

Baptist and Reflector

August 3, 1994

VOL. 160 ■ NO. 31

STATEWIDE EDITION

■ **this
week's
news**

global —

- Southern Baptists to help children in Rwanda. — Page 2
- Iranian-born American resident released from prison in Iran. — Page 8
- Relief director reports on Haiti. — Page 8

national —

- Hemphill addresses constituencies. — Page 2
- Flood relief officials call for volunteers. — Page 3
- Media critic gives pointers for viewing TV, movies. — page 6

state —

- Union University opens new student center. — Page 4
- Church in Philadelphia observes sesquicentennial. — Page 7
- Crossville church moves to new building. — Page 7

National celebration caps year of True Love Waits

By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. —A national celebration for the year-long True Love Waits sexual abstinence campaign brought thousands of youth from across the United States together in person and by television July 29 on Washington's National Mall.

An estimated 25,000 teenagers attended the day of events sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board of Nashville and Youth for Christ of Denver, host of a July 27-31 youth evangelism conference also in Washington.

Thousands more viewed evening events by live broadcast on the Charlotte, N.C.-based Inspirational Network.

Begun by the Sunday School Board in April 1993, with a youth group from Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, the campaign is designed to encourage teenagers and college students to pledge sexual abstinence until marriage. In subsequent months, 27 other U.S. denominations and organizations have endorsed the campaign and international interest has increased its visibility.

Throughout the morning of July 29, approximately 1,000

Southern Baptist teenagers worked under the direction of the youth department of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission to fill the equivalent of several city blocks of the mall's grassy area with signed sexual abstinence pledge cards from the nation's teens and college students. At day's end, more than 210,000 cards had been received at the mall. Some churches which participated in the campaign missed the deadline to ship cards for the display or chose to use them in other ways, celebration organizers said.

President Bill Clinton met with a representative group of 150 youth and 10 adults from both groups at a 25-minute briefing at the White House early in the afternoon. Included among those participants were Richard Ross, campaign spokesman from the Sunday School Board and youth minister at Tulip Grove Church. With him were five Tulip Grove youth — Matt Frankel, Dennis Chamberlain, Ashley Joselyn, April James, and Chris Burchette.

Ross said Clinton noticed the white ribbons worn by several Southern Baptist teenagers "and used that as an occasion to say the crisis related — See National, page 2



THE CAPITOL provides the backdrop for more than 200,000 True Love Waits commitment cards on the National Mall. The placing of the cards was part of a national rally July 29 representing teenagers' pledges to sexual abstinence until marriage. Many Tennessee youth and sponsors made the trek to Washington to participate in the celebration. — Photo by Jim Veneman

Southwestern trustees unanimously elect Hemphill as seminary's seventh president

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Kenneth S. Hemphill, a Southern Baptist church growth analyst and former pastor, was unanimously elected July 28 as the seventh president in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's 86-year history.



HEMPHILL

The secret-ballot vote by 38 of the seminary's trustees at a closed special meeting elevates Hemphill, 46, to the seminary's presidency immediately, according to trustee chairman Ralph W. Pulley Jr., a Dallas attorney.

In a news conference after his election, Hemphill voiced commitments to the selection of professors who hold to biblical inerrancy and to the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program by which churches fund SBC national and international missions and ministries. He predicted good relations with Texas Baptists and said he would seek to enhance the seminary's sense of family and its work of producing pastors and church workers with a passion for God.

Hemphill has been director of the Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth, a cooperative venture of the SBC Home Mission Board and Baptist Sunday School Board since 1992. Previously he had been pastor of First

Church, Norfolk, Va., for 11 years.

He succeeds Russell H. Dilday Jr., who was fired by the trustees March 9 after nearly 16 years at the seminary's helm.

The salary package voted for Hemphill was not disclosed by trustee leaders. Pulley said it is comparable to other SBC seminary presidents, while Miles Seaborn, a Fort Worth pastor who was chairman of the search committee that unanimously recommended Hemphill, said it is comparable to what Dilday would have received and is not the highest among SBC executives or the lowest.

The North Carolina native and his wife, Paula, have three children. □ — See related story on page 2.

July CP gifts lower

The July report for Cooperative Program giving by Tennessee Baptist churches dipped because July 31 was on Sunday. Those CP gifts could not reach the TBC in time to be included in the July total.

According to James Porch, TBC executive director, CP gifts for July totaled \$2.06 million. This is a decrease of \$522,000 compared to July 1993.

Porch and William Maxwell, director of Convention Ministries Division, TBC, agreed that the July receipts keep the Executive Board staff on a 93 percent track.

The five-Sunday month receipts caused the fiscal year's total to drop some \$249,000 below the nine months total for 1993. Cooperative Program receipts from the churches thus far amount to \$18.83 million.

Budget requirements for the same period amount to \$20.68 million. That is \$1.85 million under budget, 8.94 percent. □

Post office and mail address label
for Baptist and Reflector
1202 Brentwood, Tenn.,

900-204-10-0127
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Southern Baptists to focus on Rwanda children

By Marty Croll
For Baptist Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — To help stem the rising tide of death in Rwandan refugee camps outside Goma, Zaire, Southern Baptists will concentrate on saving children's lives in two UNICEF camps.

Many are still infants. They will be fed by powdered formula mixed with water pumped from nearby streams and purified by solar-powered systems to be provided through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Southern Baptist water technicians will operate the systems.

UNICEF workers have set up seven camps for children who have become separated from their parents. In many cases, their mothers and fathers were buried in mass graves with other Rwandan corpses that had been rolled into mats and left along the roads to decay.

TBC's Larry Kirk sent to Rwanda

Larry Kirk, program associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Missions Department, left July 30 to serve for one month as a chaplain in Rwanda.

Kirk is a senior chaplain in the Tennessee Air National Guard. The unit was deployed for humanitarian purposes. They will be based in Kenya, but will travel in and out of Rwanda.

Kirk's service in strife-torn Rwanda is "an opportunity to carry the Good News back into the country even though the missionaries are gone and many of the church pastors and leaders have been killed," said Jere Phillips, TBC Missions Department director. □

Southern Baptists have promised to provide teams of doctors and nurses, recruited by the denomination's Brotherhood Commission, for clinics in the children's camps for three months, beginning in early August. They will bring powdered formulas, medicine, and medical devices for children.

The children's camps are located in the region around

15 sprawling camps, where up to two million Rwandan refugees are settling in. Thousands are dying from dehydration as cholera and dysentery sap their bodies of needed fluids.

"I've been in war, but I've never seen anything like this," said FMB missionary Clyde Berkley, who returned in late July to his base in Nairobi from a survey trip to the area.

"There's just complete disregard for dead people. They don't have the time to think about them. They don't have the strength to think about them."

Berkley, the FMB's associate to the area director for eastern and southern Africa, was accompanied on the trip by displaced Rwandan missionaries. "As we talked to them (the refugees) we told them, 'You're better off back in Rwanda than you are here,' but they say, 'No, that's not true.' They're afraid to go back," he said.

Missionaries have been mobilized for the project, including Tennessean Katrina Knox of Columbia, who will serve as medical coordinator. The FMB has allocated \$250,000 for the project.

Contributions can be sent to the FMB, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230, designated for world hunger and relief. □

National celebration caps years of True Love ...

— Continued from page 1

to teenage sexuality cannot be solved by government programs."

Ross noted Clinton said "his administration can make a limited contribution by such actions as changing welfare policies to discourage having babies out of wedlock, strengthening child support rules to cause biological fathers to take responsibility for their offspring, and to make the process for adopting children born out of wedlock easier."

Ross said Clinton reminded the young people that such government actions have only limited effect and that the true answer to the crisis is "for individual teenagers to choose not to have sex out of

their own internal sense of morality."

On hand at the mall to lend their support, answer news media questions, or to perform at an evening concert were contemporary Christian artists, including the Newsboys, Geoff Moore and the Distance, Steven Curtis Chapman, Petra, Lisa Bevil, and DeGarmo & Key.

At a morning news conference using the massive pledge-card display as a backdrop, Ross characterized the campaign as "a positive challenge to teenagers to make a promise to be sexually abstinent from this day forward until their wedding day."

Several others spoke at the news conference, including teenager Susan Fitzgerald of Tulip Grove who was among the

first youth to make public their intentions to remain chaste until marriage.

Fitzgerald said her desire is "to do with my life what God wants me to do. When I made this decision, I decided I want to be in a relationship with someone who has the same values."

Concurrent with the Washington festivities were similar celebrations worldwide in Kampala, Uganda, in Africa and Ottawa, Ontario, in Canada.

For Southern Baptists, the celebration did not mark an end to True Love Waits. The Sunday School Board plans to make it an ongoing emphasis and February will be designated as True Love Waits month on the SBC calendar. □

Hemphill addresses constituencies; SBC leaders react to election

By Art Stolton
For Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Ken Hemphill accepted the presidency of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary July 28, stating at the outset: "I am here by God's call, to accomplish God's purpose, through his supernatural empowering, under his sovereign care, for as long as he desires."

During a news conference Hemphill then addressed each of the seminary's constituencies and discussed a range of concerns at the 4,000-student seminary.

To Southwestern's constituencies, Hemphill said he is "especially grateful to the trustees for the confidence in me, and I pledge to them by best efforts and my full cooperation. I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve with these God-called men and women.

"I look forward with great anticipation to developing a collegial relationship with a committed and qualified faculty. I pledge to them visionary leadership, personal friendship, and caring ministry.

"I am most excited about the privilege of sharing my heart for ministry with young men and women who have entrusted their theological training to Southwestern Seminary. I pledge the students quality academic education, combined with practical ministry skills, taught in the context of a caring Christian community. We are committed to educating both the heart and the head.

"To the Southwestern alumni, I promise that we will not compromise the great heritage of mission and evangelism that is foundational to this seminary and will undergird all that we do. ...

"To Southern Baptists everywhere, I promise that

Southwestern will hold forth the glorious Gospel. We will ensure that this seminary is faithful to the truth of the *Baptist Faith and Message*. Further, it is our intention to turn out men and women who have a passion for the Lord, who are committed to his bride, the church, and who are determined to reach the lost world for Jesus Christ."

