

Baptist and Reflector

August 24, 1994

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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Tennessee Baptists play key role

Albanian blitz nets more than 2,300 believers

By Jim Burton
For Baptist Press

TIRANA, Albania — An international evangelical effort to bring the Gospel to a former "forbidden country" has resulted in more than 2,300 Albanians registering decisions for Christ this summer.

Called "Project AERO, Albanian Evangelical Rural Outreach," the objective has been to show the "Jesus" film in the Tirana and Shkoder districts. More than 15,000 villagers in 175 villages have viewed the presentations.

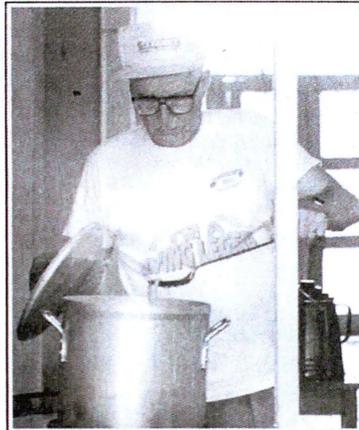
"Project AERO is a model of how Great Commission Christians must work together in the future to reach difficult areas of the world," said James D. Williams, president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Begun as a shared vision of workers with Cooperative Services International and Campus Crusade for Christ in Albania, the scope of the project required support from other organizations. Project AERO partners include:

- Cooperative Services International, the aid arm of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond. About 16 workers, most committed to two-year assignments, participated in the initial blitz.

- Campus Crusade for Christ. Their student work in Tirana served as a catalyst for Project AERO. CCC has several young adults serving in Albania on two-year assignments.

- SBC Brotherhood Commission. The Memphis-based missions education orga-



TOM FERRELL of Eastwood Church, Memphis, prepares spaghetti for Project AERO volunteers. Ferrell was a Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission volunteer recruit who worked on a team that maintained a base camp for other volunteers going into villages to show the 'Jesus' film.

nization recruited volunteers to cook meals and run the base camps where participants lived when they were not staying in the villages. **Tennessee Baptist volunteers, led by Cameron Byler, TBC Brotherhood director**, worked earlier this summer to build the base camps.

- Helimission. Based in Switzerland, Helimission provided a helicopter that transported volunteers to the remote villages.

Tennesseans travel to Poland to explore new partnership

A team representing the Tennessee Baptist Convention is in Poland this week exploring the possibility of a three-year partnership missions venture.

The convention's current foreign missions partnership with Chile ends Dec. 31.

Earlier this year, the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board approved a partnership with Canadian Baptists.

Two foreign missions partnerships would give Tennessee Baptists a choice and allow for greater participation, according to James Porch, TBC executive director.

Accompanying Porch are: Terry Sharp, TBC Partnership Missions (for Poland and Canada) director; Bill Wilson, TBC Convention Ministries director; Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor, *Baptist and Reflector*; Paul Moody, president, TBC Executive Board; Benjie Creel, president of the TBC directors of missions organization; Russ Dunham, chairman, Convention Ministries Committee; and Ray Moss, Two Rivers Church, Nashville. Joining the team is Bill Peacock, a representative of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. They will return later this week.

Allen will report on the trip in upcoming issues of the *Baptist and Reflector*. □

- Mission Aviation Fellowship. Based in Redlands, Calif., MAF established a radio network for Christian workers in Albania. It proved to be the lifeline for Project AERO.

Aside from these organizations, churches in the United States and Europe provided items for the project.

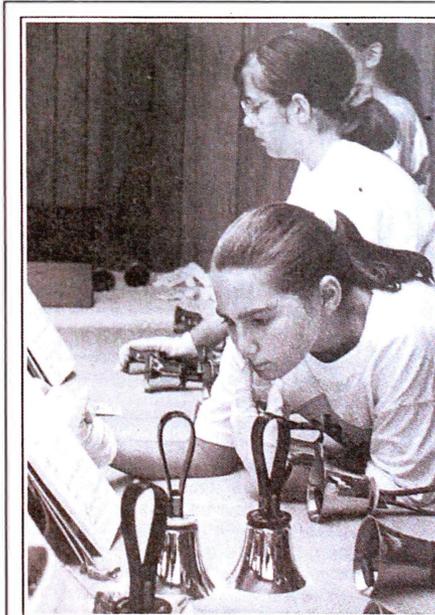
From both districts, volunteers were flown unannounced to the outskirts of rural villages. Teams would then unload equipment, walk into the village, and ask permission of the village mayor to show the "Jesus" film.

While there were isolated incidents of resistance, most teams were warmly received. Team members typically were housed and fed by villagers.

After showing the film four nights, teams returned to their base camps for several days of rest and evaluation. They then returned to the villages to do followup and to explore the possibility of ongoing Bible studies and church starting.

For more than 40 years Albania, a country the size of Maryland with 3.5 million people located between the former Yugoslavia and Greece, was under communist rule. In 1967, the government adopted an official policy of atheism, making it the "religion" of the country.

Although communism was overthrown in 1991 the country remains in chaos. Meanwhile, evangelicals, through efforts such as Project AERO, find themselves in a race to fill the spiritual void in a country where 70 percent of the population claims to be Muslim. □



Intensity

Studying her handbell music is Bethany Bohannon of Colonial Church, Memphis. She was one of about 250 campers attending Children's Music Camp, Aug. 8-12, at Camp Linden. Handbell ringing class was one of many music classes Bohannon and other campers attended. See page 7 for story.

Wales says Christians can make a difference; TV's 'Christy' renewed

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Tears welled up in Ken Wales' eyes as he talked about his long and difficult journey in bringing the book *Christy*, the story of author Catherine Marshall's mother, to the nation's television screens on CBS.

The book has had Wales' attention the past 25 years, and it took him 18 years to bring it to the screen.

The co-producer of the "Christy" series for MTM and CBS, which is filmed in **Townsend and uses several Tennessee Baptists** in the show and its production, was the keynote speaker for the ACTS (American Christian Television Service) 10th anniversary luncheon in Fort Worth, Aug. 6. ACTS is the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission cable TV service that reaches into more than 20 million homes.

Wales shared credit with a host of others for the series for which CBS has received more cards, letters, telegrams, and phone calls than any other in the network's history. He also said the series has had a profound spiritual effect on members of the cast and production crew.

"Christians ... you ... are causing some phenomenal things to happen," he said. "The opening show was viewed by 44 million people. That kind of response ... all the letters and phone calls to the network ... it makes a difference. It's the first time a network has let a faith in action story be told. And it was allowed because the story is true and authentic."

Then he gave his listeners good news. The series has been renewed by the network and a two-hour "Christy" special will air Nov. 24.

"This is God's project. I am the steward," Wales said.

The *Christy* book also has been reissued in paperback and the programs are being marketed in video by Broadman & Holman Publishers of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Wales, the son of a minister, has 33 years experience as a producer, director, writer, and actor. The "Christy" project first came to his attention in 1969, Wales said. He said he never forgot the story of Marshall's mother who journeyed to the Great Smoky Mountains to teach in a mission school when she was only 19.

Wales said the show has touched a nerve in society — appreciation for such family values programming has come bubbling to the surface, and some extraordinary things are happening. "For me this all really began 38 years ago. It began in the church. It began with my relationship with Christ," he said. □

Construction crew needed for Chile partnership project

One team of three to five men and two to three women are needed for church construction to help build a 30 x 50 foot worship center in San Carlos, Chile.

Workers should have construction experience and will need to bring tools, including hand saws, hammers, nail aprons, measuring tapes, and levels. There will be electric power saws (220-volt current) available on the site.

San Carlos is a town of about 40,000 people located near the city of Chillan, 300 miles south of the capital city of Santiago. The church is a relatively new mission with tremendous potential for reaching the community.

For more information, call Jarvis Hearn, TBC Partnership Missions director for Chile and Michigan at (615) 371-2028. □

Sunday School Board eliminates 24 more positions

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Twenty-four positions in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Bible teaching-reaching division have been deleted as part of ongoing restructuring of the church growth group.

The decisions followed a July 28 announcement that reducing operating expenses and reordering priorities would require the elimination of 24-30 positions from the 224 jobs in the division.

Billie Pate, associate division director, said the restructuring resulted in redesign of a number of positions and minor organizational changes. The net re-

duction included two management, 15 professional, and seven support staff jobs. Eight of the deleted positions were vacant.

Nine affected employees will take early retirement, two will transfer to other positions in the church growth group, and the remainder will receive severance pay based on years of service along with outplacement assistance.

Among those taking early retirement are Art Burcham, director of the general leadership department, a 26-year employee; Tom Lee, an 18-year employee and growth consultant; James Berthelot, lead adult consultant, 14 years; and Ruth

Ann Hill, adult consultant, 10 years.

Mike Fink, coordinator of biblical studies development in the ministry-development coordination department, and Morlee Maynard, manager of the preschool ministry development section, will transfer to new positions.

