

Baptist and Reflector

August 17, 1994

VOL. 160 ■ NO. 33

STATEWIDE EDITION

■ this
week's
news

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MOVING? Cut out and mail address label and new address to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024

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22 jobs, \$1.4 million pared from HMB in reorganization

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — An administrative reorganization of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will save \$1.4 million a year. The new structure, approved by HMB directors Aug. 10, will eliminate 22 staff positions and suspend funding for three others.

HMB directors also approved 20 home missionaries, endorsed 39 chaplains, voted to stop receiving funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and answered a new challenge to a controversial document dealing with Catholics and evangelicals.

Half of the jobs eliminated are leadership positions including five national missionaries, and half are support positions including clerical, secretarial, and maintenance staff.

Deletion of the national missionary positions will not elimi-

nate the work, according to HMB President Larry Lewis. He told Baptist Press the duties of those missionaries will be assigned to other staff.

At least nine people whose jobs will be eliminated are retiring, and most others have been or will be transferred to vacant positions at the agency, Lewis said.

With six votes against the action, HMB directors voted to immediately stop accepting funds channeled through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as directed by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla., last June.

Regarding Roman Catholics, Bill Streich, a deacon at First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, offered a resolution rejecting a document signed in March by Catholics and evangelicals, including Lewis.

Streich's resolution also

asked the full board to nullify an HMB executive committee's resolution passed in June to clarify its views of the document concerning evangelism.

Instead, directors passed a substitute resolution to affirm both the executive committee's resolution and a resolution on Catholic dialogue passed during the SBC in June.

Streich said he wanted the board to go on record opposing the document because of its "negative impact on missions."

Lewis said he was "aghast" that some interpret the document as opposing missions, noting he would not "sign on to anything that was opposed to evangelism or missions."

Tennessee director Tom Madden of Murfreesboro was among those named to a special committee to study relationships between the HMB and state conventions. □

Baptist relief volunteers to aid Rwandan refugees

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — An advance team of five Southern Baptist volunteers who will pave the way for more than 100 other volunteers to help Rwandan refugees departed Aug. 10 for Goma, Zaire.

The first of a half-dozen volunteer Baptist teams slated to work two- or three-week medical/relief missions in Zaire left the United States on Aug. 12.

That group included physicians, nurses, and disaster relief volunteers experienced in operating and maintaining solar-powered water purifying machines.

Baptists will work in two of the seven children's camps set up by UNICEF near Goma to care for refugee children who have been orphaned or separated from their parents. □



Teddy bears, tennis shoes

Beverly Smothers, at left, unloads boxes of teddy bears and tennis shoes at Holston Association in Johnson City, where she serves as director of Christian social ministries. The items were collected by more than 13,500 teenage girls who attended the National Achteens Conference in Birmingham in late June. Holston Association's Baptist Center was one of several social service centers across the country which received items. Below, Ila Nielson, director of migrant ministries for the association, is shown with several of her friends who were recipients of the gifts.



B & R Day is Aug. 21

Once a year the Tennessee Baptist Convention calendar sets aside a special observance called *Baptist and Reflector Day*. This year it is Sunday, Aug. 21.

Many churches, at their request, have sent extra copies of the paper to introduce it to those Baptists who are unfamiliar with their Baptist state paper. The paper is a vital part of Cooperative Program work in Tennessee, reporting, informing, and helping Tennessee Baptists in other ways.

The *Baptist and Reflector* will observe its 160th anniversary next year. It is a descendant of a newspaper begun in 1835 and has been published under its current name since *The American Baptist Reflector* and the *Tennessee Baptist* combined in 1889.

The paper's staff, headed by Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen, is committed to giving Tennessee Baptists a quality newjournal with major focus on Tennessee Baptist activities along with stories of what Southern Baptists are doing around the world.

Published weekly except the last week of the year, the *Baptist and Reflector* regularly enters more Tennessee Baptist homes than any other TBC entity.

The staff is pleased that several thousand extra copies were among those mailed to Tennessee Baptist churches which plan to recognize the work of the paper on Aug. 21.

Interested Baptists may inquire about special subscription plans for churches, including our Church Page Plan, where a church's newsletter can be printed on the back of the *Baptist and Reflector* weekly. For those who would like to subscribe individually, a subscription form has been included on page 12 for your convenience. Happy reading! □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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- **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- **Board of directors:** David George, chairman; Joe Littlefield, vice chairman; Mickey Basham, Christine Bess, David Crocker, Russ Dunham, Gary Gerhardt, Dean Haun, Diane Jordan, Howard Kolb, Leonard Markham, Paul Moody, Ray Newcomb, Don Owens, Richard Patton, Mike Thrower, Gary Watkins, Laurann Whetham, and Larry Williams
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- **Mailing address** — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- **Phone** — (615) 371-2003. **FAX** — (615) 371-2080
- **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
- **Address changes** — Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- **Postmaster** — Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780)
- **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for Christmas week.



Printed on recycled paper

Senate joins House to save sexual abstinence program

By Tom Strode
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate has followed the lead of the House of Representatives in restoring funding to a sexual abstinence program deleted by the Clinton administration in its 1995 budget.

The Senate recently voted 87-13 to approve a spending bill which includes \$6.7 million for Title XX, the only federal program promoting sexual abstinence among teenagers. The bill appropriates funds for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

Earlier, the House approved the same amount of funding in its version of the Labor, HHS, and Education legislation. Although the versions will go to a Senate-House conference committee to work out differences, supporters believe funding for Title XX, also known as

the Adolescent Family Life program, will remain in the final bill.

Because the funding amounts are the same, the Title XX provision "should be safe through the conference committee," a congressional aide said.

"We are grateful that Congress has rejected the Clinton administration's attempt to abolish the AFL program," said James A. Smith, director of government relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"This is an important win for those of us in America who believe kids can be trusted to act responsibly if only the adults will lead them to do so. We intend to monitor how the Clinton administration carries out Congress' clearly demonstrated will that there be a federal program devoted to promoting a sexual abstinence message." □

Pastor resigns, youth group cancels, van breaks down — no problem!

Baptist Press

DALLAS, S.D. — In some places, it might be enough to cross off Vacation Bible School.

The pastor resigns.

A youth missions group from another state cancels out.

A much-needed van breaks down the day before VBS doors open.

But not at First Church in Dallas, S.D.

The South Dakotans persevered via prayer and "James 1:2-3 as our motto," said Sue Robbins, the church's VBS director. The Scripture passage states, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience" (KJV).

With each crisis, a church prayer chain moved into action — "and the Lord answered," sometimes with a

needed volunteer, sometimes with logistics falling into place, Robbins said.

At the end of the first day of VBS, Robbins checked with the fifth and sixth grade teacher and learned two children had accepted Christ as their Savior.

The next day, she said, five children in the third and fourth grade accepted Christ. That was followed the next day by five more professions.

The last day as the invitation was given, "one child came forward, then another, and then another," Robbins said. "They started to get up from all over the church. The teachers were crying, as I am doing. When all the children had been counseled, we had 45 lives that had been given to Christ that week."

The South Dakota church learned that week "what God can do if we do our part," Robbins said. □

Women on Mission plans finding wide acceptance

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Women on Mission, the adult organization Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union will offer in the fall of 1995, is finding acceptance.

The new approach to adult missions involvement was unveiled before WMU members attending the recent WMU week at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

The approach also has been field tested in more than 70 churches across the country.

Women on Mission will replace the current adult organizations WMU offers — Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women.

Other WMU members recently received a sneak preview to Women on Mission in the June issues of *Royal Service*, the magazine for Baptist Women members, and *Contempo*, the magazine for Baptist Young

Women. Articles will continue to appear monthly in both magazines explaining the new organization and ways to prepare for the changes it will bring.

"We're not changing the purpose of our adult organization, but we are changing the structure and the approach," said Andrea Mullins, the WMU national specialist responsible for the Women on Mission field tests.

"We are simplifying the structure and the approach and making the organization much more flexible," she said.

Women on Mission will be a missions organization for adult women which encourages them to pray, give to missions, learn about missions, develop spiritually toward a missions lifestyle, and participate in the work of the church and the denomination.

Women may be active in the new organization in three different ways — small

groups, individually, and in celebration experiences.

Groups can form based on things such as lifestyle, need, interest, task, age, or other things such as interest in raising preschoolers, crafts, prayer, career, or social issues, Mullins said. Each church can determine the number and kinds of groups it will have.

Women who cannot participate in small groups on an ongoing basis may be involved individually, Mullins said. The magazine which WMU will publish for Women on Mission, *Missions Mosaic*, will include guidance for missions awareness and involvement for individuals.

The celebration experiences will enable women of the church to come together as many times during the year as they choose to celebrate what God is doing in their lives, groups, and world, Mullins said. □

Iowa flood victims give to assist in Georgia

By David Winfrey
For Baptist Press

OTTUMWA, Iowa — An Iowa couple flooded from their home last year are among the contributors to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's relief fund for Georgia flood victims.

Patrick and Marita Richmond were one of the 400 families driven from their homes last year in Wapello County, Iowa.

"We lost everything. It (the house) was under water for about six weeks, I believe," she said. "I have a way of forgetting bad things." Barry Stewart, pastor of Albia Road Baptist Church, said the Richmonds were among many ineligible for relief funds because of restric-

tions from government programs or assistance agencies.

Iowa and Southern Baptists "have helped a lot of people in this area," said Stewart, who since September has directed the local flood relief center. "It just really opened up a lot of opportunities for ministry."

With insurance, the Richmonds built a new home seven miles from the river. But they had no money for furniture, Richmond said. After being rejected by at least two agencies, they learned about Stewart, she said.

"The Baptists were the first ones to send us help," she said. "Barry Stewart just said, 'What's your name, where do you live and what do you need?'"

Richmond said her family wanted to assist others who are

experiencing the same difficulties her families faced.

"We were very touched when we heard about the floods in Georgia because we know what they were going through," she said.