Several SBC leaders commented on Hemphill's election. SBC President Jim Henry of Orlando noted Hemphill "has a solid track record of preaching what he teaches" and noted Hemphill and his wife, Paula, "will make a strong leadership team for our school."

Former president Russell Dilday, in a telephone interview, told Baptist Press, "Out of friendship that we've shared for many years, I wish Ken the very best in his new responsibility. I'm praying for him, that the Lord would pro-

vide him wisdom and courage that would be sufficient for the enormous challenge he faces."

Jerold McBride, president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and a San Angelo pastor, told Baptist Press he has no criticism of Hemphill "and was very much impressed with him, a very winsome individual," in meeting him for lunch several years ago.

However, McBride noted that there will not be any change at Southwestern as long as the trustees who fired Dilday are there.

"I really feel that it would be magnanimous on the part of those who voted to fire Dilday if they put the seminary first and resign and let Hemphill go into office without that excess baggage," McBride continued.

"That won't happen, of course, but it would certainly go a long way in the healing process," he said. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
- **Subscribe to the *Baptist and Reflector*** for one year and receive 51 copies. Family or individual subscription — \$7.50, clubs of 10 or more subscriptions — \$7.25, church (more than 50 percent of families) — \$6.50. Send check/money order to address listed below.
- **To contribute a news item**, call or write the Editor; Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor; or Connie Davis, assistant editor.
- **To advertise** — Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor
- **For billing and subscription list questions** — Betty Williams, bookkeeper
- **For information about trial subscription plan** for church or association edition — Lonnie Wilkey, Connie Davis, or Susie Edwards, administrative secretary
- **For information about local church edition** — The Editor, or Mary Nimmo, church pages coordinator
- **For production answers** — Gina Dykeman, news and production assistant
- **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- **Board of directors**: David George, chairman; Joe Littlefield, vice chairman; Mickey Basham, Christine Bess, David Crocker, Russ Dunham, Gary Gerhardt, Dean Haun, Diana Jordan, Howard Kolb, Leonard Markham, Paul Moody, Ray Newcomb, Don Owens, Richard Patton, Mike Thrower, Gary Watkins, Laurann Whetham, and Larry Williams
- **Office** — *Baptist and Reflector*, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027
- **Mailing address** — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- **Phone** — (615) 371-2003.
- **FAX** — (615) 371-2080
- **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
- **Address changes** — *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- **Postmaster** — Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780)
- **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for Christmas week.



Printed on recycled paper

Disaster officials call for more flood relief workers

Baptist Press

ALBANY, Ga. — The pressure was too much for Myrtice Church. She stopped at the entrance of her house.

The outside looked intact, but the interior was gutted. All personal items were gone. High water touched the ceiling.

Church is an 80-year-old widow. Her husband built the house with his own crew.

"He put it up to stay," she says. "I'm just glad he's not here to see it destroyed."

Most flood waters are gone from Tropical Storm Alberto. But the damage remains, and volunteers approach a new phase of recovery.

Cleanup and repair are needed on 9,200 homes here. Debris litters curbsides with hills of furniture and sheetrock.

"We've never seen anything like this before," says Brad Hawley, 16.

He came from Seventh Street Church in Cullman, Ala. His youth group brought 25 volunteers for the initial cleaning in damaged homes.

"I didn't expect everything

Tennesseans continue work

About 100 disaster relief volunteers from the state cared for 904 children over 14 days in Albany, Ga., reported Cameron Byler, Tennessee Brotherhood director. They were relieved by the Arkansas team July 29.

Ten Tennesseans are serving in Cordele, Ga., relieving the Georgia team. They are operating the Georgia feeding unit July 30 - Aug. 6, Byler said.

Those from Tennessee wishing to volunteer to do cleanup should call 1-800-746-4422 or (706)-577-6228, he added. □

to smell," Hawley adds. "I'll be thinking about these people for a long time."

As Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts in the wake of flooding in the Southeast continued for a third week, officials continued their call for more volunteers for cleanup and long-term rebuilding efforts.

Bob Simpkins, director of Brotherhood for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, emphasized the need for volunteers to work primarily in southwest Georgia, which suffered the most damage from flooding due to the remnants of Tropical Storm Alberto. He asked that all prospective volunteers

call their own state convention's Brotherhood office first.

"It's been a good week and our efforts are going very smoothly," said Simpkins, who took the reins as national on-site relief coordinator in Columbus, Ga., July 24. "And lots of good things are happening. We continue to have the opportunity to share Christ out in the field and even at the Red Cross headquarters."

By July 28, feeding units had provided more than 319,000 meals and child care units had served more than 1,000 children.

Georgia Baptists were still operating feeding units in Per-

ry, Cordele, and Albany while North Carolina's unit continued to serve in Albany.

South Carolina's feeding unit was closed after the evening meal July 27 after having done "a tremendous work," Simpkins said. Units from the Alabama and Florida state conventions had ceased operations by July 24 after serving 62,000 meals between them.

The Tennessee child care unit, after serving for two weeks, was relieved by an Arkansas unit July 29. The Illinois convention child care unit returned home July 28.

People wishing to make donations for disaster relief may send contributions to the Brotherhood Commission, SBC, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104 or to the Home Mission Board, SBC, 1350 Spring St. N.W., Atlanta, GA 30367.

Last year's response to flooding in the Midwest still includes the largest-ever total for meals provided, 1.6 million over several weeks. This year, units have been active in the Southeast since July 5. □

Arkansas missions leaders die

Baptist Press

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. — Baptist missions leaders Glendon and Marjorie Grober died July 28 from injuries sustained in a single vehicle accident near Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Grober, 64, had served since 1984 as director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Brotherhood department. He also was the state-side coordinator for Arkansas Baptists' current missions partnership with the European Baptist Convention.

Mrs. Grober, 63, was president-elect of the national Baptist Nursing Fellowship. She concluded five years as president of the Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union earlier this year.

Prior to serving in Arkansas, the Grobers were Southern Baptist foreign missionaries in Brazil for 30 years.

The July 28 accident occurred near Scott City, Mo. The funeral was tentatively scheduled for Aug. 1 in Little Rock. □

Russell Dilday to join staff of Baylor's Truett Seminary

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Russell H. Dilday Jr., former president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been named distinguished professor of homiletics at Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary and special assistant to Baylor's president, effective Aug. 1.

Dilday served nearly 16 years as president at Southwestern, the largest of the Southern Baptist Convention's six seminaries. He was fired March 9 by trustees who gave no immediate reason for the dismissal. Later, they

claimed Dilday had reached an impasse with the board, blocking their efforts to make the seminary more reflective of the Southern Baptist Convention's current conservative direction.

Accepting the dual position at Truett and Baylor was both a financial necessity for him and his wife, Betty, Dilday indicated, and an open door to continue serving in the ministry of theological education to which he felt called more than a decade and a half ago.

"Our situation makes it impossible for Betty and me to retire early. Since we have to be gainfully employed for the next three or four years, I had to

secure a job," Dilday wrote in a prepared statement.

Seminary trustees "have refused to provide the full compensation package they promised" and have been unwilling "to make that financial support permanent through the approved date in 1995," Dilday stated.

Ralph W. Pulley Jr., chairman of Southwestern's trustees and a Dallas attorney, disputed that statement. He maintained that Dilday has been receiving his \$7,300 per month salary, as well as reimbursement for office expenses, and he has accessed a post-seminary housing fund approved by

trustees several years ago. "Everything has been done that the trustees approved," Pulley said.

The severance agreement reportedly included his \$85,000 base salary until age 65, including annuity contributions and medical insurance for him and his wife, and an office allowance of up to \$3,000.

Conditions set for receipt of the severance package were that Dilday would accept no other employment for 60 days, would not join a competitive group, and would do "only those things that are supportive of the seminary and the SBC." □

Senate tells EEOC to delete religion from guidelines

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — While the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission continues to ponder the future of its proposed religious harassment guidelines, Congress keeps sending signals — and most recently, a command — about its desires.

The Senate approved an amendment ordering the EEOC to delete the category of religion from guidelines on harassment in the workplace. Critics have charged the inclusion of religion in the proposed guidelines will result in a ban on religious expression on the job, largely because of employers' fear of lawsuits.

The amendment, which was passed without opposition by voice vote July 22, must survive a conference committee of members from both the Senate and House of Representatives. The House already had passed the same spending bill with an EEOC amendment, but its measure prohibits the use of funds for implementation of the guidelines if they are not changed. The House approved the amendment 366-37.

A spokesman for Sen. Howell Heflin D.-Ala., who was joined by Sen. Hank Brown, R.-Colo., in introducing the amendment, said there is not a lot of concern about its place in the final bill. □

AFA names top sponsors pro-homosexual programs

TUPELO, Miss. — Procter and Gamble is the leading sponsor of pro-homosexual programs on television, according to American Family Association. AFA said that based on programs monitored during the first six months of 1994, there was not a single program which depicted homosexuality in a negative manner.

Other companies listed in the top 10 include PepsiCo, Philip Morris, McDonald's, AT&T, Nestle, Unilever, General Motors, Ford, and Walt Disney.

"There has been a proliferation of programs presenting homosexuality as a normal, acceptable, alternative life-

style," said AFA president Donald E. Wildmon. "The companies identified in the report have agreed with the movers and shakers in Hollywood and at the networks that the public's attitude toward homosexuality must be reshaped. One could accurately say that the radical homosexual community now has total control of Hollywood and the networks on this issue," Wildmon said.

The Lichter/Rochman Report done in the early 1980s showed that only 5 percent of TV elite strongly felt that homosexuality is morally wrong and that "TV should be a major force for social reform." □

Annuity Board expands toll-free telephone services

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Beginning Aug. 1, the Southern Baptist Annuity Board's 800 toll-free line started receiving calls on an extended day, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Central time.

This customer service expansion recognizes the board's primary service area extends from the Eastern time zone to the Hawaii time zone. When the lines open at the Annuity Board, it will be 8 a.m. in Augusta, Maine, and 2 a.m. in Honolulu. At the close of the day, it will be 7 p.m. in Maine and 1 p.m. in Hawaii.

The toll-free number is 1-800-262-0511. □

■ 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. □

Prayers needed

In response to a letter from Norma Cox, the Baptist seminaries need prayer, not malevolence. Blaming the degradation of American society on Baptist seminaries is counterproductive, as if the degradation of American society is attributable to a vague notion such as "liberal theology," whatever that is.

