

# Baptist and Reflector

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## Will Canada be new missions partner for TBC?

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
*Baptist and Reflector*

CALGARY, Canada — Big. Expansive. Diverse. Large cities. Sweeping plains. Rich farmlands. Spectacular mountains and lush virgin forests.

All these words, and more, describe Canada, our neighbor to the north.

Five Tennessee Baptists last week visited this second largest country in the world. The group was exploring the possibility of a partnership mission linkage with Canadian Baptists.

The four-day fact-finding tour resulted in a tentative agreement with the Canadians, to begin next January when the current three-year partnership with Chile concludes.

At a wrapup discussion April 15 here in Calgary, the participants agreed to present a plan for partnership to the appropriate leadership groups of the two conventions.

When the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board meets May 10-11 in Brentwood, a report of this trip will be presented by James Porch, the board's executive director/treasurer.

Present for that meeting will be Allen Schmidt, executive director/treasurer of the Canadian Southern Baptist Convention.

The partnership plan will be presented also to the CSBC when it meets July 5-7 in Calgary with TBC representatives on hand.

Accompanying Porch to Canada last week were Bill Wil-



**DISCUSSING** missions partnership, from left: David Crocker, Allen Schmidt, Canada; James Porch, Bill Wilson, Ray Newcomb. Standing: Jim Furgerson, Tom Warrington, FMB.

son, TBC Convention Ministries Division director; Wm. Fletcher Allen, *Baptist and Reflector* editor; David Crocker, Executive Board president; and Ray New-

comb, TBC president.

The five arrived in Calgary April 12 and met with Schmidt along with several additional — See Will Canada, page 2

## State senators say 'no' to lottery in Tennessee

By Lonnie Wilkey  
*Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — Tennessee state senators brushed back efforts by pro-gambling forces in the legislature and soundly defeated a referendum April 13 which would have allowed Tennesseans to vote whether to remove the word "lottery" from the state constitution.

With that word removed, the state could have been open

to all forms of gambling, including casinos.

Senators voted 18-14 to defeat the bill despite efforts by Memphis Sen. Stephen Cohen, sponsor of the bill, and an impassioned plea by Sen. Ronnie Greer of Greeneville to let the people vote on the issue. The bill needed 22 votes to pass.

Under current provisions of the Tennessee State Constitution, another direct vote is not

possible until 1998.

Yet, earlier in the week (April 11) the Senate left a door open that could lead to a lottery by approving a bill, 23-8, calling for a Constitutional Convention to deal with the lottery issue.

That bill, however, would have to be passed by the Tennessee House of Representatives to begin the process. As of April 18, House leaders were on record saying they would not call for the Constitutional Convention. Even if passed by the House it would take about three years before a lottery, if approved, could be in place. The House approved the referendum idea last year.

Supporters for the Constitutional Convention said it would give people the opportunity to participate in the process. A factor against the Constitutional Convention is its predicted cost of \$500,000.

Cohen, a leading advocate of having gambling, including casinos in Memphis, opposed the call for the Constitutional Convention.

Speaking for the original bill, Cohen and other Memphis senators said the economic welfare of Memphis depended on having casinos to compete with Mississippi which now has them and Arkansas, which has dog racing.

An amendment to the bill sponsored by Jerry Cooper of

McMinnville would have provided language allowing Memphis only to have casinos. After lengthy discussion Cooper withdrew the amendment because of the possibility the bill, if passed with the amendment, could be challenged in court.

Voting against the lottery were Sens. Ray Albright, Ben Atchley, Tommy Burks, Rusty Crowe, Gene Elsea (a Baptist layman from First Church, Spring City), Milton Hamilton, Douglas Henry, Jim Holcomb, Keith Jordan, Carl Koella, Tom Leatherwood, Joe Nip McKnight, Randy McNally, Lou Patten, Curtis Person, Carol Rice, Danny Wallace, and Andy Womack.

TBC consultant Bill Bates, who actively worked against the lottery bill, feels the issue is basically over even though the House could conceivably approve the call for a Constitutional Convention.

He warned, however, about resting on one's laurels. "You never stop watching. The lottery/gambling issue has to be a concern from now on because the forces that want this will never give up," he said.

Bates expressed appreciation for the senators who took what some view as an unpopular stand. "They deserve our thanks, our prayers, and best wishes during upcoming elections." □



### Creative Arts Festival

Three young puppeteers from Powell's Chapel Church, Murfreesboro, were among the 860 people who attended the 14th annual Drama-Puppetry-Clowning Festival April 15-16 in Nashville. From left, Jessica Butner, Jessie Winkler, and Rachel Nave. Behind them is sponsor Lisa Nave. See page 7 for story and additional photos.

# Will Canada be new Tennessee missions partner...

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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— continued from page 1  
CSBC staff members at the Cochrane office building.

In addition to the words already used to describe Canada, the most important ingredient for this neighbor on the north is people.

Though its population is diverse and includes many ethnic groups, English and French are the two national languages.

A partnership probably would include the four Western provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

How did Baptist work start in Canada? There were Baptist churches in Canada long before a convention was formed.

In February 1977 some Canadian Baptists met with Southern Baptist leaders. They met again in June and covenanted to pray and work together toward evangelization of Canada.

The Canadian Southern Baptist Convention was formed seven

years later, and by 1987 a seminary was being birthed.

At the forefront of the new organization was Allen Schmidt, a Baptist who's name has become synonymous with Baptist evangelism and missions across this great nation.

With a tough, tenacious, and gentle approach, Schmidt and other Baptist leaders have forged a tight but cooperative and hardworking convention of some 110 churches. Some 48 are lan-

guage churches. And now, the young Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary, located in Cochrane just west of Calgary on the same broad hillside overlooking the city, has 19 alumni. The first wave is already serving in Canadian Baptist churches.

Those graduates include one Native American. Speaking of the need for trained seminary graduates, seminary president Richard Blackaby asks that Baptists join in praying for "God to call out young Canadians to go out with the Word."

The youthful president says to Tennessee Baptists, "Pray that God will place a burden on young Canadians to view Jesus' example of the harvest in Matthew 9 as a personal challenge."

Examples of that youthful vigor which perfectly matches the adroit and steady leadership of Schmidt and others, and which is at work in some of the churches is Jeff Christopherson.

## This is Canada:

**Population:** 27.5 million  
**Provinces:** British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia  
**Main Industries:** Fishing, manufacturing, mining, pulp and paper, hydropower, agriculture, oil, forestry, tourism  
**Habitat:** 89 percent of land is unsettled  
**Size:** Second largest nation  
**Language:** English, French are national languages

A graduate of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., he is a native of Prince Albert. While at the seminary Christopherson drove seven hours each way to work with the church in New Battleford, Saskatchewan.

Since then the church has bought a skating rink and converted it into a handsome and efficient church building. "They even gave us 200 pairs of roller skates," he says. In three years the church has raised its budget from about \$26,000 to \$100,000 — while purchasing the building

## TRAC staff needed

The Brotherhood Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, needs young men age 17 or older to work in the department's summer camp program.

Young men who want to serve with TRAC (Tennessee Royal Ambassador Camp) this summer should contact Bob Davison, program associate, for an application. They can call (615) 371-2074 for information and forms.

Young men will serve as counselors, working directly with campers. The camp begins June 4, with a week of training. Signees serve seven weeks, ending July 25-29.

The positions are paid, and meals and travel expenses added. A screening test is applicable. □



**SEVEN PASTORS** from Edmonton area churches: from left: Bill Bye, Westwood; Mike Hicks, Ceba Beech; Dan Eddington, Jasper Place; Allen Schmidt; Pat Milne, Dover Court; Nelson Yiu, Chinese Church; Roy Spannagal, DOM; and Walter West, Jasper Place associate, Brentwood native.

and helping several of its families where the men lost their jobs. They paid \$200,000 for the property and building — which originally cost \$750,000.

The town's population is about 20,000. The church has started five home Bible studies and expects to start five more by fall.

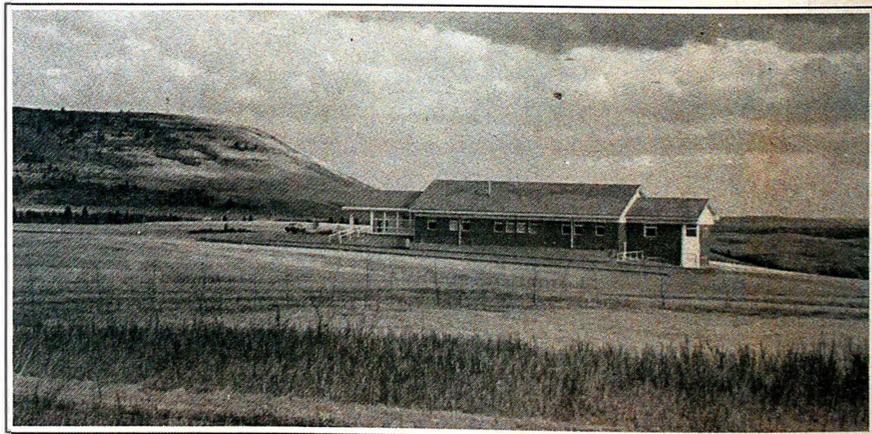
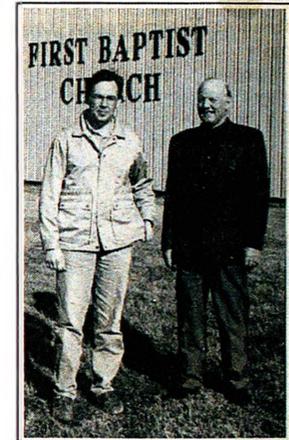
### Exploring a partnership

The Tennessee/Chile partnership Mission is scheduled to end this December.