BSSB President James T. Draper Jr., admitted there has been a lot of anxiety among employees the past several months, but noted the extensive reorganization project is nearing completion. He emphasized the board's commitment to move "with compassion and concern working with people whose lives are affected by (the reorganization)." □

Florida proposal would keep funds normally channeled to HMB

Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — A Florida Baptist Convention committee has recommended an alteration in Florida's relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board — effectively giving Florida Baptists sole control over mission work in the state in 1996 by retaining \$1.3 million in funds that formerly would have been channeled to the HMB.

The proposal to retain SBC Cooperative Program funds earmarked for the HMB was made by a special study committee and approved unanimously by the full budget-allocation committee. In 1993, Florida sent \$1.9 million in Cooperative Program funds to the HMB by way of the SBC Executive Committee. The HMB returned \$1.3 million to underwrite the work of jointly-fund-

ed missions personnel — numbering 15 state convention staff members and 17 field missionaries — as well as missions projects in the state.

In the approved proposal, Florida will retain the \$1.3 million normally sent to the HMB and have sole control of home mission work in the state. "We are capable of doing our own mission program in the state of Florida," said FBC Executive Director John Sullivan.

The proposed recommendation will allow the remaining portion of the \$1.9 million, about \$600,000, to be sent to the HMB as a designation to assist other pioneer state conventions. This process is not expected to affect funds going to other SBC agencies and will not touch another \$2 million given by Florida Baptist churches to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

The Florida committee also proposed a \$24 million 1995 budget with less money to the SBC Cooperative Program and semiannual missions offerings in lieu of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, the Maguire State Mission Offering, and the World Hunger offering.

The recommendations will be considered by the state board of missions Sept. 9 and, if approved, be considered by messengers to the Florida convention in November.

Sullivan cited two reasons for the proposed recommendation — the "unilateral" decision by the HMB to cut 6 percent missions funding to state conventions next year and the decision made by the HMB executive committee to investigate state conventions that forward — at the request of their

churches — contributions to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

"They have no right to investigate us just like we have no right to investigate them," Sullivan said.

HMB President Larry Lewis reacted Aug. 22 as "appalled and aghast that a budget planning committee would recommend that the state convention Cooperative Program allocation exclude the Home Mission Board or any major agency of the SBC."

Lewis said he talked with Sullivan Aug. 22 and expressed his "powerful hope that they will reconsider this matter. ... I think it would be a death blow to the whole Cooperative Program concept in Florida and would be equivalent to a severed relationship as far as joint funding and joint support of mission personnel." □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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FMB trustees focus on advance in Eastern Europe, missions vision

By Robert O'Brien
For Baptist Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees focused on plans for a major advance in missions in Eastern Europe, appointed 35 missionaries, and dialogued with board leaders on a future vision for world missions at their Aug. 15-17 meeting.

They also voted to commend the action, first by the Southern Baptist Convention and then by top Foreign Mission Board staff, to decline funds channeled through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Messengers attending the June 14-16 SBC meeting in Orlando, Fla., voted to direct convention agencies and institutions to cease receiving funds through CBF, an organization of Southern Baptist churches that oppose the convention's current conservative direction.

Top FMB leaders quickly followed that vote with a decision to refuse, effective June 16, about \$1.6 million a year designated for SBC foreign missions through CBF. They will accept funds given directly to the board or through normal SBC channels such as the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

The trustees' Europe committee commended mission board staff for an ambitious strategy for Europe and recommended where to get much-needed funding to accomplish a proposed major thrust into Eastern Europe.

The Eastern Europe emphasis will seek to accelerate evangelism, discipleship training, church planting, theological education, and the presence of missionaries and volunteers —

all in a region that's unstable politically and economically but wide open to the Gospel message.

Trustees approved motions, brought by trustee Paul Pressler of Houston, that the board fund Eastern Europe needs by (1) accepting funds from interested foundations in conversation with FMB leaders; (2) using the first \$5 million received from the 1995 Lottie Moon offering over and

above the amount budgeted for 1996; and (3) using the first \$5 million the board receives over and above the basic national 1994-95 Cooperative Program budget.

In June the SBC voted a \$150 million national CP goal for that year to coincide with the convention's 150th anniversary. The proposed national budget is \$136.5 million. Contributions above that figure will be divided among SBC

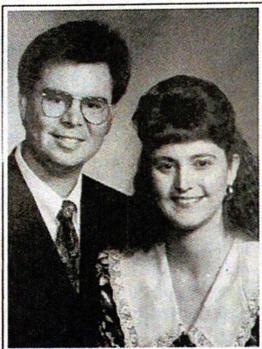
agencies, with more than \$7 million going to the FMB if Southern Baptists give the entire \$150 million.

Trustees also voted to list Eastern European needs with the FMB's development office.

FMB President Jerry Rankin presented a challenge for expansion of foreign missions in his charge to 35 new missionaries named at an Aug. 17 service at First Church, Alexandria, Va., and in his re-

port earlier to trustees.

Rankin outlined missions advances under his three immediate predecessors — M. Theron Rankin, Baker James Cauthen, and R. Keith Parks — and challenged trustees to help in framing a vision for the future. He distributed an initial draft of a vision statement and list of core values and asked for trustees' input. He already has input from board missionaries and staff. □



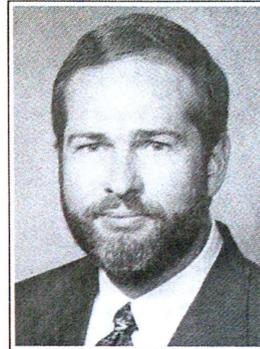
BRENTSES



JOHNSONS



MILLERS



POWELL

Trustees appoint missionaries with Tennessee ties

For Baptist and Reflector

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The 35 new missionaries appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board include several with Tennessee ties.

Knoxville native A. Keith Johnson and his wife, the former Nancy Lorenz of Frankfort, Ill., were appointed to South Korea, where he will start and develop churches. Together they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Johnson, who has been pastor of a church in Baton Rouge, La., since 1992, considers East Maryville Church, Maryville, his home church. He holds degrees from Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va., and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

James B. Miller, associate pastor of Grace Church, Tullahoma, since 1992,

and his wife, the former Lamarca Lifer of Winter Haven, Fla., will serve in Ecuador, where he will start and develop churches and promote religious education. Together they will be involved in outreach work.

The Oklahoma native holds degrees from Williams Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark., and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis. He is a former associate pastor and youth minister at Finley Church, Finley.

Z. Buddy Brents, former minister of music and education and associate pastor of Leaclair Church, Memphis, and his wife, the former Melanie Bolden of Hillsboro, Texas, were appointed to Japan, where they will start and develop churches and be involved in outreach ministries.

A native of Texas, Brents and his wife consider Leaclair their home church.

Brents holds degrees from McNeese State University, Lake Charles, La., and Mid-America Seminary.

Johnson City native and Tennessee pastor Gary D. Powell was appointed to serve in Spain, where he will start and develop churches. Powell grew up in Red Bank and considers Red Bank Church his home church.

Powell has been pastor of Birchwood Church, Birchwood, since 1988. He is a former interim pastor of Cedar Hill Church, Chattanooga. He holds degrees from University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

The three couples and Powell will travel to Rockville, Va., for a seven-week orientation in October before leaving for their respective fields of missionary service. □

Naylor's medical license extended in India

Baptist Press

BANGALORE, India — Southern Baptists' only resident missionary in India, surgeon Rebekah Naylor, has received a two-year renewal of her license to practice at the Baptist Hospital in Bangalore, where she has worked since 1973.

"Rebekah has just heard from the (government) Ministry of Health — her license has been renewed for two years up to Oct. 23, 1996," reported Naylor's administrative assistant, Florence Charles, in an Aug. 12 message to the Foreign Mission Board. "Praise the Lord! All

our prayers have been answered," she said.

The license renewal was anything but a formality. Naylor's medical ministry in India has had trouble with the renewal process for years.

Naylor, of Fort Worth, Texas, regained her medical license last November after India's health minister personally overruled the national medical council, which had denied her a license a month before. The health minister also overruled the council's decision to grant Naylor a license in 1991.

Despite the high-level intervention, the 1993 renewal was good for only one year,

and the medical council told Naylor it would continue to deny future renewals. "I'm kind of on borrowed time," she said then.

She's still on borrowed time, but this time it's two full years — a hopeful sign for the future.

Her continuing struggle to obtain government approval for her medical work is common in missions. In India, tight restrictions on licenses, work permits, and visas have slashed the Southern Baptist missionary force from 18 in the 1980s to one — Naylor. There are other missionaries in the country, but they are on a short-term basis. □

Funds allowed into Haiti for aid

Baptist Press

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — The U.S. Treasury Department has exempted two Southern Baptist aid projects in Haiti from a U.S. government freeze on banking transactions with the island nation.

The ruling affects an agricultural program near Hinche and a water well project in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital. Both receive funds from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond.

"This means we'll be able to get money into the country for the support of anyone who works directly" with the projects as well as operating expenses, said Southern Baptist

missionary Mark Rutledge of Murfreesboro.

The agricultural program directed by Rutledge and his wife, Peggy, employs about 25 Haitians. Before the couple reluctantly left Haiti June 20, they paid the workers through July.

Haitians have continued operating the agricultural program in the Rutledges' absence.