According to some letters printed in the *Baptist and Reflector*, denouncing liberalism in our seminaries is a popular pursuit among those who perhaps have never been on a Baptist seminary campus, yet feel qualified to launch broadside attacks on institutions that are attempting to perpetuate the message and love of Christ. As a student at Belmont University, I used to hear the same vapid comment: "Those liberals are ruining everything." Who are these liberals? I defy anyone to explore the so-called liberalism at my school. Baptists obsessed with convention politics, conservatism, or liberalism are missing the point of the Great Commission anyway, and missing opportunities to share a message so

electrifying the Thessalonians complained that these Christians "turned the world upside down."

I wonder how reading an anti-seminary comment makes my family feel, since, in sending me to seminary, they are sacrificing everything. It would be terrific to read a letter urging Christians to pray for seminary students; instead I read that we are to blame for the sorry shape of American society. Inaccurate assessments do nothing to edify God's kingdom and do everything to polarize Christians and to cause hurt feelings.

Austin B. Amonette, student
New Orleans Baptist
Theological Seminary
New Orleans, La. 70126

Needs information

Cross Bridges Church will be 100 years old on Feb. 20, 1995. We are assembling a history of the church.

If you have any memorabilia concerning the church — old photos, video or audio tapes, newspaper clippings, or other — we would like to hear from you. Especially needed are photos of the original frame building located on the

grounds of the cemetery on South Cross Bridges Road.

We ask all former pastors to contact us, so that you may be included in our history. Some of the 30 or so pastors who served at Cross Bridges have passed on, but we would appreciate hearing from their families. We need photos of them also.

All materials will be returned.

Pamela Phillips
Cross Bridges Church
2897 North Cross Bridges
Road
Columbia 38401

Avid reader

I remember when Dr. Pope, Dr. Frey and others visited Chilhowee Baptist Association. I enjoyed the very first *Baptist and Reflector* I read and believed Baptists needed the paper. They had a plan for a 13-member group at a special rate. Money was scarce way back then, so I contacted church members for you and we received the *Baptist and Reflector*. Finally interest increased and the *Baptist and Reflector* was placed in the church budget.

I appreciate our state paper

and I believe the *Baptist and Reflector* has hewn close to the Bible these many years. As long as we believe the Bible is God's Word, that Jesus was born of a virgin, came to earth with a message for all people in the world to be born again, and that these born again people use the Bible as their guide, our morals will be better and we cannot go far wrong.

I enjoy our *Baptist and Reflector* and appreciate those who write for the paper.

Keep the good work going.
Edna McDonnell Morris
Maryville 37803

Youth worker

Forest Avenue Church in Redmond, Ore., is looking for God's person to fill the position of children/youth minister. If you feel God's leading to seek more information about this position, please contact Forest Avenue Baptist Church, P.O. Box 297, Redmond, Ore., 97756, or call (503) 548-4161 in the mornings.

Becky Teater, secretary
Forest Avenue Church
Redmond, Ore. 97756

Union dedicates Student Union Building

JACKSON — Union University's new Student Union Building, a 52,000-square-foot structure housing many university facilities, was dedicated July 29 by Union President Hyran Barefoot, Jackson Mayor Charles Farmer, County Mayor Alex Leech, members of the University's Board of Trustees, and representatives from the Jackson Chamber of Commerce.

The \$3.2-million building represents the university's largest construction project since Union relocated from its downtown campus to North Jackson in 1975.

Some key features of the new building include:

- The Gilbert-Powers Student Commons, which consists of the university's cafeteria facilities, snack bar, student gameroom, and vending area. The cafeteria contains additional serving lines, which will allow students greater meal variety. Two private dining rooms are also available for special events.

- The Dr. George Harvey Jr. Lecture Hall, a 250-seat, state-of-the-art lecture hall that will be used for seminars and lecture series. The hall already has a number of engagements booked through August 1995.

- The Prayer Chapel, a small, stained glass-enclosed room neighboring Union's office of religious affairs that is available for individual prayer and group devotionals.

Other facilities occupying the Student Union Building include the university's bookstore, post office, student and faculty lounges, conference rooms, and staff office space.

Relocation of existing facilities frees approximately 22,000 square feet of space in Union's Penick Academic Complex, which had reached capacity prior to construction of the Student Union Building. The vacant space will be converted into a wellness center, health and physical education facilities, classrooms, laboratories, and faculty offices. □

Peter gives guidelines for Christian citizenship

"Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king" 1 Peter 2:17.

In this epistle Peter deals with persecution, either actual or impending.

So he tells Christians how to conduct themselves. If they are law-abiding they will



HOBBS

■ Baptist beliefs

By Herschel Hobbs, Baptist theologian

prove false accusations brought against them by their persecutors (vv. 11-17). In verse 17 he summarizes the matter.

"Honor all people," pagans as well as Christians. All are made in God's likeness; Christ died to offer salvation to all. Therefore, each one is due justice and respect. "Love" the brotherhood or

Christians. Otherwise we give the wrong impression of Christ and Christianity.

"Fear God." It may better read "reverence." If we reverence God we will obey Him.

"Honor the king." Rulers should live so as to be worthy of honor.

Nero was the king or emperor at the time Peter wrote these words. Even if the office-holder is not worthy of honor we should honor the office. □

Volunteer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership

- Construction team of 7-15 in Rancagua Sept. 17-26
- Evangelism team of 5-12 (including five preachers) in Puerto Montt Sept. 30 - Oct. 11.
- Construction team of 3-5 men and 2-3 women in San Carlos Oct. 1-10.
- Construction team of 3-5 people in Molina Nov. 12-21.

Volunteers should call Jarvis Hearn at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, (615) 371-2028. □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



August -

- 4 — Volunteers are needed for a sports clinic team to go to Santiago Sept. 10-19.
- 5 — Our evangelism team travels to Vina Del Mar tomorrow for several days of ministry.
- 6 — Missionaries Bill Dorman and Eddie Graves have birthdays today.
- 7 — Our medical evangelism team is in Temuco ministering through Aug. 15.
- 8 — Our missionaries are on "double-duty" these days as our teams are in Chile. Pray for their hectic schedules, clarity in translating, and fruitful opportunities to witness and minister.
- 9 — Vic Bowman wants victory in everyday spiritual warfare as his birthday present.
- 10 — Larry Rogers, medical team leader, and Dewey Dunn are leading medical team ministries in Temuco today.

Forget about ourselves, magnify his name

Several weeks ago an article appeared on the editorial page of the *Baptist Times*, newjournal of the British Baptist Union.

Entitled "Living in the Real World," it is interesting, sobering, and thought-provoking. Springboard for the article was a book called *Imitations of Postmodernity* written by Zydmnut Bauman.

Bauman says that postmodernity means "a life that looks suspiciously like a TV serial, and a docudrama that ignores your worry about setting apart fantasy from what 'really happened...'"

"It means attention drawn in all directions at once so that it cannot stop on anything for long and nothing gets a really close look. It means a shopping mall overflowing with goods whose major use is the joy of purchasing them and existence that feels like a life-long confinement to the shopping mall."

Opposite that idea, which by the way is an accurate portrait of life in America these last years of the twentieth century, are words from one of the great hymns in the new *Baptist Hymnal*.

Let's forget about ourselves and magnify his name and worship him, Christ the Lord. We are told in "We Have Come into His House."

Imagine that! Forget about self. Isn't self the most important person, the most important concern we have?

The hymn indicates that forgetting about

self is the proper way — yes, the only way to meet the Lord in worship. In forgetting self, there is more likelihood that the true focus will be on worship and prayers of concern for others.

Bauman's statement is a superb summation of society today as the close of the 20th century nears. Too bad, isn't it, that today's lifestyles will be carried over into the 21st century. But it doesn't have to be that way. Christians can breathe deeply, step back, engage the Lord Jesus in conversation (which includes a lot of listening), and look at the situation.

What is fantasy, and what is the real world?

Fantasy: I can have as much water and food as I want. I can pay for it.

Real world: Thousands of people die daily in Rwanda for lack of water or food. Fear, starvation, disease are parts of a normal life.

Fantasy: I don't have time to pray or to think of others.

Real world: I have the same number of hours in each day to prayer and care as others do.

Fantasy: They should make those children behave in church. They should not allow those people in my church.

Real world: They are us, you, me.

Fantasy: I really didn't mean to do it.

Real world: I am responsible for my actions.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Turning the pages

In preparing to write an in-depth article about certain portions of Southern Baptist history, I have rediscovered some interesting facts.

Like the old Champion sparkplug advertisement, the SBC is tough, but "oh, so gentle." Though cumbersome, it is sturdy and resilient.

That is good news for Baptists of today, good news indeed. We often major on the fragility of the convention and fail to remember that we are



ALLEN

headed for a big birthday cake next year as we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the SBC.

In looking at ourselves in a modern mirror, it is easy to overlook or forget the vitality and vigor of the convention.

Readers have responded favorably to the first two articles on SBC history, sponsored by the SBC Historical Commission. We have used the two articles, and the series will continue through June 1995, as the convention's 150th anniversary is celebrated.

After the Southern states split from the old Triennial Convention in 1845, the people as they met in Augusta to form a new convention first made sure that missions was the cooperative thrust that cemented the decision.

Like a child trying to work his way out of a complex maze, those founders and their successors have never been halted very long by a blind alley.

The history encourages us of the present when we look at the perseverance and persistence of our spiritual ancestors. They moved ever forward, believing in the purpose and adding prayer to their faith and trust in Christ.

I have rediscovered that they were people, just like us, not immune to mistakes and ill will. But, just like us, they wanted to share the Gospel with the rest of the world.

I relearned the lesson that while God is God of the past and future — he is ever God of the present. He is the always-now God.

Despite all our plans, failed and successful, we are just like those who went before, people who will keep trying. □

■ just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Aunt Jane to Willie: "Why are you crying?"

Willie: "Cause I wanted to get a dog for my new baby brother but couldn't."

Aunt Jane: "That's no reason to cry."

Willie: "Yes it is. Nobody would trade with me."

