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Executive Board approves Canada partnership

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Pending approval by messengers to the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in November, Tennessee Baptists will begin a new foreign mission partnership Jan. 1, 1995.

TBC Executive Board members voted unanimously at their May 10 meeting to enter a three-year partnership with the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists.

In other major items of business, board members set parameters for the 1994-95 budget, named Terry Sharp as director of the Partnership Missions Department, and upgraded the Church Media Library/Church Recreation Office to a department.

Allen Schmidt, executive director of the Canada convention, was a guest during the meeting. Schmidt told board members there is a "tremendous challenge before us in Canada."

Though Canada is the second largest country in the world and has more than 27.5 million people, there are only 250,000 Baptists in the country, less than 1 percent, Schmidt said.

Board members also viewed slides presented by *Baptist and Reflector* Editor Wm.

Fletcher Allen, who was a member of the recent fact-finding team that went to Canada.

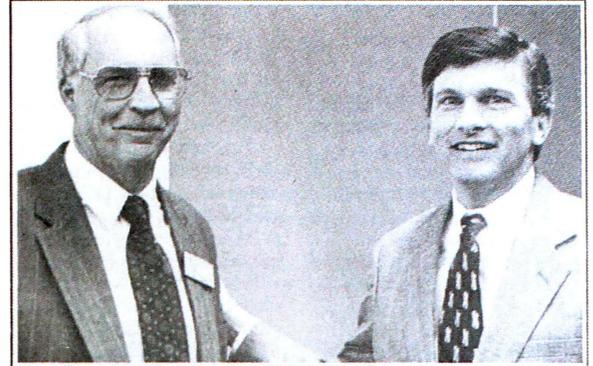
The three-year partnership will focus primarily on the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

The four areas of need cited by Canada Baptists are evangelism, church leadership development, construction, and church planting.

TBC Convention Ministries Director Bill Wilson told board members the convention also has been asked by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to consider a concurrent partnership with Poland. He hopes to be able to give a report on that partnership at the board's September meeting. A small "discovery" group will visit Poland in August.

Working with the new partnerships will be Terry Sharp, approved to succeed Jarvis Hearn, who is retiring as head of that department in December.

Sharp, program associate in the TBC Missions Department for three years, and his wife, Kathy, are former Southern Baptist missionaries to Spain and Brazil. A native of LaFollette, Sharp will assume his new duties July 1. Hearn will continue to work with partnerships in Chile and Michigan until his Dec. 31 retirement.



TBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Chairman David Crocker, right, pastor of Central Church, Johnson City, presided at his last meeting May 10. Crocker resigned from the board because he has accepted a pastorate in another state. Vice Chairman Paul Moody, left, pastor of Erin Church, Erin, will be the new chairman.

In presenting a recommendation from the Budget and Program Committee regarding parameters for the 1994-95 budget, chairman Richard Patton of Portland reminded board members, "We have not met a budget here in a number of years."

The proposal by the committee was for all institutions and Executive Board operations to request Cooperative Program funds for 1994-95 based on 98 percent of anticipated income for 1993-94. It also left the percentage distribution to TBC and SBC causes at its present percentage — 37.50 percent, SBC, and 62.50

percent, TBC.

Patton noted the request would not be popular. "There's no reason to be angry at the Budget and Program Committee. We're trying to act responsibly. The intention is not to hurt anyone but to be equitable to all," he said.

A substitute motion was offered by Howard Kolb of Memphis. His motion set the budget at 98 percent of the 1993-94 budget and specified that any overage received be placed in escrow and divided according to percentages among the institutions and Executive Board.

— See Executive, page 2



Visiting in Chile

Chile missionaries, from left, Richard Poe and Gene Huckaby visit with Moises Pinto, who teaches at the Baptist school in Temuco. Huckaby is the business manager of the school, and Poe is the coordinator of the Chile/Tennessee Partnership. See pages 6 and 7 for additional Chile photos and stories. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

Southern Baptists flee Yemen

Baptist Press

SANAA, Yemen — A Scud missile attack, the sound of sporadic gunfire for three nights running, and the promise of no more scheduled evacuation flights caused 11 more Southern Baptist workers to leave embattled Yemen.

The latest evacuations brought to 16 the number of Southern Baptist workers who have left because of an intensifying civil war in the Red Sea nation. Thirty Southern Baptist personnel remained in the country as of May 13.

Months of clashes within the country's military broke into open warfare May 4 in the midst of feuding between the president, from the north, and the vice president, from the south. Yemen became a new

nation in 1990 uniting northern and southern kingdoms under a democratic reform program, but its military has never unified and tensions between power brokers have persisted.

Six Southern Baptist workers hitched rides on a British Hercules transport plane out of Sanaa, the capital city, and landed in London May 12. Five others were to have boarded a private oil plane to Athens May 13. All expected to meet in Cyprus, an island nation in the Mediterranean Sea, for temporary assignment there.

No more flights are scheduled out of Yemen. The remaining workers at Jibla hospital, several hours south of Sanaa, said they had enough cars and gas to make a run for Saudi Arabia if necessary. □

Executive Board approves Canada ...

Continued from page 1

TBC Executive Director James Porch reminded board members they were not setting the budget at this time, only establishing a parameter for the Budget and Program Committee to work with. "Allow the process to play itself out," Porch asked the board.

After much discussion the substitute motion failed and the committee's recommendation was approved. The budget will be presented at the board's September meeting.

Three other items presented by the Budget and Program Committee also were approved by the board:

The first changes the quarterly reporting of Cooperative Program gifts in the *Baptist and Reflector*. The symbols (1) and (2) now used showing designations to either SBC or TBC will be deleted. Two columns showing CP and designated gifts will continue to be used. Asterisks will identify designated gifts which include Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, and Golden State missions offerings, and gifts to TBC and SBC boards and agencies.

The second item requests the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to prepare and recommend to the TBC "appropriate amendments for presentation and action upon the annual budget at the annual meeting that insure time for

careful discussion and provisions of necessary information by the treasurer and others prior to action by the convention."

The final action requested by the Budget and Program Committee revised the program statement for camp services.

Executive Board members approved a report from the Church Programs Committee to upgrade the Church Media Library/Church Recreation Office to a department, effective Nov. 1. The committee's recommendation also elevated Eleanor Yarborough to department director, effective at the same time.

Committee chairman Diane Jordan of Talbot noted the office has been doing the work of a department without the salary or recognition. "It needs to be brought into line with other departments," Jordan said.

In other actions, board members:

- Heard reports from Porch, Wilson, and William Maxwell, director, Central Administrative Division. Porch told board members the TBC Executive Board is now debt-free. In addition there has been a 2.16 percent increase in



TERRY SHARP, new TBC Partnership Missions Department director, and his wife, Kathy, addressed the TBC Executive Board during its May 10 meeting. — Photo by Connie Davis

"hard dollars" over last year at the same time. He reminded board members, however, that Executive Board operations are still operating at an 88 percent program budget.

- Approved a recommendation from the Committee on Committees to fill two vacancies on the Committee on Boards with Lillian Rowe of First Church, Clarksville, and Bob Matthews of Berclair Church, Memphis.

- Heard a report from TBC Public Affairs Consultant Bill Bates regarding the recent de-

feat of the lottery in the Senate. Bates cited the ongoing efforts of the *Baptist and Reflector* in the fight against gambling. Board member Bill Sherman of Nashville recommended that a letter be written in behalf of the board to the 18 senators who voted against the lottery. The motion was approved.

- Approved Golden State Missions Offering allocations for 1994. One item of concern for some board members was a \$5,000 reduction in the amount given to United Tennessee League, an alcohol and drug awareness agency. The UTL will receive \$45,000 in 1994 compared to \$50,000 this year. An attempt to amend the budget failed when board members learned that because it is a cooperative venture between the board and the Tennessee WMU board, it could not be amended. An effort to vote down the recommendation so it would go back to the allocations committee failed.

- Elected David George, pastor, Immanuel Church, Nashville, as vice chairman of the Executive Board succeeding Paul Moody, pastor of Erin Church, Church, who moved to the chairman's position when David Crocker, pastor of Central Church, Johnson City, resigned at the May 10 meeting. Crocker has accepted a pastorate in another state. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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MSU professor advocates using heart, head, hands to minister to AIDS victims

By Kim Medley
For Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — To some, they are just statistics.

In the United States, from 1981-93, 339,250 AIDS cases and 204,390 deaths resulting from AIDS have been reported.

To Betty Dawson, people living with AIDS have faces, names, and families. They are her friends and her ministry.

Dawson, professor of social work at Memphis State University, shared her experiences with AIDS ministry during the panel "Rescue the Perishing: Ministry to People in Need" as part of the "Ministries of Baptist Laypeople" conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Historical Commission and Southern Baptist Historical Society. The conference was held at First Church, Memphis.

Dawson is a Red Cross certified AIDS educator and coordinator of an AIDS ministry group at Prescott Memorial Church in Memphis where she is a member.

"For the past seven years I have had the privilege, and the pain, of being involved in ministry to Persons Living with AIDS (PLWAs)," Dawson said.

She noted that ministry to AIDS patients can be characterized by the three "Hs."

Heart: "As God educates the heart, we learn that the love of the living Christ is not reserved for 'us' folks, whoever that is — for 'they' are 'us.'"

Head: Dawson maintains Christian ministers need to accept the responsibility to learn as much as possible about the virus in order to help their congregations and Sunday School classes educate others and combat the myths. "We need to be educated about the demographics of the epidemic — in which groups is it growing the fastest." Dawson observed that "ignorance promotes fear, and fear separates us from each other and from our calling to ministry."

Hands: "The changing of the heart and the education of the head leads us to seek ways to involve our hands in meaning-

ful work," Dawson said, citing some examples that AIDS ministry can take — delivering meals, providing transportation, mowing the yard, cleaning the house, washing the clothes, or inviting a PLWA to dinner.

