16 years. Graham said Dilday had served Southwestern "with distinction."

He called for "clear biblical thinking" in the SBC. To that end, he said he would begin meeting with other younger pastors to develop fresh approaches for the denomination.

"I don't want to be disruptive," said the 43-year-old Graham. "I'm trying to bring some peace in the middle of the storm."

Wayne Allen, a "conservative" trustee who backed Dilday, praised Graham's statement. It shows that not all "conservatives" agree with the board's behavior, said Allen, a Carrollton, Texas, pastor who was the losing candidate for the presidency of the Baptist General Convention of Texas last November. Allen was the

first leading "conservative" to break ranks with the trustees.

Dilday welcomed Graham's support. "It's an expression of genuine courage and a reflection of integrity and character that I'm not surprised has come from Jack Graham," Dilday said.

Not everyone was as appreciative of Graham's action.

T. Bob Davis, secretary of the seminary board and a member of Prestonwood Church, rejected Graham's criticism.

"I'm disappointed in his taking a political stance when the board has acted in good judgment," the Dallas dentist said.

Trustees and Dilday were "stalemated" over the direction of the seminary, Davis said, and the president chose "removal for himself" when he refused their request to retire.

Davis said Graham's statement may have been motivated by a personal friendship with Dilday.

Since the firing the following events have taken place:

- A number of contributors and people involved in raising funds for the seminary have indicated their support will be halted or reduced.

Kelley Brown, president of the Tom and Evelyn Lineberry Foundation and vice president of the Scarborough Foundation of Midland, told the *Texas Baptist Standard* no more funds will be given by the foundations to the seminary because of Dilday's dismissal.

In the last few years, Brown said, the foundations have given \$700,000 to \$800,000 to Southwestern and more than that in years past. And recently consideration had been given to contributing \$6 to \$10 million in honor of Mrs. Lineberry's uncle, Lee Scarborough, president of the seminary from 1914 to 1945.

Kenneth Cooper, director of The Aerobics Center-Cooper Clinic in Dallas, resigned his lifetime membership in the seminary's Southwestern Council (formerly Advisory Council), a 135-member group which he said had been the "backbone of any financial campaign" at the school. Cooper also cancelled a \$30,000 pledge to the seminary.

Cooper, a member of Prestonwood Church, said of the trustees' action, "It is a sad day as far as the Seminary and Baptist denomination are concerned. It was unwarranted, a very embarrassing thing to happen for one of our distinctive Baptist statesmen. If Russell Dilday was guilty of anything, it was trying to make peace in our denomination."

- More than 600 Southwestern students March 21 condemned the firing and asked the trustees to repent of their "unchristian behaviors"

and reverse the action.

With only about a dozen votes opposed, the students approved a resolution opposing the trustee action and organized a half dozen committees to share their concerns with various groups.

The action by the students came on their first day back in class after a week-long spring break. The meeting was called by an ad hoc group of mostly second- and third-year theology students. The seminary has no organized body of students. The smaller group drafted the resolution and called the meeting to "give the group most affected by the trustees' decision, the students, a voice" in the matter, said Robby Jones, a master of divinity student and spokesman for the group.

- Faculty members at Southwestern expressed resentment to the firing.

In action taken the day after the firing, SWBTS general faculty members unanimously approved a letter to trustees which said "we do not concur with either the action taken by the (board) with regard to our president, nor the manner in which the action was carried out."

In a related matter, the faculty of the seminary's school of theology released a statement to the news media March 23 affirming Dilday as an "excellent administrator who managed the seminary in a highly effective and successful manner."

- Trustee Wayne Allen has sent a letter to trustees calling for an emergency meeting to

discuss Dilday's firing.

Allen asked Ralph W. Pulley Jr., board chairman, to call the meeting so "we can sit as Christians and discuss the issues." Allen also asked to have Dilday come to the meeting and to consider reinstating him as president until he chooses to retire. Pulley was not immediately available for comment.

Allen was one of seven trustees who voted against the firing. He said he disagreed strongly with the March 21 statement released by board members accusing Dilday of insubordination and mismanagement.

"It was absolutely absurd," Allen told a Fort Worth paper. "In my nine years on the board, that's the first time I've heard the word 'mismanagement' used in referring to Dr. Dilday."

"Let's be honest. The action taken against Dilday was because of the (conservative-moderate) denominational issue. It wasn't because he had not been a good administrator nor because of any far-out liberalism that was going to taint the students," Allen said.

Allen said he did not think the uproar would blow over in a week or two, as some trustees think.

"There's no doubt in my mind that it's going to cost the seminary millions of dollars," he said. — This article was compiled by BP reports written by Herb Hollinger of BP, Toby Druin of the *Baptist Standard*, and Daniel Cattau of the *Dallas Morning News*.



DILDAY



GRAHAM

Three pastors provide study aids

New writers begin Spring quarter lessons

Three Tennessee Baptist pastors will write the Sunday School commentaries for the April-June quarter.

Brent Seals, First Church, Elizabethton, will write the Bible Book series.

A native of Jefferson City, Seals has been pastor of the Elizabethton church since 1989.

He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

A veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Seals and his wife, Pat, have two children, Dylan and Dana.

G. M. "Mike" Thrower is the writer for the Convention Uniform series.

The Mississippi native has been pastor of Brunswick Church, Brunswick since 1981. He formerly served as pastor of churches in Mississippi.

He is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Thrower has been active in denominational life. He is moderator of Shelby County Association and serves on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He is on the Executive Committee and serves on the board of directors for the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Thrower and his wife, Frances, have two children, Bethany and Danielle.

Writing the Life and Work series will be Tommy Stevens.

The Memphis native has been pastor of Meadow View Church, Lawrenceburg, since 1992. In addition to other Ten-



SEALS



STEVENS



THROWER

nessee churches, Stevens also has served churches in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama.

Stevens has degrees from Memphis State University, New Orleans Seminary, and Bethany Theological Seminary, Dothan, Ala., where he earned his doctor of Christian counseling.

Stevens is a certified professional counselor and a member of the Tennessee Counseling Association.

He and his wife, Elizabeth Ann, have three children: Bert, Beth, and Brian, and three grandchildren. □

Pastor considers church Southern Baptist

An article in the March 16 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* related to a court case involving two groups of a church in Big Emory Association.

Chancery Court, Kingston, gave a majority group of Clax Gap Church, Harriman, control of church finances and direction. The ruling noted things had gone well for about a year after a new pastor was called until "the pastor and others set their sights on breaking with the traditional participation in Southern Baptist missions." Chancellor Frank Williams ruled the majority could do so, on the basis of a legal precedent.

Pastor Gary Hensley told the *Baptist and Reflector* he and others in the group still consider the church Southern Baptist even though it had voted to discontinue giving to the Cooperative Program.

He said the church gives

some funds to the Foreign Mission Board and to the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. "We're just not giving to the Cooperative Program," he said.

He said the church has a Woman's Missionary Union which uses WMU literature. Hensley said the church is helping independent missionaries. The church, he said, has about 100 in Sunday School and 150 in worship.

The church has not voted to cut ties with the SBC, Tennessee Baptist Convention, or Big Emory Association, said Hensley. However, the Big Emory credentials committee has voted to withdraw fellowship from the group, because of its CP missions stance.

Checks sent to the association by the church have been returned, according to William Bargioli, Big Emory Association director of missions. Hensley concurred. □

■ 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. □

Christian obligation

Sigismund was the 47th successor of Charlemagne as ruler of the holy Roman Empire. A cardinal of the Catholic Church once corrected Sigismund when he heard him using Latin incorrectly. Sigismund replied to the cardinal, "I am king of Rome and above grammar." Not so. Whether spoken by a peasant or a king, incorrect grammar is incorrect grammar.

In the same way, immorality is immorality, whether committed by a drug dealer or seminary trustees. Recent actions of Southwestern's trustees can be described as nothing but immoral. For Dr. Dilday to receive the highest performance review of his career one day and be dismissed without a stated reason the next is immoral. Why were the locks on his door changed and an armed guard posted to prevent him from re-entering his office? What did they think he was going to do?

As much as I hate to admit it, an executive always serves at the discretion of the board. The trustees had the right to remove Dr. Dilday if they chose to do so. They are not above morality, however, and they had an obligation to carry out their convictions as Christians.

*P. Joel Snider, pastor
Crieveview Church
Nashville 37220*

What is it about?

I have been a Southern Baptist for 63 years, all my life, and have never written a letter to a newspaper. The past two years have been increasingly troublesome as many of our Baptist leaders have been forced into "early retirement." How could trusted leaders' abilities be negated so rapidly?