Take this truth

How satisfied are you with the things you have? Do you know of anyone with whom you would change places completely? Someone said if all the burdens of all the people in the world were dumped in a pile, most of us would gladly take our own and go home.

Memorize this Scripture

"I have learned in whatever state I am, there to be content" (Philippians 4:11).

Pray this prayer

Lord, make me content with what I have. Grant I may not be bothered about what might have been. Lead me to do the best I can, with what I have, where I am, for Jesus' sake today. □

What to do when you are wrong

Last week we began looking at the problem of guilt. This week let's look at ways

to deal with guilt effectively. The world has attempted to deal with guilt by rationalizing it away.

"I'm not any worse than any one else." "Everybody is doing it." I am sure that your parents told you like mine told me, "If everyone else jumped off the bridge, would you?"

Or we might say, "If everyone else goes to jail, do you want to go with them?" Rationalization seldom settles the issue. I would like to suggest a five step, sure-fire cure for guilt.

Step one is repentance, or a willingness to turn from the wrong to the right. If one does not want to stop what is causing the guilt, there is no use in going to step two.

Step two is confession. The Biblical word is "homolego," to speak the same as God speaks. We need to confess to God and to the person whom our sin has wronged.

Step three is forgiveness. I John 1:9 says that if we confess, God forgives. All that is

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

left is for us to receive that forgiveness.

Peter wanted to know how often he had to forgive others and was surprised to hear Jesus' unlimited answer in Luke 18:21-35. Jesus also teaches a valuable lesson on forgiving ourselves in Mark 9:22-23.



BARKLEY

Some people whom I have known were more righteous than God. They acknowledged that God had forgiven them, but they just could not forgive themselves.

Forgiveness is not complete until we forgive ourselves.

Step four is restitution. Zacchaeus in Luke 19:8 volunteered to make generous restitution to any whom he had defrauded.

Although it is not dealt with in many religious circles today, restitution is a valid part of effectively dealing with guilt. One loses credibility even with one's self if there is not the willingness to make restitution.

I do need to note that in some cases restitution is not possible.

The other person could have died, or the loss is so great that it cannot be made up, and so forth.

Step five is changed behavior. This is much like the follow-through in a golf swing. You can hit the ball without it, but not as well.

Without changed behavior, one is caught in a never-ending cycle of having to deal with the guilt of the same offenses over and over. In John 8:11 Jesus told the woman caught in the act of adultery, "Go and don't keep living like this."

We will not completely and appropriately deal with our guilt if we do not ask God to help us change the behavior that created the guilt in the first place. □

The Baptist and Reflector weekly provides this column of valuable information written by Dr. Barkley, a licensed psychiatrist, who has his practice in Memphis. He also teaches at the Baptist Memorial Branch of Union University in Memphis. The paper and Dr. Barkley welcome comments or questions from our readers.

Combatting the media's influence

By Phil Boatwright
Baptist Press

Editor's note — Boatwright is editor of The Movie Reporter newsletter and author of the movie guidebook *How to Choose a Good Video Every Time*. Articles about Hollywood from a Christian perspective by Boatwright are featured in newspapers and magazines across the country. He also has reviewed for USA Radio Network.

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — Should we attend movies? This is a question members of church groups have debated ever since the first silent film. At no other time has the question been more valid. The film industry has never been guided by spiritual truths, but the '80s and '90s have evidenced an unrelenting momentum by the media at ridiculing biblical principles, focusing on sex as a cure-all, and promoting bigotry, Christian-bashing, violence, and cynicism.

Whether you attend movies or not, the media has an effect on your life. It's way beyond time Christians stop hiding their heads in the sand hoping the problem will solve itself, or pretending we are doing our part by not viewing Hollywood's product. No longer can we view TV and attend the cinema with the same attitude we did in the '40s, '50s, and '60s. That was a time when you could send your children to the Saturday matinee with assurance Hollywood would deal with the subject matter with some sort of taste and temperance. Those days are long gone. Now, anything goes and the local bijou has moved into the home via the video cassette.

The two most powerful weapons in the world are the TV and the silver screen because they devastate not the body, but the mind and spirit

of man if not used properly.

Each day we read articles about children or teens or disturbed adults who take a lead from something they've seen on television or at the movies to upset the lives of those around them. In the past year alone we've heard of several teens killed or seriously injured imitating a scene from the film *The Program*. Four other boys made a flame thrower after watching *GI Joe* on television. Inventive, I'll admit. Unfortunately, it resulted in one boy being badly burned. A man influence by rap music fatally shot a state trooper. Researchers claim beer ads influence not just teens, but children as well. MTV's *Beavis & Butthead* has been blamed for children setting fires, one of which killed a 21-month-old baby. And on it goes.

There have been several polls and cultural studies that indicate TV and movie viewing coincide with the decline in SAT scores and the increase in everything else: illegitimate births, single mothers, teen suicide, and violent crime.

Understand, I am not suggesting censorship. Consider four simple but, if applied, effective suggestions in response to the movie industry. (See "How to respond to media.")

Without wanting to sound fanatical or, heaven forbid, fundamentalist, looking at the problems we face in our world, can they be treated without the disciplines of the Bible? Ultimately, life's standards cannot be raised by laws, but by our regard for one another. Changing what we see in the movies or on television begins with what we are taught in our homes.

I learned a practical lesson from — of all places — a movie, *Awakenings*. In one scene, Robin Williams lectures a group of scientists and educa-

tors, emphasizing, "The spirit of man needs to be nourished. We're just like any other living

organism on his planet. Everything needs to be nourished; otherwise, it won't grow prop-

erly. Since our mind controls our body, shouldn't we control what we put into it? □

Reviews —

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — This column has been designed not to promote movie-going, but merely to inform. If you don't like the direction Hollywood is leading our society, then be careful what you support. Know before you go!

• **Angels In The Outfield.** Danny Glover, Tony Danza, Jay O. Sanders, Christopher Lloyd. Kids' fantasy/adventure — PG (one character smokes but the film shows its bad effects, one expletive, mixed messages about angels and God).

A boy living in a foster home is told by his ne'er-do-well father, "We'll be a family when the Angels win the pennant." In other words, when you-know-where freezes over. So guess what the kid prays for? Here's where some mixed messages come into play. A gang of angels fix the games on behalf of the child's prayers, causing the inept team to win all season long.

When it comes to the championship, however, angels' rules preclude them from further helping the team. So why was it okay to interfere during the other games? Was that not cheating? Shouldn't a team win on its own merit? It didn't seem fair to this sports enthusiast, because that team couldn't beat the Bad News Bears.

Perhaps the most disappointing film of the year. The problem: not one scene rings true. It's maudlin when it attempts to inspire and lame when it wants to be funny. The pros overact, the kids don't even try. There are some in the Christian community who will praise the film simply because of the positive messages (it does speak of the possibility of God and angels interceding in our lives, we must have faith, etc.), and the lack of profane language (a rarity today in the movies), but that doesn't excuse it for mediocrity. Video Alternatives: *Damn Yankees* or *Here Comes Mr. Jordan*.

• **True Lies.** Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jamie Lee Curtis, Tom Arnold, Tia Carrera. Action/comedy — R (profanity, obscenity, and crude sexual references sprinkled throughout; the cartoonish violence turns sadistic and overwhelming; two sexual situations, but no nudity). Helen thinks her husband is a simple salesman. Little does she know, Harry is a spy in the James Bond mold, complete with tuxedo and a pilot's knowledge of Harrier fighter jets. There are several funny escapades, with Tom Arnold nearly

stealing the film. It has been reported the picture cost over \$100 million, and it's all there on the screen. Without question, it is the action-packed flick of the summer. The question you must answer, however, is, should we support R-rated material? If not, may I offer this Video Alternative: *The Thin Man*, which masterfully blends comedy and suspense with one of the all-time great screen couplings, William Powell and Myrna Loy. (Caution: the hero is a drinker.)

• **Forrest Gump.** Tom Hanks, Gary Sinise, Robin Wright, Sally Field. Fable — PG13 (a lot of obscene language surrounding the Vietnam War segments, but at no time does the lead use foul or profane language; there is implied incest which affects the girl Forrest loves; graphic violence and gore during the Vietnam sequences; blasphemy from an embittered war vet, but it's stated that the character later comes to peace with God; brief shot of a *Playboy* magazine; brief nudity; drug use; two implied sexual situations and one not so implied).

Charming, insightful movie with an Oscar-worthy performance from Hanks as a slow-minded but gifted gentle soul who makes his way through life, favorably affecting those around him. It is full of uplifting and moralistic messages. Video Alternative: *Harvey*, starring James Stewart.

• **The Lion King.** Disney's 32nd animated feature. Rated G (the father of a lion cub is murdered, a couple of intense action sequences may be a little frightening for very young viewers). Thinking he is the cause of his father's death, a lion cub goes into exile until he is reminded of his responsibility.

Many in the Christian community are concerned with several messages in this film. Is the concept "We are all part of the circle of life" just a politically correct slant? Is the idea of the monarch lion speaking from the clouds after his death part of a New Age philosophy? Does a monkey sitting in the lotus position suggest Eastern doctrines?

The answer: Maybe! But wasn't the same scrutiny applied to Jesus' parables? After all, what's wrong with the "circle of life" concept? We are all connected. As for a God-figure speaking from beyond, didn't God speak to Moses from a bush, a cloud, a mountain? It's called symbolism, and the parables are replete with symbolism. Concerning the monkey meditation, the Bible does acknowledge the need to meditate. □ — Phil Boatwright

How to respond to the media —

■ **Be careful what you support.** How often have you heard this: "You've got to see this film. Jack Lemmon is fabulous." Well, folks, Jack Lemmon has been making movies for 40 years; he should be pretty good!

But is a fine performance reason enough to support a film? Philipians 4:8 says, "Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things." Can that verse be applied to the movies you are attending?

The bottom line for filmmakers: How much did it gross at the box office? If

you are upset with Hollywood's lack of values, then why are you supporting it?

■ **Be informed.** I'll bet you've heard this one: "If you haven't seen the film, how can you object to it?" There are a few resources you can turn to for information, including:

■ **The Movie Reporter** (Central Christian Publications, P.O. Box 7178, Thousand Oaks, Calif. 91359; one-year subscription \$17.95). It gives reviews of the latest releases, as well as the content.