"I would not have you believe, however, that the work is easy. "It is at times ... deeply saddening, and even angering. I have heard far too many insulting and hurtful AIDS jokes from people who know better ..."

Dawson acknowledged the church is "agonizing over" AIDS ministry but offered a Scripture passage to churches seeking direction for how they should respond:

"Then the righteous will reply, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and fed you, or thirsty and gave you drink ...' And the King will answer, 'I tell you this: anything you did for one of my brothers here, however humble, you did for me'" (Matthew 25:34-30, NEB). □

Nashville pastor's wife killed in wreck

Alda Michel, 65, was killed May 14 in a single car accident.

She was the wife of Perry "Red" Michel, pastor of Belmont Heights Church, Nashville, and a Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board member.

A native of Miami, Michel is survived by her husband and three children — David, Kenneth, and Ralph. □

Résumés sought for missions position

Résumés are being accepted for the position of associate director in the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Missions Department.

The position became vacant when Terry Sharp was elected May 10 as the new director of the TBC Partnership Missions Department.

The position involves work with language church extension and interfaith witness.

If interested, send résumés to Jere Phillips, TBC Missions Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. □

True Love Waits emphasized at Day of Prayer events

By Tom Strode
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — True Love Waits, the sexual abstinence campaign initiated by the Baptist Sunday School Board, shared the focus during recent National Day of Prayer activities on Capitol Hill.

About 500 people filling a House of Representatives caucus room heard reports from three high school students on God's work among teenagers in the areas of prayer, evangelism, and moral purity.

For those who believe all teens are out of control sexually, she was present to report "that is not the case," said Lisa Fox, a Southern Baptist. Many teens have made a commitment to remain sexually pure until marriage, she said.

She believes "God wants us to give him every aspect of our

lives, and this includes our sexuality," said Fox, a member of Columbia Church in Fairfax, Va. The teen said she knows she "cannot do it alone," but is depending on the power of the Holy Spirit to keep her pledge. Fox led in prayer for moral purity among young people.

The campaign will culminate July 29 with a rally on the mall between the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument. Richard Ross, a spokesman for True Love Waits, and BSSB youth ministry consultant, said he believes there may be more than the original goal of 500,000 covenant cards planted on holders in the mall.

"True Love Waits is now the most widely covered, positive story about teenagers in the history of journalism," said Ross, who attended the National Day of Prayer event.

The potential impact on the moral conscienceness of the nation could be profound, he said.

Ross said a "precedent of every spiritual awakening has been a renewed emphasis on holiness and moral purity. Many of us are beginning to ponder whether True Love Waits might be part of God's plan to morally purify hundreds of thousands of teenagers who could be at the forefront of a sweeping revival in America."

His hopes for just such an awakening was increased during meetings with national youth ministry leaders and the True Love Waits council in Washington prior to the May 5 National Day of Prayer event. True Love Waits, originally planned as a one-time event among Southern Baptists, not only has spread to 24 other de-

nominations and ministries, but will now be an annual emphasis, Ross said.

In a time dedicated to prayer for various youth ministries, Ross and Dean Finley, assistant director of church growth and associational evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, were present along with 16 other leaders. In introducing Ross and Finley, Julio Hernandez, 18, and a member of Columbia Church, asked for prayers of thanksgiving for True Love Waits and for prayers for the establishment of 300 new student Bible clubs on the country's secondary-school campuses.

The hope of revival also was the theme of popular author and radio host James Dobson during the prayer event in the Cannon House Office Building.

Dobson said he is "more

hopeful now than I've been any time in the last 10 years, because of what I see happening."

Dobson's wife Shirley, is chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force.

During the Capitol Hill observance, congressional and Clinton administration officials, as well as others, also led in prayer for the government, pastors, the inner cities, the media, education, and sports personalities.

National Day of Prayer activities also include "Meet at City Hall" events in communities throughout the country. Citizens gathered at local government buildings during the lunch hour to pray.

Congress established National Day of Prayer in 1952. In 1988, an amendment set the first Thursday in May for the observance. □

Johnson retires as NSM director; former TBC staffer is successor

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Charles H. Johnson will retire as director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's National Student Ministries, effective July 1.

He will be replaced by Associate Director Bill Henry, a former Tennessee Baptist Convention staff member. In addition, the department is being "streamlined" as four NSM positions have been eliminated.

Johnson, 60, made the announcement May 5 in a meeting with staff members.

Johnson said his work with National Student Ministry has

"been a challenge — a growing and rewarding experience."

During Johnson's 12-year tenure as director of NSM, he led in the development of a National Evangelism Task Force which creates student evangelism programming on an annual basis. NSM also has worked with other SBC agencies to develop a coordinated national approach to student witnessing.

Since Johnson joined the board staff in 1982, the Southern Baptist student ministry program on college campuses has grown from approximately 132,000 students involved to

194,000. Under his leadership, NSM also has placed an increased emphasis on the role of the local church in ministering to college students.

Prior to joining the BSSB staff, Johnson served eight years as director of the student ministries department of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Roy Edgemon, director of the discipleship and family development division which houses NSM, said Johnson "has done an outstanding job of relating effectively with leaders of our agencies, with state and associational leaders,

with student leaders, and with leaders of student organizations outside the SBC."

Named as Johnson's successor is Henry, 47, who spent 13 years as associate director of the Student (now Student Ministries) Department of the TBC. He joined the BSSB staff in 1984.

A native of Nashville, Henry is a graduate of Belmont University and Vanderbilt University. He attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

The transition comes during an effort to streamline operations for financial stability in

the division and the board as a whole, Edgemon said.

Four NSM positions have been eliminated, including three professionals and one staff support position. Affected employees will receive career transition and outplacement assistance, along with severance pay based on years of service.

"These have been difficult decisions and we deeply regret the impact on these four employees," he said.

Edgemon emphasized the reductions do not diminish "our support for the program of student ministry." □

Sequatchie Valley taps Strickland as DOM

WHITWELL — Sequatchie Valley Association has called M. J. "Buddy" Strickland as director of missions. Strickland began serving April 4.

He succeeds Charles Conley who retired.

Strickland joins the association from Union Grove Church, Crossville, Ala., where he served as pastor for the last seven years. He has been pastor of churches in both Alabama and Tennessee.

The new director of missions has been active in the denomination at both the state and association levels.

Strickland and his wife, Laura, have three children and six grandchildren who reside in Alabama and Tennessee. □



STRICKLAND



TBC conference leaders

Gary Rickman and Libby Shepherd, right, of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Protection Plans Department, visit with Jack Kelley, senior vice president of Preferred Risk Group, West Des Moines, Iowa, and Julie Bloss, an attorney with the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, Dallas, Texas. Kelley, Bloss, and TBC Attorney Randle Davis recently led a "Church Legal Issues Conference" sponsored by the Protection Plans Department. About 75 people representing 41 churches and associations attended the day-long meeting at the Baptist Center. Topics discussed included church employment practices, Tennessee incorporation laws, church safety, and reducing the risk of child abuse at church.

Mission house stripped bare in Burundi

Baptist Press

BUJUMBURA, Burundi — Thieves stripped bare a house belonging to Southern Baptist missionaries in tense Bujumbura, Burundi — taking even windows and light fixtures.

Missionary Jeff Polglase expected the house would be looted since buildings all around it had been emptied earlier. But the morning after he loaded his car with his family's most important possessions, he found the house had been totally cleaned out.

Polglase's wife and family were away at the time so he had been spending nights with other missionaries gathered for safety at a mission guest-house in Bujumbura. □

■ about letters to the editor

- Make it concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length.
- Name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Include address and phone number.
- Avoid personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone.
- Send original copy. Form letters and "open" letters will not be published.
- Only one letter in a three-months period per writer will be published.
- If letter does not conform, it will be returned.
- Opinions and ideas expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the *Baptist and Reflector* and its staff. □

Shares information

In the recent article, Gary Hensley failed to discuss other serious matters in the Clax Gap Baptist Church issue. In December 1992 he engineered the ouster of three key officers of that church. Under the name of autonomy, Mr. Hensley exhibited the attitude of free license in the treatment of other people and their feelings.

These former officers are men who are fundamental, Bible-believing believers. In the interim, four members were removed from membership, fellowship, and ordered not to come on the premises. This includes the church cemetery where close friends are buried. Mr. Hensley seems to have chosen not to get out of the pattern of denial and rationalization.

Paul Morgan
Harriman 37748

Policy questioned

I was shocked and appalled when told that posters promoting revivals and other activities of Baptist churches would no longer be displayed in the front windows of Baptist Book Stores in Memphis. When told that the reason was they were deemed unattractive thereby taking away from the sales promotion of the store's products, I could hardly believe my ears.

I had thought that Baptist Book Stores and Baptist churches were partners in trying to improve the spiritual

lives of people. Apparently now Baptist Book Stores are more concerned with selling products than helping people.

It is sad when a business selling religious material refuses to help promote the churches from which it derives the bulk of its customers. Why not go one step further and remove Baptist from the store name.

Robert G. Lee, pastor
Richland Church
Memphis 38120

The Baptist and Reflector received this explanation from Dana Reece, book stores communications coordinator, BSSB:

We receive a large number of requests daily in all 62 book stores to display posters and promotional material. Because of the number and types of requests, we cannot accommodate all in our front window space. It is our policy to display the materials within the store in an area designated to promote community events.

We regret we cannot accommodate requests for window space, but do try to display the materials within the stores. Dr. Lee's poster is displayed within the music department of the Memphis Baptist Book Store.

Baptists never Catholic

As a Southern Baptist pastor's daughter, I am aware our convention was organized in 1845 to enable Southern Baptists to work together to spread the Gospel. I have known from my childhood Baptist churches never "came out" of the Catholic Church during the Reformation. We are not Protestant since we did not "protest" and leave. Lutherans, Episcopalians (Church of England), Presbyte-

rians, Congregationalists, and Methodists have documented dates when they left the Catholic Church. Each retained some Catholic beliefs such as infant baptism and sprinkling vs. immersion.

