

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

■ **this
week's
news**

SBC messengers to elect new president in Orlando

By Herb Hollinger
For Baptist Press

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ORLANDO, Fla. — Southern Baptists will gather for their annual national meeting June 14-16 at Orlando's Orange County Convention/Civic center to elect a new president, approve reports, conduct business, and hear testimonies on the theme: "For I know — He is able."

The 137th session of the Southern Baptist Convention, which is in its 148th year, may not have the volatile issues of some previous years, but the election of a new president to succeed Edwin Young of Houston will create interest.

This year two "conservative" candidates have announced they will be nominated: Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., and Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, and a former pastor of Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

As has become the custom at these large once-a-year meetings, an evangelistic campaign, "Cross Over Orlando," will precede the convention meeting as will a host of smaller meetings such as the Pas-

Committee on Nominations taps Tennessee Baptists

Baptist Press

Several Tennessee Baptists are among nominees released by the 1994 Committee on Nominations to serve on various Southern Baptist Convention boards, agencies, institutions, and committees.

They will serve if elected by messengers to the annual SBC meeting June 14-16 in Orlando, Fla. Tennesseans nominated are:

Executive Committee: Robert Sorrell, Cordova, second term

Foreign Mission Board: William M. Blanchard Jr., Soddy-Daisy, second term

Home Mission Board, Guy

M. Milam, Maryville, second term

Sunday School Board: Robert C. Pittman, Cordova; Bruce Robinson, Knoxville; Jerry Sutton, Nashville, second term

Annuity Board: Wayne M. Rodgers, layman, First Church, Collierville

Southern Seminary: Kevin W. Westbrook, layman, Bellevue Church, Cordova

New Orleans Seminary: Morris L. Anderson, Pigeon Forge, second term

Southern Baptist Foundation: Hoffman C. Harless, Nashville; Hugh M. Sloan, Franklin, M. Terry Turner, Brentwood, John Gordon

Blackman Jr, Nashville, Frank Ingraham, Franklin, Roy L. DePue, Hendersonville, second term

American Baptist Seminary Commission: Gerald L. Hodges, pastor, South Fulton Church, South Fulton; Richard D. Keller, layman, First Church, Franklin; Thomas J. McCoy, Thompson Station Church, Thompson Station, second term

Education Commission: John Adams, First Church, Jackson

Committee on Committees: Randy Davis, pastor, First Church, Morristown; Tim Miller, pastor, First Church, Hohenwald □

ters' Conference and the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting.

Although there have been some predictions of 27,000 messengers at the Orlando meeting, Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, said he forecasts about 23,000 to 25,000.

Porter has had an impres-

sive record in predicting messenger registration since 1978, although he says he missed last year's Houston prediction "badly." Porter had predicted 23,500 to 25,000 at the 1993 meeting in Houston, but only 17,768 registered.

Whether registration in Orlando meets Porter's forecast depends on one unknown: how

many people will combine the SBC with vacation time.

SBC registration begins at 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 12, and 8 a.m. on Monday and Tuesday, June 13 and 14. Churches must elect their messengers and the cards must be filled out ahead of time, according to Porter, a former TBC pastor. — See SBC, page 2



State disaster relief coordinators

James Williams, center, president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, recently welcomed four Tennessee Baptist disaster relief coordinators to the National Disaster Relief Roundtable, a meeting for disaster relief coordinators from around the country, Brotherhood Commission and Home Mission Board staff, and workers from American Red Cross. About 63 attended the meeting at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. From left, Don Byrd, West Lonsdale Church, Knoxville; Bob Neal, First Church, Concord, Knoxville; Williams; Bill Wheeler, Watertown Church, Cleveland; and Curtis Fowler, West Lonsdale Church.

FMB missionary force tops 4,000; trustees address Catholic document

By Robert O'Brien
For Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board pushed its missionary force past the 4,000 mark for the first time and responded to a nationally publicized document on Catholic-evangelical relations at the board of trustees' April 25-27 meeting here.

The record missionary total — a milestone en route to a goal of 5,000 missionaries by

the year 2000 — came April 26 as trustees appointed 33 missionaries before a Texas Baptist crowd of 6,850 at the Tarrant County Convention Center.

The new count includes 3,493 career and associate missionaries and 518 two-year workers in the board's International Service Corps. About 50 missionaries are expected to be appointed in June during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando, Fla. — See FMB, page 2

TBC CP gifts increase from churches

During April Tennessee Baptists gave \$2,688,724.31 to the Cooperative Program, an increase of \$319,465.59 over the same month in 1993.

Total Cooperative Program giving for 1994 is \$12,926,780.08, or 2.16% over the same period in 1993.

TBC Executive Director-Treasurer James M. Porch noted, "Once again Tennessee Baptists have borne witness to their support of our worldwide missionary enterprise through the Cooperative Program.

"We're indeed thankful that we can report an increase of over a quarter of a million dollars for this budget year over last year." □

FMB missionary work force tops 4,000 ...

— Continued from page 1

Reaching the 4,000 mark reflects "a missions priority on the part of our Southern Baptist churches," said FMB President Jerry Rankin in an interview.

The accomplishment also affirms that Southern Baptists place "a high level of confidence" in the mission board, he added.

Currently the missionaries work in 129 countries and assist in 24 others. At the end of 1979, 3,008 foreign missionaries worked in 94 countries.

Trustees voted unanimously to express concern that a joint statement a group of evangelical and Roman Catholic leaders released March 29 "is subject to interpretations harmful to the work of foreign missions."

The historic document — "Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium" — calls for reduced conflicts between evangelicals and Catholics, avoidance of proselytizing or "sheep stealing" each other's converts, and more cooperation on commonly held convictions on social issues.

The trustee statement affirmed "missionary witness among populations and individuals characterized by nominal or former allegiance to any Christian denomination." It rejected "any suggestion that such witness should be characterized

as 'sheep stealing,' proselytizing, or a wasteful use of resources."

But the trustees also affirmed the Foreign Mission Board's "commitment to the Lordship of Christ and our fellowship with all who share a personal faith relationship with him." It affirmed "commitment to the authority and trustworthiness of the Bible" and pledged to conduct mission work in accordance with scriptural teaching.

Two Southern Baptist leaders signed the Catholic-evangelical document: Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, and Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission. Both have said nothing in the document should be misconstrued as diminishing the need for Southern Baptists to share their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior with others.

In other business Leon Hyatt of Pineville, La., retired church extension director for Louisiana Baptists, was elected trustee chairman in a 57-22 vote over Hoyt Savage, a pastor from Las Vegas.

Trustees also reorganized their structure to match recent staff reorganization.

The reorganization included realignment of several trustee committees and their responsi-

bilities, expansion of official trustee business sessions to three (including the appointment service), and addition of an executive session forum. The executive session will allow for confidential interchange between trustees and the board's senior executive team of President Jerry Rankin, Executive Vice President Don Kammerdiener, and Senior Vice President for Overseas Avery Willis.

Trustees also learned from statistician Jim Slack, the board's church growth consultant, that "God is blessing Southern Baptists beyond all expectations" in overseas statistical growth in areas including total churches, new churches constituted in one year, membership, baptisms, Sunday School-Bible teaching enrollment, and preaching points. □

Trustees appoint Tennesseans

Foreign Mission Board

FORT WORTH, Texas — Shaun and Amal Shorosh of Cleveland were among 32 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board April 26.

The Shoroshes will live in Egypt, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Born in Amman, Jordan, Shorosh is the son of Faud Shorosh of Cleveland. The elder Shorosh is a retired Southern Baptist home missionary who worked in Hamilton County Association.

Shorosh considers Cleveland his home town and Westwood Church his home church.

He holds degrees from Cumberland College, Williamsburg,



SHORROSHES

Ky., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Mrs. Shorosh, born in Syria, also considers Cleveland as home and Westwood as her home church. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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SBC messengers to elect new president in ...

— Continued from page 1

Porter said that with a properly filled out card, messengers can expect to register in five minutes. Those needing registration cards in Tennessee should contact their local director of missions.

In addition, Porter said any person who has a reason to challenge a church's messengers should check, in advance, with the credentials committee or the registration secretary.

For more information about the registration procedure, Porter can be reached at (904) 785-8596.

For Eastern Europe and Japan

TBC Brotherhood Department seeks volunteers

The Tennessee Baptist Convention Brotherhood Department is looking for volunteers to form a special team to go to Albania in Eastern Europe June 19.

The team will consist of a team leader, three cooks, a maintenance person who has knowledge of plumbing and electrical skills, ham radio operator, nurse, and truck driver.

The length of stay will be three to six weeks, said Cameron Byler, TBC Brother-

hood Department director. Orlando organizers are excited about the theme testimonies which will draw on personal experiences of a number of people who have walked through difficult times but who testify "I know He is able," taken from II Timothy 1:12.

Convention organizers have planned a full schedule with the first election of officers set for 2:30 Tuesday afternoon. The Baptist Sunday School Board's report will close the Tuesday night session while the Wednesday night session will again be a combined presentation by the Home and

Foreign Mission boards.

The facility — Orange County Convention/Civic Center — is being enlarged and could cause some congestion. One entrance will be closed and there will be only one entrance and one exit available for all traffic, according to convention officials.

Seating will be limited, especially for the business sessions, and overflow areas are planned. There are parking lots adjacent to the center with about 3,500 spaces at \$3 per day. The parking at the center itself will accommodate 1,700

vehicles at \$4 per day. A limited shuttle service from hotels will run at \$1 per trip.

Food service is planned in the center for lunches and dinners at reasonable prices, according to Jack Wilkerson, convention manager. □

SBC committee asks for resolutions

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The SBC Resolutions Committee chairman has called for a preview of resolutions proposed for the June 14-16 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla.

Tommy Lea, professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said messengers could send a copy of their proposed resolutions to the committee prior to the annual meeting to assist the committee.

