

■ **this
week's
news**

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Southern Baptists give record amount to 1993 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Southern Baptists gave a record \$82,899,291 to the 1993 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

The final total, tallied after books on the offering closed May 31, represented a 2.37 percent increase — or \$1.9 million — over the 1992 figure of \$80.9 million. Receipts missed the \$85 million goal but topped the previous record, set in 1991, by more than \$1.5 million.

Of that total, **Tennessee Baptists gave \$6,186,596** through May 31, according to David McDonald of the Ten-

nessee Baptist Convention's Accounting Department. Tennessee Baptists' goal for the '93 offering was \$7 million.

The increase encouraged Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board leaders in light of the fact the 1992 and 1990 offerings were below the previous years' totals.

"I'm ecstatic," said FMB President Jerry Rankin. Despite disagreements among Southern Baptists, the offering "affirms that we're still focused on missions and that Southern Baptists are confident in what God is doing through our Foreign Mission Board," he said.

"It will encourage missionaries, because they get all

kinds of messages about what's going on in the convention, and some of them are feeling very insecure in terms of finances," he added. "It doesn't represent a windfall, but it does ensure that we'll be able to meet their budgets this year."

In recent years Southern Baptist foreign missionaries — who recently surpassed 4,000 for the first time — have increasingly depended upon Lottie Moon gifts for basic support. This year the offering was budgeted to underwrite about 45 percent of the mission board's total \$185 million budget. Southern Baptists' unified giving plan, the Coop-

erative Program, was to provide 37 percent.

Thanks to the upturn in giving, Lottie Moon funds also will provide about \$1.9 million of the board's \$8 million capital budget for such things as new construction, equipment, and vehicles for missionaries.

The \$1.9 million is a modest amount when divided among mission stations in more than 100 countries. "But it's a lot better than nothing," which is what missionaries received in Lottie Moon capital funds last year, noted Carl Johnson, FMB finance vice president.

The goal for the upcoming 1994 Lottie Moon offering is \$86 million. □

Brotherhood agrees to recruit overseas volunteers

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — With interest in volunteerism soaring, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is asking the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission to be a primary recruiter for its overseas volunteer force.

An agreement signed June 1 by the two agencies' presidents spells out the Foreign Mission Board as the sending agency for its projects but calls on the Brotherhood Commission to

help overseas missionaries achieve their strategic aims by finding and training the right volunteers.

"This agreement clearly illustrates how Southern Baptist Convention agencies can work together to accomplish our Great Commission global strategies," said James Williams, president of the Memphis-based Brotherhood Commission.

The agreement signals a significant shift in Brotherhood involvement in recruit-

ing for FMB volunteer projects. Last year most Brotherhood volunteers who served overseas were recruited through state convention partnerships with the FMB. The new agreement will operate on a separate track from partnerships with state conventions.

The agreement gives a more active role to the Brotherhood Commission for recruiting and training volunteers for the large number of projects not related to state partnerships — and, more importantly,

places a heavier burden on the Brotherhood to produce volunteers.

During the next year the commission plans to recruit and train an additional 3,000 to 3,500 volunteers, according to a commission official.

"As Southern Baptists we've got to multiply the efforts of our career missionary force. The use of quality volunteers is one way we can do it," said Jim Furgerson, director of the FMB's volunteers in missions department. □



Long-time TBC employees retire

Tennessee Baptist Convention employees Alberta Waters, left center, and Libby Shepard were honored recently at a reception in their honor. Waters, of the Convention Ministries Division, joined the TBC staff in 1978 while Shepard, of the Protection Plans Department, has been with the convention since 1976. Joining them for the celebration were their husbands, Jimmy Waters, left, and David Shepard. — Photo by Connie Davis

TBC CP giving slows in May; still ahead for year

Cooperative Program gifts for May totaled \$1,418,163.

That is \$880,215 below monthly budget needs, but the year's total thus far for the Tennessee Baptist Convention is \$145,144 above last year.

The first seven months show an overall increase of 1 percent.

"We appreciate the faithful giving of Tennessee Baptist churches," said James Porch, executive director/treasurer. He said June should be better for CP than May. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Could be major SBC issue

Lewis, Land defend signing of Catholic report

Compiled from news reports

ATLANTA — Saying he must have the freedom to “exercise prophetic leadership,” Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis defended a document he signed March 29 on evangelical and Roman Catholic relationships.

In a 10-page letter to HMB directors, with copies to state Baptist editors and others, Lewis rejected a call he publicly withdraw his endorsement of “Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium.” Lewis and Christian Life Commission Executive Director Richard Land were the only two SBC agency heads who signed the document.

“You must allow your president to exercise prophetic leadership — freedom to preach what he believes he should preach ... to stand where he feels he should stand on significant issues,” he wrote. “If you’re a pastor, I imagine you expect that from you church;

and I expect that from you.”

Lewis refuted charges the report restricts mission efforts.

A “strong emphasis on missions and world evangelism is interwoven throughout the document,” he wrote. “How anyone could read this document and conclude it opposes evangelism and world missions, or even implies such, I can’t imagine.”

The paper was not designed to address doctrinal differences between the two groups, Lewis noted, referring to a portion that states some longstanding differences “may never be resolved short of the Kingdom Come.”

After the signing, Land said, “Nothing in this document should be construed as in any way diminishing the task of every Christian to seek to evangelize the entire world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

In an ethics commentary released about a week after the signing, Land wrote that some news reports have left

the “erroneous impression that the document is an agreement not to evangelize some adherents of each other’s denominations. This is simply not true,” he wrote.



LAND



LEWIS

Among those who early expressed disappointment at the SBC leaders’ signing of the document were FMB Executive Vice President Don Kammerdiner and Latin American Baptist leaders.

Reaction to the signing has intensified in recent weeks. Some observers expect the issue to eclipse a contested SBC presidential election or even reaction to the firing of Southwestern Seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr.

The most recent vocal critics

are Texas physician Larry Holly, familiar to HMB staffers for his opposition to the board’s 1993 report on Freemasonry, and Russell Kaemmerling, who at one time edited the *Southern Baptist Advocate*, an independently-owned newsjournal that for years was the standard for the conservative movement in the SBC.

Lewis said he knows of no specific plan to introduce the issue on the floor of the SBC meeting, scheduled June 14-16 in Orlando, Fla., but he “wouldn’t be surprised” if it does surface.

SBC presidential candidate Fred Wolfe, chairman of the SBC’s Executive Committee, predicted the Catholic-Evangelical accord may be the big issue at this year’s SBC.

“I think there’s going to be a motion that we disassociate ourselves from that document,” Wolfe said. □ — Contributing to this report were Baptist Press writers Louis Moore and David Winfrey and Associated Baptist Press writer Bob Allen.

Graham to nominate Henry for SBC presidency

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A Texas pastor will nominate Tennessee native and Florida pastor Jim Henry for president of the Southern Baptist Convention, while the other an-

nounced nominee, Fred Wolfe of Alabama said he is considering “three or four” persons who would present his name before the convention.

The two conservative pastors are the only two announced candidates to succeed Houston pastor H. Edwin Young as president of the nation’s largest evangelical denomination.

Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church, Dallas, has announced he will nominate Henry at the SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., June

14. Graham had been billed as the likely choice to nominate Henry, who is pastor of First Church, Orlando.

Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church in Mobile, told Baptist Press he was considering “three or four” people to make his nomination speech.

He said he may not decide on who will make the nomination until the Sunday (June 12) before the convention begins. Wolfe generally has been regarded as the candidate favored by most of the former SBC presidents. □

Chile volunteers urgently needed

Five pastors are needed to conduct an evangelistic crusade in Puerto Montt Oct. 1-14.

For more information, contact Jarvis Hearn, Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership Missions Department director at (615) 371-2028. □

Memphis church pulls out of SBC

MEMPHIS — Prescott Memorial Church, a Southern Baptist church since its found-

ing here 78 years ago, has voted to sever its ties with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The 62-1 vote was taken on June 5, some seven years after the church was disfellowshipped by Shelby County Association.

In a statement to the press, Nancy Sehested, pastor, said, “It is with grief and a sense of loss that we take this action today.” She said the vote came after a long process of prayer and discussion.

“The present direction of the SBC is in direct opposition to our own understanding of our mission and vision as a Baptist church,” she said.

The statement said the church expected to keep its relationship with the American Baptist Churches, the Alliance of Baptists, and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



June—

- 9 — Missionaries Jim and Lori Spikes, who are beginning their second term of service
- 10 — Mike Racey, missionary and director of the Baptist Institute in Temuco, and Clara Brincefield who is directing the Berea Bible School for the training of lay leaders
- 11 — The Neuva Esperanze Church in Arica is seeking God’s person for their pastor as are many of the Chilean Baptist churches.
- 12 — Mary Jo Cooke, home evangelist, is celebrating her birthday.
- 13 — Tennessee Baptist couples are leading a family enrichment conference June 11-20 in the Central Valley of Chile.
- 14 — Four new pastors are serving in Costa Central. Pray as they adjust to their church fields and implement new ministries.
- 15 — Students studying music at the seminary

SBC may ask, but not require refusal of CBF funds

Associated Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Southern Baptist Convention likely will ask its agencies to refuse contributions from the rival Cooperative Baptist Fellowship but stop short of instructing those agencies to do so.

