

Baptist and Reflector

September 14, 1994

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STATEWIDE EDITION

■ **this
week's
news**

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TBC Executive Board adopts \$26.1 million budget; approves partnership with Baptist Union of Poland

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Members of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board adopted a \$26,184,634 Cooperative Program budget for 1994-95 and approved a foreign missions partnership with Poland during their Sept. 9 meeting at the Baptist Center.

In other items, the board elected officers for 1994-95 and approved a special study committee report on Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes along with changes in the Church Annuity Plan.

Paul Moody, pastor of Erin Church, Erin, was re-elected president. Elected last year as vice president, Moody assumed the presidency in May when David Crocker of Johnson City accepted a pastorate in North Carolina. David George, pastor of Immanuel Church, Nashville, who was elected viced president in May was re-elected. Christine Bess, a layperson from Crieveewood Church, Nashville, was elected secretary.

The proposed budget, which must be adopted by messengers to the annual TBC meeting in November, is almost



PAUL MOODY, center, pastor of Erin Church, Erin, was re-elected president of the TBC Executive Board. David George, left, pastor of Immanuel Church, Nashville, was re-elected vice president. The new secretary is Christine Bess of Crieveewood Church, Nashville.

\$1.4 million below the current budget. As last year, CP receipts will be distributed 62.5 percent through the TBC and 37.5 percent through the Southern Baptist Convention.

In May the board voted for all institutions and Executive Board operations to request 1994-95 CP funds based on 98 percent of anticipated income for 1993-94.

TBC Executive Director James Porch reported the convention's "financial situation

looks brighter now than it did at this point last year."

After 10 months of the current fiscal year, Porch said, "We are still predicting we can meet a 93.7 percent budget projection." He added that CP receipts in both September and October must reach about \$2.2 million.

Board members also voted that any overage in receipts will be shared according to the existing budget allocations.

The Poland partnership,

along with a partnership with Canada Baptists which the board approved in May, will give Tennessee Baptists two foreign missions ventures at the same time. Both partnerships must be approved by convention messengers in November.

Terry Sharp, Partnership Missions Department director (for Poland and Canada), reported on a survey team's recent trip to Poland. His presentation was followed by a slide show given by *Baptist and Reflector* Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen.

Poland currently has 56 churches and 46 mission points with a total of 3,500 members, Sharp said, adding that last year Polish Baptists baptized 320 new believers.

Sharp said a Polish official told them, "the partnership is a clear sign of God's care for us and an answer to prayers."

Porch admitted to board members he had reservations about the Poland partnership when the convention was first approached. "But I stand before you today and will stand before the convention to say I certainly believe with no reservation that this is an opportunity from God."

— See TBC, page 2

Kirk reports on Rwanda mission

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

Morale should have been low given the circumstances of the Tennessee Air National Guard unit serving in Rwanda.

Instead, reported Chaplain Lt. Col. Larry Kirk of Nashville, morale was the best he's experienced during his 39-year military career.

Media images of death and disease became real to 157 Tennesseans who delivered supplies to Rwandan refugees, explained Kirk, who also is a staff member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department.

Other factors making the tour difficult were that members of the unit, based in Mombasa, Kenya, were restricted to traveling on a bus system. And about half of the unit's members weren't allowed to visit

any of the refugee camps and see the results of their work, Kirk said.

But the Tennessee volunteers made him proud, said Kirk.

"We've been places where we've come off as the ugly American. But I'll assure you when we left Kenya we were the beautiful, loving, generous Americans," he said.

The airlift wing of the air guard unit was deployed from Berry Field in Nashville July 29-Aug. 30. Flying C130 airplanes, they picked up supplies in Kenya and Uganda and delivered them to refugees camped in Goma, Zaire, and Kigali, Rwanda, described Kirk. Participating in the missions, which he joined on several occasions to prepare for counseling, was traumatic.

People would line the run-
— See Kirk, page 2

1993 Golden State offering exceeds goal; Bryan optimistic as Week of Prayer begins

Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Katharine Bryan received some good news on the eve of the 1994 Week of Prayer for the Golden State Missions Offering.

Tennessee Baptists exceeded the 1993 goal of \$1,050,000, which is the same for 1994, by \$10,089.

Total gifts to the 1993 offering were \$1,060,089. Books for the 1993 offering closed Aug. 31.

Tennessee Baptists are currently in the middle of the Week of Prayer (Sept. 11-18) for the 1994 Golden State Missions Offering which funds special projects and programs in the state which otherwise

would not exist.

"I think Tennessee Baptists have been made aware of the many needs across our state and they are responding appropriately and generously, both in focused prayer and in giving," Bryan said.

The Tennessee WMU leader said the news "gives us a wonderful impetus as we begin the Week of Prayer" and should "challenge our people to excel on our giving of last year."

Bryan noted the theme of this year's Golden State offering "Go and Tell This People" also is a reminder and challenge for Tennessee Baptists to "give more than ever before." □

TBC Executive Board adopts \$26.1 million ...

— Continued from page 1

The motion to enter the Poland partnership was adopted unanimously.

The report from the special study committee was in response to a referral from the 1993 convention messengers.

The motion, made by Howard Olive of Maryville, moved that "the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention study the effects of the 1988 Convention decision concerning Baptist Adult Homes on the work of all the institutions of the Tennessee Baptist Convention." The motion came after messengers approved an amendment from the floor to add \$30,000 to TBAH's budget to be used for "the purpose of sharing in the vital ministry and maintenance of Stoneway Acres and Rainbow Acres group homes for the developmentally retarded."

At its Dec. 9 meeting the Executive Board voted to refer the matter to the Executive Committee for study. A subcommittee consisting of David George, chairman, Christine Bess, Dean Haun, Laurann Whetham, Joe Littlefield, Richard Patton, and Gary Watkins was formed.

The eight-page report noted: "The convention did make a commitment to this new ministry (developmentally disabled adults) in 1988. This was one of many commitments that comprise the TBC budget. There was also a commitment made to equalize the funding of the three colleges, a commitment that was put off for many years. When the colleges were finally equalized, an amend-

ment to the budget on the convention floor resulted in an unrealistically high budget that could not be met. This resulted in all the programs and institutions, except for the two colleges that were increased, suffering a cut in Cooperative Program receipts. All this took place during a time of recession in the country, a time of unrest in the denomination, and a time of zero growth or negative growth in Cooperative Program giving. Thus, while we might wish to do more for TBAH and for all the other institutions and programs of the convention, this has not been possible."

The report, which will be presented to TBC messengers, listed four conclusions:

(1) "We affirm the fact that Tennessee Baptists have made a commitment to minister to the developmentally disabled. The need for this ministry is clear and compelling. ...

(2) "We call for greater cooperation and communication in conducting all the ministries of Tennessee Baptists. The work we are called to do is large and complex. It can only be done effectively if we work as a team. ...

(3) "We emphasize the need for observing limits. We have a limited amount of money available to fund our programs and ministries at any given time. ... We therefore recommend that a limit be agreed upon concerning the extent of our involvement in homes for the developmentally disabled. ...

(4) "We further find that there is a

need to define the nature of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's and Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes' support for this ministry. The original study and action assumed that we would provide funds for administration and consultation provided by a TBAH staff member. Funds for local facilities and operation would come from resident, families, and other local sources. With the 1993 convention action, we have now begun to provide capital funds and operating funds for the local operation. We recommend that, in the future, the TBC and TBAH role be limited to providing administrative and consulting services by the TBAH staff and not extended to operations or capital needs unless it can be done out of the TBAH budget and not funded out of additional Cooperative Program funds."

In other action:

■ Board members approved changes in the Church Annuity Plan, effective Jan. 1, 1995.

■ The board also approved a change in the bylaws to allow the four educational institutions (Belmont, Carson-Newman, Union, and Harrison-Chilhowee) to add three trustees outside of Tennessee, providing they are members of cooperating churches of their respective state conventions and are alumni. This must be approved also by the TBC Constitution and Bylaws Committee before it is brought to messengers at the convention for approval. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Kirk reports on Rwanda mission ...

— Continued from page 1

ways, he said, often getting dangerously close to the airplanes. One's first impulse is to personally give money or candy to the children, explained Kirk, but that would cause them to mob.

