

Baptist and Reflector

June 15, 1994

VOL. 160 ■ NO. 24

STATEWIDE EDITION

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Cross Over activities see 540 professions of faith

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — At least 540 people made professions of faith as a result of Cross Over Orlando, the two-day evangelism effort prior to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Preliminary reports indicate 263 professions of faith from block parties, 220 from door-to-door witnessing and 57 from street evangelism events.

Cross Over became a regular part of pre-convention activities in 1989, and the record number of professions of faith — 1,267 — were recorded last year in Houston.

Cross Over's success, however, should not be measured solely by the number of professions of faith, said Darrell Robinson, vice president of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Cross Over Orlando was sponsored by the HMB, six central Florida associations, and the Florida Baptist Convention.

In addition to seeing people

become Christians, Cross Over equips Christians to witness and demonstrates new evangelism techniques. More than 2,100 people were trained during Cross Over this year.

Cross Over also creates a climate for evangelism by saturating the area with the Gospel, Robinson said. During Cross Over, the plan of salvation was presented 4,461 times and 4,366 Bibles were distributed.

Larry Lewis, HMB president, said Cross Over demonstrates the need to share Christ "home to home, heart to heart, and face to face." It also illustrates the principle of every person's responsibility to witness and the need to permeate a community with the Gospel.

Robinson participated in the door-to-door efforts of First Church, Casselberry. In addition to the 12 professions of faith reported by 14 teams at the church, three people made professions of faith during the

next day's worship service.

Dave Bennett, evangelism director for the Missouri Baptist Convention, said he led a person to faith in Christ at an Orlando shopping mall.

Organizers said they hope other volunteers also see the viability of such activities and ministries in their hometowns.

"It's so easy to go on a mission trip and not realize, 'Hey, our own hometown is a mission field,'" said missionary Bill Sims. "That's what these Cross Overs are getting people to see."

Mission Service Corps volunteer Bill Cox agreed. "The people that we trained here locally will go back into their churches as witnesses."

Cross Over could be a catalyst for more witnessing efforts by central Florida churches, said Jerry Passmore, evangelism director for the Florida Baptist Convention.

"I think there's an excitement in that some people are sharing their faith, maybe for

See next week's paper for SBC news

Three *Baptist and Reflector* journalists are attending Southern Baptist Convention sessions and adjunct meetings this week in Orlando, Fla.

Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen and Connie Davis, assistant editor, will report in next week's issue news and photos of SBC events and personalities.

Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor, is working in the convention news room, and will assist the other editors with coverage of Tennessee Baptists. □

the first time," he said. "Once you've won somebody to the Lord you're generally 'ruined' forever. You want to do it again." □

New Salem celebrates 125th birthday



NEW SALEM CHURCH, Dukedom, survived past wars and fire to celebrate its 125th anniversary June 5, with all day services. Three former pastors reminisced: at left, Joe Williamson, Henry Davis, and James Holt. Photo below, from left, anniversary committee chairman Howard Harris, Pastor Daniel Tucker, and Cleo Cherry, deacon chairman, receiving a TBC commemorative plaque from Richard Skidmore, director of missions, Weakley Association. — Photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen



Mississippi Baptists fight casino site

Baptist Press

PASS CHRISTIAN, Miss. — Opposing sides will square off before the Mississippi Gaming Commission June 30, in what may be the final battle over a proposed casino within sight of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly here.

Spectrum, Inc. has proceeded with its bid to build the 24-hour gambling facility within 400 yards of the 40-year-old state Baptist campground, despite opposition from the Mississippi Baptist Convention and local landowners who want to maintain the residential nature of the area.

The Christian Action Commission of the MBC is writing Mississippi Baptists urging them to write the three gaming commissioners to express their opposition to the facility, according to Paul Jones, CAC executive director.

He noted they have to "win this battle at the state gaming commission level" because there is no legal mechanism by which casino approval can be rescinded once it is okayed by the commission. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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SWBTS, Dilday continue as topics of interest

Compiled from news reports

FORT WORTH, Texas — Although three months have passed since the March 9 firing of Russell H. Dilday Jr. as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, news persists about Dilday and the seminary.

Following is a synopsis of related articles.

(1) Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary "acted irresponsibly and unconscionably in the manner in which they removed Russell Dilday from the presidency of the seminary," according to the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

With 13 abstentions and some opposing votes, a clear majority of the 213-member board at its quarterly meeting in Dallas June 7 approved a resolution praising Dilday as "a man of uncompromising integrity, unrepachable theology, and unassailable administrative abilities" and condemning the action of the trustees who fired him on March 9.

(2) The committee seeking a new president for Southwestern has begun interviews with candidates, according to search

committee chairman Miles Seaborn.

Seaborn said he is "not at liberty to say" how many people are being interviewed or who they are.

Seminary sources close to the process, however, consistently name four men among the top candidates — Richard Land, executive director, Christian Life Commission; Mark Coppenger, vice president for convention relations, SBC Executive Committee; Timothy George, dean, Beeson Divinity School, Samford University; and Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Church, Austin, Texas.

(3) Almost 1,100 friends and co-workers packed a hotel ballroom June 6 to laud Dilday and his wife, Betty, for a life of leadership, service, integrity, honesty, commitment, and responsibility.

The program featured testimonies on behalf of the Dildays by several people, including William Pinson, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; Bruce Corley, dean of the School of Theology at Southwestern; and Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, Miss.

(4) Dilday moved out of the seminary-owned house June 7 — the deadline set by trustees — after resolving a last-minute dispute with trustees over money set aside for his new residence.

The Dildays purchased a house on the southwest side of Fort Worth, using a \$150,000 housing fund approved by the trustees years ago for that purpose.

But closing was delayed twice, Dilday said, because trustee officers wanted to put a first lien on the property, which caused the mortgage company to balk. The impasse was resolved, he said, by separating the housing fund from Dilday's severance package, which is still in dispute with trustees. No lien has been placed on the property, he said.

(5) The executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas approved a recommendation by BGCT President Jerold McBride of San Angelo, calling for the appointment of a theological education study committee.

The recommendation authorized the president of the BGCT and the chairman of the

executive board to appoint a committee of at least 15 members "to study the possible need for additional opportunities of theological education in Texas."

(6) A publication touted to promote what's right with the Southern Baptist Convention devoted two pages of its June issue to reporting what's wrong with Baptist media coverage of Dilday's firing, and other items.

The article in *SBC Life*, written by its editor Mark Coppenger, vice president for convention relations with the SBC Executive Committee, takes to task Associated Baptist Press, Baptist Press, Baptist state papers, excluding the *Indiana Baptist*, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Religious News Service, *Christianity Today*, Southwestern's faculty, and the secular press.

SBC Life, published by the Executive Committee, is sent to about 70,000 church and denominational leaders each month, and receives Cooperative Program funding. □ — Compiled from Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press reports

Witnesses at hearing divided over proposed EEOC guidelines

By Pam Parry
For Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Witnesses at a hearing on protecting religious expression in the workplace were sharply divided over how best to achieve that aim in testimony June 9 before a Senate subcommittee.

The Senate Subcommittee on Courts and Administrative Practice heard testimony on controversial new anti-harassment guidelines proposed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The guidelines spell out what constitutes religious harassment

in the workplace.

The EEOC was gathering comments until June 13 before beginning the final draft of the guidelines. Many religious groups are monitoring the process to ensure that the guidelines do not hinder religious expression. There is sharp division, however, over how best to achieve that aim. One camp says the guidelines must protect employees from harassment based on religion, while another predicts that including religion in the guidelines could backfire by causing employees to lose rights they now have to express their reli-

gion at work.

Michael Whitehead, general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, told the Senate subcommittee that lumping religion into generic, "one-size-fits-all" harassment guidelines would have a "chilling effect" on religious expression in the workplace.

Whitehead objected to treating religious speech as "the moral and legal equivalent of racist slurs and sexual vulgarity."

The EEOC's executive director, Douglas Gallegos, said the guidelines as proposed would both "protect from unlawful harassment those wishing to express their faith at work" and "protect workers from being forced to comply with someone else's religious beliefs."

"Let us be clear that the guidelines are intended to explain existing law, consolidating existing judicial and commission precedent, not to create any new legal theories or in any way abridge the free exercise of religion in the workplace," Gallegos said.

Gallegos dismissed a proliferation of commentary stating the guidelines would prohibit religious expression. Such a prohibition, he said, would violate Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which already prohibits, but does not define, religious harassment.

The workplace guidelines do not prohibit the wearing of religious symbols, such as a cross, having a Bible on one's desk, or inviting a colleague to church, as some have asserted, he said. □

Volunteers needed for work in Chile

Though the Chile/Tennessee Partnership is in its last few months, there are still plenty of opportunities to serve before Dec. 31, the official end of the three-year partnership effort.