Copies may be mailed to the SBC Executive Committee, Convention Relations Office, 901 Commerce St., Suite 750, Nashville, Tenn., 37203. □

Rwandan Baptist leader pleads for prayer, protest of violence

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — "Please ask people to pray but also ask Baptists to protest to the Belgian government their help for the rebels in Rwanda."

This is the desperate cry of Eleazar Zihherambere, general secretary of the Baptist Convention of Rwanda and regional secretary for Africa of the Baptist World Alliance.

Speaking to the BWA by phone from a neighboring country where he and his four children have taken refuge, Zihherambere said he believes the Belgian government can appeal to the rebels to stop the killing.

"This is tribalism at its worse," he said, citing a mindset of "If you are not of our tribe you are the enemy."

"Those who are killing each other today were sisters and brothers yesterday," he said.

A tired-sounding Zihheram-

bere said at the time of the fighting he and a number of pastors were meeting in Butare and he believes protection by the Rwandan military is the only reason they are still alive. (His wife was studying in London at the time.) Because of his friendship with the country's late president, Juvenal Habyarimana, Zihherambere said he believes he was a target to be killed.

Before he fled to a neighboring country, Zihherambere said

Burundi missionaries lie low as Rwanda cohorts plan visit

Baptist Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — The fabled relationship between the frying pan and the fire may prove true for Southern Baptist missionaries in Rwanda.

Four of the missionaries who evacuated bloody Rwanda April 9 hope to fly to neighboring Burundi in early May to survey areas for work with Rwandan refugees.

But their missionary colleagues in Burundi are spending their time at a mission guest house in Bujumbura, the capital, with other for-

eigners. They're staying off the streets and are preparing to evacuate if necessary on the advice of the American Embassy.

In late April heavy fighting broke out in Burundi between the Tutsi-dominated Army and the Hutu majority population.

Though the government survived a coup attempt, they advised foreigners to stay put, meaning there are no Burundi missionaries in the rural border areas where Rwandan refugees fleeing the slaughter in their nation are most likely to cross. □

and thrown into the river when we finally crossed the border."

Zihherambere said the rebels had sent guns and other weapons into the villages, so the villages were well armed to carry out these terrible killings.

According to Zihherambere, many Baptist pastors and some church members already have died, especially in southern

"We as Baptists have taken a stand to protect one another," Zihherambere said. In Butare, he noted, "I am proud to say that ... there was no violence where the Baptist Union (churches) are located. But all of the other communities around the Baptists have been involved in the fighting."

Before he fled, Zihherambere said he also received special permission to hold services in Butare. He preached for peace and reconciliation.

"These are my people. I want to be as close to them as I can. I don't know what the Baptist World Alliance can do now but to pray. But I want to get back to my people just as soon as I can because I left our Baptist brothers and sisters not in good condition."

Once things cool down, Zihherambere said Rwanda will need a lot of relief from the international community. □

he saw terrible massacres. "It was a blood bath," he said. "I saw people being slaughtered

Rwanda. "I have a list in my hand here of many leaders who have died," he said.

SBC hunger convocation cancelled after disappointing registration

By Louis Moore
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The six Southern Baptist Convention agencies planning a national hunger convocation at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center in May have decided to cancel the event due to a lack of registrations.

Despite the distribution of more than 100,000 brochures announcing the event, it failed to draw the necessary numbers to make the event possible, said C. Ben Mitchell, ad hoc chair of the planning committee and a staff member of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"We've done more advertis-

ing for this than for any of the Christian Life Commission's annual seminars, and we drew a smaller number than any of us on the planning committee could have imagined," he said. "We had less than a dozen paid registrants."

Sponsoring the event were the Baptist Sunday School Board, Brotherhood Commission, CLC, Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, and Woman's Missionary Union.

The cancellation comes at a time when top FMB leaders have voiced alarm at figures showing Southern Baptist giving for overseas hunger and disaster relief slid last year and have veered even more sharply

downward in 1994.

Mitchell said he is puzzled by the low number of registrants. "I'm hopeful that this poor showing doesn't indicate a lack of interest in the hunger issue, but we've yet to clearly identify the reason for such a dismal response."

"Southern Baptists continue to do hunger ministry at home and abroad, and it may be that they did not see a need for a national conference at this time. It may be time for us to rethink our strategy for motivating and supporting hunger ministry. If not through a national conference, somehow, somehow we

need to redouble our efforts, using some other strategy to intensify interest in this area."

June Whitlow, WMU's representative on the committee, said she too was disappointed the convocation was cancelled "because hunger is WMU's nationwide emphasis for 1994-95. I had hoped that many WMU members would attend. However, I know that during this next year we will be focusing on hunger through our programming, and WMU members will be involved in combatting hunger in their own hometowns."

Nathan Porter, the HMB

representative, praised the planning for the convocation's workshops and presentations, but said Southern Baptists "simply did not learn about the convocation in time to plan to attend."

John Cheyne of the FMB said, "our constituency has been absolutely distracted from a focus on world hunger" in recent months. □

Brotherhood trustees approve reorganization

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission approved the creation of two new departments from the agency's adult division and endorsed related shifts of personnel at their April 22-23 meeting.

The new "Men's Ministries" department will be responsible for "gender-specific" missions programs and supporting materials. It will be directed by Jim Burton, editor of *Missions Today*.

The new "Adults in Missions" department will manage programs and materials related to adult coed missions, including the National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions,

disaster relief, church renewal, world missions conferences, and a new missions option, "Families Making Difference." Kenny Rains, director of Brotherhood administration and world mission conferences, will head the new department. Rains is a former program associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Department.

During the meeting trustees also adopted a \$4.7 million budget for 1994-95 that Brotherhood Commission President James Williams described as "austere and realistic." It represents a 3 percent decrease from 1992-93 and reflects a 1.65 percent reduction in Cooperative Program funding. □

SBC leaders meet in Atlanta

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Top leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention's "conservative" movement held a private meeting in Atlanta April 21.

Among those attending were four former SBC presidents — Adrian Rogers, Cordova, Charles Stanley and Bailey Smith of Atlanta, and Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla. Others at the meeting, according to eyewitness accounts, included Paige Patterson and Paul Pressler.

Only two people talked to the press — Bailey Smith and Ike Reighard, pastor of New Hope Church in suburban Atlanta who made arrangements for the meeting.

Smith declined to reveal details but Reighard said the group talked about Jim Henry's candidacy for SBC president (against "conservative"

choice Fred Wolfe of Mobile, Ala.), fallout from the firing of Southwestern Seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr., and "three or four other topics."

Although Henry is himself a "conservative" who endorsed the "conservative resurgence" in 1990, he represents a growing sentiment among less strident conservatives that the movement's leaders have held the reins too tightly and at times operated too heavily-handedly.

Reighard said the Atlanta meeting "certainly was not an attempt to organize a 'Stop Jim Henry' campaign."

Reighard said the group did reach a consensus on the Southwestern issue, agreeing not to second-guess the trustees' decision to fire Dilday. "We still affirm the trustee process. That's what it distilled down to," Reighard said. □

Nixon death gives Graham millions for Gospel message

Baptist Press

YORBA LINDA, Calif. — In death, former President Richard Nixon gave evangelist Billy Graham his largest-ever live preaching audience.

In just the United States, according to the Nielsen ratings, more than 40 million people — and perhaps as many as 49 million — tuned in ABC, NBC, and CBS for Nixon's April 27 funeral. Nixon died April 22 in a New York hospital after suffering a stroke. He was 81.

Not counted nationally and internationally are additional millions who watched the funeral — and Graham's proclamation of the Gospel — on PBS, CNN, other cable outlets or overseas TV networks, or listened on radio.

Graham, a Southern Baptist evangelist, is a longtime friend of the Nixon family. □

■ about letters to the editor

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- Name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Include address and phone number.
- Avoid personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone.
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- 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. □

They called him at poverty-level salary and benefits, and even with growth, they never did much better. He now has three children.

The old guard deacons do not like their domain invaded by "strangers." Sunday night after he taught Sunday School, preached twice, baptized six persons, and conducted committee meetings he is dog tired. Before evening worship he is informed of a called deacon's meeting. The pulpit is declared vacant. He will receive a month of salary, and vacate the parsonage at the end of the month. There is no golden parachute. There is no media to interview and publicize. There are no editorials or long articles released by Baptist Press. There are no letters on the letter page save one, a note from him saying he is available for supply, interim pastor, or conferences. There will be no splatter at the convention.

Do Baptists need to put in perspective all events that take place among us? Why so much splatter over one firing, and not a tear or a word about another, and another, and another...?

Clay Frazier, pastor
Alpha Church
Morristown 37814

mutilate children.

In the second, a church hides money on its Sunday School bus to entice children to ride. Neighbor churches vie to build the largest family center. A deacon pops his pastor with a newspaper during a disagreement. Trustees fire a seminary president, and lock his office because they can't get their own way.

What's wrong with these pictures? Jesus is missing from both. The tragedy is that if Jesus were in the second picture, the first might never have appeared.

I'm proud to be a Christian. I used to be proud to be a Baptist — to belong, I thought, to a group who reached out to the sick, hungry, and hurting around them and who believed in Christ as Lord as well as in the autonomy of the believer and of the local church whether they called themselves conservative, liberal, fundamental, or otherwise. The reality seems to be that Baptists, caught up in vying for financial and political superiority, are too busy to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of the world around them.

I'm still proud to be a Christian. I'm not so proud to be a Baptist.

S. A. Nash
Knoxville 37909

Haunting pictures

Two pictures haunt me, one drawn from headlines, one from within the Southern Baptist family, both based on actual events.

In the first, the percentage of children living in poverty has risen. Often both parents have to work, singles have to hold two jobs, seniors have to do without. Parents abuse and kill their children. Children kill and

Another view

The firing of Russell Dilday was a logical conclusion to the direction our convention has been going since 1970. In recent years, the takeover by narrow-focused forces in our Southern Baptist Convention has come to fruition. Whether one is biblically conservative has nothing to do with the decisions now

being made by the SBC. I question the stand that all Southern Baptists must agree with the biblical interpretations of those in control of the SBC. Belief in biblical inerrancy is not enough for them. One must agree with their political policies and biblical interpretations or risk being excluded.