The fourth such volunteer missions endeavor for Tennessee Baptists, the Chile venture has seen much cooperative missions work between the distant neighbors.

The exploratory trip to Canada last week follows informal discussions between Canadian and Tennessee executive directors Allen Schmidt and James Porch.

Porch, Bill Wilson, Wm. Fletcher Allen, Ray Newcomb, and David Crocker met with Schmidt and other leaders for a brainstorming session April 15. Also present were Jim Furgerson, Foreign Mission Board director of volunteer work, and his associate for Canada, Central and South America, Tom Warrington.



**SITUATED ATOP A HILL** overlooking Cochrane, Alberta, is the main building of the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary, seven-year-old school of the Canadian Southern Baptist Convention. The seminary has 19 alumni. Convention headquarters is on adjacent property. Photo above: Jeff Christopherson, left, and Allen Schmidt, and the North Battleford First Church building.

# Tennessee missionaries, others travel safely out of Rwanda

Compiled from Baptist Press

LIMURU, Kenya — Celebrations over the safe evacuation of Southern Baptist missionaries from Rwanda were tempered April 11 as the rescued missionaries urged prayers for the nation and its Christian community.

Katrina Knox of Columbia has returned to the States on vacation and is now at her parents' home in Columbia.

Missionaries David and Janet Hooten of Knoxville are on "R & R" (rest and relaxation) in Mombasa, Kenya, along with eight other Southern Baptist missionaries recently evacuated from Rwanda.

Yet the sand and surf of the Indian Ocean won't soon relax the missionaries, but it will be a start as the missionary families cope with memories of friends left behind in the bleeding African nation and ponder when — and if — they will get to return to Rwanda

and what they will do until then.

Just getting out of the country was hard for some of the missionaries, especially those in Kigali, Rwanda's capital.

For the Hootens, who had to leave their home in Cyangugu by themselves in a car with their two children, the ordeal was terrifying, they told Baptist Press in a telephone interview from Kenya April 10.

Originally set for a rescue operation by the U.S. Embassy that had to be dropped, the family was to leave with a group of Free Methodist missionaries who live near Cyangugu. But when they got to the meeting place in their car, no one showed up.

They soon encountered several roadblocks set up by men carrying machetes and knives, who demanded food and mon-



D. HOOTEN



J. HOOTEN



KNOX

ey. One man even grabbed onto the window of Hootens' car trying to force him to stop, but the missionaries were able to get away.

They eventually linked up with others leaving in a convoy. The group then made their way to Bujumbura, Burundi.

"It was so hard to leave. The sooner we can get back the better," he said.

Hooten, who grew up in Kenya and Uganda as the son of Southern Baptist missionaries, said his call to minister to the people of Rwanda is stronger than ever.

Hooten said he fears for the fate of Rwandan Baptists and

other Christians as the ethnic struggle between the Huto and Tutsi peoples of Rwanda and Burundi have increased since the deaths of the country's two presidents earlier this month.

Red Cross officials estimate more than 20,000 people have died in the ethnic slaughter since April 6.

For Knox and fellow missionary Martha Colwell, who both lived in Butare, their departure was easier. "We didn't have any trouble. It was quiet in Butare," Knox said in an April 15 interview with the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Knox said she was "relieved to be out, though it was sad to leave her friends and co-workers behind. It's quite frightening to think of what's happening there, she said.

As with the other missionaries, Knox has no idea as to when, or if she will be able to return to Rwanda, where she has served for the past eight years.

She noted that sitting here

(in the States) is more difficult in some ways because she is getting little news of what is happening in Rwanda now."

Knox noted that everybody is "unsettled and upset" by what has happened in Rwanda. "We never expected it to be this bad," she said of the rampant killing and looting in Kigali.

While grateful that she and her fellow missionaries were able to escape with their lives, Knox said the "hard part is to leave behind Rwandan friends who may or may not get away with their lives."

Knox is scheduled to return to Kenya May 6. Meanwhile, she and the missionaries in Mombasa who have been placed on administrative leave until May 10, are regrouping and waiting on the board to decide where they should be assigned next. □ — This article contains information from FMB writers Craig Bird and Don Martin and Associate Editor Lonnie Wilkey.

## Home Mission Board directors deal with Masonry, CBF, financial issues

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board clarified their stand on Freemasonry, narrowly rejected a call to consider not appointing missionaries who are Masons, and addressed financial issues, including the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, during their April 12-14 meeting.

Board members also elected

new staff members and appointed 13 missionaries.

Board members unanimously passed a statement on Freemasonry that said any organization that espouses universalism as the "plan for human redemption is unbiblical and heretical."

The issue of Masonry has plagued the HMB for the past few years. In 1993 messengers to the SBC meeting in Houston adopted the recommendation

that many Masonic teachings are not compatible with Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine, while other teachings are compatible. Among those things found incompatible was that universalism "permeates the writings of many Masonic authors." The statement on universalism came in response to criticism of the board's report on Freemasonry presented to last year's convention.

HMB President Larry Lewis

told Baptist Press, "The obvious consensus of our board is that they do not want further involvement with the Freemasonry issue and that we have dealt with this issue as thoroughly and adequately as we are able."

After the board's unanimous vote on the statement, director Jim Guenther of Schenectady, N.Y., made a motion that the administrative committee study barring Masons from serving as home missionaries.

Director John Avant of Brownwood, Texas, opposed the request, saying that the board had more important matters.

The motion appeared to pass 30-29 until board secretary Linda Principe, of Bradenburg, Ky., said she had not voted and wanted to vote against it. The tie required the action of Chairman Brad Allen who voted against it.

In his annual address, Lewis said areas of concern for the board are decreased baptisms and projected budget reductions due to declines in Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering giving. The 1995 budget will be 6 percent less than the 1994

budget. The Atlanta staff is reducing its budget so that cuts on the field will be minimal, Lewis said.

On another funding issue, Lewis reiterated his call to continue accepting funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a "moderate" organization of Southern Baptists.

The HMB receives about \$500,000 a year through the CBF, Lewis said, noting the funds come from individuals and churches and not the CBF itself.

"To reject these contributions would be an insult to the donors," Lewis said. While saying he was opposed to the CBF he said not accepting the funds would "polarize our convention even more, widening and hardening the division, making the possibility of future reconciliation even more difficult."

Lewis said the SBC Executive Committee has asked a study committee to make a recommendation on accepting or rejecting CBF funds and that it would be premature to act on the issue.

Some HMB trustees, including Walter Carpenter of Houston, feel the board should not accept CBF funds. □

## Dilday says he's not a candidate for SBC president

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH — Russell H. Dilday Jr., fired president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said he has no plans to be a candidate for president of the Southern Baptist Convention and urged support for Jim Henry.

Dilday responded to an "Open Letter to Dr. Russell H. Dilday" composed by John

Reid, director of missions for Tuckaseegee Association in Sylvania, N.C. The letter was sent to all state Baptist papers and other news media as well as to Dilday.

The letter suggests it is "time for Southern Baptists to decide that both conservatives and moderates will share equally in the governance of the (SBC). Let us start in Orlando this June by electing you

as president. ..."

Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., and Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., are the only announced candidates for SBC president. Both are acknowledged conservatives.

Dilday told Baptist Press he has been approached by groups, individuals, and alumni about being a candidate for the presidency. "But I do not have anything in my plans or on my agenda, at the present time, in this matter."

Dilday said he sympathizes with those who feel strongly about his firing and the effort to get the SBC "back to its main purposes and correct this misdirection of the past."

Regarding Henry, Dilday said the Florida pastor is a symbol of "reclaiming of heritage ... he represents the constructive conservatives, rather than the hard-line, rigid fundamentalist spirit which is not open to alternatives." □

## SWBTS faculty 'dismayed, offended' by letter

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH — Faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary expressed "dismay and offense" at the recent letter sent by seminary trustee officers to Southern Baptist churches explaining the firing of President Russell H. Dilday Jr. on March 9.

In an "Open Letter to Southern Baptists," faculty said the trustees' letter implied that Dil-

day "holds liberal views of Scripture and uses 'higher criticism' in destructive ways."

"Both charges are false," the faculty letter reads. "We respond not just to defend Dr. Dilday, but also to affirm valid methods of Bible study among Southern Baptists."

However, Ralph W. Pulley Jr., chairman of the Southwestern trustees, said the trustees' analysis is accurate as written in their letter. □

### SBC messenger cards mailed

Messenger cards for the Southern Baptist Convention meeting, June 14-16, in Orlando, Fla., have been mailed to association of-

fices throughout Tennessee.

Contact your local director of missions for more information. □

## ■ 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. □

### Like Christ

Henry Blackaby has called us to an attitude of Christ-likeness in our response to the firing of Dr. Dilday from Southwestern, and I couldn't agree more. Jesus spoke out strongly when confronted with wrong, and we should do no less. The trustees' affirming Dr. Dilday's work and telling him his job was secure, then firing him a few hours later is dishonest. Changing the locks and erasing the computer access of a fine Christian whose whole life has been spent serving God and Southern Baptists is mean.

The trustees' spending \$11,000 of the Lord's money to mail letters to pastors to try to "explain" their action is wrong. Jesus called the Pharisees hypocrites, and then used many descriptive words to make his point even stronger.

Following him sometimes involves stating unpleasant truths, but if we're to be truly Christlike maybe that's what we must do, as once again we see the name "Baptist" smeared. May God help us be more like our Lord.