■ **The Movieguide: A Biblical Guide to Movies and Entertainment** (P.O. Box 9952, Atlanta, Ga. 30319). \$29.25 per year.

■ **Preview Movie Morality Guide**, which

reviews G, PG, and PG-13 movies (1309 Seminole Drive, Richardson, Texas 75030).

Armed with this info, you can decide if the new releases are suitable for your family, as well as discuss why we shouldn't support a certain film without having to subject yourself to it.

■ **Communicate with your local TV affiliate.** If you are upset with profanity (the taking of God's name in vain) on television (which is happening more and more frequently), call the offending local channel (the number is in your phone book).

Without anger, explain you're a Christian and profanity is very offensive to you and your family. Ask that this message be passed on to the station manager.

I guarantee, if a hundred people in your community would do the same, you'd see a change.

■ **Communicate with your kids.** You can't protect them from all of Hollywood's influence. MTV's images and those from the local theater influence your children whether they view it or not, because the media's messages affect their friends which, in turn, affect them.

Maybe what is more important than saying "no" to MTV is for your kids to say "yes" to biblical teachings. If a society is to survive, it needs standards. Can you point out better standards than the Ten Commandments or Christ's directive to love one another? These are concepts that, once ingrained in youngsters, take hold and last through life. □ — Phil Boatwright

■ Tennessee features

Cedar Fork celebrates and prepares for another 150 years



LOOKING BACK was a special treat after lunch as hundreds of old photos were on display.

RAPT ATTENTION during children's message.



SWEETWATER ASSOCIATION DOM Bennie Creel, left, presents plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to Pastor Clayton Dunsmore.

History speaks, people listen

PHILADELPHIA — Cedar Fork Church, perched at the southwestern entrance to Roane County, is an historical landmark. The church was established on the fourth Saturday of July, 1844, and the congregation celebrated its sesquicentennial on July 24.

Because of its strategic location, the church has held membership in several associations, but, says Pastor Clayton Dunsmore, it always has been faithful to the ministry of Christ.

Four pioneers founded the church as an arm of Prospect Church, Loudon, and four more persons quickly joined. Membership has been with Hiwassee Association, Providence, Walnut Grove, Hiwassee again, and finally Sweetwater Association in 1958.

Theme of the 150th anniversary celebration was "Focusing on people, centered in Christ." Said Dunsmore, "We believe in meeting the needs of people in the name of Christ." The church has had 43 pastors.

The church published a short history, compiled a cookbook, and had a week-long revival for the anniversary. The church gives 27 percent of its income to Baptist mission causes. — Story and photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor



CEDAR FORK began a week-long revival in the July 24 evening service, with former pastors preaching in a tent in the field behind these members. From left, Rich Sisk, Pastor Dunsmore, Jim McGinnis, Willis Bettis, Wayne Henry, Wilma Raley, and Bill Viar.



MANY OF THE MEMBERS dressed in period clothing for the anniversary celebration. Frances Dunsmore, right, talks with three of the oldest members of the church. From left, Ruby Raby, Allie Howard, and Lorene Oran.

Dowelltown observes centennial

DOWELLTOWN — Members of First Church, Dowelltown, are reminded of its history every time they enter the church building which is 97 years old. Joe Elledge reported during the centennial observance July 24 the building historically was known as



PASTOR NEAL FOSTER, left, stands in front of the church with special guests attending the event, from left, Mrs. Clay Boss of Murfreesboro, wife of late former pastor, Thurman Seber, director of missions, Salem Association; James Williams, former pastor who is now pastor, Whorton Springs Church, Smithville; and Ric Lee, former pastor who is now pastor of Auburn Church, Auburtnown.

"one of the best and most modern church buildings found anywhere in this section." Former pastors present for the celebration included Terry Wilkerson, pastor, Academy Heights Church, Gallatin. Both men ordained by the church were present — Elledge, a retired pastor who has returned to the church, and Bobby Colvert, pastor, Covenant Church, Smithville. □



BY RINGING THE BELL in the 97-year-old building of First Church, Dowelltown, Pastor Foster announces the special afternoon service held to celebrate the centennial.

Crossville church moves



MEMBERS RECOGNIZED by the church during the dedication were Meade Woody, left, who has been a member for 75 years, and Carrie Woody (no relation), who has attended three building dedication services, the first in 1918.

CROSSVILLE — Bethlehem Church, Crossville, dedicated its new facility July 24.

The congregation, which moved into a 266-seat auditorium, has outgrown at least five meeting houses at four locations in its 122-year history.

The present facility is located on six acres about one-half mile from its former location on Potato Farm Road and Highway 127.

A fundraising program led by the Tennessee Baptist Convention assisted the church, reported Pastor Charlie Ivey. □



BUILDING COMMITTEE members of Bethlehem Church, from left, first row, Vickey Turner; Connie Norris; Larry Tramel, chairman; Sue Wattenbarger; Glenn Wyatt; back row, Richard Johnson; Sue Buttens; Harry Woody; and David Dodson; pause during the celebration.

American resident returns after detainment in Iran

Baptist Press

RICHMOND, Va. — An Iranian-born American resident imprisoned in Iran for 12 days returned to his Boise, Idaho, home July 22 telling his family he knows God like he never knew him before.

The resident, Hassan Shahjamali, had visited in Iran with family members and friends, including Christian leader Mehdi Dibaj. Dibaj, an Assemblies of God minister, and Tateos Michaelian, chairman of the Council of Protestant Ministers in Iran, were found murdered in early July.

Shahjamali, a Christian convert from Islam, left the United States for Iran May 29 to visit his family, encourage

Iranian Christians, and share the Gospel with interested Iranians. But at an airport in Shiraz, Iran, July 1, police arrested him and jailed him for 12 days.

His wife, Sylvia, a native American Navajo from Arizona, said she didn't even recognize him when he flew into Los Angeles July 22. "They had shaved his head completely bald," she said. "They had shaved his mustache."

Except for one news conference in Boise upon his return, Shahjamali is declining interviews until he recuperates. "I'm sure you understand it's been very stressful for him," said his wife.

"They kept him blindfolded ... and came and threatened

him. He told them they could not touch him unless God allows it. And he said, 'I have asked God to not let you touch me.' He said it seemed like they were afraid of him."

After his release from prison, Iranian officials escorted him to Tehran, the capital. During his ordeal he met with high government leaders. They told him they wished there were Muslims like him, she said.

Upon his return, his wife said she felt the presence of God when she was with her husband.

Shahjamali told those close to him he had sensed he was "in a fire" — but fully protected — while in prison. He likened his experience to that

of the Old Testament characters Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they were persecuted by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar for their allegiance to the Hebrew God.

Shahjamali works as a supervisor for an engineering group at Micron Semi-Conductors in Boise. He was a fighter pilot for the Shah of Iran in 1976 when he met his wife. She was in the U. S. Air Force, and he was training in Texas for the Shah's military. They have been married 16 years and have three children.

One source said Iranian officials took Shahjamali's passport away from him even after he was released from prison. He battled Iranian bureaucracy about a week for permission

to leave. The official Iranian government news agency denied the government had imprisoned him.

"We are praising the Lord ... that they let him go," the source said. He added diplomatic efforts by countries other than the United States — prompted by the U.S. State Department — played a key role in the release.

The source questioned Iran in its blaming of government opposition groups for the wave of violence against Christians. He called that an attempt to "make the rest of the world believe they (Iranian government) actually respect the rights of Christians." □

U. S. embargo, military threats killing Haiti's poor, Jones says

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Haiti's poor can't wait for U.S. sanctions and embargoes to force the country's military rulers from power, according to Larry Jones, founder and president of Feed the Children.

"There's an old African saying," Jones told *The Daily Oklahoman* in Oklahoma City, where the relief ministry is headquartered: "If you give a rich man less food he becomes thin. If you give a poor man

less food he dies."

"If you try to put pressure on the rich with an embargo," said Jones, a Southern Baptist minister, "you slaughter the poor."

Instead of a military invasion of the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation to topple Haiti's military rulers, Jones told the newspaper, "We need a mission of compassion."

Jones visited Haiti for five days in June. He said he saw a country gutted by hunger, poverty, and a 75 percent un-

employment rate.

Jones said he also saw cardboard lean-to homes and abandoned, sick children left to die in hospitals.

"A mother offered me a child, and that's not the first time," Jones recounted to the newspaper. "They feel like if they can make it to the U.S. they might have a change of living. That's the depth of their love. They are willing to give their child up."

According to a report from Harvard, about 1,000 children

die each month in Haiti — but, Jones said, there is no medicine for sick children in Haiti, Jones also wrote in a column in the *Dallas Morning News*. "After two years of embargo, the only hope for a sick child is to be abandoned at a hospital."

Jones said Haitians scoffed at the idea of a military invasion, asking him, "What's there to invade?"

Feed the Children's ministry in Haiti, one of 68 countries where it has relief programs, has included provision

of food, clothing, medical, and education assistance to more than 10,000 Haitian children; medical clinic work; and an agricultural development program benefitting 600 Haitian farm families. The ministry was able to get one flight of food into Haiti in June.

Jones told CNN July 16, "... literally thousands of people are depending upon us for food, but right now our warehouse is empty." □

Gary Williams elected director of missions

Gary N. Williams, director of education and promotion, Madison-Chester and Crockett associations, was elected director of missions of the association, effective Aug. 1.

Williams has served the association for five years. Prior to that he was minister of education, First Church, Union City.

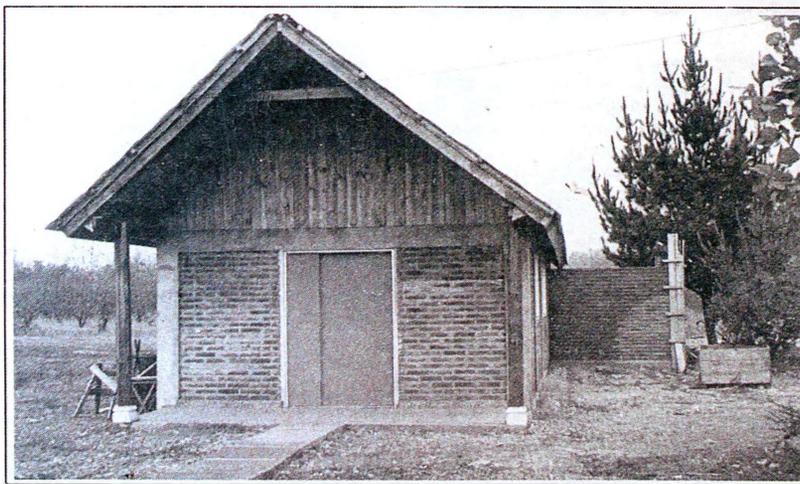


WILLIAMS

He also has served as senior adult consultant, family ministry department, Baptist Sunday School Board, and at other churches — First Church, Bemis; Liberty Grove Church, Jackson; and Whitten Memorial Church, Memphis.