The Home Mission Board purchased a \$25,000 water purification unit for the Midwest region and provided \$90,000 for disaster and hunger relief funds. So far, about \$6,200 has been donated to the Home Mission Board to assist families in the flooded area of Georgia.

The Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship has distributed more than \$220,000 in relief funds to families so far, according to Steve Melvin, director of church extension, evangelism and brotherhood programs for the Iowa Baptist Fellowship.

In addition to the Home Mission Board, several state Baptist conventions also sent financial assistance, Melvin said.

In addition to a check, Iowa recipients received a letter explaining Southern Baptist relief efforts and a list of Southern Baptist churches in their area, Melvin said.

"It's given us an opportunity to say that we care," he said. "We've had an opportunity to demonstrate the concern for those who have suffered loss in the flood."

Stewart agreed. "The one thing I've been proud of is that because of the HMB fund and other church funds I've been able to help people that nobody else would help." □

HMB refugee office faces crisis with Haitian exodus

By Susan Doyle
For Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Of the approximately 1,000 Haitians who leave their homeland in boats each day, Southern Baptists end up being directly responsible for an average of 60 of them.

According to Bill Fulkerson, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's refugee office, it is a responsibility that is reaching crisis level.

Fulkerson recently shared information about Southern Baptists' refugee work with members and leaders of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

"It's a chronic state that might become acute," Fulkerson said. "The refugee situation is not getting any

better, in fact, it's getting worse."

The United Nations has identified more than 19 million refugees worldwide — a number which has increased by five million in the last five years. From the time a refugee is identified as such by the U.N., it can take anywhere from two months to 10 years to be resettled with a sponsor.

A political refugee, as defined by the U.S. State Department, is "a person from any nation fleeing because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion."

The HMB's refugee office, working in cooperation with government-contracted refugee resettlement services

in the country, receives refugee cases continually. Those cases can be anything from an individual to a family of six or seven.

Two days is all the time given to the HMB to resettle Haitian refugees before their case is passed to another resettlement service.

"For every case we can't resettle, we are denied a case in the future," Fulkerson said. "We very seldom have to return a case because we don't want to lose the future opportunity."

More refugee sponsors are needed to adequately handle the influx of refugees, he said. The HMB could use 50 more churches willing to be refugee sponsors.

The HMB asks the entire church to be the sponsor and to shoulder the re-

sponsibility — financial, emotional, physical, and spiritual.

"We don't know what will happen in Haiti, but we do know that hundreds of Haitians are coming into our country. Recently there were five Baptist families who came over on boats," he said.

Providing for the needs of refugees hasn't been a one-way street. Haitian refugees have been directly responsible for increasing the number of Southern Baptist Haitian congregations, which now total 68, including 20 which were started last year. All but two or three can be directly attributed to Haitian refugees, Fulkerson said.

For more information, contact the Southern Baptist Resettlement Office in Atlanta at (404) 898-7395. □

Texas CP study committee proposes three giving avenues

By Toby Druin
For Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Cooperative Missions Giving Study Committee voted Aug. 8 to recommend to the Baptist General Convention of Texas this fall that what constitutes support of the Cooperative Program be expanded to include gifts to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Texas causes only, among others.

Instead of the two-tiered "BGCT Operated" and "BGCT Directed" approach approved July 29, which they later concluded was confusing, the committee agreed at their sixth meeting in Dallas Aug. 8 to recommend the following to the annual meeting Oct. 31-Nov. 1 in Amarillo:

"That the BGCT will recognize and distribute as Texas Cooperative Program contributions from the churches given in any or all of the following ways:

"(1) Gifts to the adopted budget of the BGCT and the

adopted budget of the SBC according to the annually adopted percentage allocation between the two.

"(2) Gifts to the adopted budget of the BGCT (Texas missions and ministries).

"(3) Gifts to the adopted budget of the BGCT and to other worldwide Baptist missions and ministries. These may include such entities as the Southern Baptist Convention, any agency of the SBC, Woman's Missionary Union, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Baptist World Alliance, and other missions and ministries within the Baptist family.

"Note: The BGCT will continue to recognize the decision of a church to delete up to a total of five line items in the BGCT budget and/or the SBC budget."

In recent years only undesignated gifts for the BGCT and SBC budgets have been considered "Cooperative Program," although since 1991 churches have been able to

delete up to five line items and still have their gifts considered CP. More restrictive gifts were considered "designated" and were included with mission offerings in totals published in the *Baptist Standard* newsjournal.

In discussions during the six committee meetings, several panel members contended for the inclusion of gifts through the CBF as "Cooperative Program." To list them in any other way, they said, would be to perpetuate their perceived "second class" status.

Opponents of including gifts through the CBF as Cooperative Program gifts noted the traditional view of the CP has been as a partnership between the local church, state convention, and SBC.

One argued that while one group is upset because their giving pattern is criticized, inclusion of CBF gifts as CP will upset those who oppose it.

Proponents, however, con-

tended there is nothing "traditional" about what has happened in the SBC during the last 15 years.

The vice chairman of the committee, John Hatch of Lake Jackson, said he and "four to six" other committee members are considering filing a minority report opposing changes in structure of the CP because they feel the recommendations of the committee fail to accomplish the stated goal to "enhance cooperative missions giving" by all Texas Baptist churches.

Leaders of the CBF and SBC responded as might be expected. "The committee has affirmed a very powerful Baptist idea. They are putting the authority in the hands of each local congregation," said Cecil Sherman, CBF coordinator.

Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, said the report is "a departure from the partnership which has long existed between state conventions and the SBC." □

Nominations sought for top TBC pastors

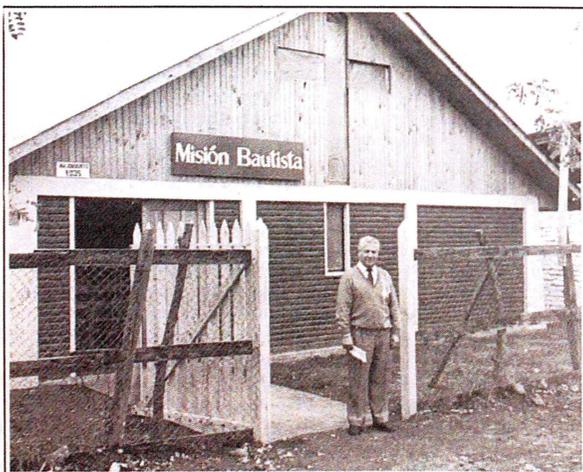
Nominations for Bivocational Pastor of the Year and Small Church Pastor of the Year will be accepted through Sept. 1.

A bivocational pastor must have a full-time job in addition to his ministry to qualify for the award. The small church pastor must have served full-time in a church with an average Sunday School attendance of less than 100. Both must have held their positions within the last calendar year.

Awards will be given to pastors in each major region of the state and will be presented during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in November.

Local associations have nomination forms. Mail completed forms to Convention Ministries Division, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. □

Chile/Tennessee partnership missions



Pastor Pedro Quezada stands in front of this church building in Molina, north of Talca. Five Tennessee Baptist volunteers worked on the building in 1993. A team of three to five volunteers is needed to work Nov. 12-21 to put up the interior ceiling of the church. The ceiling will consist of mostly pressed wood sheeling. Volunteers should be experienced in construction and bring their own hand tools. For information about this partnership project, call Jarvis Hearn at (615) 371-2028.

Reynolds to serve as volunteer prayer coordinator for Tennessee Baptists

Lew Reynolds, recently retired minister of missions and special ministries at Judson Church, Nashville, has agreed to serve as volunteer prayer consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Reynolds will be available to assist churches or associations in beginning and maintaining prayer ministries, said Bill Wilson, director of the TBC Convention Ministries Division. Because it is a volunteer position, churches or associations using Reynolds' services are asked to be responsible for travel expenses and honorarium. Wilson added.

Reynolds is a former

staffer at two Memphis churches — Oakhaven and Frayser.



REYNOLDS

Before moving to Judson in 1988, he was on the staff of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana where he was director of the Sunday School, Church Administration, Church Architecture, and Church Music departments and from 1987-88 was interim co-executive director of the convention.

He may be reached at 107 Victoria Court, Franklin, 37064 or (615) 790-6771. □

■ about letters to the editor

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

Appreciates help

Greetings from Chile! My family and I have just returned from our biannual mission meeting in Santiago. We had the tremendous blessing to be ministered to once again by a group of Tennessee volunteers.

Our children were privileged to be taught during the week by a lovely and talented group of

Acteen Activators led by the more than capable Kathy Sharp and Janice Davidson. It was a week of continual inspiration for each of our three children. The girls and leaders demonstrated that a lot of prior preparation and praying had taken place.

We were also ministered to during the week by Ray Newcomb. His Bible teachings were encouraging to us, and the personal fellowship times with him were enriching.

Thanks again, Tennessee Baptists, for sending the "cream of the crop" to Chile to minister. Lives were changed because of your willingness to respond to God's call to go to the "ends of the earth."

Eddie Graves, missionary
SBC/FMB

Media reviews

I read with appreciation Phil Boatwright's article (*Baptist and Reflector*, Aug. 3) about combatting media's influence. Hope his objective reviews can be a regular feature.

In addressing current, offending TV programming, this perceptive writer suggests that change could result if (as few as) 100 people, as Christians, objected to the use of profanity. This deserves a trial. Unemotional and courteous disapproval will get the attention of local TV stations, as has been demonstrated in the past. Instead of a phone call, a handwritten note would be better.

Is there a way to protest that objectionable content of theater films? Local operators, perhaps, have no control over selections and therefore ignore any com-

plaints if they don't pertain to stale, buttered popcorn.

M.J. Clark
Nashville 37205

Henry good choice

It is good to read about the cooperative, loving spirit exhibited at the SBC in Orlando.

Although some were disappointed that Dr. Fred Wolfe was not elected to lead, I don't believe anyone can doubt Dr. Jim Henry's unquestionable belief that the Holy Bible is the infallible, inerrant Word of God. I doubt he'll favor any aspect of the moderate/liberal element in appointments or recommendations. Liberalism is not in his vocabulary.