Our job was to "fill out those hollow cheeks" by delivering food, which might bring some hope to the Rwandans, said Kirk.

The crew also delivered water purifiers, medicine, and sheets of plastic to protect them from the rainy season. They worked with French, Russian, and British troops serving the United Nations.

The problems facing the Rwandans are complex and can't be understood from a non-African standpoint, said Kirk. Tribal customs and culture are the basis for many beliefs. And the refugees have fears based on seeing some 500,000 people slaughtered in one massacre and many other attacks, even in the refugee camps, he reported.

Although Kirk didn't get to visit any of the refugees, another Tennessean with the unit got to deliver some teddy bears to sick refugee children. He saw one child whose head had been cut with a machete



LARRY KIRK

and another whose broken leg bone was being mended with steel rods which protruded from the leg. The children were very grateful to receive the gifts, he reported.

The Tennesseans also viewed poverty in Kenya, said Kirk. Because of their concern, the unit gave about \$350 to Kirk which he contributed to an orphanage in the area operated by Christians. Locating that orphanage and traveling to it was a miracle from God, said Kirk.

The airmen also helped their new African friends by liberally tipping waiters and waitresses at the hotel. If they left a tip of \$1.60, it was equal to a day's wage for the workers, reported Kirk.

He found many ways to

minister, said Kirk. Chapel services drew more than half of the unit's personnel, which is a very high percentage, he added.

And he's glad he took so many Bibles and pamphlets. Most Kenyans read English, so Kirk and other Christian members of the unit distributed about 150 Bibles and Bible portions to Kenyans, many of whom were Muslim.

Kirk described one hour-long conversation he had with a Muslim bus driver. Although he questioned the authenticity of the Bible, he took the gift of a Bible. During the rest of Kirk's stay, the two were friends, he recalled.

Kirk said he became concerned about running out of Bibles when he discovered the opportunities — but he never did. He's not sure whether it's a miracle he didn't run out. He's just glad he didn't.

After this experience, said Kirk, he can relate to missionaries who describe being the recipient of prayers from many, said Kirk. "I know what the missionaries feel like," he said. "Because people were praying we had opportunities we normally wouldn't have had." □

Michael Collins nominated as Michigan exec

Baptist Press

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. — Michael R. Collins, a division director for the Ohio Baptist convention and a former Knoxvillian, is the nominee for executive secretary of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

Collins, 51, if elected, will replace the retiring Robert B. Wilson who was the state's executive for 23 years.

According to an announcement in the September issue of the convention paper, *Michigan Baptist Advocate*, Collins will be presented to the annual meeting of the convention Nov. 8-10 at Burton, Mich.

Michigan and Tennessee Baptists have participated in a partnership for 14 years.

Collins is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and was a staff member of Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville. He was an employee of the Florida Baptist Convention in the area of Sunday School work prior to moving to Ohio. □

SBC leaders meet, pray with President following White House prayer breakfast

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Three Southern Baptist leaders spent more than an hour making a pastoral visit to the president of the United States Sept. 8.

The three were Jim Henry, SBC president and pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla.; Henry Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening for the Home Mission Board; and Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, President Bill Clinton's home church.

They were joined by Vice President Al Gore for half the meeting which followed a White House prayer breakfast attended by 60 religious leaders.

During the breakfast Clinton called on people of faith to debate the issues without screaming at each other. "We mustn't let the culture war divide us. Pray for me. I'm doing

the best I can," Clinton said.

Blackaby told Baptist Press the purpose of the private meeting was not to discuss politics, convention or national, but rather "to encourage the President to be a spiritual statesman and to urge him to openly call for the nation to pray for him.

"We wanted to let him know that during these times of bewilderment and change, people are looking for someone who rises above the mess and sees things as God sees them," Blackaby said. "We wanted to pray with him and affirm that God's people are

praying for him. It was a very, very productive meeting."

Jim Henry agreed the session was extremely positive. "Henry and I were able to share our hearts, our perspectives, and our concerns as Southern Baptists. I feel he is open, sensitive, and listening. It was a very special time. I came away encouraged," Henry said.

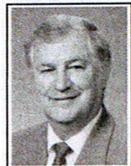
Blackaby presented Clinton with a copy of his book, *Experiencing God*, and an oil painting by Texas pastor and artist Dick Moody.

The meeting was concluded with prayer, Blackaby said.

"The four of us, joined by two presidential aides, all stood and joined hands in a very sweet time of prayer. I was on one side of the president and Jim Henry was on the other. I feel this could be the beginning of a very important relationship," Blackaby said. □



HENRY



BLACKABY

Greenbrier native Joe Stacker announces plans to retire at BSSB

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Joe R. Stacker, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's pastor-staff leadership department (formerly church administration department) has announced plans to retire from that position Feb. 28, 1995, when he will be 62.

Stacker said he has chosen early retirement to allow time for a new director to be selected for a smooth transition and to give himself opportunity to explore other areas of service, which he has wanted to plan for the remainder of his ministry.

A native of Greenbrier, Stacker came to the board in 1981, after serving as pastor of First Church, Concord, Knoxville, for 13 years. He also has served churches in Milton and Greeneville and in Alexandria, Va.

Stacker is a graduate of

Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where he earned both his master's and doctoral degrees.

He is a former president of the Tennessee Baptist



STACKER

Pastors Conference, a member of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and moderator of Knox County Association. He also has been a trustee of Harrison-Chilhowee Academy, East Tennessee Baptist Hospital, and the Sunday School Board.

While working at the board, Stacker has served as interim pastor for many Middle Tennessee churches.

Stacker and his wife, Ann, have two adult daughters. □

Florida board delays HMB proposal, talks scheduled

By Herb Hollinger
For Baptist Press

LAKE YALE, Fla. — The Florida state board of missions has voted to delay consideration until January of a proposal which would alter the relationship between the Florida Baptist Convention and the Home Mission Board.

Meeting here Sept. 8-9, the board accepted the recommendation of FBC Executive Director John Sullivan to delay the matter "and authorize the (executive director) to meet with the Brister committee on Oct. 28."

The Brister committee is an SBC Executive Committee special program and structure committee looking at the programs and organizational structure of the Southern Baptist Convention. Mark Brister, chairman

of the special committee, had requested in a recent letter to Sullivan that the proposal be delayed and also issued an invitation to meet with the committee in October.

Another part of Sullivan's recommendation, approved by the Florida board, directed the state convention administration to meet with the Home Mission Board administration "as soon as possible." Sullivan will report to the board of missions at its January 1995 meeting.

Sullivan, in a prepared release, said the questions "Who is responsible for missions work in Florida?" and "How will it be financed?" must be addressed.

"My inclination would be to see our proposal tested as a paradigm shift in mission giving and cooperative relationships. However, in response to the 'Brister committee' that is studying all

structure and relationships in the denomination, it is my heart to cooperate," Sullivan said.

"The Florida Baptist Convention has always done its work in the sunshine and we will continue to do so. This is neither compromise nor capitulation, but a desire to cooperate with brothers in seeking solutions to sensitive problems and to insure the aggressive ongoing mission of winning this diverse and dynamic state to Christ," Sullivan said.

The Florida proposal called for the state convention to retain, beginning in 1996, those funds (presently about \$1.3 million) which normally would have been channeled to the HMB through the Cooperative Program. The Florida budget committee approved the proposal last month and was scheduled to present it to the board of missions Sept. 9.

Brister said the Florida proposal "not only relates (Florida) in a new way to one of our SBC agencies, (it) offers a paradigm shift in mission giving."

He said they requested Sullivan to delay the proposal because the committee would like to hear the background, reasons, and objectives which prompted the proposed Florida recommendation.

HMB President Larry Lewis had charged the recommendation, if passed, would strike a "death blow" to the Cooperative Program. He told Baptist Press Sept. 8 he met with Sullivan and several FBC leaders earlier in the week at a Florida Cooperative Program summit meeting. At that meeting Sullivan confirmed he would attempt to delay the proposal. "It was a very good meeting. Discussion was candid and frank and a Christ-like spirit prevailed," Lewis said. □

TBC registration cards mailed to DOMs

Registration cards for the 1994 annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention have been mailed to directors of missions across the state.