“There is no strong feeling (among SBC leaders) to instruct our agencies,” said Fred Wolfe, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, which is drafting the proposal.

The CBF is an organization of Southern Baptist moderates that last year routed \$2.8 million from churches to the SBC.

Fellowship opponents in the SBC, some of whom want to speed what they consider an inevitable split of Fellowship churches from the convention, want the SBC agencies to refuse to accept the “tainted” funds. Others say that would further divide the 15-million denomination and impede reconciliation efforts.

One SBC agency head, Larry Lewis of the Home Mission Board, has said that to refuse CBF funds from churches would be “an insult.” He noted that was his view, not an official HMB stance. □

TBCH dedicates new facility in Oakdale

OAKDALE — State Senator Anna Belle O'Brien spoke at the June 5 dedication of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Oakdale group home.

The new facility, to be known as the Cumberland Plateau camps of TBCH, is home to eight teenage girls and their houseparents. It was completed in February and replaces their former residence in Burrville.

"It's wonderful how the community has pitched in to make this home a reality," O'Brien said, adding that "TBCH fills a great need across the state and we're very pleased they've chosen to locate a home in Oakdale."

Several area businesses supplied materials and labor at cost during the construction of the home. "Even the inmates at Morgan County Cor-

rectional Facility have helped us paint, make signs, and do landscaping," said Robert Rogers, a social worker and Oakdale houseparent, along with his wife, Abby.

A spacious 5,200-square-foot, the home has four resident bedrooms, staff quarters, a large living/rec room combined with a dining room, kitchen, and laundry room. "It's hard to compare this facility with the old one," Rogers said, noting that repairs at the Burrville home were "never ending."

The 77-acre property, formerly a Baptist camp known as the E. H. Howard Activity Center, was given to TBCH by Big Emory Association. Designated areas of the land will still be used by the association for picnics and recreational purposes. □



New director of missions in Big Hatchie

Big Hatchie Association, in a special session May 17, called S. Ray Jones, pastor of First Church, Camden, since 1984, as director of missions, effective July 1. Jones succeeds Ira Perkins who retired last year after 17 years as DOM. Jones has been active in the Tennessee Baptist Convention, serving on various committees. He was president of the West Tennessee Baptist Pastor's Conference in 1990-91. Jones and his wife, Donna, and daughter, Mary Ann, recently were welcomed by association moderator M. B. Howard, left, during a reception at Oak Grove Church, Covington.

IRS crackdown on self-employment can snare ministers, churches

By Keith Hinson
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Ministers and churches are being targeted by the Internal Revenue Service as part of its recent crackdown on the nation's self-employed, according to magazine articles and tax guides published in the past several months.

Forbes magazine reports ministers are one of 31 "industries" targeted for scrutiny by the IRS's "Market Segment Specialization Program." (Other targets include lawyers, mortuary and cemetery owners, truckers, pizzeria owners, and people in the music industry.)

The IRS will publish a manual for each of the 31 areas, according to an article in *Forbes*.

The manuals are designed to train IRS tax examiners "on how small-business people in different industries minimize their tax bills," the article said. The manuals will be available to the public, perhaps to educate taxpayers in various professions about IRS expectations and to discourage "favorite tax-whittling techniques," the article said.

Although some of the manuals have been published, no release date has been set for the audit manual for ministers, according to an IRS employee answering the phone at its Freedom of Information Reading Room in Washington. She suggested calling back monthly to check for the manual's release at (202) 622-5164.

When released, the manual must be requested in writing

from: IRS FOI Reading Room, P.O. Box 795, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20044.

Another potential tax pitfall for ministers is whether they are classified as church employees or as self-employed for tax purposes.

"The IRS is carrying out a sweeping campaign to slash the number of taxpayers permitted to be self-employed for income tax purposes," according to the 1994 edition of *The Zondervan Minister's Tax and Financial Guide*. "The IRS's attack has caught dozens of ministers in its web."

In fact, *Insight* magazine recently quoted an official of the United Methodist Church who "estimated that more than 1,000 of the church's clergymen have faced audits by the

IRS concerning their employment status."

What difference does it make whether a minister is classified as an employee or self employee? For one thing, it makes a difference as to where a minister deducts professional expenses on his or her annual tax return. (These would be such expenses as ministry-related books, seminars, and mileage for which the church has not reimbursed the minister.)

Any taxpayer (including ministers) who is classified as an employee should deduct unreimbursed professional expenses as an itemized deduction on Schedule A, where the total of expenses is reduced by 2 percent of adjusted gross income.

Yet many ministers make

the mistake of considering themselves as self-employed and deducting professional expenses on Schedule C where their deduction is not reduced but gains a dollar-for-dollar savings off taxable income.

In the case of an IRS audit, the minister almost always ends up being reclassified as an employee and may face "a staggering tax bill," according to the Zondervan tax guide.

The prospect of such a large tax bill is greatest for ministers who do not have enough itemized deductions to use Schedule A, according to Richard Hammar, an attorney and CPA from Springfield, Mo., and author of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board's 1994 tax guide. For those who can itemize, the difference is often minimal, he said. □

SBC Cooperative Program gifts up

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for May were up 16.36 percent above the previous year which helped push CP total receipts for the year at more than 3 percent above 1993, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

Gifts for May 1994 totaled \$12,956,497 compared to May 1993 of \$11,135,016, an increase of \$1,821,481 or 16.36 percent. For the eight

months of the fiscal year total gifts reached \$95,713,259, an increase of \$2,803,349, or 3.02 percent, over 1992-93.

For the SBC program allocation budget, gifts have surpassed the budget for the eight-month period by 3.86 percent. The monthly budget requirement for the SBC budget is \$11,519,561. The May 1994 gifts surpassed the monthly budget requirement by 12.47 percent.

Designated gifts in May also increased by 10.06 percent compared to those received in May 1993. □

Accrediting agencies review Southwestern, firing

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Two accrediting agencies sent a joint "fact-finding" team to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary May 23-25 to review concerns stemming from the March 9 firing of seminary President Russell H. Dilday.

Bill Tolar, acting seminary president, said he does not expect harsh treatment from the two accrediting agencies.

Written notification of the visit from the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Tolar recounted, described it "a fo-

cused visit" specifically about the Dilday matter, not the institution in general, and "a visit without prejudice."

Tolar said the five-member team, which included an ATS staff member and a SACS staffer, spent a full day, May 24, at the seminary to interview current and past trustee officers, Dilday, faculty, administrative staff, and elected student leaders.

According to James T. Rogers, director of SACS' Commission on Colleges, representatives of Southwestern will be invited to appear June 23 in Atlanta to respond to any recommendations in the fact-find-

ing team's report and to answer any questions raised by the subcommittee.

The full commission will vote on any official actions by SACS June 25, Rogers said.

Otherwise, he said, "There's not a great deal I can say," explaining, "We have disclosure policies."

Daniel Aleshire, ATS associate director, told Baptist Press. "Our guidelines are that the report is a report to the commission on accrediting . . . We do not divulge contents of the reports." The ATS commission will meet June 2-3 and in January, Aleshire said. □

■ 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.
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- Only one letter in a three-months period per writer will be published.
- If letter does not conform, it will be returned.
- Opinions and ideas expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the *Baptist and Reflector* and its staff. □

Weary of labels

I am writing in regard to your editorial "Conventionists' attacks and Baptists are tired," published in the May 11 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*.

How right you are about ordinary Baptists being tired. Many of us are embarrassed over the unChristian way much business has been conducted. We have become weary of trying to explain the situation to new Christians and people outside our denomination. I do not wish to be labeled a moderate or conservative, liberal or fundamentalist. I only wish to be labeled a follower of Christ.

Countless hours have been wasted on bickering and the cause of Christ has been irreparably harmed. Let's get our focus back on the mission we were called to do instead of pointing fingers every time someone has a different opinion from ours.

Please continue to challenge us to look at our convention from a more objective point of view in order to become more mature Christians. I recently moved here from Tennessee.

Caroline S. Mathis
Lexington, Ky. 40515

Doesn't agree

In his recent letter about Southwestern trustees, Mr. Vaughn Denton did not make it clear which side he agreed with; he seemed to say Bill Sherman's letter was well done, then called to memory Dr.

Criswell's statement about skunks.

He calls the opposites of conservatives, liberals, and makes the statement that ordained women are in the same category as homosexuals and lesbians.

I have had the blessings to know many saintly women that worked for the Lord all their lives, and if any of them had been ordained, they would have been worthy.

Faye Allen
Mount Pleasant 38474

Another view

Regarding the May 15 letter about Baptist history, *The Trail of Blood* by J. M. Carroll omits several details concerning groups assumed to be "Baptists by other names" in church history. Accurate information on Baptist origins is found in the four-volume *Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists, The Baptist Heritage* by H. Leon McBeth, *Not a Silent People* by Walter B. Shurden (Broadman Press), and *Baptists and the Bible* (Moody Press) by L. Rush Bush and Tom J. Nettles.