One of the recent letters to the editor, "It's All Right," stated that past conventions were controlled by liberals and that Dilday was a liberal. This is unsubstantiated and judgmental. The accusations and charges of liberal control and a moving away from the inerrant, infallible, and authoritative Word of God are totally bogus! The SBC meetings I attended before 1979 were always conservative and completely dominated by men and women who believed the Bible from cover to cover. There have always been small bands of liberals and fundamentalists within our denomination, but we never sought to exclude them. We understood that no one man or group had the one and only "perfect" biblical interpretation of the Bible.

It has been difficult to watch the SBC become like a police force. Pray that God will rescue the SBC from the virus of self-righteousness. Only then will Christ once again be in control of our convention.

Donald A. Davidson, pastor
National Avenue Church
Memphis 38122

Trustee support

I am appalled at the news print in the *Baptist and Reflector* and national news media concerning the dismissal of Dr. Dilday by the trustees of SWBTS. The trustees were duly appointed by a body elect-

ed in a democratic procedure and were acting within a charter approved by the SBC. It's hard for me to believe that 26 or 27 Southern Baptist men of God could be so callous and uncaring as to perform an act as low as the news media has depicted it.

The appalling part to me was the detrimental news release to the national news media. We laymen are taught not to air our "dirty linen" outside of our congregation. Yet this news leaked out without evidence of truthfulness. The trustees were in executive session, and no one could have known what took place unless they were there or unless one or more members of the body compromised the privileged information of that meeting. I believe a group who do not believe in the democratic process and who are bent on destroying the SBC, seized this opportunity to bash the convention.

These same people who controlled the convention for 20-plus years and now in the minority are doing irreparable damage to God's work by unwillingness to accept the very democratic process which they used so skillfully when they were in power. They, who used the Cooperative Program to determine the membership in the convention and a criterion for elected positions, are now diverting money from the Cooperative Program and dangling it as a carrot in front of seminary officials and yes, even in front of the WMU.

It is time to stop haggling and start doing what is necessary to further God's kingdom.

Aubrey W. Anderson
Fayetteville 37334

Another firing

Here is an account that happens several times a week (not every two decades).

He is young, 35 years of age. He is well trained. Along with his wife, they struggled financially through seven years of college and seminary. He is called to a sleepy church on the edge of Hootersville. Under his splendid ministry, the little country church gradually became a suburban church.

'True Love Waits' cards vital to success, spokesman says

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — With "True Love Waits" officials now projecting more than 100,000 abstinence pledges have been signed by teenagers and college students, the Baptist Sunday School Board-sponsored campaign already has accomplished one of two primary goals.

Achievement of the second, spokesman Richard Ross says, "still hangs in the balance."

"If this campaign is to

achieve its goal of impacting the moral conscience of this nation we must have concrete evidence that hundreds of thousands of young people are gladly choosing abstinence until marriage," said Ross, youth ministry consultant at the board. "That evidence is signed pledge cards on display June 14 at the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando and July 29 on the Washington Mall near the U.S. Capitol."

"True Love Waits" organiz-

ers have a goal of 100,000 cards at the SBC and 500,000 in Washington. The Washington total includes cards from the other 24 participating denominations and organizations.

SBC participants are encouraged to place their cards in acrylic holders (available for purchase by calling (615) 444-2263) and mailing them to The Anderson Company/True Love Waits, 4352 34th St., Orlando, Fla., 32811, by June 10. □

Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to meet May 20-21

The Tennessee Baptist Historical Society will hold its annual meeting May 20-21 at Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville.

The Friday session begins at 7 p.m. and the Saturday session at 9 a.m. The theme of the

meeting is "Twentieth Century Martyrs." Speakers are Jane Powell (Bill Wallace of China) and Ross Brummett (Dietrich Bonhoeffer of Germany).

Seminars will be offered on locating, using and protecting written resources, using pho-

tos and videos to record your church's history, and using church/Baptist history to illustrate sermons and Bible studies. Registration fee is \$10. For details, call Charles Nored, (615) 893-5035 (O) or 893-0663 (H). □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



May -

- 5 — The opening of Manual Sanchez's spiritual eyes and ears so he might see, hear, and accept Jesus as Savior.
- 6 — Ask the Holy Spirit to ignite the hearts of Tennessee Baptists to volunteer for service in Chile. Several teams remain incomplete.
- 7 — Missionary Virginia Irby in Santiago as she recuperates from surgery
- 8 — Roberto Torres, the newly elected lay pastor of the Mirasol Mission in Puerto Montt
- 9 — The Bostons are working with musicians of the churches in the association through a "Music Circle" which meets monthly and works to develop music programs in the churches.
- 10 — The church in Maipu-Antiguia has been involved in the construction of five Sunday School rooms.
- 11 — Many of the Chilean churches have members with marital problems or other severe family crisis.

Pause, smell the roses; good things still happen

Shakespeare wrote that "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

Today there are some roses called by other names, and indeed smell sweet.

Tennessee General Assembly: The state legislators April 21 closed out the current session without passing any bills on a state lottery.

Though the gambling issue was debated on the floor and in the hallways many, many times, nothing happened. The senators who refused to knuckle under to gambling interests should be thanked publicly and personally.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Senator Steve Cohen from Memphis fought for the lottery referendum long and hard, and was quoted as saying his opponents should be turned out of office.

Those same senators, if they act with the same wisdom and courage on other issues, should be re-elected.

Gambling opponents can breathe easier for four years. But caution and awareness are important. The issue won't go away. It must be faced in the interim and when the legislators return to Capital Hill next January, be alert.

Applause for "Christy": One of the more refreshing shows to come to television is "Christy," a television adaptation

of Catherine Marshall's great novel about her grandmother.

The show is warm, moral, and gives a good message. It is family oriented, and deserves solid support from the entire Christian community, and from others who truly believe in the best of family values. Write your local CBS affiliate, to the CBS main offices, and to the shows producers and directors. Give thanks.

God is at work in Canada: The recent fact-finding trip by Tennessee Baptist leadership brought good news to share with Tennessee Baptist congregations.

Soil and water stewardship is important

Whether a person grows up amidst concrete and steel and has never seen stars — or had the blessing of friend with wide open spaces, creeks, and trees — the earth is our heritage, our treasure.

The earth, God said, is good, and he expects mankind to nurture, protect, and preserve this great creation.

Soil and Water Stewardship Week is being observed across the nation during late April and early May. The best way to observe the meaning of the week is to be a good partner in stewardship.

Christians usually understand "stewardship" when it refers to our money and time. Too often the urgent need for stewardship of soil and water is neglected.

God is at work in Canada.

Of course this is no surprise, but it is evident that Canadian Southern Baptists and Tennessee Baptists have much in common. There is a missions volunteer spirit evident among both peoples.

The exploratory team will share with the Executive Board the discussions that took place at Calgary, and with pastors and staff personnel.

Tennessee needs to work even harder during the last months of the Chile partnership, and pray for God's guidance in joining with another partner. □

While it is true that stewardship of natural resources is a personal responsibility, people ought to work together. Doing one's part is good, but helping others to see the need for stewardship, or caretaking, is necessary. Everyone can help make a difference.

Habits of stewardship are formed early, but they can be improved constantly.

There is a common saying that buying land (and water) is a good investment, because God isn't making anymore of either.

He does provide renewal though, and thoughtful stewards should practice it in every arena of life through partnership with God, the Creator. Celebrate this special week with a renewed commitment. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Will they be safe?

When the present outrage began in Rwanda, I moved two little flags from my bookcase and onto my desk.

I want to see them. Though I do not need the flags to prod my memory, their placement to a more visually prominence will help me to offer up prayers for Rwanda and Burundi and the friends there who are in my heart.

Oh, the people and the two

bite-size nations may be of little concern to major powers.

They may not claim front page for weeks on end, as do others who are more like America and who are or could be rich in natural resources.

Countries like Rwanda and Burundi have never claimed much attention. Though they have had kings and government for centuries, "civilization" chose to pass them by.

Chattels to European winners after World War II, when these two and other African countries like them gained freedom thirty years ago, they struggled to make a go of it.

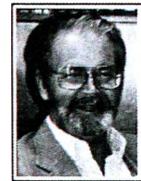
World leaders stood by and scorned their efforts, free with criticism. It was easy to forget that the European nations stripped them bare and taught them nothing but mistrust.

That is background, and now I praise God that Southern Baptists and Danish Baptists and other evangelical groups have carried the Gospel to them. Because of Christ's love, missionaries have been at work there, trying to restore lost faith.

I am now thinking about Eleazar Ziharambere, the joyful leader of Rwandan Baptists. I have spent many hours with him. He has stayed in our home. He has been a dogged worker for Christ and a staunch friend of our missionaries. He is a co-laborer.

Now he is a hunted man in his own country, he and others like him, because they are from the "wrong" tribe or followed the wrong leader.

The flags remind me of how small selfish men can be, and tall my friends stand in the Kingdom. Our missionaries are safe. Will you pray with me for these others, now? □



ALLEN

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Customer: "Why should I pay you \$2.50 per pound for meat. The man across the street advertised it for \$1.95." Butcher: "Why don't you buy it from him?" Customer: "He's out of it." Butcher: "When I'm out of it, my price is \$1.95 per pound, too."

Take this thought

An ancient philosopher contended good has two meanings — that which is absolutely good and that which is good for somebody. An ancient churchman said, "Your actions in passing, pass not away, for every good work is a grain of seed for eternal life." A modern churchman says, "The world asks, 'How much does he give?' Christ asks, 'Why does he give?'"

