

# Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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## A Tennessee Baptist

# Oldest emeritus missionary dies at age 100

By Mary Speidel  
For Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — William H. Berry, the oldest living emeritus missionary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, died of cancer July 30, three days after his 100th birthday.

Berry, a missionary to Brazil for 41 years, died the morning before his family had scheduled a delayed 100th birthday party.

About 150 friends and family gathered at White Station Church, Memphis, to celebrate his birthday and stayed for a memorial service in his honor.

"It was his wish that we go on with the party," said Berry's son, Edward Berry of

Benton, Ark., also a retired Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil.

The elder Berry, a native of Magazine, Ark., died early July 30 in a Memphis nursing home. He had been ill for several months.

"He never lost his lucidity. He was well aware of what was going on," said Clair Berry, his daughter-in-law, of Memphis.

Berry and his late wife, Olga, were appointed missionaries to Brazil in 1922. They served in Curitiba, Rio de Janeiro, and Belo Horizonte where he filled such roles as



BERRY

educator, administrator, journalist, pastor, evangelistic worker, statistician, and builder. He directed several Baptist schools in Brazil.

"He loved foreign missions. He took his foreign mission work very, very seriously," added his son, Edward. "He personally led me to the Lord, and then because of (the influence of) him and others I was led to be a missionary."

After retirement in 1963, the elder Berry and his wife lived in Memphis. She died in 1987. Since 1986 Berry had lived with his son, Bailey, and daughter-in-law, Clair, in Memphis.

"He was a vital personality. He stayed very current with what's going on in the

world today," said Clair Berry.

At the time of his death Berry was a member of White Station Church. During retirement he had taught Sunday School, served as a deacon, and wrote extensively. He was the author of more than 30 books and hundreds of essays and poems.

Since Berry's appointment in 1922, his family has had a member serving in Brazil for more than 70 years.

Edward Berry and his wife, Lois, were appointed in 1953 and retired in 1985.

Their daughter, Laura Spiegel, and her husband, David, have been missionaries there since 1979.

Graveside services were held Aug. 1 in Memphis. □

## Missionary voices thanks for prayers that gave her peace, healing after accident which killed spouse

By Linda Lawson  
For Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — On Aug. 1, 1993, participants in the Jericho missions conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center were called to prayer for Jan Johnsonius, a missionary to Argentina who had been critically injured in the car accident which killed her husband, Jim, a Tennessean from Paris.

One year later, Johnsonius told those attending Jericho 1994 her ability to stand before them was a direct result of the grace of God and the power of prayer.

Johnsonius, who suffered 13 fractures, a bruised liver, and a punctured lung in the accident, had been transported from a village clinic to the intensive

care unit of a Buenos Aires hospital when Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin led Glorieta conferees in a prayer for her recovery. He also urged them to continue to pray for her in the days ahead.

"I really believe those prayers were instrumental in my injuries not being any more serious than they were," said Johnsonius, who spent more than two months learning how to walk again. "I could feel the power of God's healing in my body."

Now recovered from her injuries and continuing her journey of grief recovery, Johnsonius is on furlough from mission service in Argentina, living in Richmond

and working on special assignment as a writer with the Foreign Mission Board.

Although she did not know until several months later of the prayers on her behalf at Glorieta, Johnsonius knew immediately she felt an indescribable peace and tranquility despite great physical pain and grief at the loss of her husband.

She also has felt the power of prayer in other ways. "I think people prayed specifically for me about my grief," she said.

Johnsonius had dreaded the first anniversary of her husband's death. She was invited by FMB official Don Reavis to go to Glorieta as a witness of "how effective fervent prayer can be."

"It's been a blessing to me to be here on the anniversary of the accident," she said. "I consider it a gift from God. I know people are praying for me this week." □



JOHNSONIUS



### TBC president in Chile

Ray Newcomb, left, Tennessee Baptist Convention president and pastor, First Church, Millington, visits with Pauline and Eduardo Rios, who is president of the Chile Baptist Convention during the convention's meeting in July. Newcomb represented Tennessee Baptists who have participated in the Chile/Tennessee Baptist partnership. He served as an inspirational speaker to Southern Baptist missionaries who also were meeting.

### Commentary looks at crisis in Rwanda

The situation in Rwanda continues to attract worldwide attention as organizations try to help bordering countries deal with the influx of refugees. Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen participated in a partnership missions trip to Rwanda in 1987. On page 4 he gives some personal insight to the blood-bathed country. □

# Annuity Board reports growth

By Thomas E. Miller Jr.  
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Trustees of the Dallas-based Southern Baptist Annuity Board, meeting Aug. 1-2 in Richmond, heard reports of continuing growth in assets, contributions, and benefits paid despite six months of investment market turmoil.

Following market trends, earnings are down for the first six months in 1994. Despite the losses of 3.9 percent in the board's Variable Fund and 3.6 percent in the Balanced Fund, assets still ended the period with a total of \$4,386,557,532, a growth of \$206,117,454, or 5 percent above June 1993.

The Fixed Fund, with earnings of 2.81 percent, exceeded the performance of its benchmark and remains on track for its estimated performance range of 5.15 percent to 6.15 percent for the year.

Paul W. Powell, board pres-

ident, said, "While we take satisfaction in our overall strategies, it is frustrating to see negative earnings. We take comfort in our close tracking of established benchmarks and hope for some market recovery in the second half of the year."

Contributions to member accounts totaled more than \$118 million, producing what board treasurer Harold D. Richardson called "a healthy increase" of 8.5 percent over the same period in 1993.

Trustees also approved an amendment and restatement of the Church Annuity Plan and Convention Annuity Plan. These documents will go to state conventions for approval of the Church Annuity Plan and employers for approval of the Convention Annuity Plan.

Tied to the amendments of the Church Annuity Plan is an offer of \$35 million in billing credits to state conventions, the credits to offset costs of the

Protection Section and to supplement certain matching contributions in the years 1995-99.

Benefits paid for retirement, relief, and Adopt An Annuity jumped 24 percent over those of the first six months in 1993, to a total of \$81,955,078. Virtually all annuitants received a 5 percent increase, effective Jan. 1, 1994, and total annuitants on the benefit rolls topped 25,000 during the second quarter. There were 447 couples or individuals on the relief roll and 1,488 were receiving Adopt An Annuity benefits of \$50 per month at the end of June.

In a meeting of the board's relief committee, changes were made in the relief guidelines to raise allowable personal assets from \$5,000 to \$15,000 for individuals and from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for couples. The committee also raised relief benefits for 221 people or couples, effective Sept. 1. □

## Britton joins TBC missions staff on interim basis

Estriberto Britton has been named interim program associate in language/ethnic work for the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Missions Department.



BRITTON

Britton fills the vacancy created when Terry Sharp moved to the TBC Partnership Missions Department in July.

Britton, who was ordained to the ministry in Cali, Colombia, in 1977, has been pastor of the Tulip Grove Hispanic Mission in Old Hickory since 1992.

The Colombia native held numerous offices and positions in the Colombian Baptist Convention. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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## Wife of former TBC, SBC president dies

NASHVILLE — Olga Paschall, 71, died Aug. 5 in a Nashville hospital after experiencing a heart attack earlier in the week.

She was the wife of H. Franklin Paschall, retired pastor of First Church, Nashville, and a former president of both the Tennessee Baptist and Southern Baptist Conventions. The couple served First Church for 28 years.

The Murray, Ky., native is survived by her husband, two children — Palma Freeman of Dallas and Sandra Paschall of Nashville — and a grandson. □

## SBC Cooperative Program gifts increase by 4 percent for second straight month

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — For the second month in a row, Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts were up more than 4 percent above the previous year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

For July, the increase was 4.69 percent; for June it was 4.34 percent.

CP receipts for the year stand at 3.31 percent above 1993.

The July CP total was \$12,030,817, compared to July 1993 of \$11,491,306. For the first 10 months of the fiscal year, total CP receipts stand at \$118,630,576, compared to the

## BWA underscores reconciliation, nominates officers

Baptist Press

UPPSALA, Sweden — Baptist leaders from around the world meeting here July 18-24 pledged to work for reconciliation among people "that the world might believe in Jesus Christ."

Members of the Baptist World Alliance general council also approved a slate of officers. Nilson do Amarol Fanini, a Brazilian Baptist pastor, was nominated to a five-year term as BWA president. He will succeed current president Knud Wumpelmann of Denmark, whose term ends following the 17th Baptist World Congress, Aug. 1-6, 1995, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

C.B. Hogue, executive director-treasurer of the California Southern Baptist Convention, was nominated as BWA vice president for the North American Baptist Fellowship. He will replace Harold C. Bennett, retired president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, whose term ends next year.

The BWA is made up of Baptist unions and conventions representing an estimated global community of 70 million Baptists in more than 200 countries.

Highlighting the theme of this year's meeting, a forum on reconciliation celebrated with South African Baptist leaders the progress demonstrated by recent South African elections.

"South Africa has gone through a marvelous change, and black and white seem to have found each other," said Terry Rae, a white South African. Rae, general secretary of the Baptist Union of South Africa, said there are still many past hurts to overcome before there is complete reconciliation.

At their annual meeting general council members also voted to present the BWA's first human rights award to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, a Southern Baptist layman. He will receive the Carl and Olive Tiller Human Rights Award during the 1995 Baptist World Congress. □

## Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



August —

- 11 — Raymond Atwood, evangelism team leader, is in Vina Del Mar with his teammates seeking the lost.
- 12 — Alico Rives and wife, Ana, have given their house and property to the El Sembrador Church. Pray for his social ministry among the people.
- 13 — Missionary Clara Brincefield is teaching an English as a Second Language class.
- 14 — As our medical and evangelism teams return to the states tomorrow, may the ministry opportunities be used for good in their lives and in the lives of those to whom they ministered.
- 15 — Home evangelist missionary Rebecca Boston celebrates her birthday today.
- 16 — The salvation of Manuel Sanchez in Temuco
- 17 — Missionary evangelist David Butts is celebrating his birthday today.

