

# Baptist and Reflector

April 27, 1994

VOL. 160 ■ NO. 17

STATEWIDE EDITION

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## Tennesseans hear motivations for evangelism

By Connie Davis  
*Baptist and Reflector*

A rescheduled State Evangelism Conference drew fewer participants than usual but those who came heard many of the originally scheduled speakers.

Participants could relate with Herschel Hobbs, Oklahoma City-based theologian, who quipped, "I decided if I woke up this morning to ice, I wasn't coming back here."

About 500 gathered April 21-22 at First Church, Hendersonville, to hear Hobbs and other speakers. The Jan. 17-18 conference was canceled because of an ice storm.

Hobbs, chairman of the committee which wrote the *Baptist Faith and Message*, the only belief statement adopted by Southern Baptists, led the theme interpretation in four sessions and preached in the closing session.

He referred mostly to the biblical book of Romans to interpret the theme, "Serve in Christ's Spirit ... Share

the Gospel."

God's character is shown in two ways in the Bible, said Hobbs, through his righteousness and his wrath.

"We don't hear as much about the wrath of God as we should," noted Hobbs, 85, who is the author of 147 books.

That wrath should cause Christians to examine the responsibilities of the church, which are great and detailed in Matthew 16:19, said Hobbs. The church is given "the keys of heaven," which is the Gospel, he explained. The rest of the verse should be interpreted, "what shall have been bound on earth (by the church) shall have been bound in heaven and what shall have been loosed on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." In other words, he added, the efforts of the church are fully supported by God.

He also spoke on sin, referencing Romans 3:23.

"God never condemns sin in us in that he offers a way of forgiveness," said Hobbs.

He interjected that he dis-



**VISITING WITH HERSCHEL HOBBS**, who was autographing books for the Baptist Book Store at the evangelism conference, are pastors, from left, Ron Davidson, First Church, Grand Junction; Gary Shockley, Cumberland Drive Church, Clarksville; Richard Blalock, Apison Church, Apison; and Phil Lovelace, First Church, Somerville. — Photo by Connie Davis

agreed with the resolution of the Southern Baptist Convention (passed in 1984) which stated that women shouldn't be pastoral leaders because woman was first in the Edenic fall. Hobbs noted the devil "used all his wiles" to tempt Eve before she sinned. Adam sinned after simply being offered the apple, he continued.

"The woman is the conscience of the human race, not the one through whom sin entered," said Hobbs.

Just as Paul condemned Corinth, which was inundated with sexual sins, he could condemn today's world, he stated. Hobbs commented on homosexuality and lesbianism. — See Tennesseans, page 6

## Mountain City church has a long, long history

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
*Baptist and Reflector*

MOUNTAIN CITY — First Church here has been around for part of three centuries, and the congregation and friends celebrated April 16-17.

Established April 20, 1794, this church in Tennessee's extreme northeast corner has

blossomed for 200 years.

Although first called the Roan Creek Church of Christ, the church always has been Baptist.

Mountain City was next called Taylorsville, since in 1843 the church moved there from its country location and adopted the Taylorsville name. The community changed its

name in 1904 — to Mountain City, and so did the church. By 1950, the church had become known as First Baptist.

The 200th anniversary got underway officially with a banquet Saturday evening, April 16. The crowd of 275 filled the dining room of Johnson County High School with present and former church members and some friends.

A history of the church recently written was distributed at the banquet.

One former pastor, W. T. Whittington, now 97, was present. Several current and former staff musicians and singers performed. The theme

was tied together with music that recalled the past, spoke about the present, and looked to the future.

Pastor Don Bowery's message was based on Joshua 4, and reminded the congregation that the stones of remembrance indicated to the Israelites that they were "invading the devil's territory."

He said, "That's what this church has been doing for 200 years. Where there are lost people, we are invading with the message of Christ."

James Porch, TBC executive director, spoke Sunday about the lives and faith of witnesses (Hebrews 12). ▽

## Minority group seeks appeal in court case

WARTBURG — Some former members of Clax Gap Church, Harriman, will appear in court here on May 13 seeking an appeal of an earlier Chancery Court case.

The hearing consists of a request for reconsideration of the previous opinion, based on facts relevant to the case.

Judge Frank Williams III,

who made the earlier ruling, will hear the minority group's argument.

He ruled in Kingston that actions of a then majority membership of Clax Gap Church were proper. The majority had voted to cease giving through the Cooperative Program. The minority disagreed, saying this cut Southern Baptist ties. ▽



**FIRST CHURCH, Mountain City, celebrated its bicentennial April 16-17. A historical marker was unveiled. Helping to celebrate are from left, Bob Polk, Watauga Association director of missions; James Porch, TBC executive director; and Pastor Don Bowery and daughter Mary Catherine. More photos on page 2.**

# Suppose they had a war, and nobody even cared

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Sitting in the den of a beautiful Columbia home on a gorgeous April morning, you'd think that only the brightest and best thoughts could come to mind.

That's wrong. Katrina Knox, Columbian and Southern Baptist missionary to Rwanda, relives every traumatic moment of a tragic sequence of events in the land where she was called to work.

But to most of the world, the wanton slaughter of thousands of people in Rwanda is not significant. Perhaps that is because Rwanda has nothing the world wants — such as oil or precious minerals or other sources of riches.

Though Katrina Knox is thousands of miles from Rwanda in eastern Africa, memories of a hasty and chaotic exodus a few days ago are very fresh, and the people are still on her heart.

Here with her father and mother, Kenneth and Ann Knox, for a brief vacation, Katrina will leave May 6 for Nairobi, Kenya, for a round of discussions with other leaders of the Rwandan mission.

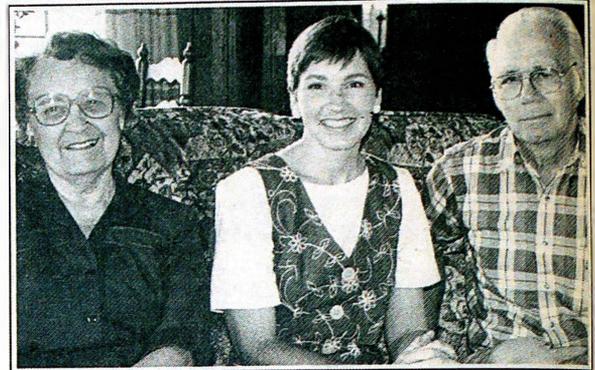
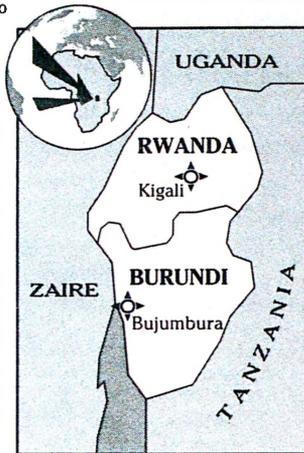
They will look at options for refugee work across the borders in Burundi and Tanzania, checking on their homes and Rwandan Baptist friends, or other matters.

I first met Katrina Knox when she was in her first term as a missionary nurse at Mukoma Station, Rwanda. Maryland/Dela-

ware was developing a three-year partnership mission with Rwanda.

We had ended early a partnership with Burundi, Rwanda's "twin."

At Mukoma Station we saw her bright and lively spirit, a willingness to adapt and a strong desire to help the people. She was in the right place, even though a chain of circum-



**KATRINA KNOX**, missionary to Rwanda, with parents Kenneth and Ann, in their Columbia home. Home for a few days after harrowing experiences, she plans to return to Africa May 6 for evaluations with other missionaries about options in service.

stances had thwarted her first assignment to Rubura, Burundi. That was cancelled because of political strife in Burundi.

She went to Mukoma Station, and that meant more language study.

Later she was transferred to Butare, a city which claims Rwanda's only university. She was there when she got a phone call late on the night two weeks ago when a plane carrying the presidents of both countries was blown up.

Larry Randolph, mission administrator located in the capital city of Kigali, called all the missionaries as soon as he could, telling them about the tragedy. The presidents had been to peace talks in an effort to settle their situations, but they never got home.

The resulting chaos, especially in Rwanda, threw the country into turmoil, Katrina Knox said.

Randolph called again early the next day, warning everyone to be careful and to be patient.

Because of a national curfew, she said, "no one moved for two days."

She said she still wasn't really worried, because she felt Butare was less likely to have trouble than was Kigali.

She was right. The political situation in the capital rapidly deteriorated from bad to hopeless. Rebels began clashing with government troops, and the two tribal groups, Tutsi and Hutu, began random

surges of wholesale killings.

Some of the other missionaries had severe difficulties, she said, because of their locations.

Plans to evacuate were formulated, she said, and though there were some problems, most of the Europeans and the few Americans gathered at the French school in Butare and eventually began the drive to the Burundi border. About 75 vehicles were involved.

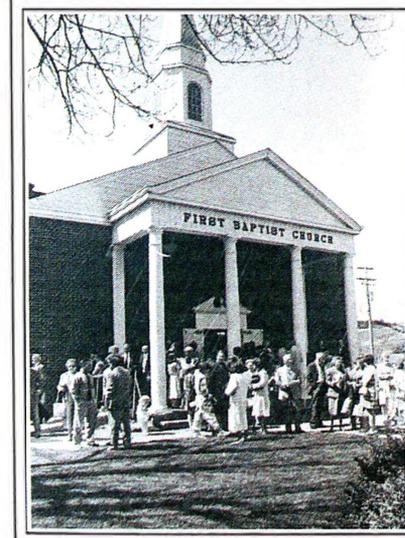
"Things really fell apart when we had no phones," Knox said. She said a U. S. Marine plane took them to Nairobi after they reached the Bujumbura airport in Burundi and filed all the necessary papers.

All the missionaries, including David and Janet Hooten of Knoxville, were safe in Nairobi.

The Hootens lived in a remote area near the border with Zaire and stayed locked inside their home for three days. They made a mad dash for the border and several times faced angry mobs before reaching safety.