*Diane Owen Jordan  
Talbot 37877*

### True colors

The more they speak and write, the worse they look. I am speaking of the trustees of SWBTS, responsible for the firing of President Russell Dilday. If they desire to exhibit Christian character without rescinding their decision, they should merely state, "We did what we felt led of God to do by dismissing Dr. Dilday. However, we did it in a manner contrary to the character of God and for that we are sorry. We have repented of our worldliness, and God has forgiven us. We now ask that our brothers and sisters in Christ, including Dr. Dilday and his family, forgive us as well."

It is sad that the only remorse being shown by the trustees is from becoming unpopular in the Christian community.

The more they attempt to defend themselves, and while they continue their attempt to defame Dr. Dilday, the worse they look. The secular way in which they conduct themselves continues to be magnified. When they speak of "philosophy" and "business protocol," and all the other secular terms used by them, it says to me the greatest ingredient for obtaining and maintaining Christian character is missing — Spirit filled.

Talk, letter writing, and defending wrong need to be replaced with accountability, confession, and repentance. If these gentlemen, and I am sure they are fine men, would spend some time fasting and praying, seeking the mind of God, they would undoubtedly stop sticking their feet in their mouths. I think they could learn from observing Dr. Dilday. We all could!

*Dalton McKellip, pastor  
Caney Ford Church  
Harriman 37748*

### It's all right

A job well done!

In reading the letter of Bill Sherman and others as they outright condemned the trustees for firing Russell Dilday, I was reminded of Dr. W.A. Criswell's statement in San Antonio: "A skunk by any other name still smells the same."

It is the job of trustees to see to it that the seminary runs smoothly and to uphold the integrity of the Word of God. Undoubtedly, they did not feel that Dilday was doing that. He was hired by the liberal element among the trustees back when the liberals were in full control of the Convention. When conservative presidents were only fig-

ure heads and the conservative trustees in all the agencies were simply tolerated, they had no power.

I have been pastoring Southern Baptist churches since 1958 (I am in my fourth church), and I have never known the conservatives to do anything that pleased the liberals. They simply live in a different world where there is little Scriptural foundation. They do not live or function on Bible grounds; they live on the principle of what they want. They have ordained women, homosexuals, and lesbians into the Gospel ministry. Just about anything goes with them.

Dilday was under the authority of the trustees, but he did as he wanted to do. He did not cooperate with them. The liberals among Southern Baptists have never believed or understood biblical authority.

The dear trustees of Southwestern Seminary have done a good job! Let us uphold them and pray for them as they seek a strong Bible-believing man for the presidency of Southwestern.

*Vaughn Denton, pastor  
Kirby Parkway Church  
Memphis 38141*

### Christian competitors?

I have just read the letter from the trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary concerning the firing of Dr. Dilday as president. I am not convinced their action was completely in the best interest of Southern Baptists.

Whenever a board of trustees has to send letters of explanation to justify their actions someone has to call "foul."

The three stated reasons for the firing are points of conflict with the trustees not the people of the convention. The reason such an uproar has been raised is because the people of the convention are realizing that the trustees are following their own interest.

The first listed reason for the firing concerned having: "An executive with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was to speak at the May commencement. This was in violation of the direction of the board's clearly stated policies, which the president declined to correct. It is totally inappropriate



ate to have a representative from a competing organization at such an important event."

The letter did not mention that the executive was Keith Parks nor that the invitation had been

made over two years ago when he was still president of the Foreign Mission Board.

The term "competing organization" should not even be used among Christians. What are we competing for? The power to hire and fire and make havoc of our convention while undermining the lives of respected, dedicated Christian leaders?

Competition only comes among Christians when there are "irreconcilable philosophical differences that led to our action." The competition is with one's own point of view not for the kingdom of God through Christ.

*Jess Love, pastor  
Grandview Church  
Nashville 37211-2296*

### Don't wake anyone

Since Russell Dilday's firing we've had the usual righteous and angry reaction from the masses that has followed other such behavior by our leadership. We forget somehow that in the past we've always gotten over these embarrassments in time. We'll get over this one, too.

A recent editorial asked, "When are our leaders going to learn that we don't like closed doors?" We should have more

faith in them than this. They already know very well that we don't like closed doors, and they also know that, at the end of all our indignant chatter, we aren't going to do anything about it. It's a lot of trouble to cleanse one's Father's house. Maybe when Jesus comes, we'll just tell him we're sorry about the corruption and all. But, in the meantime, let's not cause any trouble. Let's not wake anybody up or turn over any tables.

Let's continue our hollow calls for prayerful reconciliation and our pretense that these disputes between our old shameless regime and our new one are not about money and power but are about love and grace and forgiveness. We can get through this without anything serious happening if we'll just be careful not to do anything rash.

*Mark Perkins  
Knoxville 37919*

### Apologize to students

As a master and doctorate level graduate of Southwestern, I am compelled to express my hurt and dismay at the action taken by the board of trustees to dismiss Russell Dilday as president of Southwestern Seminary. In addition, I am appalled at the statements made by Lee Weaver and Miles Seaborn that changing the locks on the seminary president's office door was done because "... with all these kids around here, that somebody could have walked in and taken a souvenir." I gather that "these kids" are seminary students who cannot be trusted because they may steal a souvenir. An apology is certainly due to the student body.

*Samuel A. Creed, pastor  
First Church  
Ashland City 37015*

## Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



April -

- 21 — Manantial de Vida Church in Temuco has recently called a new pastor, Miguel Angel Mundaca.
- 22 — Clara Brincefield's dad, Robert Brincefield, has Hodgkin's disease.
- 23 — The National Convention of Chile as they seek God's wisdom and leadership
- 24 — The churches of the First Region (north, Arica-lquique) have only two pastors for the five churches and one mission in the area.
- 25 — David Miller, missionary evangelist, has a birthday today and is relocating in Puerto Varas.
- 26 — The construction of Betel Church in Concepcion as it continues to grow numerically and spiritually.
- 27 — The Tennessee Evangelism team who will be leading a crusade (May 3) in Talca.

# Lottery? No! Constitution escapes change

The current session of Tennessee's General Assembly likely will adjourn today.

There are always those who are mad or pleased with the legislature. But one thing is certain: success sometimes can be gauged not by what lawmakers do, but by what they do not do.

This session refused to approve direct action that would lead to a lottery.

Though the House of Representatives last term approved a measure that would okay a referendum this fall on whether to allow a state-sponsored lottery, a small group of senators refused to go along with the plan. In other words, they saw the folly of gambling.

Some irate supporters of the lottery in their anger and disappointment, have castigated opponents by hurling at them the epithet of "fundamentalists," using the word negatively. That is a mistake.

There is nothing wrong with having correct opinions about things that affect the morality of a people. There is soundness in being fundamentally on God's side.

Last week, as stated on this issue's front page, the Senate killed the referendum idea. Apparently the house has turned down the idea of a Constitutional Convention on the lottery.

Calling Tennessee's Constitution "the

grand old document," Larry Daughtrey of the daily *Tennessean*, said, "Tennessee's Constitution, which grows more graceful with age, won't be amended this year or next year or the next with the latest fad." He is right.

With the House turning down the Constitutional Convention idea and the Senate failing to approve a lottery referendum, Tennesseans won't have a lottery for at least four more years. If polls are believable, thousands of Tennesseans are upset about that.

Evidently the substance of the pro-lottery argument, at least on the surface, is that Tennessee would benefit greatly from a bonanza of taxes from the lottery.

Those who are disappointed place blame on fundamentalists, churches, far right strategists, and do-gooders. Well, sometimes it takes an amalgamation to get something done and send the right message.

Scratching below surface issues, one can see that most lottery supporters simply want to gamble, to have a chance to score big, or to sell advertising or other needs to the gambling interests.

Daughtrey also has some ideas about the folly of lotteries. "Lotteries are the fashion of the moment," he says, "but the fad is waning. States which have them are watching participation (and addictive tax collections) drop, and using

ever harder sells to lure their citizens back. The bloom may be fading on casinos too. With a casino in every muddy ditch off the Mississippi, Las Vegas is trying to turn itself into Disneyland."

There are many good things about Tennessee. The state is naturally beautiful, sharing its broad vistas, mountains, music, charm, and other assets with millions of visitors each year.

Those who clamor about the loss of money spent by Tennesseans who purchase lottery tickets in other states should tell the whole story. The millions who visit the Volunteer State regularly because of its culture and scenic wonders also leave millions of their dollars.

Tennesseans should not whine about being the non-gambling oasis in the Southeast. Our neighboring states are learning the hard way that gambling does not supply a permanent solution to economic illness.

It might give a questionable quick fix, but the injection is very painful.

So instead of complaining about not having a lottery or other types of legalized gambling, Tennesseans should stand tall. Even a little bit of bragging would be permissible.

The framers of the Constitution were wise. They must have known about the dangers of gambling. They merit our gratitude, as do those who protect those well-intended and well-phrased words. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

## Just another week

God's promises are not blank checks that we can fill out when we have a desire or need.

No, his promises are much greater than any check, and more than that, he has kept each one of them.

Often there is a temptation to look at each new week as "just another week." Did you ever have that feeling?

Weekends are good, even though we don't always use them for a time of rest and re-

vitalization. And after the busy weekend, there is just another week facing us.

I'm part of a small prayer group early each Monday morning. The time spent there is a buoy for life, a tonic for beginning a week.

There is no time limit. We get together soon enough to avoid any time constraint. It also allows us opportunity to praise the Lord with joyful voices, and to share with each other personal needs, praises, and ideas for the fellowship.

The blending of Christian brothers whose hearts are joined with Jesus enables us to be one in the Spirit.