Pray that God will supply us of First Church, Memphis, with a truly conservative, Bible-believing, preaching, inerrantist leader and that we may reclaim the vision, virtue, and victory that moved First Church forward from its inception a century and a half ago. We believe the church is not necessarily a happiness caterer for saints, but a Holiness calling to sinners.

Church congregations and conventions, like individuals, have diversity. Some just survive while others thrive. May the latter be his will for both groups.

W.T. Barner
Memphis 38111

Smile, shake, split

The way of Baptists has always been to split when they could not agree, but in most cases, it was done with style. They might fuss, argue, and get

red in the face, but when the dust settled, they shook hands and parted ways.

This was the Baptist style until the moderate/liberal faction began raising cane because some Bible men got placed on committees and became trustees. You would think the conservatives had committed the unpardonable sin.

But the moderate/liberal faction won't leave. Why? Is it because they can't hack it alone?

We fundamentalists have enough problems. After all, we have to contend with the Hyper-Calvinists, the Armenians, the Charismatics, the King James Only crowd, the Land-markers, the Baptist Only group, plus all the doctors in our ranks. We surely don't need

those hanging around our necks who hold to liberal theology.

Let's just smile, shake hands, split, and get on with what God called us to do ... Matthew 28:19-20; I Corinthians 6:20.

Vaughn W. Denton, pastor
Kirby Parkway Church
Memphis 38141

Who needs support?

Messengers to the Orlando SBC meeting determined that the SBC agencies no longer need financial support. Could you offer suggestions as to agencies outside of the SBC who need support? Thanks.

C. Kenneth Still
Ooltewah 37363

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



August -

- 18 — Churches in Temuco and Vina Del Mar seek to disciple new believers reached by recent Tennessee teams.
- 19 — Carol Trijillo and his wife, Luisa, are leaders in the Nueva Jerusalem Church in Puerto Montt.
- 20 — Wanda Dobbins, mission administrator in Santiago, is observing her birthday.
- 21 — Property has been purchased and new work will begin in September in a new housing area in La Florida.
- 22 — Hawk and Carol Hawkins work with the girls at the Baptist Girl's Home in Temuco. They also have a puppet ministry.
- 23 — TBC's Jarvis Hearn and Fonda Johnson seek to fill many vacancies for volunteer opportunities in Chile.
- 24 — Tennessean Jean Quinn is in Chile waiting to begin her quilting ministry in LaSerena having just finished two weeks ministering with our medical team.

Southern Baptists need 'both and' not 'either or'

Any analysis of the current Baptist controversy will be questioned by some. My personal experiences and relations to it since the 1960s, however, have fixed my opinions rather firmly.

They have led me to say with conviction that our problems are more historical and psychological than theological. In fact, the controversy was going full blast when the biblical aspect was introduced into the already organized struggle.

While history has made many contributions by setting the tone and creating the situations which made the controversy possible, I will deal with only a few for illustration. Each will be with utmost brevity.

My first comments will center around two Baptist leaders of tremendous ability and mass followings in the mid-1700s around whom much discussion swirled. One was Shubal Stearns and the other was John Gano, both from New England.

Both came into North Carolina at about the same time. Both were zealous in evangelism and missions. Both were ardent believers in and preachers of the Gospel with the Bible as their textbook.

While alike in those and other ways, they were still utterly different. Stearns was informal, untrained for the ministry, and believed that God would give a preacher something to say after he entered the pulpit.

He was bombastic in voice and gestures as he preached, majoring on "heat" more than light. He and his followers stressed evangelism almost to the exclusion of everything else.

Gano was well educated and much more dignified in temperament and reserved in his preaching. He was an ardent supporter of higher education and founder of a great university. He stressed organization, efficiency, conservation, discipleship, content, and a higher degree of dignity in worship.

Their difference was not so much one

■ a historical view

By James L. Sullivan, retired BSSB president

of theology as of emphasis and methodology. Stearns

pastored Sandy Creek Baptist Church, and Gano Jersey Baptist Church. Only one county lay between them.

The Stearns followers were so suspicious of those of the learned well-trained Gano tradition that the Jersey church had to affiliate with the Charleston (S.C.) Baptist Association, a state away, after Gano was not allowed to speak to the Stearns followers.

Persecution and circumstances forced these two divergent groups together, but they never fully fused. Both came to realize that each needed the other. They became like two rails of a railroad track where each had to have the other to survive and prosper.

Without the Gano influence, the Stearns tradition would likely have been led into charismatic extremism. Without the Stearns influence of informality and zeal, the Gano followers would have tended to gravitate toward high church formality and ritualism.

Together these contrasted influences flowed westward setting the stage for Southern Baptists to win the lost and disciple the saved in great numbers. That balance under God has led us to the high place our denomination now holds in the religious life of our nation and world.

It is no time to argue which is most important. It would be like arguing which is the most important side of coin. Without either the other would be dreadfully handicapped. Together under God, and with a mutual emphasis on both, we must move forward and upward.

Wisdom would demand more meshing than clashing in these stressful times. It is not "either-or." It is "both-and."

The Shubal Stearns tradition and the John Gano tradition deserve equal emphasis. Together they emphasize the full content of the Great Commission which neither alone can do fully by itself. □ — Sullivan wrote this series of articles for his church newsletter three years ago. Future articles in this series will be reprinted every other week.



SULLIVAN

Partnerships; 'First, they gave themselves'

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

It would require a massive volume to convey a message of all the missions stories from Tennessee Baptist volunteers.

The heart of missions is people-to-people. Tennessee Baptists are people with hearts for evangelism and missions.

There are at least five kinds of missions as approached by those with a heart for the mission. Not including the call of the career missionary, volunteers do missions individually or as families, as partners with other Baptist groups through the Foreign Mission Board, and as churches and small groups relate to churches or associations in other countries.

A fourth kind of missions can be done by youth groups or choirs from stateside churches as they answer specific needs.

Stateside partnerships are often the most extensive and most productive for starting churches and missions and leading people to Christ.

Least any of these missions efforts prove to be inept, the home base must have the necessary witnesses with burning zeal for the Gospel of Christ. First giving themselves to him as vessels ready for use, the volunteers become willing accomplices for witnessing through words and deeds.

Tennessee Baptists are involved in all of the partnerships already mentioned. The partnership with Michigan is 15 years old, and promises to reach out into

the 21st century. According to Michigan Baptist leaders, almost all churches and missions begun since the partnership began resulted from cooperative efforts of Michigan and Tennessee Baptists.

Tennessee Baptists joined hands with Michigan Baptists officially when messengers to the 1980 convention in Johnson City approved an Executive Board recommendation.

Messengers also approved a longterm "relief effort" with Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso) at the same convention.

Though the Michigan-Tennessee relationship remains intact, Tennessee Baptists also have supported, through the Foreign Mission Board, partnerships with Venezuela, the Philippines, and Chile (which concludes December 31).

Tennessee Baptists probably will be asked to approve three-year partnerships with Poland and the four western provinces of Canada at the November annual meeting in Memphis.

All of the cooperative work done thus far in partnerships has been similar, with certain distinctive needs in some of the areas. For example, clean water was one of the great needs in Upper Volta.

Construction always has been a chief concern, and medical and health care involvement has expanded through the years. But the main thrust of each part-

nership has been evangelism. Countless numbers of Tennessee Baptist volunteers have carried the Gospel to Michigan, Upper Volta, Venezuela, the Philippines, and Chile.

Many others have been involved through church or associational links in other states and foreign countries.

Souls in those places have been born into God's Kingdom as a result of evangelistic efforts of volunteers.

The partnership missions story in Tennessee has enhanced evangelism locally and abroad. There is always an awakening among congregations when volunteers share their rich evangelistic experiences.

Currently Tennessee and Michigan Baptist leaders are meeting to strengthen those efforts through the next five years. A survey team has already met with Canadian Baptists — and a team will be in Warsaw, Poland, August 18-26 for intensive discussions which may lead to a recommendation for partnership.

The Canadian relationship, if approved, would include British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

There are many places in the world needing a partner to help with a Christian witness. There are many Tennessee Baptists willing and able to meet needs.

Partnerships are a blessing to both partners as they join God who is already working around them. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Seeing straight

I couldn't hide the ugly scrapes on my face last week, nor the knot on my forehead. The strange colors around my eyes betrayed my innocent look.

Of course I didn't want anyone to make a big scene about the reasons for my appearance. For more than 25 years my record has been clean, but one tumble marred it substantially.

My usually trustworthy feet, which have kept me steady while running, victimized me

early one recent morning. Oh yes, they took care of themselves, but the rest of my body punched my head down to the asphalt quickly and resoundingly. On my head! There were bruises, scrapes, a reasonable amount of blood, scratched glasses, and an injured ego.

The explanation seems so simple, but I've had to tell it over and over. I fell. On my head. Smashed the pavement.

Recovery was swift. But as a result of the fall, since one lens was scratched irreparably, I got new glasses.

I thought back to the first pair of glasses I wore — as a fourth grader. I had dreaded that eye exam and the resulting prescription.

As a curious and active boy, I did not want to be hindered by glasses, and I certainly did not want anyone calling me "four eyes."

When they were first fitted, I knew I could disobey the "eye doctor" by not wearing those glasses all the time.

A strange thing happened. As I walked to the car from the doctor's office with my mother, I realized I could read the small letters on signs across the street. The trees seemed close enough to fall on me. Everything was clear and sharp. I did not want to take off my glasses.

That's how it is when we first find God's truth, when we ask Christ into our hearts. We see everything with clarity. Decisions are easier to make. We want to serve him.

Spiritual glasses are God's great gift to us. All things are seen more clearly. □



ALLEN

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Father: "Son, why do you date Nancy all the time?"

Hal: "Cause she's different from other girls, quite different."

Father: "How is she different?"

Hal: "She's the only girl that will go out with me."

Take this thought

Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "Conceit is just as natural a thing to human minds as a center is to a circle." Are you more interested in having a friend or being a friend? Try the latter, and you will have more of the former.