Volunteers are needed for the following projects:

■ 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 medical personnel of all types for medical care in Temuco, Aug. 6-15

■ Two to four men to conduct a sports clinic in Santiago, Sept. 10-19

■ Two females to teach

quilting techniques to ladies in the churches of La Serena, Sept. 24-Oct. 2

■ One team of three to five males and two to three females to help construct a worship center in San Carlos, Oct. 1-10

■ A musical soloist or small group to sing in Spanish in Santiago, Nov. 3-14

■ One team of three to five persons to put up the interior ceiling of the sanctuary of a church in Molina, Nov. 19-28

For more information on these projects, contact Jarvis Hearn, TBC Partnership Missions Department director at (615) 371-2028. □

Musical benefit scheduled June 20

NASHVILLE — A benefit program for the Roger Rice Foundation is set for June 20, 6:30 p.m., at Clearview Church, Franklin.

Christian singer Peter Penrose and Vanderbilt basketball star Heidi Gillingham are on the program and musician Steve Gatlin is scheduled to perform. There is no admission charge, and any proceeds will go to the Rice Foundation for a rehabilitation facility, includ-

ing housing, for severely handicapped persons.

Rice, a member of Westwood Church, Nashville, has severe handicaps resulting from the thalidomide drug once used in pregnancy care.

His goal is to build in Middle Tennessee, through the Rice Foundation, a facility to help similar persons.

The program will inform those interested about the need. □

Tennessee pastor

Desert Storm veteran uses war stories to reach teenagers for Christ

By David Winfrey
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A former Marine combat engineer now uses his Desert Storm experiences in spiritual warfare.

David Boyd, 24, works with an evangelistic team based in Orlando, Fla., speaking at high schools about his military work and helping local Christian youth draw their non-Christian friends to crusades.

Boyd, a Belmont University student, is pastor of Cross Roads Church, Springfield.

Boyd says his involvement with youth is an example of the new techniques needed to reach "Generation X," those born between 1965 and 1980.

"It has got to be something fresh and new," says Boyd, who quickly adds that breaking a few molds doesn't mean compromising the Gospel message. "Our generation is char-

acterized by people who rebel from the status quo, but they are really seeking the truth."

Boyd spent five months in Desert Storm. His primary duty there was clearing land mines out of the path of armored personnel carriers traveling into Kuwait for the ground assault on the Iraqi army.

Boyd, a former youth minister at Calvary Church, Alcoa, says he used his time in Kuwait to lead 16 fellow Marines, including his commanding officer, to become Christians. "I honest-to-goodness think that's the only reason I was there."

In schools, Boyd doesn't talk about Christianity, but instead mixes humor and war stories to tell students how they can be successful in life.

"Military history really gets their attention," says Boyd. After his address, Boyd and

Christian students pass out tickets to a "pizza blitz" sponsored by the crusade before the youth night emphasis.

Boyd's wit and compassion gain the attention of students at the school assemblies and help draw students to youth night at the crusades, says Byron Bledsoe, a crusade coordinator for the Jim Wilson Evangelistic Association.

"I really believe the reason a lot of them come on Tuesday (youth emphasis) night is because of him," says Bledsoe, who has worked two years with Boyd. "He has a genuine concern and I think the teenagers see that."

Boyd says his wife, Laura, a fifth-grade teacher, also helps him relate to students. "We've got to make them see that Christianity is more than just rules and regulations. It's a relationship with the creator of the universe," he says. □

Save postage, cancer victim is alive and well in England

By Bob Mathews
(Okla.) Baptist Messenger

Keep your business cards in your pocket ... and save your postage money!

A chain letter being circulated, including Tennessee, most recently among church musicians, asks that business cards be sent to a 7-year-old English boy suffering from terminal cancer in an attempt to be included in the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

This is just another hoax that costs both time and money. Part of the effort includes asking several of your friends to respond.

Craig Sherfold (or Sherwood or Sherford, or Shergold, as often copied) is now 14 years old and is not suffering from terminal cancer.

A call to the Make a Wish Foundation of America in Arizona resulted in the fol-

lowing facts:

(1) The request for business cards is not legitimate. A boy in England was diagnosed in 1989 with a brain tumor. Because of the number of greeting cards he received, he decided to go for a world record.

(2) Craig earned the record in 1990 with more than 15 million get well cards.

(3) His brain tumor was successfully removed in March 1991 and he is now expected to live a full life.

(4) According to the Foundation (to which the chain letter instructs that the business cards be sent), it has never been involved with the solicitation. Business cards sent to that address are forwarded to a recycling center.

Also, *Guinness* has eliminated the categories for both most greeting cards and business cards. □

Promise Keepers meeting says it's okay to be a godly man

By Art Toalston
For Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Finally, applause and cheering that rocks a stadium, not for a touchdown in a championship football game, but for Jesus.

That happened here June 3-4 when 62,000 men filled the

Hoosier Dome for a Promise Keepers meeting.

The men, from an array of denominations, including Southern Baptists, and nearly every state, frequently roared approval of to-the-point statements by featured speakers and rousing music conveying the message that a real man

can, among other things, learn to ask his wife's forgiveness when he's wrong and unapologetically love Jesus.

"Men today in our culture are in such jeopardy," said Joseph Stowell, president of Chicago's Moody Bible Institute, during a noon news conference June 4. Men have been

stripped of their identity and of a cause they can give their lives, he said.

The national Promise Keepers men's movement is helping men recover the "greatest identity in the world" — being a follower of Christ — an identity involving "a cause that we can give our lives to" in the family, church, and community, Stowell said.

Promise Keepers rallies in Indianapolis and five other cities are scheduled this year, to encompass an estimated 200,000 men. The movement has been building momentum nationally since an initial meeting in 1991 in Boulder, Colo., initiated by University of Colorado head football coach Bill McCartney. The goal for

Promise Keepers gatherings in 1995 is 500,000 men.

Among the promises men are to keep are to honor Jesus Christ, to practice spiritual, moral, ethical, and sexual purity, to build strong marriages and families through love, protection, and biblical values, to support the mission of one's church by honoring and praying for the pastor and giving of time and resources, and to reach beyond racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity.

Nationally known marriage and family speaker Gary Smalley said a movement is long overdue aimed at changing "the hearts of men and the heart of the country." □

Liberty Grove celebrates 150th anniversary

A packed house filled the sanctuary of Liberty Grove Church, Jackson, June 5 as members celebrated the 150th anniversary of the church. Liberty Grove is one of the oldest churches in Madison County.

The oldest available writ-

ten record, according to the church's history which was given to those in attendance, is the original church deed, dated April 15, 1854. The church purchased three acres of land for \$16 from John Gregory. The church stands on the original property.

The present sanctuary was constructed in 1965 and has undergone several renovations since.

Liberty Grove has a distinguished history of local, home, and foreign mission service. Church members have built four churches in Brazil with two more planned this August and one in May 1995.

Guests during the morning worship service included former pastors Neal Moore, Alvin Gilliland, and Doug Westmoreland. Westmoreland, now at Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, brought the morning message.

Gary Williams, associate director of missions for Madison-Chester Association, presented a plaque to the church on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. It was a homecoming for Williams as he is a former staff member at Liberty Grove. □ — Lonnie Wilkey

Sprinkle to lead FMB prayer office

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Former missionary Randy Sprinkle joined the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board staff June 1 as director of its international prayer strategy office.

Sprinkle, 44, from Jefferson City, Mo., succeeds Minette Drumwright, who retired March 31. He assumes the missions prayer role after serving four years as associate

pastor of First Church, St. Joseph, Mo. Before that Sprinkle and his wife, Mary, were missionaries for 15 years in southern and eastern Africa. They resigned from mission work in 1990 because of family health problems.

During their missionary career the Sprinkles established Southern Baptist mission work in Lesotho, a small nation landlocked inside South Africa.

Wherever they were, prayer stayed at the center of their ministry, Sprinkle said, noting "prayer has been the heart of our complete mission experience." □



LIBERTY GROVE PASTOR Glenn Ellis, second from right, visits with former pastors, from left, Neal Moore, Alvin Gilliland, and Doug Westmoreland, right. Westmoreland, pastor of Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, led the morning service June 5. Moore and Gilliland, both retired in Jackson, shared remembrances.



SPRINKLE

■ 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. □

No politics

It was disturbing to me to read in the *Baptist and Reflector* that Dan Quayle will be signing his new book at the SBC in Orlando, and also apparently holding a news conference. Here we go again, dabbling with politics. I respect Dan Quayle. However, he is speaking of running for president next term.

Southern Baptists should stay away from politics. It is the "world's way" of conducting business. We need to be "about our Heavenly Father's business" not the business of "this world."

Maybe we need to learn afresh from the temptations of Christ, Matthew 4:8-10, who controls the "kingdoms of this world."

Frances Victory
Smryna 37167

Death of pastor

Due to a breakdown in communication, the death of our pastor, Vestel Bennett, was not sent earlier to the *Baptist and Reflector*. Rev. Bennett had many friends who may not know that he went to be with the Lord last Dec. 19.

A Sparta native, he was pastor of Roan Hill Church, Johnson City, when he died. He had been pastor of four other Tennessee churches. He is survived by his wife, Lillian.

J. D. Coomer
Johnson City 37604

Theory expressed

In reply to the article in the June 1 issue entitled "Trustee disappointed over lack of support," it expressed the disappointment of a SWBTS trustee over the fact that the SBC leadership did not speak out in support of the trustees who fired Dr. Dilday.