Our Cooperative Program receipts are modest. I question the use of the little surplus that exists in paying individuals like Dr. Dilday to retire early. This dismissal will cost us \$85,000 per year plus his benefits and the salary and benefits of his replacement. Dr. Dilday has been in leadership since 1978 and is entitled to his full package of salary and benefits.

News sources indicate that Dr. Dilday had a rocky relationship with "fundamentalists." This type of "attempted" control will only create new problems, i.e. finances, and is not a part of our Baptist heritage. Does not our Lord expect us to be good stewards of his gatherings?

Sometimes I disagree with my husband and children, but I've never been removed from my family. Historically Southern Baptists have enjoyed freedoms that allow us to respectfully disagree. We will never agree on everything until we live with our heavenly Father. Doesn't everything really come down to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ? Is this really about interpretation of Scripture or convention politics?

*Mary Carlisle Branam
Newport 37821*

Action suggested

As to firing, shouldn't the trustees of Southwestern Seminary be fired for improper conduct! The SBC should not tolerate the degradation of our character by tyrannical actions behind closed doors, locking people out of offices, and other non-Baptistic shenanigans. Such actions could subject Southwestern to lawsuits amounting to thousands of dollars and bring untold damage to our denomination.

Just as the convention was cooling off somewhat and Dr. Dilday was trying to soothe some deep hurts, these trustees have re-ignited the fires of controversy. Whatever it takes at the next convention, I am in favor of dismissing every member of Southwestern's trustees that voted for this undercover operation. Hopefully this would announce to all "Robespierres" that their time has passed, and we will not tolerate secret plots

nor execution of character without open and fair trial.

*Norris Gilliam Jr.
Kingsport 37664*

Noblesse oblige

It was truly a sad day for Southern Baptists on March 9. We saw selfish men imposing their political agenda on a dedicated man of God.

It was also a good day for we saw the noblesse oblige of a Christian giant made taller by the reprehensible conduct of little men. Dr. Dilday has provided an excellent role model for all who aspire to escalate the ladder of giahthood. Men of small stature heaped indignities upon him and as result he just grew in stature.

The giants who built our great denomination, seminaries, and other institutions are being replaced by men of small stature. Southern Baptists were poised in the '70s to implement their "Bold Mission Thrust" to carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth, but this ambitious program was derailed and had to be put on the back burner while a political agenda has been upon the convention. Great harm has been inflicted upon us when we should be at our finest.

May God have mercy upon us.

*Gene Ferguson
Cordova 38018*

Good book

Pastors, please purchase from the Baptist Book Store, *Breakthrough Sunday School Work* by Harry Piland and Ernest Adams.

Please read it and know it is the application of Matthew 28:19-20.

Pastor, you can share it with your teachers and officers in the Sunday School; then victory will come in attendance and in baptisms.

*Carl W. Hunter
Johnson City 37601*

Teachers needed

I wish to share an opportunity of a lifetime which can result in blessings beyond compare. It is the privilege to serve voluntarily in China teaching English for six weeks. I have been a volunteer teacher through Cooperative Services International (CSI) for the past three summers and have experiences that can never be forgotten. They were summers spent as a Christian witness in a communist country at a time that the Lord has ordained. The relationships that develop because of living there, not just touring, can result in sharing faith and in strengthening the Chinese Christian church. The pupils speak English;

you're there to help them improve. If you've taught a Sunday School class or Vacation Bible School or been a GA, RA, or Acteens leader, you can teach English in China.

Chinese authorities will allow CSI to place 60 teachers this summer. What a lost opportunity if Christians don't take the challenge to be his witnesses in China. The chance may not be there later. Because of my great joy, I want the same blessing for others. I will gladly answer questions from a volunteer's viewpoint, (517) 835-1536. The official office is Volunteers in Mission, Foreign Mission Board, Bob McEachern, 1-800-999-3113, or write Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230-0767.

*Ann Wilson
Midland, Mich. 48642*

More church starts

Rev. E. H. Gilliam's letter questions the Home Mission Board's policy of beginning many churches rather than concentrating on fewer but more heavily-funded church starts. He states, "Instead of beginning 10 struggling missions, why not pour strong financial support into two?"

Southern Baptists always have concentrated on starting many churches. For over a decade we have started more than 1,000 new churches each year, the largest number of church starts in our history except for the '50s. As best we can determine, about 75 percent of these starts are successful. It appears the most successful strategy is the church planter apprentice strategy, using recent seminary graduates with little or no pastoral experience. Over the past decade, 82 percent of these efforts have been successful.

Even with this large num-

ber of church starts, we are barely keeping ahead of attrition because of the large number of churches dropped each year. It takes three church starts to net one increase. Even so, the number of Southern Baptist churches increased from 35,255 when Bold Mission Thrust was launched 15 years ago to 38,221 constituted churches and over 6,000 mission congregations. SBC membership has increased from 13,083,199 to 15,404,621, in large part due to these new church starts.

In some ways it would be ideal for the Home Mission Board to buy land, build an attractive building, employ a highly-salaried, mature, experienced church planter with a good record of achievement, and provide resources necessary for a multiple staff. However, the result would be far fewer churches started and, like most other old-line denominations, a net decrease in both churches and members.

We would like to provide better salary and benefits for our mission pastors and church planters. However, they do have adequate compensation provided jointly from several sources including the mission congregation, the sponsoring church, the state convention, and the Home Mission Board. In some instances, the local association and other assisting churches also contribute.

From 1960-1990 the number of churches of all denominations in the United States increased 7 percent, while total population grew 39 percent. If America is to have the same ratio of churches to population as 25 years ago, we need to start 96,000 churches today!

*Larry Lewis, president
Home Mission Board
Atlanta, Ga. 30367*

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



April -

- 1 — The TBC search committee that must fill the position of Tennessee Baptist Partnership Mission Director.
- 2 — Virginia Irby, a home evangelist in Santiago, on her birthday
- 3 — The opening of the spiritual eyes of the Baptist men and women in Temuco churches to see the needs of the Girls Home.
- 4 — First Church of Arica that the Lord would bless them with harmony and a vision for their future and lead them to a godly pastor.
- 5 — Maranatha Church in Vina as they continue looking for a property to purchase for a building. They are presently meeting in a cramped apartment.
- 6 — Churches in Valdivia, Puerto Montt, Ancud, and Castro, as well as our team's translators, are preparing for the medical project beginning next week.

Even the blind saw that He conquered death

We who delight in the Resurrection story eagerly tell people about the empty tomb. Certainly that was and is a fact, but the major news is that Christ was seen alive and active after that event.

He talked and walked with people who had known him before his crucifixion — and still recognized that this is the same Jesus, even the "blind."

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

He encountered some strangers and they too verified he must be the Risen Lord.

Almost any tomb could have been empty in those perilous, fractious days. Probably only the rich could lie there in the grave undisturbed by robbers and the curious.

So it is the action of Christ that invades our hearts and grapples with our waywardness. The angels' chorus thunders, "He is alive, he is alive. Mortal man, Immortality dwelt with mortality. And now he is alive; he spoke to you through life!"

George W. Wiseman says it like this: *Easter must be reclaimed.*

Too long the world has missed the Easter glow,

Claimed by the glitter of a fashion show;

A dress parade; a gala holiday,

With church-bound manikins upon display.

The faith of Easter never will be caught

By making Christ an afterthought.

Luke, the New Testament chronicler, says about the Conqueror of Death, that the women who went early in the morning to the tomb saw that the stone had been rolled away. It was no small stone, but a monstrous thing.

The women saw two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning, who said, "Why do you look for the living among

the dead? He is not here; he has risen." And when the women were reminded of Jesus' promise of resurrection, they remembered his words.

After that Jesus is seen again and again, walking and talking, eating and living. Isn't that enough proof?

No? Well, the most astounding reality is yet with us. He is alive — and living in the hearts and lives of every Christian on this earth — and his promises have always, always been kept.

Christ is the Great Promise-Keeper. Believe in him and be saved, because he has risen and he is alive! □

News hot off the press, or something like that

A non-Baptist reader sent a reminder that Southern Baptists for years have seemed to have a grip on things despite the diversity.

He's right. But the observation did not stop there. He deplored the fact that this same solid group has developed a penchant for self foot-shooting.

Two events, national and local, serve to authenticate those estimates. First, the Southwestern Seminary fiasco has dominated secular and denominational news for more than two weeks. The disservice done by trustees there in firing Russell Dilday has reached epic proportions. Even Baptist papers are hard pressed to stay

current on each new piece of information.

In Tennessee, an example of distressing news is the Clax Gap Church situation. Some have commented that this one incident of two groups within a congregation facing off in court is not significant news. Pardon, but it is. Granted, it would have been better if the disagreement had been settled amicably out of court.

But once it reached that stage, Tennessee Baptists deserved to know the news. The same is true of the Dilday firing.