Memorize this Scripture

"Be kindly affectioned one to another ... in honor preferring one another" (Romans 12:10)

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to realize those that know they are far from perfection are the nearest to it. May I remember the biggest mistake people can make is to think they make no mistakes. □

Top three family relationships

The family is the most important force in the life of every individual. This significance demands attention.

There are three central relationships that carry attending responsibilities:

Children have responsibilities to parents. Spouses must relate to each other. Parents have a lifetime of responsibilities to children.

The pivotal word for children as they relate to parents is honor. (Ephesians 6:1-3).

Hear what your parents say. Obey your parents.

Notice the small things your parents do for you each day.

Respect the experience your parents have.

Jesus said, "let him who has ears to hear, hear..." This implies that we can hear without really hearing.

It is important for children to listen to and obey their parents.

The second part of this relationship is to build respect by paying attention to the little things your parents do for you that are proof of their love.

All parents are human and make mistakes, but most of them love their children and show it in numerous little

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

ways that children may overlook.

I am sometimes troubled by what I see in relationships I observe between spouses.

Love is the key word for spouses (Ephesians 5:21-33). The Bible teaches that love can cover a multitude of sins. Listen to your spouse.

Overlook some of the nit-picking problems.

Value your spouse. Express your love verbally and actively.

It is so easy to get complacent in our relationships with our spouses and begin to think we don't need to listen since we already know what they think.

Some couples whom I know get caught in the trap of trying to change their mate so they will live up to expectations.

I heard about a young man who said to his new wife, "Honey, I hope you don't mind if I point out some of your faults, so you can improve yourself."

She replied, "Why no, I don't mind. It is probably those

faults that kept me from getting a better husband."

None of us is perfect, but all of us have our good points and we need to value each other and be expressive of that valuing.

Parents also have a responsibility to nurture their children. Parents, never belittle your child.

Understand their uniqueness. Respect their individuality. Treat them the way you would want to be treated.

Give encouragement. Regulate relationships. Expect the best from your child.

Remember that it takes more to be a parent than the biological ability to produce children.

In spite of the fact that children by nature have a way of exasperating parents, we parents must constantly work on a positive self-esteem.

We also have a responsibility to know where there are, what they are doing, and with whom they are doing it.

God will help us as we parents work to build these important relationships. □



BARKLEY

'But if we don't tell them about Jesus, who will?'

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

MISSISSIPPI RIVER ministry

A Southern
Baptist Ministry

MEMPHIS — The sights of inner city Memphis are not pretty. Consider these:

- Dilapidated houses with peeling paint and loose boards are the rule rather than the exception on most inner-city streets. At least they do offer some protection from the elements.

- Faces lined with fear stare at cars carrying white males, wondering if you're a drug dealer, seller, or narcotics agent. After all, who else would dare enter the neighborhood?

- A one-year-old baby playing in an old playpen, unaware he has been abandoned by his parents and his hope for the future lies in the hands of an elderly couple on welfare who

are trying to adopt him and his preschool-age sister.

- Graffiti-laden walls where rival street gangs try to outdo each other dot the area.

And the list could go on.

These are just a few examples of inner city Memphis, a place most people try to avoid like the plague.

But, says Memphis inner city pastor and Mississippi River Ministry coordinator for Shelby County Association Tim Cox, "If we don't tell them about Jesus, who will?"

Where as many Southern Baptist churches within shouting distance of inner city Memphis have moved away, Brinkley Heights Church, where Cox is pastor, is among the few that have stayed and are trying to minister where most fear to tread.

With meager resources and relatively few members, it could be a hopeless task. But

through ministry options like Mississippi River Ministry and Urban Allies, a plan which teams up churches for work in specific distressed areas of a city, inroads are being made. As the association's church and community ministries director, Cox coordinates both those efforts for the association.

Brinkley Heights is the hub for most of the MRM work being done around Memphis this summer. During the week the church functions similar to a Baptist Center, providing food and clothing to those in need, as well as spiritual counseling to those who utilize the services offered by the church.

Before the summer is over, more than 50 teams, including several from Tennessee Baptist churches, will have done various ministries in the area, according to Ray Gilder, program associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Missions Department. Gilder coordinates Mississippi River Ministry in Tennessee.

Among the most prevalent are Backyard Bible Clubs, held at Brinkley Heights and other locations, and work ministries.

Church teams have come in and, working with summer missionaries assigned to Cox, have provided much needed ministry to inner city children. For some of those kids, a hug from a volunteer youth or adult is the only indication they will have that someone does care about them.

Cox, who is a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board Mission Service Corps volunteer, has worked in inner city Memphis for the past five years. He was bivocational until three years ago when he felt the call



VOLUNTEER HOLLY FERGUSON of Strong Hope Church, Wesson, Miss., leads an activity for children in a Memphis apartment complex targeted by Mississippi River Ministry.

to devote himself full time to the ministry needs of the area. He understands fully the challenges of ministering in a predominantly-black urban area.

"The Lord has shown me people in the inner city are not looking for a place to go to church. They are looking for the church," he said.

Cox observed that before "you can share the Gospel you have to demonstrate that you care."

Mississippi River Ministry teams have helped to show God's love in the area through Vacation Bible Schools, Backyard Bible Clubs, and work projects. "We do anything we can to show the love of Jesus," Cox stressed.

The work projects have helped show that caring attitude, Cox noted. "The purpose of the teams is not to do a tremendous amount of work but

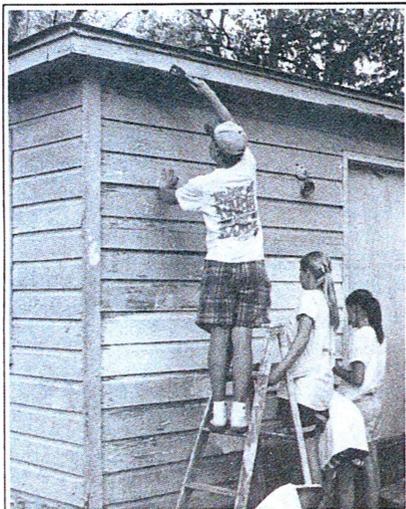
instead we're trying to build relationships (with people in the community) to show them we care and are here for the long run."

Cox is well aware that Memphis is not unlike many other urban cities although a recent report lists Memphis with the second highest rate of poverty than any other metropolitan area of more than 500,000 people in the nation.

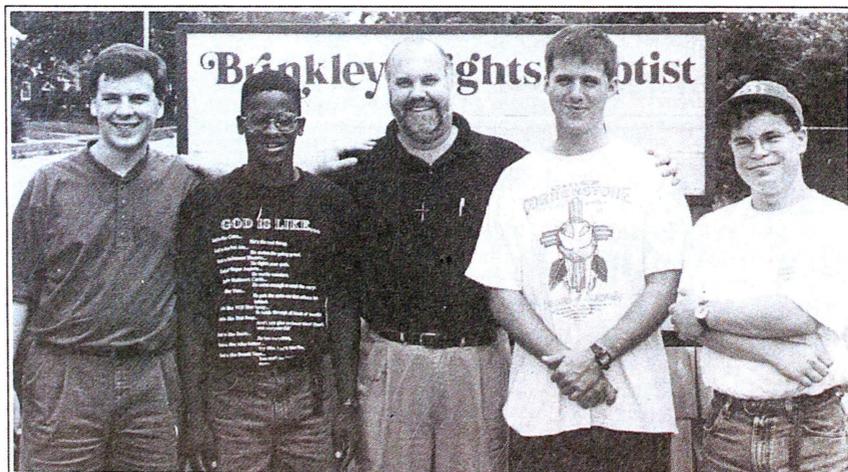
"Poverty is poverty and it knows no race," Cox said.

He observed the people in inner city Memphis "live on the edge of disaster every day" just one step from homelessness. Last year, he said, there were 9,000 homeless people in Memphis and 3,000 of them were children.

Mississippi River Ministry is one way of offering hope and God's love to those "living on the edge of disaster." □



A **YOUTH GROUP** from Becks Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., works to give a fresh look to one of Memphis' inner city homes.



TIM COX, center, pastor of Brinkley Heights Church, Memphis, and coordinator of Mississippi River Ministry for Shelby County Association, is flanked by summer missionaries, from left, David Drinnon, who is associate pastor at the church, Charles Elliott, Rob George, and Steven Currey. The young men assisted Cox in various areas related to Mississippi River Ministry.

What is Mississippi River Ministry?

Mississippi River Ministry is a response to a presidential study conducted several years ago to study the needs of people along the lower Mississippi River Delta area, said Ray Gilder, program associate in the TBC Missions Department who coordinates the ministry for the state.

The report indicated Third World Country living conditions among the people in the seven-state area along the Mississippi River. The report also challenged churches to respond to those needs.

As a result, missions leaders in the seven states, along with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Woman's Missionary Union have formed Mississippi River Ministry, a long-term effort to re-

spond to the problems of literacy, home improvements, hunger, and other areas. A goal is also to start new churches, Gilder said.

"Every way we can find to minister in the name of Christ, we want to do it," he affirmed.

Twenty-one Tennessee counties with more than one million people are in the MRM target area, Gilder said, adding that 14 of the state's Baptist associations are also in the area.

Gilder said Tennessee Baptists are committed to Mississippi River Ministry. Churches interested in getting involved can call Gilder at (615) 371-2044. □



GILDER

Former school teacher returns to minister in neighborhood

For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Dwight Clayton is no stranger to inner city Memphis.

Now a Missions Service Corps volunteer with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Clayton is assigned as an urban missionary to the same neighborhood where he taught in the local high school for 20 years.

"God just would never let me leave this neighborhood," Clayton said, noting that when he began looking for a place of ministry about five years ago, this is where he came.

Clayton also is serving as pastor of New Song Church, a mission of Brinkley Heights Church, a small congregation in inner city Memphis that is trying to make a difference in the lives of people.

Clayton is a natural to serve as pastor of a mission in an area that

has a bad reputation. "Everybody here knows Dwight because he taught here," said Tim Cox, pastor of Brinkley Heights and church and community ministries director for Shelby County Association.