The Rutledges, who have been staying temporarily in the Hollywood, Fla., area are still investigating where they are most needed until they can return to Haiti. They also are assessing possibilities for future short-term volunteer projects in Haiti. □

'Freedom ideal' theme shines through Southern Baptist story

By Carol Woodfin
Baptist Press

Editor's Note: This is the third in a 2-part series in "The Spirit of Southern Baptists, 1845-1995," produced by the SBC Historical Commission.

NASHVILLE — Freedom is risky business. It brings dignity to the individual. It provides a person with a voice in the governing of his or her country, as the founders of the United States envisioned. Freedom also can open the door to chaos, as recent events in Eastern Europe have shown. Yet without freedom, people are dehumanized.

Baptists from their beginnings have cherished freedom. The freedom ideal in the Southern Baptist story is played out in three beliefs: the priesthood of all believers, the autonomy of the local church, and religious liberty. Each of these has been valued by Baptists throughout their history.

Baptists have championed the right of each individual to read and interpret the Bible. This belief, known as the priesthood of all believers, emerged with renewed force during the 16th-century Protestant Reformation. One of the issues of the Reformation was the Catholic Church's reluctance to allow those not trained in theology to read the Scriptures for themselves.

The priesthood of all believers is tremendously liberating. It means an individual can encounter God without the mediation of a priest or other religious professional. Each person is ultimately accountable to God for what he or she believes. The priesthood of all believers reveals a profound faith in the power and authority of Scripture to reveal to ordinary people what they need to know about God, faith, and how they should live their lives. Individuals also have the privilege and responsibility to minister to the needs of others.

Allowing freedom to interpret the Scriptures will sometimes lead to false interpretations. The founders of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845 re-

sented Northern Baptists' imposition of anti-slavery views on their own readings of biblical passages about slavery.

Southern Baptists today affirm the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers when they ask laypeople to teach the Bible in Sunday school, when they pass out Bibles or Scripture portions as a part of witnessing, and when they pray and read the Bible in times of personal devotion.

While there is risk involved in allow-

The Spirit of Southern Baptists 1845-1995

ing such freedoms, the benefits of a direct personal relationship and encounter with God are great. Interference in the priesthood of the believer would result in a church where professional interpreters of the Scripture tell people what they need to believe. Such a church does not guarantee adherence to biblical truths, as the Catholic Church of Luther's time reveals.

Another facet in the Baptist heritage of freedom is the autonomy of the local church. This means each church is free to call its own pastor and determine its patterns of giving, style of worship, and programs. Churches do not answer to any higher authority except God. Southern Baptists' 1963 *Baptist Faith and Message* states that the local church "is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Christ."

Southern Baptists do cooperate with each other to carry out missions work, education, and other ministries. Messengers from local churches meet annually in conventions and associations. They hear reports on ministries, vote on budgets and elect trustees to agencies and institutions funded by offerings given through their local congregations.

Messengers also may pass resolutions

on issues of moral or political concern. Resolutions are reflections of the views of the majority of that year's messengers and tend to measure the current mood of the denomination at large. But they are not binding on a local church.

The freedom ideal in the Southern Baptist story, finally, has rested on a heritage of religious liberty. Since their beginnings, Baptists have consistently championed religious freedom.

Early Baptists in 17th-century England found themselves in conflict with the dominant Church of England.

Their calls for religious liberty were essential to the survival

of the new denomination. They also knew they could not claim freedom for themselves, without defending the rights of others.

In 1612, when Thomas Helwys, an English Baptist minister, wrote the first defense of religious liberty in the English language, it landed him in prison, where he later died. In his *Mystery of Iniquity*, addressed to King James I, Helwys claimed the monarch had no authority over religious matters: "for men's religion to God is betwixt God and themselves; the king shall not answer for it, neither may the king be judge between God and man. Let them be heretics, Turks, Jews, or whatsoever, it appertains not to the earthly power to punish them in the least measure."

Baptists believe there can be no real religious liberty without the separation of church and state. If one church has a special position as a state church, as did the Church of England, other denominations and religions cannot be truly free to worship and carry out their ministries. Indeed the door is open for persecution.

In the United States, Virginia Baptist pastor John Leland urged future president James Madison to support a religious liberty amendment to the Constitution. The Bill of Rights, adopted in 1791, states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of reli-

gion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." In the United States, no church holds a favored position with the government. All denominations and religions are free to carry out their work.

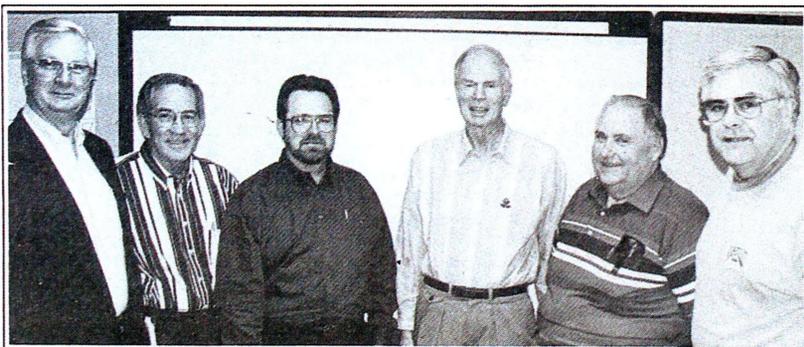
Having gained religious liberty in the Constitution does not mean that Americans never face threats to their religious freedom. One recent example was the Supreme Court's 1990 *Oregon v. Smith* decision. This decision undermined longstanding restrictions against government intrusion into religious practice. The court claimed the government no longer needed a "compelling interest," such as important health or public safety concerns, to interfere with religious practices.

The decision produced strong support among Southern Baptists for the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, passed by Congress in 1993 and signed into law by President Bill Clinton, a Southern Baptist. RFRA restored "compelling interest" as the guideline for government interference into religion.

As Southern Baptists look toward their 150th anniversary in 1995, they also can look back to a heritage of freedom. Without the priesthood of all believers, the autonomy of the local church, and religious liberty, Southern Baptists would not be what they have become in their first 150 years. Southern Baptists now reflect a diversity of races, cultures, interests, economic levels, and geographic locations. Local churches vary in their sizes, worship styles, and program emphases.

Diversity may be complicated, and freedom is never a simple issue. Yet Southern Baptists must look forward to the next 150 years with an even greater appreciation of the freedom they have to read and study God's Word, to worship with others, and to carry out their ministries in a nation which provides religious liberty. □

To receive free guidelines and to purchase resources to help celebrate the SBC's 150th anniversary, write the SBC Historical Commission, 901 Commerce St., Suite 400, Nashville, Tenn., 37203-3630.



Michigan planning session

Representatives of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Baptist State Convention of Michigan met Aug. 12-14 near Detroit to plan for continuing cooperation in the partnership. From left, Jarvis Heam, TBC Partnership Missions director through December; Bill Wilson, TBC Convention Ministries director; Terry Sharp, new Partnership Missions director; Bob Wilson, Michigan Baptist executive director; Billy Whitt, Michigan Partnership Missions coordinator; and James Porch, TBC executive director. Several others from the two conventions participated in the extensive discussions for projects and progress through 2000. A second planning session is scheduled for Oct. 6-7. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



August -

- 25 — The construction and evangelism team members preparing to go to Chile in September need their physical, financial, and spiritual needs met.
- 26 — Divine protection for our missionaries and their families.
- 27 — Missionary Marilyn Graves continues her efforts in organizing Bible study groups for nurses in various cities.
- 28 — The national pastors who will bring God's message from their pulpits today.
- 29 — Missionary Lee Walker invites us to join him in praying for revival and renewal among the students and faculty at the seminary in Santiago.
- 30 — Having announced her retirement, Missionary Clara Brincefield seeks God's direction after having served in Temuco for more than 30 years. Also her father has been placed in a nursing home in North Carolina.
- 31 — Furloughing missionary Betty Coy celebrates her birthday today.

'Go tell this people' mission prayer theme

Tennessee Baptists making a difference. Hmmm. Is that true? And if so, what kind of difference?

There is a way to find these answers. September 11-18 is the Week of Prayer for State Missions. "Go tell this people" is the Biblical theme.

Along with the week of prayer emphasis, Tennessee Baptists will have opportunity to participate in a tangible way.

The goal for the Golden State Mission Offering is \$1,050,000. Prayer and financial stewardship are good companions, and have worked successfully through the years.

Tennessee Baptist churches in September have opportunity to follow a noble tradition of 92 years because Mildred Golden realized the needs across the state. She was leader of Tennessee's Woman's Missionary Union and shared this vision with members. Her suggestion for a special week of prayer for state missions was adopted and is still alive and well today.

It is appropriate that the state missions offering for Tennessee is named in honor of Mildred Golden and her husband W.C. Golden, state missions secretary (executive director) at that time. He

assisted her faithfully in promoting and preparing the materials for Tennessee Baptist churches.

The unselfish example of the Golden is worthy of emulation today. Tennessee's WMU enlists writers and produces and mails all the materials for the churches.

That there are 2.5 million lost people in Tennessee makes it imperative that Baptists join in prayer and giving. Active witnessing and discipling is the third arm of a successful formula for reaching those lost people.