Knox and Martha Colwell, who lives next door, had little such difficulty. All of them, however, said Knox, are haunted by the uncertainty of the safety of Rwandan Baptists and other friends.

Of particular concern is Eleazar Zisherambere, national Baptist leader, and other faithful workers such as Vincent and Emmanuel. "Please pray for our Baptist friends," she said. □ — Wm. Fletcher Allen



**AT MOUNTAIN CITY, First Church** celebrated its 200th birthday April 16-17. This family dressed special for the banquet. From left, Ed and Sandra Butler and son David; her sister Debra Moncrief with daughter Cristina. Several members recounted memorable experiences from the past, and Mayor Todd Grayson presented a certificate of appreciation from the city.

## National Day of Prayer observance includes prayer for 'True Love Waits'

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Participants in the National Day of Prayer symbolic observance May 5 in Washington, D.C., will take time to pray for "True Love Waits," a nationwide abstinence education campaign sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

"True Love Waits" spokesman Richard Ross will present a brief challenge about the campaign, followed by a prayer led by a Washington-area youth who has promised to remain chaste until marriage.

The theme of this year's National Day of Prayer observance is "Heal Our Land." It will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. □

# Texas proposal undermines CP, says Executive Committee president

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A proposal before a special Texas study committee to alter the state's participation in the Cooperative Program is a "far cry from what Southern Baptists have known, cherished, and practiced."

That is the assessment of Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president, who said the proposal is "an open invitation to Southern Baptist churches in Texas to become much more directly involved in SBC missions by sending their gifts directly to the SBC to support world missions and ministries."

And "worldwide Baptist causes" could include a variety of things, such as the SBC, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Criswell College, or any other Baptist entity.

If adopted, the proposal would dramatically change the longtime Cooperative Program relationship between the churches, the state convention,

and the SBC, according to Chapman.

"The Cooperative Program, which was adopted in 1925, is considered by most Southern Baptists to be a God-given method for funding world missions," Chapman said. "The Texas proposal as released is a far cry from what Southern Baptists have known, cherished, and practiced."

Chapman observed there is no "BGCT Cooperative Program. The Cooperative Program is a partnership which involves churches, state conventions, and the Southern Baptist Convention. When any of the three participants is omitted you have a funding system, but not the Cooperative Program."

No recommendation has been agreed upon and probably will not be until the Texas committee's last scheduled meeting July 29, but the idea of a Cooperative Program with a focus on Texas Baptist causes and designation of funds beyond that to worldwide Baptist causes

surfaced in the committee's April 18 meeting as the consensus favorite.

The 22-member committee was appointed by BGCT President Jerald McBride after messengers to the 1993 convention approved a motion that such a panel be named to study how to "enhance cooperative missions giving in Texas" and make its recommendation to the 1994 convention in Amarillo.

The committee's chairman is Cecil Ray of Georgetown, former national director of the SBC Planned Growth in Giving emphasis and general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

In current practice, CP gifts are divided 63.35 percent for Texas causes and 36.65 percent for SBC causes. In the plan being considered, if it should emerge as the recommendation, a church will have to designate how its money beyond Texas causes is to be distributed. Funds would no longer automatically go to the SBC. □

## Midwestern's Ferguson to retire

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary the past 21 years, has announced his retirement, effective July 31, 1996.

Ferguson, who will be 66 on May 8 of this year, made the announcement April 18 following his report during the first session of the trustees' two-day meeting.

Ferguson told trustees he had thought about the matter for several months and brought it to the trustees' executive committee meeting Sunday night, April 17.

The trustee executive committee affirmed his plan and trustee leadership were adamant that the announcement was at Ferguson's initiative.

"This decision on my part is totally voluntary and positive in purpose and intent. It is the result of my prayerful conclusion regard-

ing God's leadership for me and Midwestern Seminary," Ferguson said.

Ferguson said he does not plan to be a lame duck president the next two years but will be "aggressive and strong" in the interim period.



FERGUSON

Trustee chairman James Jones of Michigan expressed appreciation for his personal friendship with Ferguson, as well as for the president's "courage and leadership" during recent years of transition at the seminary and within the Southern Baptist Convention.

In the trustees' last session they approved a formal resolution of appreciation and support for Ferguson and pledge to make every effort to keep unity during the time of transition. □

## Southwestern trustee says seven wrongs were committed in dismissal

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary should be held accountable for their actions in firing Russell H. Dilday Jr. and should apologize to Southern Baptists for "seven wrongs" committed when they did it, according to trustee Wayne Allen.

Trustee chairman Ralph W. Pulley Jr., in response, said he is "increasingly confused over Dr. Allen's position, which

seems to change almost daily."

Allen, pastor of First Church, Carrollton, Texas, and a leading "conservative" pastor in the state, called for an emergency meeting of the trustees to discuss the "wrongs." But he has been thwarted by trustee officers even though at one time a majority were willing to reconvene, he said. Allen was one of seven trustees who voted not to fire Dilday as president on March 9.

Pulley, a Dallas attorney,

said Allen needs to "re-evaluate his position as a trustee and get back to working within the internal framework of the trustees."

In an April 20 news release, Allen said Southern Baptists have a right to demand an apology for seven "wrongs."

1. The plot to replace Dilday with a retirement buyout or to fire him was planned at least a week — probably weeks — before the trustee meeting with knowledge of only part of the board.

2. Knowledge of the plan was deliberately kept from Allen and at least two other trustees. The chairman told Allen it was kept from him because he would have gone to Dilday who "would have called his friends and we would have had a mob scene." Allen said that instead of calling Dilday he would have demanded a meeting of the board to discuss the issue.

3. The impression was given to Allen, students, faculty, and the president that no plot had been made. "This was deceit," Allen said.

4. Trustees were asked on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Dilday was fired at about 11 a.m. on Wednesday if there was a plan to fire him. They pretended they had no knowledge of it or denied it, Allen said.

5. The trustee officers and another trustee who offered Dilday a "golden parachute"

retirement package did not have the authority to make such an offer.

6. John Earl Seelig, who had requested early retirement rather than be fired in 1989, was back on campus as an employee the day of the firing, handling press releases. He was not approved by the trustees.

7. Changing the lock on the door of the president's office and denying him access to his computer, leaving the impression that some criminal act or at least some immoral act had been committed.

Allen said he sought an emergency meeting of the trustees to discuss the "wrongs."

"Because of these 'wrongs,' thousands of Southern Baptists feel bitter and betrayed and have every right to feel that way," Allen said in the news release. "As trustees elected by these Southern Baptists we owe them an apology... for the 'wrongs' committed. Failure to do so is to refuse to be accountable."

But Pulley said Allen keeps changing his position.

"We have met with Dr. Allen, six (trustees) of us several weeks ago, and spent three hours with him. We left with an accord, now he has come back with this kind of approach," Pulley said.

"We feel we have answered his questions in our recent letter to all (SBC) pastors. We re-

ally feel it is time for everyone to move on in the life of the seminary. We feel all have had their say in this matter and it is time to move on, to pray for the search committee, the trustees, the faculty, students, and staff."

Seminary bylaws state that if a majority of trustees request an emergency meeting, the chairman must call for it. Allen said trustees Bob Anderson of Louisiana and Pat Campbell of South Carolina on April 13 had 20 of the 38 trustees who were willing to sign a letter requesting such a meeting.

However, two dropped out after receiving "very selected telephone calls," said Allen, and Pulley would not call a meeting.

According to Allen, Pulley and others said, "Yes, we made some mistakes in the way it was done but a meeting wouldn't accomplish anything, so let's just move on."

Allen noted his previous meeting with Pulley, the other officers of the board, and three other trustees and had agreed to accept "the intent of their heart" as being sincere in firing Dilday.

But regardless of the "intent of their heart," unless some repentance and apology is shown by the board of trustees in a special called meeting, then they are refusing to be accountable," Allen said. □

## Dilday supporters counter mailing

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The debate over the firing of Russell H. Dilday Jr. is continuing through the U.S. mail.

Several supporters of Dilday have organized an \$18,000 mailing to all Southern Baptist churches to counter a similar mailing by trustee officers in late March to explain their reasons for firing Dilday as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary on March 9.

The mailing by Dilday supporters is to include a faculty statement adopted April 13, a point-by-point refutation by Dilday of the trustee mailing, and a statement by the school of music faculty countering criticisms of the school in the wake of Dilday's firing.

Among the organizers of the mailing were Kenneth Cooper of Dallas, internationally known for sparking the aerobics movement and past chairman of the seminary's Southwestern Council fund-raising arm who resigned in protest of Dilday's firing; John McNaughton, a Fort Worth businessman and current Southwestern Council chairman; and Jerald McBride, a San Angelo, Texas, pastor and president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

A cover letter from "Friends of Southwestern Seminary" claims that the trustee mailing "contains gross inaccuracies, distortions, and misrepresentations. ... Friends of Southwestern believe these false charges cannot go unchallenged," according to the letter. □

## ■ 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. □

### Not liberal

I would like to know how Vaughn Denton, pastor of Kirby Parkway Church in Memphis, has the right to declare what I, as a "moderate" believe and do not believe. He has publicly stated that because I am not in his "conservative" camp, I "live in a world where there is little scriptural foundation." He further states "I do not live or function on Bible grounds." I believe "in ordaining homosexuals and lesbians." And, even worse, he groups women in that same category! And then puts a fine Christian statesman like Dr. Dilday in that same grouping!

I've never read anything so unbecoming of a pastor, except where he quotes Dr. Criswell about a skunk!

I'm as conservative as he is but because we don't agree on everything, he says I become a "moderate." I am not liberal, but neither is anyone I know. We all believe the same things — miracles included. But because they have become power hungry, they've also become blinded to the truth. ("They" being those "dear trustees" and many other conservatives, like Vaughn Denton.) I do not know of anyone in my circle of acquaintances that would agree to ordaining a homosexual or a lesbian, and I do not appreciate his implying that we would.

Remember, Mr. Denton, your

written word reflects Christ just like your spoken word, and I think you gave a very un-Christian message.