Cards are also available from Dan Ferrell, TBC registration secretary, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024.

The annual meeting is set for Nov. 15-16 at Bellevue Church, Cordova.

Registration will be open at 10 a.m. on Nov. 14 at Bellevue Church.

Ferrell reminded messengers that a pastor is not automatically considered a

messenger and should be voted on by the church along with other messengers.

Only one name can appear on a registration card. Also, any color card except white will be accepted at the registration tables.

Each church is entitled to two messengers, with an additional messenger for each one hundred members. No church may have more than 10 messengers.

People with questions regarding the number of messengers or other registration-related items may call Ferrell at (615) 373-2255. □

Eleven HMB directors sign statement distancing themselves from Catholic document

Baptist Press

WICHITA FALLS, Texas — Eleven directors of the Home Mission Board have signed a "statement of dissent" intended to disassociate themselves from a controversial document dealing with Catholics and evangelicals as well as from recent action by the mission agency's board concerning that document.

According to the group's spokesperson, William G. Streich of Wichita Falls, the statement is in response to a motion passed Aug. 10 by HMB

directors which affirmed both a resolution on Southern Baptists and Roman Catholics adopted by SBC messengers in Orlando earlier this year and a Resolution of Intent adopted by the HMB executive committee in June.

While the statement of dissent expressed support for the moral concerns addressed in the document, it said "sound doctrine must be protected and guarded above all else." The statement listed six grounds for dissent.

HMB board chairman Bob Curtis told Baptist Press as

far as he is concerned the issue is closed. "The board has expressed itself. Those who disagree have expressed themselves. It's time for us to move on and work together to reach our nation for Christ."

HMB President Larry Lewis, who signed the document, disagrees with charges in the statement, but agrees both sides have had ample opportunity to speak to the issues, saying, "I feel it has been adequately dealt with."

No Tennessee trustee signed the document. □

■ 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. □

Liked sessions

I want to commend Jerry King for the Pastors Retreat's excellent program at Camp Carson. The teaching, preaching, and singing by Scott Andrews were excellent.

Jerry Foust, pastor
Westwood Church
Nashville 37209

Please reconsider

At a Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Memphis in the 1940s, Chester Swor pled for a body to assist churches in ministering through recreation — help for parties, banquets, fellowships, sports, drama, puppetry, crafts, camping, retreats, etc. Several years later the convention voted to organize the Church Recreation Service, placing it at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Agnes Durant Pylant was named as Church Recreation's first director. She had years of experience both in doing church recreation in the local church and in teaching it at Southwestern Seminary and Wayland Baptist College. Since the 1950s Church Recreation has served the churches through Agnes Pylant, Bob Boyd, and Ray Conner. *Church Recreation*

magazine provided help in all phases of recreation ministry. There have been glorious times of Church Recreation leadership training in associations, in state conventions, at Glorieta, and Ridgecrest. The department also supplied churches with materials in all phases of recreation — puppetry how-to, puppet scripts, drama aids, day camp for young and old, and a new approach to recreation ministry called adventure recreation. Then came Centrifuge and Crosspoint, camps held all over the United States and in locations overseas. Hundreds of thousands of youth and their leaders have been ministered to.

Now the Sunday School Board has cut the Church Recreation ministry to bare bones. Centrifuge and Crosspoint continue, and God is blessing mightily through them. But the *Church Recreation* magazine is no more; Rec Labs, and other field events are left to two or three recreation staff members still at the board, a small part of a section of another department. The thousands who have been called to share as recreation ministers are without needed materials.

Having given almost 40 years of my life to the ministry of Christ through church recreation, I simply request that the Sunday School Board reconsider its decision. Reaching people through recreation is a vital part of the Christian church's evangelistic calling.

Frank Hart "Pogo" Smith
(retired)

Church Recreation Department
Nashville 37215

What if ...?

Some years ago someone wrote a book entitled *If the South Had Won the Civil War*. In the book he proposed suppositional scenarios of what America might be like in the 20th century if that had happened. I could not help but muse about what might be happening if SBC moderates had won the presidential elections beginning in 1979 instead of conservatives.

For instance, would the national WMU have been as accommodating toward them as they have been toward the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship? If conservatives had formed a rival news service, such as Associated Baptist Press, would editors of state papers have employed its service, as they have done with ABP? If large groups of conservatives had sent CP dollars to organizations like the CBF would moderates have championed their right to do so? Supposition is just that, but it makes one wonder.

Bob Kerr, pastor
North Athens Church
Athens 37303

■ Baptist beliefs

By Herschel Hobbs,
Baptist theologian

Solid rock or shifting sand?

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" Hebrews 13:8.

The author of Hebrews exhorts us to fix our faith in Christ rather than on "various and strange doctrines" or teachings (v. 9) While he does not use the terms he contrasts Jesus Christ, the Solid Rock, and the changing and novel teachings which are like shifting sand.

Travelers in unmarked deserts fix their eyes on landmarks which are stable and dependable, not on sand dunes which constantly change with the blowing of desert winds. The former the author likens to Jesus Christ and his grace. The latter he likens to legalism as seen in "foods" or those things that Israelites could or could not eat. Today we might refer such to the changing mores of the social order. Or the various "isms" which come and go with every contrary wind of doctrine.

Fix your faith on Christ, the Solid Rock. All other ground is sinking or shifting sand. □



HOBBS

Current controversy stems from more causes

If I were given several hours, I could partially answer the oft-asked question, "How did we go get ourselves into the shape we are now in as Southern Baptists?"

I prefer to leave my observations and experiences in notes and manuscripts for historians to use along with those of other writers and observers. Then more authentic documented evidences can be consolidated and released in print.

Let me cite a few obvious background causes in addition to the historical ones already discussed.

(1) *Our rapid growth in huge metropolitan areas.* This can be seen especially in churches with extensive television ministries and aggressive enlistment programs. They have reached multitudes of adults. This is glorious.

Many hearers have been fascinated by our Baptist love for the Bible, our informality in worship and our spiritual warmth in worship. Vast numbers from many diverse backgrounds, however, have united with us who knew little or nothing about our history, na-

■ a historical view

By James L. Sullivan, retired BSSB president

ture, or beliefs as Baptists.

(2) *Vast numbers of uneducated people have made traditional church business meetings more difficult if not impossible because of the radical diversity of so many new untrained members participating.*

This has led some churches to abandon regular church business meetings where live issues could be discussed, correct information given, and valid conclusions reached.

Instead of practicing the New Testament concept of a "shepherd-sheep" leader, many pastors have tended to fall back on the Old Testament concept of "prophet-priest-king" leadership and operate authoritatively.

It is ironic that Baptists, the historic champions of democracy, are now turning all too frequently toward totalitarianism at the very time the rest of the world is turning rapidly from totalitarianism to democracy.

(3) *Our adoptions of a different parliamentary guide.* At the present time, it is now one which was written for legislatures and parliaments, not for religious bodies. This has brought us all too much confusion, especially at times when Baptist polity and the Constitu-

tion and Bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention have found themselves in contradiction. Our former *Parliamentary Guide* was written by Dr. F. H. Kerfoot. He was an under-study of Dr. P. H. Mell, chancellor of the University of Georgia who served as president of the convention longer than any other man — 28 years.

Kerfoot, himself, taught parliamentary law for 10 years, and died while serving as executive head of our Home Mission Board. Kerfoot and Mell had meshed our Baptist polity with sound principles of parliamentary law. This gave us more reliable guidance when crises arose.

The writers, Robert, author of our present guide (*Robert's Rules of Order*), and Kerfoot (author of *Parliamentary Guide*) were both Baptist. Robert, however, did not write his book for churches and church governments. Kerfoot did.

We changed to Robert's a few years ago without analyzing what it would do to us. We are still paying the price in misunderstandings for that all too hasty action. □ — Sullivan wrote this series of articles for his church newsletter three years ago. Future articles in this series will be reprinted on a regular basis.