Significant omissions are: Albigenses rejected the Trinity doctrine and considered Lucifer to be God of the Old Testament; Donatists protested against Catholic bishops who had surrendered copies of the Scripture to be burned during persecutions by Rome's Emperor Diocletian, yet they never departed from the sacraments of Catholicism; the Paulicians rejected the Old Testament and held that Jesus became God's adopted son when baptized; the Waldenses' dispute with Roman Catholicism involved their stress on apostolic poverty and refusal to obey the pope's ban on lay preaching, but there was no clear break with Roman Catholic doctrine until the 16th century; and Anabaptists of that century taught doctrines of "soul sleep" and "falling from grace." The vast majority of Anabaptists were pacifists and would not serve in the military or hold any public office. Though Anabaptists (such as Mennonites) do practice believer's baptism, not by immersion, but by pouring water over the candidate's head. Some earlier Anabaptists sprinkled believers.

Southern Baptists should not call groups with such "un-Baptistic" views "Baptists"!

Ron Jones, pastor
Dumplin Church
New Market 37820

Asks for reversal

I respond to the news of March 29 concerning the new alliance between Evangelicals and Catholics. I obtained a doc-

ument copy through the Christian Life Commission. I have read other articles both pro and con. As a Christian, a Southern Baptist pastor, and as a Tennessee Baptist, I call upon Dr. Richard Land and Dr. Larry Lewis to reverse their actions.

1. As acting heads of SBC institutions your action was taken without convention authorization and authority.

2. This action violates II Corinthians 6:14ff unequally yoking Baptists to a religious group who blinds the minds of its adherents to the Gospel of grace (Ephesians 2:8-9). Martin Luther, a notable Catholic himself, acknowledged his debt to earlier martyrs of the true faith.

3. Modern Catholicism has not changed its teaching. From *Vatican II, Flannery's Edition, Volume 1* we read: "Christ's death earned 'satisfactions and merits' which have been deposited into a 'treasury' to which have been added the 'prayers and good works of the Blessed Virgin Mary [and] the prayers and good works of all the saints ... good works were also offered to God for the salvation of sinners ... [by] the prayers and good works of holy people."

The Pocket Catholic Dictionary reads, "The Mass is a truly propitiatory sacrifice, the Lord is appeased ... [a] means of applying the merits of Calvary."

I ask that you humbly renounce this action (Matthew 18:15).

We can fight abortion and other moral issues without such a document. May God guide you to do what is right.

Daniel Carlen, pastor
New Song Church
Columbia 38401

Controversy, commitment

Controversy has always accompanied theological commitment. John Stott in a book entitled *Christ the Controversialist* stated "what should be obvious to anyone who reads the Bible — Jesus' life was a storm of controversy. The apostles, like the prophets before them, could hardly go a day without controversy. Paul said that he debated daily in the marketplace. To avoid controversy is to avoid Christ. We can have peace, but it is a servile and carnal peace where truth is slain in the streets."

Anyone who courts those who question truth, should themselves be questioned. No matter how pleasant they may seem, no matter how popular they may be, Christianity has never been, nor never will be a popularity contest.

Baptist moderates have started their own funding

group known as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. This fellowship competes with the Southern Baptist Convention. I see Dilday as embracing the CBF. Keith Parks resigned as president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board to take this same position with the CBF. Dilday refused to cancel Parks' invitation to speak at Southwestern's commencement this spring, though trustees had instructed him to do so. Many have defended Dilday, but to have Parks speak would have been a slap in the face of Baptist churches across the nation who faithfully support the legitimate mission programs of the SBC.

I commend the trustees for doing something that could have been done when Dr. Dilday's book *Doctrine of Biblical Authority* attacked and belittled those who believe in biblical inerrancy.

Alan Buckles, pastor
Bloomington Church
Kingsport 37660

Voting instructions

Disappointed. Distressed. Disturbed. Deeply saddened. These were my feelings recently when I received a letter from a friend who is a pastor of a very large and prominent church in central Alabama. According to the letter, I was receiving it because we were friends. He proceeded to tell me who I really should be voting for at the upcoming Southern Baptist Convention meeting in regards to president. He told me all the reasons why I should vote for someone from his state and not for the other candidate from a different state.

It saddens me to know we have come to this degree of political activity in our convention. Is God not big enough anymore to direct who we should be voting for? Is God so limited that he can no longer control the situations and circumstances in the SBC? Is God no longer in charge? I pray that God will raise up a Henry Blackaby to lead our convention back to him, and away from secular politics.

Mark Mangrum, pastor
First Church
Whiteville 38075

Thanks for selection

I read of the selection of Terry Sharp to succeed Jarvis Hearn as director of the TBC Partnership Missions Department. In addition to his work with language church extension and interfaith witness ministries in the Missions Department, Terry has served for several months as interim bi-vocational pastor at Grey-stone Mission, a new work in

Nolensville, of which I am a member.

Terry has provided us with spiritual guidance and leadership during this critical period. He has demonstrated a tremendous love of Christ and humankind in general. His experience and obvious enthusiasm relative to missions, along with his natural abilities and God-given talents in the area of church administration, preaching, teaching, witnessing, and ministering make him an excellent choice for this new position!

We will miss Terry and his lovely wife, Kathy, (who possesses many of these same qualities), but we knew his stay with us was temporary and that his special love and calling is in the mission field. We are pleased that thousands in other countries can benefit spiritually from the ministry and leadership of this remarkable young man of God. I thank the Lord for such a couple and pray that he will continue to use them in his work.

Marshall Rice
Nolensville 37135

Pastor needed

Fellowship Church, a congregation of 40 people in Bad Kreuznach, Germany, located near Wiesbaden, needs a pastor. The congregation is mostly people connected with the American military. Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English language) and the Southern Baptist Convention. If God is leading you to pastor in a mission setting, please contact: Pat Bartlett; HHC, 1st AD; CMR 438, Box 332; APO AE 09111.

Pat Bartlett
Pastor Search Committee
APO AE 09111

Needs information

I am working on a book dealing with ministers and sexual issues. I want to address these questions: Why do they succumb to temptation? How can this be prevented? What practical steps a minister can follow after such a problem and forgiveness from God? What effect does infidelity have on the family and the church?

I would like to have people contribute to the book. Contributors can respond to the facet of this issue they feel most knowledgeable about. If I could have three to six double-spaced pages from each willing contributor, the book can be a success.

Anyone wishing to contribute or needing more information may write: Claude A. Frazier, M.D., 4C Doctors Park, Asheville, N.C. 28801.

Claude A. Frazier
Asheville, N.C. 28801

Orlando meeting may prove interesting

The statement of purpose for this newspaper was published here in last week's issue. The preamble said that "a primary function is to report without favor news of Executive Board programs, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and activities of the people and churches."

One of the principles of the statement is that the paper's staff is to try to unite Tennessee Baptists in the cause of Christ by providing news about the ministries of the Tennessee and Southern Baptist conventions and helping Tennessee Baptists become involved in them.

Other principles about honesty, truth, justice are vital to the document's implementation.

The staff does not have to have the document on the desk when reporting the news. Its tenets always have been foremost.

Some critics choose to disregard the veracity of these guidelines by deriding the staff. Quick to judge, they err by measuring against a flawed character, usually their own or their concept.

The witness of the first disciples was questioned when they became bold enough to challenge the religious leaders. Wisdom prevailed when Gamaliel admonished the others to be careful. If the disciples were acting by human plans, it would fail; and if they are following God, "you will not be able to stop these men."

Regardless of who "we and they" are, all must be careful about claiming to speak for, or to have all the answers for all Southern Baptists — or all Tennessee Baptists. The paper does not make that claim, but it does claim to be an advocate for the people. Thus the paper is not afraid of positive criticism. It is welcomed.

Now, to issues and questions that may come up. In a week the SBC annual meeting will be in full swing.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Elections. The election of a president may be closer than recent contests. Fred Wolfe, Alabama pastor and chairman of the Executive Committee, was first out of the chute. He has the backing of several former SBC presidents. They said so.

To their chagrin, another conservative leader has emerged as a bona fide challenger. Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, has refused to withdraw. He will be nominated by a young conservative leader, Jack Graham of Texas. They have dared to be different. Henry is well-liked by many Tennesseans since he spent some fruitful years as pastor of Two Rivers, Nashville.

Both men are conservative and both have been involved to some extent in the turn of the SBC. Wolfe has been more active in the takeover, but Henry's low key approach, 14 percent CP giving compared to Wolfe's 5 percent, and non-po-

litical candidacy, makes the race a tossup.

Former SBC president Bailey Smith chided Henry, saying that "he's not talked to any of us [presumably conservative leaders]."

J. C. Mitchell, Florida layman and conservative member of the Executive Committee later retorted rhetorically, "Why should he have to? There has been too much emphasis on seeking the approval of the past presidents."

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. It is likely that the Executive Committee will ask but not demand that SBC boards and agencies refuse gifts channeled through the CBF.

Politics. Examples of politics at work in Southern Baptist life: Two Republican hopefuls for the White House in 1996, Jack Kemp and Dan Quayle, will be present. Kemp speaks at the Pastors' Conference as does SBC presidential candidate Wolfe. Quayle will autograph his book at the Baptist Book Store.