Most of the time, it's what we don't know that leads to real disaster. Honest, thorough reporting is necessary. Redemptive action is needed. □

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Meet Jack and Nell

I went to school with Jack and Nell, and we were close friends.

They were like my sister and me, kids who enjoyed school, family, and outdoors adventure.

In other ways, Jack and Nell were different. Father drove to work in the city and wore a business suit most of the time. Our dad was a farmer, and seldom drove anywhere for anything. He wore clothes fit for farming.



ALLEN

Their mother seemed to be a sweet person, like ours, but she was often taking little trips with Jack and

Nell, and doing other things that indicated a certain flair for society.

Once Jack and Nell's mother took them to the airport to meet father who was returning from a business trip. What an exciting time — they visited on the plane!

Dan and Tan lived with Jack and Nell. Dan, the beautiful white pony grazed in the spacious back yard, and Tan, the faithful airedale, went almost everywhere the kids went. We had mules and several friendly hound dogs.

I liked Jack and Nell, and wasn't especially envious of their social status, obviously higher than ours. But you know, Jack and Nell were not real people. Each day they stepped right off the pages of my first grade primer. They were real to me. I remember them, and Dan and Tan.

Jack and Nell, and their family helped me hone the reading skills that I took to first grade. I will always be grateful to them.

The people we deal with daily are real. Many, unlike Jack and Nell, are desperate for hope. They may never reveal their desperation, they may never come in out of the cold of loneliness, but they need us.

Jack and Nell did not need me or my classmates. But real people, the ones placed in our paths by Christ, do need me.

The Gospel is real. The people it is intended for are real. The promise of eternal life is real. The alternative is real.

Which way is Jerusalem? ☞

■ just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Judge to vagrant: "Do you work?"

Vagrant: "Now and then."

Judge: "What do you do?"

Vagrant: "This and that."

Judge: "Where?"

Vagrant: "Here and there."

Judge to officer: "Put him back in jail?"

Vagrant: "When do I get out?"

Judge: "Sooner or later."

Take this truth

Harry E. Fosdick said, "No horse gets anywhere until it is harnessed. No steam or gas drives anything until it is confined. No Niagara is ever turned into light and power until it is tunneled. No life grows great until it is focused, dedicated, disciplined."

Memorize this Scripture

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion" (Philippians 1:6 NIV).

Pray this prayer:

Lord, help me to realize the importance of completing jobs I begin. Teach me how to be faithful to every task assigned to me. □

Each family needs to be guided

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

Have you ever taken a guided tour of some big city, special attraction, or museum? What did you

expect from your guide? Our family once took a guided tour of the sprawling San Diego Zoo. The tour guide gave us a map of the grounds and loaded us onto the bus that would be our transportation.

The guide then accompanied us on the tour, giving explanation of the layout and answering questions as we toured.

This metaphor suggests three responsibilities which I believe are critical in parents' accepting the obligation for guiding their families.

A good guide should know where you are going, know what you can expect to see, and go with you on the tour.

As parents seek to give guidance to their families, they need a map of the tour. The Bible is the infallible map that our Loving Father has given to his children — they will know how to stay on track.

It is not enough for the guide to possess the map — it also must be followed.

The map allows the guide to find two things that are important to the tour: direction and destination.

It is important to know des-

tinuation before calculating direction. The reason many parents, as guides for the family, are having difficulty determining direction for the family is that they do not know that certain destination.

There are many helpful disciplines, such as philosophy, psychology, and sociology, that aid the guide in reading the map.

But the map remains the measure that helps us evaluate these other aids.

The second facet of our metaphor is that the guide should know what we can expect on the journey.

I do not mean to imply that parents should have all the answers.

However, parents should have many (if not most) of the answers.

There is a deep need today for parents to be parents. Kids don't need another playmate.

They need a parent who has some of the answers and is willing to share them.

Finally, I suggest that the guide should be willing to go

with the tour.

Too many parents are trying to get their families to go places that they have not been.

They want their children to refrain from drinking or smoking while they drink and smoke in front of them. Or they want to send their children to church instead of going with them.

Parents also need to go with their children to the children's sporting events, band programs, and so forth.

As we consider our responsibilities for guiding our families, let us remember that a good guide knows where he is going and

how he plans to get there, what can be anticipated on the tour, and he is willing to go with the family on the journey. □ —

Readers are urged to write or call Dr. Barkley with questions or comments. These articles are for family benefit. If you have any word to share with readers about family living, please let us know.

Appropriate comments can be printed in the Baptist and Reflector. Dr. Barkley can be reached at Union University, BMH Campus, 999 Monroe, Memphis 38104, or at the Counseling Center, 6385 Stage Rd., Ste. 1, Bartlett 38134. — Editor



BARKLEY

Davises of Knoxville help Grenadians

By Maria Taylor
For Baptist and Reflector

Each time dentist and missionary Carter Davis treats a patient who needs a filling or root canal, he tries to help spiritually too.

Patients waiting at the Grenada Baptist Dental Ministry to see "Doc" may watch a Billy Graham crusade video, or they may thumb through tracts in the waiting room. Patients seem to appreciate most the kindness with which they are treated by Davis and his staff, who are all Grenadian Christians.

Are tooth fillings and dental



C. DAVIS

C. DAVIS

surgery the same in Grenada as in the United States? Yes, says Davis, but the Grenadian usually comes with a mouthful of dental needs, not just for a

"regular check-up." With such a heavy load of patients, Davis tries to limit each visit to 30 minutes since he also makes hospital rounds for oral surgery patients.

The ministry of dentistry bridges several gaps in Grenada, including the negative image most hold of Baptists. Southern Baptists are often associated with "Spiritual Baptists," a cult in Grenada, but Davis and his staff have helped change that perception.

Being a "professional" also provides Davis an in-road for ministering to Grenadian businessmen and physicians as he attends medical meetings and social functions.

Davis is assisted in ministry by his wife, Charlotte, who is a nurse, musician, and writer. She has written a book on dental health education for children, developed children's Sunday School literature for the Caribbean, and now serves as field services director for Caribbean Christian Publications. She also started and directs the Grenadian Baptist Association Choir.

"People who won't attend a

worship service in a Baptist church will come for the concerts (of the choir)," said Charlotte Davis.

The Davises teach a Tuesday evening Bible study which began when their next-door neighbors became Christians.

"The first thing they asked us to do was lead a home Bible study," Charlotte remembers, with a gentle smile. Over 20 people have accepted Christ as a result.

The Davises admit they never considered career missions when choosing their careers. Carter, a native of Knoxville, studied dentistry in Knoxville and Memphis while Charlotte, also a Knoxvillian, attended Belmont University and nursing school in Nashville. Both were actively involved in home mission projects through Wallace Memorial Church in Knoxville.

After their marriage, they remained active Baptists. Charlotte led training for children's Sunday School teachers for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. And Carter began volunteering two weeks each year to do missions work in Guyana.

The first thing they asked us to do was lead a home Bible study.

—Charlotte Davis, missionary

In 1975, the Davises visited Otis Brady, missionary to Guyana, at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Assembly. During one of the meetings they heard Baker James Cauthen, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, speak. During his message, Davis sensed God calling him to career foreign missions. As he shared his experience with Charlotte later, she, too, had felt God's leading. During the invitation the next night, the couple made their commitment public.

Davis remembers the words of his pastor, James McCluskey, at the last deacons banquet the Davises attended before leaving for Grenada.

He said for a year he had prayed that God would call someone from the church to

full-time foreign missions, but if he had known God was going to call his deacon chairman, he might not have prayed so hard.

After 17 years, some might relax their efforts, but not the Davises. Their vision for Grenadian Baptists and unbelievers continues to grow.

They hope to start a new dental ministry in an area of Grenada with no church.

For Carter Davis, whose work motto is "Serving the whole man," bridges and crowns have taken on a whole new meaning. □ — Taylor is a freelance writer in New Market. She interviewed the Davises while they were on furlough recently for an article in *Missions Today*.

Health needs draw Dunn, other volunteers to South America

Nashville physician Dewey Dunn and wife Bobbie can't report how many mission projects they have participated in or how many countries they've visited. They've never kept count.

Records at the Tennessee Baptist Convention show they have worked in about 20 mission efforts — most about two weeks long and all at their expense. They have led almost all of the efforts.

So the recent health care project they led to Venezuela is a part of their lifestyle. They've already finished recruiting volunteers and packing medicine for the April 8-19 project to Chile supporting the Tennessee/Chile Baptist Partnership.

They are currently recruiting others for work in Venezuela July 1-9 and Sept. 16-26, and in Chile Aug. 5-16.

Why try to convince volunteers to spend so much, travel so far, and work so hard? The reasons follow, explained

Dewey Dunn.