# Annuity Board investment review headed back to committee

By Bob Terry  
Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — The debate about the investment policies of the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board and abortion will not go away. Missouri pastor David Tolliver recently announced he will bring the subject to the SBC Executive Committee when it meets Sept. 19-21 in Nashville.

"A lot of Executive Committee members have never heard the concerns about the Annuity Board's investment policies," said Tolliver, pastor of Calvary Church in St. Louis and one of three Missouri members on the Executive Committee.

"I will attempt to articulate these concerns and let the Executive Committee determine if further action is needed," he said.

At issue is a statement presented to the Executive Committee in February by Annuity Board President Paul Powell. Powell said the Annuity Board "will

avoid ... equities in any company that is found to have a service or product that is publicly perceived as uniquely aiding, supporting, or promoting abortion."

Tolliver charged, "That statement has not changed a thing at the Annuity Board. They are still investing in companies that contribute to Planned Parenthood."

Annuity Board spokesman Tom Miller said the statement was not meant to change investment policies but to describe practices long followed by the board in making investment decisions. He said the Annuity Board continues to live by that statement.

The controversy over Annuity Board investment practices appeared to have ended in February when the Executive Committee accepted the Annuity Board statement and abandoned its effort to restrict how the Annuity Board used its Cooperative Program funds. Before the statement, the Executive Committee

was considering a recommendation that all CP funds going to the Annuity Board be used for relief work, not for administration. But after the statement was read, that effort was dropped.

For its part, the Annuity Board investigated forming a new fund that would use more restrictive guidelines for investments than its present policy. The current guideline specifies that "products, services, or activities which are publicly recognized as incompatible with the moral and ethical posture of the Annuity Board are prohibited."

But the day before that report was made, the program and budget subcommittee of the committee surprised most people by recommending restoring the restriction on use of CP funds by the Annuity Board. The Executive Committee voted to postpone consideration of the issue until September.

Tolliver noted when a company writes a check to Planned Parenthood

that is a service the company provides which supports abortion. He said he was not protesting gifts by companies to United Way when Planned Parenthood was one of the organizations receiving United Way dollars. "I would like to stop that and be totally out of touch with abortion providers, but I am realistic enough to know that cannot happen," he continued.

"What I am concerned about are companies that write checks directly to Planned Parenthood." He said he had a list of at least 27 companies in which the Annuity Board holds stock who make charitable contributions directly to Planned Parenthood.

Miller disagreed with calling a company's charitable contributions a corporate service. "A service or a product are the two things companies do to make a profit," he said. "A charitable gift is not a product or a service of a for-profit company. Charitable gifts of a corporation are not the proper business of the Annuity Board." □

# Texas executive board, convention to weigh compromise on CP

By Toby Druin  
Baptist Press

DALLAS — Texas Baptists' Cooperative Missions Giving Study Committee struck a compromise agreement July 29, protecting the convention's traditional Cooperative Program tie to the Southern Baptist Convention but at the same time making room for support of such entities as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The recommendation, which was to be fine-tuned in another meeting Aug. 8, will be presented to the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Dallas Sept. 13, and to the annual meeting

in Amarillo, Oct. 31 - Nov. 1, took more than six hours of discussion in the 22-member panel's fourth meeting July 29 and drew five votes of opposition. The committee's complete report will be carried in the *Texas Baptist Standard* in the Aug. 17 issue.

As adopted by the committee July 29, the report will recommend a **Baptist General Convention-Operated Cooperative Program** which will provide —

- that churches giving to both the adopted Texas Cooperative Program budget and the adopted SBC Cooperative Program budget, and according to the adopted percentage of division between the two, will

continue to be recognized as cooperating churches.

- that churches giving to the Texas Cooperative Program budget will be recognized as cooperative churches by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

- that the BGCT will continue to recognize the decision of a church to delete up to five line items in either the Texas or the SBC Cooperative Program budgets.

**A BGCT-Directed Cooperative Program** will provide —

- that churches may direct the distribution of their gifts between the BGCT and worldwide Baptist missions and ministries. These "worldwide Baptist missions and min-

istries" may include the Southern Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Baptist World Alliance, and other ministries within the Baptist family.

- that churches may continue to designate mission gifts to individual causes.

- that the BGCT will continue to disburse gifts for the special mission offerings (Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, Mary Hill Davis, world hunger relief) and other gifts designated by the churches.

*The Baptist Standard*, the state's newsjournal, covers the meetings of the committee under background rules that prohibit direct quotes of committee members or attribution of

positions taken.

Chairman Cecil Ray of Georgetown, commenting on the committee's action following the meeting, however, said it was important to note that the committee had affirmed the traditional Cooperative Program partnership of local church, state convention, and Southern Baptist Convention.

"Contrary to rumors that we have been moving toward separating the state convention from the SBC," said Ray, "we have reaffirmed the Cooperative Program partnership. At the same time, the committee has chosen to honor the gifts of loyal Texas Baptists who ... have chosen to support missions through other channels." □

## Blind group meets

LINDEN — The 12th annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Fellowship of the Blind was July 29-31 at Camp Linden in Linden.

About 36 gathered for the meeting which featured members leading conferences.

Sharon Bragg, president and member, Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, led a study on the life of Ruth. Roland Creekmore of Cleveland and Bobby Cowan of Nashville spoke on church leadership.

Other leaders were Jarvis Hearn of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Mike Pearson, director of missions, Clinton Association.

Elected as officers of the fellowship were Dorothy Creekmore of Cleveland, president; Sharon Bragg of Nashville, vice president; and Larry Overton of Clinton, secretary-treasurer. The 1995 annual meeting will be July 28-30 at Camp Linden. □

## Chile/Tennessee partnership missions — past and future

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

One team of five to 12 workers is needed Sept. 30 - Oct. 11 to lead an evangelistic crusade in the area of Puerto Montt. The team needs to include five speakers or preachers who will each lead a team. The smaller groups will work in five churches.

Volunteers will be visiting Chileans in homes and institutions such as schools and helping lead evening worship services at the churches. They will be assisted by interpreters.

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



**BAPTIST WORK IS GROWING** in Puerto Montt, a leading Chilean seaport. Southern Baptist missionaries and Tennessee Baptist volunteers have helped with construction, medical, and evangelism projects.

# ■ commentary: mission to Rwanda

## Does the world know what has happened to Rwanda? Once the Switzerland of Africa, beautiful nation with beautiful people becomes land of dead, dying

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor  
Baptist and Reflector

In 1987 as the Baptists of Maryland/Delaware entered into a partnership mission with Rwanda, I was editor of the Baptist True Union, the state convention paper. I served on a survey team with Ken Lyle, who is now executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England. The governments of Rwanda and Burundi in central Africa grew increasingly unstable amidst ethnic unrest and fighting. Earlier this year the presidents of both nations, while returning from a peace-seeking meeting were both killed when their airplane was shot down.

Rwanda immediately exploded into ethnic war, possibly instigated by the minority Hutu government. As many as 500,000 Tutsi people may have been killed before the rebel Tutsi military forces gained control of the country in June and July. As a result millions of Hutu civilians and the remnants of the Hutu army fled to neighboring Zaire. The mass exodus has caused economic disaster and thousands of Hutus and others have died in refugee camps from cholera, starvation, and lack of water. Relief efforts have begun.

With this background, the editor has written a commentary of Africa's latest tragedy.

This story has no dateline, because it covers years and involves many villages, towns, rural areas, and people along the way. It is a timeless story, because once again innocent people are victims of the greedy and the civilized world.

Along with its neighbor Burundi, known for striking landscapes of verdant valleys and lofty mountains and volcanoes, Rwanda has been likened to Switzerland. Home of laughing people, mountain gorillas, commanding rain forests, Rwanda is (was) one of the most beautiful countries in the world; certainly it is an African orchid.

The twins had kingdoms and civilized life when European explorers were looking for gold and all the other goodies that make people rich, and thus they expanded the globe.

Rwanda has Baptists, committed Baptists though small in number. And that is why Southern Baptists' Foreign Mission Board asked Baptists of Maryland and Delaware to form a partnership with Rwanda seven years ago.

So this is how I got to know about Rwanda in 1987 — and now. The Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware sent a survey team to Rwanda that January.

O Lord, we hear the Macedonian call coming from the heartland of Africa. We hear the songs of victory being sung by souls in bondage, bound by shackles of physical hunger and with a thirst for the Gospel. O Lord, we hear the answer from our hearts, "Here we are, Savior, equip us and strengthen us. Yes, send us!"

Just as we had done two years earlier with Burundi, we went to sit down with national Baptists and

Southern Baptist missionaries. We sequestered at the Sovu convent to plan a mutual partnership after we trekked across the country and met pastors and people, visited churches and villages, rural countryside, lavish Lake Kivu and the volcanic mountains where the mountain gorillas live. There was a nudge from the FMB and a strong tug from the Holy Spirit.

Ken Lyle, then executive director for the BCMD, and I were the team. It was tough to give up the partnership with Burundi, to cut off contacts with dearly beloved brothers and sisters in Christ. It was difficult

to accept that we would not be able to stand alongside them as work and witnessing was done.

We found a small cadre of Southern Baptist missionaries and a group of strong Rwandan Baptist leaders, ready to forge a partnership for missions, evangelism, health care, and construction. We joined them in developing those plans and establishing priorities for the partnership.