Memorize this Scripture

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to say what I mean and mean what I say. Teach me to recognize: "I am the best Christian someone knows. Help me to be a good one." □

Hurting on way to forgiveness

Having begun to think about forgiveness, I want to deal with some of the specific problems that Christian families

sometimes face in the process of working through to forgiveness. The first major block experienced by many is refusing to admit or deal with the hurt involved.

Denial comes from the attitude that assumes that Christians should not have hurt feelings over what others do and say. We should some how rise above such trivial things. I rather expect that some even believe that God does not get hurt by our sins since he forgives us. I have seen families dealing with what I viewed as overwhelming issues and presenting a very stoical front saying, "It doesn't bother me."

Some undoubtedly are trying to keep from losing face. They say to themselves, "What will others think if I hurt over such a little thing," while it is eating away like a cancer inside them. Others don't want to show any hurt for fear others will find out what is going on in their family (abuse, adultery, addiction, etc.).

When we refuse to face our own woundedness, we effective-

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

ly block our own healing processes. These kinds of hurts that are buried without a funeral find their way back to life in all kinds of physical and emotional complaints. Many ulcers, stomach and digestive problems, asthma attacks, etc. have their origin in these kinds of emotional wounds that have not been properly treated.

Just as it is painful to lance a physical abscess, it is emotionally painful to admit that wrongs have hurt us. Only, however, as this emotional corruption is drained can we move on to healing. You may have had such a physical abscess or boil and know the pain that they bring. Can you remember what a "bear" you were to deal with until the pressure and pain were relieved.

These kinds of emotional abscesses left over from unrecognized and unresolved hurts in the family have been the source of arguments and family fights.

One thing is necessary for a doctor to be able to drain an abscess. The environment needs to be antiseptic and sterile. The family needs an open, honest

channel of communication where there is enough security to feel free to express these hurts without fear of retaliation and further wounding. May I suggest that the wounded member needs to go to the head of the family or the power broker (the mother in many families) and simply ask to express how hurt they are. Family members need to be sensitive to other family members. When reactions are far more exaggerated than called for, maybe you need to look for the woundedness that may be generating such violent emotional release of corruption.

All family members have a responsibility to help deal with the hurt on the way to forgiveness. If this first step is ignored, the entire journey is in jeopardy. □

Readers are urged to write or call Dr. Barkley with questions or comments. These articles are for family benefit. If you have any word to share with readers about family living, please let us know. Appropriate comments can be printed in the Baptist and Reflector. Dr. Barkley can be reached at Union University, BMH Campus, 999 Monroe, Memphis 38104, or at the Counseling Center, 6385 Stage Rd., Ste. 1, Bartlett 38134. — Editor



BARKLEY

Southern Baptist Convention

Orange County Convention Center, Orlando † Tuesday, June 14 - Thursday, June 16

Pastors' Conference to feature 'A Heart for God,' SBC

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The 1994 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference will focus on aspects of having "a heart for God as a denomination," according to conference president Dwight "Ike" Reighard.

Reighard, pastor of suburban Atlanta's New Hope Church in Fayetteville, said the conference theme, "A Heart for God," will touch on the Southern Baptist Convention's heart for evangelism, the family and leadership, the church, America, and the world.

The June 12-13 Pastors' Conference will be held at the Orange County Convention/Civic Center on International Drive in Orlando, Fla., site of the SBC's June 14-16 annual meeting.

Included in the emphasis, for example, will be a commissioning service for new missionaries appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The commissioning service, slated during the "Heart for the World" session at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, June 12, will include a message by FMB President Jerry A. Rankin. Other speakers will be Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellvue Church, Cordova, whose son and

daughter-in-law, David and Kelly Rogers, were appointed earlier this year as FMB missionaries to Spain; Dallas evangelist Jay Strack, the SBC's first vice president who has been active in evangelistic and religious liberty efforts in the former Soviet bloc; and Tom Eliff, pastor of First Southern Church in Del City, Okla., and a former SBC missionary in Africa.

Reighard said he hopes such features will help build a stronger tie between the Pastors' Conference and the SBC.

Other features during the conference will be a 50-year recognition of W. A. Criswell as pastor of First Church, Dallas, slated during the "Heart for the Church" session at 1:30 p.m. Monday, June 13, and a presentation that evening at 6:30 during the "Heart for America" session on the 1995 "Here's Hope America" evangelistic campaigns planned by the Home Mission Board.

Among the nationally known personalities slated to appear on the program (followed by session times) are Bobby Bowden, head coach of national collegiate football champion Florida State University and, with his wife Ann, co-chair of Florida Baptist Family Ministries' Touching the Future fund-raising campaign, during the 8:30 a.m.

June 13 "Heart for the Family and Leadership" session; TV preacher Jerry Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road Church in Lynchburg, Va., during the church-oriented June 13 session; and Jack Kemp, secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President Bush, during the closing "Heart for America" session.

Speakers for the opening "Heart for Evangelism" session at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 12, will be Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, Ark.; Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Church, Woodstock, Ga.; Calvin Miller, professor of communication and ministry studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; evangelist Rick Stanley of Fayetteville, Ga.; and Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Church in Pensacola, Fla.

In addition to Bowden, speakers at the 8:30 a.m. session June 13 on family and leadership will be Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas; John Maxwell, pastor of Skyline Wesleyan Church, Lemon Grove, Calif.; and motivational speaker Zig Ziglar of Dallas.

In addition to Falwell, speakers at the 1:30 p.m. session June 13 on the church will be James Merritt, pastor of

First Church, Snellville, Ga.; Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; and Larry Wynn, pastor of Hebron Church, Dacula, Ga.

In addition to Kemp, speakers at the closing session, 6:30 p.m. June 13, on reaching America will be Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., and one of two announced candidates for the SBC presidency (the other being Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando); Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta; and evangelist and Vietnam veteran Clebe McClary of Pawley's Island, S.C.

Music highlights will include performances by 4 Him during the 1:30 p.m. June 13 session; Truth during the closing session; and combined choirs and orchestras of several churches during the FMB commissioning service.

Reighard said the Pastors' Conference "Heart for God" theme evolved from a 12-week series on the same theme he felt led to preach at his church exploring "if you really were going to have a heart for God, what would the attributes be?"

As he planned the sermons last summer, he said, it clicked that the theme could be a productive theme for the pastors — and the SBC. □

WMU annual meeting to host missions fair, missionaries

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union's June 12-13 annual meeting will include an international missions fair and home and foreign missionaries.

Four of the five sessions will be at Orlando's First Church beginning Sunday, June 12, 2:30 p.m. The international missions fair will be Sunday evening, 5:30-8, at the Clarion Hotel. The fair will end in time for participants to attend the foreign missionary commissioning service scheduled during the 6:30

p.m. session of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in the Orange County Convention/Civic Center.

WMU Monday sessions will be at First Church beginning at 9:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. The theme of the meeting is "Growing in Love."

Preceding the annual meeting, WMU is sponsoring missions projects in the Orlando area. Volunteers will work with US2 missionaries assigned to the Orlando area by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Volunteers will be involved in hosting activities for children in area hotels, campground ministries, and Backyard Bible Clubs in apartment complexes.

The theme of the free Sunday evening international missions fair to be held at the hotel is "It's a Big, Big World." Dozens of booths featuring missions will be set up in the Clarion Hotel ballroom and surrounding area. Puppets, choirs, dramas, flags, and local ministries will be featured.

International Mission Fair

Sunday Evening, June 12, 5:30-8 p.m.

"It's a Big, Big World" is the theme of the International Missions Fair at the Clarion Hotel, 9700 International Drive, Orlando.

Fair will include dozens of missions booths with home and foreign missionaries to interpret their work. Puppets, choirs, dramas, flags, local ministries, and many other things will be featured during the evening.

The fair is free; however, tickets must be purchased in advance for the meal. Adults, \$12; Children, \$6. (Order tickets with payment enclosed by May 20. WMU Annual Meeting 1994, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010.)

Hotel to First Church. Passes may be purchased June 12 at the hotel for \$10 and include eight one-way trips between the hotel and church.

Home missionaries slated for the program include: Susan Broadwell, Tampa, Fla.; Robert and Debbie Cochran, West Palm Beach, Fla.; Diana Lewis, Benton, Ark.; Herberto Becerra, Manhattan, N.Y.; Kay Richardson, Annandale, Va.; and Michael Williams, New York City.

Foreign missionaries include: Charlotte Cearley, Zimbabwe; William Harrington, Tanzania; John and Rhonda Wright, Japan; Patricia Stooksbury, Bolivia; Ken and Beth Perkins, Kenya; and Bill Cashion, Venezuela.

Testimonies will be given by Rachele Hood-Phillips of Miami; Idessia Rutman, Frostproof, Fla.; Heather Barron, Lexington, Ky.; Martha Robison, Shelby, N.C.; Patti Seal, Smithville; Barbara Jean Davis, Wachula, Fla.; and Susan Smith, Cayce, S.C. □

Special activities will be provided for children.

Two meal functions have been planned for participants. Lunch will be available June 13 at the church. The cost is \$6, and tickets must be purchased in advance. An international meal will be available during the missions fair. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children.

All meal function tickets must be ordered by May 20 by writing: WMU Annual Meeting 1994, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010.

A shuttle service will be provided from the Clarion Hotel to First Church.

'Cross Over' plans involve 173 churches

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Cross Over Orlando "promises to be one of the most challenging and exciting Cross Overs yet," said Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis.

This year, 173 churches and 1,200 volunteers are participating in the door-to-door thrust, and a two-day telephone campaign will be used to recruit prospects for three church starts.

Since being introduced with door-to-door visitation in 1989, Cross Over activities have grown to include rallies, street evangelism with creative arts, block parties, and church starting efforts.

Block parties, added to the Cross Over agenda in 1992, have become one of the most popular events. Block parties typically attract crowds with free entertainment and food. Volunteers share the plan of salvation with people who attend.

This year, 19 block parties are planned in six Central Florida associations. Each party reflects the creativity of local organizers as well as the area's ethnic diversity, said Bobby Sunderland of the HMB's evangelism section.