The target area for New Song Church is several apartment buildings near the mission. According to

Cox there are 10,000 to 12,000 people within a mile and a half of New Song, the only Southern Baptist witness in the immediate area. Clayton and Cox are especially interested in involving children and youth in the mission.

Clayton began "Straight Up" youth groups. He takes the youth to a borrowed church gym or somewhere inexpensive away from the neighborhood. They have a 20-minute Bible study and then just have fun for awhile, he said.

"We have seen kids saved in the church. God has blessed that," Clayton said.

Cox acknowledged the area is tough. "There's a lot of fear in the area. People are afraid. But, if we don't tell them about Jesus, who will?"

Ray Gilder, program associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Missions Department and coordinator of the state's Mississippi River

ministry is essential.

"An on-site ministry presence is what these kids need. They need to stay with them until they're mature and can withstand the pressures of the community," he said.

Gilder is quick to praise the efforts of Cox and Clayton.

"Tim and Dwight are living in the trenches. They have a vision and a heart," Gilder observed.

In order to be known in the community, the mission recently acquired property on the corner of Georgia and Clinton streets, south of the Memphis business district. The mission currently is meeting in a local community center.

Clayton said he had been praying for some time to find an appropriate building for the ministry. "I saw this house and knew this was it," he said, adding that he would come and sit on

the front steps and pray "for God to give us this house."

The prayers paid off. Using funds provided from the Golden State Mission Offering and the Shelby County Association, the property, which includes the house and an old store building, was purchased earlier this year.

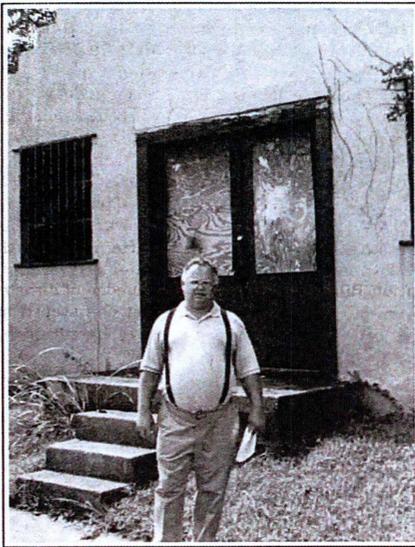
The property is essential to the future of the ministry, leaders agreed.

"For Southern Baptists this is a foreign missions field. The best way to approach it is to have people living here," Cox said.

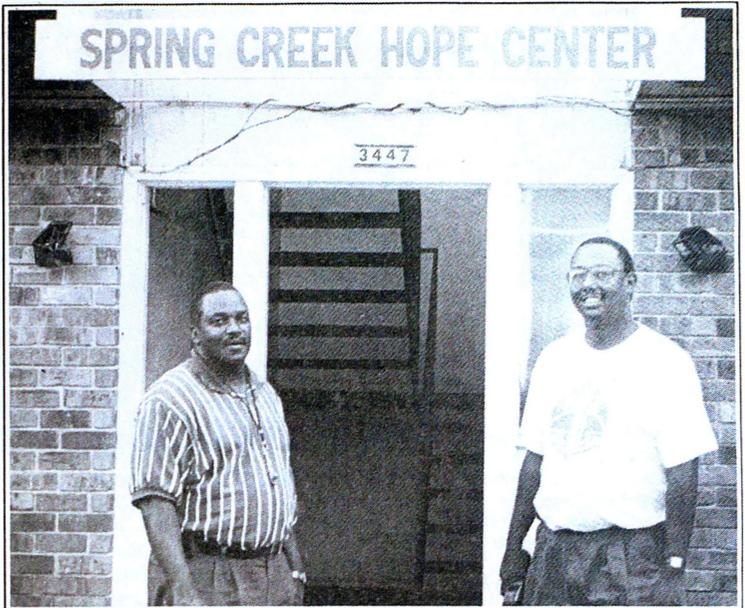
They envision eventually having missionary residents in the house, with the store building being used primarily as the church sanctuary.

But before anything can be done a tremendous amount of work must be done. The inside already has been "gutted" by volunteers. Future volunteer teams are needed to continue work before the church actually meets in the facility.

Churches interested in assisting with renovation work are welcome to call Cox at (901) 458-0617. □ — Lonnie Wilkey



PASTOR DWIGHT CLAYTON stands outside the future home of New Song Church in inner city Memphis.



WESTHAVEN CHURCH Pastor Chris McNairy, right, and Associate Pastor Walter Hammond stand outside the Spring Creek Hope Center, an apartment complex ministry. Hammond also serves as chaplain at this facility.

Memphis-area churches, community break racial barriers

For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — If Westhaven Church was going to reach its community for Christ, church leaders knew they would need help.

Through Mississippi River Ministry that help has come — from other Baptist churches, business owners and managers, and even government leaders.

With assistance, Westhaven, an African American church in Shelby County Association, operates three "hope centers" in apartment complexes near the church and has held a summer-long Vacation Bible School at the church.

Pastor Chris McNairy said the concept was developed and then shared with managers of apartment complexes at a luncheon sponsored by the church.

"We developed common goals, but we told them the only thing we had to offer was Jesus," McNairy recalled, adding that one of the leasing agents was later saved.

Three apartment complexes — Spring Creek, Courtyard, and Kingsgate — each provided at least one room room for the ministry. Some provided more and most were given to the church for use at little or no cost.

Bible studies are held on site along with arts and crafts classes and when school starts, tutoring for the kids, according to Walter Hammond, associate pastor at Westhaven.

Hammond also serves as the chaplain for the Spring Creek Hope Center.

Volunteers for the ministry come from Westhaven and other Memphis-area churches through Urban Allies, a ministry in Shelby County Association that teams up churches to work in specific target areas.

Churches currently paired up with Westhaven at the three hope centers are

Collierville, Leawood, and Trinity.

"We have a great relationship with the churches we're working with," Hammond said.

McNairy noted the ministry is breaking down racial barriers and is having a positive effect on his congregation which is comprised of relatively new Christians. They are learning by working with mature Christians from the other churches involved, McNairy said.

Hammond said they hope to have eventually 12 hope centers to accommodate the more than 10,000 people who live within walking distance of Westhaven Church.

Besides the churches, local government and business leaders have pitched in to help with the summer-long VBS program.

Shelby County Sheriff A.C. Gillis, a member of Bellevue Church, Cordova, provided \$5,000 in confiscated drug money to help fund the program. The funds were used to give stipends to "interns" from the apartments to help during the schools and to buy recreation equipment. Daily lunches were provided by the Parks Commission.

Also, several volunteers from businesses and churches helped work on Westhaven's softball field.

"We are seeing the community rally behind us," McNairy said.

Also, he added, "we're seeing a breakdown of the strong hold of racism — a racism that is built on myths and events such as the killing of Martin Luther King Jr.

"Memphis is not a colored city. It is black and white," McNairy said, noting less than 2 percent of the city is ethnic.

McNairy said there are some who say Christians can't work together because of race. "We know we can," he affirmed.

The Memphis pastor knows that the issue of race needs to be put in the background for good.

"Kids do not look at color. They look at someone who loves and cares for them." □

MISSISSIPPI RIVER ministry

A Southern Baptist Ministry

Dresden church celebrates 125th anniversary Aug. 7

DRESDEN — West Union Church here observed its anniversary by recalling its heritage with its pastor and were directed to consider the future by a former pastor.

Dwayne Ervin, a bivocational pastor from Martin who served the church from 1970-74, asked the members to start planning now for the next 125 years of West Union Church. A good example to follow, he said, are the Old Testament characters Nehemiah and his workers who were building a wall around Jerusalem.

Nehemiah and those workers prayed, were pure, depended on the Lord for protection, and practiced a passionate devotion, said Ervin.

"Some workers for Nehemiah worked close to home. The real work of the church today begins in the home," stated Ervin, who is retired pastor, Bible Union Church, Martin.

He asked about the marriages represented in the congregation. "Is your mate this morning the one you value more than anyone else on the face of the earth?"



POSING WITH THE OLDEST MEMBER, Joe Roberts, left, who is 94 years old, are, from left, Tony Terrell, pastor; Richard Skidmore, director of missions, Weakley County Baptist Association; and Ted Dyer, chairman of deacons. Terrell holds the certificate presented to Roberts by the church.

To be pure, people must guard their tongues, said Ervin. "I'm deserving of being criticized, but you don't need to be critical of pastors or any other person in front of your children." Even when criticism is just, it will "tear a church apart," he added.

Tony Terrell, pastor, reported during an afternoon service

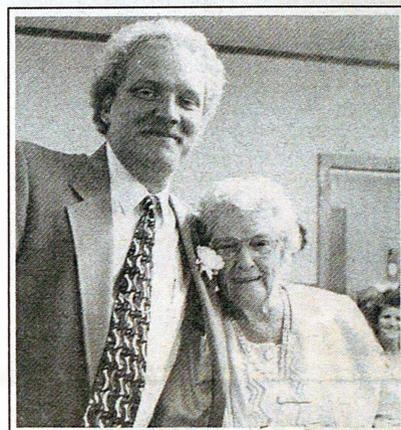
on the history of the church.

For many years services were held on Saturday night and Sunday morning on the weeks when the itinerant pastor could travel to the church. Not until 1971 did the church meet every Sunday. In 1975 it called its first full-time pastor. The church has ordained seven men to the ministry.

"It's all up to those who are here," concluded Terrell. "Let's make a go of it, not for our glory, but for the glory of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." □
— Connie Davis



REMINISCING as they look at the anniversary display of photos and other memorabilia are Barbara Peery and Bryan Scott.



MEMBER WITH THE LONGEST MEMBERSHIP, Zula Cantrell was recognized for 69 years of service by Pastor Terrell.

Conference offers tips on communication

The 1994 Church Communications Conference will be held Saturday, Oct. 8, from 9:50 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

The seminar is sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's public relations office.