Our 2,945 churches have 819,000 resident members. Reminders are needed for state missions efforts, just as for foreign and homeland missions.

The Week of Prayer is a time for each church to zealously pray for missions in Tennessee. Materials sent by WMU to each church are guides for prayer and study. The state has many missions needs and Baptists play a vital role in meeting those needs. The Week of Prayer and the offering help place emphasis where it is needed.

In the packet of materials are a prayer calendar, suggestions for member participation, plans for church programs, an at-

tractive promotional poster, and a wealth of state missions news. A group of speakers is prepared to visit when invited by churches.

Last year, because of help through the Golden State Missions Offering, 125 international students from 21 nations attended International Student Conference, 17 new ethnic works were begun, 121 ethnic children representing 15 countries attended All Nations Camp, four churches are beginning new missions/ministries under Key Church work, 56 requests were funded because of minister termination, and 299 native Tennessee missionaries and 26 college student MKs received a Christmas check from Tennessee Baptists.

The GSOMO goal of \$1,050,000 this year is for 36 causes in ministry, outreach/growth, new work thrust, and leadership development.

Mission lot and building fund is the largest recipient, \$150,000.

Other causes for prayer and giving are alcohol and drug abuse prevention, developmentally disabled adults, ministers aid fund, Mississippi River Ministry, language missions, prison ministries, chaplaincy, and a variety of other needs.

"Go tell this people" is explicit and precise. Let's be committed. □

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Bigger is better?

The visitor from one of the Southern states was part of a group of volunteers.

As she spoke, the Chileans at first were interested, giving her their full attention.

Others had spoken to them during the week, and they had said something worthy of attention.

But as she spoke, they realized this was going to be a bragging session. Probably unintentionally, the speaker began to give her listeners the idea that God rewards faithfulness with riches on earth. They listened, but not with as much enthusiasm as they had had.



ALLEN

She explained that she and her husband had been wonderfully blessed by God. He has given them a large home on a huge ranch. He had supplied them with hundreds of cattle, and kept adding to them.

She said they really needed a large, sophisticated tractor for the ranch. You know, one with all the trimmings, all the comforts of a nice home.

God gave it to them. The listeners realized from her description that the tractor was as large as their church house. It was air-conditioned, she said. The church wasn't.

She added other embellishments to the story, and told how good God was to them, and how they were following him.

By now, some of the church members were getting a little bit bored, and irritated.

Finally, one of the farmers reached over and touched their missionary on the arm.

"Don't worry about us falling for that," he said. "But I would like for you to ask her if we could have the box the tractor came in. We could use it for our Bible teaching building!"

The missionary smiled, the men laughed. Indeed they could have used such a box.

We have to be careful about bragging rights. None of us really deserves any of the blessings God pours out on us. Riches are not always blessings. Bigger is not always better. I think the listeners already knew that God would provide what they needed. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Three As for family education

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

With the starting of school, I would like to address the family's responsibility in the education process.

In our day of entitlement, it is easy to come to believe that it is the government's or school's responsibility to educate our children. If we are not careful, we can develop the attitude of irresponsibility that charges the teachers and administration with the task of education that absolves us from involvement in the process.

I would like to address the three attitudes that can lead to As for the family's involvement in the education process.

These attitudes are aspiration, accommodation, and accountability.

My wife has been a public school teacher for 15 years. We have raised three children in the public school process. My doctorate is in the area of education from a state university. My wife and I also hold degrees from private Southern Baptist institutions.

I say all of that to say that we have had an opportunity to view the process from inside involvement as well as academic training.

I can remember in my school career that students had a desire to attain education, if for no other reason

than to prepare them for some type of career. There was aspiration to do well so that one would be prepared for the next step in the educational process.

I would never have dreamed of going to class without my book or homework assignment.

Admittedly, I wanted to know what the least requirements were for the grade that I wanted. But we at least wanted to aspire to certain levels.

The students today who are satisfied to coast or do nothing at all are an alarming sign of the apathy which is destroying our society.

I can remember a day when the individual student saw it as his responsibility to accommodate the needs of the rest of the class.

Today there seems to be more emphasis on the class accommodating the needs and abilities of the individual student, which oftentimes slows down the entire process of education.

There was a time when the report card made the student accountable for his behavior or study habits.

Today I am afraid that the report card too often is used to call the teacher to accountability despite the efforts (or lack thereof) of the student.

I would like to suggest that parents strive to instill an aspiration to attain in their children. Philippians 4:13 says we can do all things (even make good grades) through Christ.

I remember an old saying, "Most people don't recognize opportunity when it comes knocking because it comes dressed in overalls looking a lot like hard work."

I would further like to suggest that the family accommodate itself to the needs of the student for time to do homework, furnish supplies to accomplish the work, and encouragement to complete the task.

The final A comes when the student is held accountable for such things as getting homework assignments, doing assigned class work, and generally living up to his or her ability level in his school work.

I do not believe these issues will ever be resolved in the courthouse or schoolhouse until they are first addressed at home. □



BARKLEY

Start with a smile

Mrs. Nag: "I've got my husband eating out of my hand."

Mrs. Gag: "That surely saves a lot of dishwashing."

Take this truth

Do you like to control others? Why? Could it be our desire to dominate is a projection of our own insecurity? How willing are you to dialogue with those who have different opinions from yours?

Those who are confident of their own ability have no need to convince themselves.



They live at **WOOD** peace with the world because they have peace within their own spirit.

Memorize this Scripture

"I say ... to every man ... not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly" (Romans 12:3).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to love people with the proper motive. Free me from the desire to manipulate others to enhance my own image or feed my own ego needs. □

Two Smithville churches celebrate 150th anniversaries

Indian Creek Memorial Church reflects on '150 years of sharing Christ's love'



SUE PUCKETT-JERNIGAN, center, whose father wrote an earlier history of the church, poses with two ladies with the longest membership — 71 years. Seated is **Elsie Hendrixson** and standing is **Allie Fuson**. They joined the church in 1923.

Aug. 7 was a special day in the life of Indian Creek Memorial Church in Smithville. The congregation recognized its 150-year history and were challenged to look to the future.

Pastor Terry Fesler preached the morning message. Three former pastors shared during the afternoon service — James Gibbs, Earl Adcock, and Cannie Leonard. Greetings were given by Don Mathis, pastor of Salem Church, Liberty, which began Indian Creek.

Sue Puckett-Jernigan told of the history of the church. Her father, William Nixon, wrote a church history, now being revised.

Originally known as Caney Fork Church, its name was changed to Indian Creek in 1848. The church relocated to its present location on Hurricane Ridge in 1947 when Center Hill Dam was built. It is the mother church of Snow Hill and Memorial churches.

In honor of the anniversary the church published a cookbook, *Favorite Recipes*. Copies can be purchased from the church for \$8. □



NEW PASTOR Rick Roberts, left, arrived on the field about three weeks ago, just in time to help celebrate First Church, Smithville's 150th anniversary. With him are, from left, **David Terrell**, co-chairman of deacons; **Archie King**, retired TBC Brotherhood director and a former pastor at First Church; and **Thurman Seber**, director of missions for Salem Association.

FBC members rejoice in 150 years of serving Christ in Smithville community

Former and present members of First Church, Smithville, gathered together Aug. 21 for "Rejoicing in 150 Years of Serving Christ," the theme for the anniversary celebration.

Former pastor Archie King, retired Tennessee Baptist Convention Brotherhood director, delivered the morning sermon. King was pastor of First Church from 1951-1956 and was there when the current sanctuary was constructed and dedicated in 1952.

During the afternoon service members who have been at First Church 50 years or more were recognized. Three members have been there 70 years — Johnnie McGowan, Florence Eller, and Elsie Hendrixson.

Thurman Seber, director of missions for Salem Association, presented the church a plaque from the Tennessee

Baptist Historical Society.

Members were given a booklet containing the history of First Church, which was organized Aug. 25, 1844, in the Methodist church in Smithville.

The church did not have its own building until 1858. The principal organizer and first pastor was Jesse Allen, who served until his death in 1858.

A large frame building was constructed on Lot No. 13 in the town plan. The church is still located on that site.

A new building was constructed in 1902 and lasted until the present sanctuary was built in 1952.

The church has had 35 pastors in its history, including current pastor Rick Roberts, who joined the church staff on Aug. 7.

During the afternoon service, members dedicated a new grand piano. □



SALEM ASSOCIATION Director of Missions **Thurman Seber**, third from right, presents a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to **Pastor Terry Fesler** and the deacons of Indian Creek Memorial Church in Smithville.

TBC Missions Department hosts historic African-American leadership meeting

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Ministers and wives convened from across the state Aug. 12-13 for the first African-American Leadership Conference.

The conference focused on the theme, "Strengthening our Churches through Leadership Enrichment."

The program began with a fellowship banquet where spiritual praises were offered for God's work through churches where African-American ministers are providing leadership.