Joanne James  
Nashville 37220

### Church acts

First Church, Memphis, took the following action in church conference April 6 with regard to the situation of Dr. Dilday and Southwestern Seminary.

Deacon Ora Lee Love recommended that FBC send a letter to the trustees of Southwestern Seminary, expressing concern about their recent firing of President Dr. Russell Dilday.

The recommendation was:

"That this church send a letter to the trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary expressing our grief, shock, and puzzlement at the unjust firing of that institution's highly successful and greatly beloved president, Dr. Russell Dilday, and the degrading, insensitive manner in which it was done, particularly in light of the fact that he is committed to the Bible as God's Word, without any question whatsoever."

This recommendation and motion passed on an unanimous vote.

James H. Allen, clerk  
Memphis 38112

### Church polity

"Let your women keep silent

in the church for they have no permission to speak, but they are to be under obedience as is said in the law" I Corinthians 14:34.

At the time Paul wrote the above admonition, women's talk was not taken seriously in a male dominated society. Therefore, Paul prudently advised the women to keep silent in the church. They would just be wasting their breath. Today women's talk is given equal billing with men's talk.

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church, and he is the savior of the body" Ephesians 5:23.

The husband is the head of the wife alright, while the wife is the neck of the head. The neck turns the head.

Archimedes A. Concon  
Memphis 38117

### Christian doctrines

I am greatly grieved and disturbed over the CLC and HMB leaders signing the Catholic agreement. This is an outrage toward our Christian faith.

You are jeopardizing the faith of many people who read this article. It is very deceiving. Christian faith cannot mix with the doctrine, polity, or theology of the Catholic Church.

As iron mixed with clay cannot stand, neither can Christian faith mix with this agreement. We have a blood covenant and Jesus is our mediator and therein is a conflict. Remember the Scripture "of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the son of God" (Hebrews 10: 29)? We cannot pay homage to Rome and expect God to bless us. This Catholic agreement is threatening already to our religious liberty. Please withdraw this.

Larry Lewis and Richard

Land signed this agreement to bring it in line with our own theology and polity and this, we don't need. It is contradictory to our faith.

Estelle Lambert  
Crossville 38555

### Against action

An AP article "Evangelicals extend invitation to Catholics for mutual acceptance," appeared recently in our *Johnston City Press*. The article stated on March 29 Charles Colson and Pat Robertson joined with Conservative Catholic leaders in signing a document entitled "Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium."

Evangelicals and Catholics are urged, among other things "to no longer hold each other at arm's length and to stop aggressive proselytization of each other's flocks," i.e. to get together.

The article stated that the document has been endorsed by a Catholic archbishop, a bishop, several theologians and by the heads of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Christian Life Commission.

The Southern Baptist endorsement is a most serious thing. We do not worship Mary, we worship Jesus Christ, and he is our gateway to heaven and our mediator.

This is only one more step toward the ecumenical one-world church, predicted in the Bible and located in Rome, the city set on seven hills.

What Charles Colson and Pat Robertson do is their own concern, but what the heads of Southern Baptist boards endorse, is the concern of lowly laymen, like myself. They may sincerely believe that they speak for us, but they do not.

Floyd R. Eyles  
Roan Mountain 37687

## Some controversies can be long lived

With no dictator or pope to decide for us, we as Southern Baptists must thrash out our differences by ourselves under God and openly. It can be a traumatic experience.

Let me name three past controversies which still affect us many generations later.

The first was the Calvin-Arminius Controversy which rocked Protestantism in the 1500s.

Calvin overly magnified the providence of God. He contended that Christians were or were not "elected" to be saved by God from the foundation of the world. That concept led extremists to render missions and evangelism unnecessary and meaningless.

Arminius took the opposite view which turned out to be an extremism, also. Arminius placed the soul's destiny more on man through his works.

Baptists generally took a middle position including the best of each while avoiding the extremes of both. We are modified Calvinists. Also, we are modified Arminians.

We express it, "Work like everything depends on you. Trust, knowing that in the end

## ■ historical view

By James Sullivan, retired BSSB president

everything is in the hands of God." Man trusts. God redeems through grace.

The second upheaval whose influence is still felt among us was the Landmark Controversy, which is much closer to home in time and geography. It arose in Tennessee in 1846

to spread southward and westward. J. R. Graves, its founder, was once a member of First Church, Nashville.

Instead of viewing Christian interrelationships like living parts of a human body as Paul did, he viewed them more like a bucket of golf balls which touched each other informally but did not interact cooperatively or coordinately.

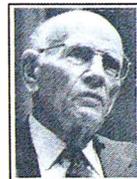
The third controversy to leave lingering effects on us came in the mid-1920s. It arose when intense efforts of one rigid Southern Baptist segment sought to force its extreme posi-

tion about Christ's second coming on Southern Baptists as the exclusive view of our denomination while rejecting all others.

In doing so they used the term "biblical inerrancy" elaborately and persistently as their main buzz words or insignia, thus, handicapping that precise terminology with the excess baggage of a double meaning.

The Southern Baptist Convention chose the word, "inspired," which means that God "exhaled" the Bible. It is a Bible term (II Timothy 3:16). It is also the term used in The Baptist Faith and Message statement, our acclaimed declaration of beliefs.

All three controversies have left their lingering minority influences on us as a convention. They offer little threat except when and if they might join in a coalition with other minority groups to seek a combined majority support for themselves along with other divergent minority groups working together. □ — Sullivan wrote this series of articles for his church newsletter three years ago. Future articles in this series will be reprinted every other week.



SULLIVAN

## Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



April —

- 28 — The pastors of Chile — that they will receive wisdom and a vision for their ministry and their needs will be met.
- 29 — Revival among seminary teachers and students in Santiago
- 30 — Chilean layperson, Iris Wilson, be blessed with good health to be able to be God's special servant to the residents at the Girls Home in Temuco.

May —

- 1 — That the desire for the Lord will increase in those served by our medical team last month.
- 2 — The evangelistic campaign is in process in Talca; the empowering of our team so that they will be effective witnesses for his purpose and glory.
- 3 — Our evangelism team as they return home, the impact of this experience upon their lives, and for effectiveness in the telling of their missions story.
- 4 — Those who claimed Christ as their Savior during the evangelism campaign and the local churches discipling them.

# How we look at world's people, places

■ one  
word more  
By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
editor

The values of human judgment, unless founded on Christian principles, are often suspect and skewed.

The world today is deeply wounded by flashpoints of terror and strife. Which wounds are most important to the welfare of humanity? Who chooses the news value, the most evil, the greatest degree of suffering?

Missionaries Katrina Knox, Columbia; David and Janet Hooten, Knoxville; Stan and Marlene Lee, South Carolina; Vernon and Sandi Sivage, Texas; Martha Colwell, North Carolina; and Larry and Diane Randolph, Texas; believe Rwanda is the most important place. Southern Baptist missionaries, they escaped the horror of tribal warfare just days ago — to a world of political confusion over South Africa, the Middle East, and the Balkan area of eastern Europe.

What place does Rwanda have in the world arena? What value do world politicians place on the tiny East African nation that is losing hundreds of lives each day? Who will care for the teeming thousands of refugees? Who will try to bring peace to the land of bloody chaos?

This prediction may be wrong, but apparently Rwanda and its twin neighbor Burundi will have to get in line — after those priorities already mentioned.

Work of the missionaries has ceased, at least temporarily. The economy has

gone from critical to extremely dangerous. Gangs are slaughtering innocent people day by day. There is no government now functioning. And, for those who are on the wrong side of any issue, or who have the wrong tribal lines, there is no way to escape.

This week's *Baptist and Reflector* carries major news about the strife of Rwanda and Burundi. There have been reports on these pages prior to now, and as the story of death and pillage continues, that news will be reported here.

By Wm.  
Fletcher  
Allen,  
editor

There is hope that such high visibility can heighten sensitivity so that American and other world leaders will address the desperate situation with strength and wisdom.

The sad truth is that Rwanda and Burundi have little to offer the world in exchange for immediate help. They have very few resources to draw from, no gold or silver, no uranium, iron, or oil. What little they have, they need for themselves.

The world may view news photos of death and mayhem and quickly judge the people as uncivilized brutes. But these people had kings with organized government long before America was born, or Europe was a civilized force.

Ethnic hatred and bitterness in Africa crushes the hopes, dreams, and lives of people just as surely as it does in Ameri-

ca, Europe, the Middle East, or anywhere. And that is what has happened to these beautiful people and their proud nations.

The most urgent prayer need is for the safety of Baptists and other Christians, and especially their leaders. Most of them are at risk because of their ethnic bloodlines. Specifically remember them and their families. Pray for national leaders to work toward peace and an end to the killing. Pray for the missions to remain faithful, and for the quick return of the missionaries.

Pray for the world's people to see beyond race and economics — to needs. □

## Remembering mother

May 8 is nationally celebrated as Mother's Day. Traditionally, Americans have participated generously in the observation of this special occasion.

Two things are important to remember as Mothers Day nears. First, generations from the past, even from Bible days, remind us that mothers often are the force behind strong relationships in family life. Our nation's past bears witness that mothers have strong influence in family.

Second, any weakening of the biblical ideals of motherhood and family will spell gloom and doom for families and future of the United States — and any nation. Join in prayer and praise for mothers, standing straight and tall. Honor them all. □

## Welcome guests

Mr. and Mrs. Finch have come to stay with us for a while.

We didn't invite them, but they are quiet, unselfish, hard-working, and pleasant. In fact, they are the kind of folks who fit in easily with the family.

They came and made themselves at home. Father and mother have been very busy, flitting about a lot when they first moved to our place. But lately, we have noticed they

are sitting around more than usual.

The Finches are no bother to us. They didn't come inside. They scouted the area and then

set up housekeeping on our front porch.

Betty and I understand why they did it that way. The sign out front reads, "Welcome," and they just felt included in the invitation.

In fact, they made their little nest in the welcome wreath hanging by the front door.