Topics include communicating with the unchurched, planning special events for the local congregation, communicating through the church newsletter, researching, writ-

ing, and publishing a church history, photography, and more.

The registration fee for the event is \$15 and includes materials and lunch. Registration forms are available from the TBC.

For more information or to get a registration form, call (615) 371-2016 or write: Public Relations Office, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. □

Tennesseans lead conference for deaf

NASHVILLE — The Oct. 28-30 Fall Festival of Marriage Conference at Ridgecrest will offer a special workshop track for deaf couples.

This is the first time the Fall Festivals of Marriage have offered workshops geared to the deaf, said David Huebner, marriage enrichment specialist for the Baptist Sunday

School Board.

Leading the workshops for the deaf are Jerry and Gaynell Seale of First Church, Knoxville, where Seale is minister of deaf ministries.

For information, call (615) 251-2277. □

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"The crusade being led this week by Evangelist Harold Hunter is bringing racial harmony to this divided community." — *Virginian-Pilot*, Norfolk, Va.

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TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the leaders

■ **Bill Marr**, pastor, Lincocya Hills Church, Nashville, has been called as pastor of First Church, Cocoa, Fla., effective Sept. 11. He has served the Nashville church for seven years. Marr served

as vice chairman of the board of Baptist Homes for Exceptional Persons and as director of the Donelson/Hermitage Chamber of Commerce.

■ **Pleasant Hill Church**, Lenoir City, has called **Daniel L. Moore** of Ashland, Ky., as pastor. He has served church-

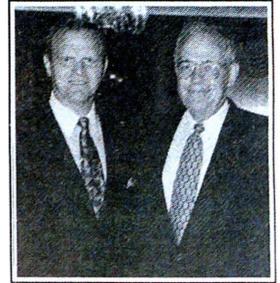
es in Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana.

■ **Jim Fields**, minister of education, Springfield Church, Springfield, for 10 years, has been called as minister of education, First Church, Somerset, Ky., effective Sept. 1.

hold its annual homecoming event in conjunction with a 35th anniversary celebration. Activities will include a luncheon and a 1:30 p.m. service including music, history, and a memorial for deceased charter members.

■ **Rock Hill Church**, Lexington, had 11 people make professions of faith as a result of a July 31 - Aug. 5 revival led by Floyd Lammersfeld of Gleason.

■ **Hillcrest Church**, Lebanon, will celebrate its 38th anniversary Aug. 21. Following the morning worship service will be a luncheon and a 2 p.m. concert led by the Ranger Trio.



NEW SOUTHWESTERN Baptist Theological Seminary President Ken Hemphill, left, is congratulated by Bob Burch, pastor of Calvary Church, Knoxville, after his election as the seventh president of the seminary in late July. Burch is a Tennessee member of the SWBTS board of trustees. He also served on the search committee that called Hemphill.

■ the missionaries

■ **Warren and Kathy Blalack Rose**, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field and can be reached at Caixa Postal 1016, 69908-970 Rio Branco, AC, Brazil. They consider Covington their hometown. She was born in Memphis.

■ **Van and Elizabeth Sanders**, missionaries to Kenya, are on the field and can be reached at P.O. Box 488, Kitale, Kenya. He is a native of Chattanooga.

■ **Randell and Cynthia Hoppers Pool**, missionaries to Honduras, are on the field and can be reached at Apartado 34, San Lorenzo, Valle, Honduras. He was born in Millington and she is from Trenton.

■ the schools

■ **Carson-Newman College**, Jefferson City, will hold new student orientation Aug. 22-24 on the campus. Students can meet with faculty advisors to discuss academic plans and

pre-register for fall classes. The ACT test also will be given. For reservations, contact the office of admissions at (615) 475-9061 or 1-800-678-9061.



DORAN MCCARTY, LEFT, executive director of Seminary Extension of the Southern Baptist Convention, presents a copy of *Pulpit Notes to Jere Phillips*, who edited the publication, a corollary to a course on Galatians taught by Seminary Extension. The edited piece contains contributions from pastors and leaders throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, including Tennesseans Fred Wood and Adrian Rogers of Memphis and Ray Newcomb of Millington.



TWO YOUTH FROM TWO RIVERS CHURCH, Nashville, participate in the July 4-8 retreat held by the church for almost 200 youth at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center in Talladega, Ala. The youth, Jessica Helton, left, and Cameron Gaither, sing during a talent show. Dana Mathewson, pastor, Buffat Heights Church, Knoxville, and Jamey and Jennifer Lyons led the activities.

■ the churches

■ **North Jackson Church**, Jackson, will hold a groundbreaking ceremony Aug. 21 at 4 p.m. at the corner of Highway 45 Bypass and Ashport Rd. for the first phase of its building program. The congregation is now at the student center of Jackson State Community College in Jackson.

■ On Aug. 21 **Lee Village Church of Harriman** will



RECEIVING A GRANT from the Tennessee Baptist Convention for a church building are representatives of Grace Church, a new member of the Hardeman Baptist Association, from Deryl G. Watson, right, director of missions of the association. The church representatives are, from left, George Weaver, pastor; Bobby Pickle Jr., deacon; and Robert Eldridge, deacon.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

An approach to visitation

By Dan Jones, associate pastor
Brook Hollow Church, Nashville

Have you ever wondered what happens to folks who visit Brook Hollow? We know they receive a warm and sincere welcome from greeters at the door, from the Welcome Center in the lobby and from Brook Hollow folks in Bible Study and Worship. But what happens then?

One of the staff members makes a contact and tries to set up an appointment. If the visitor is a young or median adult, a Care Group Minister makes a contact and begins praying for the visitor. And we have Monday Visitation.

These visits will be "front door only" visits — people today want to be shown love but do not want their home to be

invaded. We simply will be knocking on the front door, introducing ourselves, giving them a basket of homemade Brook Hollow goodies (prepared by some of our elves) and an invitation to an upcoming Brook Hollow event. This personal invitation, prepared by the church office, is an effective and intimate way to demonstrate our love. It allows us to say, "We want you to be a part. We have room for you." □

Through colored glasses

By Tom Suiter, pastor
Indian Springs Church, Kingsport

God gave us his Word so we could "see clearly." That is biblical revelation. We are not to bring our prejudices or preconceived ideas to the Scriptures. If we do we are in danger of viewing God through colored glasses.

Some view God as the blessing giver of all good things. He is that, but he also is God when the testing comes. So if the only concept that you have of God is that of blessing giver, then you will not know where God is on difficult days.

On the other hand, there are those who view all of life through dark glasses. When good times come they can't rejoice because all they see is darkness.

We had best avoid the extremes and learn about God in the ordinary days. If we will apply ourselves to the truth — or better — apply the truth to ourselves, then we will have the right view of God no matter what happens. □

Considering money

By James Hutson, pastor
First Church, Rockwood

God does not hold us accountable for

what we don't have. He does hold us accountable for what we have.

Chuck Swindoll in his book, *The Grace Awakening* writes "How and why we give is of far greater significance to God than what we give. Attitude and motive are always more important than amount. Furthermore, once a person cultivates a taste for grace in giving, the amount becomes virtually immaterial. When those age-old grace killers, guilt and manipulation, are not used as leverage, the heart responds in generosity."

I have to confess that the amount of offering does matter when it comes to paying the bills. But I am convinced that God measures motive over the amount of our dollars.

Let us all make the commitment to be more faithful to our Lord and his church. □

to strengthen families

Families key for 'troubled' children - study

By Lacy Thompson
Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — America's children are in trouble and strong families are the key to their rescue, a new report suggests.

"Strong, capable, resourceful families are the sine qua non (the essential condition) of improving outcomes for children," reported the 1994 Kids Count Data Book, a study published annually by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Washington.

"The inescapable reality is that we have no alternative, no substitute for families," the report said. "There is no institution, program, or policy available that will successfully rear kids in the absence of strong families."

Almost four million of the nation's children now live in "severely stressed neighborhoods" beset by poverty, unemployment, and family disintegration, the report said.

The study tracks key areas related to children and their well-being. Despite improvement in some areas, overall numbers and trends point to trouble for American youth. The report listed six problem areas which worsened between 1985 and 1991:

■ Low birth-weight, which is linked with later developmental problems, increased five percent.

■ Births to single teenagers increased 20 percent, citing alarm. "Research indicates that children born to single teenage mothers are more likely to drop out of school, to give birth out of wedlock, to divorce or separate, and to be dependent on welfare," the data book notes.

■ The arrest rate for juvenile violent crime jumped 50 percent. The study notes that 1985 was a statistically low year for juvenile arrests and that this area has improved slightly in the last two or three years.

■ The number of teenagers who graduated from high school on time dropped four percent. In 1991, only 68.8 percent of students who should have completed their senior year did so. Meanwhile, the cost of not having a high school diploma increased, the report said.

■ Violent death among teenagers increased 13 percent, even though one category — deaths related to automobiles — declined. The overall rise is due to increased homicides and suicides among teenagers. "Every two hours in America today a child dies of a gunshot wound," the report said.