In that short time, we met continuously with the Rwandan leaders, the missionaries, and traveled constantly around the country. We met the Baptists in their homes and churches, we worshiped and prayed with them, sang praises with them, learned to know them and to love them.

The current tragedy of Rwanda, and Burundi to some extent, is heartbreaking. To see a nation in turmoil, its population decimated by war and hatred and death is a picture of total disbelief.

The newspaper stories and photos, the scenes of horror and terror displayed on television, are grim reminders of the reality of evil and the despair of innocent people.

Even now the news is not good. Though the newly installed Tutsi government has asked the Hutus to return home from the refugee camps and promised not to retaliate for the murderous rampage against the Tutsis, the new leaders govern a devastated nation. There is no economy, no infrastructure, little food, and critical water supply.

From the outset of the current war, the reality of it affected Tennessee. Not only did we see its stark cruelty portrayed by media, our missionaries bare-



**HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS** of Rwandans fled to refugee camps, but many died of disease, starvation.

ly escaped. Katrina Knox, Columbia nurse, and the others now stand by in Kenya and Zaire, eager to help, but sometimes forced to wait until bureaucratic red tape is processed.

Since this tragic chapter in Rwandan history began, I, like many other people, have wondered with increasing alarm about the welfare of Baptist friends.

Many of the Christians in Rwanda are Tutsi, because the love of Christ knows no boundaries. Many others are of the Hutu group, the larger of the two ethnic groups, by a vast majority.

My prayers and thoughts have turned to Murekeraho Joseph, charismatic pastor of Ruhango Church; Nyandwi Anastase, principal of the Nyantanga School; Ruhanya Silas, pastor of Mukoma Church, and his wife Marta, nurse at the Mukoma clinic where Katrina Knox once worked.

I think about and pray for Vincent, faithful assistant at the Kigali Baptist mission office; Eliazer Zihembere, executive director for the Baptist Union and "Mr. Baptist" for the whole group of Baptists.

Zihembere escaped with a heart breaking for his people, and is now working through Baptist relief efforts. Vincent said by phone just after the first onslaught of destruction that he was a marked man. He has not been heard from since then. What now?

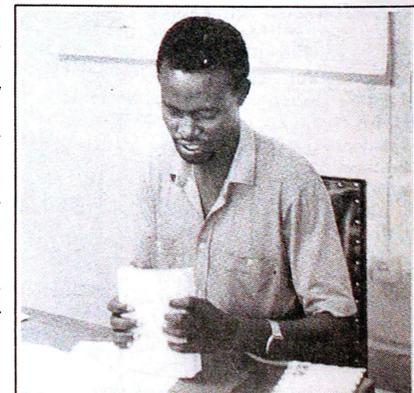
O Lord Christ, where brokenness and death seem to prevail, restore your people to life again. Bring life and laughter to Rwanda again, we pray! □



**AT A PARTNERSHIP MISSION** planning meeting at Sovu in 1987, missionary Stan Lee, left, interprets for Eliazer Zihembere as he suggests some priorities for Rwandan Baptists.



**RWANDAN BAPTIST LEADERS** and missionary Vern Savage in happier days. Photo at right, Vincent, worker at the Kigali mission office, has not been heard from in several weeks. He is one of many whose lives are at risk. — Photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen



# Language Missions Day set for August 14

Tennessee Baptists are on board with many ongoing ministries, and one of the most vital of these is language missions.

In 1993 the Missions Department reported 122 ethnic works in 25 languages. Ten new works were established: five Hispanic, one Romanian, one Deaf, one Chinese, one Ethiopian, and one Asian-Indian. The work continues apace.

Tennessee Baptists, like Southern Baptists in other states, will recognize this language missions work on August 14, Language Missions Day. Churches across the Volunteer State will take note of this distinctive missions ministry.

Last year the Language Leadership Conference in Tennessee had 112 language pastors and leaders involved. All Nations Camp is held annually. Of particular note is the Korean Church of Memphis which ranked sixth in the TBC last year with 161 baptisms.

The Deaf Ministry held an Interpreter's Training Program for those interested in signing.

The Missions Department leads TBC churches to involvement with more than 25 languages groups. Many churches and associations are closely tied in with migrant ministries. Almost 50 churches

have deaf ministries, and there are four deaf congregations.

Oscar Romo, director of Language Church Extension Division, Home Mission Board, calls Tennessee Baptist churches to observance of this special day. Says Romo, "Early in their history, Southern Baptists accepted the call to carry God's message to the many language culture groups in the United States. Striving to live up to that challenge, Southern Baptists are recognized as the most ethnically diverse denomination in America."

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Romo adds that Language Missions Day is a time for celebrating what God is doing among ethnic Americans, and a time when Anglo and ethnic churches can get acquainted with one another.

Wouldn't the world be dull if we were all alike? The love of Jesus Christ for all peoples is equal, regardless of racial, linguistic, ethnic, or social distinctions. Such love finds no barrier in language or culture. It goes straight to the heart and soul. For in Jesus, humankind finds not only God but identity in and beyond culture.

Celebrate God's moving among ethnic Americans and American ethnics.

Rejoice by thanking God for what he is

doing among language culture people. Pray in all night vigils. Share by meeting needs of ethnic churches. Worship by having a Language Missions Day celebration. Helps can be obtained from the Missions Department, TBC. □

## B & R Day coming up

Sunday, August 21, is noted on the denominational calendar as *Baptist and Reflector* Day.

Each Tennessee Baptist church is asked to observe that occasion in some way during a regular church service.

Churches can order, free of charge, a sufficient number of copies of the paper to be distributed among members. A few minutes can be set aside for recognition and discussion of the paper.

The *Baptist and Reflector* is 159 years old. It is the official voice of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The paper is dedicated to fulfilling its role as the convention's communicator, the voice of the people, and the provider of all the news needed by its readers.

We encourage churches to observe the occasion. Members will be better informed in all aspects of TBC ministries, and they will be better stewards. Call the paper or write for information. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

## Warrior goes Home

I don't believe there is much sorrow felt when a Christian warrior goes Home. Sadness, yes, but not sorrow.

There is joy also, and it is genuine, deep, abiding. The joy includes a lump in the throat, tears in the eyes, a heaviness of heart.

Not to be confused with the futile feeling we have when a lost person dies, this joy recognizes a finality of the warrior's time on earth, a passage.

Quickly then we move on to the bright heritage left by the departed warrior. Well done, and welcome.

Bill Berry went Home on July 30.

There was nothing noteworthy in his ultimate passage, as far as world concerns are measured. But though Heaven's angels may not know any thing about our calendar — they surely realized he was 100, had served our Lord well for 41 years in Brazil, and merited the much-desired, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

The family and friends had planned a birthday party for Bill, celebrating a century of life on earth. He died three days before the set date.

They honored and remembered him in the best way — they had the party anyway. Could it be that a smiling Bill Berry, clothed in immortal apparel, was leaning over the portals of Heaven, nodding assent? I think so.

Two years ago, just after Bill had reached 98, Joe Littlefield, Bill's pastor at White Station, took me to see him.

We talked as old friends would and reviewed the state of Baptists. We talked about things to do and ways to do them. He wanted so fervently for Southern Baptists to solve their problems and catch a vision for the 21st century. As we parted, he pulled me close and gave me a prophetic word.

I thought an accurate description of him would be a simple one: burned out for God. His blue eyes glistened with enthusiasm and fervor as he said to me, "Take the mission, brother, and Godspeed."

Bill Berry, the warrior, has gone Home. He made this world a better place. □



ALLEN

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

### Start with a smile

Talkative lady tourist: "Shame on you. A big man like you catching that poor little helpless fish."

Fisherman: "Well, if this fish had kept his mouth shut, he wouldn't be on the end of this hook."



WOOD

### Take this thought

Be careful of the words you say. Make them real nice and sweet. You never know from day to day which ones you'll have to eat!

### Memorize this Scripture

"For every kind of beasts ... hath been tamed. ... But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (James 7:8).

### Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to recognize the wisdom of learning to control my words. May I realize if I can control my tongue, I will have gone a long way toward controlling every part of my body. □

# Family and feelings of inferiority

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

Alfred Adler, the Austrian psychiatrist, introduced the term "Inferiority Complex" in the early part of this century. For him these feelings of inferiority were not necessarily bad.

In his book *Understanding Human Nature*, he described these feelings as the forces spurring us on to greater achievement.

When these feelings get out of hand, however, they can lead to unhappiness, discouragement, frustration, a sense of inadequacy, and unworthiness.

For Adler the term "inferiority complex" described an unconscious evaluation of self as inadequate.

Many Christians see the attitude of adequacy as arrogant and almost the opposite of Christian humility. In the Christian family I see some parents engendering a sense of inferiority in their children in the name of Christian humility.

My wife, for instance, can play the piano well despite the fact that she only took lessons for about nine months as a child.

If you ask her to play, she will likely protest that she cannot play very well. God has blessed her with an almost perfect ear and the ability to

play by reproducing what she hears in her head.

I have had a difficult time trying to explain to this usually self-confident woman that to deny this ability is to say that the gift of God in her life is worthless.

This distorted sense of inadequacy is also expressed by the singer who gets up and apologizes by saying, "I really can't sing, but you all pray for me and listen to the words anyway."

Many times these feelings of inadequacy come from one or both of two experiences. The first is the over expectation of parents and other adults who push a child to frequent failure because the child is pushed beyond his or her limits or abilities.

These feelings can also come from over protecting and smothering parents who give the child the attitude that he should not try because he "might" or probably will fail.

These feelings can also be engendered by the group to which we belong. In one com-

munity where I pastored, the local high school football team was written up in *Sports Illustrated* for the longest losing streak in history. Though we had some boys who were good athletes, they felt they couldn't compete because of the team they were on.