The bird nest in the wreath and its cargo of four eggs changed our lives on Sugartree Lane. Well, at least we have rerouted our comings and goings. Not wanting to disturb the nervous parents-to-be as they sit on the eggs, we avoid using the front door.

The Finches are teaching several truths by example.

Their lifestyle is simple, and they make no demands on nature. I know they can't read, but they certainly felt welcome just as the sign says.

They are at peace with the world. Doing their work, they appear to be happy with the role the Father assigned them.

They have a sense of safety and trust. They evidently felt it was okay to build there in the wreath by the door. From the backyard feeders they, along with many friends, gather food.

They work well together. The nest building was a joint effort equally shared, the plan was plain, and the result was superior.

They don't chatter aimlessly, but when they do speak, the sound is beautiful. They aren't bullies, but they protect their turf. I think they will be good parents. God's eyes are on his birds, and on us. □



ALLEN

# Forgiveness, priority for family

■ just  
for today

By Fred Wood  
pastor emeritus  
Eudora Church, Memphis

■ families matter  
By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

There are many occurrences in the family that call for forgiveness. This needs to be addressed since the blended family usually has needs in this area. Abuse, abandonment, addiction, and adultery are experiences that produce deeply hurting and long-lasting wounds.

There usually is a predictable progression of feelings that surround events in our lives. This calls for forgiveness. We begin by hurting, progress to hating, progress to healing until we are able to affect reconciliation.

Many Christians have a problem with the hurting stage. Not wanting to admit they were affected that much, they either go into denial, saying they are not angry, or seek to minimize by saying it isn't so bad.

When we have been hurt by someone, especially someone in a significant relationship with us, the most honest and helpful thing we can do is to own our own hurt.

Despite our knowledge of God's Word, where he tells us that vengeance is in his hands, our natural tendency is to want to get even. We feel

like we want those who hurt us to hurt like we do. This is a natural feeling on the road to forgiveness. We can't help the feeling, but we can choose not to let it derail the entire journey to forgiveness.

When I have a physical wound, I nurture it in a way that fosters healing. The emotional wounds that call for forgiveness need the same type of nurturing. I recommend generous applications of intentional forgetting wrapped snugly with a volitional choice to let go.

At this point I focus on the needs of the victim, not necessarily the attitudes of the perpetrator. I do not want to be misunderstood to be saying that we have to say that they did it all right.

It was not! I am simply suggesting that we must acknowledge that a vengeful spirit will eat us alive from the inside like a cancer. For my own healing I must finish my business, turn loose, and get on

with my life.

To fail to do so is to allow the person who hurt me to continue to victimize me by keeping me a slave to the drive to get even when absolutely nothing could ever balance the account.

Reconciliation is the final stage. This may or may not entail going back to the same relationship we had before. Certainly this is what would

be desirable for a husband and wife or a child and parent.

But in the case of divorced couples who have remarried other people, this may not now be possible.

In the case of abuse victims it may not be advisable since they would be putting themselves in the position to be victimized again. This will be the Christian ideal we would want to strive toward.

Where are you on your road to forgiveness? Are you hung up in hurting or hating? Have you moved on to healing? Do you need to attempt reconciliation? □

We encourage readers to send items for discussion to the paper or to Dr. Barkley.



BARKLEY

## Start with a smile

"What would you like for Christmas?" Santa asked the little girl sitting on his lap.

She looked at him indignantly and said, "Didn't you get the fax I sent you?"

## Take this thought

Nothing slows down a younger generation like a still younger one coming along. Some of us remember when the baby boomers became the yuppies and "put down" their antiquated parents. Now the "baby busters" are intimidating the boomers. Life goes on. Move forward or the advancing crowds will pass you by.

## Memorize this Scripture

"Go on growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18 Moffatt).

## Pray this prayer

Lord help me to keep up with every new development in this world today. Help me to make sure I keep my faith in the old, old story of Jesus and his love. □

## Tennesseans hear motivations for ...

— Continued from page 1

"Beloved, I don't care how many laws they pass for them and how many nice phrases are used and how many nice churches they organize for them, it doesn't change one word of the Bible, and without exception the Bible condemns both."

Some Christians grapple with the why of resisting sin, continued Hobbs. But God is just in demanding perfection because he saw his son resist temptation. Was Jesus really tempted? asked Hobbs. In other words, could Jesus have committed sin?

"Yes," he declared. "If Jesus could not have yielded to temptation, then it wasn't temptation was it?" he responded.

### Laymen's Night

In Friday's traditional closing session directed to laypeople, Tennessee Baptist Convention President Ray Newcomb reminded the crowd that "soul winning is a conviction that must come from God."

During a devotional time he led, Newcomb, pastor of First Church, Millington, challenged people to witness to see others saved. Once that happens, he continued, teach them God's Word so they can reproduce themselves.

In the two closing messages Hobbs and Manuel Scott of Dallas, Texas, both emphasized that God is always present.

Hobbs made some observations about the disciple Thomas. Though he has been

dubbed "Doubting Thomas," he "did not demand any more evidence than the others already had," Hobbs said.

After all, he continued, "you can't preach an experience you've never had."

Hobbs cited evidence that Jesus was always around the disciples even when they could not see him. "He was invisible," Hobbs said, noting that is true even today.

"There's never a time, place, or moment when Jesus is not with me. He's just invisible," he said.

Scott closed the conference with "a theology for tough times."

The pastor observed that "a health and wealth Gospel is sweeping our land. If we are not careful we will spread the errant notion that God only shows up when things are going well," Scott said.

Reading from Nahum, Scott reminded conference participants that "the Lord has his way in the whirlwinds and the storms."

In all of life's hardships, the Lord is still there, Scott said.

### Other out-of-state speakers

Woody Watkins, former director of evangelism, Tennessee Baptist Convention, served as moderator of a session in the absence of Jerry King, current TBC director of evangelism who is recovering from surgery. He also spoke.

Watkins urged the listeners to be truly alive by being anchored to God, geared to the times, and believing that the

best is yet to come.

Christians should remember God has chosen us, we can ask God for what we need, and we should love each other, he stated.

Watkins said he is committed to missions. Though he is retired, he is interim pastor of a congregation in Stewart, Fla. The congregation is one of 10 started by a church he once served as pastor.

He recalled one of the slogans of Bold Mission Thrust, "If it's going to be, then it's up to me."

Speaking on Thursday afternoon was Jack Stanton, director of the International Institute of Evangelism and a staff member at Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.

The former evangelism director for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board analyzed the way Jesus witnessed to the Samaritan woman.

Jesus sought her, discussed her interests and needs, stirred her conscience, and showed her the way of eternal life, described Stanton.

He criticized some Christian leaders. Some direct "teach the Bible, obey the Bible, but if they aren't doing something about evangelism, they aren't teaching the Bible," he declared.

The approach of Jesus needs examination, Stanton noted. Jesus didn't confront the Samaritan woman by asking her if she was going to heaven or hell after death. In-

stead, he offered her his friendship, he said.

Many people still don't know about God's salvation, he noted. When he was 19 years old "no one had ever talked to me about God," Stanton said.

Billy Walker, a full-time evangelist from Batesville, Ark., and evangelist for Williams Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark., spoke.

He suggested soul winning requires spiritual warfare because it directly benefits God's work rather than Satan's.

"I tell you dear brothers, if we don't leave our beautiful homes and our beautiful churches and our state Baptist buildings and our great denominational complexes, millions are going to die and leave their blood on our hands."

### Speakers from Tennessee

Retired Baptist Sunday School Board President James L. Sullivan preached on John the Baptist, noting his message is relevant for today's world. "John was not an accident. He was a fulfillment of prophecy," Sullivan said.

John's role was to prepare people for the coming of the kingdom, Sullivan said. He was "a man common to his day because he had a message for the common man," Sullivan said, noting John came to "declare the things of God to a waiting, hungry world."

John knew, however, when it was time for him to step aside. "When John saw Jesus, he said, 'I must decrease, He must increase.'"

Tom Madden, retired TBC executive director-treasurer and current interim pastor of First Church, Manchester, based his message on Romans 8:37. He cited four ways Christians are more than conquerors through Christ.

The first way, he said, is "because we are in Christ. How can we fail to conquer if we are wrapped up in Christ?" The second way, Madden observed, is because of God's Holy Spirit. "When the spirit of Christ is in you how can you lose?"

The final two ways Christians are more than conquerors through Christ is because of God's providence and the fact Christians cannot be separated from God, Madden said.

Franklin Paschall, retired pastor, First Church, Nashville, listed the following items which are singular — Gospel, body of Christ or the church, spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism, and God.

Only one Gospel exists, thus, only one way to heaven is available, said Paschall, who was president of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1966-68.

"People still think if they do more good than bad they will go to heaven."

He also opined baptism is more important than many preachers make it. Christians from other denominations who join the Baptist church should be carefully questioned before accepting former baptisms, Paschall said. □ — Lonnie Wilkey contributed to this story

## Belmont students continue cleanup efforts from 'Flood of '93'

By Dave Hunt & Teresa Sefcik  
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Over spring break in early April, 14 Belmont University students and Campus Minister Dane

Anthony ventured to St. Louis to assist in cleanup work resulting from the "Flood of '93."

Although the flood occurred almost a year ago, students saw firsthand that there is still much work to be done.

Students participated in the effort as a part of SPOTS (Special Projects Other Than Summer), an annual short-term missions opportunity offered to college students through their campus Baptist Student Union.

The group spent a week at Parkway Church in St. Louis.

For four days, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. the students worked at cleaning up rental properties. They filled dumpsters with drywall from gutted houses and trash, including everything from tires and toys to soap and medication. In one instance there was a towel rack from a bathroom still attached to part of the wall, and on that rack were two towels. What the students cleaned was more than just trash — it was the remnants of people's lives.

Some of the students also worked with a local church — St. Louis Family Church

in Chesterfield.

Standing in a dumpster is not glory work by any means, but servanthood was the motive for the trip. Members of Parkway Church said they were encouraged and challenged by the Belmont students. Facing the reality of college students giving up their spring break to work in a city hours away from their own city for the glory of Christ spurred members of Parkway to serve as well.