Williams is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He also has studied at the Center for Studies in Aging, North Texas State University, Denton. □

Chile/Tennessee partnership missions



NORTH OF TALCA, this church building is one of many where Tennessee Baptists volunteers helped in construction.

Opportunities are still available for participation in Chile/Tennessee partnership missions venture which will continue through Dec. 31.

One team of seven

to 15 workers is needed to help members of First Church, Rancagua, construct a building for the church Sept. 17-26. The 3,900 square foot building will include a meeting room,

three classrooms, and an office for the pastor.

Volunteers should be experienced in construction and bring hand tools. They will stay in a hotel and be provided

a translator.

If interested, contact Jarvis Hearn at the Tennessee Baptist Convention at (615) 371-2028. □

Mississippi begins fight over prayer

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi became the first battleground in a national war over student-initiated school prayer when opponents filed suit July 15 in federal court in Jackson, seeking to strike down the state's new law approving such prayers.

"This statute is part of a growing movement by the religious right to attack public education," said Judith E. Shaeffer, attorney for Washington-based People for the American Way, which filed the suit on behalf of the Mississippi American Civil Liberties Union.

Shaeffer was referring to the Mississippi legislature's March 1994 approval of a statute permitting "non-sectarian, nonproselytizing, student-initiated prayer" in public schools across the state. Several other states have since passed similar laws. The legislation was introduced after a Jackson school superintendent was fired for allowing a student to pray over an intercom system. □

TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the leaders

■ **Lincoln Heights Church**, Tullahoma, has called **Louis Rideout**, interim pastor, as pastor, effective July 10. He has served as pastor of Grace Church, Tullahoma. He has served as a home missionary in Ohio and evangelist.

■ **Raymond Long**, former pastor of Sunrise Church, Rutledge, has been called as bivocational pastor of First Church, Bean Station, effective Aug. 7.

■ **Union Hill Church**, Goodlettsville, has called **Vickie Griggs** as minister of music, effective July 17. She is a student at Belmont University, Nashville.

■ **David Hays** has been called as minister of music, of Brunswick Church, Brunswick.

■ **Phillip Dougan**, pastor, New Providence Church, Clarksville, is participating with 1,200 others in the U.S. Transplant Games in Atlanta Aug. 3-7. Participants have had organ transplants. Dougan underwent a kidney transplant in December, 1989.

■ **Eddie Christenberry**, a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, has been called as minister of music and youth, Westwood Church, Murfreesboro, effective

June 5. The native of Seymour was ordained by Valley Grove Church, Knoxville, July 17.

■ the missionaries

■ **Frank and Mary Alexander** of South Dakota have been selected by the Home Mission Board along with another couple as the 1994 Mission Service Corps Volunteers of the Year. Frank Alexander is a native of Rockwood who lived in Knoxville for many years.

■ death

■ **Mrs. Thomas Drake**, wife of the retired pastor of First Church, McEwen, died July 28. She is survived by her husband of McEwen.

■ the churches

■ **New Providence Church**, Clarksville, held revival July 10-13 which was led by Harold Hunter of Nashville. Thirteen were baptized and over 60 people rededicated commitments.

■ **West Union Church**, Dresden, is celebrating its 125th anniversary Aug. 7. Dwayne Ervin, former pastor,

will preach at the 11 a.m. service. After a luncheon, a 1:30 program includes music and a review of the church history.

■ **Webb Church**, Newport, and **Pastor Frank Bell** will be celebrating an anniversary of 32 years of ministry Aug. 7. Charles Lowery, pastor of Southside Church, Newport, who was ordained by the church, will speak during the morning worship service. After a covered dish luncheon, Jeff Hazelwood and family will lead music.

■ **Grace Church**, Bethpage, will hold homecoming Aug. 14. The morning worship service, which begins at 11 a.m., will be followed by a covered dish luncheon and a musical performance by the Taylor family of Cecilia, Ky.

■ the associations

■ A team from **Weakley County Association** of 34 volunteers from 13 churches worked July 9-15 in Lansing and Jackson, Mich., to support the Tennessee/Michigan Baptist Partnership. Three churches were repaired and/or renovated — Calvary Church, Jackson; Victory Church, Lansing; and Bethany, Lansing. Backyard Bible Clubs held in conjunction with Bethany Church, Lansing, drew 105 children. Vacation Bible Schools attracted 116 children

to Victory Church, Lansing, and First Church, Delta, Lansing. The volunteers also did survey work. Two people made professions of faith as a result of the efforts.

■ the schools

■ **Union University**, Jackson, will offer seminary extension courses in nine West Tennessee locations this fall. Classes will meet for 13 weeks. College entrance requirements are waived. Course work leads to a diploma. Classes follow — **Memphis** — New Testament Survey, Part 3, Thursday, Sept. 8, Ardmore Church; **Lexington** — Systematic Theology, Tuesday, Aug.

30, Beech River Association Center; **Covington** — Public Worship, Monday, Aug. 29, Big Hatchie Association Center; **Dyersburg** — Church Growth and A Study of Matthew's Gospel, Monday, Sept. 12, BSU Center, Dyersburg State Community College; **Trenton** — First Corinthians, Tuesday, Sept. 6, Gibson Association Center; **Bolivar** — contact Hardeman Association office; **Adamsville** — Revelation, Thursday, Sept. 8, Shiloh Association Center; **Dresden** — Dynamics of Teaching, Tuesday, Sept. 6, Weakley Association Center; and **Paris** — Galatians, Thursday, Sept. 8, Western District Association Center. For more information, contact Union at (901) 661-5160.



LEADING THE GROUNDBREAKING at Mount Gilead Church, Cedar Grove, are building committee members, from left, Roy Hutson, James Oswald, Gary Bohn, Houston Jordan, and Phil Mitchell, pastor. The new building will include a sanctuary and basement which will provide education space. Part of the construction will be done by Volunteer Christian Builders.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Worship — an acquired art

By Jim Growden, pastor Hillcrest Church, Nashville

Down through the years I have observed many worshipers in churches. Some have a good experience and some do not! It's all up to the individual. Let me share some suggestions for worship.

■ **Think of worship as an art**, with definite rules to follow, an art you must acquire.

■ **Spend a quiet Saturday evening** and get enough sleep. Get ready for Sunday.

■ **Worship regularly** (every Sunday). A doctor's prescription to be taken regularly is not effective if taken occasionally.

■ **Come to church expecting great things**. When you expect to receive a blessing you usually do.

■ **Come to church in a spirit of enjoyment**. Worshiping is a radiant and happy experience, not a place for gloom, etc.

■ **Do not bring problems to church**. Don't bring ill will to God's house. A grudge blocks the flow of spiritual power. Pray that God will always

have control of you.

■ **Practice the art of spiritual contemplation**. In church think about God and beautiful things — peace, love, joy, etc.

I think you get the idea. Bring someone to Bible study and worship every Sunday. □

Doing our part

By Randy L. Pressnell, pastor Haynes Flat Church, Speedwell

Someone has said, "Most of us will never do great things, but we can do small things in a great way." The preacher in Ecclesiastes 9:10a says, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (NIV). Consistently throughout the Bible we read admonitions to do our part in the kingdom's work in a faithful manner.

It is true that most of us will never be called upon to do great things for God. But we can be an integral part of God's plan as we fill the role he has called and gifted us to do. It is not always the great things that are important to God. One thing, however, I am convinced of, and that is that God is more concerned with our availability

than our ability — our availability to do the small things that no one will ever know about.

At Haynes Flat Baptist Church, we need prayer warriors, witnesses, teachers, leaders, and staff members. This is obvious! But just as important, we need cooks, nursery workers, children's church volunteers, greeters, listeners, friends, tree trimmers, givers, and the list continues on and on. One task contributes to the spread of the Gospel throughout the world as much as another task.

What has God gifted you to do? What is your part in the work of the kingdom? Whatever your hand finds to do around Haynes Flat Baptist Church, do it with all your might! □

Self-respect and respect of others

By Gary E. Baker, pastor First Church, Sweetwater

For the past few days, for whatever reason, the word "respect" has been on my mind. *Webster's Dictionary* defines this word: showing consideration for, holding in honor, giving regard to.

We all have a need to be respected. We want to think that there are folks who know us and who do hold us in honor and consideration. Respect, in this sense, is something that is a "given." We may or may not have merited it, but it is ours.

Respect is also something that we can earn. It is our reward after having shown our metal and colors. It is ours after demonstrating in some way or ways that we are worthy of respect. It is ours not just because of who we are due to a position we hold, but it is ours due to our character.

In our efforts to gain respect we may have to do things we don't feel comfortable with; we may have to be used by someone or be manipulated into something we resist. To gain someone's respect, we may lose respect for ourselves. Then, gaining their respect is not worth the price.

When all is said and done and the day is over and we lay down to sleep it is most important that we have respect for ourselves and that we feel we've earned God's respect. At times we have to choose between self-respect and the respect of others.

It is at these times character is built! □

Despite low inner-city turnout, Centrifuge yields high returns

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — Leaders of the new inner-city Centrifuge camps launched this summer refuse to be discouraged about the low turnouts. They have taken the attitude in this foundation-laying year that lives, not numbers, are important.

"Steve and I said from the first day if one teenager's life is impacted or transformed by Centrifuge, that's one more of our African American people who will stay alive," said Barbara Warfield of Nashville, development director of the new African American inner-city Centrifuge camps. Her husband, Steve Warfield, is coordinator of the Centrifuge/ Crosspoint section for the Baptist Sunday Board which sponsors the events. They are members of Simeon Mission, Nashville.