During the Dark Ages there were many Christians and separate and independent churches. Some dated back to the times of the apostles, which were never connected to the Catholic Church. These Christians were objects of bitter and relentless persecution. History shows during the 12 centuries of the Dark Ages countless Christians died martyr deaths. The usual reason given was they would not allow their infants to be baptized since Jesus had clearly taught only "believer's baptism." Prior to the beginning of the Dark Ages, thousands died because they held so closely to truths of the Bible.

Many names such as "Ana-Baptist" were given to them by enemies as early as the third century even before the use of the name Catholic. They have also been nicknamed Donatists, Paulicans Albigenes, and Waldenses. Early in the 16th century, prior to the original Lutheran Church, the first Protestant church, the word "ana" was being left off and they were called "Baptists."

I believe we will have no real idea as a denomination where we are going if we don't know where we came from!

For anyone interested in a detailed account of Baptist's history, beliefs and doctrines, I suggest *The Trail of Blood*, written by Dr. J. M. Carroll. It is well-documented and lists historical books used in its preparation. It can be ordered.

Cathy Quillen
Kingsport 37663

Those disconcerting 'new' Bible versions

At a Southern Baptist Convention a messenger came to the podium with a motion "requiring the Foreign Mission Board to use the King James Version exclusively in its worldwide work."

He was reminded that most of the board's work was done in other countries where English was not spoken or understood. That same type of thoughtless demand is made of each of our agencies from time to time.

It would be wonderful if we had only one language for the whole world and that words did not change meanings with time. It would be far simpler to communicate the Gospel. The thousand different languages by which the Gospel must be proclaimed will not allow such simplicity.

One of the favorite characters I pastored as a youth was "Ma" Likens, who had deep convictions at two points. One was that no preacher could preach an orthodox sermon if he wore a colored shirt. The other was "The King James Version was good enough for Paul and Silas; so it is good enough for me."

Somehow, I could never convince this dear friend that she had missed her dating by more than 1,600 years. And that as good as it is, it is still a translation of a translation. Nor is it the original as God gave it in his autographed copies long ago. There was no English language back then.

Personally, I like the King James Version and use it exclusively in my preaching. To me it is the most perfect English ever put on paper. Without a doubt, it is the one loved most and used most by our people.

One of the perplexing dilemmas the Sunday School Board faced was when we began to get "virtual ultimatums" from the young people of our churches that we supplement our printed Scripture texts with more modern translations. To them such words as "begat," "wot," and "faceth" in the King James Version were about as antiquated as Chaucer had been to us in high school.

The harrowing problem

■ a historical view

By James L. Sullivan,
retired BSSB president

was that there are multitudes of people, like "Ma" Likens who think any present day translation is a perversion of the original Scriptures. They are quick to criticize. They fail to see that while language changes, truth always remains the same. The agencies have been careful to use those translations which most accurately translate the Hebrew and Greek in which God spoke His revealed truth.

Recently, I read that there are more than 30,000 words in the English language that Shakespeare never heard. Words have a way of changing meaning even in the Bible. For instance, I was preaching about Stephen getting "stoned" (see Acts 7). To me, stoning was the casting of stones at a person until he was injured or killed. To a student in my class it was different. He understood "stoned" as one getting high on drugs, something Stephen would never do.

Words also reverse their meanings. For instance, Paul spoke of wanting to go to Rome but "was 'let' hitherto" (Romans 1:13). When the King James Version was completed in 1611, the word "let" meant to forbid or hinder. Today it means permit or allow — exactly the opposite.

It must be understood that Baptists' love for belief in the Bible is never compromised. We are making a sincere effort to give precise and exact meanings in today's language.

The Bible speaks to each age in a somewhat different terminology. Updated language is not compromising truth. It is a sincere effort to improve communications so we can know in today's terminology exactly what God revealed in yesterday's language. □ — Sullivan wrote this series of articles for his church newsletter three years ago. Future articles in this series will be reprinted every other week.



SULLIVAN

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



May -

- 19 — The David Grossman family are on furlough, preparing for new work in Curico when they return to Chile.
- 20 — Bill Dyches is leading the Men's Prayer Group of Nuevo Amanecer Church in Rancagua to do evangelistic work.
- 21 — Missionary Mary Jo Cooke holds a Ladies' Bible Study group in her home.
- 22 — Missionary Debbie Butts is beginning to teach piano to associational church members.
- 23 — The Chilean National Woman's Missionary Union is in a time of transition.
- 24 — Jose and Claudina Toledo are witnessing in their neighborhood and starting work in La Florida.
- 25 — Tennessean Eliot Roberts is in Santiago serving as a piano tuner and piano teacher; ministering through the Baptist Seminary, he is teaching students how to tune and repair pianos.

Partnership missions: hands-on compassion

Long ago Tennesseans earned the sobriquet of "volunteers." The name is distinctive and descriptive.

Tennessee Baptists also have a long history of volunteerism, and they have made it a spiritual term for hardworking intense involvement.

The cause, of course, is missions through evangelism, construction, health care, and other ministries more unique. It works.

Though churches minister in the community, a refreshing burst of renewal usually happens after a group returns from a missions effort elsewhere.

It is comparable to Caleb's asking for the rough mountain land after he had seen the easy-to-conquer plains. Or perhaps it is a reminder of Paul's pointed question, "How can they hear the Gospel unless someone is sent?"

Like others involved in a missions partnership, Tennessee Baptist volunteers answer, "Here I am," and respond as volunteers.

No, volunteers aren't always confident in what they can do and how they can do it. They may be nervous about the travel, the language, and the food. But they don't waver about the hands-on ministry and they learn to love the people.

Physically tired but spiritually refreshed from eight days in Chile, the editor gladly heard the Executive Board last week vote to recommend a three-year partnership with Canadian South-

ern Baptists' four western provinces. If approved by Tennessee Baptist Convention messengers in November, this means that partnership missions ministry will continue without interruption.

The Chile partnership will close officially this December, and it has been a very successful experience. Chilean Baptist leaders and missionaries testified to the many good works accomplished. Probably more than 600 volunteers will have ministered alongside Chilean Baptists by year's end.

The Foreign Mission Board has asked Tennessee Baptists to explore the possibility of a partnership with Poland in addition to Canada's west. If this happens, it will be Tennessee's first European agreement, and the first North American alliance.

The future for volunteerism is bright for Tennessee Baptists. After a deep and rewarding experience in Chile, TBC volunteers should be poised for a possible joint venture with two contrasting entities.

Poland would afford the opportunity to experience historical Europe, a culture steeped with ancient heritage and structures now joined with modern change. Canada's west promises a great frontier of open spaces with new opportunities for witness.

Perhaps the most important factor of any partnership mission effort is what happens to those who go. Most Tennessee missions volunteers have good ex-

periences. They report to their churches, and usually additional volunteers are found, the witness of the church is sharpened, and new members join.

The partnership with Michigan also has been strengthened by both state conventions.

Yes, the future of volunteerism is bright, and that should be celebrated and appreciated. At the same time, let us remember the white fields at home that are white, ready for harvest. □

Associations, bless them

There are 68 Baptist associations in Tennessee, representing a network of some 2,900 churches.

In numbers they include Hiwassee with seven churches and Knox County with 149 and all those in between.

The amazing fact is that all 68 have the same goal — to take the message of salvation in Christ to lost people. There are 68 personalities, 68 geographical areas, but the goal is the same.

Our state convention, like others, celebrates Associational Missions Week May 16-22. Honor the associations and each director of missions. Associational leaders always wear "many hats." They are busy, committed, dedicated, compassionate people. As servants, they truly know the role of pastor and laity. They understand cooperation. They are steadfast.

Across the state, let's agree to pray for the work of the associations, and for the DOMs and other leaders. Bless 'em. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

A sweet sorrow

Shakespeare's Juliet tells Romeo in that parting scene, "Parting is such sweet sorrow that I shall say good night until tomorrow."

Sometimes it is difficult to say goodbye. Parting really is a sweet sorrow to people who love each other.

The net worth of a partnership mission can be gauged in several ways.

We can add the number of visits and contacts made, the total number of commitments, the lives won to Christ because of a compassionate Christian witness.

We can think about bodies healed — in addition to new spiritual decisions. We can add the joy experienced by a pastor and church when a building or home is built or repaired. There are other measurements of real joy.

But the bittersweet of that parting sorrow is a true expression of bonds made for a lifetime and renewable in our spiritual eternity.

During the recent partnership mission journey to Talca, Chile, the sweet sorrows were much in evidence.

In the last meeting at each of the dozen churches, kind words were spoken, gifts were exchanged — and the final heart tugs abounded.

They held on to each other as if their hearts would break from the combined joy and tears. Yes, the tears flowed. And there were the whispers of Christian love.

Perhaps the wisest advice I heard during that sojourn to Chile two weeks ago came from a respected pastor.

We sat on a bench in downtown Talca. We talked about the partnership and the successes. He praised Tennessee teams that had worked with his people. He told of the new boldness that the church people were experiencing.

And then Samuel said he had one more bit of advice.

"Don't break your promises," he said. I didn't understand until he added, "If you say you will write to us, don't forget." I said in my heart, real friends won't forget. No, they will never forget. ☺



ALLEN

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

A girl said to her boyfriend, "When my father was young, he made a fortune in a business he founded. Would you like to know how he did it?"

He replied, "Not really. What I'd like to know is does he still have it."

Take this thought

To start well is half the battle, but it's only half. Some of our most successful young people do not know how to handle their success and the wealth they receive. Many end up failures before they pass middle age.

Memorize this Scripture

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free" (Galatians 5:1).

Pray this prayer

Lord, keep me from thinking early successes guarantee continued victories. Help me realize I must avoid what the palmist calls "the destruction that wasteth at noonday" (Psalm 90:6). □

Forgiveness is vital part of healing

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

Once the wound has been acknowledged and the emotions of hate and revenge have

been drained, we can get on with the process of healing.