Challenge. Northwest Convention executive Cecil Sims will bring a motion to dismiss three Southwestern Seminary trustee officers. Will it be ruled out of order? In past conventions, yes. Maybe not in Orlando. There are strong feelings about the manner in which President Russell Dilday was fired.

Trust God and tell the people still remains a truth much to be desired. Reporting will be interesting. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

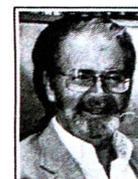
A time for heroes

I looked up D-Day in the encyclopedia, not to find out what it was, but to get an accurate definition of the term.

D-Day, said the scholars, is a term to denote some spectacular event that will happen on a certain day — very soon.

D-Day to most Americans is June 6, the day Allied forces invaded Nazi Germany with a beachhead called Normandy.

We have just commemorated the 50th anniversary of that turning point in history.



ALLEN

When D-Day happened in 1944 it marked the beginning of the end for Adolf Hitler's evil caprices at the expense of freedom. Just

as surely as Europeans recall Napoleon's Waterloo defeat by Russia as a history-shaping event — we remember D-Day.

It was a day longed for, a day whose sun, it seemed, would never burst over the horizon. But come it did, and praises and prayers of thanks could be heard around the world.

I had two brothers and a brother-in-law in uniform. Another brother-in-law drove trains on essential missions, carrying troops and war materials.

They were heroes to me, more than all the movie stars muscling their way across the screen and urging Americans to buy bonds, don't gossip, plant Victory Gardens, collect scrap metal, and keep up the patriotic fervor.

They were heroes because I knew them to be real, alive, strong in faith, brave enough, and they belonged to our family. The coal-darkened shirts of my engineer brother-in-law marked him a hero just as much as those in khaki.

I wondered then if they could possibly be afraid. We listened to every radio report, read every news article. D-Day came. Not long thereafter, Western Union brought a telegram about one of my heroes getting wounded at the Battle of the Bulge, a close call.

My heroes were genuine and I think it was because we loved four men who were brave enough, strong in faith, and they had the right stuff. ☺

Making choices about who to date

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

There have been requests for us to look at dating — from the youth's and parent's perspectives. In this week's column, we will look first at dating from the perspective of youth.

In our culture, dating, or "going out" with someone of the opposite sex, is one of the major rites of passage into adulthood. It is in the dating experience that we can find the mate that hopefully will be with us the rest of our lives. We also can learn to negotiate behaviors that are acceptable and pleasing to the person of the opposite sex.

The traditional Anglican marriage ceremony includes a statement saying, "In the quiet bowers of Eden before the forbidden tree had yielded its fateful fruit or the tempter had touched the world, God saw that it was not good for man to be alone and made a mate suitable for him."

God placed within the human creature the desire to be with the other sex. This sexual attraction is awakened for most at the beginning of adolescence. The first of these boy-girl attractions used to be called "puppy love." I remem-

ber very well some advice that I got from a youth worker when I was a teenager. She warned that I should be careful because as she put it, "Puppy love can lead to a dog's life."

There are some inherent dangers in choosing who we will date. The average adolescent only sees the outside of the package and is attracted mainly by looks or popularity.

That same youth worker gave me some other good advice. "Pick a date that would make a good mate." None of us can tell which person will attract us.

I can say without hesitation to young people that they should ask themselves a question when trying to decide whether to ask out a person or whether to accept a date:

"Would I want to spend the rest of my life with this person?" It is very difficult even

for adults to tell the difference between infatuation and love.

The old adage is that "Love is blind." Yes, and it is also "half deaf." When a person is carried away by the emotions of infatuation, it seems as though the brain is parked on a side road somewhere.

It is important for young people to seriously listen to and evaluate the advice given them by parents and trusted friends about the people they are dating.

I really believe that "True Love Waits" is one of the best things Southern Baptists have done for young people. I encourage young people to be a part of this movement.

If your youth group is not involved, talk to your pastor of youth leader and ask them to become involved.

Paul gave young Timothy some very good advice. "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example to the believers" I Timothy 4:12 (paraphrased by author). □

The Baptist and Reflector encourages readers to send questions or topics to us for use in this column. — Editor



BARKLEY

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

The Electric Company called auditors to discover why a lady always wrote a check for too much or for not enough. After days of examining the bills, they wrote to her: Dear Madam: From now on will you please pay the amount? You have been paying the date.

Take this truth

Blind legalism fails to develop spiritual growth, but some laws exist and we must follow them. To follow instructions and obey rules is no legalism. It's good sense! When we follow the instructions, we can assemble the product.

Memorize this Scripture

"Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it" (John 2:5).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to enjoy the liberty I have in Jesus Christ. Certain principles are moral laws which have become a cosmic demand. I must obey them or life will become a tragedy. □

Baptist Hospital covers six city blocks, has private zipcode

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
Baptist and Reflector

Eastern, western, and central Tennessee are blessed with a proficient network of Baptist hospitals, and in Middle Tennessee, the pace setter is Nashville's Baptist Hospital.

It would be difficult to live in Middle Tennessee and not know anything about the health care provisions of Baptist Hospital.

Baptist Hospital covers six blocks and has its own zipcode — 37236. The hospital has services, facilities, and staff, to match its size.

It is the largest not-for-profit medical center in the area, and has been around since 1919. Last year the hospital provided \$21.9 million in charity and uncompensated care.

The hospital was founded by a group of Nashvillians, as

Hospital. It underwent another name change in 1964, becoming Baptist Hospital Incorporated.

Today it has 759 beds and has 3,400 employees and more than 900 physicians on staff. In addition, Baptist serves as a referral center for northern Alabama and Southern Kentucky.

In 1970 the first open heart surgery in the region was performed at Baptist Hospital. The 1980s saw an eight-year growth spurt that included a \$165 million building, expansion, and renovation program.

That kind of growth continues during the 1990s.

As a result in 1991 the hospital's relationship with the Tennessee Baptist Convention changed. Hospital administration and trustees decided to elect most of its trustees.

After several months of ne-

The hospital "offers a wide range of programs and services to meet virtually all medical needs." These are planned so as to offer specialized care and services not provided by most health systems.

Hospital officials are proud that Baptist "provides a combination of professional expertise, state-of-the-art technology, old fashioned care, and compassion."

A directory available to the public lists almost 50 unique services and centers for allergies, arthritis care, breast care, cancer, referral service to help individuals to find a personal doctor, emergency telephone response system, Health and Wellness Center (healthy lifestyle assistance), Medical Education Center, Chest Pain Center,

Convenient Care Center (neighborhood facilities), Corporate Health Services, Volunteer services, diabetes center, drug and alcohol recovery,

Endoscopic sinus care, Emergency Pavilion, HEART center (rehabilitation), home care, aesthetic and reconstructive surgery institute, Men's Health Center, ophthalmology, orthopedics, outpatient services, psychiatric, stone treatment center,

Wound care, Sleep Center, Women's Pavilion, MedCenter Inn for patients' families or guests, a variety of helps for people over 55, a sports medicine center, laser surgery center, and so on.

The Men's Health Center and the Women's Pavilion are geared specifically toward the particular needs of each sex. Specialists are always on duty.

Attention is given to older people through 55Plus, a free membership program with 42,000 members offering discounts and some complimentary hospital services to adults



VERN POWERS, right, and Claude Huguley discuss the chaplaincy program of Baptist Hospital. Huguley, along with Lewis Lamberth is a full-time chaplain. Powers, former Protection Plans director for TBC, serves as director of Baptist relations for the hospital.

55 and older.

LiveSmart, a quarterly publication from the hospital's Center for Health and Wellness, regularly explains to the larger community the comprehensive health care provided by the 23 specialty programs.

A major philosophy of the hospital leadership is that a healthy lifestyle and good home health care diminish the likelihood of illness.

In a recent issue of *LiveSmart*, David Stringfield, the hospital's president, stressed the hospital's spirited role in the midstate community.

"With health care reform on the horizon, we have been a leader in the formation of new programs," he said, "and while we are proud of such achievements, we have not forgotten our role in the community.

"Last year we offered free physicals to 3,000 area high school and middle school athletes; performed heart screenings for more than 3,000 people at local shopping malls,

and held an annual Childbirth Fair which was attended by 3,000 families.

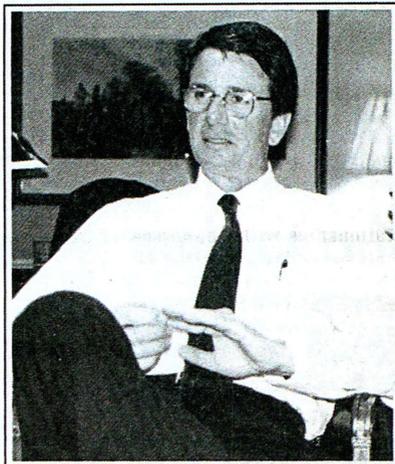
"The hospital held health fairs at area businesses and churches, distributed more than 15,000 free take-home colorectal cancer screening kits, and offers discounted mammograms and free prostate cancer screenings."

Baptist Hospital has pioneered more than 100 health care services designed to promote wellness and reduce health care costs.