"I think our students just being there and doing the work reminded the members that there were mission opportunities in their home town," said Anthony, who supervised the trip.

In the midst of "grunge-work," the students enjoyed being with one another and serving the Lord together.

And their efforts made it worthwhile to give up their

week of spring break.

"With all the things we have to do in college, it is very easy for us to become selfish. For me, spring break is one of the only times during the year to leave my 'comfort zone' of Belmont and serve Christ by serving others," said Christy Ridings, a junior psychology major from Tullahoma.

Other Tennessee students on the trip included: campus ministries intern Valerie Edmonds, Woodbine Church, Nashville; Kelly Glasco, Teresa Sefcik, Julie Williams, and Dave Hunt, all members of Brentwood Church, Brentwood; Duffy Walls, Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville; Hope Stewart, First Church, Nashville; and Chad Landers, Pine Eden Church, Crossville. □ — Hunt and Sefcik are students at Belmont. Both participated in the mission effort.



ASSESSING THE EXTENT of the damage, Belmont University students begin their assignment as they assist in the Chesterfield relief effort.

# Canada offers more than natural beauty, resources

## Tennessee, Canada Baptists see spiritual needs of lost people

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
Baptist and Reflector

A team of five Tennessee Baptists explored a possible missions partnership with Canadian Baptists April 12-15. Reports will be made to the Executive Board May 10-11 and to the Canadian Convention July 5-7. This is a second story about the meetings.

CALGARY, Canada — Canada and the United States have much in common.

The two former British colonies share a long border. They have similar natural resources and recently entered into a landmark trade agreement that is mutually beneficial. They are almost the same size, Canada the larger.

The Trans Canada highway sweeps across the continent east-west for 3,987 miles, and 80 percent of the population lives within 200 miles of that connecting link.

An unwanted major similarity, however, is that there are millions of lost people in both nations. Evangelical Chris-

tians on both sides of the border are not proud of that distinction, but they have agreed to do something about it.

Sitting about a large table here in Cochrane, just a few miles from the major city of Calgary, five Tennessee Baptists, two Foreign Mission Board representatives, and a score of Canadian Baptists look at the evidence, sense the mutual feeling for evangelization, and plot some tentative strategies.

Tired from a long trek by air from Nashville, the Tennesseans quickly draw from the fervor and enthusiasm of our Canadian hosts.

Our team is headed by James Porch, Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director, and Bill Wilson, Convention Ministries Division director. Besides the *Baptist and Reflector* editor, the others are Ray Newcomb, TBC president and pastor of First Church, Millington; and David Crocker, TBC Executive Board president and pastor of Central Church, Johnson City. Probably all five of us are proud of our national heritage, but Allen Schmidt's prayer reminds us of the reason for our being here.

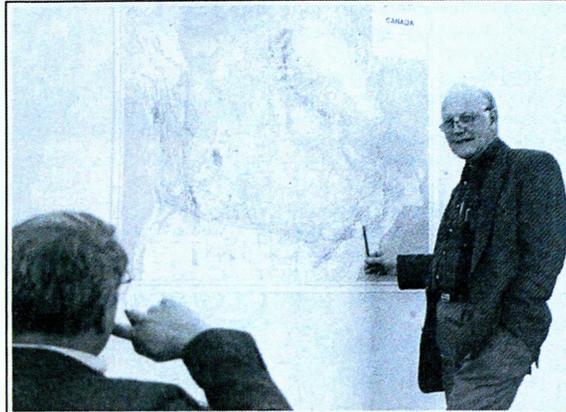
We are meeting to discuss a possible partnership mission.

"God," he prays, "if you want to use us, we are here and we are available."

Later, he tells us some interesting facts about our neighbor to the north. We try to apply his short message to the images in our minds.

He tells us that Canada stretches from Pacific to Atlantic, just as does the United States. But, he adds, Canada has five times zones. It is the world's second largest nation.

The handsome but efficient



USING A MAP, Allen Schmidt, CSBC executive director points out centers of Baptist work across the expanse of Canada.

convention headquarters building where we are meeting was built largely by volunteers, he says. With a twinkle he notes that we too are noted for volunteers who have worked around the world for Christ.

The Canadian Southern Baptist Convention building is a year old, and on the same campus is the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary. It is the product of prayers, dedicated planning and dreaming, hard work, and cooperative spirits.

"There are about five other Baptist groups in Canada," Schmidt says, "and some independent churches also."

The CSBC has 110 churches, and those congregations represent about 1 percent of Canada's population — or 250,000.

"There is enough work here for us — and for Tennessee," he laughs. We are believers.

Cochrane, he says, is closer to Brentwood than Montreal.

Planning with us are other Canadian Baptists who hold down several responsibilities: Jack and Bonna Conner, John Nance, David and Barbara Wyman, Jerry Taillon, and Frank Johnson, Foreign Mission Board church growth worker who lives in Cochrane.

Jim Furgerson and Tom Warrington, FMB volunteer directors, are with us also.

Although there is discussion about all of Canada, the tentative partnership which is to be presented to boards of CSBC and TBC, any mission work will include only British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, the western provinces.

The CSBC is like a state convention of the Southern Baptist Convention, but operates as a national convention.

dington, Jasper Place; and Roy Spannagal, director of missions for the area.

We are reminded that Tennessee already has ties with Canadian Baptists. Woodmont Church, Nashville, helped with the office building at Cochrane. James L. Sullivan spoke at the first convention, and Nashville's Bill and Muriel Blackwell have spent several terms working at the fledgling seminary.

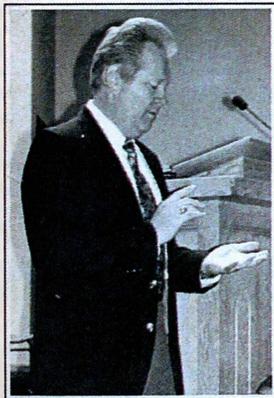
Spannagal tells us there are 21 churches and church-type missions in the association, and that there are one million people living in metro Edmonton. "It is the largest city this far north," he says.

Yiu explains the work being done with Chinese, Arabic, Filipino, and Korean groups.

Each pastor speaks with joy about what God is doing in the churches. And we believe it.

After lunch our group heads east for North Battleford, Saskatchewan, where Jeff Christopherson leads First Church which is uniquely housed in a renovated roller skating rink.

On the way there is much discussion about what to do



ROY SPANNAGAL tells about church work in the Edmonton area.



TALKING ABOUT work in North Battleford, the group listens to pastor Jeff Christopherson, second from right. From left, Bill Wilson, David Crocker, James Porch, Jim Furgerson, Allen Schmidt, Christopherson, and Ray Newcomb.



TENNESSEE AND CANADIAN Baptist leaders, and Foreign Mission Board representatives explore the possibilities of a missions partnership between the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Canadian Southern Baptist Convention.

tors at Jasper Place Church, listened to their ideas for joint missions, and exchanged information.

A surprise awaits us at Jasper Place. Schmidt has arranged the meeting, and now as we walk to the door of the church, Walter West meets us. The young associate pastor says, "Hello, it's good to meet some folks from home!"

The Brentwood native, who was a member of Forest Hills Church, shows us around and the other pastors gather.

We meet with Mike Hicks, Ceba Beech; Pat Milne, Dover Court; Nelson Yiu, Chinese; Bill Bye, Westwood; Dan Ed-

and how to do it. A spring snow storm gets our attention. A casual question about needs evokes a thoughtful response from Allen Schmidt.

"We could move into 50 church buildings tomorrow," he says, "if we had them. And we could put six more directors of mission to work immediately if we had the resources."

After a night visit with Christopherson, we turn southeast toward Calgary.

Once there, a tired but invigorated group talks about the challenges and blessings of a potential partnership. There is excitement when we think of the possibilities. □

## C-N ministry team touches lives at leprosy village in China

By Jim Wilson  
For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — Leprosy is a word that has planted fear in the hearts of men and women for thousands of years. Even in the days of the Old and New Testaments, lepers were treated as outcasts.

Poor men like Lazarus had the liberty of asking for alms and receiving leftover food from the tables of the rich, but not so with the lepers. In many ways lepers were condemned to an existence worse than death.

Last November Carson-Newman College's Baptist Student Union received a request from Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization, to spend seven days in March working in a leprosy village in Guangzhou, China.

Such a trip would hardly be considered the ideal spring break for students, whose typical goal is to lie on the beach and enjoy the sun.

Accepting the request from CSI would have been all too easy to "pass by on the other side of the street" and escape

the realities of a suffering world.

Yet, 18 apprehensive but willing students and four faculty members were selected for a unique two-week ministry in China.

While many individuals and teams had been allowed into China to teach English or study the Chinese language and culture, it was the first time the Chinese government had given permission for a ministry team to assist in the work with leprosy patients.

China has had an endemic history of leprosy, or Hansen's Disease, for more than 2,000 years. The affliction has been stigmatized as hereditary and incurable as a punishment from God.

Society in China views leprosy patients much as AIDS victims are viewed in the United States. Even some of the doctors and nurses who work with the patients are hesitant to touch them, leaving the victims starved for love, care, and acceptance.

After a reception by doctors and nurses upon the team's arrival in Guangzhou, the team moved to the reception God had prepared at the leprosy hospital. It was a long overdue reception as many of the 114 residents had lived in virtual isolation for 40 years or more.



C-N RELIGION PROFESSOR David Howell, left, was one of 22 Carson-Newman faculty and students who spent their spring break ministering at a Chinese leprosy hospital.

The team wasted no time in formal introduction but greeted each resident personally with a warm handshake and the touch of God's love.

In some ways we felt like the prodigal son returning to be welcomed by his father. We, the Christian church, had been separated far too long from these members of our own family (40 of the residents were Christians who had kept the faith through not only the iso-

lated rejection of their diseases but also through the persecution of their faith during the 15 years of Christian suppression).