This is the first year Centrifuge has been offered for inner-city young people, said Joe Palmer, manager of

the Centrifuge and Crosspoint programs. "For the past 16 years, it has been a suburban type camp. We have never tried to reach the inner cities."

Centrifuge is a one-week camp for seventh through 12th graders that mixes recreation, Bible study, worship, and classroom tracks together for a complete worship experience, Palmer said.

"If we are going to reach African American kids, we have to reach the cities. And if we are going to reach those kids in the cities, we have to go where they are," Palmer said.

While Centrifuge has "great credibility" among white Southern Baptist churches, non-white Southern Baptists have not heard much about it, he said.

"We are trying to break cultural barriers and take Centrifuge beyond the doors of the traditional Southern Baptist church," Palmer said. "The worship at the African American

camp is definitely culturally different."

Centrifuge camps in inner cities do take on a different beat. The music is more lively; the participants more limber; "Amens" and "Praise Gods" and "Uh-huhs, brother or sister" more audible.

Relating to African Americans within their culture is necessary to reach the young people, Palmer and Warfield agree.

"If we as Baptists say we really want to reach our country, we have to reach our youth," Palmer said. "If you look at the death rate among teens, especially blacks, you will see that violent deaths — shootings — are the No. 1 killer. We have to keep this from happening, and the only way we will do it is to reach our kids."

Inner-city Centrifuge camps are being held in 10 locations this summer. The St. Louis camp marked the midpoint for the traveling team of 12

staffers and the Warfields who are going from one end of the United States to another. The staffers are all African American college students who were trained at the beginning of the summer to lead the camps.

The Centrifuge staff began its grueling journey June 13 with a camp in Louisville and expects to complete its travels with a camp in Los Angeles, Aug. 19. Camps also have been or are expected to be held in Milwaukee; Hammond, Ill.; Nashville; Houston; Dallas; and Oakhurst, Calif.

"In every week, starting with Louisville, we have had professions of faith," Warfield said. "One young man in Louisville was really a fighter when he first began camp. But he hooked up with (two male staffers) and rode his bike in 100-degree temperatures three miles each way every day to camp."

"That week the kids went from fighting and bad language to 28 decisions being made," she said. □

Virginia group of conservatives elects director

Associated Baptist Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Evangelist Howard Baldwin of Richmond, Va., has been named interim executive director of a conservative Baptist fellowship in Virginia.

Baldwin, 59, was elected June 30 by the executive committee of Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, an organization formed in 1993 to counter what its founders charged was a weakening of ties between the Southern Baptist Convention and the more moderate Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Baldwin is president of Multi-Media Ministries, an evangelistic association. In his new position, he will coordinate activities of the group, which has undertaken some mission projects. □

Classified

POSITION AVAILABLE: Salem Baptist Church, Knoxville, is now accepting applications for church organist. Send resumes to David Whipple Jr., Salem Baptist Church, 4800 Salem Church Rd., Knoxville, Tenn., 37938.

WANTED: Part-time Minister of Youth and Music. Send resume to Barbara Riddle, chairman of search committee, Nolensville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 635, Nolensville, Tenn., 37135.

NEEDED: Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, is seeking a bivocational organist and a bivocational preschool/children's minister. Send all resumes to Evelyn Larson, 308 Overhill Dr., Old Hickory, Tenn., 37138.

Oklahoma board adjusts CP giving

OKLAHOMA CITY — Citing rising expenses, a lean staff, and a stagnant economy resulting in decreased income from the churches, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma's board of directors voted in a special called meeting

July 12 to recommend a change in the percentage of Cooperative Program receipts going to the SBC.

Directors approved a 1995 CP objective that sends 40 percent of receipts to the SBC and keeps 60 percent in Oklahoma. □

Fellowship hires missions educator

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Grace Powell Freeman, 37, of New York City has been hired as a specialist in missions education for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

In her position — called associate missions coordinator for missions education promotion — Freeman will develop missions education materials, promote the Fellowship's annual Global Missions Offering, and serve as a resource person to churches. □

Call for Free BROCHURE

BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE
1-800-251-0679

FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.
3511 HIRSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

LITTLE GIANT MFG. CO.

BAPTISTRIES
WATER HEATERS
STEEPLES
CROSSES-LIGHTS

Buy Directly from Manufacturer
Box 518 Orange, TX 77630
TOLL FREE 1-800-231-6035

A & O CHURCH FURNITURE
4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053
JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282

- SOLID OAK PEWS -
PEW UPHOLSTERY / REFINISHING
BAPTISTRIES STEEPLES
EDUCATIONAL FURNITURE
1-(800)-523-9058
NC 1-(800)-222-7895

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, steeples, chairs, tables, lighting, stained glass, folding doors, carpet

VAN WINKLE CHURCH FURNISHINGS & PEW UPHOLSTERY
Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627
Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

CHURCH FURNITURE
Finest Construction
Lowest Prices
Free Estimates
Plain or Padded
BAPTISTRIES,
STEEPLES, WINDOWS
"Refinishing, Upholstering,
Cushioning Your
Present Pews"

Toll Free
1-800-365-2568 P. O. Box 1068
615/359-3075 Lewisburg, TN 37091

Camp Jubilee

Aug. 8-11, 1994

Services begin Monday, 2 p.m.

Three services daily
9 a.m. • 2 p.m. • 7 p.m.

Special Speakers

Larry Winkler, C. C. Mills, Ron Herrod, Jerry Brock, Steve McDonald, Bobby Melton, John Nunley, M. H. Carroll and many more ...

Special singing by

Lumber River Quartet, Rick & Marcia Nelson, Adams Family, Gibson Family, Henry Bunch and many more ...

Dorms and Camping
Areas are open!

Phone (615) 733-8581



Evangelist
Ronnie Owens
Camp Director
Rt. 5, Box 201,
Tazewell, Tenn.
37879

The World's #1 Attended Outdoor Drama



The Great Passion Play

1994 Season: April 29 -- October 29 (nightly except for Mondays & Thursdays)

The story of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ has been celebrated for 27 years at The Great Passion Play. Over 5 million people have witnessed this elaborate production at Eureka Springs, Arkansas (just 48 scenic miles from Branson, Missouri).

For information call: 501-253-8559 For Reservations only: 800-882-PLAY

Ticket prices are only \$10.50/ \$11.50/ \$12.50 Group prices (for 12 or more persons) only \$9/ \$10/ \$11

VIDEO ORDER FORM

Relive the dramatic presentation of The Great Passion Play as you witness this two hour video. Ideal for church, school, or family viewing. Excellent gift -- Order now for Easter! Only \$19.95 + S&H.

Order today for \$22.95 (allow 3-4 weeks delivery) OR \$25.45 (for Priority Mail. Allow 1-2 weeks)

Payment method (circle one): Check / Money Order / Mastercard / Visa / Discover Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____ Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Mail to: The Great Passion Play, PO Box 471, Eureka Springs, AR 72632. Phone orders: (501) 253-8559. tbr

■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ God's appearance and Job's response — Bible Book Series for Aug. 7

By Carl Scarlett, pastor, Miracle Church, La Vergne

It is an awesome experience to sit on a jury and hear facts from both prosecution and defense attorneys. When all witnesses have been called and the attorneys rest their case, the jury deliberates and returns a verdict. The judge always has the final word.



SCARLETT

As we conclude our unit from Job, Job's friends have presented their charges, Job has defended himself, and now the judge of heaven has the final word.

God appears in a whirlwind
— ch. 38:1 — 40:2

God presents himself to Job in a whirlwind, a symbol of power. God challenges Job to gird himself so that he can stand his ground and answer God's questions and truly see himself as God saw him.

God asks Job several questions, such as, "Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?" God allows Job to see that he really didn't know what he was saying in his prior pleas to and statements about God. God further asks Job, "Where was thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?" Of course, Job couldn't answer these questions because he was not born when God created the earth. Job finally realizes that only God

could design and draw the architectural plans for all of his creation. Job finally got his day in court, and God was the final word.

Job stood speechless as God asked questions after question. He is the all-knowing, all-powerful, creator God. Job finally realizes he is frail and has little knowledge of God's nature and power.

Job's confession to God
— ch. 42:1-6

Job stands in awe of his God and in humility as he realizes he had said too much even before God appeared in a whirlwind. He realizes that God can do and say whatever he wishes simply because of who he is.

God pronounces judgment on Job's friends — v. 7

Focal Passages
Job 38:1-7;
42:1-7, 10-11a

God speaks to Eliphaz and his two friends about their judgment of Job and how wrong they had been to accuse Job of having sin in his life. Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar had misrepresented God to Job and now God confronts Job's friends and admonished them to repent.

God requires sacrifice from them for what they had said and done to Job. This sacrifice was the only way God would forgive their sins. God orders these friends to go to Job and offer their sacrifice and allow Job to pray for them and with

them. Job and his friends had different opinions. Now they must settle their differences and serve God (vv. 8-9).

God's blessings are greater than before — vv. 10-11a

Our Lord tells us in his model prayer in Matthew 6:14, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." Job understood this principle long before Jesus spoke it. After he repented and prayed for and with his friends, God gave Job twice as much as he had before (v. 10). Every Christian needs to follow Job's example. Only as we confess our own sin and repent can we intercede for others. When we do, God will open the windows of heaven and bless us. □

□ Celebrate God's ownership — Convention Uniform Series for Aug. 7

By Randall Cummings, pastor, First Church, Ripley

These Scripture passages deal with a hierarchy of concerns God gave Israel: first was the land; second, personal property; and third, people. Each area emphasizes a basic truth: God is the owner and lord of all.



CUMMINGS

Lord of the land — vv. 8-10

Some advantages to the practice of Sabbath rest had little to do with its primary purpose: a day of rest from labor for spiritual refreshment. A happy result of the Sabbath was physical and emotional refreshment for the next six days of labor. But

physical and emotional refreshment were not the primary purposes of Sabbath rest. The Sabbath acknowledged God's sovereignty over life.

A year of Sabbath rest for the land signified God's sovereignty over the harvest and the land. Through our agricultural science we understand the advantage land gained lying fallow for a year. However, this is not a substitute for biblical truth. Practicing the seventh year of fallowness acknowledged God's lordship in Israel.