For example, First Church,

Sanford, will host a children's party. Volunteers will drive ice cream trucks through neighborhoods, giving children coupons for free ice cream. Coupons can be redeemed at the block party.

First Church, Cocoa Beach, is planning a beach party, and other churches will host block parties in a mobile home park and a housing project.

Several churches hosting block parties are African American congregations, and six Haitian churches are working together to sponsor a block party, Sunderland said. Other parties are planned in Hispanic and Jamaican communities.

"In recent years one of the highlights of the Southern Baptist Convention has been the evangelistic thrust," Lewis said. "I look forward to participating, and hope hundreds or even thousands of other Southern Baptists will as well."

To volunteer for door-to-door visitation, street evangelism, or block parties, contact Sunderland at (404) 898-7688.

To work a three-hour shift in the phone campaign, call Ronnie Reynolds, church starter strategist for the Greater Orlando Baptist Association, at (407) 293-0450. □

Southern Baptist Convention

Orange County Convention Center, Orlando † Tuesday, June 14 - Thursday, June 16

- Tuesday Morning**
- 8:15 Music for Inspiration
 - 8:30 Call to Order, Congregational singing, and prayer
 - 8:35 Registration Report and Constitution of Convention — Lee Porter
 - 8:40 Committee on Order of Business (First Report) — Fred Powell
 - 8:45 Welcome — Pat Williams, general manager, Orlando Magic basketball team, Orlando
 - 8:50 Response — James Sullivan, retired president, Sunday School Board, Nashville
 - 8:55 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers
 - 9:00 Crossover Orlando — Jay Strack
 - 9:05 Commission on the American Baptist Seminary Report
 - 9:15 Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group Report — Larry Lewis
 - 9:25 Theme Testimony — Bo Mitchell
 - 9:35 Denominational Press Report — Herb Hollinger
 - 9:45 Introduction of Business & Resolutions
 - 10:00 Executive Committee Report (Part 1) — Morris Chapman
 - 10:55 Congregational singing
 - 11:00 Music
 - 11:10 President's Address — Ed Young
 - 11:45 Benediction — James DeLoach

- Tuesday Afternoon**
- 1:00 Music for Inspiration
 - 1:30 Congregational singing and prayer
 - 1:35 Business
 - Committee on Order of Business (Second Report) — Fred Powell
 - Introduction of Business & Resolutions
 - 1:45 Theme Testimony — Beverly Terrell
 - 1:55 Congregational singing
 - 2:00 Baptist World Alliance Report — Denton Lotz
 - 2:10 Annuity Board Report — Paul Powell
 - 2:20 Education Commission Report — Stephen P. Carleton
 - 2:30 Election of Officers (First)
 - 2:45 Committee on Nominations Report — William Bell Jr.
 - 3:00 Executive Committee Report (Part 2) — Morris Chapman
 - 3:50 Theme Testimony — Pam Veteto
 - 4:00 Messenger Information Survey — David Atchison
 - 4:05 Music
 - 4:10 Committee on Committees Report
 - 4:20 Introduction of Business & Resolutions
 - 4:40 Election of Officers (Second)
 - 4:50 Benediction

“... For I know — He is able ...”

II Timothy 1:12

- Tuesday Evening**
- 6:10 Music for Inspiration
 - 6:25 Congregational singing and prayer
 - 6:30 Theme Testimony — Rachel Hood-Phillips
 - 6:40 Committee on Order of Business (Third Report) — Fred Powell
 - 6:45 Congregational singing
 - 6:50 Election of Officers (Third)
 - 7:00 Brotherhood Commission Report — James Williams
 - 7:10 Christian Life Commission Report — Richard Land
 - 7:20 Christian Life Commission and Brotherhood Commission Presentation
 - 7:40 Congregational singing
 - 7:45 Sunday School Board Report — James Draper
 - 7:55 Sunday School Board Presentation
 - 8:50 Benediction — Gene Mims

- Wednesday Morning**
- 8:30 Music for Inspiration
 - 8:50 Congregational singing and prayer
 - 8:55 Denominational Calendar Report — Jerry Cooper
 - 9:00 Introduction of Local Arrangements Committee — Jack Wilkerson
 - 9:05 Theme Testimony — Jack Smith
 - 9:15 Congregational singing
 - 9:20 Bold Mission Thrust Report — Morris Chapman
 - 9:30 Election of Officers (Fourth)
 - 9:35 Introduction of Past President
 - 9:45 Seminary Reports — William Crews, Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif; Milton Ferguson, Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; Landrum Leavell II, New Orleans Seminary, New Orleans; Paige Patterson, Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.; Albert Mohler, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky; William Tolar, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas

- 9:55 Seminary Presentation
- 10:45 Theme Testimony — Cecil Sims
- 10:55 Business
- Committee on Order of Business (Fourth Report) — Fred Powell
- Introduction of Business & Resolutions (Last Time)
- 11:00 Previously Scheduled Business
- 11:15 Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
- 11:25 Election of Officers (Fifth)
- 11:30 Music

- 11:40 Convention Sermon — Bobby Boyles
- 12:15 Benediction

No Wednesday afternoon session

- Wednesday Evening**
- 6:00 Music for Inspiration
 - 6:25 Congregational singing and prayer
 - 6:30 Business
 - Committee on Order of Business (Fifth Report) — Fred Powell
 - Election of Convention Sermon Preacher, Alternate, and Music Director 1995
 - 6:40 Congregational singing
 - 6:45 Theme Testimony — Thomas Smith
 - 6:55 Woman's Missionary Union Report — Dellanna O'Brien
 - 7:05 Foreign Mission Board Report — Jerry Rankin
 - 7:15 Home Mission Board Report — Larry Lewis
 - 7:25 Foreign and Home Mission Board Presentation
 - 8:50 Commitment Invitation
 - 8:55 Benediction — Rick Butler

- Thursday Morning**
- 8:30 Music for Inspiration
 - 8:50 Congregational singing and prayer
 - 8:55 Stewardship Commission Report — Rudy Fagan
 - 9:05 American Bible Society Report — Eugene Habecker
 - 9:15 Memorial Service
 - 9:20 Radio and Television Commission Report — Jack Johnson
 - 9:30 Introduction of Fraternal Representatives
 - 9:40 Theme Testimony — Arturo Cobo
 - 9:50 Historical Commission Report — Lynn May Jr.
 - 10:00 Southern Baptist Foundation Report — Hollis Johnson III
 - 10:10 Presentation of Outgoing SBC Officers — Morris Chapman
 - 10:15 Introduction of Newly Elected SBC Officers — Ed Young
 - 10:20 Theme Testimony — Karen Thomas
 - 10:30 Congregational singing
 - 10:35 Previously Scheduled Business
 - 10:45 Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
 - 11:15 Music
 - 11:25 Message — Frederick Sampson
 - 12:00 Benediction — Jim Richards

SBC Officers

President: H. Edwin Young, pastor, Second Church, Houston
First Vice President: Jay Strack, evangelist, Dallas
Second Vice President: Bobby H. Welch, pastor, First Church, Daytona Beach, Fla.
Recording Secretary: David W. Atchison, director, Turning Point Ministries, Brentwood
Registration Secretary: Lee Porter, associate pastor, St. Andrew Church, Panama City, Fla.
Treasurer: Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer, Executive Committee, Nashville

Southern Baptist Convention

Orange County Convention Center, Orlando † Tuesday, June 14 - Thursday, June 16

Baptist seminaries to hold alumni meetings at SBC

Southern Baptists' six seminaries each will hold a special meeting for its alumni and friends during the annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting June 14-16 in Orlando, Fla.

The meetings will feature reports/updates on progress at the seminaries and in some cases special speakers. Each seminary also will honor its distinguished alumni. Information on each seminary follows.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary: June

15, 12:30 p.m., Clarion Hotel; tickets for the alumni luncheon are \$13; mail requests to office of institutional advancement, SWBTS, P.O. Box 22000, Fort Worth, Texas, 76122.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary: June 15, 7:15 a.m., fellowship hall of First Church, Orlando; tickets ordered before June 1 will cost \$6 each or they may be purchased at the NOBTS convention exhibit booth for \$7.50; for more information, write alumni office, NOBTS, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126.

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary: June 15, noon, Peabody Hotel; tickets are \$12 per adult; reservations can be made by calling the SEBTS alumni office at (919) 556-3101.

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary: June 15, 12:15 p.m., Room 8 A/B in the convention center; tickets for the event are \$14 and may be purchased by sending \$14 to alumni-relations office, GGBTS, Strawberry Point, Mill Valley, Calif., 94941.

Southern Baptist Theo-

logical Seminary: June 15, 7:30 a.m., Peabody Hotel; tickets are \$8.50 in advance and \$10.50 at the convention; they may be ordered from the office of alumni services and giving, SBTS, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky., 40280.

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary: June 15, at the close of the morning session, Room 6 A/B of the convention center; advance tickets are \$12 and may be ordered from the alumni office, MWBTS, 5001 N. Oak St. Trafficway, Kansas City, Mo., 64118. □

Ann Graham Lotz speaker for wives

Ann Graham Lotz, daughter of evangelist Billy Graham, will speak at the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives luncheon June 14 at noon at the Peabody Hotel.

Tickets in advance are \$18 (before May 20) but are \$20 if purchased at the door. Ticket price includes a copy of *Joy in the Journey*, a book by Jo Ann Leavell.

Tickets may be purchased by writing Sherry Blankenship, P.O. Box 489, Paris, Texas, 75461. □

Evangelists address spiritual warfare

ORLANDO, Fla. — "More than Conquerors: Spiritual Warfare in the Man, the Ministry, and the Marketplace" will be the theme of the 1994 Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists' meeting, June 15, at 1 p.m. in the Orange County Convention Center.

E.V. Hill, pastor of Mt. Zion

Missionary Church, Los Angeles, will speak on the "Marketplace" facet of the theme.