During the team's seven-day mission at the hospital, they sanded and painted rusted window frames, painted the doors to patients' rooms, and renovated a part of the hospital so that it could be used as an operating room for much

needed reconstructive surgery.

They also spent time with their new friends. Though there was a language barrier, there was no communication barrier with smiles, a gentle touch, games, or music.

On the team's final day of work they presented the leprosy patients with Chinese Bibles (more than 10,000 Bibles had been donated for the trip in addition to monetary gifts for surgical supplies and travel expenses), and other Christian literature as well as eggs, powdered milk, and two pigs to provide much needed protein in the patients' diets.

The team of students and faculty left China forever changed because God had allowed us as prodigals to return to his banqueting table. No longer did we see these people with whom we had fellowshiped as unclean or even as lepers. Instead, we saw them as God's special children, made in his own image. □ — Wilson is campus minister at Carson-Newman College.

### Golf tournament to benefit TBCH

The second annual "Celebrities Fore Kids" golf tournament to benefit the Franklin campus of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. will be held June 6 at Woodmont Country Club in Nashville.

Country music stars, including Vince Gill and other Nashville celebrities, will participate.

In addition, a "silent" auction will be held to help raise funds for TBCH. The goal for the event is \$30,000.

For more information about the tournament, call (615) 377-6551. □

### It's not too late

to register for 1994 Summer Conferences at Ridgecrest!

Housing is still available for the following conferences:	
Summer Youth Celebration 1	June 10-14
Summer Youth Celebration 2	June 14-18
Church Music Leadership	June 18-24
Yericho Missions Week/Youth Jericho	June 25-July 1
Black Church Leadership Conference	July 2-8
Bible Preaching Leadership	July 9-15
Church Growth Sunday School Conference for Pastors, Staff, General Officers of Small Churches	July 9-15
Church Secretary Certification	July 9-15
Southern Baptist Conference on Discipleship Ministry	July 9-15
Church Media Library Conference	July 9-15
Church Drama Leadership	July 9-15
Summer Youth Celebration 3	July 15-19
Discipleship and Family Development Disciple Life	July 16-22
Summer Youth Celebration 4	July 19-23
Church Growth Sunday School 1	July 23-29
Church Growth Sunday School 2	July 30-August 5
Church Growth Sunday School Fast Track 1	August 5-9
Church Growth Sunday School Fast Track 2	August 9-13
Student Ministry	August 13-19
Crusade	August 13-19
Home Missions	August 20-26

\*During Church Music Leadership Week, only tent and RV sites are available.

For information about registering for one of these conferences, call 1-800-564-9100 (TSS)

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Exodus 23:10-11

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## ■ the people

■ **Jeff Brown**, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., was ordained on April 10 by First Church, Erwin, where his father-in-law, Ray Sorrells, is pastor. Brown has been called as a pastor of a Kentucky church.

■ **David Anthony Phillips** of Clinton earned the diploma in biblical studies from the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute. The diploma was presented April 10 by Larry D. Davidson, pastor, Calvary Church, Heiskell, where Phillips is a member. The institute is a correspondence arm of the Seminary Extension agency.

## ■ deaths

■ **Dorothy Stephens** of New Orleans, wife of Genter L.

Stephens, a former minister of music, Belmont Heights Church, Nashville, and retired professor of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, died April 9.

■ **Bordie Bell Householder**, widow of pastor Lloyd T. Householder died April 14 in a Knoxville nursing home following an extended illness. Her son is Lloyd Householder of Brentwood, who is retired from the Baptist Sunday School Board.

■ **Frank S. Groner**, 82, president emeritus of Baptist Memorial Health Care System, died April 17. He led the hospital system from 1946-80. He was a graduate of Baylor University. Groner worked at Southern Baptist Hospital, which was founded by his father for ten years before relocat-



GRONER

ing to the Memphis institution. He was a member of Union Avenue Church, Memphis, and the board of directors for Memphis Theological Seminary. Memorials may be sent to Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation or Germantown Church, Germantown.

## ■ the leaders

■ **Tommy Foster Jr.**, has been called as minister of music of Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain, effective April 20.

■ Cherokee Mountain Church, Jonesborough, has called Steve Wilson as pastor.

■ Higgins Chapel Church, Flag Pond, has called Harold Lewis as bivocational pastor.

■ Dungan Chapel Church, Elizabethton, has called J. D. Neeley as interim pastor, effective March 13.

■ Lincoya Hills Church,

Nashville, has called Robert Johnson, Lebanon, as minister of youth. Johnson will graduate from Belmont University, Nashville, next month. He also is a department manager at Wal-Mart.

■ **Raymond Burnett** has been called as associate pastor for education and youth by Mount Lebanon Church, Maryville.

■ **Bill Street** has been called as pastor of Immanuel Church, Olive Branch, Miss., effective March 27. Street, formerly pastor, Grace Church, Jackson, is a graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.

■ **Gary Anderson Jr.**, pastor of Burt Church, Woodbury, has been named Battalion Chaplain, U. S. Army 473rd Support Battalion, which has one company in Lawrenceburg. Anderson is a graduate of the University of North Alabama, Florence, and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis. He also was assistant minister, Bellevue Church, Cordova.



ANDERSON

**BREAKING GROUND** for Eastview Church's new sanctuary are, from left, Willodean Childress, Junior and Bevia Presley, Joe Pruet, Lucille White, Joe Harris, Al Hilliard, A.H. Childress, Inez Baker, and Pastor Stephen R. Atwood.



## Huntingdon church grows in five years

HUNTINGDON — Just five years after constituting as a church, Eastview Church broke ground April 17 for a new 280-seat, 6800-square-foot sanctuary and educational building.

The church began as a mission of First Church, Huntingdon, in 1984 with Joe Harris as pastor. Two years later the fledgling congregation purchased 16.5 acres of land on the east bypass of the city for \$30,000. The Missions Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention provided a land grant of \$7,500 for the purchase.

The church built its present building in March 1987 with the help of a loan from the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.

Under the leadership of present pastor Stephen R. Atwood, who joined the congregation in March 1993, the church has continued to grow and

minister in a variety of ways. Last year the church had 14 professions of faith and 24 additions by letter.

The church now sponsors a deaf ministry and also is the mother church for a mission congregation in the Sugar Tree area of Benton County. A bread ministry also has been started by the Eastview members.

"We're trying to diversify our ministry and reach people," Atwood said.

The new sanctuary will be constructed primarily through volunteer labor supplied through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's volunteer program, Atwood said.

He noted the building would be contracted for \$230,000 to \$245,000 but with volunteer labor it will cost about \$160,000.

Among the groups already assigned to the project are one

Tennessee church and an Alabama church led by a former TBC pastor. A group from Thompson Station Church, Thompson Station, will work during the summer as will a group from Roebuck Park Church in Pinson, Ala. The church's pastor, Don Whitt, will join the work group and also will lead revival services at Eastview. Whitt is former pastor of First Church, Milan.

During the April 17 groundbreaking Atwood pledged that the new sanctuary "will be a place where we will preach the Gospel. In that is our future."

Among those participating in the service were former pastors Joe Harris, now retired, and Stan Smith, now pastor at First Church, Henderson, Fred Ward, pastor of First Church, Huntingdon; and Jim Humphreys, retired director of missions for Carroll-Benton Association. □ — Lonnie Wilkey

■ **First Church, Joelton**, had a Celebration of Heritage April 17. The celebration was to recognize the remodeling of the sanctuary and a special commemorative quilt.

■ **Bobby Atkins**, pastor, Silverdale Church, Chattanooga, will lead revival services at Bartlebaugh Church, Chattanooga, May 1-4.

■ **First Church, Dunlap**, will hold a spring revival May 7-11. William A. Foote of Memphis will lead the meetings.

■ "God With Us," a presentation of music, banners, pastor, and worship team, will be May 1 at Long Hollow Church, Hendersonville. It will be held in the morning and evening.

## ■ the schools

■ **John Lee Welton**, a professor of communication arts and director of drama at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, was honored with the Distinguished Faculty Award. It was presented during the convocation and is the college's highest honor given to a faculty member. Welton has taught there for 34 years.

## ■ the churches

■ During an April 10-15 revival at **Big Rock Church, Big Rock**, six people make professions of faith. Evangelist Floyd Lammersfeld, Glisson, led the services.

■ **Siam Church, Elizabethton**, will hold revival May 1-4. Jim Best, pastor, First Church, Greeneville, will lead it.

■ **Southeast Church, Murfreesboro**, will hold a concert May 7 featuring Cecil Blackwood and The Blackwood Brothers. Admission is free, but a love offering will be taken. A nursery will not be provided.

■ **Terry Wilkerson** of Hendersonville will lead revival services at **Southside Church, Lebanon**, May 1-6. Wendell Hall will lead the music.

■ **First Church, Pleasant Hill**, will hold revival May 15-18. Wayne Markham, interim pastor, Emmanuel Church, Crossville, will lead it.

■ **Fredonia Church, Crossville**, will hold revival April 27 - May 1. Eugene "Butch" Stapleton, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Crossville, will lead it.

## ■ the missionaries

■ **Thomas and Audrey Blevins Welch** of Columbia, S.C., have been named to the International Service Corps by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. He is the former pastor of First Church, Roan Mountain. Mrs. Welch is from Elizabethton, where she was a youth director and church secretary at Calvary Church. She is a graduate of East Tennessee State University, Johnson City.

## ■ the work

■ A mission team from **First Church, Bluff City**, worked in Puerto Rico where the team renovated a building at the Baptist seminary in Guaynabo. Members included Harold Durham, Jim Kyte, Bill Pierce, Sid Burnett, and Frank Blevins, pastor.

■ **Bud Pate**, pastor, **Boones Creek Church, Gray**, has returned from his twelfth mission trip to Montego Bay, Jamaica. He reports a construction project was completed and 50 people made spiritual decisions.

# Union students learn there's no 'us and them' in inner city

By Tracey King  
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Instead of the typical college spring break, 149 Union University students and faculty had a different agenda. They served on SPOTS (Special Projects Other Than Summer) teams in seven states and one foreign country.