Every dictatorship has within it the seeds of its own destruction. They have no more enemy to fight; the moderates have moved out of the field of battle to form CBF. Nothing is left but the in-fighting that eventually characterizes such systems. If they cannot find others, they will turn inevitably within to eventually consume themselves!

May the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship always have Baptist leaders who believe in soul freedom, and never, never, follow the example of the Southern Baptist Convention by setting up Baptist Popes!

Milton A. Anderson
Knoxville 37923

Danger seen

I have just read your fine editorial on religious freedoms in which you wisely point out that we must always be on guard against any infringement of our religious liberties.

Such an infringement is being planned by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Washington. The intent is to issue guidelines on "religious harassment" in the work place. These guidelines are so broad and restrictive as to cause anyone witnessing to his or her faith to be liable and subject to penalties if reported to the commission by an offended employee.

This seems to be opposite to the assurances we should have under the First Amendment to freely practice our religion which you held up in your editorial as being precious.

Howard Williams
Cosby 37722

Praises pastor

I believe Abraham Lincoln once said "to sin by silence when protest is required makes cowards of men." Southern Baptists have at least one brave, intelligent, educated man in Rev. Larry Spargimino, whose sentiments in the May 25 issue I applaud.

It is not the seminary who suffers, not the pastors, not the Sunday School Board, the Executive Committee, or any other segment of Southern Baptist machinery, but the church of Jesus Christ that suffers and dies when liberal theology is taught from the pulpit and — all the explanations and interpretations aside

— we all know deep down what liberal theology is. It is children who grow up in this atmosphere bereft of any firm foundation for judgment having been taught they cannot depend totally on the Word of God who suffer.

Many have said "God said it, I believe it, and that settles it." This is not true. It should be "God said it, that settles it, whether I believe it or not."

It is time for those who know the truth to take a stand with Rev. Spargimino, and say it should have happened 10 years ago — whatever the cost is personally, financially, socially, or professionally. I believe God will hold us responsible for those whose faith is shipwrecked from liberal theology.

Helen H. James
Etowah 37331

Pastor search

Anderson Memorial Church of Schweinfurt, Germany, needs a pastor. We are a military congregation of about 50 people with 80 enrolled in Sunday School. Most members are between 20-30 and have one or two children. Our budget for the current year is \$40,000. The church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English-speaking), which is aligned with the European Baptist Federation and the Baptist World Alliance. Our church is founded on traditional Southern Baptist principles and doctrines. We have Sunday School and WMU. Despite the drawdown in Europe, our Army post is growing; and missions opportunities in our community are growing.

Résumés may be sent to the following address.

Annette Kirk, secretary
B 5/41 FA
Unit 25862, Box 774
APO AE 09033

Hymnals available for prison ministries

About 2,500 new *Baptist Hymnals*, 1954 edition, are available to Baptists for prison or jail ministry, reported Ray Gilder, Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department.

The hymnals were given to the convention by the Baptist Sunday School Board because newer editions are now available.

The hymnals come in boxes of 25 and are free. About 1,500 already have been distributed to chaplains, Gilder reported.

People wishing more information should contact Gilder at (615) 371-2044. □

Shock of one's first SBC meeting

Over the years, annual sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention have operated in much the same way. Experience and common purpose have been vital to its method of operating. Also, the Bible and Baptist polity protect local church autonomy and religious freedom for individuals.

A person who has never attended an annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention is apt to go perceiving it as being much like a gigantic worship service held in the local church on a normal Sunday morning.

When one goes with that expectation he is in for a shock when he discovers the basic purpose of the convention is business, not inspiration. Of course there are occasional higher hours, but the handling of the convention's business is imperative so our overall Baptist witness can be effective, systematic, and dynamic through its agencies until the convention meets the following year.

Messengers are often times individualistic. They bring with them their backgrounds, terminology, and concepts from every conceivable geographical and social situation. As they come, they bring their particular, and sometimes, peculiar, way of having done things back home.

Diversity among the thousands of churches and more thousands of people will occasionally produce clashes of traditions as well as represent harmonious provincialisms. Each section of the nation is different. These clashes are inevitable and sometimes perplexing.

The messengers are all Bap-

■ historical view

By James L. Sullivan,
retired BSSB president

tist, but all are also human. They are not "saints" as the term might generally imply. They have been redeemed. They get confused, bored, and sometimes, exasperated by the complete processes in which the wheels of the vast convention machinery seem to be moving sometimes in the opposite directions in utmost confusion.

It takes such a democratic process to put diverse groups together to find ways to operate colleges, publishing houses, seminaries, worldwide mission programs, and the scores of other assignments we have undertaken under God's mandates and guidance.

The size and complexity of the convention is startling to most newcomers. The seemingly chaotic frenzy in the meeting hall is much like the apparent disarray in a newspaper office just before the next edition is about to hit the presses. Everything seems to be in upheaval. Suddenly, system begins to emerge. Order takes on an understandable form, and the product comes out on time for a waiting and concerned public.

There is no such thing as a perfect church or person. But we do worship a perfect God who loves us and will lead us on and up to more perfect ways if we rely heavily on him unquestionably for the right answers each step of the way. □ — 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



June—

- 16 — Missionary Richard Bray celebrates his birthday today and is on furlough.
- 17 — Rolando Mendoza has been attending the Mirasol Mission in Puerto Montt. Pray he will make a commitment to Christ.
- 18 — Missionary Steve Cooke observes his birthday today.
- 19 — The pastors in Chile, especially the Filadelfia Church in Curico, as they lead their people to accept the responsibility of discipling new converts.
- 20 — Retired missionary Virgie Riddell on her birthday today
- 21 — Cecilia Grossman is in the states furloughing on her birthday today.
- 22 — Missionaries Clara Brincefield and Frank Coy are celebrating birthdays today.

Fathers, be strong, step up to lead family

Success is a journey, the placard read, and not a destination.

The Bible, especially in the Old Testament, is rife with examples of children and parents failing each other.

In the summation of the lives of the kings of Israel and Judah, seldom are there successive generations of "good" fathers and children. One of the great tragedies of America today is absence of fathers where fathers should be.

Father's Day is celebrated June 19. The day is on the calendar, appointed for honoring fathers.

Fathers are ordained to head the home spiritually and in quality daily living. It is a sad situation, but many homes today do not have a father, and some do not have a Christian father.

The success of a family truly is a journey, happening every day. The lack of daily Christian leadership from a father who is physically present may be worse than having no father at all. In both cases, the mother has a tremendous burden and the children have an almost insurmountable blockade stifling that successful daily journey.

God does not put good people on earth so that evil people will have someone to slap around. Fathers that know, love, honor, and obey the Lord provide the leadership required from God.

Ken Canfield, in his very effective

book about fathering, lists seven secrets of effective fathering: *commitment, knowing your child, consistency, protecting and providing, loving their mother, active listening, and spiritual equipping.*

Each of these has its place, and together they are unstoppable.

There is another secret, Canfield says, an eighth wonder. No one completely understands it, no one can adequately describe it. He calls it "mystery."

The mystery is the child, how it comes to be born, all the facets of nurturing before and after birth. Mystery!

Fathering, then, is a dedicated effort, a divine appointment born out of abiding love.

For a while it was popular when discussing parental care, to say that quality time with children is more important than quantity time. Here is a vote for both. Parenting *never* ends.

Of course every father cannot spend hours and hours each day with his children. But while a few minutes of quality time might suffice for some children, it is not enough for others. Fathers who are really stressed for time, beyond their control, certainly will have to find the right approach. Here is where *commitment* comes in.

There are approximately 5.7 million children in America who wait futilely for

Dad to come home each day. The children know he's not coming, because for one reason or another, the home is fatherless. There may have been a death, or perhaps he just walked out. That is the pitiful situation in America. Thousands more may have dads who may seem miles away while sitting in the same room.

But many homes still have fathers who are doing (or have done) their best at fathering. They are willing to learn, along with the mother and the children. They are committed because they chose to be fathers. Not always successful, they are awed but not conquered.

Our nation suffers because family life is threatened. But on this Father's Day, fathers who are faithful should be applauded and thanked. And those who are derelict must be helped. The church is a good place to begin. □

SBC meeting this week

It began on Tuesday, and the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention extends through Thursday in Orlando, Fla.

There probably will be 25,000 messengers at the sessions. Several potentially divisive issues are likely to be discussed. The first competitive presidential election in several years is also likely.

Baptists at home are encouraged to pray for SBC actions this week. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

It's not the accent

Something funny happened on the way to chapel here at the Baptist Center last week.

Really, it happened *after* we had had the usual prayer requests and hymn singing.

Terry Sharp introduced the speaker who quickly got everyone's attention.

Mark Hobacovich is pastor of the Romanian Baptist Church that meets at First Church, Donelson.

He's different, but not only because he has an accent and

is Romanian.

He gave his testimony, said a little bit about what he is doing with the Romanian Baptists in the Nashville area, and then something different happened.

Mark Hobacovich searched our hearts somehow and ministered where we need it. He told about his escape from communist Romania 20 years ago — without knowing where he would go.