We have moved past awkward feelings, no longer do we feel like tight-fitting shoes. There is an attitude of light-heartedness that invites spiritual comfort.

At times, one of the group may sense the urgency of a flight that will take him to another place, many miles from family and friends. There may be the brief sensation of a meeting that seems unpleasant at the outset.

But we have pledged to wrap the arms of intercessory prayer around each other, no matter how many miles separate us.

God is wonderfully adequate for each need. The marvel of Christian rapport would be laughable to those who have not experienced it or who do not understand it.

But by experience, we know Christian friendship is a source of joy, a strong bond of caring, a reason to rejoice.

And in each hour of prayerful togetherness, we face the days ahead, eager for adventure in "just another week." □



ALLEN

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

# The family 'blend' that works

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

I would like to suggest a three-level method of functioning for the blended family.

The ground level is coherence. It is followed by control to be capped off by closeness.

In most blended families, all the participants did not choose to participate. They sort of come along as part of the bargain in the marriage. It appears to be obvious to me that

coherence must be established before control of situations can be attained or closeness can be achieved.

Coherence comes from understanding. Understanding is not automatic. There are usually many hurdles that have to be overcome before understanding will come. Much misunderstanding seems to be intentional.

Blended families are fraught with high emotions and some degree of allegiance to the former family.

The blended family cannot pull together while they are being pulled apart by these differing desires, duties, and direction.

The first step is to come to some kind of agreement and

commitment that all are moving in the same direction toward the same goal. This could be accomplished by some type of group problem-solving exercise where the family sits down and comes to agreement on where they want to go as a family.

Control of the situations and environment comes through cooperation.

This cooperation is built upon the cohesion of the family as it learns to pull together as a team.

We have all attempted to complete a task that we found difficult if not impossible for us to do alone.

When friends and family volunteered to help us, the work went smoother and faster.

The blended family has to learn that control does not come when everybody else comes around to do it my way. Control will only occur when the blended family has been co-opted into pulling together.

Closeness will come only af-

ter cohesion and control have been achieved to some degree. Intimacy is a cherished

need for virtually all people. Many times the blended family is a lonely place because the family members have no focus on their direction which should have been developed as cohesion was being worked on.

The blended family tends to be chaotic to many family members because the control has not been established.

Once these foundational elements have been supplied, the family has the security and trust level in which intimacy grows.

In the Garden of Eden, God saw that it was not good for man to be alone. The family is the main supply for the intimacy that every human being craves and needs.

Family intimacy that is not built on cohesion and control will prove to be counterfeit and crumble in the crucible of life. □

Dr. Barkley may be contacted at his office or at Baptist hospital campus: The Counseling Center, 6385 Stage Rd. Suite 1, Bartlett 38134; or Union University, BMH Campus, 999 Monroe, Memphis 38104.



BARKLEY

## Start with a smile

While riding a bus and reading a newspaper article on life expectancy, a man said to a lady seated beside him, "Did you know every time I breathe, someone dies?"

She replied, "That's too bad. Have you ever tried a good mouthwash?"

## Take this thought

Sometimes, perhaps often, others see our imperfections long before we realize we have any offensive actions or attitudes. Never ask a person to "tell me the truth" unless you are ready for that person to do it!

## Memorize this Scripture

"A man who flattereth his fellow is spreading a net to trip him up" (Proverbs 29:5 Moffat).

## Pray this prayer

Lord, help me be careful not to offend anyone either by my actions or my attitude. May I realize as a Christian I may be the only witness of what God is like that anyone will ever know. □

# Mayor Sara Emerson serves without 'compunction'

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

She doesn't hesitate to pick up the phone and call Lt. Gov. John Wilder or U. S. Sen. Don Sunquist.

The mayor of Saulsberry, Sara Richards Emerson, has "no compunction" when it comes to helping her community, reported a friend, even though the West Tennessee town has a population of 175.

Her latest feat is the acquisition of the new \$100,000 fire fighting pumper. It took years of filing grant requests and making phone calls to accomplish the task.

She's a dynamo, explained Larry Corder, pastor, Saulsberry Church. Even though Emerson is beyond retirement age — she became mayor six years ago after several years of retirement — she usually has a busier calendar than he does, he reported.

Much of the business of Saulsberry is conducted in her home, a large manor in which she lived as a child and raised

a family. Her office is in her home.

When Emerson injured her back last year, she was bedfast, but not deterred. She simply called people in to see her.

The former public school administrator has led the community in starting a library and renovating a former church building to serve as the library site. In the area of fire protection, she got the pumper and other equipment worth about \$120,000 and has coordinated training for the volunteer fire fighting corps. These efforts are to lower fire insurance for residents, she reported.

She also serves as a member of the Hardeman County School Board.

Emerson's community service is like most of her work with Baptists — volunteer without pay.

Emerson was a member of the first Vacation Bible School training team in the state while a student at Union University, Jackson. After studying there several years, she moved to Bolivar to teach

fourth grade. At First Church, Bolivar, she soon was named youth director — one of the first in the state, reported Corder.

When she met Asa Emerson, a Bolivar businessman, and they married, she gained a partner in ministry which was only interrupted by World War II. While Asa served in the military, Emerson moved with her son back to her home in Saulsberry and



EMERSON

her home church, Saulsberry Church.

When Asa returned from the war, she was already leading youth at Saulsberry Church and serving as church organist. The Emersons picked up where they had left off.

"Asa was extremely involved in the association," added Corder. "He attended everything and expected everyone else to go too," he added.

The couple "laid the ground-

work" for the annual Hardeman County Association Youth Night that draws 400-500 each year, reported Deryl Watson, director of missions.

The Emersons worked with youth through the association for 45 years. Asa died in 1984.

Mrs. Emerson still serves Saulsberry Church as organist and teaches Sunday School — a ladies class now. After serving for 15 years as Discipleship Training director she stepped down several years ago to become assistant director.

Emerson also leads Vacation Bible School each summer — as she has every year except two since that summer while a VBS trainer during her college years.

"We're having one this summer," she reported.

She served on the Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Staff Compensation Study Committee from 1990-93.

And Emerson continues associational work despite her busy schedule and retired status. She "gives generously of herself and her money," said

Watson. "She's knowledgeable about finances and the association overall."

Her knowledge and her charm, said Corder, are remarkable. The knowledge allows her to administrate and her charm enables her to lead others, he explained, even him, he added with a chuckle.

She has many interests, some of which she doesn't readily admit.

Several days a month Emerson can be found at the national bird dog museum in Grand Junction leading tours.

She also participates in two organizations of retired educators — one of which she has led as president — a historic preservation society, and a social group.

"The Lord's been so good to me. He's blessed me in so many ways," said Emerson when asked by the *Baptist and Reflector* about her motivations.

Corder explained lifestyle another way. "You have to have a lot of energy to keep up with Miss Sara," he said. □

## Tennesseans prepare for National Acteen Convention in June

Nine Tennessee Acteens have been chosen to lead the National Acteens Convention (NAC) June 21-24 in Birmingham, Ala., by Woman's Missionary Union, SBC.

Acteens is an organization for young women, grades 7-12, which provides missions education in churches. NAC is held every five years.

Carrie-Ann Segraves of Huntingdon has been named one of six 1994 National Acteens Panelists who will serve on the NAC program. Segraves is a member of First Church, Huntingdon, and has completed the Service Aide advancement award. Segraves also is a member of the 1994 State Activator Team which will serve in Chile.

In addition to serving at NAC, Segraves will serve as a page at the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando during June and will speak at the WMU meeting held prior to the SBC meeting.

Two Tennessee Acteens have been named 1994 Top Teens. Twenty Top Teens are chosen from the ap-



CARRIE-ANN SEGRAVES

plicants for National Acteens Panelists.

Kristin Hall Robbins of Germantown and Kelly Hamilton of Knoxville are 1994 Top Teens.

Robbins, a member of Germantown Church, Germantown, is a 1994 Tennessee Acteens Advisory Panelist.

Hamilton is a member of the 1994 State Activator Team to serve in Chile and a member of Salem Church, Knoxville.

In addition, the 1994 Tennessee Acteens Advisory Panel will help lead NAC. Members are Bethany Lee Boles, Central Church,

Fountain City, Knoxville; Amy Lauren Briggs, First Church, Memphis; Kimberly Connor, Unity Missionary Church, Jacks Creek; Heather Logan, First Church, Bolivar; Kristin Hall Robbins, Germantown Church, Germantown; and Mary Bea Skinner, Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville.

Alternates are Elisa Denney, Fairview Church, Lebanon; and Crystal Rene Rogers, Unaka Church, Elizabethton.

This panel leads Acteens in Tennessee.

The theme of NAC is "Heart of the Journey." During the meeting the Acteens organization will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Also, participants of NAC may be a part of a ministry project which will distribute teddy bears and shoes contributed by Acteens.

The convention, for Acteens and leaders, costs \$60 each.

For more information, contact WMU, SBC, at (205) 991-

4933, or Tennessee WMU at (615) 371-2038. □

## Franklin church seeks volunteers for work in Siberia

Persons interested in participating in a volunteer project to start a church in Novosibirsk, Siberia, in July are being sought to join a group sponsored by Clearview Church, Franklin.

Pat Still, a layman who went to Novosibirsk in 1993, said at least 15 volunteers are needed to work with Southern Baptist missionaries Charles and Phyllis Hardie and Russian Baptists in starting a church.

"Volunteers do not have to be experienced in church starting," Still said. "They just need to be willing to share their faith and to meet and talk with Russian people who are open to the Gospel."

In addition to the mission project, volunteers will visit Moscow and St. Petersburg.