SULLIVAN

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



September—

- 15 — Bill Carter, retired missionary now residing in Kingsport, is celebrating a birthday today. May God assure him of our gratitude for his labor and bless him accordingly.
- 16 — Join Missionary David Butts in praying that his ministry to Lydia and Leah will result in a deeper understanding of their Christian witness.
- 17 — Again pray for the salvation of Manuel Sanchez. May the evil one not be victorious over this lost soul and may we be found faithful in our prayerful concern.
- 18 — Ask for blessings for the arrival and ministry of Pastor Caanano, his wife and baby, who have begun a ministry to the church in Ovalle. Praise God for sending these people a long-awaited pastor — may their ministry together be fruitful and meaningful!
- 19 — Traveling mercies for our sports ministry team today as they return from their assignment.
- 20 — For the Tennessee Baptists gathered today for orientation, we pray for God's direction and guidance. Pray for Jarvis Hearn as he leads and for each volunteer as they surrender their lives to this ministry experience.
- 21 — Acknowledge there is power in God's holy Word, and ask that the power of Holy Spirit will move in each life to draw individuals to God.

A lifestyle of becoming, sharing in world

There is an adage which says that if a person is truthful, a good memory will not be necessary.

For Christians, that is more than a quotable quote; it is a reminder of who we are and whether we have accepted the character of Christ and adapted ourselves to his mind.

People who walk with the Master learn that spiritual discipline is necessary. It will not require a "coverup" kind of memory. The congregation should expect church leaders especially to model that kind of life.

People of the church are not exempt, but those who are elected as deacons, teachers, organizational leaders, committee members, must be willing to serve as well as lead.

All members of the body of Christ must be involved with what God is doing there with the church as a whole. A personal presence is a vote of affirmation.

Truth sometimes appears to be a nebulous "something." It may be elusive to some, but *truth* is a lifestyle. Truth does not need an excuse, because it always leads us to the right places with the right motive. Indeed, this kind of truth means that we don't have to have a good memory — because there

won't be any need for excuses or covering up. As the Christlike lifestyle is lived out daily, a good memory will not be necessary.

Creative, productive, and fulfilled people have something in common. They have certain characteristics, including: considerable maturity in *becoming*, according to their potential, knowledge of who they are, a rich life of shared relationships, and joy in and commitment to their lifework. It is not a fake.

Such persons find joy and fulfillment in being the people of God in lives that are shared.

In 1976 one of the adult Sunday School quarterlies stressed for an entire quarter the theme of Sharing Christ in Bold Mission. That Bible study book is a well-prepared document, one worth keeping for constant reference.

In an introductory editorial Editor D.P. Brooks expertly explained the theme, placing proper emphasis on the call to become, the call to mission, Christians called to a shared life, and Christians sharing Christian joy.

God's call to Christians, he said, is a challenge to become priests, saints, integral parts of Christ's body. Brooks reminded Bible students that they are called to be-

come God's people by faith in and commitment to Jesus Christ. A stronger reminder comes in John 15:16, "You have not chosen me, but I [Christ] have chosen you."

Becoming, then, is not an end in itself. God calls Christians to mission specifically in bringing the message of life to a lost society. That is the way God has chosen to send the Gospel, the witness of saved people who are *becoming*.

Brooks says that the secular world pays little attention to what happens within the walls of church buildings, but it does see believers on the job, in the streets, in places where people gather. The daily witness, unplanned but a lifestyle of truth, is what changes hearts.

This involves self-denial, crossbearing, price-paying, putting others first.

The process also involves learning how to accept people as they are and learning how to express God's truth.

Studying God's Word is a necessary part of becoming people of truth, and it is a forever thing.

Wrapped around the sharing of work, witness, sorrows, is the sought-after gift of sharing Christian joy. Saved people can do that, celebrating what God has done and what he is doing. The lifestyle of truth needs memory only for that. □

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

More than one way

One of the liveliest books in the Bible is an account of the birth and growth of the first Christian churches.

The inspired writer, probably Dr. Luke, chronicles the daily lives of some of the early heroes of the Gospel. We can clearly see God's Spirit moving among the people, touching many of them for hazardous special duty.

The story is invigorating, accurate, honest, at times humorous.



ALLEN

In Acts 19 we read about Paul's activities in Ephesus and how he disturbed some busy idol worshippers.

The influence of the Gospel was so great that people were bringing their priceless heathenistic scrolls to a common place to be burned.

We read about "a great disturbance about the Way." A silversmith named Demetrius called the people together and complained that Paul was hindering the silversmiths' livelihood by persuading the people that manmade gods "are no gods at all."

Imagine that. How hilarious! Paul was saying that manmade gods are not really gods! How audacious of him.

This meant, said Demetrius, that the trade would be lost and the temple of Artemis would be discredited, and the goddess herself would be robbed of her divine majesty. The nerve of Paul. The city was in an uproar.

Does this sound familiar? Change just a few words here and there, and the event could have happened today or tomorrow in your town or mine.

Manmade gods are not real gods? How silly.

However, this kind of thing still happens today. People without Christ often find it difficult to believe in Christ. They substitute manmade things and begin to worship.

Our God is real, was not manmade, is omnipotent, has compassion, is able to save, and lives forever. How puny those Ephesian manmade gods became when the light of the Way shone upon them. Yes, Acts is an exciting book, a biography of the church. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ just for today
By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Work ethic for the family

■ families matter
By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

We have just celebrated Labor Day, and I am reminded of the responsibility of the family to endow the next generation with a healthy work ethic.

One of the issues that I see causing the most problems in marriages, especially the early years, is money.

This occurs when out-go surpasses income. It is my opinion that one of the major contributing factors in this problem is that young people in general have not had to work for what they have. Credit becomes the way to get everything they "should" have.

Families could do their children a great service by teaching them the responsibility of working for what they have.

Many families justify the fact that they don't require their children to work by saying, "None of their friends have to work like that."

One of the surest signs of

maturity is the willingness to put off present gratification for future goals.

Some parents need to learn this lesson so they can pass it on to their children. This maturity does not come with age but with guidance.

It is not only important we teach our children the necessity of work, but we teach them to work for the right reasons. Work should be the servant and not the god of happiness.

Frequently I notice youth working for the wrong reason. I don't think any child should be allowed, and certainly not encouraged, to neglect his school work in order to pay for gas or make car payments.

Working also helps a child learn to budget time. I started to school when I was five and finally finished when I was 47.

Every year I was in college I also worked full time, with the exception of one semester.

I did my poorest work in academics that semester because I used my not working as an excuse to procrastinate in my school work.

Our daughters, ages 17 and 20, both have full-time jobs with part-time pay. Our youngest daughter worked 74 hours this past week.

I am proud of what our daughters have accomplished. When I asked why she works so hard, our youngest daughter said, "You and Mama have always worked hard. We have heard you talk about the jobs you had in college. We have seen what the results are, and we want to have the same results." □ *Dr. Barkley invites readers to contact him with questions about family problems which can be discussed in this column. — Editor*

Start with a smile

Teacher to Gus: "Your exam paper was terrible yesterday. What was the matter?" Gus: "It wasn't my fault. The guy who sits next to me was home sick."

Take this truth

Have you ever thought about how indebted we are to others? Before complaining about the bad things you get that you don't deserve, think about the many good things you have that you don't deserve.

Memorize this Scripture

"We are laborers together with God" (I Corinthians 3:9).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to realize how fortunate I am to have friends who help me with spiritual problems, but may I learn to help as well as to seek help. □

Mail requests for hotel reservations for Atlanta '95 SBC starting Oct. 1

NASHVILLE — Requests for hotel reservations for the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta should be mailed Oct. 1, said Jack Wilkerson, convention manager.

The June 20-22 meeting is at the new Georgia Dome/World Congress Center.

The SBC Housing Guide and

Request Form is in the September issue of *SBC Life* magazine (formerly *Baptist Program*), published by the SBC Executive Committee. It can also be obtained from the executive directors' offices of the Baptist state conventions.

Wilkerson, vice president for business and finance for the Executive Committee, said

the forms provide complete instructions for filing. They also list hotels in the 6,800-room Southern Baptist block and their rates. The Hyatt Regency downtown is the convention hotel.

Reservations must be post-marked on or after Oct. 1 and will be made on a first-come, first-serve basis through the At-

lanta Convention and Visitors Bureau's computerized housing system.