He told us about ending up in Australia where he found Jesus Christ. "That is when I really escaped," he said. He said getting out from under the Communist domination was only going from one country to another. But, he said, he knows God had planned all along for him to go to Australia because there is where he was truly set free.

He met his future wife there. Now they are ministering to the Romanian community in the Nashville area. He reminded us that Romanians are descendants of the old Roman Empire. He said the language is Roman rather than Slavic, and he said, "We have never been a part of Russia."

And our Christian brother had the boldness to tell us that our work is important and worthy, our daily efforts are appreciated — but our personal walk with Jesus Christ is more vital, more worthy, has more impact, is needed more by those around us.

Hmmm. Seems that I have heard a similar message somewhere else. Was it Brother Paul in some of his many letters to the churches? Was it Brother James when he said for us to be *doers* of the word?

Yes, and it was the life of the Savior, even our Lord. ☪



ALLEN

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Girl with husky voice at ice cream parlor: "We've got vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry."

Customer: "Have you got laryngitis?"

Girl: "No, just vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry."

Take this thought

What we say is not what the other always hears. Communication skills have recently risen to one of the most important traits a person can possess. This applies also in the development and display of moral actions. Ralph Waldo Emerson is credited with saying, "What you do speaks so loudly I cannot hear a thing you say."

Memorize this Scripture

"Who hath ears to hear, let him hear" (Matthew 13:9).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to be careful that I always express myself clearly so I will not be misunderstood. Let me realize also, however, that I should seek to be careful I do not misunderstand what others are saying to me. □

Who in the family is in charge?

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

Last week we looked at how young people choose "dates." Now let's consider it from the parents' view.

Who is in charge? It is my understanding that God gave young people parents to help them clarify and set limits.

Parents should be wiser and more experienced than young people. (I know some young people have done things that their parents would not do.)

So the process must begin early. In the pre-teen years, parents should begin setting limits and explaining expectations concerning dating so the young person will know what to expect.

My wife and I are raising two daughters, a teenager and a grown-up 20-year-old. I used to embarrass them by stating that I would let them start dating when they were 25 as long as I went too.

When we had serious discussions, however, it was understood that at our house dating did not begin until at least 16. And their mother and I must meet the date and know something about him before they make the date.

As parents we have a responsibility to make sure

that we know who our children are hanging around with and who their friends are.

Very few teenagers go on a "blind date" for their first date. They know the person from someplace. I would rather my child choose a date from their friends they know at church.

Once I had a mother in one of my churches that made her children attend everything. I overheard one of them complain one afternoon that nobody else's parents made them come to everything and he just didn't like youth choir.

She responded by saying, "Making you go is my job; enjoying it when you get there is yours."

She may have been a little harsh, but that young man is a preacher today, and I think in part because his mother cared where he was and who he was with.

If your child has already started seeing a person you do not approve of, the situation is a little different.

Paul warns in Ephesians

6:4 not to "provoke our children to anger." I think limits still need to be set, but



BARKLEY

very carefully. I was walking up the stairwell at school the other day and encountered a sign on a door that read, "Don't touch, wet paint." I don't ever remember wanting to touch that wall before, but it was all I could do that day to keep my finger off the wall.

Sometimes young people really don't know that they want to do something until they are told that they cannot.

Have a serious talk with your young person. Explain as well as you can your feelings about matters of concern.

Try to co-opt your children into setting some realistic limits. As a last resort, this may be an occasion to consult your pastor, youth worker, or a counselor. □

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

Holston Association holds chapel among 18-wheelers

What began as semi-monthly worship services inside the drivers' lounge of an Interstate 81 truck stop in Baileyton has become Holston Truckers Chapel.

Ed Boulay, a retiree with 52 years trucking experience, started holding the worship services in 1992. The member of Roane Hill Church, Johnson City, had led a similar ministry in Florida.

Soon other Baptists were helping Boulay with the growing ministry. Churches in Holston Association and the Tennessee Baptist Convention donated money to buy a used mobile home to be used as a chapel. Baptists helped remodel it and gave an organ and hand-made podium. Bibles were purchased which are entitled, "Life's Road Map to Heaven."

The chapel, located at the Davy Crockett Truck Stop, a 76 Auto/Truck Stop and Restaurant, was officially opened April 24.

Boulay is assisted by J. D. Swanger and Keith Webb of First Church, Greeneville, in leading the weekly Sunday morning services. Local Baptists lead the music, which is a

major part of each service. The men also coordinate counseling and aid to stranded motorists.

The ministry is needed, said Boulay. He told of a truck driver sitting in the sanctuary crying over his wrecked home life. He and other truckers live with long separations from family and plenty of time to brood over unpaid bills and marital problems, Boulay said.

"We talked with that man an hour," he reported.

Since April one person has been saved. Attendance at Sunday morning services varies, but on June 5 about 20 travelers participated, reported Ann Fleming of the Holston Association office.

Tal Thompson, the association's director of missions, said truck stop owners welcome such work because its presence often curtails prostitution and drug dealing.

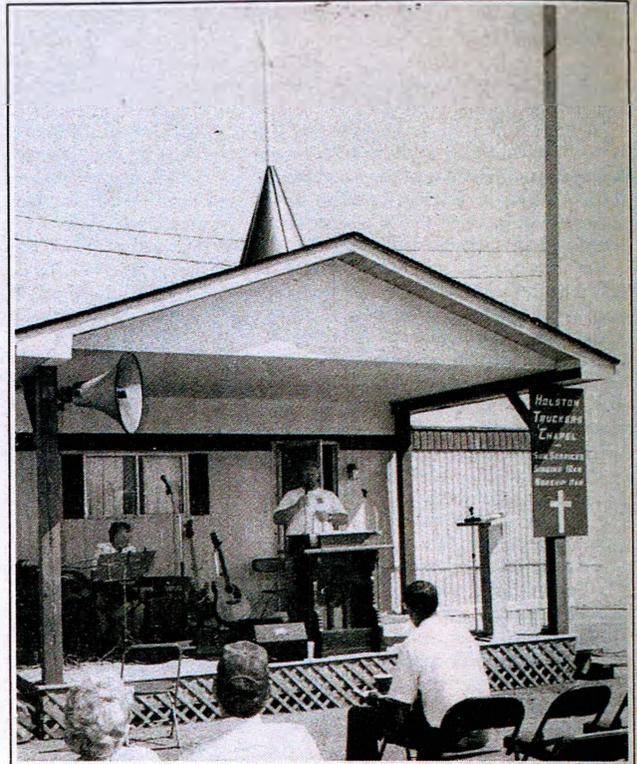
Plans are already being made to expand the work.



ED AND EDNA BOULAY

With help from the Tennessee Highway Patrol, the volunteers hope to offer aid to teenage run-aways. They also want to open another chapel in the Bristol area.

"You'd be surprised at the number of truckers who say 'I'm sure glad to see this,'" remarked Boulay. □ — Compiled with information from a story in the Johnson City Press.



THE MUSIC GROUP CROSSROADS leads a service at the Holston Truckers Chapel. — Photos by Johnson City Press

Church is built by Tennesseans, Michiganders

Watching a church building rise from the foundation in just days is "incredible to watch," said Eric Hodge, who will soon lead the congregation of Boynton Valley Chapel, Manchester, in its new building.

The young pastor doesn't have visions of grandeur. He describes the ministry as one to the area's many rural poor. Hodge has led the congregation which has met in a trailer for two years.

He is enthused by the workers, he explained, who are giving their time to build the church building.

About 40 builders from

First Church, Tullahoma, with support from 50 others who prepared meals, started the work May 30.

Ironically, or many would say supernaturally, Arnold Engineering Development Center in Tullahoma, closed that week allowing many of its employees to build.

The group from First Church building one day didn't include one carpenter, but did include quite a few engineers.

"The reason we're here is because of Dr. Porch," reported Mel Homan, referring to James Porch, his former pastor who is now executive director,

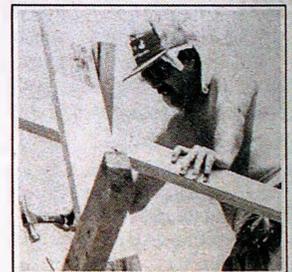
Tennessee Baptist Convention. "He got us started in Michigan in construction projects." That was about 22 churches ago.

The construction team elected to build Boynton Valley rather than conduct its annual construction work in Michigan which supports the Tennessee/Michigan Baptist Partnership.

The relationship between First Church, Tullahoma, and Northland Association in

Michigan is so strong a team from that association will help build Boynton Valley in June. Others who are planning to help are Highland Church, Tullahoma, sponsor of the chapel, Oakwood Church, Milan, and Woodmont Church, Nashville.