The group will leave July 1 and return between July 11 and 14, Still said. Anyone interested in information about the project should call Still at (615) 333-8615. □



TENNESSEE ACTEENS ADVISORY PANELISTS for 1994, from left, front row, Kimberly Connor, Mary Bea Skinner; back row, Bethany Boles, Kristin Robbins, Amy Briggs, and Heather Logan, pose for a picture.

## TBC creative arts festival prepares participants for ministry

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Baptist Convention's annual Drama-Puppetry-Clowning Festival has come a long way since the first one 14 years ago which drew about 42 participants and had one instructor.

Approximately 860 people, including many from out of state, attended this year's event April 15-16 at Judson Church in Nashville. And, they came despite severe thunderstorms and tornadoes in some areas of the state.

The Tennessee festival now has the largest attendance of any state convention creative arts festival and also has the largest faculty, said festival advisor Matt Tullos, an editor/writer of drama materials for the Baptist Sunday School Board, which provides some faculty for the conferences.

He noted also that in the area of youth drama emphasis "Tennessee pretty much leads the way."

In addition, for the second consecutive year, a "Drama in

Worship Symposium" was held. Attendance for this year was about double that of last year, Tullos observed.

A reason for that, he said, is more churches "are reacting to a felt need of the church to be more visually relevant in worship."

As for the festival itself one of the keys to its growth is that it always attempts to meet the participant's needs, from the beginner to those who have been working in creative arts for a long time, said Eleanor Yarborough, program director for the TBC's Church Media/Library/Recreation Office.

"We try to always keep in mind what they need in the local church to help their ministries," she said. "Our goal is to prepare them for ministry," she added.

Organization is a trademark of the Tennessee event each year. Each area of the festival has its own coordinator. In addition Yarborough compiles a steering committee comprised of key leaders in the creative arts from across the state who help plan the festival each year.

In order to meet the needs more than 70 different conferences are offered in all areas of the creative arts.

For instance, in puppetry there's something for the person just learning to manipulate a puppet to offering instruction for actually writing a script for a puppet show.

There's something to meet

the needs of both large and small churches, Yarborough noted. "We have something for churches just getting started and for those wanting to grow the ministries they already have," she said.

Yarborough said the festival is designed using a three-prong education approach.

Participants have the opportunity to observe other teams in action and learn from them.

They also have the classroom training in individual conferences, and finally, they have the opportunity to actually perform and have their performances evaluated.

Participants also attend a creative worship service and see first hand the use of creative arts in worship, Yarborough added.

The festival's faculty also is a key, Yarborough stressed.

This year, more than 30 faculty members from all over the United States came to help lead the festival. "We are able to pull in people with a passion for and an expertise in the dramatic arts, Yarborough said.

One person who can view with pride the growth of the Tennessee festival is Ev Robertson, senior drama specialist with the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Robertson was the person who started the first festival 14 years ago.

"I knew it would grow. There was so much about it that was needed in our churches," he said.

As soon as churches learned how to use dramatic arts effectively the festival would also grow, Robertson said, noting

that has been his task for 20 years.

Robertson, who works closely with other state conventions, said the Tennessee festival over the years has been one of the most consistent festivals across the Southern Baptist Convention.

He observed the Tennessee festival has evolved from a primarily adult event when it started to more of a youth event. "But it still meets the needs of both," he said.

Why all the interest in the creative arts?

"Whether spoken or mimed, drama has the ability to probe deep human concerns, and to

drama, clowning, or puppetry helps the local church go out into the world and touch lives in a different way, Yarborough said.

One of the festival coordinators, Cindy Pelphrey, minister of youth and missions at Third Church, Owensboro, Ky., agreed.

The creative arts is "a great evangelistic tool," she said.

There are people who will watch clowns or puppets but may never go to hear a sermon, she said.

Pelphrey noted the Home Mission Board, when training Mission Service Corps volunteers, tells them "you must have people's heads before you have their hearts."

That's what the creative arts attempt to do, she said.

Pelphrey, a former Tennessee Baptist (First Church, Tullahoma), has lived in two different states since leaving Tennessee and has brought large groups to the Tennessee festival from both states. Why?

"The Tennessee festival is the best," said Pelphrey, who said she has attended several festivals in different states.

Faculty member Susie Toomey of Indian Springs Church, Kingsport, observed that the creative arts can reach out and "grab anybody" from a child in a Backyard Bible Club to a person in a pew.

"Creative arts speak in an incredible way," she said.

Toomey said that most every skit her teams do begins humorously.

"We have fun to get their attention and then 'hit' them with the message," she said, noting "it just seems to work."

Yarborough noted that in today's world not everyone is open

to the Gospel in the same way. "The Gospel must be shared in so many different ways and in as many ways as possible to reach out to meet needs," she said.

Yarborough, who was heading her 13th festival, observed creative arts "is a way to break down barriers — to touch someone who needs to be loved."

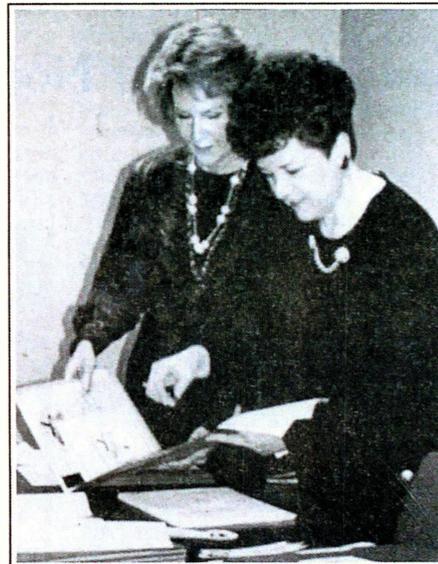
And, for the 14th year, the TBC creative arts festival was a welcomed and useful tool to help churches accomplish that goal. □



THE GOOD SAMARITAN parable was acted out by clown Buddy "Budzo" Lamb of Lithia Springs, Ga., and his helpers Therlyssa Fant and Chris Cavin, both of Bellevue Church, Cordova. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey



BARRY MITCHELL of First Church, Sevierville, displays a balloon sculpture for participants at the weekend festival.



ELEANOR YARBOROUGH, left, and Cindy Pelphrey prepare items for the 14th annual TBC Drama-Puppetry-Clowning Festival. Pelphrey, a former member of First Church, Tullahoma, is on the staff of Third Church, Owensboro, Ky.



LINDA GRAMMER, puppet coordinator at Crieewood Church, Nashville, shows youth the proper way to manipulate hand puppets during the 14th annual Drama-Puppetry-Clowning Festival held April 15-16 at Judson Church, Nashville.

# Church secretaries 'challenged to serve' during meeting

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — "Challenged to Serve" was an appropriate theme for the Church Secretaries Conference held April 11-13 at the Baptist Center.

"We chose the theme because we feel secretaries are in the service ministry," said Sarah Farmer, Baptist Student Union secretary at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, and outgoing president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Secretaries' Association.

"We are part of the ministry team. We want to serve our Lord, our churches, and our organizations," emphasized Farmer, a member of Southwestern Church.

The conference, sponsored by the TBC Discipleship Training Department, drew 164 participants, its largest attendance ever.

During the three days secretaries had plenty of opportunities for learning mixed with ample time for fellowship and relaxation.

Conferences focused on a variety of topics designed to enable secretaries to return to their churches and minister more effectively.

Several secretaries cited how the conference would make them better equipped to do their job.

"One thing I have learned, or actually relearned was the

importance of being an encourager," said Sharon Johnson of Virginia Avenue Church, Bristol. "The everyday pressures and conflicts in an office can affect any staff member. Being 'challenged to serve' means having a ready smile and a willing, helping hand," she added.

Melba Dease of Second Church, Millington, who has been to three conferences, noted each year she "goes back to my church filled with new ideas and enthusiasm. I have learned ways to help our office run so much more efficiently and personally I have learned how to deal with the staff that I work with."

The most important feature of the meeting for Robyn Dossett of First Church, Trenton, "was the challenge to base our time and skills in the office upon a prayer commitment.

"Our office and filing skills, our interpersonal relations skills, and our time management skills are all strengthened in our conferences, but the glue that holds it all together is our commitment to be women of prayer in the work we do."

Dossett said she would "recommend this conference to every church secretary as a critical tool in her church service. The opportunities to renew one's commitment to her work in the office, to ask questions, and to gain information and encouragement are immeasur-

able," she observed.

The fellowship time was important to Christy Wood of First Church, Kingston.

"To fellowship with other church secretaries is the most important feature (of the conference). It is helpful to meet with those that understand the church setting as a workplace," she said.

Vickie Clemons of Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, attended her first conference. She said she learned that it is "okay to be frustrated. I just need to pray more and ask God for specific guidance."

Sue Johnson, secretary for Watauga Association, headquartered in Elizabethton, said the conference is a "must" for all secretaries.

"They will be encouraged in so many ways and their skills will be improved," she said.

Vera Agerter, a veteran of 12 conferences, observed "it is important to get together with other secretaries and discuss problems we have. I feel we all leave the conference with renewed spirits and a challenge to do a better job for our Lord," she said.

Brenda Parsons, secretary at Munford Church, Munford, and the association's vice president, said the conference is important because "it gives us an opportunity to grow profes-



**NEW OFFICERS** of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Secretaries' Association were elected during their annual meeting. Chosen were Executive Committee representatives, seated, from left, Vera Agerter, Calvary Church, Jackson, west; Vickie Clemons, Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, middle; and Sharon Johnson, Virginia Avenue Church, Bristol, east. Officers on back row, from left, are Pat McGill, South Harriman Church, Harriman, secretary-treasurer; Cathey Williams, Hickory Hollow Chapel, Antioch, president; Brenda Parsons, Munford Church, Munford, vice president; and Sarah Farmer, East Tennessee State University Baptist Student Union, outgoing president.

sionally and spiritually.