As a major health care provider in the area, Baptist last year offered 1,200 community classes and programs that were attended by more than 60,000. □

— See next page for story on Baptist Hospital chaplaincy.

This is another story in the series about Tennessee Baptist Convention departments, institutions, and other entities.



BAPTIST HOSPITAL Executive Vice President Paul Moore discusses the role of the Nashville-based facility which serves the Middle Tennessee area.

Protestant Hospital, with 80 beds and a school of nursing.

In 1948, the Tennessee Baptist Convention became the owner. By then the hospital had 210 beds and a growing reputation. The name was changed to Mid-State Baptist

negotiations, both parties agreed on 10 points that kept much of the relationship.

Not only does Baptist provide stellar health care services, the staff specializes in making the services easy to locate and understand.

A glance at the hospital's ministry

Purpose and Goals: As a Christian healing ministry, Baptist Hospital is committed to rendering the highest quality health care in an exceptionally caring and compassionate atmosphere, in the most efficient, cost effective manner possible.

Baptist Hospital, Nashville, is larger in some ways than some towns, and in some ways, Baptist is self sufficient.

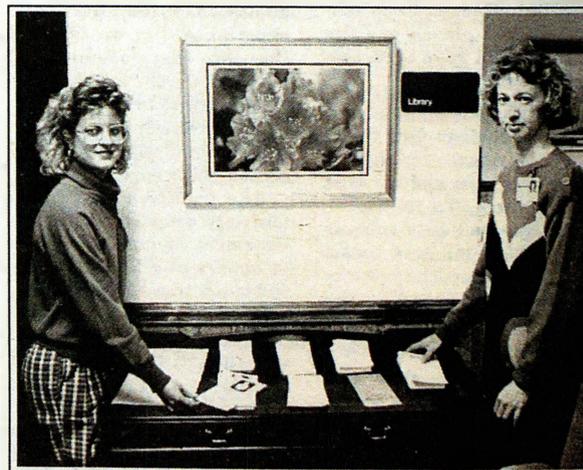
Here are some facts and figures for 1993 that show the enormity of the work done and services provided by Baptist Hospital.

- Beds — 759
- Bassinets — 64
- Employees — 3,400
- Medical staff — 900

- Patient admissions — 34,914
- Emergency Pavilion visits — 53,282
- Surgical procedures — 26,023
- Outpatient registrations — 142,631
- X-Ray procedures — 26,023
- Laboratory procedures — 4,846,662
- Number of deliveries — 5,073
- Pounds of laundry — 3,985,760
- Baptist Hospital served 1,349,093 meals to patients

Hospital doctors and staff taught 912 free community education classes and screenings, with more than 100,000 people participating

For charity and uncompensated care, unpaid costs of public programs, and community programs, Baptists spent \$24,606,022. □



DEE ANNA CARNEY, left, and Sabrina Downs, program director for Baptist Hospital's Cancer Center, display informational pamphlets about cancer. Printed and audio/visual materials are available to all patients and their families to assist them in finding answers to questions and an understanding of cancer.



THE EARLY MORNING Admissions Unit, headed by nurse Shirley Johnson, standing, is a recent addition to the hospital designed to make admission to the hospital easier and convenient for patients. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey



NURSE MELANIE FORD in the Special Care Unit gives loving attention to a premature baby.

Chaplaincy, relationship programs vital to hospital care

In striving toward excellence in health care, Nashville's Baptist Hospital has not overlooked the importance of spiritual wellness.

Staffed with two full-time chaplains and 25 part-time volunteers, the chaplains' office strives to serve patients and their families, and the hospital staff. The volunteers include several lay persons.

"We provide a wide range of ministries," says Claude Huguley, one of the two chaplains.

Lewis Lamberth, director,

and Huguley, make certain the volunteers are well trained in pastoral ministry.

There is intensive training for every volunteer, designed to cover a variety of patient and family needs.

The chaplains also provide two worship services each week at the hospital, and there is a prayer room available to meet spiritual needs.

"We also try to care for spiritual needs of hospital staff members," says Huguley, "and we have a good employee

assistance program."

Informative seminars are available for those involved in the hospital's alcohol and drug unit and psychiatric unit.

The chaplains work mostly on a referral basis and volunteers are assigned to certain areas of need. The office provides a closed circuit television chapel program each Wednesday, mainly for patients.

An updated patient list is kept in the "ministers room" and at the information desk.

The chaplaincy program be-

gan in 1948 when the TBC got involved with the hospital.

Families can get counseling if necessary. "We can help families usually," says Huguley, "and particularly if they come from other places."

Such counseling is available around the clock.

Vern Powers, retired TBC employee, works to maintain relationships with Tennessee Baptists. "I can be contacted here," he said, "and many pastors and churches make use of this office. We try to keep in

touch with our churches."

In his role, Powers works closely with hospital administrators, chaplains, staff members, and patients. "We want Baptists to be served by ministries here at Baptist Hospital," he said.

Powers said he continues to be impressed by the compassionate approach to health care — and spiritual care at the hospital. □ — Wm. Fletcher Allen

With Baptist Book Store

Chattanooga Baptist has only one regret from 45-year tenure

By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — If Dorothea "Dot" Owens has a regret from her years of work for the Baptist Sunday School Board, it is

that she never had a camera nearby when she needed one.

Owens, a sales coordinator who has worked 45 continuous years full-time at the Chattanooga Baptist Book Store, recalled during the board's 103rd

anniversary May 24 some of the mental "snapshots" she wishes she had recorded on film across the years.

"One day years ago, a man dressed in a military uniform marched into the store followed by his wife and a dozen children," she remembered. "He announced that he was a general and this was his army. He told his family they could choose one item each to buy. They scattered to select their purchases, but as they came to the cash register, they knelt for him to bless them and their selections."

Owens said she remembers the sight of the children kneeling before their father to be blessed and watching the family march out after the sale had been made. "We never knew where they came from or where they went," she said.

She also remembers the mixture of humor and inspiration when a newlywed couple, the bride still in her wedding dress and veil and the groom in his tuxedo, came to the

store to buy a Bible.

"They wanted a family Bible, but no one had given them one for a gift," Owens explained. "They refused to leave for their honeymoon until they had the Bible they wanted."

Owens has had an almost-lifelong love for selling, and with some urging she will admit that her introduction to retail sales is a funny story too.

"I had planned to sign up for a Latin class in high school, but the class was full. I was searching around for something to take and decided to enroll in the sales class because the teacher was such a good-looking fellow."

Even if her initial motive for choosing to study merchandising was not totally pure, Owens found the subject challenging and inspiring.

In 1948 she accepted a part-time job in the Chattanooga Baptist Book Store, which had been open for only three years. One year later the position became full-time. She has worked for only two managers

— June White, manager from the store's opening in 1945 until her death in 1989, and current manager Tim Burton.

"Dot is always wanting to learn and improve," Burton said. "She has probably waited on more customers than nearly anyone else in the history of Baptist Book Stores, and she has modeled customer service long before it became popular to do so," he added.

In addition to her work, Owens has a long tenure at East Lake Church, where she has been a member for 58 years. She teaches a single adult Sunday School class, sings in the choir, visits people in the hospital, and is active in missions organizations.

Despite a lengthy career, Owens said she would like to work "a few more years. There is not anything that can equal the joy of putting the right product in the hand of a person with a need," she said.

"I am grateful the Lord gave me the opportunity and health to work and serve him." □



DOROTHEA OWENS, who has attained 45 years of service with the Baptist Sunday School Board through her work at the Chattanooga Baptist Book Store, is greeted by board trustee Timothy George of Birmingham, Ala. Owens was honored for her milestone service anniversary during the board's 103rd anniversary celebration in Nashville on May 24. With Owens is Tim Burton, manager of the Chattanooga store. — Photo by Jim Veneman

Bean Station Church observes centennial

R. Lloyd Rich, 84, member of First Church, Bean Station, isn't worried about the church he's been a member of for 55 years even though it is without a pastor. Rich has seen tough times unite the membership before.

The year of 1952 was one of those times, he wrote in a history of the church.

The original building had been moved in 1941 when the Tennessee Valley Authority flooded its site to form Cherokee Lake. After the move the members had renovated the building. Carpet was laid and an oil furnace replaced wood burning stoves.

Spirits were high among members that November 1952 after Sunday evening services that concluded a revival. But that same night "the church burned to the ground," reported Rich, who is chairman of

the church's deacon body.

Because little insurance was held on the building and the congregation owed debt on repairs, the church faced "a great tragedy," wrote Rich.

"I was amazed at how this great tragedy united the members of the church. They came together as never before to rise up and build. Men who before had no part in the church became active in supporting the cause and later became members of the church," he noted.

A deacon gave land. The congregation met in the Bean Station public school building. In 1953 the new building, which still stands, was completed.