If you live in a culture where fundamentalists are thought to be bull-headed and narrow-minded, and you consider yourself a "fundamentalist," it is hard not to feel the way you are described.

Paul reminds us in *Philippians* 4:13 that we can do "all things through Christ." He also reminds us in *Romans* 12:3 that we ought not to "think more highly of ourselves than we ought."

I want to encourage Christian parents to instill in their children an attitude of the limitless assistance of Christ accompanied by a realistic (not pessimistic) evaluation of the expectation of that assistance.

I think Benjamin Franklin was right in his assessment that "God helps them who help themselves." □

Dr. Barkley and the paper welcome questions about family problems, for discussion in the paper. He has offices in Bartlett and on the Baptist Memorial Hospital campus in Memphis.



BARKLEY

# Part-time BSU director sees full-time results in Lebanon

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

LEBANON — A part-time ministry at a small private university here is producing some positive, long-term results.

Cumberland University, with a student enrollment, of about 1,000, usually has about 75-80 students enrolled each year in its Baptist Student Union, said Ken Tramel, part-time BSU director and pastor of Shop Springs Church, Lebanon.

Yet, despite the relatively few students, this past year Cumberland had three people involved in missions. Two are recent graduates — Cindy Beeson, who has served under Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appointment as a journeyman to Jordan, and Lisa Kemp, a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board appointee as a US-2 missionary in Iowa.

Both the US-2 and journeyman programs are two-year appointments for college graduates.

Another student — Danielle Harris — is serving as a student summer missionary in Knoxville.

All three are products of Tennessee Baptist churches — Beeson, First Church, Mt. Juliet; Kemp, Cragfont Church, Castalian Springs; and Harris, Mt. Carmel Church, Cross Plains.

Both Tramel and Ircel Harrison, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Student Ministries Department, agree it is unusual for a school of Cumberland's size to have three BSU members involved in those programs.

"This is quite an achievement for work led by a part-time BSU director," Harrison said.

Tramel acknowledged it is "unusual to have that many from a smaller group."

He noted that "we've had good success in encouraging students to serve as summer missionaries."

Tramel, who has served as part-time BSU director at Cumberland

since 1985, said the school has had at least one summer missionary every year except one since he has been there.

One possible reason for the success is Tramel's style is to develop the leadership potential of his students. Though he meets with the BSU Council regularly he "tries to let them provide as much leadership as possible while staying in the background," he said.

As a part-time director Tramel spends approximately 10-15 hours each week on the Cumberland campus. Much of that time, he said, is spent interacting with students and getting to know them, he said.

Tramel said at times juggling duties between the BSU and the church can be tricky, especially when you have to be both places at once. But for the most part, it has not been a problem, said Tramel, who is beginning his 20th year as pastor of Shop Springs Church.

The church, which Tramel says is very missions minded, views his work on the Cumberland campus as an extension of its ministry, he said.

He laughed that when he began in 1985 it was on a trial basis "to see if I could juggle both responsibilities." Evidently, the trial proved successful as he has managed to perform both tasks effectively since.

The rewards of his BSU work is seeing students mature and progress over the years.

The Smithville native cited one of his first students — John Hunn.

Hunn was a star athlete who became involved in BSU. He accepted Christ as Savior between his junior and senior years, Tramel said.

Hunn was his first student to go out as a summer missionary. Though he came to Cumberland with no intentions of ever entering the ministry, Hunn felt a sense of God's call, and he is now serving as a pastor in Billings, Mont.

Hunn, and others who have served in summer missions, have come back excited and told others

about their experiences, Tramel said, noting that motivates and encourages others to participate.

"There are many opportunities for students to be involved (in missions) if they're interested and open to God's will," Tramel said.

The BSU has good rapport with its constituencies.

The faculty and staff of Cumberland have been supportive of the BSU ministry, which is the only religious organization on campus other than occasionally the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The BSU building is owned by Cumberland, but leased to the BSU.

Tramel and BSU students are often included in official programs at the school to give devotionals or lead prayers.

"We have a good relationship with the school," Tramel said.

Tramel also is grateful for the support and encouragement offered by churches in Wilson County Association. A BSU ministry team often is invited into area churches to lead worship services, Tramel said. In addition, the BSU receives budgetary support from churches through the association.

Over the years Tramel said he has tried to help churches see they are a part of what's going on at Cumberland. "By working with the churches we complement each other," the Lebanon pastor observed.

Tramel is a firm believer that BSU work is missions. "Every church that gives to the Cooperative Program has a stake in this campus and other campuses with BSU programs," he said.

Tramel's success at Cumberland is proof positive of what can be accomplished with a part-time BSU director, said the TBC's Harrison.

Noting that 11 of the state's BSU directors are part-time and five are volunteers, Harrison said he is "impressed that we have folks like Ken investing themselves in their situations and getting some positive results in the ministry." □

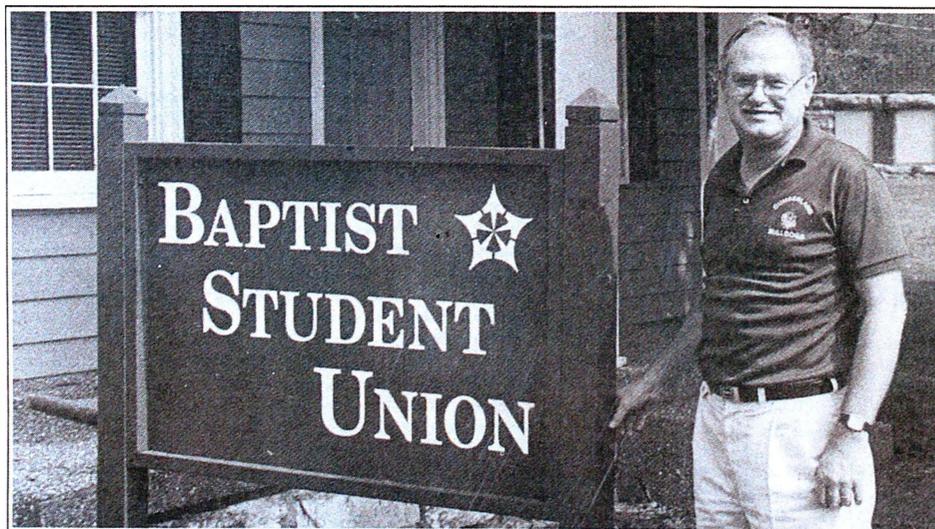
## Tennessee College/Universities BSU Directors

How would you like your college-bound young adult to arrive on campus with a built-in Christian support group? Below is a listing of Tennessee college/universities that have an active Baptist Student Union on campus and the name of the BSU director. Let them help you minister to your young adults while they are on campus.



For additional information on BSU programs, contact the schools directly or call Ircel Harrison, TBC Student Ministries Department, (615) 371-2072.

- American Baptist College** — Chris Jackson
- Austin Peay State University** — Jim Alexander
- Belmont University** — Dane Anthony
- Carson-Newman College** — Nenetie Measels
- Chattanooga State Tech Comm. College** — Stan Braley
- Cleveland State Comm. College** — Steve Roper
- Columbia State Comm. College** — Sherry Graves
- Cumberland University** — Ken Tramel
- Dyersburg State Comm. College** — Glynda Hall
- East Tennessee State University** — Scott Payne
- Fisk University** — Chris Jackson
- Hiwassee College** — Elizabeth Wade
- Jackson State Comm. College** — Maurice Hays
- Lane College** — Lawrence Ragland
- Lincoln Memorial University** — M.C. McCarter
- Martin Methodist College** — vacancy
- Maryville College** — Steve Hixson
- Meharry Medical College** — Chris Jackson
- Middle Tennessee State University** — Charles Nored
- Motlow State Comm. College, Tullahoma** — Eric Hogstrom
- Motlow State Comm. College, Fayetteville** — Patrick Milam
- Pellissippi State Tech Comm. College, Knoxville** — Steve Hixson
- Pellissippi State Tech Comm. College, Blount County** — Steve Hixson
- Rhodes College** — vacancy
- Roane State Comm. College, Harriman** — vacancy
- Roane State Comm. College, Oak Ridge** — Steve Hixson
- Shelby State Comm. College** — James Perry
- Tennessee State University** — Chris Jackson
- Tennessee Tech University** — Joe Wiles
- Tennessee Wesleyan College** — Rick Wilson
- Union University** — Bill Kisner
- U.T., Chattanooga** — Jim Moore
- U.T., Knoxville** — Bob Hall
- U.T., Martin** — Adam Hall
- U.T., Memphis** — John Billington
- University of Memphis** — Ron Hawkins
- University of the South** — Randall Taylor
- Vanderbilt University** — Bill Choate
- Volunteer State Comm. College** — Penny Lay
- Walters State Comm. College** — Martin Klinghard



KEN TRAMEL stands outside the building which houses the Baptist Student Union ministry at Cumberland University.

## Acteen Activators support partnership with Chilean Baptists

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

Janice Davidson of Atoka had decided she wouldn't lead another missions trip. The preparation is too demanding, the cost is too prohibitive, and the hours are too long, she thought.

But every year she changes her mind.

She's done that about 15 times since becoming a leader of Acteens — the missions education program for girls grades 7-12.

"Every year I say this is it; I'm not going; and every year I go; and every year it gets more exciting," said Davidson, a member of Gateway Mission, Atoka.

She's led Acteens to Thailand, Poland, and St. Kitts. This year she led the State Acteen Activator team to Chile

to support the Chile/Tennessee Baptist Partnership.

Davidson and Kathy Sharp of First Church, Smyrna, led six Acteens July 3-15 to Santiago, Chile. There they directed activities for the children of Southern Baptist missionaries during their annual meeting.