The 49 volunteers who worked in Venezuela eight days treated 8,606 patients and helped lead 1,573 people to make spiritual decisions, he reported. And these records are only partial, he reminded, because of the circumstances of health clinics.

Unusual aspects of this project was that one volunteer served from a wheelchair and one worked despite a serious illness, reported Dunn.

Another amazing effort was that of John Chapman, an ophthalmologist from Kingsport. He was one of 19 Tennesseans who served. Chapman was the only North American volunteer to work at one site. He treated 1,600 patients in five days — or about 320 per day.

A result of the long-term commitment of health care workers to missions is relationships between Baptist health care workers in different countries, Dr. Dunn explained. In

addition to serving as fellow workers, Venezuelans are inviting health care workers from North America to train Venezuelans in academic settings. That is the purpose of the project scheduled for July in Venezuela, he explained.

He is still learning about missions work, added Dunn. He has learned the following —

- ministry at home qualifies one for missions service
- evangelism is usually done one on one by national Christians
- church planting is done by missions teams as they work in new areas
- unreached people hear the Gospel because of ministry
- local church members are trained as they help North American missions teams
- both nationals and volunteers learn from each other
- nationals, volunteers, and missionaries enjoy fellowship during missions efforts
- government officials and

agencies may cooperate when informed of mission effort

■ missionaries benefit by

receiving health care, learning health care, and involvement in the effort. □

Maryville church 'moves' outreach to neighborhoods

Forest Hill Church in Maryville has a good problem — people moving into subdivisions around the church and members with a desire to share the Gospel with the new residents.

It also has an unused school bus.

The result will be a mobile ministry led by the church this spring.

The school bus is being converted into a mobile classroom — seats will be removed and carpet installed, explained Ken Link, pastor.

For 12 Saturdays this spring it will be driven to a member's yard in one of the area's subdivisions. Members wearing T-shirts bearing the

phrase, "Our Backyard," will fan out to invite children to activities on the bus.

Other members will serve as teachers or the "lawn chair brigade" — a group who will visit with parents bringing their children. Senior adults from the church will make follow-up contacts with families involved in the ministry, said Link.

The idea is a practical one, he said. The church is being good stewards of its resources. The whole project is budgeted at about \$800. And it is following a tried and true method — children's ministries.

Church members have tried door-to-door contact with community residents but had little response, said Link. In contrast the church, which averages 175 in Sunday School, drew 225 children to Vacation Bible School last summer.

Who knows how many children will attend activities led this year by Forest Hill Church? □ — Connie Davis

TBC holds 14th Annual Drama/Puppetry/Clowning Festival

The annual Drama/Puppetry/Clowning Festival will be held April 15-16 at Judson Church, Nashville.

Seventy-one conferences are offered in the three areas of the festival and in recreation.

In addition, a pre-festival Drama in Worship Symposium will be held.

Leaders include Susan Fendley, Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville; Kelly Seccrest, Calvary Church, Covington, Ky.; Christy Haines, Clearview Church, Franklin; Matt Tullos, Baptist Sunday School Board; Ev Robertson, SSB; Cindy Pelphrey, Third Church, Owensboro, Ky.; John Garner, SSB; Susie Toomey,

Indian Springs Church, Kingsport; and Joe Cain, Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville.

The cost is \$30 or \$35. For more information, contact the TBC Church Recreation Office, (615) 371-2033. □

'Rocking Chair Philosopher' adds message for seniors

By Ruth Robinson
For Baptist Press

CHATTANOOGA — Clean country humor has always been a trademark for Eddy Nicholson, who is billed as America's "Rocking Chair Philosopher." Since his early days as a full-time music evangelist, beginning while he was still at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Nicholson joked along with the music.

So successful was his humorous patter, he decided to leave the music evangelism field and strike out on his own as a humorist and inspirational speaker.

There are calls across the country for a clean-up of blatant sex and violence in television, books, movies, and magazines. Nicholson thinks it also is time for those in his profession to do the same.

While his performances have never relied on off-color and suggestive jokes, he said, he now is more deliberate about it.

His stories and one-liners are what you might have heard told on the porches of country homes back in the days before TV, when there were porches and rocking chairs to rest in and visit with neighbors after the day's chores were done.

Now, while continuing his civic club organizational circuit, Nicholson also is branching out to include church groups, particularly older peo-

ple who remember those porches and rocking chairs.

Nicholson has just come out with the first of a projected five-volume series of books, *Squeaky Clean Humor*, each of which will have 100 "funny stories, tall tales, yarns, common sense philosophies and 'pure dee ole lies.'"

He has collected these stories over many years on the entertainment circuit as people have come up to him after his performance to share humorous stories with him. He has selected the best — and cleanest — to include in his printed collection.

Nicholson is a natural humorist. His conversation is sprinkled with the humorous illustrations of his performances. In speaking of his book, which is just out, he said, "It's in its seventh printing." Pause. "The first six were blurred."

Once at a banquet he was sitting next to a woman writer who later included a chapter on him in a book she wrote about humorists.

When he told her he lived in Ooltewah (a suburb of Chattanooga) and she asked where that was, he told her "Ooltewah is so small we had to shoot a man to start a graveyard." That one made it into his book too.

Nicholson readily agreed a near-fatal stroke some two years ago helped nudge him in a new direction. There was concern at first that he would even survive. During rehabili-

tation, which included learning to walk and talk again, he had time to think about his life and his future.

He made a career decision. While he still continues with lectures to civic and business groups, he also is branching out to senior adult church groups.

In the months since he made that decision, he has booked appearances far in the future.

"Senior adults have made a fantastic contribution throughout their years. They may not of had many pats on the back, but they have given of themselves freely. They had different values and priorities from today. Now they are up in years and they need to laugh."

A native of Chattanooga — "I was born at home and they took one look at me and rushed my mother to the hospital" — Nicholson grew up in Cleveland, attended Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, with a major in psychology and a minor in foreign language. From there he went to Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and did graduate work at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where he worked on a master's degree in composition and opera.

He had drifted into the field of evangelism and music when he graduated from Carson-Newman and for the next 22 years worked in that field with some of the top evangelists in the nation. He also had a radio program and found he liked to



EDDY NICHOLSON is a "rocking chair philosopher" with a dose of Christianity thrown in.

work in words as well as music.

He returned to Chattanooga 10 years ago met and married his wife, Phyllis. They have an 8-year old daughter.

In 1984 McKee Baking Co. in Collegedale, became his national corporate sponsor. This means McKee picks up part of Nicholson's speaker's fee and also sends along Little Debbie products to sweeten up his audiences. It's good publicity for McKee and good for a reduced fee for those Nicholson speaks to.

His "rocking chair philosophy" stems from a long-felt conviction "that we need a more personal approach, an I-thou approach rather than an I-it approach. This chair is an

it. A lot of things people treat like its. We are a Social Security number, an it," Nicholson said.

"People don't like to be treated on an I-it basis. We are made so that we like an I-thou relationship. That's the way the Good Lord made us."

Nicholson said he constantly has to fight the desire to "get heavy" in his presentations.

"There are many others better qualified to do that. I have a burning desire to get in somebody else's field and preach to them, but people don't need that. People need serious stuff about like Tammy Faye Baker needs another layer of makeup." □

Top 50 Tennessee Baptist churches in baptisms - 1992-93

No. of baptisms	Church	Pastor	No. of baptisms	Church	Pastor
621	Bellevue Church, Cordova	Adrian Rogers	70	Hanvit Korean Church, Nashville	Yang Choon Kim
211	Central Church, Hixson	Ron Phillips	68	Third Church, Murfreesboro	Murray Mathis
185	Two Rivers Church, Nashville	Jerry Sutton	64	Elliston Church, Memphis	Floyd Simmons
170	Sevier Heights Church, Knoxville	Hollie Miller	64	Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage	H. Dean Haun
130	Higher Ground Church, Kingsport	Phil Hoskins	64	Rayon City Church, Old Hickory	Terry Wilkerson
121	Germantown Church, Germantown	Ken Story	62	Bayside Church, Harrison	Robert Stitts
119	First Church, Hendersonville	Glenn Weekley	62	Calvary Church, Knoxville	Robert Burch
117	Hilldale Church, Clarksville	Verlon Moore	60	First Church, Clarksville	Roger Freeman
117	First Church, Mount Juliet	Billie Friel	60	First Church, Milan	none
112	First Church, Millington	Ray Newcomb	60	Woodland Church, Jackson	Robert Ervin
108	Central Church, Oak Ridge	Ronald Herrod	59	Broadmoor Church, Memphis	Richard Sisk
101	Westwood Church, Cleveland	Bob Bell	59	Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory	Kenneth Clayton
98	Calvary Church, Oak Ridge	Steve McDonald	57	Poplar Heights Church, Jackson	Joseph McIntire
98	Kirby Woods Church, Memphis	Robert Pitman	57	First Church, Powell	Phil Jones
95	Beaver Dam Church, Knoxville	Terry Taylor	55	Green Hill Church, Mount Juliet	W. D. Thomason
93	First Church, Cleveland	Allen Lockerman	54	Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville	Larry Fields
93	First Church, Concord	Doug Sager	54	First Church, Columbia	Tim Floyd
92	Leawood Church, Memphis	Thomas Vinson	54	Grace Church, Knoxville	Ronald Stewart
90	Immanuel Church, Lebanon	Donald Owens	54	New Vision Church, Murfreesboro	Michael Thomas
80	Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville	Doug Westmoreland	53	Chamberlain Memorial Church, Chattanooga	Don Long
78	First Church, Donelson	W. Roy Fisher	53	First Church, Smyrna	Kenneth Hubbard
76	Bartlett Church, Bartlett	Jackie Kay	53	Stones River Church, Smyrna	Ross Maroney Sr.
75	Cold Springs Church, Pikeville	Lonnie Cummings	52	Brentwood Church, Brentwood	Michael Glenn
75	First Church, Spring City	Steve Pearson	52	First Church, Dickson	John Compton
73	First Church, Franklin	Richard White	51	Radnor Church, Nashville	Paul Durham