In addition to the Sabbath year of fallowness there was the year of Jubilee. This was the 50th year after seven cycles of seven years (49

years) and was an additional year of fallowness for the ground. Two years would pass before a crop was planted. But the Jubilee included far more than an additional year of rest for the land.

Lord of property — vv. 23-28

God directed each family or clan to receive a stewardship of land in Canaan. "The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is mine; for you are but aliens and sojourners with me" (v. 23).

Special provisions were made for keeping the allotment of land in the family clan. If a man's poverty resulted in his need to sell his land, it could be redeemed by his nearest kin (v. 25). If the original holder's situation reversed and he was able

to pay the land's adjusted price, the land had to be sold back to him (v. 26).

If neither of these options could be exercised, the land would come back to the original holding family in the year of Jubilee. God ultimately owns all property and determines who will be its holder and steward.

Lord of the people
— vv. 39-42

Another aspect of Jubilee was the release of Israelites sold into slavery. An individual's situation might become such that slavery would be the only way to fulfill his debts. In that case, God provided two guidelines. First, the countryman was not to be treated as a slave, but as a hired servant.

Focal Passage
Leviticus 25:8-10,
23-28, 39-42

Second, that in the year of Jubilee he would be set free. God commanded that Israel not subject a countryman to the treatment they had endured in Egypt. Israel was reminded that the people of God could not own people, that God alone was sovereign over life.

The Sabbath year of fallowness and the Jubilee were to be celebrations of God's sovereignty. These provided opportunities and reminders to Israel that God was Lord of the land, property rights, and people. □

□ Weak yet strong — Life and Work Series for Aug. 7

By Clay Frazier, retired pastor, Morristown

II Corinthians is the most personal of any of Paul's letters. It is also the strongest defense of his apostleship. Church leaders have come to Corinth attacking Paul. They have claimed superiority to Paul. Much of the Scripture for this lesson is an answer to the claim of the "super saints."



FRAZIER

Boasting not of the Lord — ch. 11:17-18, 22-23

Three times in this passage Paul admits he is acting like a fool in boasting. He even says in verse 17 that he does not have the Spirit of our Lord in his boasting. Our Lord never told how many lepers he cleansed or how many blind, deaf, or lame he had healed.

Paul tells about his ministry and life under his own protest. Perhaps he had no other choice but to tell of his life in order that his apostleship would be vindicated. In a negative way, this passage of Scripture does teach us that boasting is not right or pleasing to our Lord. Take note that he mentions his heritage (he was a blue-blood) and his sufferings in service to Christ. Labors, stripes, prisons, and threat of death were his credentials.

Confess weakness
— vv. 30-32

He essentially tells that he is or was a fugitive from the law. He escaped over the wall in a basket. We seldom make any progress on our problems unless we confess we have them. Paul confesses to infirmities in verse 30. It seems strange that he would mention the incident in Damascus. He

Focal Passages
II Corinthians 11:17-18,
22-23, 30-32; 12:7-10

may have felt he did not face the situation, and out of fear he fled. All of us who have lived the Christian life remember, with shame, times when we did not measure up to even our own expectations of ourselves. The point that is important is that weakness should be admitted and confessed. God cannot help the person who admits no weakness or need. He says in verse 31 that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ knows he is telling the truth.

Purpose for thorns — ch. 12:7

Paul relates a vision or spiritual experience he had. It must have been glorious beyond words. He was tempted to glory in it. At the time of this temptation, Satan out-did himself.

He attacked Paul with a "thorn." What was it? No one knows. We can imagine it is the same one we have. God was over the work of Satan and used it to keep Paul from having an exalted spirit about himself. Many events in life are not of God, but God can and does use the events to make us into a fit and useful vessel. When we cannot trace the works of our God, let us trust his love. Nothing takes place in his children's life that will not bring him glory, and good to our lives.

What can be done about weakness — v. 8

Paul prayed earnestly for removal of the thorn. He was specific, persistent, and he had enough faith to ask, but the answer was not what he asked God to do. Still, I believe the answer to weakness is prayer. No one is defeated who prays

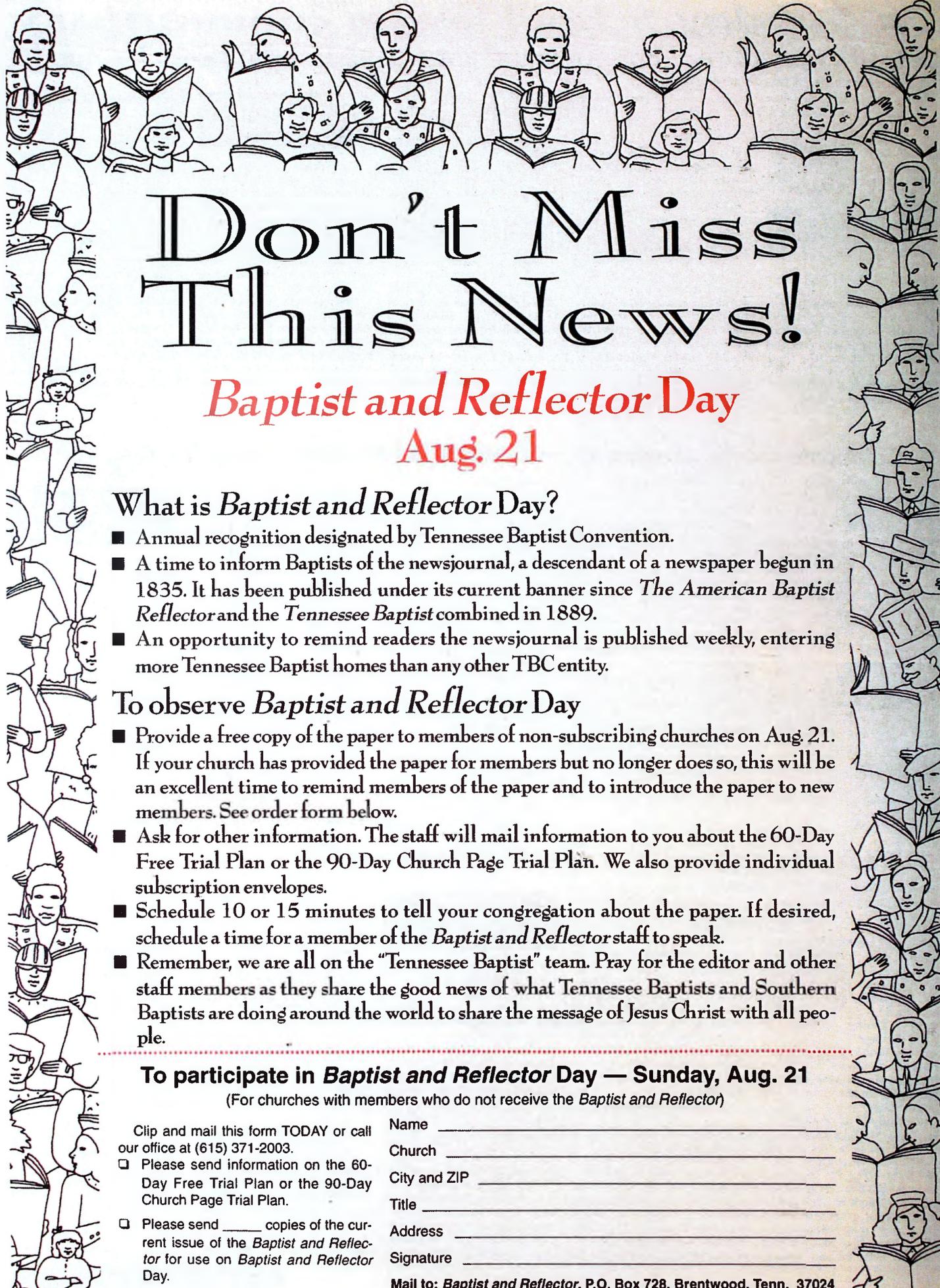
and accepts the answer of God, whatever it may be. Paul was formed by the thorn that remained.

Denial means sufficient grace — v. 9a

God did not do what Paul asked. The thorn was not removed, but grace, sufficient grace, was supplied. The strength of God is made known in weak human beings whom God has touched. Weak as we are, we can depend on God's unmerited favor.

Settle the issue — vv. 9b-10

The word "therefore" is used twice in these verses. He points to his experience of weakness and draws a settled conclusion. The power of God will rest upon those who have surrendered to God their weakness. Note that I did not say, "surrendered to the weakness." Because of this Scripture, we the weak ones, are filled with hope. □



Don't Miss This News!

Baptist and Reflector Day
Aug. 21

What is *Baptist and Reflector Day*?

- Annual recognition designated by Tennessee Baptist Convention.
- A time to inform Baptists of the newsjournal, a descendant of a newspaper begun in 1835. It has been published under its current banner since *The American Baptist Reflector* and the *Tennessee Baptist* combined in 1889.
- An opportunity to remind readers the newsjournal is published weekly, entering more Tennessee Baptist homes than any other TBC entity.

To observe *Baptist and Reflector Day*

- Provide a free copy of the paper to members of non-subscribing churches on Aug. 21. If your church has provided the paper for members but no longer does so, this will be an excellent time to remind members of the paper and to introduce the paper to new members. See order form below.
- Ask for other information. The staff will mail information to you about the 60-Day Free Trial Plan or the 90-Day Church Page Trial Plan. We also provide individual subscription envelopes.
- Schedule 10 or 15 minutes to tell your congregation about the paper. If desired, schedule a time for a member of the *Baptist and Reflector* staff to speak.
- Remember, we are all on the "Tennessee Baptist" team. Pray for the editor and other staff members as they share the good news of what Tennessee Baptists and Southern Baptists are doing around the world to share the message of Jesus Christ with all people.

To participate in *Baptist and Reflector Day* — Sunday, Aug. 21

(For churches with members who do not receive the *Baptist and Reflector*)

Clip and mail this form TODAY or call our office at (615) 371-2003.

Please send information on the 60-Day Free Trial Plan or the 90-Day Church Page Trial Plan.

Please send _____ copies of the current issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* for use on *Baptist and Reflector Day*.

Name _____

Church _____

City and ZIP _____

Title _____

Address _____

Signature _____

Mail to: *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024