This history and other facts encouraged members and friends of the congregation gathered at its centennial celebration held May 20. □ — Connie Davis



Baptist Women continue relationships formed in Sunbeams

Members of the Lorene Tilford Circle of Baptist Women of Second Church, Chattanooga, have met monthly in various missions organizations since they became acquainted while members of the Sunbeam missions organization for preschoolers. Missions supporters for more than 65 years are, from left, Helen Holland, Viola Carver, Jo Collins, Naomi Kirby, Katherine Reeves, Wilodene Yarbrough, Eunice DeYampert, and Lucy Sampson, with Joe Walker, pastor, Second Church. Although some are no longer members of Second Church, they remain members of the circle and support its missions efforts through the church. The circle gathered at the Hamilton County Association Senior Adult Rally held this spring.



PAUSING FROM CENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES at First Church, Bean Station, are, from left, Johnny Williams, chairman, centennial committee; Lloyd Rich, chairman of deacons; and Wavie Samsel, acting chairman of deacons.

Health care workers asked to volunteer

Volunteer teams are being developed for health care work in Chile Aug. 5-16 and in Venezuela Sept. 16-26.

A dentist and several more ministers are needed for the Chile effort. That team is being led by Larry Rogers, a Knoxville pediatrician who is a member of First Church, Concord. About 30 workers make up the team which is supporting the Tennessee/Chile Baptist Partnership.

The Venezuela team will include about 120 workers, drawing physicians, dentists, nurses, dental assistants, pharmacists, optometrists, lab techs, physical therapists, physician assistants, and others.

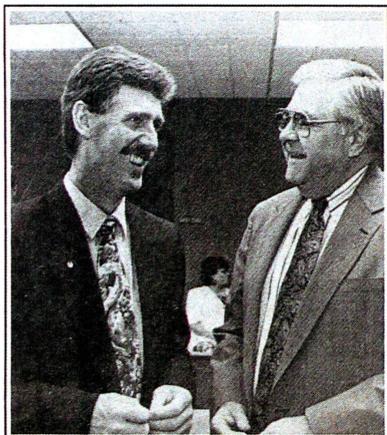
The team will work in the Caracas area conducting clinics in association with Venezuela Baptists.

Those wishing more information should contact Dewey Dunn, a Nashville physician leading the team, at (615) 383-8499. □

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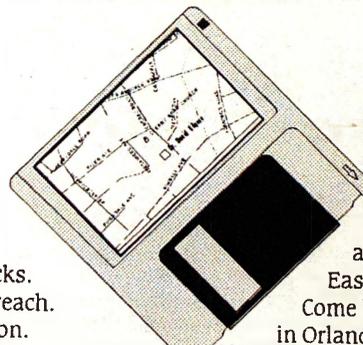
LIGHTING CARPET



Visiting from New Zealand

James Porch, right, Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director, greets Wayne McKenzie, program director, Baptist Union and Missionary Society of New Zealand, who visited the Baptist Center in Brentwood while in the Nashville area May 23-26. McKenzie also met with leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and Sunday School Board.

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TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the people

■ **Samuel T. Bollinger** of Signal Mountain received a bachelor of arts in theology degree May 20 from Florida Baptist Theological College, Graceville, Fla.

■ **Cheryl A. Gibson** and **Louise Roberts** of Kingsport have earned the diploma in biblical studies from the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute. Both are members of Calvary Church in Kingsport.

■ the leaders

■ **Chuck Smith** has been called as pastor of Toone Church, Toone, effective May 22.

■ **Lincaya Hills Church**, Nashville, has called **Meredith Latimer** as summer children's ministry director. Latimer is a student at Rhodes College in Memphis.

■ **E. W. "Eddy" McKinley** was honored on his retirement

as minister of music and education, Merton Avenue Church, Memphis, on May 29. He served the church for 38 years.

■ the churches

■ **First Church, New Tazewell**, will celebrate its centennial June 26. **Morris H. Chapman**, president, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, will speak during the morning worship service. A luncheon will follow the service.

■ **Sylvia Church, Dickson**, reported 13 people were saved during a recent revival led by **Floyd Lammersfeld** of Gleason.

■ the missionaries

■ **Marc and Sandy Johnston** were appointed in May by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as home missionaries to serve in Orlando, Fla. Marc is from Memphis



TO AID LAUREL BLUFF CHURCH, KINGSTON, in their construction project, **Bill Bargiol**, director of missions, Big Emory Association, gives a \$5,000 check from the Tennessee Baptist Convention to **Dusty Stout**, pastor. Watching are from left, **Audrey Hester**, church clerk; **Mike Dills**, trustee; **Mitchell Brummitt**, chairman of deacons; **Dillard Moore**, trustee and deacon; **Alice Moore**, building committee; and **Rick Willett**, trustee. The church is building a new education building. — Photo by *Roane County News*

and **Sandy** is from Clarksville. The **Johnstons** will lead resort ministries. **Marc Johnston** was formerly church extension and resort ministries director for Orange Blossom Baptist Association in Avon Park, Fla. He is a graduate of Memphis State University and THE JOHNSTONS Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. She is a graduate of Austin Peay State University in Clarksville.



■ **Dwight and Joyce Stevens Bass**, missionaries to Namibia, are in the states and can be reached at 313 Vernal St., Harriman, 37748. He is from Harriman and she is from Chattanooga.

■ **David and Jana McClinton Benjamin**, missionaries to Hong Kong, have ar-

rived on the field to begin their first term of service and can be reached at 169 Boundary St., Kowloon, Hong Kong. She considers Nashville her hometown.

■ **Mark and Melinda Sergent Duggin**, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field and can be reached at Caixa Postal 262, 59001-970 Natal, RN, Brazil. He was born in Mur-

reesboro. They both consider Memphis their hometown.

■ **Wayne and Mary Emanuel**, missionaries to Japan since 1958, have retired from active missionary service. They are living at 704 Paxton Dr., Knoxville, 37918. He is from Oklahoma and she from Kentucky.



BREAKING GROUND FOR UNION MC MINN CHURCH, Niota, on May 22 are leaders, from left, **Mack Wicker**, deacon chairman; **Kenneth Coffey**, deacon; **Bill Roberts**, pastor; **Young Willis**, deacon; **Lawrence Wicker**, building committee; **Gid Redmond**; **Bobby Anderson**, deacon candidate; **Jackson Glaze**, building committee; **Jack Irwin**, building committee; **Verlin Galyon**, deacon; **Albert Lee Webb**, deacon; and **Hubert Frisbie**, deacon. The church is building a 540-seat sanctuary.



DURING A RECEPTION IN HIS HONOR **David Al Myers**, second from left, director of missions, Hamilton County Association, and his wife, **Brenda**, greet **Allen** and **Pat Jennings** of Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain. The May 9 reception held at the association office recognized his 10th anniversary and drew about 300.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

A word to graduates

by **James Hutson**, pastor
First Church, Rockwood

Congratulations on your achievement. Let me add to your well-wishes some thoughts from your church.

First, remember **whose you are**. Each graduate is a child of God. The imprint of the divine creator is upon you. You possess certain characteristics which the heavenly father has given you to help you become what he wants you to be. Let me urge you to recognize that you belong to God, and in so doing you will find purpose and

live life to the fullest.

Second, remember **who you are**. You are an individual, and while you have much in common with every other person on earth, you are a unique individual. Learn how to live with the rest of the human family, but never become a puppet of the crowd.

Third remember **you have a destiny**. There is some task designed to fit you, and you alone. This task has been set up for you to do and enjoy. You must discover what that task is to be. Decide not on the basis of financial return, but on the basis of divine commission to your appointed task which will bring you a deep sense of satisfaction. Again, congratulations! □

Nip it in the bud

by **Mike S. Lester**, pastor
North Etowah Church, Etowah

On several occasions that great philosopher, **Barney Fife**, advised, "Nip it, nip it in the bud."

Barney had a marvelous way of communicating profound truths. And his bumbling, comical efforts to do right were often overshadowed by his good intentions. Another sage said, "It is better to do right wrongly than to do wrong rightly."

Barney's advice reminds us that there are times when immediate and

decisive action is required. Delay in some matters can be unwise or even dangerous.

How quickly do you respond when made aware of needed corrections in your life? When we know of changes we need to make it is best to "nip it in the bud."

"So get rid of all that is wrong in your life, both inside and outside, and humbly be glad for the wonderful message we have received, for it is able to save our souls as it takes hold of our hearts. And remember, it is a message to obey, not just to listen to." James 1:21-22 TLB □

Young cites 1993 SBC in Houston as high point of his tenure

Baptist Press

HOUSTON — The 1993 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention has been the highlight of his two years as SBC president, said Ed Young.

"There was a wonderful feeling in Houston," he said in a telephone interview with the Texas Baptist newsjournal *Baptist Standard*. "I felt a wonderful spirit there; it was a real turning point ... I felt God did his business in our lives at that meeting."

Young wraps up his tenure

in Orlando, the site of the June 14-16 annual meeting. He said he is glad it is over.



YOUNG

Being president of the almost 16-million-member denomination is difficult, Young acknowledged.

"You get cards and letters and phone calls on every is-

sue," he said. "Every church is autonomous and feels it is at the very center of what is going on. And they feel that they have the president of the convention to write, call, ask to appear in court, to be moderator or intercessor.

"It is a frustrating thing.

Some things you are not qualified to do and by the nature of the office it's not what you should be asked to do."