Information about group housing for 50 or more people or special needs housing can be obtained by writing to the SBC Housing Information Office, 901 Commerce St., Suite 750, Nashville, Tenn., 37203 or by calling (615) 244-2355. □

Tennessee, Poland survey teams study new partnership

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

Late August meetings in Warsaw, Poland, concerning shared ministries between Tennessee and Polish Baptists leaders proved productive.

Now the two groups must gain approval from their parent bodies before nailing down a firm partnership.

But the spirit of cooperation and the shared enthusiasm permeated every conversation.

The Tennesseans took the first step toward partnership Sept. 9 when the Executive Board unanimously approved a committee recommendation and a report from the survey team.

The board will recommend the new partnership to Tennessee Baptist Convention messengers at the annual meeting in Memphis in November. If approved there and by Polish Baptists, the partnership will take effect Jan. 1, continuing through 1997.

Some Polish Baptist leaders are expected to attend portions of the Memphis convention. Representatives from the Tennessee Baptist Convention were hosted by leaders of the Baptist

Union of Poland for a week last month. The time was spent in exploring the feasibility of a partnership in missions with prime interest in evangelism, health care, construction, and ministries of the churches.

The partnership with Chile which was preceded by links with Upper Volta (Burkina Faso), Venezuela, and the Philippines, is over on Dec. 31.

The Tennessee survey team included Ray Moss, associate pastor, Two Rivers Church, Nashville; Paul Moody, TBC Executive Board president; James Porch, TBC executive director; Terry Sharp, SBC new partnerships director;

Russ Dunham, chairman Convention Ministries committee and LaFollette layman; Bill Wilson, Convention Ministries Division director; Bennie Creel, director of missions for Sweetwater Association, and Wm. Fletcher Allen, *Baptist and Reflector* editor.

The team left Aug. 18 and returned Aug. 25.

The overseas flight went from Cincinnati to Frankfurt, Germany. A second flight took the team from Frankfurt to Warsaw, with a stop in Prague, Czech Republic.



RUDCA CHURCH celebrates its 70th anniversary with baptism in the nearby river. After an early morning prayer and praise service at the church building, the congregation walked to the river and heard a sermon there before the baptism. Back at the church later, the Lord's Supper was observed. **BELOW, MARK AND TATYANA MCNEIL** move into new quarters at the seminary at Radosc. Photos on these pages by Wm. Fletcher Allen

The group was met in Warsaw by Ryszard Gutkowski, Polish Baptist Union general secretary; and two Southern Baptist missionaries, Mark Edworthy and Mark McNeil.

Most of the team was in Warsaw four nights, comfortably housed in rooms at the Baptist Center. Other nights were spent "on the road" while visiting pastors, church members, and church sites.

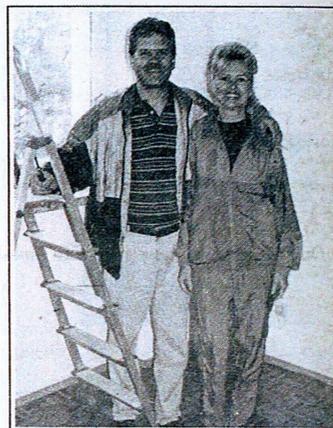
In order to see the most possible in our short stay, Gutkowski and Konstanty Wiazowski, union president, sent us in different directions for Saturday and Sunday.

Terry Sharp and I volunteered to make the long trek east to the Ukraine border to visit the church at Rudca, traveling with Wiazowski and Piotr Dajludzionek, a former union president and now superintendent of the Bialyktok region.

The others stayed in the Warsaw area and on Sunday preached in churches.

Ray Moss, Bill Wilson, and Foreign Mission Board consultant Bill Peacock went to Second Baptist in Warsaw. Moss preached there. The church is new, planted by Mark Edworthy. They meet in a school building.

Praga Church is across the Vistula River in Warsaw. Russ Dunham explained the team's mission and Bennie Creel preached. The church is 100



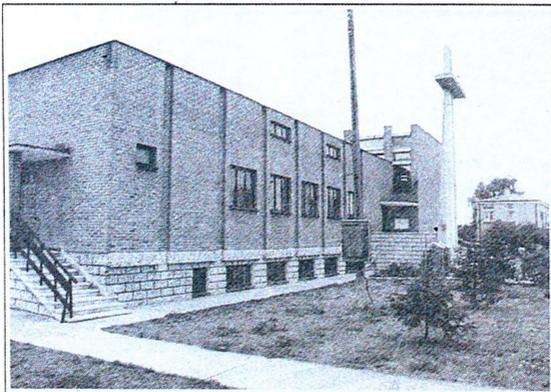
years old this year.

At the Warsaw church on Walicow, adjacent to the Baptist Center, James Porch told the congregation about the purpose of the visit, and Paul Moody preached.

On the next page, we will look at other events. □



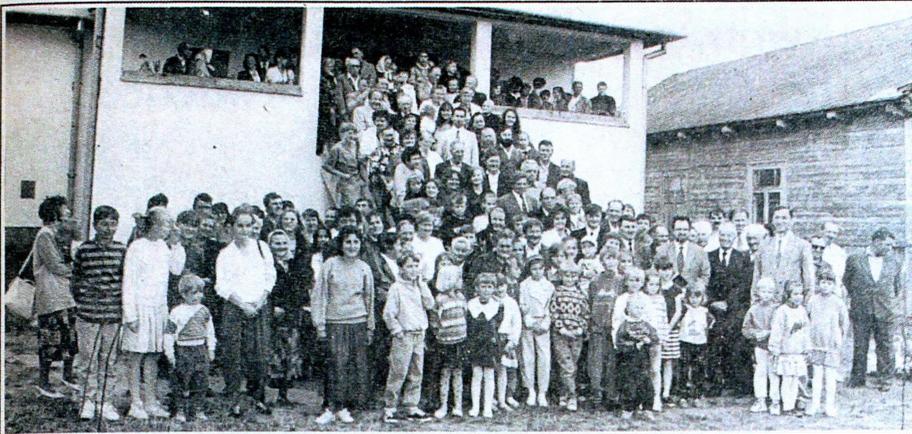
THE MAIN OPEN SQUARE IN KRAKOW is surrounded by many very old buildings. The Cloth Trading Building houses hundreds of handcraft shops. Horse-drawn carriages beckon to weary travelers.



THE SURVEY TEAM saw as many church sites as was feasible during the time in Poland. Some of the church buildings contain housing for the pastor's family as well as educational space. The church in Chelm is a larger building than some. Not too far from Rudca. Chelm is a large town on the highway to Krakow.



MANY OF THE Polish Union churches have memberships of less than 100, but there have been signs of growth. In Katowice, this church building is relatively new. Katowice is west of Krakow, yet still in the southeast, a busy industrial region where smog is one of the major problems. The front of the platform area features Alpha and Omega letters carved from wood.



THE CHURCH in the small village of Rudca is nestled near the border with Ukraine, a part of the USSR until three years ago. Pastor Eryk is a product of the church which was forced to move far away by the communists. A church was planted there where he was born and grew up. He has returned home as pastor. The church celebrated its 70th anniversary on Aug. 21.



LOCATED ON a beautiful street in a busy area of Lublin, the Lublin church is ministering to the neighborhood and to members who travel some distance.

New kind of partnership: Poland would be first linkage with Eastern Europe

Exploratory partnership discussions were held on Monday morning and Wednesday night, as the Polish and Tennessee leadership teams discussed mutual ministries.

Various evangelism and missions needs were expressed and attempts were made to plan for specific projects.

After the Monday preliminary meeting, the eight Tennessee Baptists and Bill Peacock of the FMB were guided by Ryszard Gutkowski and Mark Edworthy on a three-day drive to see more churches.

On this kind of "tour" we were able also to get a better understanding of the people, transportation system, cities, villages, economic and industrial systems, and the geography of some of the country.

Visiting with church leaders and hearing of their ministries firsthand was beneficial. In every case we were greeted with sincere hospitality and an eagerness to explore partnership possibilities.

Polish hospitality includes almost instant friend-

ship and a meal to fit the occasion.

We were treated to a variety of cuisine and the comforts offered to good old friends.

Traveling from Warsaw to Katowice, the farmland was much like middle Tennessee as we were approaching the mountains in the south. From there to Krakow and then over to Tarnow as we headed back to Warsaw, the fields were being harvested.