New Orleans trustees affirm president, staff; adopt budget

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary trustees approved a budget of \$8.3 million, 9 percent over the current fiscal year, during their March 15-16 meeting here.

Trustees elected Edward D. Johnson, pastor of First Church, Ocala, Fla., as chairman. Re-elected to vice chairman and secretary-treasurer positions were **Morris L. Anderson, pastor of First Church, Pigeon Forge**, and Charles G. Rhinehart, a layman from New Orleans, respectively.

Seminary President Landrum P. Leavell II received a resolution from the board of trustees, who expressed "unanimous and sincere appreciation" to the president "for his dynamic and creative leadership ... (which) has resulted in over \$18 million in endowments to the seminary, the establishment of 17 endowed faculty chairs, and a substantial increase in student enrollment ..."

Leavell, 67, is in his 20th year of service at the seminary. Trustees also presented

a resolution for the seminary's administration, faculty, and staff.

Three new faculty members were approved: Charles L. Register as assistant professor of evangelism in the division of pastoral ministries; Francis X. Kimmitt as assistant professor of general studies in the School of Christian Training; and Allen Jackson as assistant professor of youth education in the division of Christian education ministries.

Tenure was granted to seven faculty members: Sidney L. Buckley, associate professor of voice; Philip A. Coyle, assistant professor of psychology and counseling; Benjamin L. Harlan, assistant professor of church music; Charles A. Ray Jr., associate professor of New Testament and Greek; Thomas S. Roote, associate professor of

church administration; Paula A. Stringer, assistant professor of childhood education; and William F. Warren Sr., assistant professor of New Testament and Greek.

Trustees promoted six faculty members and named three professors to fill endowed professorial chairs, two of which are newly created.

Argle A. Smith, assistant professor of preaching, will occupy the J. D. Grey Chair of Preaching; D. Waylon Bailey, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, will occupy the new J. Wash Watts Chair of Old Testament; and J. Terry Young, professor of theology, will occupy the new McFarland Chair of Theology.

Trustees also gave approval for the construction of three more faculty townhouses on campus. □

English-language European churches meet Lottie Moon offering goal

Baptist Press

WIESBADEN, Germany — Churches affiliated with the European Baptist Convention gave more than \$100,000 to the 1993 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, surpassing their goal of \$99,999.99.

Churches affiliated with the convention have about 4,700 members. That means each member gave an average of about \$21 to the offering, said John Merritt, Southern Baptist missionary and convention general secretary.

If 15 million Southern Baptists in the United States were to match this per-person giving, the Lottie Moon offering would total \$315 million. The goal for 1993's offering is \$85 million. Projections indicate

Southern Baptists will have given \$82.5 million when the 1993 books close May 31.

Sixty English-speaking churches located throughout Europe are members of the European Baptist Convention, which is closely associated with the Southern Baptist Convention. The European Baptist Convention adopted the goal, proposed by its Woman's Missionary Union, despite decreased offerings in recent years. Many churches have lost members because of U.S. military cuts in Europe.

"We gulped hard at the size of the goal, but we accepted it. It looks like the women were on target as usual," Merritt said. "The spirit of missions is alive and well in the EBC," the European Baptist leader added. □

There's right, wrong way to reimburse ministers

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Wrongly handled, how churches handle reimbursement of business expenses incurred by their ministers can cause problems, according to church tax expert Richard Hammar.

A church cannot simply fund a minister's accountable business expenses out of the minister's salary, said Hammar, an attorney and certified public accountant, editor of the popular newsletter *Church Law and Tax Report*, and author of the 1994 edition of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board's annual guide for preparing ministers' taxes.

In 1991 the IRS ruled churches cannot reduce a minister's salary by the amount of the minister's accountable reimbursements. Before this type of arrangement was prohibited, for example, if a minister's monthly salary was

\$2,000 and the minister accounted for \$400 in expenses, the church reduced the salary to \$1,600 and reimbursed the minister for \$400 in expenses.

In a more recent and "very significant development" that will affect ministers' taxes, Hammar said, the IRS ruled "salary restructuring" arrangements to fund accountable business expense reimbursements also are prohibited.

Business expense reimbursements frequently are handled this way, Hammar said, when churches use the so-called compensation package arrangement. The new rule "is a real threat to compensation packages," he said.

He advises churches to separate business reimbursements from salary and housing in the budget. Words like "total compensation" on documents that break down the components can cause prob-

lems," he said.

He encouraged churches to adopt an accountable business expense reimbursement arrangement, which does not require the church to report reimbursements as income to the minister and the minister need not claim any expense deductions.

Being reimbursed through an accountable systems also helps ministers avoid the deduction limits on business entertainment expenses, Hammar said. Taxpayers will be allowed to claim a deduction on only 50 percent of business entertainment expenses in 1994.

Hammar also noted it is

highly advisable to have a certified public accountant prepare a minister's income tax return. He recommended ministers ask the CPA a lot of questions, the first one being: Is an ordained minister self-employed for Social Security purposes? The answer is yes, Hammar said, and if the CPA does not know the answer, find another CPA.

Hammar warned that the IRS is adding clergy to a special list of classes being targeted for audits. "Every district office of the IRS will have a specialist on clergy taxes," he said, noting the IRS continues to focus on all kinds of self-employed taxpayers. □

Camp Carson site of World Changers crew chief training

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — World Changers is calling for volunteers to attend its first training retreat for work project crew chiefs.

World Changers, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, stresses hands-on missions involvement by participants through involvement in home construction and renovation work on week-long projects. Crew chiefs provide supervision and leadership at each work site.

The April 21-23 training retreat will be hosted by the Tennessee Baptist Convention at Camp Carson near Newport. Their training will include repairing and re-roofing several camp buildings.

The cost of the training event is \$10 with meals, lodging, and training materials furnished. For more information about World Changers call (901) 272-2461. □

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WANTED

Chaplain for Boy Scout Summer Camp near Altamont, Tenn. Contact Baptist Relationship Committee, P.O. Box 65, Soddy Daisy, Tenn. 37379; (615) 332-3416.

CLASSIFIED

STAFF POSITIONS: Bakers Grove Church has two part-time or interim positions open for a music director and pianist. Send resumes to Joel Saunders, 1708 Aaronwood Dr., Old Hickory, Tenn., 37138.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR/BOOK-KEEPER WANTED: Park Avenue Church, Nashville, 37209. \$31-35K salary package. For printed information, call (615) 297-5336.

TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the associations

■ **The Woman's Missionary Union of Cumberland Plateau Association** are collecting items for the new children's home in Oakdale.

■ the churches

■ **Walnut Hill Church, Harriman**, is conducting weekly remedial music reading classes for choir members and others who do not read music.

■ On April 1 and 3 the choir of **Lee Village Church, Harriman**, will present its two-part Easter program titled "Amazing Love." The program, which includes drama, will be held on Good Friday evening beginning at 7 p.m. and on Easter beginning at 11 a.m.



FOR 40 YEARS OF uninterrupted Sunday School attendance, Betty Jean King, First Church, Pigeon Forge, receives a pin from Morris L. Anderson, pastor of the church.

■ **First Church, Trimble**, reported 48 people made professions of faith and 37 others made additional spiritual decisions during its March 13-18 revival. Ben Wilkes, pastor, Second Church, Union City, led it.

■ **Clear Creek Church, Dayton**, will hold revival April 10-13 with evangelist Earl Taylor of Alcoa.