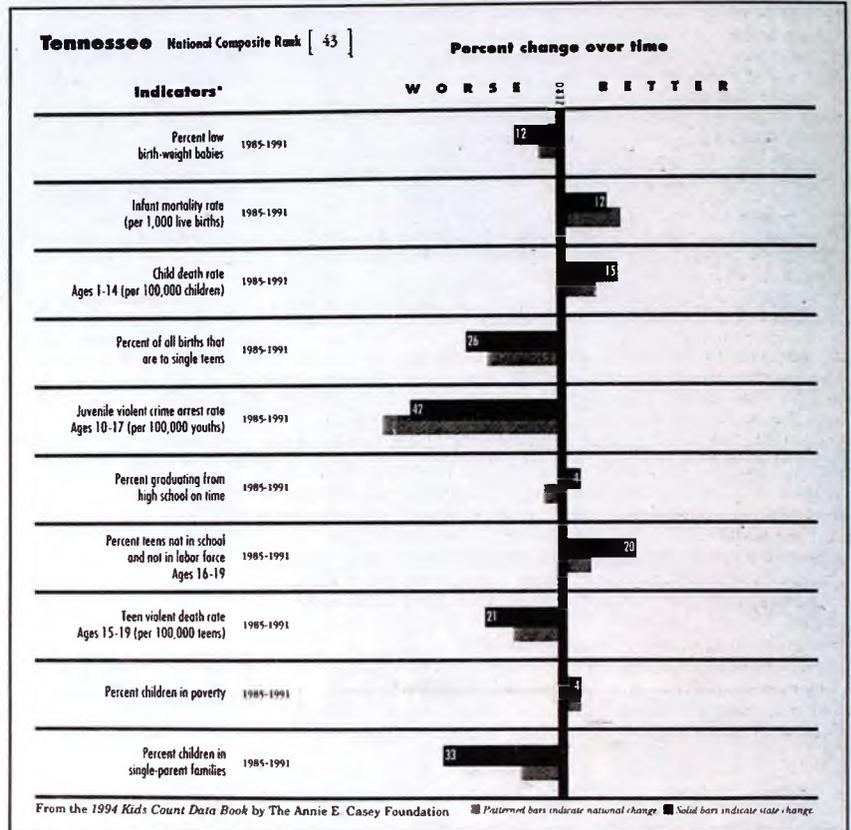
■ The number of children living in single-parent households typically do not have the same economic, housing, or human resources available as

those growing up in two-parent families," the report said. Assistance programs held, but rarely make up the difference, it said.

One devastating trend in re-

cent years has been the decline of key institutions in the nation's troubled neighborhoods, including churches, the report said. Churches and other institutions are necessary "to shield

children and families from the economic and social disadvantage that surrounds them. Community institutions ... must become more powerful resources," the report said. □



Aids for ministering to divorce pain assist youth, parents

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — By the time you count to 60, two couples in the United States will have divorced. Count to 60 again and another man and woman will have severed the knot.

A 1990 survey reports a couple legally breaks its marriage vow every 30 seconds, according to Cindy Pitts, author of a new support group resource for children whose parents have divorced.

"Children are the losers here. While divorce seems to be the solution to adult problems, it causes tons of problems for the children," said Pitts, chil-

dren's minister at First Church in Houston, in reviewing the contents of *KidShare, What Do I Do Now?* for a group of children's leaders attending Discipleship and Family Leadership Week at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center, July 2-8.

Support groups were introduced this week also for divorced persons and teen-aged victims of parents' divorce. All three resources will be released in September.

The 12-week support group for children in grades three through six focuses on specific emotional needs of the children and "just getting them to talk about their problems," Pitts said.

"After a couple of sessions, the problem is getting them to take turns talking, not opening up," Pitts said.

Pitts said she developed the materials for the Houston church after becoming certified to teach another denomination's program that did not satisfy her church's needs. The Baptist Sunday School Board heard about her efforts and contracted with her to write the resource for all Southern Baptist churches, she said.

"Children of divorce suffer some real self-esteem problems," Pitts said. "They have a really hard struggle emotionally, which can cause them not to be able to concentrate in school, lead-

ing to their low self-esteem."

Pitts said a 1990 census bureau study revealed that more than 11 million children live in single-parent homes. Of the children born in 1987, Pitts said 63 percent will spend part of their childhood in a single-parent home.

"One in five children experience emotional problems due directly to the divorce of their parents." Sixty-eight percent of the suicides reported among children and teen-agers were living in single-parent homes, she said.

Resources may be obtained by calling the board's toll-free number, 1-800-458-2772. □

Help single parents build self-esteem, say professors

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Improved self-esteem is one of the greatest needs among single parents and an area which churches can help the most, said two professors.

Single-parent families are one of society's fastest-growing segments, Jeanine and Welby Bozeman said during a home

missions conference at the Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

Mrs. Bozeman is associate professor of social work at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and Bozeman is associate professor of religions at Louisiana College in Pineville, La.

One of every three children will live in a single-parent

household before they are 18, said Mrs. Bozeman. Divorce is the most common creator of single-parent families, although they also include parents with children out of wedlock, single adults who adopt, and a parent whose spouse dies, she said.

Divorce's impact on a person's self-esteem is greatly determined by who sought the di-

orce, Mrs. Bozeman said. The self-esteem of the person who decided to leave is usually not as damaged as that of the person who was left.

"Being left by the most significant person in your life is devastating to your self-image," Bozeman said.

Churches can help by showing how being a Christian improves self-image, he added. "I

am significant because God created me, created me in his image, and redeemed me through Christ."

Churches also should help people recall God's grace. "We are so legalistic we expect a state of perfection," Bozeman said. "We need an in-depth understanding of God's grace — that God loves us and accepts us." □

■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Contrast between righteous, wicked — Bible Book Series for Aug. 21

By Carl Scarlett, pastor, Miracle Church, La Vergne

The lesson for this week's study will cover the second section of Proverbs. These Proverbs are short but to the point. They contrast between good and evil, the right and wrong use of the tongue, deeds of the wise and the foolish, the difference between wisdom and folly and the meaning between wisdom and the fear of the Lord.

Proverbs 10:1 credits this section of Proverbs to the wise man Solomon.

Results of righteous, wicked living — ch. 10:11, 13-14, 16-17

The words of one's lips reveals the inward attitude of the mind. The well mentioned in (v. 11) refers to water and it's purpose is to refresh and to cause the earth to bring forth much fruit from the land. The tongue has the same potential to bring words that refresh the lives of those spoken too. Productive results come from the mouth of the righteous man. On the other hand the mouth of the wicked is an instrument of violence and destruction.

The words of the wise, he that hath understanding, (v. 13) brings honor to good men. The lips of the wise teaches others the practical and useful ways to live and to have purpose and meaning

in their lives. The foolish speak words that have no purpose or meaning and will bring punishment from the rod of God. God keeps a proper balance in all of his dealing with man.

A righteous man labors with honest hands that seek to be true to his Lord, his family, and his neighbors. A wicked man will do whatever he can, in every way he can, no matter who he harms, hurts or gains from. He always does harm in all that he does for selfish gain (v. 16).

Those who live righteously will walk in the will and way of God. As Jesus said there is a strait and narrow way. Not only will this kind of life style bring blessings and rewards to the righteous but will bring blessings and rewards to the lives of others who will be touched by the righteous. The wicked will not listen to God and will not walk uprightly and he refuses the wisdom of the wise (v. 17).

Pride is a shame to anyone and a haughty spirit makes everyone contemptible. It is a sin that God hates (ch. 6:17). The lovely always gain wisdom and learn the ways of God (ch. 11:2).

Chapter 11:5 contrasts the perfect and the wicked. The per-

Focal Passages
Proverbs 10:11, 13-14, 16, 17; 11:2, 5, 28; 12:1-3, 15; 13:5, 20, 25; 14:9, 12, 21; 15:32-33

fect aren't sinless but are mature, honest, and upright people whose fruit of their lives will reveal their true nature of love and loyalty. The deeds of the wicked are non productive and always produce evil deeds and their wickedness will ensnare their lives.

To trust in riches is a false security. Riches cannot buy peace of mind, joy, or health. Those who trust in riches will utterly fall and fail when the crisis of life comes along.

Good, evil practices — ch. 12:1-13:25

It is easy to see in verses 1-3 that the wise are those who love the word of God's instruction and knowledge and the wicked hates the correction and discipline of God.

A foolish person thinks he always has the answer to everything and needs no help from anyone. The wise man is always eager to learn from good advice and the counsel of others (v. 15).

The wise man detests lying lips. It is not within his character to lie. The wicked become loathsome or disgusting. They will lie and you can't trust their words or ways. Their ways are shameful (ch. 13:5).

As a young boy I was taught that you will tend to follow the crowd you run with. Solomon tells us in verse 20 that there are two crowds that vie for our companionship, the wise and the foolish. If we choose to be with and walk with the wise, we too shall be wise but if we choose to be with and talk with the foolish our lives will be patterned by their actions.

The righteous will always have enough food to satisfy his needs. The wicked are always craving more and can never be satisfied or filled (v. 25).

Teachings on wisdom, folly — ch. 14:1-35

Fools mock at sin and ridicule those that don't live a life of sin. They think lightly of their own sins and do not take God's teachings seriously. The righteous seek to find favor with God and their fellow man (v. 9).

Verse 12 emphasizes how deceptive sin is. It blinds the soul of man. It gives a false sense of enjoyment. It seems right when it

is wrong and the end result is death.

Verse 21 describes the conduct of those who despise their neighbor and those who have mercy on the poor. The person that thinks he is too good to reach out to his neighbor in need is a miserable sinner but he that takes no thought of reward from the poor is truly a happy person. His reward comes from the joy of giving to those in need, whether it be physical, financial, or spiritual help rendered.

Wisdom, fear of Lord — ch. 15:1-33

Wisdom comes from God. Man receives God's wisdom through humility and reverence and in recognition that only God has all the answers to make one's life fulfilling and productive.

Solomon states in verse 32 that to refuse instruction from God is to destroy one's own soul. Those who refuse God's correction even hate their own souls. The person who is willing to be corrected will gain a greater understanding of God.

An awe of God and respect for his wisdom will always bring us the right instructions to walk in His ways and the end result is honorable (v. 33). □

□ Love the Lord your God — Convention Uniform Series for Aug. 21

By Randall Cummings, pastor, First Church, Ripley

"A more (MOR ae) is a folky-way, only more so, a folkyway in a rut." Only a select group can identify that statement's author. They are the students of the late Dr. Eldon Byrd, sociology professor at Union University. His unique gift and gifted teaching ability shaped the thinking of generations of Union students. We will not forget because he taught us well.

In Deuteronomy Israel is on the eastern side of the Jordan River. The 40 years of wilderness wandering are over.

Now Moses gives the second of his three final exhortations to Israel before they enter the promised land. As they prepare

Focal Passage Deuteronomy 6:1-13

to enter, Moses emphasizes important teachings and the importance of effective teaching.