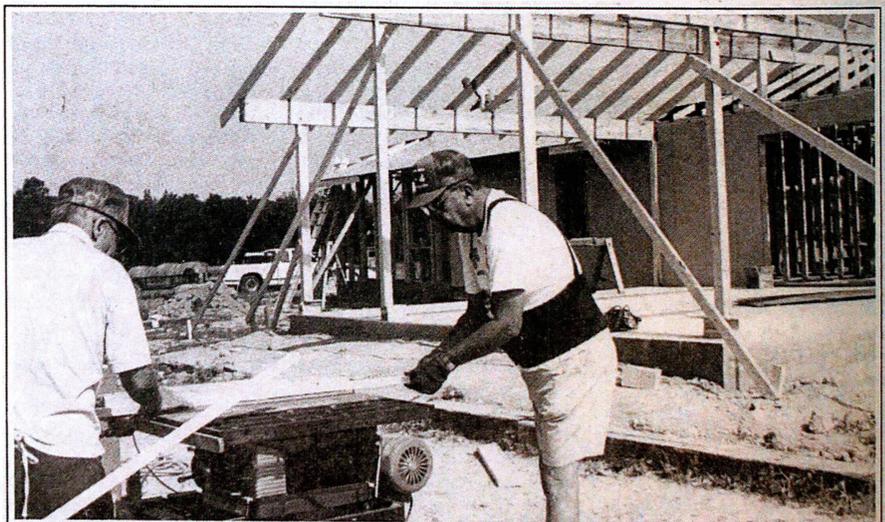
Hodge estimates a savings of \$100,000 in labor costs for the 5,000-square-foot building. The TBC is helping fund the costs. □ — Connie Davis



VOLUNTEER Marvin Sellers drives a nail into rafters.



VISITING ON SITE of the building project are, from left, Eric Hodge, pastor, Boynton Valley Chapel, Manchester, and volunteers Al Wood, Charlie Neel, and Mel Homan of First Church, Tullahoma.



SAWING LUMBER for the building which is five days into construction are, from left, Bob Wagnon and Bob Peck of First Church, Tullahoma.

LeConte Lodge chaplain leads hikers beyond nature

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK, Tenn. — Nature lovers from all over the world vie for reservations at Mount LeConte Lodge which is located on the fourth highest mountain east of the Rocky Mountains.

The five-mile trail to LeConte Lodge, the shortest route of several to the lodge, meanders under leaf-shadowed sanctuaries and skirts rocky ledges. Hikers are quiet as they climb, sensing the differences in this world of Tennessee's national park.

At an altitude of 6,593 feet hikers reach a cluster of cabins, several of which are circa 1930s. They eat a meal delivered to camp by llamas. They spend the night lit and warmed only by kerosene. Even during the summer temperatures rarely rise above 68 degrees.

Chaplain Greg Ernsberger knows why they come. The peace and beauty draws them, he explained.

Although he prepares messages in advance for the two Sunday morning services he leads each week, he often is impressed through the surroundings to change them, Ernsberger said.

The University of Tennessee — Knoxville student is serving as chaplain for a second season at LeConte Lodge. He serves through the Christian Ministry in the National Parks program. He also is a student missionary of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Tennessee Baptist Convention. The ministry at LeConte was



SINGING TOGETHER are guests and crew members of LeConte Lodge attending one of two Sunday morning worship services led each week by Chaplain Greg Ernsberger, left of center. — Photos by Connie Davis

initiated by Bill Black, missionary based in Gatlinburg.

Ernsberger, a Baptist Student Union member who has led missions work in four countries and three states, hikes up each Friday to spend the weekend with about 40 guests who stay each night and eight crew members.

He refers to the crew as "family," and has found ways to relate to them. Ernsberger been known to deliver steaks and carbonated drinks to round out plans for a weekend party.

He's also known for his night and "off trail" treks with crew members, several of whom have experience as full-time hikers. Ernsberger learned several months after he began serving at LeConte he had passed a crucial test with crew members. His hiking time up the mountain was acceptable.

Ernsberger's efforts are supported by John and Donna Mansfield, on-site managers.

He's part of the crew — making beds, sweeping the

floor, and waiting on tables, reported John Mansfield.

Guests also appreciate the ministry, Mansfield added, noting only one complaint has been filed by a guest in the four years a chaplain has served the lodge.

Crew member Allen Hunter, a member of a Disciples of Christ church, reported some of the crew did not attend church "down the mountain" but go to Ernsberger's services. The gatherings are the only worship provided for the crew during the lodge's eight-month season. Hunter added he is looking forward to a Saturday evening Bible study Ernsberger has planned.

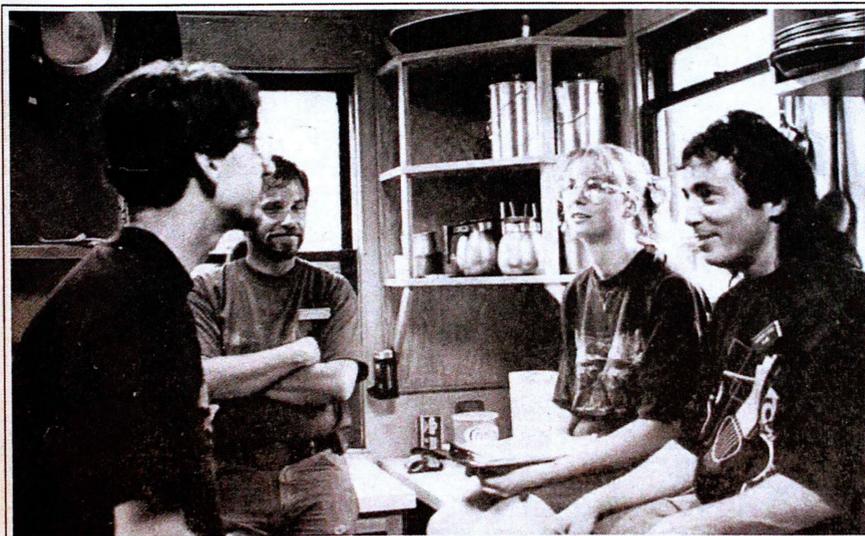
In addition to leading services and ministry to the crew, Ernsberger spends time with the guests.

One breezy morning he arrived at Myrtle Point for the sunrise service to find four folk who had brought their own communion elements.

"We come together as a body of Christians and we are God's church," said Ernsberger. ▽



WIPING DISHES is part of Ernsberger's routine during his weekend stints. He helps Beth Curran of Knoxville.



VISITING DURING A BREAK FROM MEAL PREPARATION are, from left, Chaplain Ernsberger, John and Donna Mansfield, managers, and Alan Householder, crew member from Asheville, N.C.



HIKING FROM one of the cabins is Doug Ruth, a former crew member who is a member of Sevier Heights Church, Knoxville.

Students with state ties graduate from SBC seminaries

Southern Baptists' six seminaries held graduation services in May. More than 50 students with Tennessee ties were among graduates of five of the seminaries — Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MWBTS), Kansas City, Mo.; New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS); Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS), Wake Forest, N.C.; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS), Louisville, Ky.; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS), Fort Worth, Texas.

Photos and information on students were provided to the *Baptist and Reflector* by the seminaries. Information is listed in this order — name, name of home church and location (home town used when church not provided), school, degree.

Abbreviations of degrees are as follows: associate of arts (A.A.); bachelor of general studies (B.G.S.); master of church music (M.C.M.); master of divinity (M.D.); master of divinity with languages (M.D.L.); master of divinity with biblical languages (M.D.B.L.); master of arts in Christian education (M.A.C.E.); master of arts in marriage and family counseling (M.A.M.F.C.); master of arts in religious education (M.A.R.E.); and doctor of ministry (D.M.).

Southern Seminary was unable to provide photos for John Depew, Glenwood, Kingsport, A.A.; Moses Yu, Korean Mission, Belle Aire, Murfreesboro, M.D.; and Randy Latch, New Bethlehem, Dyer, M.D. The following students only listed Tennessee as their home state — Jimmy Bingham, Robert Anderson, David Allred, Richard Forest, Jin Kim, Renee Mitchell, Mark A. Smith, Tina Alexander, Rex Keener, and Gregory Johnson. □



Joe D. Smith
Brook Hollow
Nashville
MWBTS
M.D.



Mark R. Adams
Providence
Seymour
NOBTS
M.D.



Mark A. Gstohl
Colonial
Memphis
NOBTS
M.D.



A. K. Johnson
East Maryville
Maryville
NOBTS
M.D.



David McNabb
First Church
Cleveland
NOBTS
B.G.S.



John A. Milam
Avondale
Humboldt
NOBTS
M.C.M.



Larry Robertson
Hopewell
Savannah
NOBTS
M.D.



D. Sinqfield
LaBelle Haven
Memphis
NOBTS
M.D.



Michael J. Pope
Blountville
SEBTS
M.D.L.



Chuck Baker
Southeast
Murfreesboro
SBTS
A.A.



Bruce DeVoe
Knoxville
SBTS
M.A.C.E.



K. M. Hendrix
Northeast
Knoxville
SBTS
M.D.



Paul Holbrook
First Church
Bristol
SBTS
M.D.



Laura I. Lemley
Immanuel
Nashville
SBTS
M.D.



M. McCormick
First Church
Smithville
SBTS
M.A.C.E.



Phillip Mitchell
Moore's Chapel
Greenfield
SBTS
M.D.



R. L. Pressnell
Pastor, Haynes
Flat, Speedwell
SBTS
M.A.C.E.



Joe P. Samples
Robertsville
Oak Ridge
SBTS
M.D.



Michael Smith
First Church
Joelton
SBTS
M.D.



Robert Smith
Central, Beardon
Knoxville
SBTS
M.A.C.E.