■ **Normandy Road Church, Royal Oak, Mich.**, asks for prayer in support of the Tennessee/Michigan Baptist Partnership. The congregation, which meets in a suburb of Detroit, Mich., is trying to rebuild. For more information, contact (810) 435-0822 or (810) 288-6824.

■ **First Church, Morristown**, will hold revival April 11-14. Wayne A. Barber, pastor, Woodland Park Church, Chattanooga, will lead it.

■ **Gerald Stow**, director, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, will lead an April 17-20 revival at **Memorial Church, Crossville**.

■ **Bloomington Church, Kingsport**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary April 3.

■ An April 17-24 revival will be led by Billy Friel, pastor, First Church, Mount

Juliet, at **Lantana Road Church, Crossville**.

■ **Fairfield Glade Church, Fairfield Glade**, will hold revival April 17-22. Bob Kerr, pastor, North Athens Church, Athens, will lead it.

■ **Old New Hope Church, Fairview**, on new Highway 96 southwest of Nashville, has about 75 theater seats to give away to any church or congregation which can pick them up. If interested, call W. L. Fisher at (615) 799-2741.

■ the people

■ **Joan Baker**, member, Germantown Church, Germantown, has published another book. *Glissandos of Love* includes poems, prose, drama, and music. The book is dedicated to Charles R. Baker, senior vice president of Baptist Memorial Health Care System based in Memphis, her husband.

■ **Doug DeFord** and **Burl Smelcer** were ordained as deacons by Inskip Church, Knoxville March 20.

■ the leaders

■ **Bobby Mullins** has been called as pastor of Cherokee Church, Memphis, effective April 10.

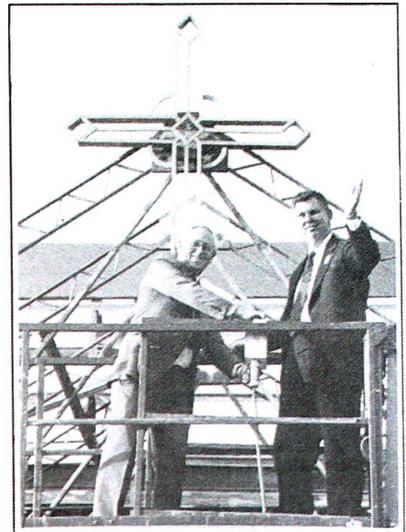
■ **New Hope Church, Hermitage**, has called **Mike Houston** as minister of youth, effective March 13.

■ **Greg Brewer** has been called as pastor of North Fork Church, Puryear.

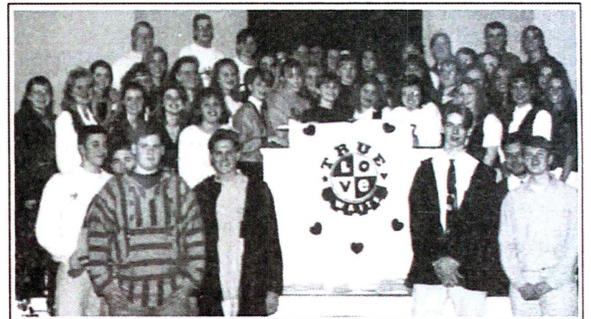
■ **J. Thomas Parnell** has been called as interim pastor of Mount Tirzah Church, Newbern.

■ **Johnnie Welch** has been called as pastor of Second Church, Dyersburg, effective March 1.

■ **Max Holt** has been called as minister to singles at Hilldale Church, Clarksville. Holt formerly was a church staff member in Texas. He is a retired Army Lt. Colonel and was based at Fort Campbell, Ky., near Clarksville.



INSTALLING THE SIX FOOT CROSS on the new building of Temple Church, Memphis, is Tommy Whiteside, left, chairman of the building committee, and Clyde Porter, a Memphis contractor, at the building dedication Feb. 27. The building will cost \$1.1 million and is located in east Shelby County. The church was located in midtown until 1990.



A TRUE LOVE WAITS commitment to sexual abstinence until marriage was made by all 53 of these youth at First Church, Pigeon Forge, on Feb. 13.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

God has a vision for you

Billy Skinner, pastor
First Church, Union City

One of the greatest needs among Christians and churches today is a renewed vision of life and ministry. Churches everywhere are declining and settling for status quo — less than God's best — because of a lack of vision. The way we see ourselves, our world, and our God drastically effects every area of our lives.

Vision relates to faith. It is the ability to see a job or ministry that needs to be accomplished as being accomplished.

A people of vision can be thought of as a people of far horizons. When we think of the vision of our life and ministry we must think about goals and dreams. What are we asking and believing God to accomplish through us?

Nehemiah was a man with a vision. He believed God for the restoration of Jerusalem. Others thought the task was too great, the cost was too much,

the enemies were too strong. However, Nehemiah was able to see through the eyes of faith that the job could be done.

It has been said that "Eyes that look are common but eyes that see are rare." One of the great needs today is for men and women who can see what God sees.

When I see his power I understand the scope of his vision. When I see his plan, I receive the direction of his vision, and when I see my position in Christ, I receive the hope and the courage to act on his vision.

A vision brings stability, creativity, motivation, a generous spirit, and discipline.

What is your vision for your church? "Where there is no vision, the people perish." □

Are you ready to minister?

Dana Fachman, pastor
Meridian Church, Knoxville

Just in the last week I have seen

several people automatically, without encouragement or coercion, step up and become servants. They were not recruited or even welcomed, but they did it all the same. They saw a need and met that need.

One might say, "Well that's their personality and not mine!" Or another may feel that they would assist if they were asked. But the reality is that most people are not going to do anything they do not have to do! Cold, maybe, but truthful all the same.

Some Christians have discovered the positive benefits of being motivated to minister. The world has a new term for it, being pro-active! Jesus used simpler terms when he said, "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister" (Mark 10:45).

We need to change our mentality about church. We do not come to be ministered to as much as to prepare to minister. Worship is just that, worshipping God, not being ministered to, entertained, or being emotionally stirred. If all we get out of church is being emo-

tionally pumped up to face another week, we have missed the boat completely.

God has called us to minister, to serve others, to share the Gospel, and to grow the kingdom. That means some of us need to get pro-active, and less prone to sitting and waiting on others to serve!

In the coming weeks, we will be asking you to serve by writing a card, making a call, or going on a visit. Please say yes and receive the blessing that comes by being a servant. □

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.

SERVING ALL MANKIND

CELEBRATE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM DAY

APRIL 17

Church and Community Ministries

John and Shirley Everett
Director, Mission Center
Knox County Association
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Samuel and Jayne Gash Sr.
Director, Military Oasis
Shelby County Association
5281 Navy Road
Millington, TN 38053-2535

Eunice Heath
Director, Mission Center
Bradley County Association
P.O. Box 3477
Cleveland, TN 37311

Taylor and Patricia Hooker Jr.
Director, Church/Community Min.
P.O. Box 266
Clinton, TN 37717

Richard and Janice Lewelling
Director, Montgomery Center
Knox County Association
3725 Orangewood
Knoxville, TN 37921

Beverly Smothers
Director, Christian Social Ministries
Holston Association
207 University Pkwy.
Johnson City, TN 37604

John and Frances Draper
Director, Missions Programs
Shelby County Association
795 Rocky Point Road
Cordova, TN 38018

National Missionary
William and Annette Howse
Senior Adult Ministries
510 McClanahan Drive
Brentwood, TN 37027-5609

Regional
Jimmy and Linda Furr
Interfaith Witness Missionary
Area Director
806 Waterview Terrace
Mt. Juliet, TN 37122-2515



TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024

Ray Newcomb, *President*

Dear Tennessee Baptists,

How can we all be one? Is it possible to be one person or one church? We can all share one message: The Gospel. We can all agree on one mission, sharing the Bible with all. The Holy Spirit of God made the disciples one in Acts 4:31-32 "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common." How did they show this oneness? They were one in heart, in soul and in giving.

The Cooperative Program is the one way we can get the one message to all the world. I like the statements I found in The Tennessee Baptist Convention Cooperative Program 1991-92 Budget Summary pamphlet.

Because we as Southern Baptists recognize That Christ established the church to carry out his divine purpose in the world, and That the genius of our life as autonomous New Testament churches is our freedom to cooperate in order to make evident our unity in Christ and to give substance to our common purpose to proclaim the Gospel, and That our life as a denomination emerged historically in 1845 in an effort to elicit, combine, and direct those resources over which God has placed us as stewards, and That as a result of that commitment our denominational life has by the grace of God prospered in terms of unity, missions, and ministry, **We Hereby Declare** this program of cooperation to be self-evident of our denominational unity and a manifestation of our vision for the future under the Lordship of Christ, and **We therefore recommit** ourselves in prayer to that trust, sacrifice, and resolve necessary for the responsible expression of our life together in Christ through the Cooperative Program.