Pastors shared how their churches have been blessed with a variety of evangelistic programming designed to meet the needs of their target groups. Among the strategies

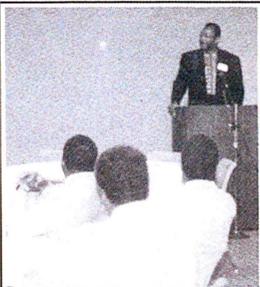
being used are: evangelistic block parties (carnivals), tent revivals, Hope Centers (new churches housed in multi-housing complexes), inner-city youth camp programs, growth-oriented Sunday Schools, PUSH (Pray Unit Something Happens) prayer ministries, food pantries, and clothes closets. In addition, several churches are demonstrating leadership in prison ministries across the state.

On Saturday (Aug. 13) sessions focused on training to equip ministers and wives to serve more effectively.

Pastor Lawrence Hudson of Monument of Love Church, Memphis, set the tone with a devotion.

Ministers engaged in two

workshops — "Reaching the Unreached in Smaller Cities," led by Michael Thurman of the black church extension department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and



HERB BRISBANE of the HMB leads a session at the Baptist Center.

"Reaching the Unreached in Larger Cities," led by Herb Brisbane, director of black church evangelism for the HMB.

Emphasis in both workshops was given to the multifaceted task of serving as pastor of a growing church.

Issues highlighted included knowing the target population and their needs, developing sermons to those needs, visiting prospects and recruiting volunteers and new members, planning strategy for ministry, counseling those in need, delegating tasks as appropriate to associates and others, and developing a comprehensive evangelistic strategy to minister to the target population.

Home missionary Belva

Weathersby of Memphis led a session for ministers' wives.

The number of African-American congregations in the Tennessee Baptist Convention is on the rise.

Just four years ago, there were only eight black churches. That number has now increased to 40 around the state with plans to start new churches and to continue strengthening existing one.

Ken Weathersby, director of African-American Church Extension for the TBC Missions Department and coordinator of the conference, challenged the group to participate in realizing the mission strategy by each starting a new work. □ — Jere Phillips and Ken Weathersby

■ Tennessee features

Young musicians learn a different kind of rock

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector



LEARNING TO PLAY ON KEYBOARDS from teacher Nadine Damron of Colonial Church, Memphis, are, from left, Keel Williams, Englewood Church, Jackson; Jennifer Wingo, Cherry Road Church, Memphis; James Hardin, First Church, Covington; Luke Stubblefield, First Church, Covington; Brittney McCaughan, Colonial Church, Memphis; Sara Nan Roy, Englewood Church; and Chancie Gray, First Church, Princeton, Ky. — Photos by Connie Davis

CAMP LINDEN — The "Rock Solid — Faith" theme of Children's Music Camp didn't feature the rock music normally played at Hard Rock Cafes that use a similar logo. Instead the camp focused on the Christian faith and the music that celebrates it.

The 243 children in grades 4-6 attending the camp Aug. 8-12 took music classes, worshiped, and participated in recreational activities. They also performed a choir concert at the end of the week.

Training was offered in theory, computerized keyboard, handbells, autoharps, piano, rhythm, choir chimes, recorders, solo singing, song leading, creative movement, and puppets. Music camps have been offered by the Tennessee Baptist Convention for 15 years, reported Julian Suggs, Church Music director, who has led all of them.

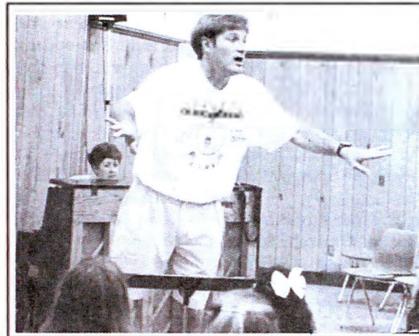
Suggs noted the camps would not be possible without help from laypeople, many who take vacation to attend.

The camp also was a training site for three young men who will enter college soon to prepare for music ministry. Kevin Buchanan of Englewood Church, Jackson; Will Lambert, First Church, Lewisburg; and Chris Rogers, First Church, Princeton, Ky., served as counselors. Buchanan, 18, led a group of 25 along with another adult from his church because the church music director couldn't attend. He had attended three previous years.

He acknowledged he could be working to raise money for college instead of attending the camp. "I need the money, yea, but I'd rather be here working. I love kids anyway," he said. □



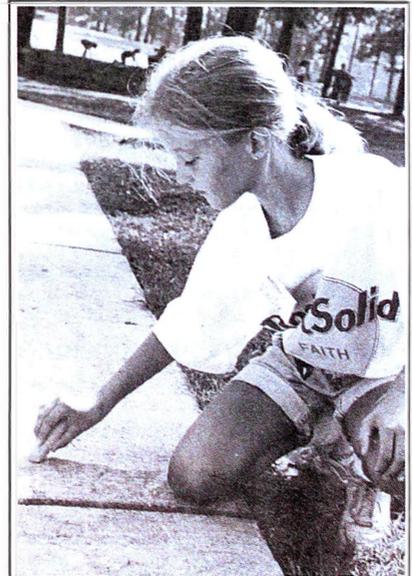
PLAYING THE AUTOHARP in class is Tara Howard of South Fulton Church, Fulton.



GESTURING TO MELD the children into a choir is Wayne Causey, choir director for the camp and minister of music, First Church, Princeton, Ky.



JUSTIN LUNA of Englewood Church, Jackson, draws a staff.



DOING AN EXERCISE on a sidewalk is Emily Wright of Colonial Church, Memphis.

Provides training, inspiration

Union University continues Preachers School for 60 years

By Keith Currey
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — A pastor of ten finds his day filled with pleas for guidance in such areas as family dilemmas, self-improvement, and spiritual growth, needs which he meets on a daily basis. Unfortunately, the pastor is rarely given the same opportunity to deal with his own anxieties.

Where, then, does the pastor seek answers to professional or personal struggles? Union University's West Tennessee Summer Preachers School has offered this assistance to church leaders and their families for more than 60 years.

The 1994 Summer Preach-

ers School drew more than 350 ministers and their families for the practical advice and spiritual encouragement offered during the Aug. 1-5 conference. It was the largest crowd in recent years.

Each day of the school featured a morning of seminars led by a panel of speakers, including Ken Hemphill, the newly elected president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Seminar topics included the 1995 January Bible Study, church growth, sermon preparation, family relationships, and a special "for wives only" session.

Afternoons provided free time for families to spend at the university's recreational

facilities or to use as a time of rest.

Nightly worship services were led by W. A. Criswell, senior pastor of First Church, Dallas, and former SBC president.

Evening services were preceded by brief presentations titled "Passion for Missions" led by Union's missionaries-in-residence Dale and Gaye Coleman, missionaries to Togo, West Africa, and Ramona Mercer, retired missionary to Japan.

"A passion for missions should come from a heartfelt encounter with Christ and a willingness to see the world through Jesus' eyes," Gaye Coleman said. "If we take time to apply God's Word, it will

not return to him void."

Noel Edwards, retired pastor of Ramer Church, Ramer, and president of the 1994 school, said, "Schools like this are a rare joy for pastors to experience. I've attended this school since 1956 and this is the most profitable time I've spent so far."

"This week has been a great time for renewal of husband/wife relationships," said Roy Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. "The emphasis on family is one that really needs to be voiced."

Norris and Joyce Smith, who led the "For Wives Only" sessions, also led a joint presentation titled "Keeping Marriage Dreams Alive."

A 50-year veteran of the schools, Neil Moore, a retired director of missions in Mississippi who lives in Jackson, noted the school has evolved from its original service to pastors with little formal training.

"At first, the school bore a stigma with the more educated pastor, although the quality of speakers and programs eventually erased the myth that the school was only for uneducated rural ministers," he said.

The school, which is sponsored by Union University and the Golden State Missions Offering, drew ministers from Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky, Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan. □

Morristown church observes updated history spanning 175 years

Bethel Church, which is located south of Morristown, has a colorful but traditional Baptist history including a start as a mission from another church and a division over missions.

The congregation also discovered it had a much longer history than was known. After a centennial celebration was held in 1974, Glenn A. Toomey, director of missions of Nolachucky Association at that time, discovered its current history.

The church was begun by Bethel South Church (First Church, Morristown) as Friendship Church on Long Creek. The congregation divided 19 years lat-

er over a conflict concerning missions. The "missionary" element continued to serve the area for many years. It helped form Witt Foundry Church and a mission at Jones Schoolhouse.

In 1874 the church changed its name to Bethel Church and soon had adopted standards for its members. In 1878 the following resolution was adopted by the church: "Resolved that whereas any member shall absent themselves for more than three meetings from church meeting, they shall be subject to the discipline of the church."

Sunday School was organized in 1881 at Bethel Church. The

present cemetery was opened in 1883.

The church's largest building program was completed in 1967 while Quentin K. Lee was pastor. A new sanctuary and additional educational space was built.

During the Aug. 7 observance of its 175th anniversary several former ministers spoke, including Drew Garner, Glenn Ross, Eugene Roberts, Quentin K. Lee, Scott Erwin, and James C. Williams Jr., who is now director of missions, Nolachucky Association.

Former pastor Clell King addressed the crowd gathered for an afternoon service also held that day. □



THE CAMPUS of Bethel Church, Morristown, is located on Enka Highway.