Evangelist Perry Neal of Montgomery, Ala., will speak on the "Man," and music and drama evangelist Jim McNeil of St. Louis will focus on "Ministry."

Among the featured musicians will be Truth and vocal-

ist Janet Paschal of Nashville.

Evangelist Ron Pledger of Stone Mountain, Ga., is the conference president. □

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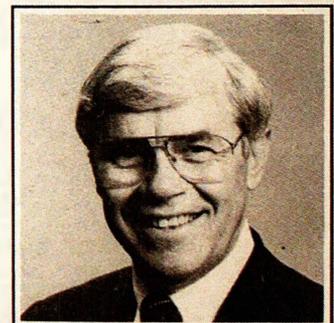
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SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION · JUNE 14-16, 1994 · IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA



Jim Henry, Pastor

TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the churches

■ **Highland Heights Church, Memphis**, will hold revival July 15-17. Frank Harber, an evangelist from Fort Worth, Texas, and Matt Plunk, a musician from Jackson, will lead it.

■ **Lyle Lane Church, Nashville**, will hold revival May 15-20. Terry Wilkerson will speak and Mike Peasall will lead the music.

■ **First Church, Ridgley, and First Church, Tiptonville**, are joining other churches to sponsor two concerts for youth May 27 and May 28 at Ellington Hall, Reelfoot Lake. Todd Proctor, a praise and worship leader, and Mark Matlock, an illusionist, will lead the meetings. Call (901) 264-5363 for ticket information.

■ Jack A. Custer, a pastor in Martinez, Ga., since 1984, will be leading revival services at **Stones River Church, Smyrna**, May 15-19. Custer is an author and a former full-time evangelist.

■ the associations

■ **Cumberland Plateau Association** hosted an Adult Choir Clinic at Central Church, Crossville, April 30. The choir formed at the clinic held a concert at Central Church the following day.

■ **Cumberland Plateau Association** held a True Love Waits Youth Rally April 16. Alan Lovelace, formerly of Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, spoke. About 75 youth signed the commitment to sexual abstinence outside of marriage.

■ A team of mission volunteers from **Haywood Association**, led by Charles Pratt, director of missions, left May 3 to work for two weeks with career Southern Baptist missionaries Joe and Gloria Turman in Livingstone, Zambia. Gloria Turman is a Haywood County native. The volunteers will make evangelistic visits and lead crusades. Volunteers include Bill Presley and David Garland, Brownsville Church; Mike Hopper, Holly Grove Church; and Stan Flowers, Poplar Corner Church.

■ **Northern Association** will sponsor an area-wide interdenominational revival May 9-14. Six different evangelists will speak — James Russell, Charlie Widner, Dewey Raley, Ray Headrick, Charles Oliver, and Elmer Sharp. Services begin at 7:30 p.m. nightly in Maynardville High School auditorium.

can be reached at P.O. Box 510471, Chipata, Zambia. They consider Rives their hometown.

■ **Clara Williams**, missionary to Brazil, is on the field and can be reached at Caixa Postal 1433, 50.001-970 Recife, PE, Brazil. She is from Jackson.

■ **Stanley and Jan McFall**, missionaries to the Indian Ocean Islands, are in the states and can be reached at 133 Bellesire Dr., Knoxville, Tenn. 37922. He is from Alabama and she is from Florida.

■ **Dennis and Cynthia York Jones**, missionaries to Southern Africa, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service and can be reached at 1 Lange Place, P.O. Box 2084, New Germany 3620, Republic of South Africa. They both consider Memphis their hometown.

■ **Roy and Patsy Davidson**, missionaries to Swaziland, are in the states and can be reached at 1326 Mount Vernon Rd., Atlanta, Ga., 30338. Roy was born in Memphis and considers Dallas, Texas, his hometown.

■ **John and Sherri Dillingham Herod**, missionaries to Tanzania, have arrived in Kenya for a year of language study and can be reached at

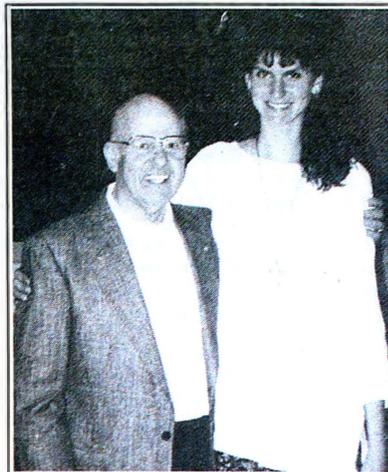
■ the people

■ **First Church, Monterey**, ordained **Gerald Padgett** into the ministry on April 17. Padgett, a member of First Church where he was a deacon and Discipleship Training Director, has been called as pastor of Verble Church, Monterey.

■ the missionaries

■ **Alma Oates**, missionary to Brazil, is on the field and can be reached at Caixa Postal 48.029, 20512-970, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She is from Memphis.

■ **Eddie and Janice Jacobs Ray**, missionaries to Zambia, are on the field and



RICHARD ADKINSON, pastor, Hillhurst Church, Nashville, stands with **Heidi Gillingham**, a 6-foot, 10-inch All American center from Vanderbilt University, at the church. Gillingham, vice president for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, gave her testimony at the church at the invitation of the Baptist Men's group. "She is one of the most inspiring individuals we have ever had at Hillhurst," said Jim Fryer, Baptist Men's president.

P.O. Box 52, Limuru, Kenya. She considers Cleveland her hometown.

■ the leaders

■ **Jim McCluskey**, pastor of Wallace Memoria' Church, Knoxville, and his wife were honored April 10 for 35 years of service there.

■ **Richard A. Baggett**, pastor, Lincoln Church, Fayetteville, and **Jamie Slocum** of Nashville have been called to the staff of Eastland Church, Nashville. Baggett will serve as pastor, effective May 1. Slocum of Harpeth Heights Church, Nashville, is minister of youth.



SINGING AT THE BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY during a Sunday morning worship service are the Avenue Singers from Virginia Avenue Church, Bristol. In April during a NASCAR event, several churches led a ministry at the raceway. The worship service drew 180 and included Cliff Champion of the Phil Parson's Racing Team. In addition to the service, 160 volunteers distributed race schedules with a Scriptural message. They also dispensed 1,000 drinks, 5,000 cookies, and 3,600 donuts. In addition to Virginia Avenue Church, Woodlawn, Volunteer, and Euclid Avenue churches helped.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Spiritual antibody

James H. Powers, director of missions
Concord Association

Many of you know I collect frogs and have enjoyed much ribbing about my collection. But frogs have proven to be beneficial after all the jokes. They have found a frog in Africa that when wounded secretes a liquid antibody that heals the wound. One medical scientist said this was the most important antibody discovery since penicillin.

When I saw this report on the news I thought about the spiritual wounds that Satan inflicted on the world. But then came the cross and Jesus' blood. It is a spiritual antibody for the sin germ that kills every victim without the antibody of Jesus Christ.

I praise God for the most important

and only antibody ever found that can cleanse and heal people from the spiritual wound. For all eternity the blood kills the sin germ.

Praises to the wonderful Jesus of Calvary. Celebrate his resurrection. □

'Just jiggle the wire'

Steven Taylor, pastor
Glenwood Church, Kingsport

Her car was stalled at the intersection, the hood was up, and she flagged a man down to help.

"I can't get it started," she said. "But if you jiggle the wire on the battery, I think it will work."

The man grabbed the positive battery cable, and it came off in his hand. "The terminal needs to be tightened," he told her. "I can fix it if you have

some tools."

"My husband says just to jiggle the wire," she replied. "It always works. Why don't you just try that?"

Frustrated, the man paused for a moment. Finally, he said, "Ma'am, if I jiggle the wire, you're going to need someone else to do it every time you shut the engine off. If you'll give me two minutes and a wrench, we can solve the problem and you can forget about it."

Reluctantly, she fumbled under the front seat and handed him a crescent wrench through the window of the old car.

How many times do we try to get a "quick fix" from God? We say, "I have this problem, Lord, and if you'll just jiggle the wire, things will be okay. I'm in a hurry, so just get me going again the quickest way possible."

But, friend, God doesn't want to "jig-

gle the wire!" He wants to take the time necessary to deal with our real problems and fix them.

To get the long-term solution to the pressing problems in our lives requires a complete surrender to God and a willingness to proceed on his terms. We must cooperate with him in whatever it takes for as long as it takes. □

Articles included in "Tennessee Sampler — views, insights" are written by Tennessee Baptist church and associational leaders. The articles are chosen for publication from newsletters of churches and associations. The *Baptist and Reflector* does not necessarily concur with the views expressed.

Prayers can open closed countries, says Willis

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — The prayers of Southern Baptist churches can have a significant impact on global missions, said Avery Willis, senior vice president for overseas operations at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Prayer is the fundamental approach to missions strategy, Willis added, and God uses it to get the Gospel where missionaries cannot go.

Willis was among 50 FMB participants at a Global Missions Conference April 19-21 at Southeastern Baptist Theo-

logical Seminary.

As an example, Willis cited Mongolia. The Woman's Missionary Union in West Virginia targeted Mongolia for prayer because there were no Christians, no Bibles, and no churches there. Now there are nearly 1,500 Christians in Mongolia as well as about 10 churches, Willis said.

"There are over one billion people who have never heard of Jesus. Our churches can pray that God will open opportunities for those people to hear the Gospel.

"I would say every church ought to adopt a people group.

We have about 6,000 people groups identified that we still have not touched," Willis said.

Willis said churches can write the FMB international office of prayer strategy and be assigned a people group for whom to pray. Other materials, such as prayergrams, are available to provide a church with a list of specific needs to pray about and to let them know how prayers were answered.

Conference participants also learned that while the fields are whiter and whiter unto harvest the laborers are fewer and fewer. Willis and other FMB administrators and missionaries shared the critical need for evangelism worldwide.

Willis told students he is convinced "one million people would come to Christ today if they were only told the Gospel."