The Acteens and leaders were selected for the state missions team by Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union. It was the third such team, noted Char Gray of Tennessee WMU.

Davidson reported the weather in Chile was cold and the hours long — the team led activities for the missionary kids all day long. But it was one of the best experiences in missions she has had, said Davidson, who is a public school teacher and Acteens director for Big Hatchie Association.

In each of her missions efforts the Lord has led her to one person who especially needed her, she explained. This time it was a 14-year-old boy who was in Chile visiting a cousin who was a missionary kid. Although his mother wasn't a Christian, the boy made a profession of faith during the week of activities, reported Davidson.

"That made it all worthwhile," she said.

The children and youth responded to the team's leadership, said Davidson. A measure of the response was a drama performed by the youth for parents and a 90-minute program based on the Vacation Bible School material led

by the children.

And the Acteens were "just awesome," as leaders, she said.

Anna McMahan, 17, one of the state team members, is involved in missions as much as she can, she explained. A week after she returned from Chile she joined the Acteen Activator team of her church — Salem in Knoxville — and worked in Townsend assisting missionaries Bill and Cindy Black in campground ministry.

Despite her young age, McMahan has worked in Iowa, Montana, and Townsend as an Activator prior to this summer. The journey to Chile was her first trip overseas.

"God just worked through us incredibly," said McMahan.

### State Activators team —

- Kelly Hamilton, Salem Church, Knoxville
- Martha Hampton, Apison Church, Apison
- Stephanie Hyatt, First Church, Camden
- Elizabeth Johnson, Salem Church
- Anna McMahan, Salem Church
- Carrie-Ann Segraves, First Church, Huntingdon

The girls worked in teams of two. Any two of them could have worked together, noted McMahan, because "our personalities were just in tune."

The youngsters she worked with taught her, reported McMahan, which is always her experience in missions work. She also learned from the missionaries and visited some beginning churches.

"It makes it (missions work) more personal. It's not just giving money," she added.

She noted her church provided \$1,000 to each of the three state activators from Salem named to the team. It had been her prayer to join the team, but she couldn't do it without financial help. "It was amazing just to see the prayer answered so quickly and completely," said McMahan.

Missions is "lots of fun and very fulfilling," she said. □



ACTEEN Stephanie Hyatt of Jackson helps missionary kids Andrea Spikes, left, and Jonathan Dietz do an activity.



TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS Janice Davidson of Atoka, left, and Kathy Sharp of Smyrna, pose with the youth class they taught during the meeting of Southern Baptist missionaries in Chile. Class members are, from left, back row, Adam Graves, Josh Racey, Jeremy Racey, Lee Walker, Jonathan Baer; front row, Lucy Graves, and Emily Dietz. — Photo by Clara Brincefield

## Weakley County Association sends 34 for Michigan partnership

Lyndel Littleton of Martin doesn't participate in the missions efforts of Weakley County Association for the amenities. This year the team slept on the floor of a church and showered at a YMCA facility.

He goes because he has so much to offer to Michigan Baptists.

Littleton, minister of music/youth, Central Church, Martin, has been involved in several missions trips of the association.

"We have so many resources and so much at our disposal," said Littleton. Any help is "such a benefit to those churches," he added.

Littleton led morning worship at a church near Lansing which drew about 25. The following week 96 children attended a Vacation Bible School led there at night by the team, reported Littleton.

"It was a great week in that way — to see how we could encourage the lay people and leadership and help them see the potential they have," he said.

All the ministering isn't directed to Michiganders alone, noted Sheila Skidmore, another team member from Cen-

tral Church. Each year two members are appointed pastor and minister of music. A worship service and time of sharing is held every night.

"It's a great time of fellowship and spiritual uplift for most of us," she said.

Richard Skidmore, director of missions of the association, developed the mission project after receiving a request from the Michigan/Tennessee Baptist Partnership through the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The association has led missions projects every summer for eight years. Skidmore noted the projects help the churches of Weakley County Association because two-thirds of them have bivocational pastors. Thus the pastors don't have time to plan a project. This year members of 13 churches participated.

The projects have drawn church members into long-term commitment — like Dwayne and Dot Ervin of Tumbling Creek Church, Gleason. For all eight years they have kept costs at a minimum by providing meals for the team. They borrow the use of church kitchens and also do laundry for the team. The couple transport much of

what they need in their personal van.

Dwayne Ervin, retired pastor, Bible Union Church, Martin, said he's glad to help, adding he's become known for his breakfast gravy.

Members of churches who can't be team members contribute not only by

funding the effort, but by giving canned goods or produce from gardens. Each year Keith Gaylor of Bible Union Church, Martin, cooks angel food cakes for the team. Others pray for the team. Bethel Church, Greenville, and Southside Church, Martin, contributed vans.

Besides the results in Mich-

igan, Weakley County reaps results too, said Skidmore. By being introduced to "hands-on missions," teenagers have made commitments to missions, adults have greater enthusiasm for missions, and Cooperative Program giving has increased, he said. □ — Connie Davis



MISSIONS TEAM volunteers Dot and Dwayne Ervin of Martin have been bivocational pastor and wife of churches for about 25 years in addition to doing missions work. They operate a Christian bookstore in Martin.

## Reunion planned for Upper Volta, Burkina Faso volunteers

A reunion is planned Sept. 3 for missionaries and volunteers who participated in the Tennessee/Upper Volta/Burkina Faso project at the First Church, Donelson, Family Life Center.

Several missionaries currently in the United States are slated to attend: the Baker Hill family, the Jimmy Foster family, the Guy Causey family, and Nancy Strickland.

Other missionaries, former missionaries, and administrators have been contacted and may attend.

Former volunteers are invited to bring slides, pictures, and memories and spend a day catching up with old friends. A meal will be provided.

To make reservations or to get more information, call Nedra Benson in Knoxville at (615) 584-4410.

A mailing list is no longer available, so share this information with other volunteers, Benson asks. □

## Memphis medical students not deterred by AIDS threat

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — The workplace abounds with hazardous jobs: construction, machinery, work with electricity, etc. Now, with the outbreak of AIDS, the medical profession can be added to the list.

But the AIDS virus has not deterred three Southern Baptist medical students. Even though they are, as they say, "a needle prick away from certain death," they voiced determination in a group interview to follow what they feel is God's sovereign call.

"I really enjoy dentistry and I really love Jesus, so really there wasn't any question I was going to be a dentist after I prayed about it and felt God had called me to this profession," said Rob Wilson, a third-year dental student at the University of Tennessee Medical School in Memphis. "I completely understand the risk to my life and my family's life because of AIDS, and all I can say is God is in control."

Wilson's roommate, Chris Coleman, said he feels the same way. "Because Jesus

saved me I want to be completely obedient to whatever he wants me to do," said the fourth-year dental student from Chattanooga.

"I would prefer not to work on AIDS-infected people but I really don't have a choice.

"It is against the law not to treat medically a person just because they have AIDS," Coleman said.

First-year medical student Don Price of Lebanon observed, "We are first and foremost called to serve God.

"It just so happens that we feel our Lord has called us into this profession and so we follow wherever he wants to lead us.

"The real hard part about this is getting a bad attitude toward the person because they have AIDS and because of their immoral lifestyle they are subjecting you and your family to unnecessary danger."

Price said he feels God leading him to be a medical doctor, probably a surgeon, so he understands the risks and realizes he will at times work with AIDS-tainted blood.

"It is my job to show God's love and compassion to all of my patients and not just the ones I prefer because Jesus loves them all," Price said.

Coleman agreed. "Jesus loves them all and, being a dentist, I have a real captive audience. Once I get them in the chair, they are not going anywhere so I am able to share Jesus with them."

The question most Christian medical students must answer is the tension of loving the sinner and hating the sin. For the three medical students their faith leads them through those tough times.

"I really struggle with it," said the 23-year-old Price. "It is, for the most part, a totally behavior-related disease. I know that a lot of people get AIDS who are not homosexual, but the truth of the matter is a great majority of the people who get AIDS get it through a sinful lifestyle, homosexual or heterosexual.

Price said it is frustrating because he knows "that God has the cure for AIDS," yet "our government seems to be willing to educate people in

everything but what God says.

"True Love Waits (a Baptist Sunday School Board-initiated sexual abstinence until marriage emphasis) is a terrific program. As a doctor, I can try to get the truth out about AIDS. It is a dangerous disease, but if a person follows God's intended plan — don't do drugs, don't live a homosexual lifestyle, don't have sex outside of marriage — then the chance of getting AIDS is almost nothing."

The 25-year-old Coleman recounted recently working on an AIDS patient.

He noted he thought he was working on the teeth of a woman because of the way the person was dressed, but it proved to be a homosexual male with AIDS. "That is when I felt anger and the tension of being a Christian in today's world because here was a person risking my life and boasting in his sin. I really felt a small part of God's hatred for sin," he said.

Coleman said he realizes that "God is in control" and you "just have to trust him and try to treat everyone the same." □

Dear Tennessee Baptists,

*You've made history!*

Through our visits to Baptist churches across the state, by letters, and in the pages of the *Baptist and Reflector*, we've told you about our life-changing ministry and how your support helps us continue the care we've provided to needy children for more than one hundred years.

We've expressed the importance of our Mother's Day Offering and how it provides approximately one-third of our annual operating expenses. Your gifts support a variety of TBCH ministries including Independent Living, Genesis, Alternative Homes, and Foster Care, as well as general funding.

This year, you reached deep into your pockets and hearts and gave us the largest offering in the history of TBCH!