"We find a strength in our common bond. We are blessed to have churches who realize the importance of this meeting and make it possible for us to attend," she said.

Next year the conference will not be held. Instead, Ten-

nessee Baptist secretaries are being encouraged to attend the National Association of Southern Baptist Secretaries' meeting in Nashville. There will be time there for Tennessee Baptist secretaries to meet as a group, Parsons said. □ — Lonnie Wilkey

## ■ An Occasional Word By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor

### Unsung heroes of Tennessee churches

Last week at the Baptist Center in Brentwood 164 church secretaries from across Tennessee gathered for the annual Church Secretaries Conference, sponsored by the TBC Discipleship Training Department.

Hats off to Johnnie Hall and his staff for working with the TBC Secretaries' Association to produce this fine conference.

Church secretaries sometimes may be overlooked when church staffs are discussed, but the work they do is vital.

I came to appreciate what secretaries have to do when my wife served as church secretary for a local Nashville congregation.



WILKEY

Part of my ministry as a deacon at Tulip Grove Church in Old Hickory deals in the area of benevolence. Because of this I work closely with our two secretaries — Pam Hogan-camp and Janet Keesee. Both are excellent. Though they are members of other churches, they are a vital part of the ministry of our church.

While some of the things secretaries do are readily visible, such as the weekly newsletter or church bulletin, they have many other responsibilities that may not be noticed — unless it doesn't get done.

According to the card shops, April 27 is Secretaries Day. Remember your church secretary on this day. Drop them a note or give them a brief (remember they do have work to do) call. Let them know you appreciate all they do. They are our unsung heroes. □

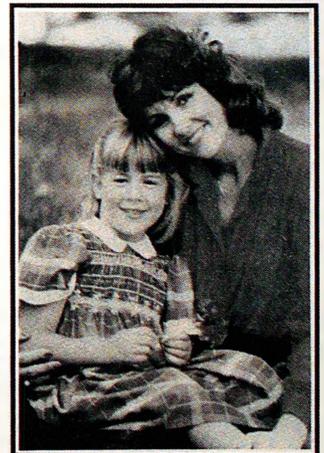
## Show a Child You Care

Every three minutes a case of child abuse is reported to the State of Tennessee. Neglect and abandonment leave infants, children, and teens desperately in need of a safe, loving home.

For more than one hundred years, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes has provided shelter, hope, and the love of Christ to hurting children without any government assistance.

Baptist churches across the state will provide approximately one-third of our annual operating budget through the Mother's Day offering.

So remember the children on Mother's Day, May 8, and help us bring the hope of Jesus Christ to deserving children.



**Statewide goal:**  
**\$ 1,205,000**

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## ■ the churches

■ **Lucy Church, Millington**, will hold revival April 24-29. Bill Oakley, pastor, Frayser Church, Memphis, will lead it.

■ A bicentennial celebration dinner was held by **First Church, Mountain City**, April 16-17. A dinner and special worship service was held. James Porch, executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention, spoke at the service.

■ Tom Madden, former pastor, **First Church, Tullahoma**, which sponsored **Center Grove Church, Tullahoma**, will lead revival at Center Grove Church, May 1-4. Madden, who retired as executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention, is currently interim pastor, First Church, Manchester.

■ Alan Witham, a pastor in Henderson, Ky., will lead the April 24-29 revival at **Cumberland Drive Church, Clarksville**.

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

■ **Trinity Church, Clarksville**, will hold revival April 20-24. Wesley Pitts, director of missions, Cumberland Association, will lead the services.

■ Over 200 people made

spiritual decisions during a revival at **Holly Grove Church, Bells**. Over 50 of those decisions were people making professions of faith. Harold Hunter, a Nashville-based evangelist, led it.

■ The Authentic Faith Leadership Conference which was scheduled April 28-29 at **Two Rivers Church, Nashville**, in conjunction with Evangelist David Ring's Touch of God Conference, has been canceled. The April 27-29 Touch of God Conference has not been changed.

■ **Mount Gilead Church, Bethel Springs**, will hold a revival April 24-27. Bill Robbins, pastor, Allen Church, Brownsville, will speak and David Tull will lead the music.

■ During May 1-6 **First Church, Parsons**, will hold revival. Fred Ward of Huntington will lead it.

■ **New Song Church, Mount Pleasant**, is holding a conference on "Brokenness — the Road to Victory" April 24-27. Evangelist Mickey Bonner and Margaret Bonner, his wife, will speak. The Bonners are from Houston, Texas.

## ■ the associations

■ **Holston Association** will hold its biannual meeting May 3 in conjunction with Appalachian Outreach '94 area crusade May 1-5. The associational meeting will be at Boone Trail Church, Gray. The cru-

sade will be at Freedom Hall, Johnson City. Jim Ponder, evangelist from Orlando, Fla., will speak at both events.

## ■ the leaders

■ **David Walker** has been called as interim pastor, Washington Pike Church, Knoxville.

■ The pastor of Harmony Church, Jonesborough, **Mike Oaks**, has resigned to accept the call of University Parkway Church, Johnson City, as pastor.

■ **L. Joseph Rosas**, pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis, is the author of the new book, *Scripture in the Thought of Soren Kierkegaard*, published by Broadman and Holman, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. The book examines the writings of Kierkegaard in light of the four crises in his life.

■ **Mickey Beal**, a pastor in Monroe, N.C., began serving Union Church, Hampton, as pastor March 20.

■ **Rittertown Church, Hampton**, has called **Clarence Phillips** as pastor, effective March 6.

■ **Debbie Gibson**, minister of childhood development, First Church, Greeneville, has accepted a similar position at First Church, Brandon, Miss.

■ **First Church, Bluff City**, has called **Steve Davis**, minister of music, Covenant Church, Bristol, as minister of music.



**HOLDING A GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY** at Glenwood Church, Nashville, April 3, are, from left, Milton Scott; Charles Harvey; Bill Craig; Lemuel Wade, pastor; Dennis Stark; Betty Cochran; Sarah Craig; and Ronnie Cornwell. The church will renovate its worship center and add parking areas.

■ **Tommy Futrell**, pastor of Southside Church, Johnson City, was honored March 6 for 14 years of service. A special worship service was followed by a reception for him and his wife.

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

■ **William A. Simpson** of Riverside Church, Miami, Fla., is the new minister of music at First Church, Kingsport. He also has served at South Hills Church, Fort Worth, Texas. Simpson is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

■ **Whitehaven Church,**

Memphis, has called **Jay Robinson** as minister of education and youth.

■ **Randy Pickens** of Beech Bluff has been called as pastor of Chapel Hill Church, Huron.

■ **Huron Church, Huron**, has called **James Chumney** of Lexington, as pastor.

## ■ the people

■ **Berda Perry** was honored by Holly Grove Church, Bells, for over 20 years of ministry as a nursery worker.

■ **Phillip Andrew Brasher Jr.**, will be ordained to the ministry May 15 at First Church, Parsons.

# Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

## A grassroots response

Tal Thompson, director of missions  
Holston Association

The Cooperative Program is our Southern Baptist grassroots response to the challenge to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world!

Together, we Southern Baptists gave more than \$136 million in 1993 through the Cooperative Program. These funds were used to finance home and foreign missions, six theological seminaries, as well as a host of agencies and commissions.

Increasing needs challenge us to remain faithful in our commitment to our Lord by giving to the Cooperative Program.

I was encouraged to receive word from three of our churches that voted to increase their support of worldwide missions through the Cooperative Program. These included Sunset Village Church, Bristol, Elbert Nichols — pastor; Bethel View Church, Bristol, John Rayburn — pastor; and North Johnson

City, Johnson City, Haven Lowe — interim pastor. There are probably others that voted an increase. If so, I would like to hear from you.

We celebrated Cooperative Program Day on April 17. It is my prayer that we shall experience a renewed sense of joy in giving as we continue to share the message of Christ through the Cooperative Program. □

## Insanity defined

Robert England, pastor  
Immanuel Church, Lawrenceburg

Sunday night I shared the definition of insanity. It is this — doing the same thing you've always done the same way you've always done it and expecting results.

That is the way many people "do" church — the same way it was done 30 years ago. That is fine — if it works ... if it is effective ... if it reaches people ... if souls are being saved ... if your life and the lives of those around are different ... if the life and ministry of

your church is enhanced.

Using the criteria listed above, how does God grade you on your "religious practices?" Are they effective? reaching people? changing lives? If not, and you won't change, that's insane. □

## Easter is eternal

Richard F. Adkinson, pastor  
Hillhurst Church, Nashville

Happy Easter! But, you say Easter is past. Oh no, the glory, joy, wonder, and meaning of Easter will never be past and the power of Easter is an eternal present.

What a wonderful Easter season we have had here at Hillhurst. Our musical/drama was the most moving and powerful we have ever had in our church. My gratitude to God and to each one who participated is boundless. A little 3-year-old girl said it so well, "I want to go back to that church and find out more about that man who died on the cross."

The church was packed. The Spirit was so powerfully present and many de-

isions were made for our Lord. Oh, how I am looking forward to future presentations by our music and drama ministries.

Easter Sunday was wonderful also. Again how inspiring the music, how present the Holy Spirit, how touching the fellowship, how great the attendance, and above all how thrilling to be able to declare he is risen!