Tennessean named US-2 missionary

For Baptist and Reflector

Tennessee native Andy Dennis was appointed a US-2 missionary by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in August.

A US-2 missionary is a college graduate who works in home missions for two years.

Dennis, a native of Antioch, is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

He plans to attend seminary after US-2 service. Dennis has served as a summer missionary and as an innovator with the Home Mission Board. He will serve as a resort missionary in Fort Meyers, Fla. □



DENNIS

Retired Dyersburg pastor, wife, die

Retired pastor, Robert H. Dills, of Dyersburg, died July 15. His wife, Leah Mae Dills, also of Dyersburg, died Aug. 15.

Robert Dills, 85, was pastor emeritus of Hillcrest Church, Dyersburg. He served there 15 years. He retired as pastor of First Church, Hickman, after leading it six years. During retirement he led 12 churches in Dyer Association as interim pastor and two in Big Hatchie Association. He was clerk of Dyer Association for 16 years and served in many other leadership positions of the association.

Mrs. Dills, 79, died in Dyersburg.

The couple are survived by two sons, Donald E., of Dyersburg, and Robert F., of South Carolina. □

King's Academy announces special education program

For Baptist and Reflector

SEYMOUR — The King's Academy, a Christian day and boarding school of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, will offer a program this fall for middle and upper school students who need extra help. The academy is located in greater Knoxville.

The program, known as Excel, "is a pilot program for students of average to above average ability who are below grade level in mathematics or reading. These are students who would benefit from individual or very small group instruction that is usually difficult to provide in a regular classroom," said Walter Grubb, The King's Academy Headmaster.

While Excel is not a com-

prehensive special education services program, the school does hope to serve students with mild learning disabilities and mild attention deficit disorders. Students in the program will spend two class periods per day receiving individualized or small group (no more than six) instruction.

Parents of students in Excel will be charged an additional fee above the private school tuition. According to Grubb the additional fee amounts to less than \$14 per day.

Laurie Campbell has been hired as the teacher for the new program. She has a master's degree in counseling from Mississippi College and training at a Baptist seminary.

For more information, contact the school at (615) 573-8321 or (615) 577-2442. □

Retired pastor Creed McCoy dies

Creed S. McCoy Sr., 83, of Seymour, died Aug. 1 in Knoxville.

He retired after serving 18 years as pastor of Valley Grove Church, Knoxville. McCoy also served as pastor of Euclid Avenue Church, Knoxville, for 18 years; First Church, Madisonville; and Black Oak and Blowing Springs churches, Clinton.

The Aug. 4 funeral at Valley Grove Church was led by Harry C. Mynatt, Gary Swagerty, and Gordon Greenwell.

McCoy is survived by his wife, Audrey, Seymour; and a son of Knoxville. □

CHURCH NURSERY WORKER WANTED:

Hours 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.,
Sundays. Call Carolyn Reed at
(615) 885-1727 at Harsh Chapel
Baptist Church.

TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the leaders

■ **Eric Boyer** of Knoxville, received the master of divinity degree on July 29 at



BOYER

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Boyer, associate pastor, Memorial Church, Bogalusa, La., is a graduate of the University of Tennessee — Knoxville. His home church is Clear Springs Church, Mascot.

■ **Nathan Bishop**, pastor, Bethel Church, Yorkville, has been called as pastor of Poplar Corner Church, Jackson.

■ **Dennis Williams**, pastor, Eldad Church, Trenton, has been called as pastor of Trinity Bible Church, Jackson.

■ **First Church, Milan, has**

called **Skip Parvin** as pastor, effective Aug. 7.

■ **Macedonia Church, Kenton**, has called **James Barber**, pastor, Immanuel Church, Trenton, as pastor.

■ **Chris Moore** has been called as pastor of Latham's Chapel Church, Milan, effective Aug. 21.

■ **Mike Tyson**, who helped lead Lincoln Avenue Church, Newport, has been called as pastor of Glenwood Church, Powell.

■ **Marion Hall**, who was a pastor in Elgin, Ill., has been called as pastor of Sevier Home Church, Knoxville.

■ **Scott Thomas** of Louisiana has been called as pastor of Mount Harmony Church, Knoxville.

■ **Ava Stevens** of Jacksonville, Ark., a missionary of the Montgomery Village Baptist Center, Knoxville, has resigned. She served two years as a US-2 missionary and stayed another year. A recep-

tion was held Aug. 7 at Central Church, Beardes, Knoxville, to honor her.

■ **Dennis Foust**, associate pastor of education/administration, First Church, Chattanooga, taught Church Staff Relations during a summer term at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He served as a visiting professor of Christian education.

■ death

■ **Marjorie Gregg Bates**, 70, of Mohawk, died Aug. 6 at Life Care Center. Bates was director of Woman's Missionary Union for Nolachucky Association for 18 years and held other positions for the association for a total of 25 years. For Tennessee WMU Bates served 18 years as a member of the Executive Board and two years as a vice president. In her church, Fairview of Mohawk, she led WMU for 12 years. She was a volunteer mission worker in Venezuela. She is survived by two brothers.

■ the churches

■ **Friendship Church, Beech Bluff**, had 17 people make professions of faith and one person called to ministry during its Aug. 7-12 revival. It was led by Floyd Lammersfeld, Gleason.

■ **Bethlehem Church, Oneida**, is holding its 160th anniversary celebration Oct. 2 from 11 a.m. — 3 p.m. and at 7 p.m. John Shepherd and Carroll Robinson will speak.

■ **Lakeview Church,**



MISSIONARIES TO VENEZUELA Eva Nell Kimler, center, and Gene Kimler, and a friend from Venezuela, Ana Pena, pause during a short visit to Tennessee. They spoke at Carr's Chapel Missionary Church, Speedwell, July 6. The Kimlers, who serve in Valera, returned to Venezuela Aug. 4.

Selmer, will host a Heritage Home Seminar — A Seminar for Women Sept. 16-17. Mary Oates of Corinth, Miss., will speak. It is for ladies ninth grade and older. Call the church at (901) 645-9777 for more information.

■ About 140 junior high

youth from **Bellevue Church, Cordova**, attended a retreat at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center in Talladega, Ala. They studied discipleship and being true. Jeff Parish, minister of youth, Calvary Temple, Savannah, Ga., was camp pastor.



PREPARING TO BURN A NOTE representing a debt of War Creek Church, Sneedville, are, from left, Allen Payne, pastor; Charles D. Earl, director of missions, Holston Valley Baptist Association; and leaders Curtis Shockley; Henry Brewer; and Pete Mills. The ceremony was held July 17.



A SULLIVAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION team poses in front of the 200-seat church building it helped build in Pitanqui, Brazil, in just five days. During the work there July 14-26 the 22 volunteers saw 464 people make professions of faith as a result of the construction work, personal witnessing, and revival meetings. The team was helped by missionary Wade Akins, construction supervisor Gary Taylor of Jackson, and Brazilian Baptists.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Are you too selective when choosing friends?

By Dan Bowery, pastor
First Church, Mountain City

Sometimes when we choose close friends we are like search or personnel committees — we can be too selective. One such committee publicly shared the results of their exhaustive search. Here's who they rejected and why:

Noah — Yes, he has 120 years experience, but no converts.

Moses — He stutters. His former congregation reported that he loses his temper over small matters.

Abraham — Left for Egypt when times were hard. Reportedly encountered trouble with the authorities and tried to lie his way out.

David — Moral character in question. Might have been considered for the position of minister of music, had he not "fallen."

Solomon — Great reputation for wisdom, but doesn't always practice what he preaches.

Elijah — Inconsistent, moody, folds under pressure.

Hosea — Divorced. Remarried to a prostitute.

Jeremiah — An alarmist. Too emotional.

Amos — No training.

John — Dresses like a hippie with poor eating manners.

Peter — Was overheard denying Christ.

Paul — Lacks tact. Too confrontive. Preaches too long.

Timothy — Too young.

Jesus — Often offends others with harsh teachings. Too controversial.

Judas — Practical. Cooperative. Good with finances. Cares for the poor. The search committee agrees he's just right for the job. □

Choices

By Charlie Brown, pastor
Central Church, Alcoa

When Adoniram Judson graduated from seminary, he received a call from a prominent church in Boston to become its assistant pastor. Everyone was excited for him, particularly his mother and sister because he could live at home with them and do his life work. However, Judson said no to the church.

"My work is not here," he said. "God is calling me beyond the seas. To stay here, even to serve God in his ministry, I feel would be only partial obedience,

and I could not be happy in that." Although it was very difficult, he left his mother and sister to follow God's call.

While the prominent Boston church still stands rich and strong, Judson's churches in Burma had thousands of converts and his influence is still felt around the world. Why? Because he sacrificed his own desires for the will of God in his life.

Is your life making a difference in anyone else's life? Is it a positive or negative influence? I pray that you are making a positive difference in other people's lives. I pray that I am doing the same.