There were visits to churches at Katowice, Krakow, and Tarnow, and we saw a variety of accommodations.

A late night stop at Katowice was not sufficient to spend much time with the pastor, but we learned enough to know of a thriving ministry there.

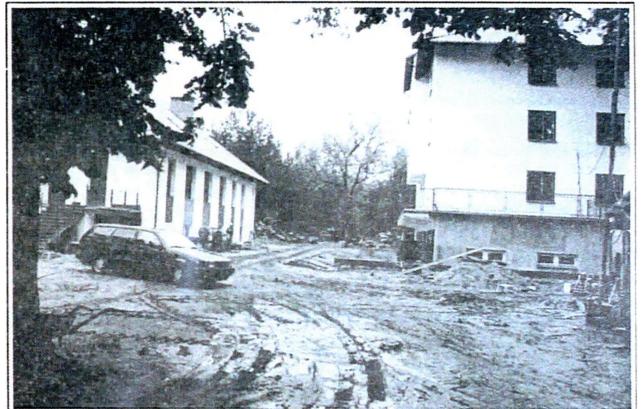
The next day we headed for Krakow, with a stop at Oswiecim, known as Auschwitz during the German occupation of World War II. This was the site of the infamous Auschwitz-Treblinka concentration camp complex, where at least 3 million people were gassed and cremated, and another half million died of overwork and starvation.

Terry Sharp and I had seen a similar camp on a smaller scale on Sunday at Lublin. The events of WW II and subsequent domination by the USSR for almost 50 years does not dominate Polish life, but reminders are always present.

Before returning to Warsaw, we met with Pastor Eryk Skozen at the Tarnow Church, another hard-working leader with the fire of evangelism in his heart. He told us of innovative ways the church is ministering to the city, and plans for more.

There are hundreds more stories to tell about the survey, and some will be shared in the next days and weeks as team members have opportunity. □

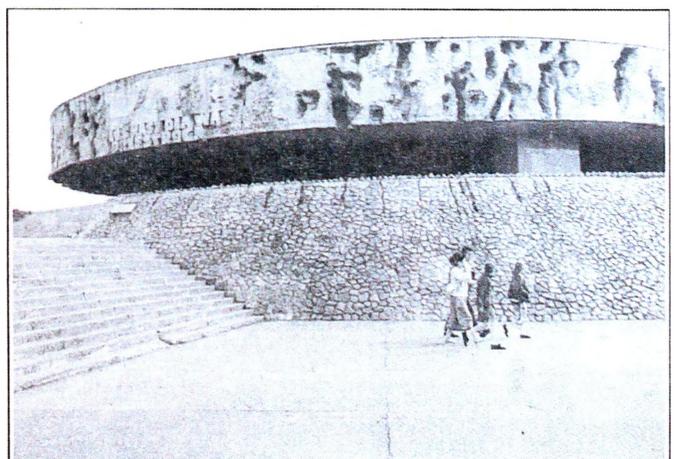
— Wm. Fletcher Allen



BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL CENTER at Radosc near Warsaw opens this month. Seminary studies have long been available in Poland, but this is a renewed effort. There is a conference center, living quarters and dining hall, and a chapel. The center is directed by Gustaw Cieslar, a former pastor at Krakow. There is more work to be done on the campus.



ST. MARY'S Church in Krakow where a trumpeter sounds his horn each hour in honor of a long ago trumpeter who sounded an alarm against invaders.



MEMORIAL at Lublin contains ashes of thousands of cremated bodies of Polish people murdered by Nazis in World War II.

Retired ministers offer inspiration, challenge

One of the most important resources Tennessee Baptists have are our retired ministers.

Through my years at the paper I have met numerous pastors who have continued serving God faithfully even after they "retired."

One of those pastors is a man I met just recently — Effer Snodderly of Lenoir City.

I was guest speaker at Union Chapel Church in Kingston for *Baptist and Reflector* Day where Bro. Snodderly was concluding 10 months as interim pastor. It was evident the people of Union Chapel loved Bro. Snodderly and his wife, Ruth. It was even more evident Bro. Snodderly loved that congregation even though he was there only a short while.

Union Chapel was Bro. Snodderly's third interim pastorate in Big Emory Association. The 74-year-old retiree's philosophy is simple: "I give them the best

■ an occasional word
By Lonnie Wilkey
associate editor

I've got." In addition, he loves the people and commits himself to staying with a congregation until they find God's man to lead them.

Wouldn't it be great if we all "gave the best we've got" to our own churches?

Bro. Snodderly is not really unique. He is just one of many retired ministers across our state who continue serving our Lord even after they have "earned" a rest. They should be a reminder and inspiration to all of us that we are to always serve our Lord faithfully wherever we are. Barring poor health there's really no good reason not to.

As nominating committees in churches across the state look for people to fill positions for the new church year, consider giving "the best you've got" when they contact you. □



WILKEY

Rwanda crisis hits close to home for C-N missionaries-in-residence

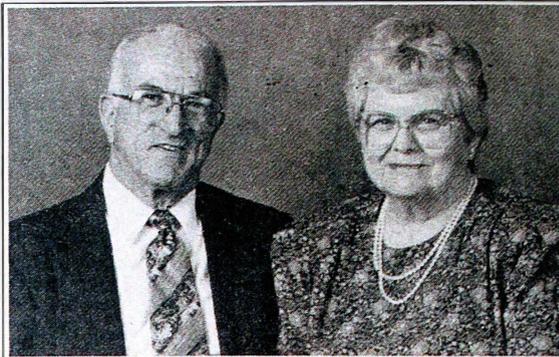
For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — The fighting in Rwanda may seem like a million miles away to most people, but to Earl and Jane Martin, Rwanda is not a far-away land, but instead is a place they used to call home.

Martin, missionary-in-residence at Carson-Newman College for the fall term, and his wife Jane spent five years, from 1977-82, in Africa ministering in the now war-torn country of Rwanda. But that was when the country was full of love and peace, Martin says.

"We had a very positive experience with the people of Rwanda," said Martin, who was the founding missionary of the Southern Baptist mission in Rwanda. "We were working with the beginning of a church in the capital city of Kigali."

Several years after the Martins left Rwanda, the fighting began. "It is completely devastated, utter chaos," he said. He fears that



EARL AND JANE MARTIN

many of the 35,000 known Baptists in Rwanda have been killed in conflicts.

Despite the atrocities that are suffered daily by the Rwandans, the Martins have faith in the fortitude of the people there and in the commitment of the country's Christian population.

"Missionary life has taught us to appreciate the fact that the people outside America have experienced God in ways that we don't even under-

stand," Martin said, adding they have realized there are ways in which people all over the world are the same.

With all of the years they have devoted to missionary work in other countries, the retired FMB missionaries now sense a need closer to home.

Through the classes they will teach at Carson-Newman, they hope to provide students with a clear understanding of what missions means in today's world. □

Here's Your Opportunity to...

Join the CELEBRATION

Tennessee Baptist Churches are celebrating the Great Commission. These churches are among the churches who celebrate by increasing the percentage they give to world missions through the Cooperative Program in 1994.

Alpha Baptist Association
Pinewood, First Baptist
Nunnally

Cumberland Baptist Association
Clarksville, First Baptist

Robertson County Baptist Association
Bethel Baptist
Greenbrier

Sweetwater Baptist Association
Sweetwater, First Baptist
South Madisonville Baptist

Beulah Baptist Association
Martin, First Baptist

Fayette Baptist Association
Rossville Baptist
Somerville, First Baptist
Oak Grove Baptist
Moscow

Shiloh Baptist Association
Counce, First Baptist
Michie, First Baptist
Olive Hill Baptist
Savannah, First Baptist
Selmer, First Baptist
Selmer
Unity Baptist
Ramer

Watauga Baptist Association
Grace Baptist
Elizabethton

Bradley Baptist Association
Candie Creek Baptist Church
Cleveland
North Cleveland Baptist Church
West Cleveland Baptist Church

Grainger Baptist Association
Block Springs Baptist
Blaine
Puncheon Camp Baptist
Washburn

Carroll-Benton Baptist Association
Atwood, First Baptist Church
Natchez Trace Baptist Church
Camden

Central Baptist Association
Cornerstone Baptist
McMinnville

Holston Baptist Association
Sunset Village Baptist
Bluff City
Bethel View Baptist
Bristol

Join the Celebration by increasing the percentage your church gives to world missions through the Cooperative Program. The new church year is an opportunity to give more... of yourself, your prayers, and your money to reach Tennessee and the world for Christ through the Cooperative Program.