Healing is accomplished by turning loose, letting go of anger and desire for revenge so we can finish our business with the incident or person that has hurt us.

There is much discussion in the Christian community about forgiving and forgetting. Jeremiah tells us God says, "I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more" (Jeremiah 31:34, NASV).

For some this may make God into a type of doting old grandfather who can't remember anymore.

This seems contrary to the nature and character of God as I understand Him. He is omniscient, all knowing. He knows the number of hairs left on my balding head, my thoughts before I think them and certainly everything I have ever done or ever will do.

He chooses to remember to forget. He makes a conscious, volitional choice to refuse to let

what we have done affect the way he responds in mercy.

This is made easier for me to understand when I consider that even God only forgives those who repent and ask for forgiveness. Jesus said in Luke 13:3, "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

But it is still hard to face

the fact that I am instructed to forgive as often as I am asked (until 70 x 7). Especially in the family, it is difficult to forgive the same person for the same thing.

Another consideration is that God's forgiveness does not take away the consequences of my sin. When I lie, others may forgive me, but the consequence may be that they will not be sure when they can believe me again. This does not necessarily mean that I have not been forgiven.

Healing comes when we can close the wound that has been created and struggle with

the effort to return to a sense of wholeness and normalcy in the relationship, especially in the family. Virtually all wounds leave scars. Scars are evidence at times that healing has occurred as well as reminders to avoid the circumstances that caused the wound.

Healing for me is the process of struggling with efforts to pet that dog that bit me when I last came through the yard. Only time and experience can effect true healing in the effort to forgive. □

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

More volunteers needed for mission projects in Chile

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

It was almost winter when I visited Chile. Late April saw harbingers of cold weather.

The last summer roses were braving the bluster of fall along Avenida Varas, Puerto Montt.

Yes, the air had been crisp when we left Tennessee, but it was springtime.

The poplars along the avenues and in the fields were yellow, giving a last burst of splendor before arrival of the cold winter rains. Despite the onrush of winter, our hearts caught the warmth of Chilean Baptists.

From the big window of the Hotel Burg upstairs bayside room, I could see the ferries plying back and forth across the harbor, trading vessels moving into the docks, and smaller police and fishing boats hugging the shore.

The night before this day, the cold front moved across the land, the torrents of rain dissipated, and we saw the sun.

The incomparable guide

Richard Poe, missionary stationed in Santiago, had met me in the capital city, hurried me aboard the Lan Chile flight south to Puerto Montt and ushered me hours later to the cozy hotel.

He is the Partnership Mission "on site" coordinator, and he had brought with him a detailed list of all projects where Tennessee Baptists had worked in Chile since January 1992. We looked at a couple of projects in Puerto Montt that first afternoon, in the rain, and had studied thoroughly the complete list that night.

We knew where we would

be going for the next week, and the sunny weather was going to help us "feel" those projects as we looked at the sites.

Looking across the harbor and then glancing at the broad avenue that ran below the window where a celebration was beginning, I remembered some words of veteran (34 years) missionary Archie Jones.

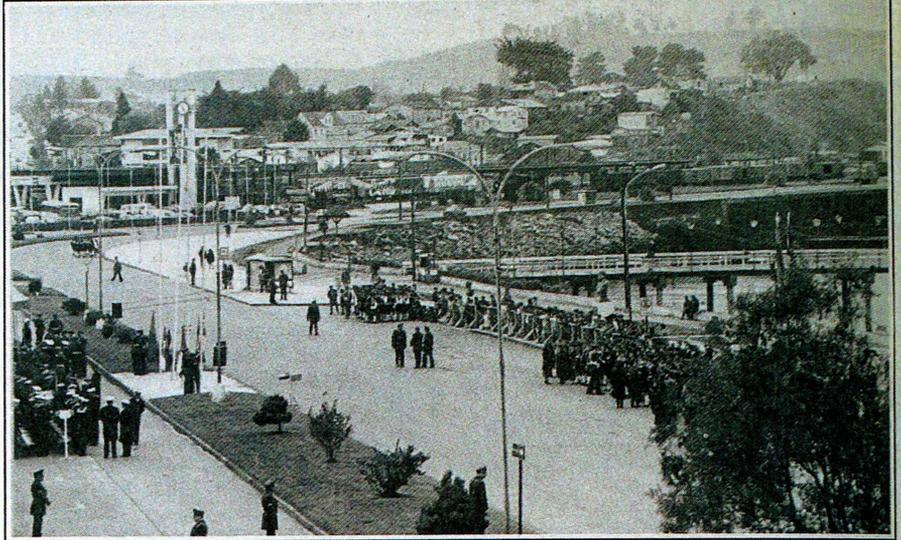
Jones, his wife Caroline and their daughter Elizabeth, had moved out from Puerto Montt to North Carolina for a last furlough and "retirement."

He had written, "There are a few more things we want to accomplish during this last year if the Lord permits. There are four or five more buildings that are in some stage of progress. We may not see them all finished, but we can get them far along. Caroline's group of German women need to get more involved in the church. Our church leadership needs real help in development. We must get some deacons named and functioning. Pray with us as we work with several groups of Tennessee volunteers during the year."

Now Richard Poe would carefully guide me in viewing those and many other projects where Tennesseans have worked unselfishly with missionaries and Chile Baptists.

The celebration along Avenida Varas was the last real carefree hour we would see for a week, though we would be treated to other serendipities.

School was out that day, and the armed forces and civic leaders joined in a colorful, smart observance of the 67th anniversary of the founding of the national police force, Los Carabineros de Chile.



THE PORT CITY OF Puerto Montt celebrates, along with many other Chilean cities and towns, the annual observance of the founding of the National Carabineros. The schools turned out as did units of all military armed forces.

The carabineros form a strong, well-trained, patriotic force, offering a measure of stability in national life. It functions as a disciplined undergirding of law and order.

This day was special and celebrated with pomp, parades, and speeches, in towns and cities across Chile. It is an annual national holiday, and we loved it.

We hurried to the airport then and began the trek north, flying first to Temuco, then to Concepcion, and ending up in Talca after a four-hour train ride through the countryside, to rejoin the evangelism team from Tennessee with whom I had flown from Nashville and Miami. They worked with churches in the Talca area for several days.

No shoestring operation

Twenty years ago a respectable international magazine had dubbed Chile the "republic on a shoestring."

The shoestring now has the shoe laced tightly, and beautiful Chile has a much healthier economy and a bright future. And Baptist work has been strengthened with the partnership.

Tennessee Baptist volunteers usually notice the general attitude of healthy nationalism and strong cultural interests.

Working with church groups volunteers also see the genuine feelings of compassion evidenced in Chilean Baptists.

Working side by side

There are 54 Southern Baptist missionaries at work in Chile, and Tennessee Baptists

probably have worked with all of them. Of course several may be on furlough at the same time, so the mission force is not always at maximum numbers. Richard and Carol Poe (Oak Ridge and Atlanta) have been on site coordinators during the partnership, working out of the Santiago office.

They are responsible for coordinating all projects — from request through each step of the process, until approval and assignments of Tennessee volunteers.

This means working closely with field missionaries, Chilean Baptists, Foreign Mission Board representatives, and Jarvis Hearn, Chile partnership director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

A discovery team from the TBC visited in late October 1991, and recommended the partnership. Agreement was approved at the November TBC annual meeting.

Five Tennessee volunteers helped renovate a building for Third Church, Osorno in early March 1992, for the first project.

As we visited in Puerto Montt, missionary David Miller showed another project to Richard Poe and me.

Missionary Karen Wright, now on a short emergency furlough, planted a church in a housing project there. Mirasol had begun building when I visited the site in 1991.

A Tennessee team of four did the interior work on the sanctuary and educational rooms in March 1992. In October 1993, a team of 12 from Sullivan Association led by DOM Tommy Holtzclaw, built

a home for the pastor onto the rear of the church building.

First evangelism team

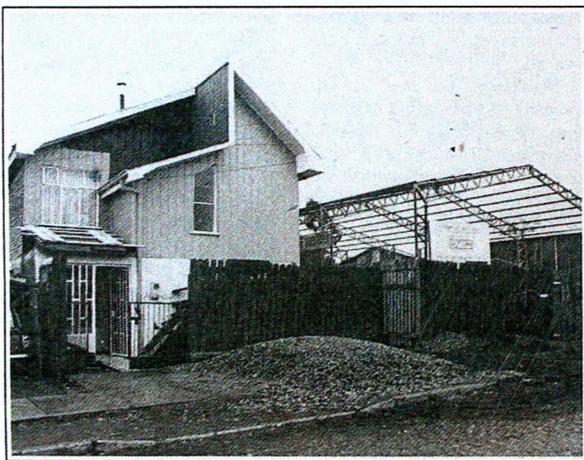
The first evangelism team of the partnership was in April 1992 in the Central Valley District. Volunteers from Woodmont and Two Rivers churches, Nashville, worked with 11 churches and missions.

There were 90 decisions for Christ and 47 commitments.

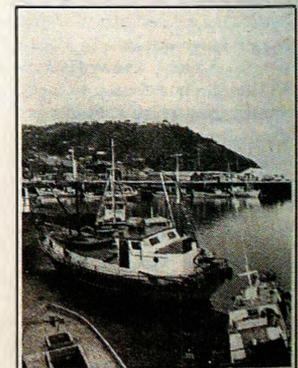
The first medical team went to Concepcion in the Bio Bio District in late April 1992. Nine churches participated. The medical team of 10, led by Bill and Frances Skinner of Two Rivers Church, saw 2,144 patients and 206 made spiritual decisions.

Rosa Navarro, WMU director for that district, told us the medical project made a big impact in the area.

"Our churches worked together," she said, "and we needed that. The team members were patient, kind, caring. — See next page



ONE OF MANY CONSTRUCTION projects by Tennessee volunteers, is Bet-El Baptist Church, Concepcion. The pastor's home, left, was painted, and volunteers also cleared the site at right for the new sanctuary now under construction. They also repaired the fence.