In order for you and me to do this, we must be willing to consecrate ourselves to God totally and completely. Can you agree with Paul who said, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who lives, but Christ lives in me" □

Mitchell, Gephardt bills could add abortion clinics, pro-lifers say

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — New abortion clinics will be established in potentially hundreds of communities throughout the country, including Jackson, if the health care bills sponsored by Senate and House majority leaders George Mitchell of Maine and Richard Gephardt of Missouri are passed as writ-

ten, pro-life organizations say.

The expansion of such services will produce an increase in number of abortions, opponents and proponents say.

If either of the bills pass without an abortion-exclusion amendment and are signed by President Bill Clinton, health care services — including abortion — will be required to be available to all persons covered

throughout a service region, the National Right to Life Committee says. The bills also provide funds to establish health care facilities in areas where they are not available, according to an analysis by the country's largest pro-life organization. The prime targets for

the founding of new abortion clinics would be 105 metropolitan areas which reported either no abortions or fewer than 50 abortions in 1992, the NRLC says.

The legislation also would enable the federal government to expand abortion services in

rural areas as well, the NRLC says.

Under the proposed bills every American would fund abortion through taxes and insurance premiums, contend NRLC and other pro-life groups, including the SBC Christian Life Commission. □

Fellowship receipts grow at slower rate

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of moderate Southern Baptists unhappy with the conservative direction of the Southern Baptist Convention, took in slightly more than \$6 million in the first half of 1994, 8 percent more than in the same period last year.

That rate of growth compares with a 72 percent increase reported after six months last year. The figures may indicate a leveling off in the rapid growth experienced by the Fellowship in its first three years.

Of the \$6,151,493 contributed to the Fellowship so far, 69 percent was earmarked for its own ministries. Another 16.3 percent was sent to SBC agencies and 7.2 percent to state conventions. Fellowship-endorsed ministries received

7.5 percent.

Fellowship officials say it is too early to gauge the impact of the SBC's vote in June ordering its agencies to not accept CBF-channeled funds.

Gary Skeen, coordinator of financial and administrative services for the CBF, said receipts are projected to fall short of the \$12.5 million 1994 budget because the CBF can no longer handle funds earmarked for the SBC. □

Classified

MINISTRY POSITION: Richland Church, Memphis, is seeking a minister of music and youth. Send resumes to Gary Oswald, chairman, Search Committee, 170 N. Oak Grove Road, Memphis, Tenn., 38120

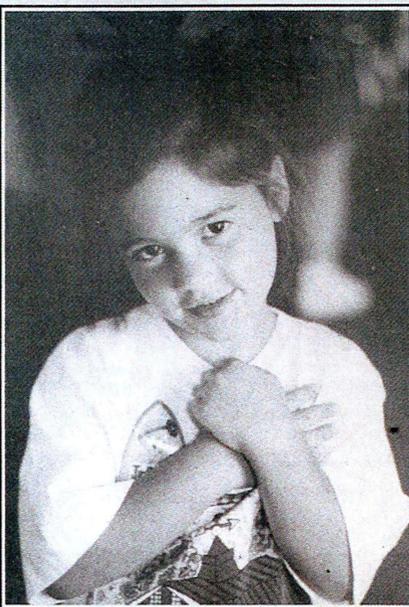
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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Practice of wisdom — Bible Book Series for Aug. 28

By Carl Scarlett, pastor, Miracle Church, La Vergne

The proverbs we will focus on for the remainder of our study in Proverbs will not contrast wise and foolish things but will be either a commendation or a warning.

God is in control of life — ch. 16:1-9

God is sovereign and has the last word in every matter. He allows man to have freedom to use or abuse his gifts but the results will be that God will judge according to how we use his gifts.

Solomon instructs us to give our thoughts to God. He weighs them according to his truth. Those who let him direct their words, ways, and wills are wise. Those who choose to do otherwise are unwise and suffer accordingly.

Wise speech, other topics — ch. 17:5, 23, 28

In Proverbs man is reminded to show concern for the poor and unfortunate. We are admonished to never make fun of (mock) those who are poor. Those who mock the poor mock God who created us all and this mockery will be punished (v. 5).

The foolish man, when he keeps his mouth closed, gives the appearance of being wise. The wise man gains understanding when he learns to discipline his tongue and listens (v. 28).

A fool's talk gets him into deep trouble and will destroy him (ch. 18:7). The person who carries false stories will wound those they talk about. Words of

Focal Passages

Proverbs 16:1-3; 17:5, 23, 28; 18:7-8, 21; 19:17; 20:4, 13; 21:3, 13; 22: 20-21; 23:20-21

slander create hurt and harm that can never be healed (v. 8).

The tongue can be an instrument of healing or an instrument of harm. The tongue, when under God's control, becomes an instrument of life. When the tongue is out of control it is an instrument of destruction (v. 21).

Poor, wise, other thoughts — ch. 19:17; ch. 20:4, 13

When man gives compassionately to the poor he is giving as unto the Lord. What man gives to the poor will be returned

from God to the cheerful giver.

The sluggard (lazy person) does not work to provide for himself or his family. He excuses himself by saying it is too cold, the right conditions don't exist but when harvest time comes he will be destitute (ch. 20:4).

The saying, "early to bed, early to rise makes one healthy, wealthy, and wise," may be a paraphrase of Solomon's admonition that man should sleep only enough to gain the energy to rise early and work for his bread. He should not waste time sleeping because of his laziness (v. 13).

Justice, quotes from wise — ch. 21:3, 13

God desires the worship of man from a pure heart and

clean hands. Treating others with fairness and mercy is more important to God than offering sacrifices (ch. 21:3).

Closing one's ears to the cry of the poor will have a reverse effect because someday he will cry out of his need and no one will hear (v. 3).

The instructions of Solomon's words of wisdom are to guide man in the best ways of life. When man asks the advice of the wise, he will be given good sound counsel (ch. 22:20-21).

Two of the sins of Solomon's day, drunkenness and gluttony, are modern indulgences of our day. Solomon's warning to the wise is to flee these sins because they always lead to poverty (ch. 23:20-21). □

□ Choose to obey — Convention Uniform Series for Aug. 28

By Randall Cummings, pastor, First Church, Ripley

Final words are infused with significance when they come from a loved one facing death, a friend moving away, or a graduation speaker bringing closure to the education career of the graduates.

In this last installment of the uniform series, "God Redeems a People," Moses finalizes his instructions to Israel before they enter the promised land without him.

Blessings, curses — vv. 1-6, 15-19

God took a slave people and forged them into a nation. Israel on the banks of the Jordan was nothing like the Israel that fled Egypt 40 years earlier.

The Ten Commandments were the foundation for estab-

Focal Passage Deuteronomy 28:1-6, 15-19, 64-66

lishing a nation of free people. The people had laws and government that would guide them into nationhood, a nation entirely different from Egypt or the other nations of the world.

The nature of their laws meant obedience to God would be required for the successful establishment of their nation. Moses spoke of God's blessings and the curses that would result from obedience or disobedience.

There were four blessings Israel would experience as a result of obedience to God. These cover various areas of national and family life.

God would bless city and country (v. 3). Urban life and rural life are often contrasted in an attempt to identify one as superior to the other. God called both communities to obedience and promised to bless that obedience.

As a result of obedience, God would bless the nation's productivity (v. 4).

God also promised to bless the nation by providing them with plenty to eat (v. 5). The last blessing (v. 6) was upon the daily activities of the people.

The curses found in verses 15-19 are the negative parallels of the blessings. Disobedience to God would result in the failure of rural and urban society; infertility of the womb, flock, and field; unavailability of food;

and failure to prosper in life.

In both cases God promised that the consequences would "come upon and over take" (vv. 2, 5, NAS) the people. The blessings and curses of God are tied into the very nature of obedience. They are not just whims of an omnipotent God. God's laws are universal, established by the God of righteousness.

Sin's national toll — vv. 64-66

Following the giving of the parallel curses, Moses gave further details about the consequences of disobedience. He spoke of the land's failure to produce, destruction of property and families, enemies, social decay, and extreme plagues.

The list climaxes on the loss of nationhood (a brief reference

was made in verse 36). To lose nationhood meant loss of corporate and personal identity. The people would be removed from the land, forced to adopt a new culture and language. Their land would be given to others. Their possessions, their culture, their literature, their folklore heroes, their religion — everything would be lost!

God said all this would happen if Israel did not obey. It did happen to the northern kingdom, and to a lesser degree the southern kingdom during its exile to Babylon.

The lesson is clear: no matter how favored of God a nation may believe itself to be, national disobedience to God can result in the loss of everything held dear. □

□ Alcohol, drugs: Influence by example — Life and Work Series for Aug. 28

By Clay Frazier, retired pastor, Morristown

Some estimates report that one out of every 12 people that drink alcohol has a problem with the drug or they are an alcoholic. Almost 100 percent of people who use hard drugs, for any period of time, become addicted. Add to that the warnings from Scripture and you have a very strong case for total abstinence from all drugs being used recreationally.

In 46 years of ministry I have seen all types of drugs and alcohol used, but I have never seen one case where drug usage was of value. It causes problems and complicates other problems people experience. We will not study the whole gamut of alcohol and drugs, but major upon the influence factor in drug usage.