For more information on the Cooperative Program please contact:

Cooperative Program & Stewardship Promotion
Tennessee Baptist Convention • Post Office Box 728 • Brentwood, TN 37024
(615) 371-2018 • FAX (615) 371-2014

Most Tennessee Baptists will not have the opportunity to celebrate the Great Commission by personally going to the uttermost parts of the earth. BUT THERE IS A WAY TO CELEBRATE. You can celebrate through your prayers for missions, participating in short term mission projects, and by giving monetary gifts in support of mission causes.

CELEBRATE THE GREAT COMMISSION

TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the churches

■ **Buffalo Grove Church, Jefferson City**, will hold revival Sept. 18-22. Bill Hazlewood, director of missions, Cumberland Gap Association will lead it.

■ **Walnut Grove Church, Kenton**, held a revival July 24-29 led by Floyd Lammersfeld. As a result, six people made professions of faith.

■ A note burning service was held by **Calvary Church, Big Rock**, Sept. 4. A gift of \$16,500 by the C.T. Mattox

family paid the church's debt. The following former pastors were recognized — Ronald Melton, Charles Borens, Bill Wilson, and Bobby Edmonson.

■ **Two Rivers Church, Nashville**, will hold a Divorce-Care recovery seminar and support group at 7 p.m. beginning Sept. 21. For more information call (615) 889-3950.

■ **Brentwood Church, Brentwood**, is joining Nashville Bible College and Maurice Painter in hosting an international seminar, Vision and Values. It will be broadcast live via satellite by Church Satellite Network. The interactive seminar is designed for church leaders. Bill Hybels and Ken Blanchard will lead it. Hybels is founding pastor of Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago, and Blanchard is co-author of *The One Minute Manager*. For more information call (615) 262-3125.

■ The 60th anniversary and homecoming activities of **Cedar Hill Church, Baxter**, will be held Oct. 9. A luncheon and afternoon music are planned.

■ Groundbreaking for a building addition to **Wilhite Church, Cookeville**, was held Aug. 21. The 8,000-square-foot addition will provide space for classrooms, a choir room, and bathrooms.



PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION of Corinth Church, Sharon, on its 125th anniversary are, from left, Jack Nooner, chairman of deacons; Richard Skidmore, director of missions, Weakley Association; John Clark, pastor; and Junior Simmons, who was recognized for 31 consecutive years of service as Senior Adult Sunday School teacher.

The building committee includes Larry Burgess, Levi Waldi, Jim Ramsey, Thurman Maxwell, Jim Jernigan, Jackie Farris, and Howard Sparks.

■ **First Church, Pocatontos**, will have a brush arbor revival Sept. 19-23. Phil Glisson, evangelist with Leawood Church, Memphis, will lead it.

■ Homecoming Day at **Kirk Church, Collierville**, will be Sept. 18. Former pastor Elzie Danley will speak during the morning worship service. A luncheon and music service featuring Heaven's Echoes will follow.

■ **Hillcrest Church, Nashville**, will hold home-

coming activities Sept. 25. The Steel Sisters and several others will sing after lunch.

■ the people

■ **Marilyn Shillings** was honored by Trenton Street Church, Harriman, for serving 20 years as church secretary.

■ death

■ **Herbert J. Miles**, 87, professor emeritus of sociology, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, died Aug. 25 in San Angelo, Texas. He taught at Baylor University, Waco, Texas; Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla., and 19 years at Carson-Newman College. His late wife, Dorothy taught music at Carson-Newman. They both retired in 1972. He was the author of nine books, most on male/female relationships.

■ the leaders

■ **Mitch Verdell** has been called as minister of education and youth for First Church, Jasper. Verdell is a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He is from Gleason and is a graduate of the University of Tennessee — Martin. His wife, Debbie is from Greenfield.

■ **First Church, Manchester**, has called **M. Brenton Cox**, pastor, Valley View Church, Cleveland, as pastor, effective Aug. 28. Cox is a graduate of Shorter College, Rome, Ga., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, with a doctor of ministry degree. He has been pastor of Bethlehem Church, Copperhill.



WORKING IN OKLAHOMA are members of the Hardeman County Baptist Association Crisis Assist Team, from left, Dot and Doc Williams, James Waldrip, Gene Phillips, Daniel Rogers, Donna Waldrip, Frankie Webb, Gene Howell, Helen Hutchinson, Monroe Willis, Charles Manley, Bill Hutchinson, David Gatlin, and A.W. Pirtle. They stand by the building they built for the Mekusukey Seminole Church in Seminole. They also repaired Middle Creek Church near Holdenville. The team also helped Georgia flood victims and did several local building projects this summer.

Dayspring 1994

Reaching Women Who Touch The World



October 6-8, 1994

Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama

(Jointly sponsored by the Home Mission Board and the Alabama Woman's Missionary Union)



Beverly Terrell



Marge Caldwell



Beth Moore



Esther Burroughs



Babbie Mason

Plus over 50 exciting seminars created just for you!

Program Fee:

\$45.00 until September 15; \$50.00 at the door (space available). Space is limited! Call 404/432-2902 or 404/898-7752 for more information.

You are invited to study organ

with Dr. Al Travis, professor of organ, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas



TRAVIS

Oct. 3-9, First Baptist Church, Dyersburg

Workshop for all Accompanists (Piano and Organ) and Directors

Oct. 4, Tuesday evening, 7 p.m. (no fee)

Limited Private Lessons and Group Lessons (\$50 per hour for private)

Call (901) 285-4811 to sign up.

Holy Land Tour

with Evangelist Henry Linginfelter

8 Days (all Israel)

Nov. 19-26, 1994

Deluxe Tour — \$1,989

(Tips and Taxes included)

Optional 3-day extension to Greece, Nov. 16-20 — \$485

Your host and co-hosts for this tour have over 40 years of combined experience in leading groups to the land of our Lord. This is a top-flight, deluxe tour which is not excelled by any other Holy Land tour offered today. You will be thrilled to walk where Jesus walked and visit all the Holy sites.

For more information and a color brochure, write Henry Linginfelter, 1848 Nobel St., Alcoa, Tenn., 37701, or call (615) 982-2661 or 983-8968.

Knoxville hospital reaches out with parish nurse program

For Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee is beginning a parish nurse program, the first of its kind in the state, according to Roger Ricker, communications coordinator for the hospital.

The hospital's outreach committee had been looking for opportunities to give BHET interaction with the community outside the hospital walls. At the same time, Carol Smucker, who just completed her Ph.D. in nursing from University of Tennessee, Knoxville, was looking for a hospital interested in starting a community health nursing program.

Smucker learned of Baptist's interest in becoming more involved with the com-

munity, so she approached the outreach committee with the idea of establishing a parish nurse program.

Parish nursing is a new field that is rapidly expanding. A Lutheran chaplain started the first program just 10 years ago in Chicago. Since then, parish nursing programs have begun all over the United States with the exception of the South, which has only one program (in Charlotte, N.C.).

Smucker became familiar with parish nursing while she lived in Iowa. She worked for a church, dividing her time between the church and education in parish nursing, which includes a variety of outreach

programs that concentrate on preventative medicine.

Smucker moved to Tennessee when her husband's company transferred him to Knoxville.

She remained involved in parish nursing by being affiliated with the National Parish Nurse Resource Center and the Health Ministries Association. She recently attended a national colloquium to address formulating national guidelines for standards of practice and care in parish nursing.

Classified

ORGANIST NEEDED: For Sunday morning and Sunday evening worship services. \$125 per Sunday. Brook Hollow Church, Nashville. Call Dan Jones, associate pastor at (615) 352-1295.

BIVOCATIONAL DIRECTOR: Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, is seeking a part-time or bivocational preschool/children's director. Send resumes to Evelyn Larson, 308 Overhill Drive, Old Hickory, Tenn., 37138

LOOKING TO BUY: Church seeks concert-quality grand piano. Contact Pat at (615) 684-3625.