It is a joy to share with you that First Baptist Church of Millington gives 13 percent of our regular offerings through the Cooperative Program. Together we can impact the world for Christ. Our money is missions in action!

It is my prayer that each Tennessee Baptist Church will join in giving through the Cooperative Program.

Yours in Christ,

Ray Newcomb

Black Church Extension Division

Ken and Belva Weathersby
Church Starter Strategist
Shelby Association
795 Rocky Road Point
Cordova, TN 38018

Special Ministries Department

William and Cynthia Black Jr.
Resort Missionary
Sevier County Association
439 Autumn Lane
Gatlinburg, TN 37738-9719

Language Church Extension Division

Ngoc Ha
Vietnamese Pastor
Immanuel Baptist Church
222 Belle Meade Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37205-3499

Touch Ieng
Cambodian Pastor
Highland Heights Church
675 National Ave.
Memphis, TN 38122-3686

Sei-Hun and Yang Ja Kim
Catalytic Language Missionary
Nashville and Concord Associations
420 Main St.
Nashville, TN 37206-4215

Young Soo Kim
Korean Pastor
New Providence Baptist Church
613 East St.
Clarksville, TN 37042-4317

Gideon Olaleye
Director, Church/Community Min.
Clinton Association
African Mission of Hope
2500 Hillsboro Road
Nashville, TN 37212-5625

Adonis Rodriguez
Spanish Pastor
Red Bank Baptist Mission
4000 Dayton Blvd.
Chattanooga, TN 37415-2712

Eliab Saenz
Spanish Pastor
Spanish Mission, FBC
108 Seventh Avenue S.
Nashville, TN 37203-3910

Khamsorn Vilaysack
Laotian Pastor
Southeast Baptist Mission
708 Minerua Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37130-6042

Phimphone Vongphachanh
Laotian Pastor
First Baptist Church
200 E. Parkway N.
Memphis, TN 38105-2716

Contact a home missionary

These home missionaries and others in Tennessee are available to tell about their ministries, which are funded primarily through the Cooperative Program. To receive more information about Cooperative Program Day, call Archer Thorpe at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, (615) 371-2018.

■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Jesus' resurrection — Bible Book Series for April 3

By Brent Seals, pastor, First Church, Elizabethton

Frank Morison wasn't a man you would expect to find in church on Easter Sunday. In an effort to disprove the historic Christian belief that Jesus was raised from the dead, Morison began to write a book. Little did he realize his study would radically change his life. His book, *Who Moved the Stone*, turned out to be a defense of the bodily resurrection of Christ. The disciples were surprised by the facts of the resurrection also.

Their discovery — vv. 1-9

Very early that Sunday morning, Mary walked to the tomb with spices to anoint her Master. The faint light of daybreak made it difficult to see and she wondered if her eyes were playing tricks on her. The soldiers were absent, the stone was moved away, and the body of Jesus was gone. Mary ran to

Peter and John with the news causing the men to engage in a foot race to the tomb. John won the race but daring Peter entered the tomb first.

The apostle John saw and believed. Why did he believe? Because of what he saw and did not see in the tomb. The Jews had a different way of burial than their neighbors. The Egyptians embalmed their dead and the Romans and Greeks often cremated theirs. The Jews with respect for the body as an important part of a person, lovingly wrapped their deceased in linen cloth and spices and laid them on their backs.

The entire body was wrapped except for the upper shoulders, neck, and head. The head was wrapped separately in turban form. Both Peter and John saw but not in the same

way. The word for see in John's case is "blepo," meaning simply seeing (v. 5). In Peter's case the word "theorea" from which we get our word theater is used which means a long look.

When John entered and looked — "horao" meaning to see with understanding — he believed (v. 3). It has always been a mystery how some people have eyes of faith and others do not. How thankful we must be. These disciples saw the grave clothes in the same exact positions as when they were on the body. If we believe as Peter and John did, our lives can be changed by our all-powerful Lord.

His appearance — vv. 10-18

The disciples left the area but Mary returned and was first to see the risen Jesus. Standing outside the tomb, alone and uni-

Focal Passages John 20:1-8, 11-16

formed the language tells us she was weeping in typical Near Eastern fashion. Jesus had cast seven demons out of her and she loved him very much. Chrysostom in his commentary suggests one of the angels motioned her to turn around.

Since an angel announced Jesus' birth it is only natural that an angel announce his resurrection. In both instances the heavenly messenger brought good news.

It was highly significant that Jesus first appeared to a person of an oppressed segment of society, and a person who was doubly an outcast for being not only a female but a lady known for her horrible sins. This

speaks volumes to us of his love and care for us.

His appearance to others — vv. 19-31

Later Jesus appeared to all his disciples showing them his hands and side and giving them the Great Commission in verse 21. The disciples, who previously were doubtful and cowardly, were now forever changed. The resurrection has been questioned by skeptics for centuries. But would these men die for a lie? Surely not. They did not believe in the "fraud" theory (Jesus fainted and was revived), the "mistake" theory (they had poor eyesight and the person was not Jesus), or the "vision" theory (they saw a ghost or vision). They met the risen Lord and were changed. May we allow the same risen Christ to change us. □

□ A glimpse of glory — Convention Uniform Series for April 3

By Mike Thrower, pastor, Brunswick Church, Brunswick

One of the joys of Easter is the double truth that both the cross and the tomb are empty.

Many religions on earth can point to the tombs of their founders. All of them are still occupied. Only at the tomb of Christ does the sign read "Vacancy." On the cross Jesus defeated the power of sin. In the tomb he defeated the power of death. This is the reason that we can celebrate today. Jesus arose!

As we look at the Scriptures in this lesson two great themes emerge. Both relate to the glory that belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ.

As God he enjoyed all the glory that heaven could afford.

As man he emptied himself of that glory. Paul writes that in humbleness Christ emptied himself to become a man

Focal Passage Mark 16:1-8; Romans 8:12-27

(Philippians 2:6-8). Now at the resurrection we find that ...

Glory restored

Have we not all heard the story of how the women came to the tomb that morning to minister to the body of our Lord, only to discover that he had arisen? The resurrection was a reality. Now he lived in a body that was heavenly. A body that was immortal and imperishable. Now he was not confined to the physical limitations he had voluntarily bore as a man. The glory he had laid down had been restored.

There to help them understand was an angel. He spoke to

them with words of comfort, "Be not frightened." He had words of correction, "He has risen, he is not here." And He gave them words of command, "Go, tell. ..."

All that Jesus had foretold was true. The promise of the resurrection had been realized, and finally understanding was also beginning to dawn upon the believers. This wonderful truth became a basic doctrine of Christianity.

Glory shared

We live lives that are under the laws of nature. Our bodies experience the effects of aging. Unfortunately, man has also chosen to live according to the flesh spiritually. The result of this is death.

Paul in Romans reminds us that through the shed blood of Christ salvation is possible.

The Holy Spirit has borne witness with our spirits — first to convict us of our sinful nature and second, to convict us of the reality of judgment. But most importantly to convict us of righteousness. He has taught us that if we surrender our lives to Christ we will receive forgiveness for our sins.

Along with the forgiveness comes a new reality. We are no longer children of the world, but rather children of God. He has adopted us as his own.

In addition to this present relationship are the blessings of the future. As his adopted children we are also "heirs, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ." We will share in all that belongs to Christ.

Some of this may involve suffering. Consider how Jesus

himself suffered even to be put to death by crucifixion. We cannot expect to escape suffering and persecution if our Lord did not escape it. This is especially true as we live in post-Christian America.

But along with the suffering there is also the promise of resurrection for each child of God. As Christ arose from the dead, so shall we. God will provide for us a resurrected body that will be like his. As Paul said "that we may also be glorified together." He will share his glory with us.

We have a responsibility to live in a manner that will allow others to catch a glimpse of glory in us and to desire that glory for themselves. We have the obligation to tell them of Christ, his death, and his resurrection. □

□ Our resurrected Savior — Life and Work Series for April 3

By Tommy Stevens, Meadow View Church, Lawrenceburg

One of the joys in my life is to watch as people make discoveries that change their lives. It is not easy to give up old ideas and adopt new ones. Here is the story of a woman whose life was changed by her discovery.

Discovery — vv. 1-2

Early Sunday morning, after Jesus had lain in the tomb past the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene and two other women (Luke 24:10) returned to the tomb of Jesus to place the customary spices in his burial garments (Luke 23:56).

Rolling away the stone to get into the tomb to Jesus was solved, but the tomb was empty. Mary's first response was predictable. She ran to tell Peter and John that someone had removed the body.

Most of us fail to see the victories in life because we expect to see the difficulties. Mary was no exception. Instead of a resurrection, she saw a robbery.