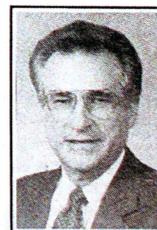
As of July 31, 1994, our Mother's Day Offering totaled \$1,143,681. And although we fell a bit short of our \$1,205,000 goal for 1994, we rejoice that this year's collection was \$27,123 more than last year!

On behalf of our TBCH staff across the state — and most importantly, the children — I sincerely thank you for your prayers and financial support during the Mother's Day appeal as well as throughout the year. You have, perhaps unknowingly, made an eternal investment in these precious young lives.

May God richly bless you and your family.

*Gerald L. Stow*

Dr. Gerald L. Stow  
President / Treasurer



*Thanks for showing  
a child you care . . .*



Tennessee Baptist  
Children's Homes, Inc.  
TBCH Central Office  
5001 Maryland Way  
Brentwood, TN 37027  
615-371-2000  
1-800-624-8591

# TenneScene ■ the people, their work

## ■ the people

■ **Glenn Gifford** was ordained to the ministry July 24 by Range Hills Church, Memphis, where he is a member. His former pastor, Ervin Harris of Leadwood, Mo., spoke.

## ■ the leaders

■ **Joe Collins**, who has been called as pastor of First Church, Charlotte, was ordained on June 19 by Harpeth Heights Church, Nashville.

■ **Mike Winters**, pastor, Walnut Hill Church, Harri-man, has been called as pastor of Eureka Church, Rockwood.

■ **Oak Grove Church**, Mount Carmel, has called **Benny E. Keck** as pastor, effective Aug. 14. **Ronald D. Hicks** served as interim pastor.

## ■ the missionaries

■ **David and Lynda Bodenheimer**, Baptist representatives to Eastern Europe, are in the states and can be reached at Rt. 1, Box 26, Belden, Miss., 38826. He considers Signal Mountain his hometown.

■ **Terry and Michaelle Buford**, missionaries to the Philippines, are on the field and can be reached at P.O. Box 54, San Pablo City, Laguna 400, Philippines. He was born in Jackson and considers Bells his hometown.

■ **Mark and Helen Thomas Caldwell**, missionaries to Thailand, are in the states and can be reached at 1116 Crown Pt. Rd. W., Signal Mountain, Tenn., 37377. He

was born in Chattanooga and considers Signal Mountain his hometown. She considers Chattanooga her hometown.

■ **Chip and Vesta Clary**, missionaries to the Philippines, are in the states and can be reached at 5096 Judy Lynn Ave., Memphis, Tenn., 38118. He is a native of Memphis.

■ **Dale and Gaye Hickman Coleman**, missionaries to Togo, are in the states and can be reached at Union University, Missionary Residence, Box 1812, Jackson, Tenn., 38305. He was born in Jackson and considers McKenzie his hometown. She is from McKenzie.

■ **Albert and Nettie Oldham Gammage**, missionaries to the Philippines, are in the states and can be reached at 1718 S.W. 18th St., Miami, Fla., 33145. She was born in Dixon Springs and grew up near Castalian Springs.

■ **Ronald and Alana Greenwich**, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field and can be reached at Caixa Postal 1041, 88010-970 Florianopolis, South Brazil. He was born in Memphis.

■ **Jim and Barbara Hampton**, missionary associates to Korea, are in the states and can be reached at 432 Rivermont Dr., Clarksville, Tenn., 37043. He was born and grew up in Memphis, and considers Clarksville his hometown.

■ **Rick and Laura Lane**, missionaries to Costa Rica, are on the field and can be reached at Apartado 4035-1000, San Jose, Costa Rica. He was born in Springfield.

■ **Tony and Cindy Goad Ludlow**, missionaries to Japan, are on the field and can be reached at 2-8-15 Kitayamadai, Togo-cho, Alchi-gun,

Aichi-ken 470-01, Japan. She is from Memphis.

■ **John McPherson**, missionary to Liberia, is on the field and can be reached at P.O. Box 10-14146, 1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia. He is a native of Knoxville.

■ **Jerry and Jo Steadman Meeks**, missionaries to Equatorial Guinea, are in the states and can be reached at 9321 Highway 9, Inman, S.C., 29349. She considers Leoma her hometown.

■ **Donald and Carol Peyton Minshew**, missionaries to Namibia, are on the field and can be reached at Private Bag 2104, Rundu, Namibia. He considers Memphis his hometown. She is from Memphis.

■ **Richard and Carol Poe**, missionaries to Chile, are in the states and can be reached at 5878 O'Hara Dr., Stone Mountain, Ga., 30087. He lived in several Tennessee towns while growing up.

## ■ the churches

■ The Vacation Bible School at **First Church, Deer Lodge**, drew 105 children July 18-22. Three made professions of faith. **Carlene Gosnell** was director.

■ **Round Lick Church, Watertown**, will hold revival Aug. 14-17. **Jim Powers**, director of missions, Concord Association, and **Al Mahan** of Smithville will lead it.

■ To kick off a revival and boost Sunday School attendance, **Ronnie Coleman**, pastor, **Bethel Church, Henderson**, will let himself be "tarred and feathered" if SS attendance reaches 130 Aug. 21. The revival is Aug. 21-26. **Brady Weldon** and **Chris Wohn** will lead it.

■ **Union Hill Church, Goodlettsville**, will observe Homecoming Day Aug. 14. Former pastor **James L. Harney** will speak during the morning service which will be followed by lunch and an afternoon musical service.

■ **Clover Creek Church, Medon**, will hold revival Aug. 14-19. **Ronnie Coleman**, pastor, **Bethel Church, Henderson**, will lead it.

## ■ the associations

■ Thirteen workers from **Cumberland Plateau and Sequatchie Valley associations** traveled to Ducansville, Pa., to do missions work July 16-23. The volunteers did repairs on New Hope Church. This is the second year the associations have cooperated to do missions.



**HISTORIAN** of New Providence Church, Loudon, **Ruth Dutton**, presents a plaque from the TBC to Pastor **Obie Campbell** at the 160th anniversary of the church July 17. **Dutton**, who has been a member for 69 years, presented the history of the church. **T.M. Cody** of Seymour, former pastor, also spoke.



**RECEIVING THE GIFT OF A QUILT** is **Mike Martin**, center, home missionary to LoLo, Mont., from members of Faith Church, Bartlett, from left, **Dwayne Petty**, **Leta Simonton**, and **Jerry Jackson**, who led the project. Twenty-two members of the church's Women's Sewing Group made the quilt for **Martin**, who is from Bartlett. He spoke at the church on June 12, when he received the gift.

# Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

## The hidden discipline

By Michael L. Shea, pastor Parkway Village Church, Memphis

In Psalm 109, David is disturbed by his many problems. After describing them initially, he said, "but I am a man of prayer" Psalm 109:4b.

That is quite a statement for an individual to make about himself. David's life was open to public scrutiny and his writings were too. If he were not a man of prayer, if his life was not characterized by prayer, then those around him would recognize this as an empty boast.

Am I a man of prayer? It is easy to

read, appreciate, and even teach Scripture without stopping to ask the most important question, Is this a characteristic of my life? Am I a man of prayer? Or, Am I a woman of prayer?

Would my wife describe me as a man of prayer? Would my children describe me as a man of prayer? Would my church describe me as a man of prayer? Would my friends describe me as a man of prayer? How many would say yes. But the most important question is would my heavenly Father describe me as a man of prayer?

Would a man of prayer be irregular, haphazard, forgetful in his prayer life? No. I get the distinct sense from Scripture that a man of prayer would be regu-

lar, consistent, purposeful, faithful, private in prayer, corporate in prayer, joyful, passionate, expectant, biblical, honest, selfless, humble, and contagious. Am I a man of prayer?

The easiest discipline of the Christian life to leave off is prayer. It is so easy to leave out that which is absolutely necessary and allow our time to be filled with things that are secondary. So much of it is hidden and so few are doing it that we experience little conviction when it is lacking in our lives. These are not things that I am primarily speaking to you, but these are things that the Lord has shared with me. Am I a man of prayer?

We may need to pray, "Holy Spirit, give me direction and insight into what it

means to be a man or woman of prayer. Take this life that I have held as my own ... I give it to you. What do you have to say to me about prayer?"

Samuel said, "Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord, by failing to pray for you" I Samuel 12:23a. □

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

# Pro-life, pro-choice leaders deplore abortion-related slayings in Florida

By Tom Strode  
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Pro-life and pro-choice advocates alike condemned the recent slayings of an abortion doctor and a bodyguard outside a clinic in Pensacola, Fla.

"It is obscene to shoot someone down in cold blood in the cause of the sanctity of human life," said Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"People who are truly pro-life believe in the sanctity of the born as well as the preborn — including doctors who perform abortions."

John Lanney of American Baptist Witness for Choice said, "These are not religious actions, nor are they consistent with any Christianity I know. Jesus preached a message of love, especially for those who are out-cast and marginalized. He repeatedly decried this very kind of religious intolerance."

Lanney's statement was released through the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, which recently accepted the American Baptist group as one of its members. The group is not an official agency of the American Baptist Churches in the USA.

Paul Hill, an outspoken advocate of using force to stop abortion, was charged with murder in the July 29 shotgun slayings of John Britton, 69, a physician, and James Barrett, 74, a volunteer escort. Barrett's wife also was injured.

Even those pro-life organizations which disagree on tactics almost unanimously expressed agreement in opposing the killings.

"We unequivocally condemn the taking of these lives in Pensacola," said Patrick Mahoney, a spokesman for Operation Rescue, in a written statement. "Neither the violent nor the vigilante have any place in the pro-life movement."

The National Right to Life Committee, which, unlike Operation Rescue, rejects civil disobedience as a strategy, called the shootings "deplorable and reprehensible. Killing is not pro-life. No person who is truly pro-life could kill another human being in the name of protecting unborn children."