The demands of the SBC presidency today are such that he questions if a person without adequate secretarial help could do it," Young noted.

Young said he is pleased with his appointments to the committees on committees, resolutions, tellers, and credentials. He said he sought input from others, particularly state executive directors, and he used many of their recommendations. □

Union to host dinner during SBC

JACKSON — Union University will host an alumni and friends dinner June 14 at 5 p.m. in Orlando's Heritage Inn (next to the Peabody). The dinner is held annually in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Speakers for the event include Union President Hyran Barefoot and FMB journeyman appointee Charlie Worthy, a 1994 graduate. Union students and alumni will provide entertainment.

Ticket are \$14 each and are

available from Union's alumni office or at the university's SBC exhibit.

For reservations or more information, call Louise Lynch or Kathy Bragg at (901) 661-5209 or 1 (800) 338-6644. □

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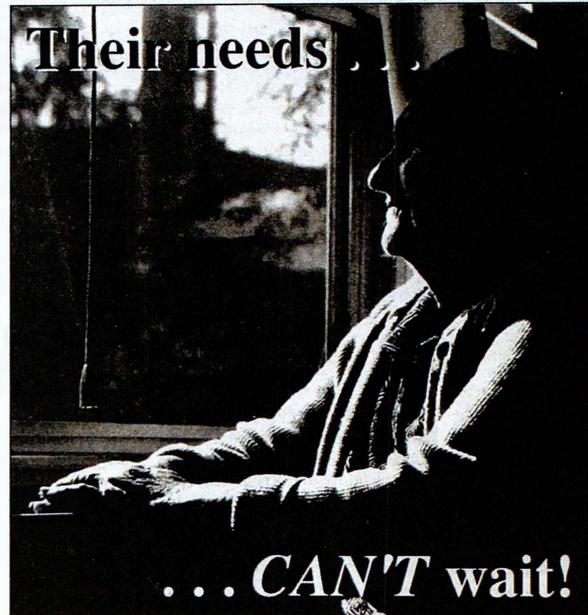
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Keynote speaker: Morris H Chapman

Pastor: Rick Garner

Fellowship lunch following

ANNUITY BOARD SUNDAY, JUNE 26



4,615 retired ministers or their widows receive annuity benefits of \$100 or less. 326 of these live in Tennessee.

525 in the nation are on Relief. Average age is 78. Average total monthly income is \$586. Average monthly expenses are \$719. Their needs can't wait! The Annuity Board provided them \$191,693 in the first quarter. About half the Relief recipients get no monthly retirement benefit because they never enrolled in the Church Annuity Plan.

1,389 annuitants with the lowest monthly benefits receive an extra \$50 a month from the Adopt An Annuitant fund.

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- Adopt An Annuitant (from designated or direct gifts)

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SBC approved Program Statement: "... Present, as needed, information on ministers' relief through the Southern Baptist and state convention publications."

■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Jesus unjustly condemned — Bible Book Series for June 12

By Brent Seals, pastor, First Church, Elizabethton

The lust for power can lead to the most horrific acts known to man. One only has to see the evening news to be reminded what this lust has birthed in Nazi Germany, Rwanda, Somalia, etc. This fault in men is not new. We find it in the passage of Scripture before us.

Long before the Jewish leaders had Jesus arrested in the Garden, their desire to keep their power led them to the decision to kill him. Because the Jewish council did not have the right to execute prisoners, it was necessary to get the approval and cooperation of Rome. To do this, these leaders had to go to the Gentile Roman procurator, Pontius Pilate.

Accused of what? — ch. 18:28-32

It was logical for Pilate to ask for the official accusation. Instead of stating the charges clearly, the Jewish leaders beat around the bush, causing this

seasoned political leader to be cautious and suspicious. Luke 23:2 lists three charges: 1) he led the nation astray; 2) he opposed paying tribute to Caesar; and 3) he claimed to be the Jewish Messiah and King. But Jesus never subverted the nation, nor refused to pay taxes, nor claimed to be king in a political sense.

Are you the King of the Jews? — vv. 33-38

Any governor would be interested in knowing if he had a rival. Messianic expectations always ran high during the Passover celebration and it would be possible for a self-proclaimed King-Messiah to incite the people to rebel against Roman rule. Pilate asked, "Who are you?" Jesus said, "My kingdom is from another place" (v. 36). Jesus explained himself and his kingdom. The Jews were under Roman authority, and Pilate was under the emperor's authority; but Jesus derived his

Focal Passages John 18:28 — 19:16

authority from God. His kingdom is largely spiritual in the hearts of his followers. If his kingdom was from the world, by now his followers would have assembled an army to free him. Jesus did not say, however, that he had no kingdom in this world or that he would never rule on earth. He does have a kingdom in this world and it is wherever there are people who have trusted him and yielded to his sovereignty. One day he shall return and establish a righteous holy kingdom on earth.

Shall I free him?

— v. 38 — ch. 19:7

The fact Herod found nothing worthy of death in Jesus moved Pilate to confront the Jewish leaders and seek Jesus' release. It was customary to release a Jewish prisoner at Passover, so why not release Jesus? Pilate

was surprised when the crowd requested Barabbas, a robber, insurrectionist, and a murderer.

There is no explaining how a crowd chooses its heroes. When a mob is manipulated by crafty leaders, in an atmosphere of patriotic fever, it loses itself, stops thinking with its brains, and reacts to feelings. Hoping a scourging would satisfy them, Pilate had Jesus flogged, but the crowd insisted upon crucifying the Son of God. One soldier made fun of Jesus with the crown of thorns and purple robe and repeatedly beat him. Pilate went to the people again (ch. 18:29, 38; ch. 19:4), bringing Jesus with him. When the crowd still refused, Pilate did as many weak-willed politicians, he gave in.

Where are you from?

— vv. 8-16

The Romans and Greeks had many myths about gods coming to the earth as men and perhaps Pilate was thinking of this when

he asked this question (v. 9). His wife had sent him a message about a strange dream she had about Jesus and said to have nothing to do with him. But Pilate eventually turned Jesus over to be crucified (v. 16).

The apostle Paul wrote "all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). From the human standpoint, the trial and death of Jesus was the greatest tragedy in history. From God's viewpoint, it was the fulfillment of prophecy and the accomplishment of his will. While Jesus was unjustly condemned, his last words to Pilate (v. 11) reveal his faith in his Father and his surrender to his will. May we trust Christ and yield to the Father's will.

The Jewish leaders' desire to remain in power and Pilate's desire to keep his power led to an unjust act. How do we use the power we have? □

□ God calls and Moses responds — Convention Uniform Series for June 12

By Mike Thrower, pastor, Brunswick Church, Brunswick

Moses received his early education at the school of his mother's knee. He then completed the courses offered at the school of Pharaoh. Now he is finishing his study in the University of Solitude. For 40 years he has roamed the wilderness caring for the flocks of his father-in-law. Little did he realize that he was being prepared to lead a much more stubborn flock through the same wilderness.

The wonder — ch. 3:1-5

His graduation came when he was at Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. It was there that the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a burning bush. Moses had never seen anything like this before, a bush aflame but not burning up. It just kept burning and burning. He turned aside to see and was greeted by name. "Moses, Moses!" the Lord called.

Focal Passage Exodus 3:1 — 4:17

God then declared that the land there was Holy Ground. Any ground where we meet with the Lord is holy. Moses is to show respect by removing his sandals. The only thing that stood between Moses and Holy Ground was man-made. That is still the way it is today. That which comes between us and the Lord is never from God. It is always man-made. It may be pride, sin, or possessions, but it is what we place before God.

The Word — vv. 6-10

God identifies himself to Moses. He is the one of whom Moses' mother had spoken so many years ago, the Lord of the Hebrew people. God tells Moses that he has been listening to the cries of the people in slavery. We who can read this story in a few

short minutes forget that this cry had been raised for over 40 years. But God had been at work preparing to deliver the people.

Now God reveals his plan to Moses. He is about to deliver the people. He will come down in power and carry them to another place, a good and spacious land where they will have all they need. The Lord then identifies this place specifically by the tribes living there.

Now the Word from the Lord becomes an invitation for Moses to join with him in this work, as God calls Moses to be his leader among the people.

The worry — v. 11 — ch. 4:17

Moses responds with objections to God's plan. God gets Moses' attention, tells of his plan, and calls on Moses to be the leader. The next 29 verses deal with objections Moses rais-

es out of worry over the task.

First he says "Who am I...?" (v. 11). I like to translate this as "Who me?" for this seems to be the response most given to nominating committees. "Are you sure you have the right man, Lord?" Moses asks. God's reply is of his continual presence with him.

Next, Moses responds that he doesn't know enough to do the work (v. 13.) Does that sound familiar? Moses says, "I don't even know your name." God replies with that great pronouncement, "I Am that I Am." With a word God declares his eternal and unchanging nature. He says that he is what he has always been and will always be. God both reveals and conceals. While we may know more of God, we can never know all there is to know about him.

God urges Moses on (vv. 16-22) assuring him the people will

follow. "What if they don't?" Moses asks (ch. 4:1). His third objection is that the people will not know he is speaking for God. God gives him a sign. His rod, thrown on the ground, will become a snake; picked up, a rod again.