I am filled with gratitude for what our Lord is doing in and through Hillhurst. Please remember, when God opens the windows of heaven to bless, the devil opens the doors of hell to blast. Be watchful, be prayerful, and continue to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (Ephesians 6). □

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.

# Medical rates for ministers, others see no change at midyear

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Rates will not change at midyear for any of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board's medical plans in the Personal Security Program and Seminarian Security Program. These programs offer coverage for ministers, church staff, and seminary students.

Some participants who move to a different ZIP code area could see a rate change soon after the move. Partici-

pants who have a birthday in 1994 that puts them in a higher age bracket will see a rate change on Jan. 1, 1995.

Rates in the plans have not changed since July 1, 1992. Since that increase, medical trends used by insurance companies have been as high as 2 percent, according to Joel Mathis, senior vice president for insurance administration at the Annuity Board.

Current trends are rising at about 16 to 19 percent a year,

he said. Though many medical insurers have increased rates accordingly, this is the longest period between rate changes in the personal and seminarian medical plans since a three-year span from 1985-87.

Mathis credited good claims experience, plan design, and managed care as factors in keeping rates down. He also pointed out that the agency has never canceled anyone's coverage for high or frequent claims. □

## Beech River pastor dies after illness

Funeral services for Cleatus William Duke, 66, were held March 21 at Bible Hill Church in Parsons.

Duke was pastor of Rock Hill Church, Lexington, in Beech River Association. He was ordained to the ministry in 1971.

He formerly was pastor of Bible Hill Church and Darden Church, Darden.

Duke was a veteran of the Korean War. He is survived by his wife, Orene, three sons, and two grandchildren. □

## East Tennessee pastors to study conflict management

The East Tennessee Pastors' Conference will be held April 28 at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

The meeting begins with fellowship at 9 a.m. in Gentry Auditorium, Henderson Hall, followed by the program on conflict management.

Leading the program are Norris Smith and Brooks Faulkner, both of the church staff support section of the

Baptist Sunday School Board.

A complimentary lunch will be served.

Following lunch there will be dialogue time with Smith and Faulkner. □

## Legal issues workshop set for May 5

The Tennessee Baptist Convention Protection Plans Department is sponsoring a legal issues workshop May 5 from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

Topics to be addressed include "Church Employment Practices," "Tennessee Incorporation Laws," "Contracts as They Relate to Churches," "How Safe is Your Church?" and "General Legal Issues Facing the Church."

Program leaders are Julie Bloss, attorney, Southern Baptist Annuity Board; Randall Davis, attorney, Tennessee Baptist Convention; and Jack Kelley, senior vice president of Preferred Risk.

There is no cost for the workshop and lunch will be provided, but reservations are needed. To make reservations or for additional information, call the Protection Plans Department, TBC, at (615) 371-2008. □

## Rankin to address West Tennessee pastors

The West Tennessee Pastors' Conference will meet May 3 at Union University, Jackson.

Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, will be the speaker. A fellowship time begins at 10 a.m. in the foyer ad-

acent to the university's chapel. The program begins at 10:45 a.m. in Room D-3. A complimentary lunch will be served in Union's cafeteria at noon.

The Ministers' Wives Fellowship meets during the conference, beginning at 10:30 a.m. □

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# ■ Sunday School lesson commentary

## □ Jesus models humble service — Bible Book Series for April 24

By Brent Seals, pastor, First Church, Elizabethton

Leonardo da Vinci's timeless masterpiece "Last Supper" captures the dramatic moment when Jesus announces to his disciples that one of them will betray him. It has been said that da Vinci plumbed a psychological depth unknown in previous paintings of the Last Supper. In the painting, the disciples are grouped in threes to heighten the drama, and each expresses shock. All, that is, except Judas. Recoiling from Jesus' words, Judas clutches a leather pouch which holds the betrayal fee, and da Vinci depicts him knocking over the salt cellar. One of the men chosen to be the salt of the world is the very one to rub salt into the Savior's wounds. What a contrast: the Savior and the betrayer!

In our last study, Jesus attended his last Passover feast. During his royal entry upon the

donkey, they did not expect him to be put to death. Mary had anointed him for his impending burial. Jesus knew his death was near. He realized his death would be a victory over the devil and a means of saving people from their sins. The meal in verse 2 was the Passover meal. During this supper, the devil inspired Judas to go forward with his plans of betraying Jesus. Judas will not be exonerated for he chose to obey. Each of us are accountable to God for the choices we make. It is popular in our day in a criminal trial to blame someone else for causing us to commit our crime. That will not work in God's court.

**Love of Jesus — vv. 1-20**  
With the shadow of the cross growing larger and darker, with less than a day before our Lord will be suspended between heaven and earth as sin-bearer for

### Focal Passages John 13:1-30

humankind, Jesus begins his last discourse with a powerful act of love. With the world locked out and alone with these special men, Jesus consciously and intentionally performs a symbolic and powerful act.

This story is in the present tense in the Greek language. Jesus "rises from supper," just as in the incarnation he rose from his place of perfect fellowship with God. He "lays aside his garments," as he once temporarily set aside his glorious existence. He "takes a towel," just as he once took the form of a servant. He "girds himself" as he comes to earth to serve. He "pours water into the basin" as he was soon to pour out his blood for the washing away of human sin. And he "washes his disciples

feet," just as he cleanses all who are his own. Jesus had portrayed his ministry from birth to death to resurrection to glorification. It is the same that we see in Philippians 2:5-9.

As is characteristic of him, Peter has a quick and sharp response in verses 6-8. Foot-washing, according to the Jewish Midrash, was a servant's job. Jesus was Peter's master and Peter gave him due respect and honor. Do we?

In Luke's account, we read there arose a dispute among them as to which one was regarded as the greatest (Luke 22:24). With the cross only a few hours away, they were fighting for the throne, but no one wanted the towel. Jesus teaches us we need the heart of a servant, we are to follow his example, and we need to know who we are, as a people of the towel.

### The Betrayal — vv. 21-30

If Judas were here today, he would be a person of manners who would know the hymns and Scripture. The word "betray" means to deliver someone to another. All except Judas apparently asked, "Lord, is it I?" In verse 27 John uses the term "Satan" (adversary or opponent) rather than the general term, devil. Judas was not a puppet or robot. Judas opened himself to Satan's influence and chose to betray Jesus. Judas, looking blameless, left, and no one suspected him. Sadly, Judas would not be salt or a witness for Jesus. But because of what Jesus did for us hours later, we can be.

Judas committed suicide. If we have betrayed Jesus, our failure does not have to be fatal. If we repent, Jesus will wash us clean. □

## □ Living for others — Convention Uniform Series for April 24

By Mike Thrower, pastor, Brunswick Church, Brunswick

Paul had heard about some problems in the church at Rome that centered around disagreements over what a believer should and shouldn't do. This passage is his admonition on these problems.

**Disagreements — vv. 1-6**  
*The American Heritage Dictionary* defines legalism as "strict and literal adherence to the law." The problem was that some members were more strict than others. There were two main issues in Rome.

The first issue was whether or not a believer should eat meat. Why this would make a difference is not clear from this passage. It could be that the meat had been part of a pagan ritual and the fear was that eating it would give validity to the paganism. Or it could be that the meat had not been butchered and prepared in a kosher man-

### Focal Passage Romans 14:1-23

ner. Whatever the issue, a split into the Meat-eating Baptist and the No Meat Baptist churches seemed likely.

The second was the observance of the "day." Apparently some preferred the Sabbath. Most likely these were of Jewish heritage. Others saw Sunday as the preferred day of worship. This battle is still being fought. Often I have received letters explaining the error of Sunday worship.

There have been similar issues in the church through the years such as length of hair or style of dress. These are not doctrinal but they are real. And a critical attitude about any such issue can cause division.

**Devotion — vv. 7-12**  
Paul reminds readers that

our devotion is to be directed toward the Lord not the Law. He is the one around whom our life is to be centered. If we put him first all these other things will fall into place as the natural result of obedience.

However, it is easy to decide that our opinion is the right doctrine by which each is to live. This attitude says "You can do it my way or you can be wrong." When we think like this we are being judgmental. Instead of trying to find the speak in the brother's eye we need to check the log in our own, for one day we will have to answer for our own actions (v. 12).

**Deference — vv. 13-15**  
Sometimes I am awakened by sounds that need to be checked out. I arise and walk though the house with the lights out so that I can see out without being seen. On occasion I have discovered

that something was moved from its usual place into where I am walking. You who have done likewise know what Paul meant by a stumbling block. We are not to cause others to fall by our actions or our attitudes.

This means that we often have to place our interpretation of some behavior aside so that it doesn't block another's path. The key to keeping down division in the church is to place yourself and your will in deference to that of others. You set aside your will for their good.

We are our brother's keepers. And while you may not have a problem with something, the fact that they do, should cause you to be careful about what you do. We are to avoid the appearance of evil. The issue is not so much "will I be hurt by doing this?" but rather "Will it hurt someone else for me to do this?"

### Discernment — vv. 16-23

There are times for taking a stand. Discernment must be used in consideration. The deference to others is not open-ended. Some things are just wrong. Here a stand must be taken.

On the positive side we are called to remember that the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy (v. 17). Our task is to pursue these things (v. 19).

On the negative side, we are not to give approval to anything that is wrong. As we allow others the freedom of choice in their "meat" there are some things we cannot in good conscience allow. When the Scriptures are clear we must speak out. When God says it is wrong, then it is wrong.