Retired missionary Evelyn Hill, who served in Thailand,

said that since returning to the United States she has discovered "how uneducated people in America are toward the rest of the world. We don't really realize there are people out there who do not know Christ, who are dying and not going to heaven," she said.

Southeastern student William Burton of Rutledge said the conference confirmed his call to missions. "I am in heaven with all the missionaries here and all the excitement on campus," he said, noting he wanted to plant churches in Latin America.

"The Lord really spoke to my heart this week and gave me a stronger affirmation that that is what God wants for me," Burton said. □

Retired Tennessee missionary dies

MELBOURNE, Australia — Evelyn Schwartz, 76, former Southern Baptist missionary to Indonesia, died April 3 after several weeks of illness at Knox General Hospital in Melbourne.

Schwartz had been living for the past seven years in Australia, working with Blackburn North Baptist Church in Melbourne in an outreach ministry to Indonesians.

A native of Winchester and a Carson-Newman College graduate, Schwartz was ap-

pointed a missionary to Hawaii, then considered a foreign mission field, in 1949 and transferred to Indonesia in 1953, where she worked until her retirement in 1986. For most of her career she worked in educational ministries.

Schwartz was well known among her fellow missionaries for her work with children. They once dubbed her the "Pied Piper of Jakarta" because of her ability to attract children to Bible studies. □

Sunday School retreat cancelled

The Sunday School Retreat for Mentally Handicapped Persons, Parents, Sunday School Teachers, and Church Staff that was scheduled for May 20-22 at Camp Linden has been cancelled due to low registration, according to Liz Lee of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Sunday School Department.

The retreat will be held in 1995 at Camp Linden, May 5-7, and Camp Carson, May 19-21. □

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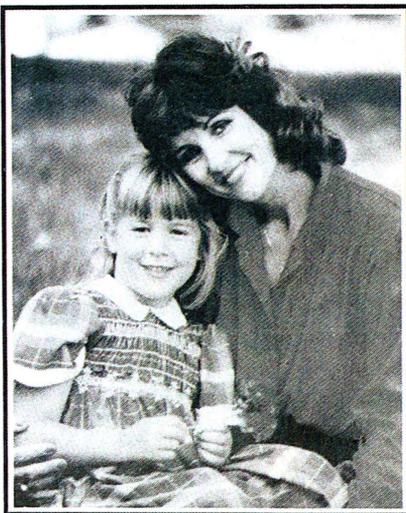
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For more than 100 years, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes has met the growing needs of families and children in crisis. Through a diversity of ministries, we reach out in Christ's love to heal and bring hope to orphaned, neglected, dependent, and abused children. Last year, fifty-three TBCH children came to know Jesus Christ as their friend and personal Savior.

Our staff at the three main campuses in Memphis, Franklin, and Chattanooga, the Boys Ranch in Millington, and our Residential Group Homes in Oakdale, Kingsport, and Johnson City, seeks to restore a child's self-esteem, help them learn to trust others, and find a lasting faith in the Lord. Our Alternative Homes for unwed mothers in Clarksville, Franklin, and Greeneville continue to provide a redemptive ministry to girls faced with an unplanned pregnancy.

Mother's Day is this Sunday. Please remember the children as your church collects the annual Mother's Day Offering for our Homes across the state. One-third of our annual operating budget is received through this once-a-year gift of love. Your support can literally change precious lives.

Show a child you care and make a difference through the Mother's Day Offering for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ True vine and its branches — Bible Book Series for May 8

By Brent Seals, pastor, First Church, Elizabethton

One of the sad realities of our day is the sudden use of the Nazi swastika by some young people in our nation and in Germany. Some 50 years after World War II, the swastika still reminds us of Nazi Germany, Adolf Hitler concentration camps, and the killing of 6 million Jews. In the minds of many, the swastika is a symbol of an evil empire. We, too, have symbols. Our forefathers chose an eagle as our symbol, just as the ancient Babylonians chose a lion. Israel, too, had a symbol; theirs was a grapevine. Why would any group other than wine or raisin producers choose a grapevine? Probably because of Isaiah's parable of God's vineyard (Isaiah 5:1-7).

For his seventh and final "I Am" statement, Jesus said, "I am the true Vine and my Father

is the Vinedresser" (v. 1). His statement would have drawn together all the history of the vine as a national symbol. (It was on the coins of the Maccabees). It was as if he were saying, "You know how Israel is pictured as a vine which is to produce refreshing fruit. Well, I am the authentic Vine, the fulfillment of all that this symbol suggests."

Call to abide and bear fruit — vv. 1-11

Immediately after announcing that he is the true Vine and his Father is the husbandman (gardener), Jesus proclaims that every branch that does not bear fruit he prunes or takes it away, as does a viticulturist, (v.2). This brings to memory Matthew 7:19-20 where Jesus spoke similar words. Some scholars interpret fruit to be the positive results of evangelism by arguing the fruit of another Christian is another fruit. Others believe Jesus was using fruit in a broader sense in keeping with other Scriptures



SEALS

Focal Passages John 15:1-16

where fruit included all the virtues and positive deeds that are related to the Christian life. He says we are to bear fruit so as to show we are his disciples, (v. 8).

In addition, Jesus emphasizes our abiding in him. Abide means to continue living in vital union with him. It is in the imperative tense — a command. So important is this to the Christian Jesus uses the word 10 times in verses 4-10. Some believe that the sap which runs between the vine and the branches is the Holy Spirit, and abiding is parallel to being filled or controlled by the Spirit. When we are abiding we are walking in prayerful obedience, ever mindful, moment by moment, of our great need of the power of the Holy Spirit to live for Christ.

This text says without Christ we can do nothing. Yet, there are many things we can do without

Christ. We can earn a living, raise a family, and practice generosity. Today we believe we can do nearly anything by ourselves. But who can deny themselves, take up the cross and live a powerful Christ-like life, marked by holiness, sacrifice, and forgiveness, without the Holy Spirit? These are the kinds of Christians we need in order to get the attention of our world.

Call to love — vv. 12-13, 17

One of the fruits of abiding in Christ is love. Verse 12 repeats the substance of 13:34. Samuel Coleridge, famous poet, was a lonely genius who lost his father at age nine, attended a charity school, and became addicted to drugs at the age of 24, another example that success does not cure loneliness and emptiness. We saw this recently with Kurt Cobain of the band Nirvana. But Coleridge responded positively to the care and friendship of William Wordsworth, and later wrote "friendship is a sheltering tree." Jesus says we are to love

one another, lay down our lives for one another.

Call to serve — vv. 14-16

Another fruit of abiding, another quality of love is service to Christ and to others. Obedience is a test of discipleship and can prove our love. In verse 15 Jesus used an illustration from daily life in his time. In his entire century masters viewed slaves as things, not persons. In contrast, Jesus' disciples were elevated to the position of friends — friends of their Master, the King.

The courts of the Eastern kings held an elite group of men called "friends of the Kings." They had unrestricted access to the monarch. They often met with him informally before he saw his political, economic, or military advisors. Think about the incredible offer Jesus gives — to be no longer slaves, but friends. We need not gaze at him from afar. We are not excluded from his intimate circle of confidants. We are his friends! □

□ Adopted as God's children — Convention Uniform Series for May 8

By Mike Thrower, pastor, Brunswick Church, Brunswick

Children of foolishness — ch. 3:1-6

Paul continues his rebuttal of the Judaizers. These were the Jewish brothers who were teaching that one must continue to keep the ceremonial laws in order to be right with God. Paul considers this to be foolish. If the law could not save you then how can the law keep you (v. 3)?

Even the Father of Judaism, Abraham, was saved by his faith. The reference here (v. 6) is to Abraham's response when the Lord promised him a son, but it applies to a total way of life. Abraham was a man of faith, he believed God when God spoke.

Children of Abraham — vv. 7-18



THROWER

The Jews enjoyed being known as the children of Abraham. They interpreted the keeping of the law as proof of sonship. Now Paul says that the children of Abraham are those who put their faith in Christ.

One of the promises that God made to Abraham was that through him nations would be blessed. Paul sees this as a foretaste of the fact that those of any nation could come to God just as Abraham did — by faith. So both Gentile and Jew are saved through faith in Jesus Christ, who hung on the tree for our sins. The law could not and does not save.

Children of the law — vv. 19-29

The law was given as a teacher. The Greek word is "paidagogos," a word much like the English word "pedagogue." It means teacher, tutor, or schoolmaster. But it goes even further.

The paidagogos was the overseer of the child from about age 7 till adulthood. During this time, he not only taught the academics, but also how to behave in a moral and proper manner. It was his function to turn the child into an adult who could live a proper life.

Paul sees the law as being given to lead us into a proper life. It was to teach us what we needed to know and to show us where we needed to make changes. This does not mean that the law stands in opposition to faith. Rather the law, when properly interpreted, leads one to faith (v. 24). Our salvation is still through faith in Christ.

And as children of faith, we are children of one family. Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, all belong to Christ through faith. We can extend this to include all races, nationalities, political persuasions, or

any other man-made distinction. We are all saved through faith in Christ. There are not different roads to Christ for different peoples.

Children of God — ch. 4:1-7

It was the responsibility of the paidagogos to rear the child to the point where he could assume his natural position in the family. He would then be a contributing adult, with the right to inherit from the family. The law could lead one to Christ, but only in Christ could one become a member of the family. Only in Christ could one become an heir, a joint-heir with Christ.

The child might be treated similar to a slave in that he was under the authority of another. The child had to be disciplined and led. But in Christ one became a son, with all the privileges of sonship (v. 7) He could say "Abba! Father!"

All this was possible through

Focal Passage Galatians 3:1-29; 4:1-7

the redeeming act of Christ. An event that took place at just the right moment in time; for God's timing is always best. And it made possible our adoption as sons of God.

The term adoption is significant. In the Roman law an adoption was for life. The law provided that the adopted individual could not be denied any of the rights of the biological child. He could not be a second-class child. And even more importantly, once adopted he was always a child. The biological child could be disowned, but not the adopted one.