THE HARBOR at Puerto Montt is one of Chile's best seaports. It is a center of shipping activity all year.

'We have felt deeply that the partnership is God inspired.'

- Miguel Ceberra
Chile Baptist leader

— Continued from previous page
We began to realize that we could help the people too in similar ways."

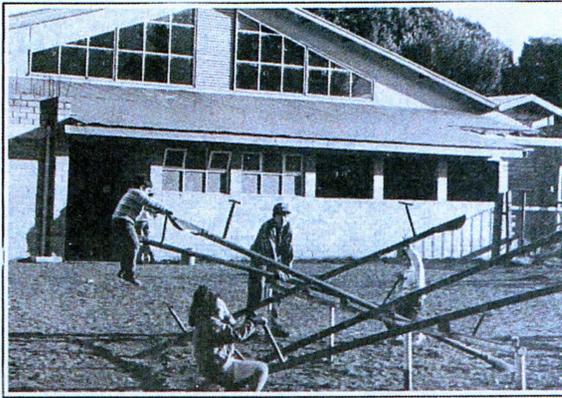
She told about a woman who worked all day helping others see the doctors. She also needed medical attention, but she waited until the end of the day after making sure the others had been cared for.

Novocaine has been in short supply, she said. "It was like a miracle when a lady had teeth pulled and did not feel it because the dentists had brought novocaine." She added, "Now people are asking, 'When will the doctors return?'"

Navarro told of two Tennessee WMU volunteers who worked in six places. "They helped our women understand servant leadership," she said.

Looking at Temuco

Everyone who has known



TENNESSEANS built the front wall for this gymnasium at the Baptist Academy in Temuco. Several partnership missions projects have been done at the school.

A Tennessee volunteer bricked the front wall of the school gymnasium in October 1992, and another stripped and refinished a gym floor.

Another testimony

Samuel Castro, president of the district which includes Concepcion, is pastor of Gethsemane Church, Talcahuano.

"The district feels blessed by the partnership," he says. "When we had a crusade in October 1993, we recognized immediately the humility of the volunteers.

"They were at ease with the people on a personal basis. The attitude was good. Ten churches were involved, and there were 16 who came from Tennessee."

Castro said the building of a pastor's home at Fourth Church, Concepcion, was a great event. "It was a big home by local standards, and has helped

the church call a full-time pastor." That group of 15 came from First Church, Nashville.

Other projects completed

A variety of other projects have been completed by Ten-

nessee volunteers, and they have helped substantially in many others.

June 1992: four BSU youth painted in the Baptist Center, Puerto Varas, and Mirasol Mission, Puerto Montt.

April 1992: 27 volunteers in a crusade in the Central Valley District, 90 professions.

May 1992: four students from Belmont with Kathy Sharp, Smyrna, Spiritual Emphasis Week, Baptist Academy, Temuco.

July 1992: Evangelism Crusade, central Coast District, 17 volunteers, 99 professions.

August 1992: Prayer Retreats in South District, seven WMU volunteers, 28 Chilean churches.

August 1992: School teacher (BSU missionary) for English and recreation at El Sembrador Padre Las Casas Church, Temuco.

January 1993: Five volunteers building a parsonage for pastor at Molina Church in Central Valley District.

March 1993: Evangelistic Revival, San Carlos Mission, Bio Bio District, two volunteers and a need to build later this year.

May 1993: Evangelism Crusade, Santiago, a team of 41, with 261 professions.

March 1993: General Medical Projects, Concepcion. Eight churches and 25 volun-



ONE OF THE CHILDREN'S choirs at the Baptist Church in Constitucion, southwest of Talca. A Tennessee team worked there.

teers, 2,733 patients, and 393 spiritual decisions.

January 1993: Canning and freezing food for Girls' Home, Temuco, two volunteers.

October 1993: Church building for Esmeraldas Mission, Curico, seven volunteers.

October 1993: Largest general medical project, another of Dr. Dewey Dunn and group; 6,437 patients attended and 443 spiritual decisions, 51 volunteers.

There have been many oth-

er volunteers filling special needs such as teaching and training, RA and GA work, speaking to missionaries and Chile leadership, camp for missionaries' children.

In future issues until the partnership concludes, the *Baptist and Reflector* will use information and photos on other projects.

With seven months left, there is much to be done. □



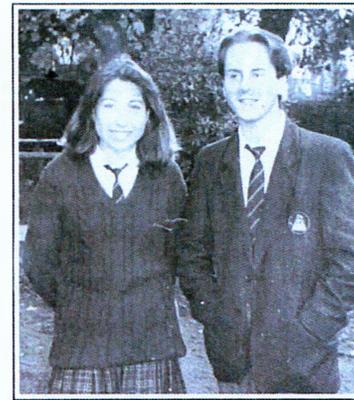
A TEAM OF 15 built the pastor's home in back of Fourth Church, Concepcion.

anything about Baptist work in Chile is also eager to learn about the Colegio Bautista.

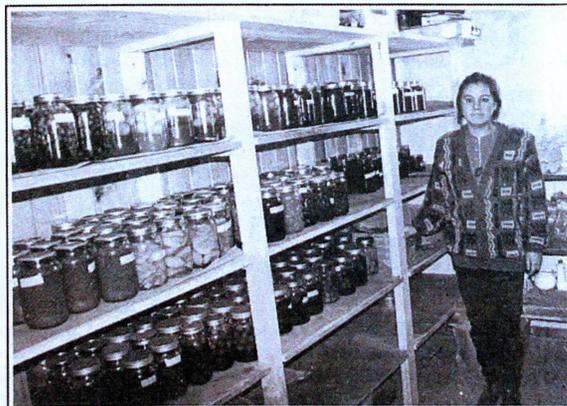
One of the premier schools in the country, the Baptist school was begun by missionary Agnes Graham in 1922 because "girls were not allowed to go to school."

There are 1,025 students today in the onetime girls' school, and it carries grades kindergarten through 12. Grundy Janes is the principal, and has logged 25 years on the job. His wife Jean is head of the English Department. Gene Huckaby is business administrator and has been there 23 years. His wife, Jan, heads the rehabilitation center on campus.

Mike Racey is director of the Bible Institute on campus, and Annette is a teacher.



THE BAPTIST ACADEMY in Temuco is one of the top schools. More than 70 years old, the school continues a high standard of excellence. Carmen Reyes and Patricio Verdello are current students.



TENNESSEANS CANNED this fruit for Girls' Home, Temuco.

What's there to do for volunteers?

In the seven months remaining of the Chile/Tennessee Partnership, several opportunities are still available for volunteer work in Chile, according to Jarvis Hearn, TBC Partnership Missions Director.

Projects include:

- One team of four to five males and four to five females for youth evangelism in Temuco, July 15-25.

- One team of 20-30 persons to provide medical care in Temuco, Aug. 6-15. Team should include general practitioners, dentists, dental assistants, nurses, one ophthalmologist, pastors, pharmacists, and pediatric doctors.

- Two to four people to work with youth in Santiago church, Aug. 9-16. Knowledge of creative ministries such as puppetry and music is needed.

- Two single females to teach quilting techniques to women in La Serena, Sept. 24-Oct. 2.

- A musical soloist or small group to sing in Spanish in the National Stadium or a similar place in Santiago, Nov. 3-14.

- Seven teams, each with a pastor, for a total of up to 22 people to conduct an evangelistic crusade in the Temuco area, Nov. 5-15.

For additional information on these missions opportunities, contact Hearn at (615) 371-2028. □

Kingsport church uses creative arts as ministry tool

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Susie Toomey is a strong believer in the creative arts.

The creative arts (clowning, drama, puppetry) get people's attention so you can "hit them with the message (of Christ)," said Toomey, who heads the creative arts ministry at Indian Springs Church in Kingsport.

Creative arts is effective whether it is used in worship services or in summer missions programs such as Vacation Bible Schools and Backyard Bible Clubs, Toomey said in an interview with the *Baptist and Reflector*. Toomey was in Nashville for the recent Drama, Puppetry, Clowning Festival sponsored by the Ten-

nessee Baptist Convention's Church Media Library/Church Recreation Office (which has since become a department). Toomey coordinated the worship service for the festival.

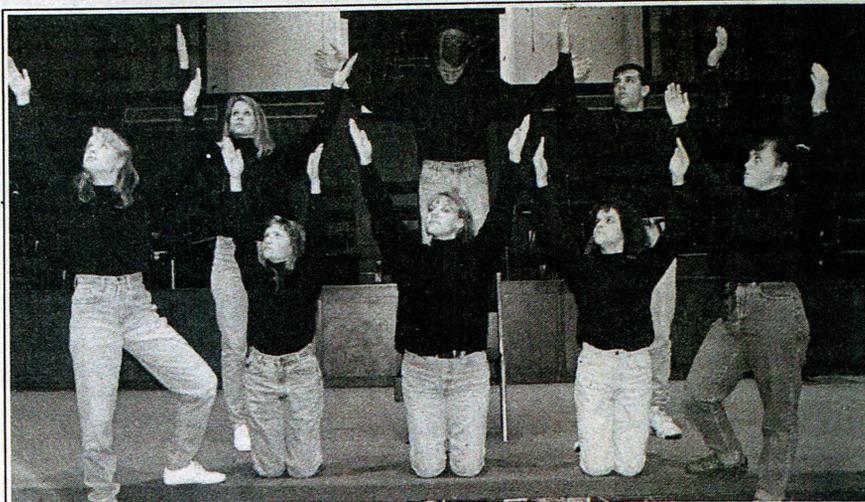
For a church its size (average attendance of about 300 in Sunday School), Indian Springs has one of the best creative arts ministries in the state, according to Eleanor Yarborough, director of the TBC department.

"The creative arts reaches out and grabs anybody, whether it is children in a Backyard Bible Club or people sitting in a worship service. It (the creative arts) speaks in an incredible way," affirmed Toomey, who first began working in creative arts 18 years ago while at a church in Cleveland.