Despair — vv. 11-13

Most adults have experienced the loss of a relative or friend. We can understand Mary's expectations as she went to the tomb of Jesus. She expected to find her Lord in the tomb. That was bad enough, but the body was gone. Perhaps she felt overwhelmed — explaining why she didn't recognize the angels or understand their questions.

We often unintentionally make superhuman people out of Bible characters, but when we do we miss the Bible's message for our human lives. Mary responded to her loss just as we do. Therefore the presence of our risen Lord is as comforting to us as it was to her.

Discernment — vv. 14-16

Have you ever been so engrossed in an idea that you didn't recognize what was being said to you? Mary was engrossed in the idea of the lost body of Jesus. Her mind had

Focal Passages John 20:1-2, 11-18, 30-31

developed a scenario so real to her that other options could not easily enter her mind. Jesus spoke to her as she stood near the tomb weeping. She heard but did not respond to what he said. She responded to her own thoughts. She offered to move the body of a dead man that was way too heavy for her.

In our grief, or joy, we make rash statements. Jesus doesn't question our reasoning, but he gently calls us back to reason.

When Jesus called Mary by name, she was jolted back to reality. She apparently threw herself at his feet and grabbed his ankles (such was the custom) in a clutch that said, "I will never let you go again." Jesus gently pried her away with a comment that seemed to

say, "Do not cling to me. I will be here only a short time. Then I must resume my role at the right hand of the throne."

Declaring — vv. 17-18

When something wonderful happens in our lives, we are eager to tell someone about it. Our first grandson was born a week ago at this writing. Even strangers were told about our grandson the day of his birth. We still brag about our other grandchildren born years ago.

Jesus gave to Mary the same type of commission he gave to the disciples in Matthew 28:19, and each of his followers, including you and me. John was able to depict the resurrection scene with Mary in great detail. She kept telling the story over and over. When Christ becomes our risen Lord, we too, want to tell the story.

Deciding — vv. 30-31

Everyone has a purpose for what he does. Our motives are

occasionally corrupt, often noble. John explained his purpose for writing his Gospel. It was the most noble of all motives: that his readers might believe on the name of Jesus and thereby gain life both abundant and eternal.

Obviously the entire life's work of an individual cannot be written down in so short a space as the Gospel of John. More of his wonderful work is described in the other gospels. But John wrote enough so that those who read his story and believed it to be true would be confident that Jesus is God and gave up his own privileges to take on human flesh and become the payment for our sin debt.

John's purpose in writing is also our purpose in writing. Have you made Jesus your Lord and Savior? If so, are you living in his Lordship? If not, will you bow right now and ask Jesus to forgive your sinfulness and be your Lord and save you? □

Robbers shoot missionary in Peru

Baptist Press

LIMA, Peru — Southern Baptist missionary Gary Crowell came close to death March 18 after being shot and robbed outside his office here.

Crowell was in stable condition in a Lima hospital March 21, however.

The 41-year-old missionary underwent emergency surgery March 18 to repair a major artery severed when robbers shot him in the leg as he returned from the bank. The robbers escaped with an undisclosed amount of money.

Crowell is treasurer of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Peru. □



CROWELL

North Carolina WMU elects Duke as director

Baptist Press

ASHEBORO, N.C. — Irma Duke, a 19-year employee of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, was unani-

mously elected executive director of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina during a called meeting of its executive board March 19.

Duke, who will assume her new duties May 1, has been associate vice president for communications at the FMB since 1989. In that role she lead the work of 55 staff members in print and audiovisual production. She has been the primary person for developing and monitoring the FMB's \$2 million communications budget.

Duke and her husband, Jim, have two children. □

Athletic conference sues Baptist school

Baptist Press

BUIES CREEK, N.C. — The Big South Conference has filed suit against Campbell University, a North Carolina Baptist Convention-related school, for \$300,000 in damages because the school plans to leave the conference.

According to university provost Jerry M. Wallace, Campbell was a charter member of the Big South Conference with an agreement not to play athletic games on Sunday.

The conference recently decided to play conference championships on Sunday, a decision that school officials said left the college with "no choice but to leave the conference."

Big South Conference officials said Campbell's decision to leave this year will result in the conference's loss of the au-

tomatic bid to the NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament.

A Big South Conference constitutional article requires a member school to file a two-year notice with each conference member before resigning.

Conference officials contend they agreed to prohibit Sunday play for two years after being informed of Campbell's resignation, but that Campbell refused the overture. □

Roark stays at OBU, declines SWBTS post

Baptist Press

SHAWNEE, Okla. — C. Mack Roark, Oklahoma Baptist University's vice president for religious life, has accepted a full-time teaching position at the university, declining the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary theology faculty position to which he was elected by trustees at their March 7-9 meeting.

That meeting also was when seminary President Russell H. Dilday was fired.

Roark was unavailable for comment March 18. A news release from the university did not mention whether the Dilday decision had played a part in Roark's decision. The release noted, however, Roark had cited the opportunity to work with biblical studies students in their formative years as OBU's Ruth Dickinson Professor of Bible, as a factor in remaining at the school where he has served for 10 years. □



Home Missionaries

Noe and Carmen Ortiz are Southern Baptist home missionaries in Washington state. They are language church starters who work with migrant workers. The Ortizes are among 4,868 home missions personnel supported through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The theme of this year's offering is "It's Your Serve." The national goal is \$40 million while the goal for Tennessee Baptists is \$3.25 million. Tennesseans are encouraged to pray for and to give generously to the support of home missions.

Leaders say need heightened for BWA 'global perspective'

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Baptist World Alliance's "global perspective" is needed more than ever, BWA leaders declared during their March executive committee meeting in Alexandria, Va.

"We need this fellowship to bring the good news to the end of the world," said BWA President Knud Wumpelmann of Denmark. Baptist "unions and conventions by themselves cannot bring the global perspective," he said.

"We must take seriously how to evangelize the secular-

ized West," said Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary, in his address to about 80 Baptist leaders from 15 countries.

"Cross-cultural evangelism is needed and the BWA is more important than ever in helping the West overcome secularism," Lotz said. □

Georgia paper names managing editor

Baptist Press

TOCCOA, Ga. — John D. Pierce, 37, has been elected managing editor of *The Christian Index*, newsjournal of the Georgia Baptist Convention, effective July 1. He is campus minister at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. □

Airmen weep for fallen friends

Baptist Press

MOMBASA, Kenya — Though March 20 was a typical Sunday morning for most Kenyans, it was a Sunday 250 American servicemen would not forget.

That morning they said goodbye to eight comrades who died March 14 when their plane crashed during a flight to Somalia.

"This wasn't a mandatory event," explained Southern Baptist missionary Gene Pugh, who helped lead the memorial service. He has been preaching at chapel services for U.S. military personnel in Mombasa since January.

Pugh had two friends on the plane that crashed: one who survived, the other who died.

The missionary led the airmen in singing "Amazing Grace" and "Blessed Assurance" under the watchful eye of the "Angel of Death" — the gruesome emblem painted on all the unit's C-130s.

Some of the soldiers wept as they paid their last respects. □

US-2 missionary helps Mississippi River Ministry

By David Winfrey
For Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — In her first four months as a US-2 home missionary in Little Rock, Andrea Ramage had to make the adjustment of working in a large city.

US-2 missionaries are Southern Baptists younger than 30 who volunteer to work two years in home missions. The Home Mission Board currently has 100 US-2 missionaries.

The 24-year-old Kentucky native is assistant regional coordinator for the Mississippi River Ministry, an effort of seven state Baptist conventions (including Tennessee) to evangelize and minister to mostly low-income residents along the Mississippi River.

Ramage's job includes spreading information about the ministry to Southern Baptist churches and associations through speaking, brochures,



US-2 HOME MISSIONARY Andrea Ramage stands by a display for the Mississippi River Ministry. — Photo by David Winfrey

and newsletters.

Ramage is the primary contact person for churches wanting to be involved in the ministry, and she has assembled a directory of ministry projects for churches wanting to be involved.

While many churches in the region have been willing to

work in other states, Ramage said she hopes to encourage churches to look for needs they can meet in their own communities.

"Missions isn't just going to the next state," she said. "It's right here where we are. It's something that we see every day."

Ramage said she accepted a call to missions while at a missions festival in Lexington. "I'd heard the call before," she said, but she answered it when she heard then-Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks talk about Christ pruning the branches of his church for it to produce more fruit.

"I clearly felt the call to missions then," she said. "God said, 'This is it, Andrea. If you don't answer this call now, I'm going to start pruning you.'"

She said God has given her a peace about her work despite the challenges. "I know this is where I'm supposed to be," she said.

Ramage, a University of Kentucky graduate, said MRM mirrors Christ's work while on earth. "He met people's physical needs first, and then through that he could meet their spiritual needs."

She asked for prayer for the ministry in general and that people will see the needs. □