At least one anti-abortion organization, however, appeared to defend Hill.

In a written statement, Advocates for Life Ministries, based in Portland, Ore., said Paul Hill "may have been ... justified in shooting" Britton, but "if Mr. Hill killed James Barrett and wounded his wife where they posed no imminent threat to Hill's life or the life of another, we are not able to say it was justifiable."

President Bill Clinton condemned the killings, adding, "I am strongly committed to ending this form of domestic terrorism that threatens the fabric of our country." □

## TBC Sunday School Department to sponsor leadership training conferences across state

The 1994 Tennessee Sunday School Leadership Training Conferences are scheduled for eight locations across the state.

The conferences will provide a variety of training in methods and principles of Sunday School teaching, growth, and administration for all age groups as well as pastors, staff, and general officers, according to Greer Ruble, Tennessee Baptist Convention Sunday School Department director.

Conferences will be held on Mondays, 6:45-9 p.m., and Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., (local time) at each location.

The theme for the conference is "BREAKTHROUGH ... Witness to Win."

During the conferences representatives from the Baptist

Sunday School Board will be at each location to interpret the improvements and changes in BSSB Sunday School literature, effective Oct. 1.

Dates and sites are:  
Aug. 29-30 — West Jackson Church, Jackson  
Sept. 12-13 — First Church, Memphis  
Sept. 19-20 — Central Church, Hixson (Chattanooga)  
Sept. 19-20 — Central Church, Johnson City

Sept. 26-27 — Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville  
Sept. 26-27 — First Church, Cookeville  
Oct. 3-4 — Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage  
Oct. 3-4 — First Church, Columbia

Preschool childcare will be provided, but reservations must be made by Friday prior to the conference with the host church.

For more information, call the TBC Sunday School Department at (615) 371-2054. □

## Oakley takes DOM post in Kentucky

Jerry Oakley, pastor of Springfield Church for 17 years, resigned Aug. 7 to become director of missions for Warren County Association in Bowling Green, Ky. His resignation is effective Sept. 11.

Oakley was actively involved in the work of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Robertson Association. He served as president of the TBC, the Executive Board, and the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference. He has been chairman of the Executive Board's budget and pro-

gram committee, the Executive Committee, and held other committee and trustee posts in the convention.

The Kentucky native was moderator of Robertson County Association for two years. He is a graduate of Union University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

As a pastor in Kentucky prior to coming to Tennessee, Oakley was moderator of Davies-McClearn and Russell Creek associations. He served on several Kentucky Baptist Convention committees. □

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Call TBC Missions Department, (615) 371-2043, or your local DOM for more information and registration forms.

# ■ Sunday School lesson commentary

## □ Source and worth of wisdom — Bible Book Series for Aug. 14

By Carl Scarlett, pastor, Miracle Church, La Vergne

For the next four weeks we will be studying from the book of Proverbs.

The word rendered "proverbs" means an authoritative saying and means that moral truths are taught by contrast or comparison. The Proverbs apply the truth of religion to practical life in sentences that are weighty and easily remembered by their terse point.

According to I Kings 4:32, Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs. The Holy Spirit did not appoint all of Solomon's proverbs to be put in the canon for all ages, but a selection suited for the ends of revelation.

Solomon asked God for an understanding heart to judge God's people and that he might discern between good and bad (I Kings 3:9). Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the life of his enemies, God granted Solomon a wise and understanding heart (I Kings 3:12).

**Design of author — vv. 1-7**

The author's text is, (v. 7), "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." The "fear" Solomon refers to is that which stands in awe and rever-

**Focal Passages**  
Proverbs 1:7; 3:1-18a;  
8:35-36

ence of God and his power. The purpose of the book is revealed: namely, to impart real wisdom and instruction that renders an upright conduct in the lives of young men (v. 4) and the conduct in the lives of older men who continually need more wisdom even as they grow older (v. 5).

**Wisdom's warning about wealth, violence — vv. 8-19**

Solomon speaks to his son and to other young men who need his counsel. He warns against running with the wrong crowd that are out to gain wealth at the expense of another's loss (vv. 9-14). Solomon warns that those who follow in violent ways will guarantee their eventual fall (vv. 17-19).

**Wisdom utters call of warning, rewards — vv. 20—ch. 3:26**

Wisdom declares her message in all the public and prominent places of the city. She warns all who scorn her words of warning and wisdom and reminds them

that they will eventually pass the point of no return and when they do ask for wisdom, it will be too late (v. 28).

Solomon reminds his son (ch. 2:1-22) to seek the path of true wisdom which will bring him to the true source (vv. 1-5), God who bestows it. God always blesses those who fear him with protection, with understanding that brings great joy (vv. 6-10), with complete deliverance from the crooked and their ways and from the lustful, with strength to lead a clean and wholesome life with a confidence denied to the wrongdoer (vv. 11-20).

God honors those who honor him and follow his wisdom (ch. 3:1-10).

God's discipline in the circumstances of life may seem hard to bear, but he always acts for good in accordance with his perfect wisdom (vv. 11-12), a wisdom which, because it carries a rich reward, is worthy to be sought at all costs. God's wisdom is more valuable and more precious than all the precious possessions one could gather in a life time (vv. 13-20). The practice of heavenly wisdom will direct one's personal sit-

uation in the daytime activity and brings a clear conscience at night (vv. 21-24).

**Wisdom to live right — vv. 27—ch. 4:27**

Wisdom directs one to obey the second great Commandment (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39) to help, not hinder, one's fellow man and shun evildoers' habits. God's grace is upon the humble and his scorn is upon the scornful (vv. 27-35).

Wisdom was a valuable treasure that Solomon had gained from his father, David, and now he desires to pass it on to his children (ch. 4:1-9).

Wisdom teaches us to follow the right path and to avoid the path of the wicked and the light of God's grace will shine more brightly as we travel in his light until we meet him face to face (vv. 10-19).

One should be very clear about his aims and pursue them with forethought and persistence, refusing to be sidetracked into deceit and wrongdoing (vv. 24-27).

**Beware of adultery, fleshly sins — ch. 5:1—ch. 7:27**

Solomon warns that only those who follow God's wisdom will

have the strength to flee seductive invitations to bodily lust (vv. 1-6). Enslavement to lust and to those who exploit its victims ruins a life. It is far better to learn discipline and faithfulness to one true partner with nothing to fear because God sees all (vv. 7-23).

To sign a stranger's note (surety) is as dangerous as giving a blank check to a stranger (ch. 6:1-5).

Solomon has no patience with laziness. He points to the busy, orderly ant as an example for productive activity (vv. 6-15).

Solomon speaks a parable on chastity (ch. 7:1-27). He commends obedience to godly wisdom as an antidote for the foolish enticements of illicit sex (vv. 1-5).

**Wisdom's purpose — ch. 8:1—ch. 9:18**

Wisdom calls forth to everyone in all walks of life. Those who follow the wisdom that only God can give, finds life. Those who spurn the call will die. The wisdom of God is more valuable than riches of gold and silver. Wisdom is the power rulers need and whoever seeks the wisdom of God is wise and shall be rewarded with a holy understanding. □

## □ Accept God's guidance — Convention Uniform Series for Aug. 14

By Randall Cummings, pastor, First Church, Ripley

**Sending of spies, their report**

Because of the people's concerns (Deuteronomy 1:21-23) God had Moses send spies into Canaan to bring back a report on the land. The band of spies consisted of leaders from each tribe of Israel (Numbers 13:1-16), men who had distinguished themselves during the exodus.

Israel eagerly anticipated the spies' report. After months in the wilderness and years of slavery building Pharaoh's cities in Egypt's deserts, Israel longed for a bountiful land. The land of Canaan could provide for the welfare of the people, reported the spies (Numbers 13:25-27).

Then came the spies' assessment of the inhabitants (Numbers 13:28). As former Egyptian slaves, the technological expertise of these men was primitive even by the standards of their own day. Now they faced the invasion of a land inhabited by people physically and technologically superior. We look at an ancient walled city and think it quaint, but these former slaves saw it as a formidable obstacle. The land of Canaan had many cities like this. The physically large inhabitants with their superior technology caused Israel to despair of ever leaving Egypt (ch. 14:2).

Caleb's minority report with

Joshua assessed the quality of the land and the formidable nature of the inhabitants. But these men were more concerned that Israel not rebel against God. "Only do not rebel against the Lord; and do not fear the people of the land, for they shall be our prey," was Caleb's counsel (v. 9).

**God's judgment of Israel's faithfulness**

The people feared certain defeat from the powerful inhabitants of Canaan. In their distress they even prepared to stone Caleb and Joshua. At that point God intervened, his glory appearing suddenly in the tabernacle.

God's contention with Israel was their lack of faith (v. 11). God

**Focal Passage**  
Numbers 13:25-28,  
30-31; 14:6-10a

referred to the 10 times Israel had put him to the test. From the banks of the Red Sea to Canaan's border, Israel had hesitated to faithfully follow God's commands.

Speaking to Moses, God passed a death sentence on the numbered men of Israel for their faithfulness. Because they had accused God of bringing them into the wilderness to die, they would (vv. 28-29). Israel would wander for 40 years in the desert wilderness before a new generation could enter the land. For their

faithfulness, of the spies only Caleb and Joshua would enter the promised land.

**Defeat, retreat — vv. 39-45**

Remorseful too late for their faithfulness, the people decided to invade the land. Moses warned them not to go, because God was not in it. Israel suffered a stunning defeat. Their retreat began 40 years of wilderness wandering around Kadesh-barnea.