Todd R. Stewart
Grace
Knoxville
SBTS
M.D.



M. R. Thomas
East Alcoa
Alcoa
SBTS
M.A.C.E.



Bradford Turner
First Church
Nashville
SBTS
M.D.



Ryan E. Wagers
Colonial Heights
Kingsport
SBTS
M.D.



Ronnie Wilburn
Pastor, Meridian
Jackson
SBTS
D.M.



Carey F. Bates
Ridgeway
Memphis
SWBTS
D.M.



D. Christenberry
Valley Grove
Knoxville
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



Tommy Clark
First Church
Columbia
SWBTS
M.D.B.L.



R. F. de Marigny
Lucy
Millington
SWBTS
M.D.



Andrew Gay Jr.
Germantown
Germantown
SWBTS
M.M.



Phillip Griggs
Manly
Morristown
SWBTS
M.D.



Dawn A. Hester
Centerville
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



Charles Hoopes
Chattanooga
SWBTS
M.A.M.F.C.
M.A.R.E.



Harold Johnson
Middle Valley
Hixson
SWBTS
M.D.B.L.



R. C. Matthews
Berclair, Memphis
SWBTS
M.A.M.F.C.
M.A.R.E.



Kelth Mowery
Central, F.C.
Knoxville
SWBTS
M.D.B.L., M.A.R.E.



Cleatis Roach
First Church
Nashville
SWBTS
D.M.



Peter Simons
Central, Memphis
SWBTS
M.A.M.F.C.
M.A.R.E.



Mitchell Verdell
Beech Springs
Gleason
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



Doug Weakley
First Church
Columbia
SWBTS
M.D.B.L.



Jeffrey Ward
Two Rivers
Nashville
SWBTS
M.D.



Scott Williams
Beaver Dam
Knoxville
SWBTS
M.M.



K. J. Williamson
Mt. Olive, Knox.
SWBTS
M.A.M.F.C.
M.A.R.E.

Union hosts annual preachers' school

JACKSON — Union University will conduct its annual West Tennessee Summer Preachers School Aug. 1-5 on the university campus.

Registration begins Aug. 1 at 8:30 a.m. in the school's student union building.

Pastors will attend seminars dealing with a variety of topics including Bible study, mission work, church growth, and family life.

Program leaders include Roy Fish, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; W. A. Criswell, Dallas; Ken Hemphill, Atlanta; and Harold Bryson and Norris and Joyce Smith, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Registration is \$25 for individuals and \$35 for couples.

Call (901) 661-5160 for more information. □

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■ the churches

■ **Southside Church, Lebanon**, held Homecoming June 12.

■ Heidi Gillingham of Vanderbilt University's women's basketball team will speak at **Twin Hills Church, Westmoreland**, July 3 at 7 p.m.

■ the missionaries

■ **Jim and Rae Northern Moorhead**, missionaries to the Philippines, are in the states and can be reached at Rt. 11, Box 275, Crossville, 38555. She is from Dandridge.

■ **Graham and Mimi Damente Walker**, missionaries to the Philippines, are on the field and can be reached at P.O. Box 7, Baguio City 2600, Philippines. She was born in Nashville.

■ the people

■ **Andy Brasher** was ordained to the ministry by First Church, Parsons. A former instructor in a Christian college, Brasher is available for church staff work.

■ **Suzanne Adams**, wife of the late Don Adams, pastor,

First Church, Andersonville, will speak at Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville, June 19. Adams reports she and her family are adjusting well in Spartanburg, S.C., and wish to thank all Tennesseans for their support. She is working to change the Tennessee law that allows mail-in renewal of drivers licenses. Don and the Adams' nine-year-old son, Joel, were killed last October by a driver who is legally blind while riding bicycles.

■ the leaders

■ **Raymond Long**, pastor, Sunrise Church, Rutledge, for seven years resigned effective May 29. Long is moderator of Grainger Association.

■ **Keith Driskell Sr.**, of Lorraine Church, Michie, has been called as pastor of Lovejoy Church, Burnsville, Miss. Driskell is a May 1994 graduate of Union University, Jackson.

■ Parkview Church, Jackson, has called **Dwight Porter** as minister of music and youth effective July 3.

■ **Jim Hunt**, pastor, Buckeye Church, Swannanoa, N.C., has been called as pastor of First Church, Andersonville, effective June 5. He is a graduate of the University of Ten-

nessee and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **Jim Witherington**, associate pastor/minister of education, Eudora Church, Memphis, has been called as pastor of Temple Church, White House, effective May 1.

■ **Wayne Marshall** has been called as pastor of Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch, Miss., effective June 5.

■ the schools

■ **David Burke**, assistant professor of communication arts and director of theater at Union University, Jackson, has been named the university's 1994 Faculty of the Year. Burke organized a dinner theater which raised over \$1,500 for Habitat for Humanity. The university's inaugural Staff of the Year award was presented to Polly Spencer, supervisor of college services.

■ **Union University**, in cooperation with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will offer four courses this fall toward the master of divinity. The courses will start Sept. 12 and 13 and include Church History, Ministry of Leadership, Building an Evangelistic

Church, and Hebrew Exegesis. Those wishing more information should call John Adams at (901) 661-5160.



BURNING A NOTE representing the payment of debt by Howes Chapel Church, Rogersville, are, from left, Dennis Hilton, pastor; Bill Knox, building committee chairman; Don Hutchen; Jim Bates; Ernest Jaynes; and Charles D. Earl, director of missions, Holston Valley Association. The ceremony was held May 22.



ONE OF ELEVEN SENIOR ADULT church groups which led Union University's Lunch and Learn program. First Church, Camden, performs a choral warmup. About 250 senior adults attended the May 17 gathering. Lunch and Learn is held every three months.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

A different Vacation Bible School

By C. Ray Kitts, pastor
Island Home Church, Knoxville

The busy part of the summer is ahead of us. We are already making plans for a "different" Vacation Bible School, one that will be held in the evening from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

There will be tarps and tents set up on the church lawn as we create a village setting, as in biblical times. The boys and girls will be divided into tribes, rather than classes. Biblical characters will be roaming about the village. There will be storytellers and the making of bread, a village dance and other activities like that which went on during Jesus' time in Jerusalem.

This will be an exciting time for both the children and the leaders. Oh yes, we will be dressed in robes and turbans, also sandals or such as shoes.

Just think — this will take us outside of the building where the community will see what's going on at our church. This can be a wonderful outreach opportunity.

We need your help — prayers and

participation by the adults. Plan now to be a part of the summer action. □

Volunteers in Manchester

By Tom Madden, interim pastor
First Church, Manchester

One morning, a few days ago, when I arrived at the church, I noticed a group of our people gathered on the back parking lot. They were in serious discussion with another group from the city of Manchester concerning how to solve the drainage problem between the church and the parking area when it rains.

I noticed others at the front of the church working on beautifying the church. They were setting out trees and plants. They were cultivating and mulching.

When I came into the church building, I found others helping in the church offices.

I began to think of all the organizations in our church and the volunteers needed to staff them, the many committees involved, of the numerous activities that are constantly taking place and all the people that give of their time and energy. I think of all of those who have served, and would do so

again if they were able to do so. Our heavenly father is constantly calling others to serve.

None of these would be needed were it not for all of us that make up our church.

The term "volunteer" most assuredly is descriptive of the First Baptist Church of Manchester. □

Connection between God and family

By Billy Skinner, pastor
First Church, Union City

In George Barna's book *What Americans Believe* the question was asked "Who and what do you value?"

By far, the two most important elements in life to people are their family (considered very important by 94 percent) and their health (87 percent). The only segments which consider anything to be of equivalent or greater value than the family are the elderly.

The same group of people were then asked to state whether or not the word "religious" accurately describes them. In 1991, 64 percent of the adults in America believed they were religious. This represents a significant decline

from a 72 percent level in 1985.

It would seem from this survey that if 94 percent considered the family of great value and only 64 percent perceived themselves as religious, that at least 30 percent of those surveyed saw no connection between God and the family.

This might partially explain why one of every two first marriages end in divorce, 65 percent of all second marriages fail and 75 percent of third marriages don't make it.

It is inconceivable for me to envision a person or a family where God is not consulted, being successful. God created us; God instituted and blessed marriage, therefore, it is to our advantage that we include him in every decision.

"God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal." That truth from *Experiencing God* should encourage us. □

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.

VBS provides opportunity to teach children about CP

For Baptist and Reflector

This year more than three million Vacation Bible School students in almost 31,000 churches will hear mission character stories that will bring to life home and foreign missionaries that are support-

ed through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program, according to Archer Thorpe, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program/Stewardship Department.

In addition, VBS students will give more than \$1 million

through the CP, he estimated.

"What a great opportunity to teach all Vacation Bible School pupils about mission support through the Cooperative Program," he said.