After joining Indian Springs Church about 10 years ago she soon began a creative arts ministry there which has blossomed and grown through the years.

The church now has programs for youth, including puppet and drama teams, and an adult drama team. The church's youth drama team, "The Rainbow Connection," which uses primarily mime, travels to other churches for Sunday evening worship and youth rallies as well as conducting a mission tour during the summer. Toomey estimated that three-fourths of Indian Springs' youth are involved in some aspect of the creative arts.

Toomey credits a supportive



AMONG MEMBERS of "The Rainbow Connection" at Indian Springs Church who performed during the recent Drama, Puppetry, and Clowning Festival in Nashville were, from left, front row, Deborah Morley, Sarah Morgan, Melissa Broome, Abby Simmons, and Allison Secrest; back row, Kelly Toomey, Rodney Holland, and Andy Leonard.

church staff and congregation for helping the ministry to grow like it has.

Pastor Tom Suiter is open to the creative arts and even does biblical monologues himself, Toomey noted. And, the church's minister of music and youth, Mike Morgan, also is open and receptive to the creative arts approach, often working with Toomey to combine music and the creative arts.

"The creative arts is not preliminary. It's an integral part of the worship time," Morgan affirmed. He compared the creative arts to the parables of Jesus because both "illustrate biblical principles." The cre-

ative arts makes Scripture "come alive," Morgan said.

The support of congregation and staff has been an encouragement to Toomey, a professor at King College in Bristol. "It has made a difference in my level of intensity in wanting to develop new skits and routines," said Toomey who writes the material her groups use.

And while Indian Springs "is not a big wealthy church," the congregation annually budgets an amount for the creative arts, primarily for the purchase of new puppets and travel, Toomey said.

The cost for a creative arts ministry, depending on its type, can be relatively low,

thus even small churches could afford a ministry such as clowning, she observed.

One of the "rewards" of Toomey's ministry at Indian Springs has been seeing "kids mature from the seventh grade until they go off to college." Several of the youth have continued to use what they learned at Indian Springs as a ministry tool after they left.

One of those "graduates" is her own daughter, Kelly, now a student at King College. "I've seen myself and others grow as a result of being in the group," Kelly said, adding that she would like to start her own group later. □



SUSIE TOOMEY and Mike Morgan of Indian Springs, Kingsport, were active in the recent Drama, Puppetry, Clowning Festival held at Judson Church in Nashville.



THE ROCK, a landmark at the church, was used during "horse and buggy" days. Some members disposed of it once, but it caused such a disturbance among those who wanted to keep it that it was found and brought back.



JOINING IN THE celebration May 8 at Lascassus were former pastors, from left, Franklin Cobb, Frank Edwards, James Lasiter (holding pulpit Bible from 1848), Milas Ayers, and current pastor Darrel Whaley.



PASTOR DARREL WHALEY presents a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to deacon chairman Lew Cook.



AMONG MEMBERS at Bradley's Creek who have belonged to the church 50 years or more are, from left, Eitta Moore Lester, Dayton Lester, Lew Cook, and Mattie B. Wrather. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey

Historic Concord Association church celebrates 175 years of history; building survived Civil War

Bradley's Creek Church in Lascassas celebrated its 175th anniversary May 8. The church, which began in 1819, still meets in a sanctuary built in 1844. Though the church has added to the structure and done some renovation, the building still looks the same as it did when first built. Pastor Darrel Whaley praised the people who have stood with the church for 175 years and noted that its future will require the same type of commitment from present members. □

■ the churches

■ **First Church, Rutherford**, will celebrate its 125th anniversary June 26.

■ A May 22-25 revival will be held by **Pistole Church, Sparta**. Greg Long of Maryville will speak and Harold Mills will lead the music.

■ **Brush Creek Church, Brush Creek**, reported two people made professions of faith and several rededicated their lives during its April 10-14 revival. Tom Mooty led it.

■ **Antioch Church, Brownsville**, will host Carol Peyton Minisheew, missionary in Kenya, Africa, who will speak on Sunday morning, May 22.

■ **First Church, Carthage**, has baptized six people following its March revival which was led by Dean Haun, pastor, Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage.

■ Renovation at **Peyton's Creek Church, Carthage**, includes the addition of a new steeple with chimes.

■ Don Short led the February revival at **First Church, Gordonsville**, which resulted in 10 people making professions of faith.

■ One person made a profession of faith during the April 17-24 revival at **New Middleton Church, Gordonsville**. Mark Stinnett led it.

■ **Bethel Church, Henderson**, will hold Vacation Bible School May 30 - April 3.

■ **First Church, White Pine**, reports 16 people made professions of faith and three joined the church during a recent revival. Phil Glisson led it.

■ **Campbell County Association** held a True Love Waits youth rally April 26 at First Church, Jacksboro. About 75 youth made a commitment to sexual abstinence outside of marriage during the rally.

■ the associations

■ **Campbell County Association** held a True Love Waits youth rally April 26 at First Church, Jacksboro. About 75 youth made a commitment to sexual abstinence outside of marriage during the rally.

■ **Big Hatchie Association** held a World Missions Conference in which 33 of its 35 churches participated. During the conference 21 missionaries spoke on 145 occasions.

■ A team from **McMinn-Meigs Association** will work in West Alton, Mo., July 30 - Aug. 5 doing disaster relief work which resulted from the 1993 summer floods.

■ **Nashville Association** will host Musicfest 1994 on May 22 at Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, beginning at 2:30 p.m.

■ **Chilhowee Association** had 270 boys attend an associ-

ational Royal Ambassador Congress.

■ the people

■ **Stanton Nash** was ordained a deacon by Pistole Church, Sparta.

■ the leaders

■ **Emory Layne** is the new pastor of Mount Vernon Church, Sale Creek.

■ **Kenneth Mull** was ordained by East View Church, Etowah, April 17 and called as associate minister.

■ **Steve Shipley**, pastor, Rome Church, Lebanon, celebrates his first anniversary as pastor May 1.

■ **Tommy Ferguson**, youth and outreach director, Radnor Church, Nashville, has been called as pastor of Hickman Church, Hickman, effective May 1.

■ **Ashport Church, Ripley**, has called **Champ Thomas Jr.**, as pastor, effective April 3. The former pastor of Temple Church, Grenada, Miss., is a graduate of Crichton College (formerly Mid-South Bible College), Memphis, and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.



BREAKING GROUND on April 24 for the new facility of Oak Valley Church, Franklin, are, from left, Everett Floyd, architect; Jim Gallery, pastor; Monroe Smith; Jerre Richards; Martin Markham; Bill Anderson, minister of music; Don Balthrop, building contractor; and Greer Carlisle representing a local bank. The congregation, which meets in a home and portable buildings, will build a facility for worship, education, and offices.



FIRST CHURCH, HOHENWALD, gathers on May 1 to break ground for a new 600-seat worship center which will include preschool classes and a rehearsal/conference room. Leading the ceremony are members of the building committee, from left, Sue Sharp; David Bell, chairman; Tim Miller, pastor; Eddie DeNicolais; and Doris Duncan. The 12,000 square foot center will be built by volunteer labor begun by Carpenters for Christ June 3-10.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Bond felt in association

By Tommy Sullivan
director of missions, Sullivan Association

The sweet fellowship of the brethren is one of the things which greatly enhances the will of God in our midst. I see it almost everywhere I go and I praise our Lord as I see so many of you involved in Christian fellowship.

I see it when our churches worship together as in the case of First Church, Kingsport, and Shiloh Church, Kingsport, combining their services on a couple of occasions.

I see it when members from several of our churches, who had not known each other very well before, mesh together for the Lord to form a marvelous mission team.

I see it as our committees are formed and watch them operate in an atmosphere of sincere respect and gratitude.

I see marvelous examples of Christian fellowship when folks from many of our churches work together to build a new disaster relief trailer.

I see it when the volunteers take up for each other, speak well of one another,

and sacrifice to make sure we have every piece of material we need to complete our job.

I see this fellowship when the WMU and BYW ladies want to support our volunteer missionaries by purchasing Bibles to send with them and make up special care packages with tracts inside for them to give away.

I see sweet fellowship when I see one person smile with pride at the accomplishment of a brother or sister or rejoice when a friend's needs are met.

I see it when you rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those in our midst who are mourning.

I see it in your trust. I see it in your love for one another. I see it as you care. I love the sweet fellowship! Thanks.

Please remember to pray for the mission team going to Maracaibo, Venezuela, May 13-23, to preach and witness for our precious Lord. □

A sure foundation

By Randall Cash
minister to adults, First Church, Nashville

It was one of those weeks when it

seemed tough situations were happening to many of our members. Several were in the hospital facing critical situations, yet there was evidence of hope as I visited those facing these circumstances. Some of our families were dealing with the loss of a loved one, and yet in the midst of these very tough circumstances, there was evidence of hope and strong faith.

Some of you reading these words may have been in one of these situations. We, as a staff, are studying *Experiencing God* together each week. One unit deals with titles or descriptions of God. One such title was "a sure foundation" (Isaiah 28:16).

I had read this earlier in the morning and happened to be in the new building around noon when I heard the warning whistle sound indicating they were about to detonate dynamite in the arena construction site.

I walked over to the window and looked out over the construction site to see what was taking place. People had prepared themselves for the upcoming blast, traffic on Broadway had been halted, and everyone stood ready for the rumble that usually rattles everything in the church office.

Suddenly dust flew through the air and a section of rock and soil rumbled and expanded into a mound of rubble ready to be hauled off.

I couldn't help but think how nice it would be to have a warning whistle in our lives that prepared us for a tough situation we were about to encounter. Would it really benefit us, or would it only frighten and cause confusion?

Whatever your feelings about this, the great realization is in the promise that God is always with us. He leads and comforts us in the midst of the situations, always offering hope when things seem hopeless. Continue to strive for a closer walk with God, our sure foundation, when all else seems shaken, and stand firm. □

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.