UNION STUDENTS Patrick Rider and Kelly Webb prepare a wall for painting.

Among the students were 13 who volunteered at the Metropolitan Baptist Center in downtown Indianapolis, Ind.

Sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Metropolitan Association, the center truly serves "the least of these." Located in the heart of the city's homosexual community, across the street from a homeless shelter, and next door to a mental health clinic, the staff ministers daily to drug addicts, transvestites, prostitutes, alcoholics, and the mentally disabled.

The center's mission is to develop relationships with the community's residents, says Diane Reach, the center's program director.

"Our goal is to get to know

every person who walks through our door. We want to greet them by name, offer them a shoulder to cry on, and a listening ear. If our clients don't know and trust us, they will never be open to hearing how Jesus can change their lives."

The Union students participated in every area of the center's ministry by working in the food and clothing pantries, attending worship services, and leading the after school program and youth Bible study.

In addition the students met maintenance needs by painting rooms, cleaning up the basement, and repairing a broken fence.

But the most important aspect of their trip was getting to know the community's resi-

dents. By attending support groups and Bible studies, as well as striking up random conversations, students had the opportunity to share with many people. They discovered they were really not that different from the center's clients.

"The staff challenged us not

to think in terms of 'us and them' ...," said Missy Goin, a junior from Millington. Though their circumstances are different, Goin learned "our problems stem from the same emotional feelings. "Fortunately, Jesus offers a way out for all of us," Goin said. □

## Spiritual Conquest Crusades

led by  
Pastor/Evangelist Lloyd Bardowell

Hendersonville pastor Lloyd Bardowell, with 17 years experience in leading evangelistic meetings and 20 years as a pastor, is returning to lead Spiritual Conquest Crusades

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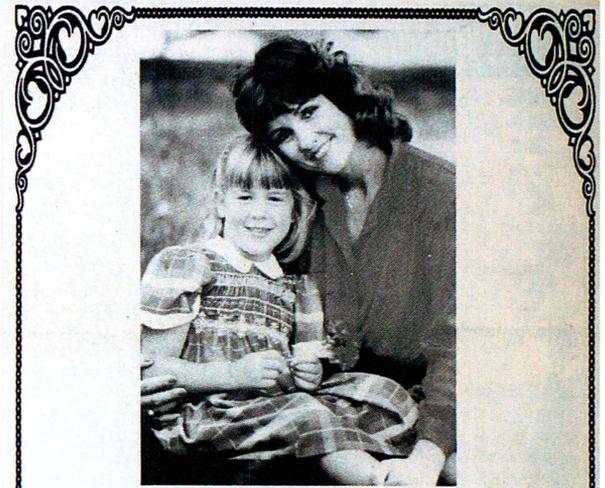
For information, call (615) 859-7345 or write:  
Lloyd Bardowell, 600 Caldwell Lane, Goodlettsville, Tenn., 37072



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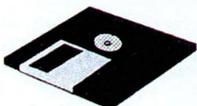
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# ■ Sunday School lesson commentary

## □ Jesus prepares his disciples for his leaving — Bible Book Series for May 1

By Brent Seals, pastor, First Church, Elizabethton

In his book *The Mark of a Christian*, Francis Shaeffer discusses the quality that sets believers apart as children of God. It is not a bumper sticker, a cross, or a dove on our lapel. These are only symbols of our faith. The true mark of a Christian is love.

One commentator writes, love is the badge of Christian discipleship. It is not knowledge, nor orthodoxy, nor fleshly activities, but love. As disciples of the Pharisees were known for their phylacteries, as disciples of John the Baptist were known for their baptism, Christians are to be known for their love.

In John 13, Jesus gives the disciples a mandate that adds a new dimension to the meaning of love. This new dimension changes lives and reveals to our world that we belong to Jesus.

### Authentic love — ch. 12:31-38

As soon as Judas left their final meal together, Jesus spoke of his departure (vv. 31-32). Five times in this passage Jesus uses some form of the word glorify.

For him, death was not a mournful tragedy but a magnificent triumph. Of course, Jesus was looking from heaven's vantage point. For his disciples the teaching was difficult to understand. Thus, Jesus expresses tender care toward them (v. 33) in addition to sharing three puzzling facts to his disciples. One, his departure is imminent; two, people will look for him and be confused; and three, nobody can come with him.

Jesus then gives something to hold them together (vv. 34-35). Note Jesus says a "new commandment." It is not simply additional or different; it is fresh and unique. Love itself is not a new commandment but an old one (Leviticus 19:18). The new is the mutual affection that Christians are to have for one another on account of Christ's great love for them. Jesus sets the example.

In verse 35, Jesus used the word "agape." Of the Greek's four words for love, this one is the highest form. It means to seek the highest good for another.

### Focal Passages John 12:31 — 14:31

er. This type of love refuses to respond negatively, refuses to reject, and refuses to demand conditions. When Jesus says, "as I have loved you, he sets himself up as the standard. The word "know" (v. 35) does not refer to theoretical knowledge but to knowledge gained by experience and observation. This love is our trademark.

### Encouraging words — ch. 14:1-24

In John 14, Jesus senses their troubled hearts and calms them with wonderful truths. He knew the hearts of men. Those things which troubled their hearts trouble our hearts as well. Therefore, Jesus spoke to them and us about death and trials. These age old truths help us in our present day struggles.

Jesus tells us that a personal faith in a personal God brings strength (v. 1). The verbs in this verse are present imperative: Keep on believing in God. They had trusted Christ for salvation,

now they must trust Christ to bring them through this trial. Jesus is preparing a place for us, and he is also preparing us for that place (v. 2-3). The tools that God uses to fashion us for heaven are often trials and tribulations (James 1:2-4).

I find it difficult to follow directions in a strange town. We have heard it said, "you can't miss it!" Well, I have. But if someone says, "Follow me, I'll take you," I do alright. Isn't it good that Jesus doesn't say, "I'll point the way," but takes us by the hand and says, "Follow me, and I'll show you the way?"

Another blessing is when we walk with Jesus and pray in his name, great things occur (v. 12-14). This is not the equivalent of a Christian Aladdin's lamp, nor is it a stanza from "Old MacDonald's Farm" with a gimme gimme here... Jesus taught his disciples in the "Model Prayer" (Matthew 6:9-13) that they are to pray to have their needs met, but the parallel prayer track is there for the Father's needs to be met also (v. 13).

How precious our Lord continues to be to these disciples. In verses 16-18 he promises them the Holy Spirit. The word "another" (v. 16) means another of a same kind. We hate loneliness, but the good news is we don't have to be lonely. We dislike being powerless, but we don't have to be. We have the Holy Spirit within us.

An astronomer sees more than I see. He has been trained to go beyond the black sky and small bright lights and see galaxies. So, too, if we train our eyes to see God in our circumstances, each pressure in our lives will not send us our shape, but mold us as vessels of honor.

**Overcoming fear — vv. 25-31**  
When we are overcome by fear it is because we either ignore or forget what God has said. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to bridge the information gap and give us insight, truth, power, and peace. As Prince of Peace, Jesus merits our trust and our obedience. Because he has loved us, we are to love him and others. □

## □ Delivered from bondage — Convention Uniform Series for May 1

By Mike Thrower, pastor, Brunswick Church, Brunswick

This lesson begins a month-long look at the Letter to the Galatians. It is helpful to review the Acts accounts of Paul's work in this Province (Acts 14 and 15) and of the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15). Galatia was located in central Asia Minor, an area Paul visited on each of his three journeys.

The epistle is grouped with the three that follow it in the Bible as Prison Epistles. The traditional belief is that Paul wrote these while in Rome awaiting trial by Caesar.

In the first two chapters Paul speaks about himself, perhaps in defense against the charges his critics were bringing that he wasn't a real apostle preaching the true Gospel.

### Paul and the Galatians — ch. 1:1-10

Paul begins with his normal greeting. In it he identifies himself as an apostle. His critics said

that since he wasn't one of the first believers, he could not be an apostle. That his apostleship was given to him by the Lord is spelled out clearly. He did not take it for himself, it was by God's own appointment, and he did not take it lightly.

Having thus established his right to speak to them, he immediately identifies a problem. They were "deserting" the true Gospel for a "distorted" version. The Gospel was meant to give freedom, but they were living under bondage.

The problem came from within the church. A group of Jewish believers, known as Judaizers, were unable to lay aside the law. It was acceptable for them to continue to keep it, but they were demanding that all other believers also keep it. They were placing on others the bondage of the law. Paul says this is wrong, this is adding to the Gospel. One

who teaches such is accursed.

### Paul and the Gospel — vv. 11-21

To show his right to speak on this matter, Paul reminds them of his own background. First, he declares that the Gospel he preached was from God. Then he reminds them that as a child he was brought up to be the strictest of Pharisees, even to the point of persecuting believers. This was the activity he was involved with when the Lord met him on the road to Damascus and changed his life. Paul now believed that from the womb God had selected him for this ministry.

In order to be a faithful servant Paul drew apart for three years into the wilderness for prayer and study. Then he went to Jerusalem where he met Peter and the other leaders. Then he began his ministry in the outlying areas. Those in

### Focal Passage Galatians 1:1-24, 2:1-21

Judea only knew of him by his reputation.

### Paul and the others — ch. 2:1-21

After 14 years of ministry, Paul journeyed to Jerusalem. Word had been received by the church in Jerusalem that Paul was not teaching believers the importance of circumcision. Paul met with the council, and the result was an affirmation of his ministry. The watershed decision was that one did not have to become a Jew in order to be saved.

Later Paul had an opportunity to rebuke Peter. Peter had been eating with some Gentile believers until friends from Jerusalem appeared. At their coming he reverted to keeping the ceremonial laws. Many were influenced to do likewise, even

Barnabas. Paul says that if it was proper for Jews (Peter) to live like Gentiles, then it is proper for Gentiles to live like Gentiles. They should not be required to live like Jews. "A man is not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Christ Jesus" (v. 16).