So while Paul advocates freedom of expression in some matters, there is the call to stand firm along the lines the Bible draws. □

## □ Advancing the Gospel — Life and Work Series for April 24

By Tommy Stevens, Meadow View Church, Lawrenceburg

In the 1960s it was popular to ask "What is my purpose in life?" Everyone was questioning their value as a human being and the reason God put them on the earth. People still go through life unaware of why they exist. Because they do not know why they are here, they do not know how to make the most of life. Paul had no problem with either point.

**Position — vv. 12-14**  
The Philippians had sent a member of the church to check on Paul. The messenger, Epaphrus, had gotten sick and was unable to return promptly with news of the beloved minister. When Epaphrus came home, he brought this letter with him. As the Philippians read the letter, they learned what Paul thought about his imprisonment. In verse 12 Paul explained he was blazing a trail for the

Gospel. He had a Roman soldier chained to him 24 hours a day. As these soldiers heard the Gospel time after time and as they witnessed the life of Paul, many became Christians.

Do you respond to difficult situations with frustration and anger? Or does your Christ-like behavior and attitude attract people to life in Jesus?

**Priority — vv. 15-18**  
Paul decided to be happy even though he was in prison. He was not happy to be in prison, but prison was not the focus of his attention. He was happy because the Gospel of Christ was being preached. It made no difference that some people preached out of jealousy or intending to hurt Paul. Many loved Paul and preached the Gospel in order to help him. Though he was pleased with those who wanted to help, he was pleased that

Christ was preached no matter who was preaching.

It is easy to get caught up in controversy about who is right and who should be in our group. Let us not forget the main thing: Preach Christ. Everything else is secondary.

**Perspective — vv. 19-21**  
In verse 19, Paul expressed confidence that the preaching of Christ, whether in strife or support, would wind up being in his best interest. The Philippians continued to support him in prayer and the strength he needed was found in the vast resources of Jesus. He was concerned that he not embarrass Christ in the way he acted. Paul was so conscious of the presence of Christ that every thought was of him, every deed evaluated by how it affected Jesus and his cause.

Paul was not concerned with

### Focal Passages Philippians 1:12-26

what people thought about him. He thought about what people thought about Jesus. Dr. Teddy Evans said, "They came to Paul and said, 'We have decided to kill you.' Paul responded, 'Go ahead. To die is gain.' They said, 'In that case we will let you live.' Paul said, 'Fine, to live is Christ.' They said, 'We will let you live but in such a way that you will wish you were dead.' Paul said, 'That's OK. If you let me live I will live for Christ. If you kill me, I will be with Christ. If you torture me, I will get more reward from Christ. Take your best shot!'"

**Purpose — vv. 22-26**  
Paul knew that heaven awaited him so he would be better off dying. In this difficult time when life seems of so little value to so

many people, to some suicide becomes a perfectly logical way of escape. Paul was willing to die if that was God's choice, but he also realized that a relationship with Christ and with fellow Christians made life infinitely valuable.

When Paul focused his attentions on the cause of Christ and the welfare of others, he had little time or inclination to be concerned about his own comfort or lack of it. God puts each of us on the earth for his own purposes. He wants us to advance the cause of Christ in some manner.

People who have fulfilling lives know the value of right priorities. God comes first, wife or husband second, children third, the church fourth. Pleasure is found in living these in their correct order. If your life is not as meaningful as you wish it were, examine your priorities. □

## Missouri voters turn back casino gambling

Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — There are 1,261 reasons why Missourians defeated a riverboat gambling amendment April 5, and it was still only by the skin of their teeth. A margin of less than one-tenth of 1 percent fell in favor of gambling opponents just 17 months after Missourians approved a statute allowing riverboat casinos.

"We knew it would be close, but we knew we had a chance," said Don Wideman, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention. Missouri Baptists were an outspoken opponent of the riverboat gambling measure — an issue before Missouri voters for the second time in two years.

More than \$3 million in a pro-gambling advertising campaign and overwhelming support in the legislature failed to convince the million-plus voters floating casinos were an economic savior for the state. Of Missouri's 116 counties, including St. Louis and Kansas City, only 13 carried a "yes" vote. □

## Virginia cooperation panel holds meeting

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — A committee of leading Virginia Baptist pastors set aside practical issues in their first meeting to rebuild trust lost during years of denominational struggle.

The Presidential Council on Cooperation agreed in a March

10 meeting in Richmond to hold three-man meetings later in the month to bring together one "conservative," one "moderate," and one unaligned person for feilowship.

The council was appointed last November by Ronald Crawford, president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia to "explore ways to enhance cooperation, trust, and mutual respect in Virginia Baptist life."

The six-hour meeting sparked few heated exchanges between "moderates" and "conservatives," mostly because issues that have divided the two groups largely went unaddressed. Instead, committee co-chairs Tommy Taylor and Neal Jones led the 19-minister, one-layman committee to talk about their points of agreement. The meeting concluded with members joining hands for prayer. □

## Texas, Alabama Baptists lead

### MasterLife in Russia

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Four Southern Baptists from Texas and Alabama recently helped lead the first MasterLife discipleship workshops in the former Soviet Union.

Carl Smith, pastor of First Church, Center, Texas, and his wife, Sally, were part of an international Baptist team assembled by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The volunteers trained about 80 pastors and denominational leaders from the Ukraine and Russia.

The Smiths, joined by Cle-

Sipes, Baptist Student Union director at Auburn, and his wife, Nelda — and four Baptists from Great Britain led the workshops in March in Lugansk and Moscow.

The MasterLife curriculum was translated into Russian under the supervision of Bill Wagner, a Germany-based Foreign Mission Board representative for Europe, the Middle East, and North America.

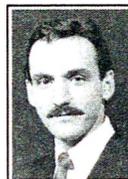
The Moscow MasterLife workshop was held in conjunction with a church planting conference, and it attracted a cross-section of leaders from throughout the Russian Baptist union, Smith said.

"I know of eight people from Siberia who had to make a three-day trip by train to be there," he said. □

## Tennessee native granted tenure

New Orleans Seminary

NEW ORLEANS — Philip



COYLE ing their

spring meeting on campus.

A native of Jackson, Coyle has served as assistant professor of psychology and counseling at New Orleans since 1990.

Coyle and his wife, Judi, have two sons. □

## Supreme Court justice to retire

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Even in announcing his retirement, Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun did not escape the shadow of his most well-known opinion: the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

Appearing with President Bill Clinton at a White House retirement ceremony April 6, Blackmun, 85, was asked about and reaffirmed his majority opinion in Roe v. Wade.

In his 24 years on the court Blackmun participated in hundreds of opinions and gained a

reputation as a protector of individual liberties and a defender of the strict separation of church and state. In February, he wrote, in a dissenting opinion, he would no longer support the death penalty.

Yet, his name is identified primarily with only one decision — Roe v. Wade. □

## B & H children's video earns national awards

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Broadman & Holman Publishers' "Secret Adventures" video series for children continues to receive national attention.

The first episode in the series — "Spin: Truth, Tubas, and George Washington" — recently received an Angel Award from the Los Angeles-based organization Excellence in Media.

The episode also is a finalist in the 15th annual Telly Awards, given annually to recognize outstanding film and video productions, non-network television programming, and video productions. □

## California's Hogue announces retirement

Baptist Press

FRESNO, Calif. — C. B. Hogue, executive director of the California Southern Baptist Convention since 1985, announced April 7 he will retire next February at age 67 after completing 10 years in office.

Next year will mark 50 years since Hogue committed to full-time ministry. □

## Prayer Support

Prayer became serious business for three months last fall for the 14 Royal Ambassadors and Girls in Action at Oakton Church in Chantilly, Va. Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin, center, and two RAs seem to be drowning in the links of a 300-foot prayer chain the youngsters constructed. The chain was presented to Rankin in March. It contains the names of nearly 4,000 missionaries and their fields of service written on construction paper links. — Photo by Don Rutledge



## National prayer conference reset

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The National Prayer Conference scheduled for June 9-10 in Orlando, Fla., has been rescheduled to precede the 1995 Atlanta convention, according to Garry Insko, chairman of the SBC Bold Mission Thrust Planning Team.

Information regarding the program and location of the June 15-16, 1995, conference will be made later this year by Jimmy Crowe, Baptist Sunday School Board retiree who will serve as coordinator for the event. □

## Mims adds interim role to BSSB duties

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Gene Mims, vice president for the Baptist Sunday School Board's church growth group, will serve as interim director of the board's Bible teaching-reaching division after Harry Piland leaves the post April 30 to join the staff of First Church, Dallas.

Mims told board employees of the decision in an April 8 meeting. "We will begin a nationwide search for a new director only after the division leadership team has had time to assess our current needs and plan the future course and direction of our work," Mims said.

No timetable has been set for a new director, he added. □

## Acteens share bears, shoes for missions

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Girls attending the National Acteens Convention here June 21-24 are asked to bring a pair of shoes or a stuffed bear to share in a ministry project.

Acteens is the missions organization for girls in grades seven through 12 sponsored by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. NAC is held once every five years for Acteens members who have completed the seventh grade and their leaders.

Each of the more than 16,000 teens and their leaders who are expected to attend are asked to participate in the ministry project. The bears and shoes will be given to Southern Baptist home missionaries across the coun-

try to use in their ministries.

Carolyn McClendon, a home missionary and director of the Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans, will be one of the recipients of the bears and shoes. She will use them to give to children in the community and those in the park program. Most of the children, she said, are from low-income, high-crime, and one-parent families.

Among home missionaries receiving the items are Beverly Smothers of Holston Association, Johnson City.

WMU officials ask that the shoes be inexpensive canvas or school shoes placed in a ziplock bag identified with the size, and that the bears be new and 10-16 inches high. Acteens are asked to spend no more than \$15.95 per bear. □