From borrowed bookcase, 100 books church media library far exceeds humble beginning 50 years later at FBC, Murfreesboro

For Baptist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — The church media library at First Church, Murfreesboro, began with a borrowed bookcase and 100 volumes to be used primarily for Sunday School.

Fifty years later, the library now ministers to the entire church fellowship with 19,290 books, 437 cassette tapes, 515 videotapes, 95 pieces of audio-visual equipment, and vertical files.

The church media library at First Church is now one of the largest and oldest of Tennessee Baptist churches.

The church recently celebrated the anniversary of its church media library, which, after five moves, occupies a large room adjacent to the sanctuary. The celebration included an open house, a special dessert fellowship, and a written history of the library. The church also has a separate library for children. The library adds about 150-200 books each quarter and is funded through the church budget and memorial gifts.

According to church media library director Helen Brown, the library was a dream of Isa Lee Freeman, founding librari-

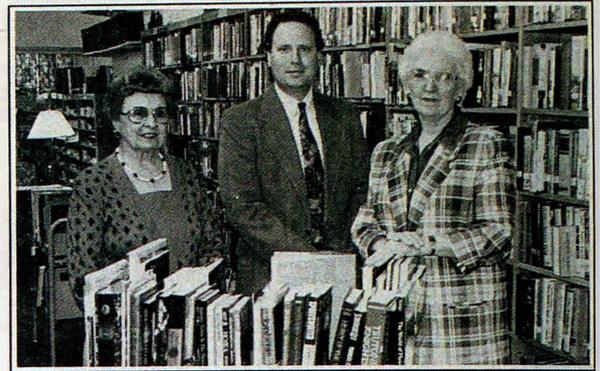
an, who is still active in the work at First Church. Freeman has written that the purpose of the library when it began was to "minister to the spiritual, educational, and recreational needs of Sunday School members, both children and adults."

And, that remains the goal today, Brown said, noting that Freeman, who served as the library's director for 38 years, had a "vision of what the library could be. We've just built on that."

The church media library is operated by 25 volunteers, plus an additional 15 who serve as promotional workers. Two volunteers, Freeman and Florence Sanford, have been involved since the beginning.

Sanford laughs that she has read "about every book" in the library. As one of the original workers, Sanford noted there was not a public library in the area when First Church began its library 50 years ago. The church's ministry gave her access to books she did not have, Sanford said.

Brown, who has directed the church media library for 13 years, credited the church's pastors, including retired pastor Eugene Cotey and current pastor Mark Gregory, for pro-



PASTOR MARK GREGORY of First Church, Murfreesboro, confers with church media library director Helen Brown, right, and Florence Sanford, one of two volunteers who helped begin the library 50 years ago and are still active. The Murfreesboro church has one of the largest and oldest church libraries among TBC churches.

viding support to the library.

In a time where people don't seem to read as much, the adults and children at First Church take advantage of their facility, Brown said.

New people who join the church are amazed at the size of our library. "It makes you feel you're providing a service that's really important," Brown said. □ — Lonnie Wilkey



CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY volunteers Edna Rhea Vaughn, promotions director, and Tom Brown, prepare a banner for display in the church media library at First Church, Murfreesboro. The library staff averages about 25 persons, plus an additional 15 who work in promotion.

Southern Seminary taps Tennessean for communications post

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE — Mary Eilen Price, an account executive with a Nashville public relations firm, has been named director of communications at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Price has been an account executive with Dye, Van Mol, and Lawrence Public Relations for the past three years.

Price earned a bachelor's

degree in English from Belmont University. While a student, she worked at a Nashville television station.

In her new role in the seminary's public relations office, Price's work will emphasize public relations and marketing projects. Other communications staff members at the seminary are Michael Duduit,

director of public relations, and Pat Cole, another Tennessean from Elizabethton, director of news and information.

Price is a member of First Church, Nashville. Her father, Carl Price, is pastor of LaGuardo Church, Lebanon. □

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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Help in times of tribulation — Bible Book Series for May 22

By Brent Seals, pastor, First Church, Elizabethton

For the Christian, the sorrows of life are pregnant with potential for joy! Those who live with faith in the resurrection have gone from sorrow to joy. As they came to know Christ, their mourning over sins was turned to joy. It is the continuing experience of Christian growth that difficulties do spawn joy.

It is hard to imagine the misery of the disciples in the Upper Room with Jesus, as they saw their Master in those hours before his death, apparently helpless. Jesus did not replace their sorrow with something more desirable. He transformed their sorrow into joy.

Joy and sorrow — v. 20

Jesus himself experienced this same transformation in his life, as his deepest sorrow became the source of his greatest joy. Isaiah 53:3 describes Jesus as "despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." Hebrews 12:2 describes him as One who,

"for the joy set before him, endured the cross." The miracle of the cross transformed sorrows into joy for Jesus' disciples. It can work the same miracles in us.

When their little daughter died, R. A. Torrey and his wife went through a time of great heartache. Standing beside the grave, watching her daughter's body being buried, Mrs. Torrey said, "I am so glad Elizabeth is with the Lord and not in that box." Despite this, their hearts were broken. Later as Dr. Torrey walked down the street, the misery came to him anew. He felt loneliness and heartbreak. He cried out, "Oh, Elizabeth! Elizabeth!" Just then the Holy Spirit broke through, giving Dr. Torrey what he describes as the most joyful moment he had ever known in his life. It was not that he no longer missed his daughter, but that he had entered into the transforming power that the cross and resurrection bring

Focal Passages
John 16:19-27, 30-33

cross a new arrangement was inaugurated. The disciples were to ask in Jesus' name, and that is why we pray in his name. Some people have believed if you tag Jesus' name on the end of your prayer, you could ask for anything you wish and you would get it. It is true that we are to ask in his name, but asking in his name brings some constraints. It means we do not come in our own names. Praying in Christ's name means coming only in his merit, not our own. The second requirement is that we pray in correspondence with Christ's character and objectives. This means we pray for what Christ would want, not necessarily what we want. Oswald Chambers says, "The idea of prayer is not to get answers from God; prayer is perfect and complete oneness with God."

Joy and prayer — vv. 23-24

Before the cross, the disciples either asked Jesus directly or prayed to the Father as Christ taught them to pray. After the

cross a new arrangement was inaugurated. The disciples were to ask in Jesus' name, and that is why we pray in his name.

Some people have believed if you tag Jesus' name on the end of your prayer, you could ask for anything you wish and you would get it. It is true that we are to ask in his name, but asking in his name brings some constraints.

It means we do not come in our own names. Praying in Christ's name means coming only in his merit, not our own.

The second requirement is that we pray in correspondence with Christ's character and objectives. This means we pray for what Christ would want, not necessarily what we want. Oswald Chambers says, "The idea of prayer is not to get answers from God; prayer is perfect and complete oneness with God."

The final requirement for prayer in Jesus' name is submis-

sion. This means that we yield to the process of the cross and resurrection, death and life, sorrow and joy. We must submit to this process or we are not submitting to Jesus' name. Prayer in Jesus' name brings a special joy (v. 24).

Joy and faith — vv. 28-33

Our faith in the Lord influences our growth in knowledge. The two are connected throughout the Scripture. The Christian life starts with faith, and growth in him continues in the same way. Paul wrote: "As you receive Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him" (Colossians 2:6). How did you receive him? By faith. How are you to walk in him? By faith. In the days ahead, the disciples' knowledge would come together, the pieces would fall into place, and the puzzle would become clear. Eyes of faith experience joy over sorrow and tribulation.

Do you find yourself in the ring, slugging it out with life? Don't get discouraged. God is in your corner. □

□ Bear fruit of the Spirit — Convention Uniform Series for May 22

By Mike Thrower, pastor, Brunswick Church, Brunswick

Last July 4 everyone who attended the Sunday morning service at our church was given a ball point pen. Printed on the side were these words: "Freedom of religion is useless without practice of religion." It was meant to be a reminder that it is important for us to exercise our freedoms, not just talk about them.

Paul wanted the Galatians to know that freedom in Christ was not just a sermon topic, but a reality to be lived. He wanted them to know they were free to be free.

Free to be free — vv. 1-12

Once Christ had set them free from the bondage of sin, they were to live as free men. Paul felt deeply that to return to the law was to deny the freedom Christ brought. He says it is a return to slavery (v. 1), a condition in which Christ is no longer

of benefit to you (v. 2). The choice must be made. Will you trust in Christ and his grace or will you trust in the legalism of works and the law? You can't trust in both. Your trust must be in Christ and in Christ alone.

Paul uses circumcision as symbolic of the law. One who trusts in Christ and then decides that he must be circumcised is denying the all-sufficiency of Christ. Paul says such a person must be willing to take up the whole law and keep it perfectly for he has rejected the grace of Christ. This one has chosen the old covenant instead of the new covenant.

The Judaizers will lead you astray with their legalism if you let them. Christ will free you from the burden of works if you will let him. You must choose. Chose to be free.

Free to love others — vv. 13-15

Your freedom is not to be used selfishly. It is not meant to be an opportunity for the flesh (v. 13) that is for sinning. Use your freedom instead to serve others. Paul quotes Leviticus 19:18, a passage Jesus quoted when asked about the greatest commandment (Mark 12:31). We are to love others as ourselves. In fact, love for others, especially for the brethren, is to be our trademark, that which identifies us to others (John 13:35).

Free to walk by the Spirit — vv. 16-26

The law was the Old Testament guide to righteousness. To live by the law was to live a good life. Under the new covenant the Lord sent the Holy Spirit as a guide. To live according to his leading is to live a righteous life.

The flesh opposes the Spirit. To give direction Paul lists some

of the deeds of the flesh (v. 19-21). These include sexual sins, sins of religion (idolatry, sorcery), social sins, and sins of the spirit. This is a list of "don'ts" for the believer.

Paul then lists the things that indicate a walk with God. These are the fruit of the Spirit. Note the singular here (v. 22). The fruit of the spirit is not nine different fruits. It is not like apples, oranges, lemons, etc. It is more like a bunch of grapes. Each is separate and distinct, but all are a part of the whole. Each believer receives the fruit in its entirety to some degree. The degree to which each is evident is dependent upon the faithfulness of the believer and what he does with it.