Moses is still making excuses. "I can't talk in front of people," he says (v. 10). Can you not sense the Lord's patience growing thin as he reminds Moses who made his mouth? God never asks anyone to do anything that he will not enable him to do — not then, not now.

Moses makes one last attempt to get out of this responsibility. He says "Let someone else do it" (v. 13). Whoever you will, Lord, is fine, just not me. The Lord's patience is spent. Aaron will be the mouthpiece, but still Moses must go. It is God's call in his life. □

□ Willing to share — Life and Work Series for June 12

By Tommy Stevens, Meadow View Church, Lawrenceburg

Jesus once observed, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Luke 12:34). Money gets in the way of so much of our lives that we scarcely notice that it often keeps us from putting our hearts into worship. Paul shares some insights into the spiritual state of the Philippians as he discusses their attitude toward money.

They expressed concern — vv. 10

The Philippians sent their messenger, Epaphroditus, to care for Paul while he was in prison (v. 18). Now Epaphroditus brings this letter from Paul as he thanks them for their care. They had been faithful consistently in ministry to

Paul. They had made parts of Paul's ministry possible. The church does not pay a man to minister, but enables him to be free from earning money some other way so that he can minister. This takes a tremendous burden from a minister when he knows that he does not have to worry about financial needs.

They are encouraged to be content — vv. 11-13

It is not necessary to live in luxury to be content. Wealthy people often worry about losing possessions. Yet, people of modest means often worry about not having enough. Paul didn't worry. He learned to live on what the Lord provided for the day. Wouldn't it be wonderful if

every Christian depended on the Lord like that? The utility bill was due when we had no money while we were in seminary. The postman had come earlier, but I checked the mail box any way. There was a cashier's check for the amount we needed. God does provide! He only asks that we be good stewards. Did Paul have financial situations in mind when he said he could do all things through Christ?

They exemplified

commitment — vv. 14-20

It is wonderful to receive a gift. It is more wonderful to be able and willing to give. Often we decide in a stirring moment that we will give more liberally

Focal Passages Philippians 4:10-23

to the Kingdom of God. Then as time passes and other needs become visible, we may decide the money is needed more elsewhere. The Philippians never went back on their commitment. Their fruit of the Gospel showed in their care for the ministry of the Gospel. Now, Paul could confidently promise that they would feel no want. Their hearts and minds were so in tune with God that he could bless them as he wants to bless us all: in a way that shows how rich he is. God shows his glory in the way he cares for his people. When things seem bad or

good, we need to look for the ways in which God is showing his glory.

They are esteemed in Christ — vv. 21-23

No matter the state of our finances, we are all God's children when we have given ourselves to Jesus. Often it is said, "The ground is level at the foot of the cross." That is true. Every church member received the greeting. Every Christian who was with Paul, slaves, soldiers, perhaps even some of the emperor's family sent greetings. May we always live our lives in the grace of our Lord Jesus, sharing his love equally with all who are of the household of faith. □

Injured missionary recovers in Houston

Baptist Press

HOUSTON — Southern Baptist missionary Gary Crowell, who was shot and robbed in Peru in March, is undergoing physical therapy in Houston after surgery to repair nerve damage to his left elbow.

Crowell has partial numbness in that arm and some difficulty in using his left hand, but recovery from most of the damage is expected within a year.

Crowell, who is on medical leave, hopes to return to Peru in late June. □

President signs clinic access bill

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A new measure establishing the blocking of abortion clinics as a federal offense "is not a strike against the First Amendment," President Bill Clinton said moments before signing it into law, but pro-life advocates sharply disagree with his contention.

On May 26, Clinton signed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, which targets not only the blocking of clinic entrances but also makes a federal offense of threats against women seeking abortions, vandalism of abortion clinics, and violence against clinic personnel.

Pro-lifers, including many who oppose violence and do not endorse the blocking of

clinics, attacked FACE as a violation of free-speech rights and as unnecessary because of other laws in existence. Many also fear the law will result in the suppression of legal activities such as sidewalk counseling and picketing, a charge which FACE supporters deny.

Pro-choice advocates supported FACE as necessary to protect abortion clinic workers and to ensure women have the right to obtain an abortion. □

Convention preacher not an SBC messenger

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — For the first time in veteran SBC observers' memory, the annual sermon at the Southern Baptist Convention will be preached by a pastor whose church cannot send messengers to the annual meeting.

Bobby Boyles was pastor of First Church, Moore, Okla., when he was elected last year to preach the 1994 convention sermon. Since then, he started Eagle Heights Church, a Southern Baptist Fellowship, in Oklahoma City.

New churches and missions organized after Oct. 1, 1993, will have to wait until 1995 to send messengers, according to SBC registration secretary Lee Porter. □

Virginia panel's co-chairman resigns

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — A committee working to find ways Bap-

tist moderates and conservatives in Virginia can cooperate spent its mid-May meeting struggling with giving options. In addition, co-chairman Tommy Taylor of Virginia Beach resigned following the session.

Taylor cited a desire to concentrate more on "building a great church for (God's) glory."

Taylor said his decision was not reactionary to "what happened or didn't happen today," and he affirmed the committee and its work.

For most of the session, the "Presidential Council on Cooperation" debated budget options where both camps could support the Baptist General Association of Virginia budget. In the end, the committee managed only to affirm the multiple-track approach used in the current budget. □

Gray named acting music dean at SWBTS

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Scotty W. Gray, executive vice president at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary,



GRAY

has been appointed acting dean of the seminary's school of church music.

While continuing his current position, Gray will assume responsibilities as acting dean Aug. 1, the day after current dean James McKinney retires. McKinney has led the school of church music since 1966.

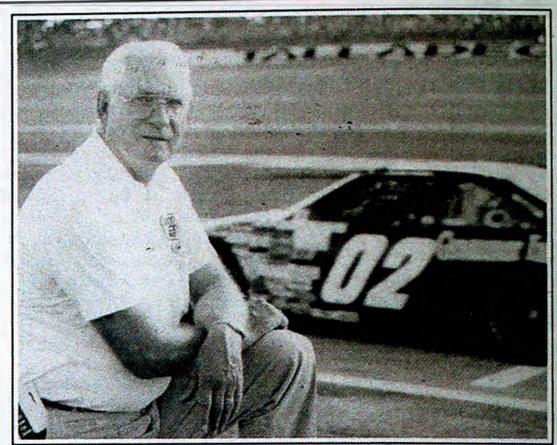
Gray holds the master of church music and the doctor of musical arts degrees from Southwestern. Since joining the seminary's music faculty in 1966 he has held a variety of positions at the school. □

Mississippi College on the rebound

Baptist Press

CLINTON, Miss. — Student enrollment and gifts to Mississippi College in Clinton are setting new records, even as the Baptist-affiliated college's community of supporters continue to reel from allegations made against former President Lewis Nobles, according to copyrighted articles in a Clinton newspaper.

The newspaper quotes Rory Lee, the college's vice president for institutional advancement, as saying the school had 3,792 students — 148 more than last year — and



From pulpit to race track

Former pastor turned chaplain Frank Stark has offered worship services for race fans since 1982. "If you could picture a city of 150,000 and one preaching point, it'll give you an idea of what it's like here at Talladega (Ala.)," he said. Stark, a Mission Service Corps volunteer with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has also trained others to offer such ministries, but he says some churches are hesitant to get involved. "The most difficult part is trying to get the church to see that this is a mission field," he said of the race track ministry. He noted that as a chaplain he does basically the same things he did as a pastor. The difference is "your congregation is a lot farther away from home." — Photo by David Winfrey

contributions have risen almost \$1 million over the previous year.

Lee credited tighter oversight and a donor education program for the increased gifts after Nobles, 68, was pressured by the school's board of trustees to resign last August amid allegations of financial mismanagement and missing donations. □

SWBTS summer school enrollment increases

Southwestern Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas — Enrollment for summer school at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has increased by 12 students over last summer.

The summer enrollment, reported by Registrar Rebecca Morton, is 1,072 compared to 1,060 last summer. The 62 new students, however, are eight fewer than last year.

The increase follows the dismissal of Southwestern President Russell H. Dilday on March 9 by the seminary's board of trustees. □

Colorado convention pays back funds

Baptist Press

DENVER — Colorado Baptist General Convention officials are elated with the recent payment of \$25,000 which completed a payback to "designated mission funds" used for operating the convention.

Colorado had faced more than a decade of financial problems ever since the convention's foundation failed and left the state convention \$1.5 million in debt. □

SBCNet enrollment doubles, figures show

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The number of SBCNet users has doubled in about eight months, from 1,000 last September to 2,000 in May. At the same time the number of on-line hours per week tripled.

SBCNet is Southern Baptists' data communications network. □

Abilene pastor accepts CBF coordinator post

Baptist Press

ABILENE, Texas — Bill Bruster, pastor of First Church, Abilene, resigned May 22 to become western regional coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of Southern Baptist moderates.

Bruster's last day at the church will be June 12. He will continue to reside in Abilene but travel through states west of the Mississippi River, primarily in Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana. CBF officials earlier had approved the \$84,000-salaried position in the organization's annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C. □

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