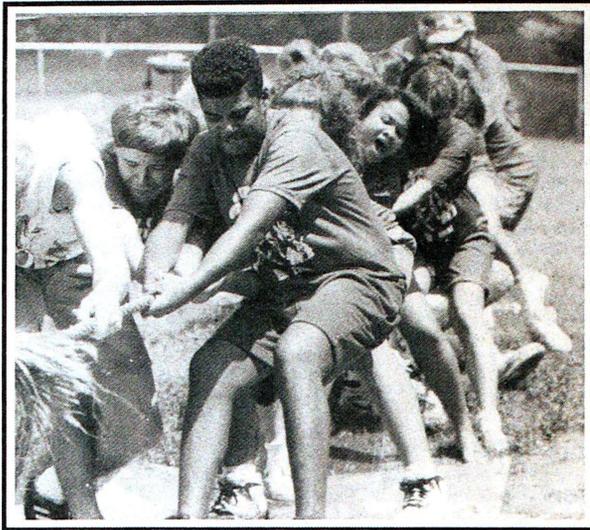
Thorpe observed that church leaders often make the decision about how the VBS of-

fering will be used. While there are many ways to use the offering none is more effective than giving it to world missions through the CP, Thorpe said.

He noted that giving the VBS offering to the CP is a way to encourage missions

ministry support at an early age. "Encourage your VBS pupils to be involved in sharing the Gospel around the world (through the CP)," he said. □

PULLING TOGETHER



Summer is traditionally a child's season: a break from school and more time for play highlighted by picnics, swimming, ball games, and special times with friends.

Thanks to your support, the children at Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes across the state can enjoy the days of summer in a safe, happy environment. A multitude of activities planned by qualified TBCH staff not only provide recreation but also experiences for personal growth and self-esteem.

Pulling together, we can lay the groundwork for lives that will honor God in all the seasons of life. Call today to discover the many ways you can make the world a little brighter for deserving children.



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Dr. Gerald L. Stow
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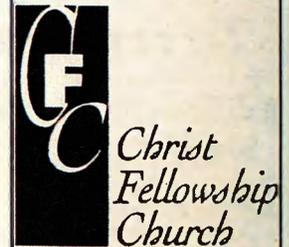
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PASTORS

Christ Fellowship Church, a new conservative ministry using contemporary and traditional methods of worship and outreach is seeking an interim Pastor. Qualifications include; A deep concern for reaching the unchurched (and those that have left the church) using a variety of methods, and the confidence to communicate the truths of Christianity in an open, transparent style.

MUSICIANS

Also, we are seeking an interim Worship/Praise Leader. In addition to leading our Worship time, you will assist in forming a band that will perform during our Sunday Morning Services. Interested persons can send a resume to Christ Fellowship Church, P. O. Box 822, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464, or call Robby at 615-766-1022 or Mark at 615-766-2049.



First Baptist Church
of New Tazewell, Tennessee
cordially invites you to our
Centennial Celebration
June 26, 1994
10:00 a.m. ~ 12:30 p.m.

Keynote speaker: Morris H.
Chapman

Pastor: Rick Garner

Fellowship lunch following

■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Jesus crucified and buried — Bible Book Series for June 19

By Brent Seals, pastor, First Church, Elizabethton

In the days of the early church the cross, to most, was not a symbol of faith but of failure, not of morality but of lawlessness, not of respect but of shame. Made of rough cut timbers and iron spikes, it stood ominously on the horizon just outside of town. It stood as a stoic monument or a harsh reminder that crimes against the state do not pay.

For Jesus, who had no room at the inn at his birth, and "nowhere to lay his head" during his life, the cross was a final place of rest. There he raised his tired bloodstained head and asked his father, the judge of the universe, not for vengeance, or even for justice, but for mercy on those who crucified and cursed him. There "humanity received a second chance" stated one author. There a waiting father received his son.

The lamb of God — vv. 17-18

The procession Jesus took was very common. Historians

tell us that the crossbeam, which weighed over 100 pounds, was placed on his battered and bloodied shoulders. Traditionally, the prisoner was led to the execution site by the longest available route so as many people as possible would see that crime does not pay! As Christ walked the Via Dolorosa, or the way of the cross, it was necessary to compel a bystander to carry the beam of the cross due to Jesus' weakened condition.

At the place of crucifixion Jesus was laid upon the beam. Spikes were driven through his wrists and then the crossbar was hoisted into place. His legs were nailed, leaving only enough flex in the knees so that he could begin the horrible up-and-down motion necessary for breathing. The medical assessments of the rhythmic misery provide a terrible picture.

The physical pain was just a shadow of the agony Jesus would experience when our sins

**Basic Passage —
John 19:17-42**

were poured on him and he was separated from his father. By putting Jesus between two thieves, intending this positioning to be his final disgrace, his position is a diagram of how his love is dispensed to the world and a fulfillment of prophecy (Isaiah 53:1-2).

**The King of the Jews —
vv. 19-22**

Jesus' enemies did not like Pilate's inscription, "Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews." The use of the imperfect verb suggests that the Jews repeatedly asked Pilate to change the sign. Pilate refused and answered in the finality of the perfect tense (v. 22). At Christ's birth, wise men from the East heralded him as King. At the beginning of Passover Week, the multitudes had cried, "Blessed is the King of Israel." Before Pilate Christ bore wit-

ness to his kingdom. Ultimately he will come as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

The Son of Man — vv. 23-24

Since every Jewish man wore five pieces of clothing — sandals, a turban, a belt, an inner tunic, and an outer robe — it is easy to surmise what happened to Jesus' clothing. The four soldiers chose one of the least expensive articles and they gambled for the more expensive robe. They were fulfilling Psalm 22:18.

**Born of a woman —
vv. 25-27**

This passage contains a contrast between the soldiers and another group of four — the four women who stood at the foot of the cross. John was also there, and Jesus asked him to care for his mother. Some may think the more they love God, the less he will ask of them. This isn't so.

**The victory over sin —
vv. 28-30**

The other Gospels tell us

that darkness fell. Why darkness? It was to hide the agony of Christ as he became a curse for us. In Jewish thinking, to be cursed was to be separated from God. He cried out "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

In addition to the pain of sin, Jesus' body was on extremis. He could feel the chill of death creeping through his flesh. With great effort he pulled himself up and shouted, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit to God.

This was not a submissive cry but a shout of victory. In the Greek it is expressed with one word. Jesus used the perfect tense of the verb which means, "It is finished and always will be finished." What had he finished? The Law, the Old Testament prophecies, and the complete atonement. What is our response? To believe in him and serve him (vv. 38-42). □

□ God redeems Israel — Convention Uniform Series for June 19

By Mike Thrower, pastor, Brunswick Church, Brunswick

Perhaps the single most important event in the history of Israel was their deliverance from Egyptian slavery. The events leading up to the Exodus culminate in the tenth plague and the passover by the Angel of Death. These passages highlight three of these important events.

**Promises renewed
— ch. 6:2-9**

Our Lord is a covenant-keeping God. Although the people did not always keep their part, God would keep his. The promises he made to Abraham were still in effect. He promised the land of Canaan as their homeland, now it was time to deliver.

God confirms the covenant anew with this generation. Through Moses he speaks to them. First to identify himself as their Lord. For if he is not

**Basic Passage —
Exodus 6:2-9; 11:1-3;
12:21-36**

Lord over them, they cannot receive the fulfillment of his promises. And he does have three promises to make to them.

His first promise is to set them free. They had been praying for this for many years. Now he will answer their prayers and redeem them.

Next he will institute a special relationship with them. They will be his people, he will be their God. As God, he will be their Lord and provider. As his people, they will obey him and worship him.

Finally he promises to give to them the land that he had first sworn to Abraham. Now that promise can be fulfilled.

**Payday requested
— ch. 11:1-3**

God has Moses to instruct the people to ask their Egyptian neighbors for articles of silver and gold. As slaves they had very little to their name. These gifts would serve as payment for the years of servitude in the land of Egypt.

The Lord caused the Egyptians to look with favor upon the Hebrews and Moses. They knew him to be a man of integrity and power. Nine plagues had convinced the common people to listen to him. While the heart of Pharaoh may have been hardened, the people individually felt compassion for the slaves they knew. The Hebrews had worked in their homes, cared for their children, and served under them in the great building projects. These they knew and to

them they gave generously.

It is sad to note that some of these items probably ended up a part of the golden calf Aaron made.

Passover — ch. 12:21-36

In the first part of this chapter Moses gives the instructions for the Passover. He instructed the people to select a lamb according to the size of their family and set it aside. The lamb was to be a male, in its prime, healthy, and whole.

Now Moses says, prepare that lamb. It is time for the Passover to take place. Take the blood of the lamb and with hyssop apply it to the lintel and doorposts of your house. That will be a sign for your deliverance as the Angel of Death passes through the land.

Not only was there a lamb, there was also to be a lesson. This was to be a teaching op-

portunity. When the children ask what all this means, they are to be told of how God delivered the people from both the death of their firstborn and the slavery of Egypt.

The people did as Moses said. And as they waited the Angel of Death passed through the land. Those who followed the instructions were spared, but every other family experienced the death of their firstborn. From the palace of Pharaoh to the captive in the dungeon, none were spared. Not even the cattle escaped.