Relevance of God's commands — vv. 1-3

The "commands, the statutes, and the judgments" point to Moses' restatement of the Ten Commandments in chapter 5, but also to all the applications he will make of these in the following chapters. Fear of God is best understood as reverent respect and awe, not fright.

Israel would soon leave the privation of the wilderness and enter the bounty of Canaan. As

their daily lives underwent this radical transformation, Israel faced the challenge to preserve the vigor of their spiritual life.

God's commands as seen through Christ help us to remain spiritually strong in our modern Canaans.

Priority of God — vv. 4-5

Jews today refer to verse 4 as "the Shema." "Shema" in Hebrew is the command to hear. Jews thought of the heart as being the location of thinking. "Soul" was the principle and "might" referred to strength. The command is to love God first and with one's whole being. In their new land, Israel would face distractions the wilderness did not

provide. Moses reminds them and us of the importance of keeping our spiritual priorities in order. Love God first.

Place of religious instruction — vv. 6-9

Realizing the Hebrew view of the heart as the seat of thinking, "in thine heart" (v. 6) means far more than memorization. We are to have the commands of God at the center of our conduct and decision-making. Religious instruction was made a family responsibility. Our Sunday Schools are not meant to substitute, but rather to undergird family religious training in the home. The diligent instruction Moses enjoins means to use the

most effective methods and ideal times to teach our children Scripture. The religious instruction of our children at home and at church deserves our best efforts.

Dangers of materialism — vv. 10-13

God was giving Israel the bounty of Canaan. Moses warned the people not to forget God when, instead of the manna, they ate food from their fields. The materialism of which Moses warned Israel infects the spiritual well-being of Christians. Things are not evil, but allowing things to take God's place in our lives is a great contemporary evil. □

□ Results of giving — Life and Work Series for Aug. 21

By Clay Frazier, retired pastor, Morristown

Paul reminds of commitment — vv. 1-2

The saints in Jerusalem were in difficult circumstances. The church at Corinth had been eager to help. A year has now gone by, and the time for delivery on their promise was at hand. He is making sure the offering is ready. He has told the saints in Macedonia about their eagerness to give, and in turn, the Macedonians have been inspired. Giving is most often taught as a private matter between a man and his God. It is that, all right, but it is more than that. It is between a person and the needy. Our giving almost always affects other people. The church at Corinth had influence on other churches because of their early eagerness to give. Paul, in these verses, reminds the Corinthians that they have made

a commitment, and it is most important that it be kept.

Law of sowing, reaping — vv. 6-11

This principle is found in all of life. It applies in the spiritual as it does in the physical. I was raised on a farm and have gardened all my life. I can give certain testimony to the law stated here in this passage. You do not reap what you have not planted. If a farmer sows his fields sparingly, he will reap sparingly. Many churches are selfish in their giving. Paul says that in giving, the harvest is in proportion to the sowing. In verse 7, he further calls for a generous, unfettered spirit in giving. God does not want a grudging giver or gift. To give because of need may be barely acceptable, but to give out of love, with a cheerful spirit is pleasing to our

Lord. In these next verses (vv. 8-11), Paul continues to write of the blessings that come from bountiful giving. In verse 8, he says the more you give the more you will have to give. He teaches that, "God is able to make all grace abound toward you." Who doubts that God is able to provide our needs and more? It is impossible to out-give God. An old deacon in my first full-time pastorate had the right spirit about giving. He ordered much of his clothing from the Sears catalog. He would estimate the postage. When his order came, it would often have a voucher for a few cents. His peers in a class were telling how they figured the tithes. Some of the deductions were strange indeed. His reply was that he gave a tithe of his gross check and then added some. He said he figured God was

Focal Passages II Corinthians 9:1-2, 6-15

as good as Sears Roebuck, if you sent him too much, God would send it back to you. Generous giving to the causes of God brings great praise and thanksgiving to God (verse 11).

Good comes from giving — vv. 12-14

At least two good things come from generous giving by God's people. The first mentioned is in verse 12. The needs of people are met. Southern Baptists have a wonderful channel to reach out to the needs of the world — the Cooperative Program. We can also designate gifts to World Hunger or World Relief. Every cent of this money is handled carefully and placed where you want it to go without great cost to

you. Relief offerings are dispatched without charge. The full amount of your gift is sent. The second thing that happens in giving is praise to God for your obedience. Your deeds will be as good as your doctrines. Recently, a Christian from South America stood in our congregation and praised God that we, the congregation, had been faithful to give, pray, and send missionaries to him. This is what Paul is talking about in these verses.

Unspeakable gift — v. 15

This is the climax of this wonderful passage of Scripture. Giving has its rootage in the giving of the Son. Paul says you cannot describe or measure the gift of God. How could the Christian ever be sparing in giving? All giving pales when seen in the light of this Gift. □

Baptists distribute 7,000 Bibles in Spain

Baptist Press

ALGECIRAS, Spain — At least 600,000 North African Berbers work in southern Europe and their employers, particularly in France, set annual vacation time for the last two weeks of July and first two weeks of August.

As a result, the midsummer migration of Moroccans through Spain has become the largest annual migration of people in the world. More than a million people — workers and their families — were expected to pass through Spain in this four-week period.

To reach out to these and other North Africans, more than 40 evangelical groups, including Southern Baptists, made a decision to target three of Spain's port cities — Algeciras, Malaga, and Almeria — with more than 100,000 New Testaments and other Gospel materials.

A 10-member team recruited by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board distributed 7,000 Bibles July 14-25 to Moroccans waiting to board ferries in Algeciras. □

Senate cuts funds for schools promoting homosexuality

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate recently passed an amendment prohibiting fund-

ing of any public school districts which teach homosexuality is a positive lifestyle.

In the 63-36 vote, 40 Republicans and 23 Democrats joined together to amend an education reauthorization bill to prevent a school district receiving federal funds from implementing a "program or activity that has either the purpose or effect of encouraging or supporting homosexuality as a positive lifestyle alternative."

The prohibited activities include "materials, instruction, counseling, or other services on school grounds, or referral of a pupil to an organization that affirms a homosexual lifestyle." □

Kentucky pastor dies during youth retreat

Baptist Press

LOYALL, Ky. — "It isn't often that a church loses its pastor in the line of duty," said Glenn Durham, music minister at First Church, Loyall, Ky., referring to the death of Chuck Lovejoy.

Lovejoy, 50, died July 24 while accompanying the church's youth to a summer camp in Lynchburg, Va.

Durham said Lovejoy had felt bad before the trip but insisted on going. After arriving at the camp, he collapsed of an apparent heart attack.

He regained consciousness long enough to talk to his wife and several others, including the paramedics. He was pronounced dead at the hospital a few hours later. □



New chapel in Memphis

Stephen C. Reynolds, president and chief operating officer of Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, speaks during the recent opening of the new medical center chapel. The chapel is named The Self Chapel in honor of its primary donor, The Self Foundation. Members of the Self family have served on the hospital's and the Baptist Memorial Health Care System's board of trustees since 1920. The chapel is located in the Union East lobby and seats 50 people. Weekly worship services will be held in the center and will be broadcast on the hospital's television system. The medical center chapel will "allow us to provide an atmosphere of meditation and worship for our patients, their families," said David Drumel, director of pastoral care.

Missouri college elects Sizemore as president

Baptist Press

LIBERTY, Mo. — W. Christian Sizemore has been elected president of William Jewell College, a Baptist-affiliated school here. He was elected without opposition although one trustee abstained from voting and one was absent.

Sizemore, who will be on the Liberty campus by mid-August, comes to William Jewell from Alderson-Broadus College in Philippi, W.Va., where he has been president the past 11 years.

Sizemore is an ordained Baptist minister and is a former professor and staff member at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. □

BSSB growth journal receives new format

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — *Growing Churches*, a Baptist Sunday School Board-produced magazine designed to help pastors, church staff, and other church leaders understand church growth and apply strategies for growth, will have a new editor and a new format beginning in January 1995.

Mike Miller, director of the board's leadership, ministry, and worship division, will edit the publication as part of the assessment and reorganiza-

tion of programs in the division.

Miller said *Growing Churches* will continue to be a quarterly publication with changes in format and art resulting in a 48-page, self-cover periodical with the feel of a professional journal rather than its current glossy appearance.

Jackson to coordinate European crusades

Baptist Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — A former Southern Baptist missionary and leader of numerous volunteer crusades overseas has been named to coordinate evangelistic crusades in Western Europe during the next two years for the Foreign Mission Board.

W.H. "Dub" Jackson and his wife, Doris, will work with Baptist leaders in the 11 countries of the region to plan outreach projects involving Southern Baptists and European churches. □

Tentmaking makes comeback among Southern Baptists

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — A form of mission service that goes back to the Apostle Paul is making a comeback among Southern Baptists, according to Carl Barrington.

Tentmaking — where a

person practices a trade or profession to generate income to enable him or her to carry out ministry — gained its name from Paul who sometimes worked as a tentmaker while also preaching, teaching, and evangelizing.

Barrington, associate director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Mission Service Corps, said "the tentmaker has been the norm rather than the exception" in Christian history. He led a conference on tentmaking during the Jericho missions festival held recently at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

Barrington said a need exists today for tentmaking pastors, church staff members, and others especially in areas where there are few Southern Baptists. "Where the needs are greatest, the resources are lowest," he said. People interested in tentmaking or other MSC opportunities can call the HMB at 1 (800) HMB-VOLS. □

Poe returns to SBTS

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Harry L. "Hal" Poe, an evangelism professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary from 1988-91, has returned to the school as director of professional doctoral studies and associate professor of evangelism.

He had been serving at Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. □

Welcome new readers

Because many churches are observing Aug. 21 as *Baptist and Reflector* Day, some of you may be reading the paper for the first time. For others, it may have been a while since you saw the *Baptist and Reflector*. But, for only \$7.50, you can receive the paper weekly (for 51 weeks) in your home. Subscribe today to your Baptist state newsjournal. If you already receive the paper, subscribe for a friend.

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