Christian, works of darkness — ch. 13:12-13

The Christian has no business involving himself in works of darkness. We are the people

of the light. What does Paul say the deeds of darkness are? He is very clear. He names them specifically. Here is the list; orgies, drunkenness, sexual immorality, debauchery, dissension, and jealousy. All of these sins are of the flesh. They are ugly and destructive.

Notice that drunkenness is there in that bad company of sins. Rather than a Christian clothing himself with the works of darkness, Paul admonished them to clothe themselves with Christ.

Remove all stumbling blocks — ch. 14:13-15

Paul admonishes the Christians in verse 13 to turn away from judging each other, and that no one put a stumbling block in his brothers way. Things of themselves are not unclean, the uncleanness is in the human heart. We take the good gifts of God and pollute them by our own attitude. After

Paul makes these statements in verses 13 and 14, he gives us the highest ethic for conduct. He speaks specifically of eating meat offered to idols in verse 15, but the principle applies to all of life.

If we do anything that hurts a fellow human being, then we should not do it. If drinking alcohol or smoking marijuana causes one brother or sister to stumble, we are to cease from such conduct.

It matters not how much we may enjoy an activity, if it hurts a weak person, then the Christian is to turn from it. It may not harm us, but if it hurts others or causes them to turn to dark paths, we should give it up. Let us apply this to drinking, smoking, use of drugs, and all the conduct of our lives.

Recognize what is important — vv. 16-18

Christians are free from the law. Maybe some Roman

Focal Passages Romans 13:12-14; 14:13-21

Christians boasted of their liberty in Christ because in verse 16, Paul says do not let your "good be evil spoken of." We are no longer in bondage to the law, but remember, we are bond slaves of Jesus Christ. Our gratification is found in our submission to him. We are to realize that meat and drink (verse 17) do not take first place, but the reign of God in our lives.

The reign of God is characterized by righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. These verses are not talking about a casual Sunday morning type of Christianity. Paul spoke of being "crucified with Christ." Many of us spend our time, talent, and treasure to gratify our flesh. We then, "sanctify" it by testifying of God's grace and

gift to us. Sometimes, even our service to God is self-gratifying. Service to others and to God are the chief end of the Christian life. All conduct that subtracts from that is clearly not of God.

Purpose of Christian is to build up others — vv. 9-21

Nowhere in Scripture do we have a stronger admonition than here. Paul says that what we do is to build up others (verse 19). Use of alcohol or drugs could never be thought of as "edifying." We are to build up the weak. Anything we do that offends or makes others weak is wrong. It is contrary to the purpose for Christians. Notice in verse 21, the drinking of wine is specifically mentioned. It is my opinion that a Christian, in view of his purpose for life, cannot use drugs of any kind. I believe, practice, and teach total abstinence without apology. □

Alaska Baptists report 13.3 percent CP gain

Baptist Press

SOLDOTNA, Alaska — The Alaska Baptist Convention met in annual session Aug. 9-10 at College Heights Church here and approved a 1995 Co-operative Program budget of \$574,204.

This year's receipts are 13.3 percent ahead of last year's CP income, the 172 messengers were told.

The percentage of the convention's CP designated for Southern Baptist Convention causes remains at 33 percent.

Messengers elected Tim Clark, pastor of First Church, Palmer, as new president.

The convention's executive director, Bill G. Duncan, announced he will retire March 31, 1995, but will leave Alaska the end of February, taking vacation time. □

Southern Baptists, others agree on world population issues

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A Southern Baptist ethics professor found widespread agreement on some critical world population issues when he participated recently in a consultation with Muslims, Buddhists, Roman Catholics,

and other religious leaders.

Daniel Heimbach, associate professor of Christian ethics at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and 10 other religious representatives exchanged viewpoints in a three-day consultation at Geneva, Switzerland, in preparation for September's United Nations Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt.

The U.N. conference has generated intense interest, especially because of the U.S. government's advocacy of liberalized abortion policies worldwide in the months leading to the meeting.

Heimbach, who represented the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission at the meeting, said he was "ready for a lot of conflict but I was hopeful for some significant and important agreement, because the way this was arranged ..."

With the possibility of one exception among the 11 participants, they agreed on issues such as the sanctity of human life from conception, the immorality of extramarital sex, and the need to maintain strong families, he said. □

Religious Heritage medal to go to Hobbs

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — Baptist leader Herschel H. Hobbs will receive the Gold Medal award from Religious Heritage of

America during its 44th annual awards program Oct. 8 in Atlanta.

The Gold Medal recognizes 50 years of service in the ministry. Hobbs will be among 10

people to receive various awards from the organization, which was founded in 1951 and has as its purpose helping America reclaim the religious values upon which it was founded. Others who have received the award include Billy Graham, Norman Vincent Peal, and Chuck Swindoll.

Hobbs, who has penned more than 100 books, is pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City, and is a former Southern Baptist Convention president. □



HOBBS

Tennessee native named to ACTS post

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Alcoa native Stan Grubb has been named affiliate relations manager for ACTS, the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission cable television service that reaches into more than 20 million homes.

Grubb has been with the RTVC since 1991. From 1988-91 he was minister of media, print operation, and assistant

to the minister of recreation at First Church, Grapevine, Texas.

Before moving to Fort Worth to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he earned a master of arts degree in communication, he served in various capacities for the television ministry of First Church, Alcoa. □

McKinney retires after 44 years at SWBTS

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — When James McKinney and his wife, Elizabeth, rented a truck and moved from Louisiana to Fort Worth in 1950, they didn't know if McKinney had the job he had interviewed for at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Needless to say, he did. Those anxiety-filled days led to the beginning of a 44-year music career at SWBTS.

Hired as composer-in-residence, McKinney began teaching theory and voice, and six years later he was appointed director of the school of sacred music. When the name changed to school of church music the next year, his title changed to dean, a position he held until he retired July 31.

Scotty Gray, SWBTS executive vice president, is serving as acting dean until a successor is chosen. □

Ohio association has promise of land; but can't find church planter

Baptist Press

TORONTO, Ohio — Terrell Moore has an unusual problem.

A Christian woman wants to give Muskingum Valley Association five acres of land for a church in an Ohio community where there currently is no Southern Baptist congregation and where the association would like to start a church.

So what's the problem? A year after the offer was made, Moore has not been able to find anyone willing to move to the area and begin a church. Someone with pastoral experience would be great, but a committed layperson could do just as well, he says. What's needed, he says, is a person or couple willing to move to Toronto for an extended period of times as volunteers.

Moore's problem typifies one of the greatest challenges facing leaders of Southern Baptist work in Ohio and other parts of the Midwest. To borrow the words of Jesus: "The harvest is great but the laborers are few." □

Know someone who has moved away — Send 'a letter from home'

Do you know someone who has moved out of Tennessee or they could be in the state, but no longer receive the *Baptist and Reflector*? It could be a former pastor or church staff member, a relative, or a good friend. Keep that person dear to your heart informed about Baptist life in Tennessee by sending him or her a one-year subscription to the *Baptist and Reflector* for only \$7.50 per year. It will be like sending them "a letter from home" 51 weeks a year. A note announcing your gift will be sent to the individual you choose.

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Mother of Brotherhood Commission president

85-year-old Illinois woman loves children; has taught in Vacation Bible School 55 years

Baptist Press

CARMI, Ill. — Blanche Williams is 85 years old, and sometimes she wonders why God doesn't take her home to be with him. "I guess there's a purpose" is her answer.

Williams is the widow of a well-known Illinois Baptist and the mother of a Southern Baptist agency executive. Her husband, Otho, served several churches as pastor and in various statewide jobs. Her son, Jim, is president of the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

Williams' husband was director of the Baptist Children's Homes when he died in 1962 at the age of 51. Noting he was an evangelist, "he could draw crowds," she recalled. Plus, the children would flock around him whenever he went onto the grounds of the Children's Homes. She said she wonders why her husband's time on earth "ended so early when he had so much to give."

Though she sees her husband's influence clearly, she does not seem to see her own nearly as well.

But this year she worked in what she believes to be her 55th Vacation Bible School.

Williams began in VBS work in the 1930s, when it first made its way into Saline Association in southern Illinois. Since then she has worked with children almost every year, sometimes in

more than one VBS. And, leaders at First Church, Carmi, wanted her back this year.

"I don't hear too well and I don't see well," she said. "I feel like a misfit, but they wanted me to help in Bible school, and I couldn't say 'no.'"

"I do it because I love to work with the children," she said. Williams wants to use her talent, "what little I have, to direct children in the right direction."

Many children today are "just not getting any help" growing up, she said. "Parents, they're not home to direct their children. I don't think (the children) are getting the teaching in their homes that we used to."

And some kids live in "pathetic conditions," she states. "If you see where the children are living ... you can see why they're disturbed children and starving for love."

But in the midst of the difficulties, there are tender moments. She told of a boy last year who rubbed her arms whenever she was close. One day they were talking about God's creation, and the boy told of his love for cucumbers.

A few days later, Williams brought the boy a cucumber wrapped in a paper sack with instructions that he not open it until he got home. Now, a year later, "every time he comes, he grabs me and hugs me."

And a hug tells an 85-year-old woman that God still has a purpose for her life. □