In their faithlessness Israel failed to comprehend the power of God to bless and discipline. We are equally faithless when we compromise our obedience to God based on what we fear. Faith calls for courageous obedience to the leadership of God's spirit. □

## □ Guidelines for giving — Life and Work Series for Aug. 14

By Clay Frazier, retired pastor, Morristown

It is safe to say, that of all Baptist doctrines, the doctrine of giving is the least received and practiced. Years ago I preached a sermon on "The Bible Doctrine That Makes Baptists Mad." Many years of being a pastor has revealed our Baptist people are rather lame in the practice of this Biblical teaching.

**Grace produces generous giving — vv. 1-4**

This may well be the missing ingredient of many of our churches. Grace is missing. Paul cited the churches of Macedonia as an example in giving. He made it clear that it was of God. It just may be that we have depended upon programs in our churches more than God to produce great giving individuals and churches. This may explain why many of our churches are far behind in their budget giving. I wonder if our denomination is operating

with shortages because we have depended on programs and promotions rather than the grace of God? God's grace was in operation in the churches of Macedonia in spite of their poverty. Great gifts are not determined by the riches of the giver. They mixed their giving with their joy, and when the offering was tallied, it was surprisingly large. They had grace, and they wanted to give (v. 4). They were eager for an offering. Today we hear, "What, another offering?" In the "grace-bestowed" churches, it was, "When are we going to give another offering?" The key to great giving is great grace. If there is a shortage in the local church or the denomination, you, for sure, can track the cause to the lack of grace, God's grace.

**Guidelines — vv. 5-7**

The gift without the giver is bare. The Macedonians gave themselves to God. That was the

**Focal Passages**  
II Corinthians 8:1-12

first step on their part to generous giving. The main issue in giving is God. What is our relationship to God? If he has the first place in our hearts, giving will be no burden. The church will not have to beg or bargain when the people have given God his rightful place. Not only did they give God first place, but they gave themselves to their leaders. How eager they were to follow their leaders. If a man of God has been sent to your church and is presenting programs that are biblical, then the church must follow. Much leanness is found in the modern-day church because the people have not given themselves to God and the pastor. These churches in Macedonia gave themselves willingly. It was not a dragging process but a gushing

operation. The apostle urges in verse 7 that God's people give careful heed to the grace of giving. They are not to be lopsided. They are to develop faith, utterance, knowledge, and diligence, but they must not neglect the grace of giving.

**Supreme example — vv. 8-9**

If our ears are slow to hear words about giving, let us use our eyes. Look at Jesus! He is the Supreme Example. He was the richest of the rich. He, the maker and owner of the universe, became poor. He came by the birth-gate to a poor Jewish family. He came by the barn-gate to our world. He came to us when we could not get to him. He came to be scorned and mocked by many. He came to live in poverty that we might be rich. Observe Calvary in all of its ugliness and pain. This is the center out of which all giving must flow. We must have a vision

and understanding of Christ before we ever become sacrificial in our giving. I am afraid Southern Baptists know little about sacrificial giving. If just a million of our people set aside \$5 a week for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, we would give over a quarter of a billion dollars. That would be three times what we gave last year. I doubt that would be any sacrifice at all.

**Need is now — vv. 10-12**

Paul had mentioned this need to the Corinthians a year before. They had never acted on it. He is now saying the time is now. We may say there will come a better time for the offering, but usually for us to delay means suffering and loss are further perpetuated. Southern Baptists, the time is NOW! How much has gone undone on mission fields and here at home because generous giving has not had priority. □

## Home missionary lost in mountains for one day found safe

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — A home missionary lost in the mountains near Glorieta Baptist Conference Center for nearly 24 hours, credits prayers and the efforts of nearly 100 people with saving his life.

Charles Joyner, church strategist in Seattle, was attending Home Missions Week, July 23-29. He left the conference center Thursday at noon for a six-hour hike to Mount Baldy, west of the center. He became disoriented on the trail when a severe thunderstorm set in at about 5 p.m.

Joyner's wife reported him missing when she returned from an evening worship service at about 8:30 p.m. and he had not arrived home.

The first search and rescue teams were out by midnight and by dawn more than 100 individuals were involved in the search.

Jones was found around 10 a.m. on Friday. □

## Volunteer remains in coma after July 20 fall

Baptist Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Southern Baptist volunteer Paul Sutherland remains in a coma in critical condition after suffering a brain contusion in a July 20 fall.

Physicians at Buenos Aires' British Hospital told Sutherland's family he will be disabled if he recovers, Kathleen Clark, Southern Baptist mis-

sonary in Argentina, said July 27.

But even as Sutherland, 66, a layman from Sanford, N.C., lay in intensive care, missionaries saw the first results of his Christian testimony. An Argentine man Sutherland had witnessed to in an airport sought out Baptists for further spiritual guidance.

Sutherland was part of a team with 13 other Southern Baptist volunteers, all from **Broadmoor Church, Memphis**. The team completed their assignment after Sutherland's accident, returning to Tennessee July 25. □

## Southern teaches first doctoral course in Korean language

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The language of ministry became the language of learning for 11 Korean American ministers.

They participated in July in the first doctor of ministry seminar taught in the Korean language at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. While all students in the course could speak and read English, their main language for preaching, teaching, and counseling is Korean, says course instructor David Ro, an adjunct professor of Old Testament at the school.

"Sometimes (Korean students) have a problem communicating in English on current issues or on ways of interpreting the Bible, Ro noted. Therefore, he said, teaching the course in Korean allowed students to delve deeper into issues facing them in ministry. □

## Evangelism solves church problems, HMB leaders say

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Every church problem can be solved by training members to be witnesses, Larry Lewis said during a home missions conference.

"I don't know of a problem in any church that can't be solved if people are trained to be witnesses, the Home Mission Board president said. "Fellowship, growth, financial — those problems will be solved.

"It does something to a congregation when every week there's an expectation that someone will make a profession of faith," he said at the Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

People committed to evangelism are not caught up in other anxieties and frustrations, said Darrell Robinson, HMB vice president for evangelism.

"It will drive us to Bible study because we know we cannot share Jesus without knowing the Word of God. It will drive us to prayer and yielding to the Holy Spirit," said Robinson, who also spoke at the conference.

Lewis reminded conference participants that evangelism is not a program or a strategy, but a spirit that reaches out to people in love.

A simultaneous witnessing effort called "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now," asks every Southern Baptist to share Jesus 60 times in 60 days between Jan. 9 and March 9 next year.

"Imagine what would happen if 15 million Southern Baptists participated," Robinson said. "There would be 900 million presentations of the Gospel."

Quoting Psalm 126, Lewis said Christians must "sow in tears" if they are to "reap in joy."

"We must bathe our efforts in tears of compassion from a broken heart. How long has it been since you wept over somebody without Christ?" he asked.

Effective soul winning requires Christians to look outside their churches, Lewis said. "We must get off our seats, on our feet, and into the streets. Scripture does not command people to come. It commands us to go," he said. □

## Nation's first black DOM is Union grad

Baptist Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Reginald C. "Reggie" Thomas, 30, of Dallas, and an African American, has accepted the call as director of missions of Central Association in New Mexico.

According to the Home Mission Board associational missions division, Thomas is the first black DOM in the nation.

Thomas has been a consultant in the church extension department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas since 1990. His responsibilities included starting and developing new churches. Thomas has helped start 120 new works since 1990.

Thomas is a 1985 graduate of Union University, Jackson. While there he was pastor of a church in Tennessee. He later earned his master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. □

hopes of fully protecting the multi-million-dollar state campground from encroachment by the gambling boon along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The Gulfshore question has been simmering since Spectrum, Inc., announced plans to build a large casino almost within sight of Gulfshore in the quiet neighborhood known locally as Henderson Point.

Spectrum eventually withdrew their request.

At a June 21 hearing, the MGC promised to consider a permanent ban on gambling facilities within 1,000 yards of religious retreats and conference centers, but Harvey reported that legal counsel had discouraged that idea.

The commissioners accepted Harvey's suggestion that MGC continue to consider casino applications on a case-by-case basis. □

## Computers aid church stats preparation

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Computer software has significantly reduced the time required for annual reporting by Southern Baptist churches and associations, and the number of reports filed electronically is increasing dramatically, according to a denominational statistician.

The Annual Church Profile (ACP), successor to the former Uniform Church Letter, offers a redesigned reporting process with a more logical sequence of information and a free software package developed by the Baptist Sunday School Board

and the Home Mission Board to improve the speed and accuracy of reporting, said Tom Carringer, BSSB denominational statistics specialist.

Of the 1,218 Baptist associations across the nation, 49 percent reported electronically in 1993, providing 53 percent of all data received. This was an 82 percent increase over the previous year, he said.

Carringer said he expects the trend to continue with more than 70 percent of reports provided electronically this year. □

## Senate confirms Breyer for court post

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate overwhelmingly confirmed Stephen Breyer to the Supreme Court, as expected, although some opponents described him as insensitive to the free exercise of religion.

The Senate confirmed Breyer by a 87-9 vote July 29.

Breyer will succeed Harry Blackmun who retired recently. Blackmun wrote the 1973 Roe v. Wade opinion which legalized abortion. □

## Gift honors former SWBTS president

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — J. Howard Williams, the fourth president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, was honored by a \$100,000 gift from his youngest son, Kelly, on July 3, which would have been his 100th birthday. □



**Don't Forget!!**  
**Sunday, Aug. 21,**  
 is  
**Baptist and Reflector**  
**Day**

Sunday, Aug. 21, is *Baptist and Reflector* Day on the Tennessee Baptist Convention calendar. This is a time to make all of your church members aware of their Baptist state newsjournal. It is **not too late** to order copies of the paper for each member of your congregation. Call the number listed below by **noon on Monday, Aug. 15**, and let us know how many copies to send.

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