While the Egyptians grieved, Moses called for the people to assemble with all their possessions. Pharaoh said "Get out from among my people" (v. 31). After 10 plagues and the plundering of the Egyptians, the Israelites were delivered from the land of slavery. □

□ Living by faith — Life and Work Series for June 19

By Tommy Stevens, Meadow View Church, Lawrenceburg

Years ago I learned how to carry a tray of dishes. The key is to focus on where you are headed. If you focus on the tray, you are likely to spill the dishes. If you focus on your feet, you are likely to trip. But if you focus on your goal, you are likely to get there safely. Faith is much like focusing on a goal. The goal is Jesus. If we look at ourselves, we falter. If we look at our circumstances, we faint. But if we look at Jesus, we live by faith.

Wilt thou not hear — vv. 2-4

In conversations with Christians, I often hear the same concerns voiced by Habakkuk. The values of society have been turned upside down.

Good people are ridiculed, even persecuted, and bad people put on a pedestal. Babies are killed in the name of a mother's choice, and sexual promiscuity is promoted as a cure for the world's ills. Our society seems bent on destroying its young. Our prayers, like Habakkuk's, seem to get no answer from God and Christians begin to ask, "Wilt thou not hear?"

**Wilt thou not avenge
— vv. 12-13**

Judah was sinful, yet the nation believed that God would never allow the temple or the city of Jerusalem to fall to a foreign power. They placed confidence in the city rather than in God. Habakkuk bought into that

belief, yet he was certain that someone must pay the price for sin. Surely, he thought, it would not be Judah. But it was Judah. God is patient. Long before we tire of sin, God has already tired of it. Could God use a nation more pagan than ours to carry out his punishment on the sins of our nation? He certainly has done it before.

**Wilt thou not answer
— ch. 2:1**

Habakkuk had his own agenda. He had decided what God should do. Yet he was painfully aware that he had the audacity to confront God. God must answer. Would it be to challenge Habakkuk's ideas, or to challenge the sin of the

**Basic Passage —
Habakkuk 1:1 - 2:17**

nations. When Habakkuk heard from God, there was sure to be a change in him. Are we willing to wait to hear from God or do we just barely have time to tell him what we want done? When we take the time to pray and meditate, God speaks to us and we must be changed by the encounter. The definition of worship is to encounter the living God and be changed by that encounter.

**Write thou the vision
— vv. 2-4**

Christian educators have used this verse to explain how

large a good promotional poster should be: "That he may run that readeth it." But, the message of Habakkuk is for everyone. God's concerns are greater than our concerns. He gives his people understanding of his purposes when we are willing to listen so that all may know of His righteousness and glory. It is not our place, like Habakkuk did, to be haughtily telling God what to do. We present our petitions in humility, asking only for his will, and being obedient. We must not focus on circumstances or on our own ideas, but on Jesus in order to live by faith. □

CLC, other groups announce boycott of RU-486 companies

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has joined with the National Right to Life Committee and four other organizations to promote a boycott of the companies which have made possible the introduction of the French abortion pill RU-486 into the United States.

The boycott will target the products of Roussel Uclaf, the French manufacturer of RU-486; Hoechst AG, the German parent company of Roussel Uclaf; and Hoechst Celanese and Hoechst Roussel, the German corporation's U. S. subsidiaries. A list of products to be boycotted will be announced in a few weeks, NRLC President Wanda Franz said at a June 1 news conference.

The other organizations announcing support for the boycott are Focus on the Family, Concerned Women for America, Christian Coalition, and Family Research Council. □

SBC legal counsel warns of scheme

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Last December a Southern Baptist Convention agency was notified it is a beneficiary of \$2 million from the will of a Nigerian man.

Sounds too good to be true,

you say. According to Guenther and Jordan law firm, the SBC legal counsel, it is a scam of some very persistent and smart Nigerian hustlers.

The Nashville law firm represents two Baptist entities which were notified they were to be benefactors of a "Harry Olson."

"But from the very first of what came to be a series of exchanges the deal did not smell right," James Guenther told Baptist Press.

The law firm contacted a Nigerian attorney who confirmed the Nigerian communique was false and no estate was being administered in the courts of that country regarding Harry Olson.

Since then, the firm has learned churches from other denominations have had similar experiences.

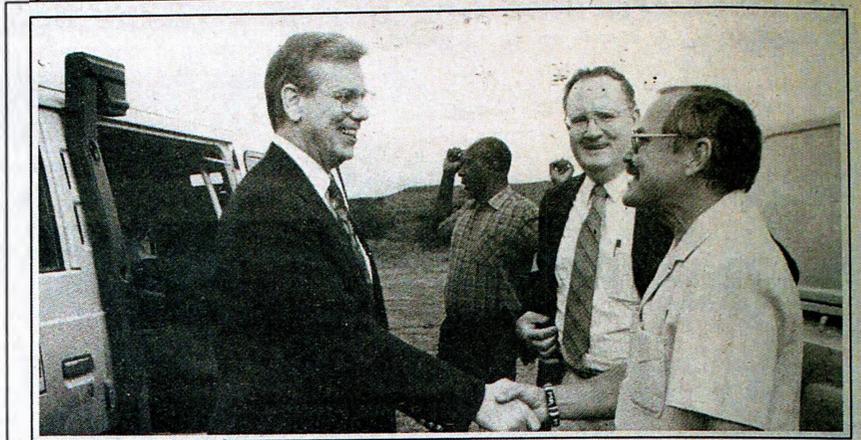
Guenther urged Southern Baptist churches and ministries to be careful about such offers. □

SBTS receives gifts exceeding \$500,000

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary recently received two of its largest alumni gifts ever, totaling more than \$500,000.

Len E. Weston of Manassas, Va., and Thomas Jack Tichenor of West Chester, Ohio, contributed \$300,000 and \$212,000, respectively, to the seminary. Both gifts were in the form of irrevocable trusts.



FMB president visits Africa

On his first overseas trip as Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board president, Jerry Rankin, left, greets missionaries Herb Cady, right, and Sam Turner in Kenya. The recent journey — also Rankin's first visit to Africa — allowed him and his wife, Bobbye, to visit missionaries and Baptists in a number of African countries. One of the highlights: the first pastors' ordination in the history of the Suswa Baptist Association. Six men were ordained. At the end of Rankin's sermon nine women and a young girl stood to indicate they wanted to become Christians. — Photo by Melissa Bird

Weston and Tichenor, both graduates of the seminary, each said their gifts were motivated by gratitude for the school. □

N.C. convention board adopts statement that challenges SBC course

Baptist Press

ASHEBORO, N.C. — A statement challenging the conservative direction of the Southern Baptist Convention since 1979 was adopted by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's general board during its May 24-25 meeting.

The statement, titled "Cooperation in Autonomy, Reaffirming the North Carolina Baptist Way," received some negative votes.

The statement begins: "When in the course of Baptist events, there arise attitudes, conduct, and deeds that destroy trust, dismantle institutions, and shatter lives, it becomes necessary for a voice to reaffirm the principles of our heritage."

Turning to the SBC conservative resurgence, the statement noted that since 1979 when current SBC leadership came into power, "every agency/institution/board of the SBC has suffered some degree of discord and disruption."

The statement cited the firing of Southwestern Seminary President Russell Dilday and the SBC Executive Committee's "February 1994 attack upon the Annuity Board" as examples. The board voted to "express our keen disapproval of and disappointment in those events" □

HMB seeking former student missionaries

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — If you have served as a student missionary with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, a researcher of that program's history would like to hear from you.

Scott Hudgins is collecting stories, photos, and statistics about student home missions, which began in 1944, for a 50-year review to be presented at a student missions festival in December.

Former student missionaries can contact Hudgins through the HMB's volunteers in missions department, in care of Student Missions History Project, 1350 Spring St., NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30367.

Pictures and information received by Oct. 1 will be used in the Mission '95 student conference in Louisville, Ky., Dec. 27-31. □

N.C. Baptist Men to coordinate move of European seminary

Baptist Press

ASHEBORO, N.C. — North Carolina Baptist Men have agreed to serve as stateside coordinator for the building and renovation of Baptist Theological facilities in the international institution's relocation from Ruschlikon, Switzerland, to Prague, Czech Republic.

The announcement was made by Maurice Cook, president of North Carolina Baptist Men in late May.

The European Baptist Fed-

eration is in the process of selling the Swiss property and moving to a site in northwest Prague. The EBF has owned the seminary since it was severed from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1992. The EBF is the organization of Baptist groups (unions) in Europe.

The primary goal for N.C. Baptist Men will be to recruit volunteers with skills needed for the relocation project. The volunteers will cover their own travel expenses. □

Hill retires from SBC Executive Committee

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Leonard E. Hill has announced plans to retire Sept. 1 after more than 36 years with the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

He has served as assistant convention manager or convention manager for 36 annual meetings of the SBC.

Beginning with employment on Feb. 1, 1958, Hill served first as production editor and then as managing editor of *The Baptist Program* until its last issue in September 1993. He edited the Baptist Bulletin Service for 34 years until editorial responsibility was transferred to the Baptist Sunday School Board on Jan. 1 of this year.

For 22 years the native Oklahoman has written a weekly syndicated column for *The Tennessean* in Nashville, providing answers and advice related to concerns of the aging.

He and his wife, Katie Lou, will continue to live in Nashville. □

Pass the flame along...

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