We need to hold to this truth carefully today. There are still those who would add to faith those works they deem important. Some say that the dietary laws are meant for us today. Acts 10 and other Scriptures contradict this teaching. It is fine if one wishes to observe these laws for health reasons but not as law. Others may establish another legalistic barrier and criticize any who practices what they have condemned.

The Gospel is not meant to allow sin, but it is to free from the bondage of man-made rules. □

## □ Serving in one spirit — Life and Work Series for May 1

By Tommy Stevens, Meadow View Church, Lawrenceburg

Sometimes the greatest danger to the church comes from without, but most of the time the danger comes from within. Being critical of our fellow church members may keep us from reaching our potential in the kingdom of God. It may endanger fellowship in the church and damages the witness of the church. The apostle Paul loved the people in the church at Philippi so he included several admonitions in his letter to the Philippians.

### Uprightness — ch. 1:27a

Today "conversation" means two or more people talking together, but in 1611 it meant "the way a person lives." We have a great honor in being cho-

### Focal Passages Philippians 1:27 — 2:4

sen as the people of Christ and being called by his name. We also have a great responsibility. We must be sure that nothing we do ever dishonors the name of Christ for we are called Christians, which means little Christs.

### Steadfastness — vv. 27b-28

Did you ever play tug-of-war? The object of the game is to stand your ground against a team that is pulling you in their direction, and if possible, to pull them in your direction. We, like the Philippians, live in a world that is hostile to our beliefs and val-

ues and seeks to pull us in its direction. We must stand our ground lovingly and victoriously. We must not be intimidated by those who oppose the Gospel, but we must, like the tug-of-war team, work together to draw people to Christ. Even our faithfulness will be a witness to the lost, a confirmation of our salvation and glory to God.

### Distress — vv. 29-30

Every soldier knows there will be difficulty, often even pain and possibly loss of life. He faces these things because he is committed to a cause. The Bible does not promise us a troublefree life. Jesus said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation" (John 16:33)

and "If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you..." (John 15:20). Paul likened the difficulties we suffer as Christians to the sufferings Christ himself endured. He said it is as much a privilege to suffer for the cause of Christ as it is believe in him and be saved.

### Oneness — ch. 2:1-2

Paul gave four reasons for our oneness. A reasonable modern phrasing might be, "Since we are comforted in Christ, since we have the incentive of love, since we share the indwelling of the same Holy Spirit, and since you have a tender heart..." Our strength comes from Christ and our relationship to Jesus must

produce love for one another. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another" (John 13:35). The world does not recognize us for who we are when we fight with one another. The most important things in life are relationships and the most important relationship is the one you have with Jesus.

### Lowliness — vv. 3-4

In these verses, Paul was telling the Philippians not to be conceited or seek for recognition. To do the work to which we are called whether anyone sees or not is the mark of a humble servant of God. Let's work together like that. □

## Trustees commend Golden Gate's Crews

Baptist Press

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary approved a \$5.5 million budget for 1994-95 and affirmed the vision of President William O. Crews and his continuing contribution to the seminary.

Trustee chairman Rob Zinn of California read a resolution of support for the seminary and its president, noting it was offered at a time when encouraging reports about Southern Baptist agencies deserve a hearing.

"We feel that the positive relationships at this Southern Baptist institution need to be known," Zinn said. "We are supporting our president and his vision and the leadership at this seminary." □

## Southwestern search committee meets

Southwestern Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's president's search committee met April 14 for the first time.

The committee is seeking a successor to fired president Russell H. Dilday Jr.

Agenda items included policies and procedures for the committee and a proposed profile for the new president, ac-

ording to search committee chairman Miles Seaborn Jr.

Two recently named additions to the committee were at the meeting — Curtis Vaughan, distinguished professor of New Testament and a SWBTS faculty member since 1950, and Paul Robertson, a second-year theology student from Georgia.

One Tennessean serves on the committee — Robert C. Burch, pastor of Calvary Church, Knoxville.

The committee will meet again in early May at an undisclosed site. □

## Southern Seminary names new dean

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE — A professor and administrator at Denver Seminary has been named dean of the school of Christian education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Dennis E. Williams, chairman of the department of educational ministries and administration at the Conservative Baptist-related seminary, will assume the Southern Seminary position May 1. He succeeds William B. Rogers who resigned as dean last year to assume full-time teaching duties at Southern.

Williams, who has written numerous articles and curriculum materials, also will serve as professor of Christian education. □

## Georgia church stands by former TBC pastor

Baptist Press

ROSWELL, Ga. — Many times during the last nine years First Church, Roswell, could have turned its back on their pastor and wife and said, "Enough."

Instead, over and over the church has opened its heart more widely to embrace Jerry and Jane Songer and to model what a caring church should be. Songer is a former pastor of Central Church, Chattanooga, and a past Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board member.

"The long journey began on the eve of the Songers' first anniversary at the church when Jane was diagnosed with lymphoma. "We never asked 'Why us?'" Songer said. "Rather, we asked, 'Why here? Why now?'"

The Songers were well

aware of how many churches, when confronted with the drain of time and energy attendant to chronic illness, have found reason to ask the pastor to resign. Understandably, given their brief time at the church, they wondered if they, too, would be another statistic.

But the Roswell church did not let that happen. "Our church has a long history of caring," said deacon Curt Moore. First Church stood by the Songers then and again when the cancer reoccurred five years later. The biggest test has come in the last 18 months when the lymphoma returned.

In 1993 she spent 130 days in the hospital fighting for her life and endured an unsuccessful bone marrow transplant. She also spent time in a Maryland hospital.

What once seemed "hope-

less" is now more encouraging as she has undergone experimental treatments at an Atlanta hospital.

Trying to be pastor of a 2,700-member congregation and a husband to Jane has not been easy for Songer.

"Whichever place I was at a given moment, I thought I should be at the other," he said.

Mrs. Songer, too, has felt heavy pastoral responsibility. "We always had been the ministers, not the ones being ministered to. When Jerry was at my side, I worried that the church would think he was gone from them too much. I thought about all the people who needed his help."

But the church pulled through and with everyone working together has even grown. The church has added 70 new members in the last five months. □

## Virginia cooperation council agrees on objective statement

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Members of Virginia Baptists' Council on Cooperation have agreed on an objective statement and on six areas for future discussion.

The committee, which is ex-

amining ways for various theological groups in Virginia Baptist life to cooperate in missions and ministry, was appointed last December by Ron Crawford, president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

The group's goal is to find "a new/improved style of cooperation that respects differences of conviction within the Virginia Baptist family and enables unity of effort to maximize mission and evangelism."

Also agreed at the recent meeting were areas for discussion in future meetings: moral statements or resolutions, mission support and the budgeting process, program style, representation in decision making, structure or organization, and fellowship and spiritual formation. □

## Virginia Baptist board addresses SBC issues

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Resolutions decrying the firing of seminary president Russell H. Dilday Jr. and affirming investment policies of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board drew support from the Virginia Baptist general board April 13.

The statements, which garnered only a handful of opposition, came at the board's spring meeting.

In one of its resolutions the board affirmed "the work and ministry" of Dilday, whom trustees fired March 9 as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Affirmation of the Annuity Board's investment policies was addressed in a resolution which commended President Paul Powell and the agency's trustees for "having in place a workable, realistic ethical policy to guide them in their investments." □

## Americans more religious, society less, survey results reveal

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — While most Americans see themselves becoming more religious, they see their country as becoming less so, according to a new study by *U.S. News and World Report*.

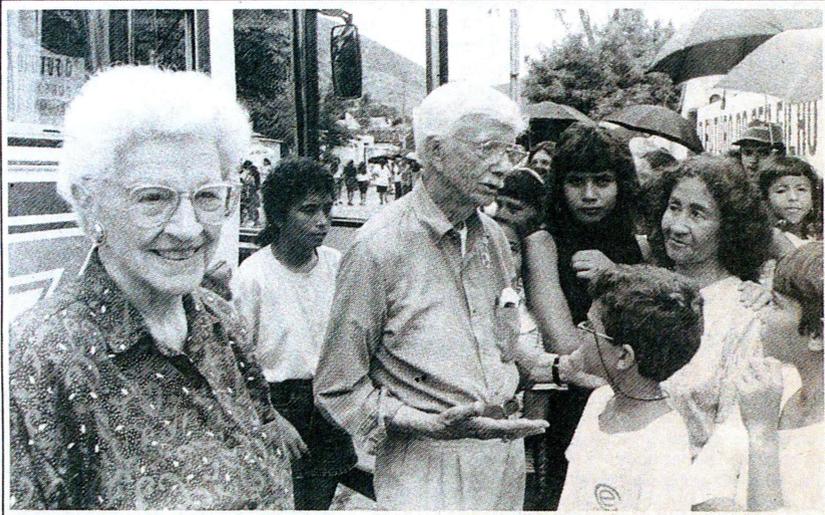
Almost two-thirds (62 percent) of the Americans surveyed by the newsmagazine say religion has a growing influence on their lives. But even more (65 percent) say religion is losing its influence on American life. □

## HMB conference addresses 'hope'

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — "Hope for a Changing World" is the theme for the School of Evangelism and Church Growth to be held May 17-20 at First Church, Snellville, Ga.

The event, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, costs \$40. For a registration form, call (404) 898-7704. □



## 80-plus and still going strong

Southern Baptist volunteers Burton de Wolfe Davis, right, and his wife, Sarah Blanche, left, greet patients waiting for treatment at a mobile medical clinic several hours from Fortaleza, Brazil. The Davises, ages 84 and 83, respectively, started a Baptist hospital, school, and church in Fortaleza during more than 30 years as missionaries there. Since retirement in 1975 the couple has returned a dozen times to the area to lead a team of medical volunteers known as Mobile Medical Missions, consisting primarily of members from First Church, Taylors, S.C., in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. During the couple's last trip in March volunteers treated 3,509 Brazilians. "Sometimes people listen to the story of Jesus better if you show concern for their suffering, too," Davis says. — Photo by John Wright