We are the children of God. He has adopted us as such. This is because of our faith in him. The law may have led us to him, but it is through faith we receive him as Lord and as Savior. □

□ Governed by the attitude of Christ — Life and Work Series for May 8

By Tommy Stevens, Meadow View Church, Lawrenceburg

In my opinion this is one of the most beautiful descriptions of Christ in the entire Bible. Paul is pointing out the actions that Jesus took on our behalf and the attitude that produced those actions. He begins by saying that we should have the same attitude.

Encouragement — v. 5

Each person's personality is different. The part of the brain that produces that personality is located just behind the forehead. When I read in Revelation about those who have the seal of



STEVENS

Christ in their forehead, I always think of that part of the brain. I believe both John and Paul would have us to realize that we have a choice about our personalities. We can change our attitudes by changing the focus of our minds. Paul reminds us here that the focus of our minds must be Christ and we should seek to see the world and the circumstances and people in the world from his point of view and with his attitudes.

Embodiment — vv. 6-7

Paul had counseled humility in verse 4, now he describes the supreme example of humility. Jesus was in the throne room of glory. Like an angle of a triangle, he existed as God. Take

away one angle and there is no triangle. Take away one person of the Trinity and there is no God. Yet Jesus did not cling to his position, but poured himself out for our well-being. He remained God, but he left his prerogatives as God and became a man.

There were many in the days of Paul, and there are many in our day that teach one extreme or the other. Some say Jesus was not God in the first place. Some say the Spirit of God came upon him at his baptism and left him just before the cross. Others say Jesus was not really a man. He was a phantom or he was something else. Paul chose his words very carefully. He said Jesus is

Focal Passages Philippians 2:5-11

fully God and fully man. The only one of his kind. Even as a man, he did not assume a high station in life. He could have come as a king on a white charger as the religious leaders expected, but he chose to be born as a helpless infant to a poor family in an enslaved nation. He stooped low enough that he could reach the lowest human and say, "I understand you and I will receive you if you will follow me."

Embarrassment — v. 8

The cross was the most humiliating torture of it's day. The pain was excruciating. Death was slow and people

ridiculed the person who hung unclothed in reach of their attacks. Often days would pass with each breath becoming more labored until the victim died of suffocation. Jesus suffered these things willingly. He loved us so much that no sacrifice was too great and this was the greatest sacrifice a person could make.

Exaltation — vv. 9-11

The earthly life of Christ was one of humility and service, but the result of that life was glory. Here Paul uses the same name for Jesus as the Greek Old Testament uses for Jehovah. Angels, demons, and all humans will bow before him and everyone will acknowledge him as Lord. □

Radio-TV agency to change name

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission voted to change the agency's name to Communications Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, affirmed the president, and began the process of developing a revised program statement. Actions took place during the trustees' April meeting.

The new name would better position the agency to take advantage of new technologies in electronic communications as they emerge, trustees said.

The trustees passed a resolution commending agency President Jack Johnson for the progress and fiscal stability of the RTVC under his direction.

The program statement that is being revised reflects the guidelines under which the agency now operates. □

Best-selling book contains Mormonism

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — A best-selling book by a woman claiming to have a message from Jesus is full of covert Mormon teachings and language, said Southern Baptist interfaith witness specialists.

Embraced by the Light by

Betty J. Eadie has been on the *New York Times* best-seller list 49 weeks for hardcover non-fiction books, and recently reached the top spot. Eadie claims to have died for five hours following an operation in 1973 during which Jesus took her to heaven and gave her a message for the world.

The book, however, contains Mormon phrases and theology, said Tal Davis, interim director of the Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department. Though Eadie does not identify herself as a Mormon at least two Christian publications, *Christianity Today* and *Christian Research Journal*, have.

Though the book has been sold in some Baptist Book Stores, it is being pulled from the shelves, said a Baptist Sunday School Board official. □

Southern trustees approve new degree

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees approved a two-year degree program for the seminary's Boyce Bible School and a restructured fee schedule for all seminary offerings during their semiannual session.

Trustees authorized Boyce to award an associate of arts degree in Christian ministry studies. Founded in 1974 to provide ministerial training for

non-college graduates, Boyce has been granting diplomas to people who complete its course of study. The program has met the requirements of accrediting agencies, said seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr.

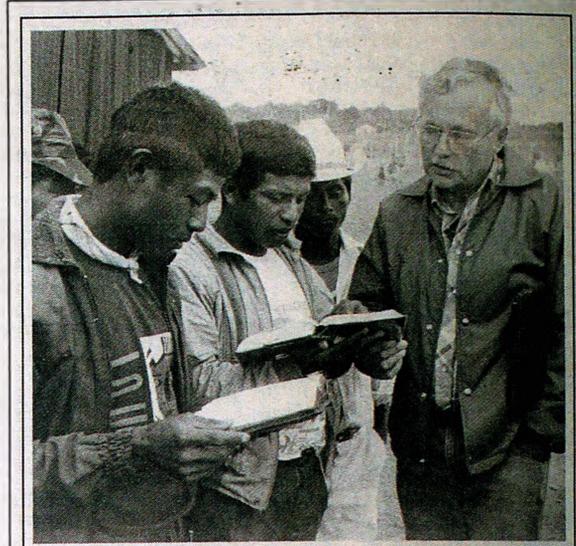
In approving a new fee structure, trustees shifted the seminary away from a system that charged a flat matriculation fee to nearly every student to one that bases matriculation fees on the number of courses taken. Currently, most Southern students pay \$650 per semester. Mohler said the "benchmark" for Baptist students next fall will be \$800 per semester. □

Alabama convention questions university's out of country campus

Baptist Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The University of Mobile's new campus in San Marcos, Nicaragua, has come under fire by Alabama Baptist State Convention leaders who say the campus raises financial and legal liability problems for the convention.

The dispute came last August soon after Mobile College officially became the University of Mobile and opened the doors of the San Marcos campus. By the time of the annual state convention meeting last November, the convention's



Tennessee missionary at work

Indian refugees ask Southern Baptist representative Charles Collins of Jackson questions about the Bible at a relief center in Las Margaritas in the Mexican state of Chiapas. They recently left their homes following an Indian guerrilla uprising. Mexican Baptist volunteers and Southern Baptist representatives, like Collins and his wife, Jan, of Yuma, operate several food kitchens in the area, feeding hundreds of refugees each day. They also have begun several home Bible studies and Collins predicts at least three new churches will come from the relief ministry.

state board of missions had disclaimed any connection with the San Marcos campus and convention President Dewey Corder of Birmingham appointed a four-member subcommittee to study the issue.

In a series of meetings last fall and this spring the subcommittee, working with Alabama Baptist Executive Secretary Troy Morrison and convention attorney Chriss H. Doss, outlined at least 17 "concerns" about the Nicaragua venture. Concerns include whether the university broke convention bylaws by failing to get approval before borrowing money for the campus, the university's financial health, and the use of Cooperative Programs funds on the Latin American campus.

University of Mobile President Michael Magnoli, in a statement, said the school did not break the bylaws and noted that "Alabama Baptists have been presented with an unparalleled mission opportunity in Central America, and we must do everything possible to lay aside individual differences in order to assure success of the Lord's work." □

Court denies second grader's appeal

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to accept a case in which a second-grade student was prohib-

ited from showing to public school classmates a video of her singing a Christian song.

The Supreme Court's refusal to hear the *DeNooyer v. Livonia Public Schools* case lets stand lower court decisions which ruled the student's free speech, free exercise of religion, and equal protection rights were not violated. □

Convention boards address Dilday firing

Compiled from Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — At least two more executive boards of Baptist state conventions have addressed the issue of the firing of Russell H. Dilday Jr. as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Missouri Baptist Convention executive board voted 31-6 to send a letter to trustees protesting their manner of firing Dilday.

Baptist Convention of New Mexico executive board members closed their April 18 meeting to vent feelings about the firing. Convention President Frank Zamora of Las Cruces says he has been asked, "What is New Mexico saying about this?" His response is, "I cannot speak for the board."

Several board members voiced their concerns but no formal action was taken.

Earlier, Virginia Baptist board members passed a resolution affirming Dilday. □

Space exploration, faith compatible, astronaut says

By Art Toalston
For Baptist Press

HOUSTON — In just two days, Dave Leestma was slated for liftoff aboard the space shuttle *Challenger* in the fall of 1984.

"When you get ready for a shuttle flight, especially your first one, the one thing astronauts are all aware of is the risk you take," Leestma recounted. "You don't worry too much about the fear, but still, it kind of nags at you."

Leestma was in the habit of reading the chapter in *Proverbs* that matches the day of the month. It was Oct. 3, two days before the launch, and *Proverbs* 3:25-26 caught his attention: "Have no fear of sudden disaster ... for the Lord will be your confidence ..." (NIV).

"I got a real peace from that," Leestma recalled. "I was ready to go. And off we went and had a good flight."

Leestma flew on two more shuttle flights, in 1989 and



LEESTMA

1992, logging more than 500 hours in space.

Named last year as NASA's director of flight crew operations, he now oversees NASA's astronaut office, along with needed engineering support and aircraft operations, the latter involving more than 30 jets for astronaut training and two 747s to transport the space shuttle.

Leestma, a member of Houston's University Church,

said he thinks "God probably smiles" as men attempt to explore his universe.

"Looking back at the earth, it takes your breath away. It brought tears to my eyes," Leestma recalled. "The earth is such an incredibly beautiful creation. You look down there and you know it is no accident. This is the design of somebody who is so far beyond us we can't even imagine. It didn't just happen, because there's nothing in the physical world that goes to order; it all goes to disorder."

"And everything had to come together in perfect order to become the earth. Physical laws don't work that way just by themselves."

Leestma said he sees no problem with the compatibility of faith and science. "I believe in the Bible and I believe that God, when he created this world, put some very firm laws and physical realities in place, and he challenges us to discover them," he said. □