Love, joy, peace, patience (long-suffering), kindness (gentleness), goodness, faithfulness, gentleness (meekness), and self-

Focal Passage
Galatians 5:1-26

control (temperance). There are whole sermons to be preached about each of these. A good concordance or Bible dictionary will provide a multitude of insight for the serious student.

This fruit of the Spirit is only for the believer. These, according to Paul, have crucified the flesh. That is, they have let the old ways die, so that they may live according to the ways of Christ.

If we claim life in the Spirit, then let us live that life according to the Spirit (v. 25). The old saying is true. We need to walk the talk, not just talk the talk.

Finally, be careful not to let the ways of the flesh creep back into our lives. Things like boasting, challenging one another and envy (v. 26) are not a part of the fruit of the Spirit. □

□ Declaring the only way — Life and Work Series for May 22

By Tommy Stevens, Meadow View Church, Lawrenceburg

People have been trying to get to God since Adam and Eve left the garden of Eden. The problem is that man's way to God is the wrong way. Paul deals with several of mankind's failed attempts and declares that the only way to God is through Jesus.

Beware of pickle prudes — vv. 1-2

Christians ought to be happy, but some people gripe and complain about everything and everybody. Their witness is negative in its thrust and negative in its impact. Who wants a snarly religion that makes one miserable? Paul calls us to rejoice. Religious leaders who were baptized in pickle juice in Paul's day were probably Christianized Jews who

perverted the Gospel into something to do instead of someone to be. Paul said, "Be very careful that these folks don't influence you. Let Christ do in you and you concentrate on being."

Beware of pious perverters — vv. 3-4a

Paul refers to the church as the true Israel in this passage and in other passages (Romans 11 and Galatians 3). We do not boast of great deeds deserving of salvation for no one can claim those kinds of deeds, though some do. We rejoice in, or brag about Jesus, for he is our claim to salvation. He has done all the work and he deserves all the glory. We have his mark, not in our flesh, but in our hearts.

Beware of personal pedigrees — vv. 4b-7

My wife and I like to dabble in genealogy. We know people whose pedigree goes back to the Caesar, but none of these folks are kings or queens. It takes more than pedigree to be royalty. Paul could claim the pedigree, but he could claim something even more important, he had a life-changing experience with Jesus on the Damascus Road. What was important to him before this experience became worthless in comparison to Jesus.

Beware of past privileges — vv. 8-9

When a high school girl went home one day the house was dark, a wreath was on the door

Focal Passages
Philippians 3:1-11

and no one spoke to her. But she heard someone crying and calling her name as though she were dead. She had become a Christian the night before, now her family disowned her. Paul also lost all his previous relationships and privileges, but the loss was nothing to him compared to the gain of knowing Christ. Our value system seems to be upside down. We know the price of everything and the value of nothing. Jesus Christ is worth exponentially more than anything the world can offer.

Be aware of potential power — vv. 10-11

Sad to say, but most Christians live in the weakness of the flesh, never really knowing the joy of dying to self so that we may live in Christ. To Paul, the only life worth living is the life of power in Jesus. It costs everything, but it pays in abundant life and eternal life. The power of the resurrected Christ is available to each Christian. This is not done in the ways the world would suggest, but in just the opposite way. We conquer by surrender. We become weak to be made strong. We die that we may be born into eternal life. Whose way have you chosen to live? Yours in defeat or his in power? Jesus is the only way to life. □

Historical Commission sets vision statement

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission adopted a new agency vision statement and revised its program statement during their 1994 annual meeting held at First Church, Memphis.

According to the new vision statement to direct the agency into the 21st century, the Historical Commission will seek to "aggressively" meet the history needs of Southern Baptists by "providing innovative products and services, focusing major attention on historic Baptist ideals, and injecting historical insights into the shaping of Southern Baptist programs, directions, strategies, and identity."

Commissioners updated the program statement to clarify the commission's purpose, functions, and relationships.

They also adopted a 1994-95 budget of \$593,800 reflecting a reduction of \$6,101 in Cooperative Program allocation for the commission compared to 1993-94. □

Oklahoma leader Joe Ingram dies

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Joe Lynn Ingram, 74, former executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, died May 8 at Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City. He had been hospitalized

since April 10 after becoming ill while touring England. His ailment was diagnosed as Legionnaire's Disease.

Ingram was Oklahoma Baptists' chief executive from 1971 until his 1986 retirement.

One of his longtime goals as BGCO executive was to lead Oklahoma Baptists to dividing Cooperative Program gifts 50-50 with the Southern Baptist Convention. This was accomplished in 1985, but the oil industry bust which hit Oklahoma later forced a retreat from that high water mark.

Ingram is survived by his wife, Jacque, two children, and five grandchildren. □

Indiana board affirms Southwestern trustees

Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary were commended for faithfully executing their responsibilities in a resolution passed by members of the executive board of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

A statement also passed May 6 expressing appreciation for the commitment of Southern Baptist churches in Indiana to give to the Cooperative Program without negatively designating any of those funds.

The SWBTS resolution addressed the criticism trustees have received after firing President Russell H. Dilday Jr. March 9. It described such critics as having "ruthlessly and prematurely prejudged" the decision. □

Ohio paper taps Pollard as editor

Baptist Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Will Pollard, a Baptist worker in Ohio since 1976, has become editor of the *Ohio Baptist Messenger* after the April 30 retirement of Theo E. Sommerkamp, the paper's editor for the past 18 years.

Pollard most recently has been director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio's Sunday School department.

An Arkansas native, Pollard grew up in St. Louis. He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist University, Marshall, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

He and his wife, Peggy, have one son. □

BWA congratulates Mandela on election

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Baptist World Alliance congratulated Baptists in South Africa and Nelson Mandela, the new president of the Republic of South Africa, on their peaceful elections establishing majority rules.

The BWA also called on Baptists in the predominantly white Baptist Union of Southern Africa and the predominantly black Baptist Convention to follow their country's lead in peace and reconciliation.

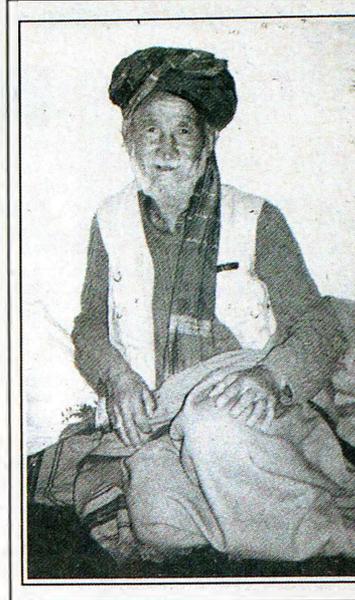
"It is with great joy we received the blessed news of your peaceful elections and the majority rule that freedom has brought to your country," wrote Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance in letters to Vincent Jones, general secretary of the convention, and Terry Rae, general secretary of the union.

To Mandela, Lotz wrote, "Let me assure you of our continued support and prayers for you and your people in this struggle to make all people free." □

Texas group seeks to end convention ties

Baptist Press

SAN ANGELO, Texas — Texas Baptists Committed — the primary Baptist moderate organization in the state — will oppose "with all the strength we can muster" any funding plan similar to the tra-



World Day of Prayer

Southern Baptists are being asked to pray for the Hazara people of Afghanistan, like this "baba" — a common term for elderly men among the Hazara. The 1994 Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization, scheduled from 6 p.m. May 20 to 6 p.m. May 21, will join Southern Baptists and other "Great Commission" Christians in praying and fasting for the Hazara, who live mostly in the central mountains of Afghanistan. Only about 500 Christians live among the world's one million Hazara, who are overwhelmingly Muslim. The Hazara live as mountain farmers, shepherds, and goatherds.

ditional Texas Baptist-Southern Baptist Cooperative Program which automatically sends church gifts to the SBC.

Texas Baptists Committed's April 15 newsletter said the organization will carry its opposition to the Cooperative Program to the floor of the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting in November.

Circulated in anonymity, the "Texas Baptists Committed Supportive Pastors Newsletter" stated, "No one will be publicly identified as receiving this newsletter." The newsletter was written by the organization's full-time coordinator, David Currie, in consultation with its top officers.

Citing the March 9 firing of Russell H. Dilday Jr. as president of Southwestern Seminary, the newsletter said it is now time to cut ties with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The group, in its newsletter, noted that because Texas Baptists are so divided regarding the SBC and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, it would be better to "support a budget that stops sending money automatically anywhere outside the BGCT." □

Oklahomans defeat state-supported lottery

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahomans bucked a national trend and fought back a campaign by the state's governor when they resoundingly defeated a state lottery proposal May 10.

With 60 percent of the vote against state-sponsored gambling, Oklahoma became only the second state in the nation to turn down a lottery in a

statewide vote. The first was North Dakota.

There are 38 states with lotteries, including Kansas, Missouri, and Texas, which border Oklahoma. Arkansas and New Mexico, other bordering states, do not have lotteries at this time.

Oklahoma's anti-lottery forces were an unusual mix of 13 different groups, including Baptists, Methodists, Unitarians, Catholics, horse racing interests, business leaders, state legislators, and newspapers, from liberal to conservative.

The pro-lottery forces' main spokesman was Gov. David Walters. □

BSSB's women's consultant to become full-time position

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Officials at the Baptist Sunday School Board are launching a national search for a full-time women's ministry consultant, citing the increasing demands on the part-time contract worker who was carrying the load.

Denise George, a Birmingham, Ala.-based speaker and writer, resigned her part-time position as women's enrichment specialist to allow a full-time consultant to direct the ministry, according to John Kramp, associate director of the discipleship and family development division where administration of the ministry is based.

George said the work was too much "for one person living outside Nashville" to handle.

Kramp said the board hopes to have a full-time consultant employed and living in Nashville by October. □

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