BHET's parish nursing program will be similar to the one Smucker worked with in Iowa. She will coordinate the program, a part of the hospital's Pastoral Care Department.

The nursing will not be hands-on. Instead, it will be more educational in nature and aimed at prevention. The hospital's new program hopes to start out with three churches with one nurse in each.

Three area churches already have expressed an interest.

"The outreach committee has been looking long and hard for ways to extend itself to the community," said Pastoral Care Director Dick Denson. "Our mission says we will care for the health of the people of East Tennessee who seek our services, but we want to go a step beyond that and reach out to them before they have to walk through our doors." □

CHURCH STEEPLES

- BAPTISTRIES
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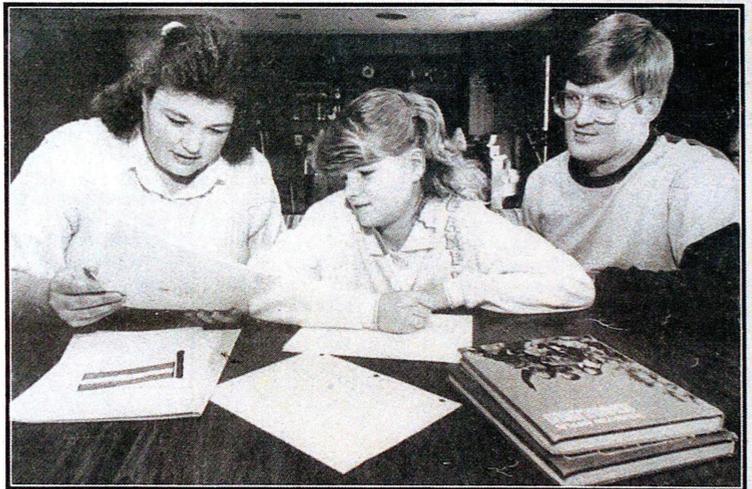
Our houseparents care for as many as ten children in one cottage or residential home. Household chores such as cooking and cleaning can at times seem overwhelming but it's all in a day's work.

At Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, however, houseparents are much more than housekeepers.

They must meet the emotional needs of our children who so often are coping with the aftershocks of mental and physical abuse. For many children, houseparents provide their first glimpse of the embodiment of Christ's love and compassion they need and deserve.

Carol and Jerry Dyer (pictured) are houseparents at Stewart Cottage on our Franklin campus. They know that through showing their concern by helping with school assignments, cheering on the sidelines as one of "their" kids scores a touchdown at the big game, or staying by the bedside of a child haunted by nightmares of an unhappy family life, they reflect the love of Jesus. "Sound counseling is important, good nutrition is essential," says Carol, "but Jesus is the Healer, and telling our children the Good News is the most important thing we do."

"Home" work: our houseparents across the state earn an A+ for outstanding achievement in caring for children!



Dr. Gerald L. Stow
President / Treasurer



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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Wisdom of living for God — Bible Book Series for Sept. 18

By Carl Scarlett, pastor, Miracle Church, La Vergne

Ecclesiastes helps us to understand the turns and changes in life. We need to see life from God's perspective so we may understand that God's plans are under his watch-care, and man cannot alter them to his own fancy.

Profit from all of life's experiences — ch. 7:13-14

When we consider the work of God, we must realize he is in control of every situation. He allows the crooked or as Carl F.H. Henry calls it, "a crimp in a thing, no one can straighten out; and God puts bad times with good so that no one may find out the future."

We may not understand the things that happen to us except as we leave them completely in God's care. Man cannot change God's plans,

but with God's wisdom we can see him working. As Paul said in Romans 8:28, "in all things together for good and to his glory."

Acceptance of good and bad helps to relieve the daily tensions.

The preacher says life has a proper balance that allows prosperity and adversity to balance out. Life will not be all good or bad.

Our responsibility is to accept whatever comes our way. Enjoy the times of prosperity.

When adversity comes, accept it as a time of learning to trust God, so we have a growing experience of faith (v. 14). Only God knows the future, so we need to live in daily dependence upon his providence.

Focal Passages
Ecclesiastes 7:13-14;
9:1-2, 7-11;
12:13-14

Death is everyone's fate — ch. 9:1-2

Solomon sought to understand why there seemed to be little difference between what happens to the righteous or the wicked. After his search for an answer he concludes that events in the lives of the righteous and the wicked are in God's care. God knows the inner man and whether man loves or hates him. The righteous and wicked die physically in the end.

Enjoyment of earthly life — vv. 7-11

The preacher relates that

life is brief and should be enjoyed while it lasts.

Daily activities such as eating and drinking should be enjoyed and appreciated from a thankful heart (v. 7).

Our lives should be clean as symbolized by the white clothes in verse 8 and enjoy the daily provisions from God.

Enjoy the lifetime companion God gives you. The love you have for each other brings daily joy and will give a proper balance in life (v. 9).

Our world needs the lesson in verse 10 concerning daily work. It should be a pleasure and not a burden, more than just a job that pays bills. We should work with joy and all our might for work is ordained of God. As we recognize it as God's gift, we will enjoy our work.

The preacher exhorts us to do whatever we set out to do with all our might.

The results must be left with God (v. 11).

Conclusion: Be loyal to God — ch. 12:13-14

Solomon who has tried everything under the sun, concludes that nothing man does or accumulates in life, apart from God, brings peace, joy, or satisfaction.

Only as one places his life in the hands of God out of reverence, awe, and complete commitment to his ways can one find the true meaning of life.

Solomon further exhorts us to seek to make this our daily duty (v. 13).

Live them, knowing that everything will come before the judgment of God (v. 14). □

□ Winning the battle — Convention Uniform Series for Sept. 18

By Randall Cummings, pastor, First Church, Ripley

How wonderful Canaan must have looked to Israel as they gazed over the far shore of Jordan. The people longed to possess this land, but between Israel and the promised land was Jericho with its forboding walls. Hope wavered.

Confronting the adversary — v. 1

Jerichos are not uncommon in the experience of the people of God. Great blessings are often strategically blocked by Satan's fortresses of hate and resistance. Jericho was a mighty fortress. Israel had marched over adversaries from the Sinai peninsula, but Jericho gave them pause. However, the shut gates oth-

Focal Passage

Joshua 6:1, 15-20

ers thought barely held back the wrath of a mighty army, were actually hiding a deep fear. If Egypt could not stand against such a God, what chance did Canaan have?

Acting on faith — vv. 6-14

Though full of spiritual significance, God's instructions were not the way Israel expected to fight a battle. A procession was to be formed for six days. This procession would be comprised of an armed vanguard, the ceremonial trumpets, the ark of the covenant carried by priests, and a rear guard. The procession was to walk around the

city once each of the six days while the ceremonial trumpets blared. The march of the ark around Jericho was an acknowledgment that, though the battle had not been fought, the victory had been given to Israel by God. Imagine how the faith of Israel swelled those six days.

Some commentators point to the demoralizing effect the daily procession of the ark had on the inhabitants of Jericho. However, this was a religious demonstration of a spiritual reality: Jericho for all its earthly might, was God's to deliver to Israel.

That's an important lesson for contemporary Christians. The world we live in is a faith-

denying world. Human society is a fallen society and it is in desperate need of salvation. But this world has been overcome by our Lord, Jesus Christ. Though it may seem daunting to us to maintain faithfulness to Christ while living in this world, we are the ones with the promise of being more than conquerors (Romans 8:37).

Claiming the victory — vv. 15-20

The seventh day brought the victory. After the six days of public display demonstrating that Jericho had been given over to Israel, now the battle, such as it was, took place. The procession went around Jericho seven times.

At the completion of the circuits, the ceremonial horns sounded a final blast and the people let out a great shout of victory and the walls of Jericho fell. What seconds before had been a mighty fortress was now a pile of stones. Israel could now see Jericho the way God had always seen it.

This was not a battle won of superior forces, demoralized foes, or brilliant strategy. This battle was won because Israel was faithful.

And we win our spiritual battles today the same way. The gates of hell cannot prevail against the church of Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:18). □

□ God is judge — Life and Work Series for Sept. 18

By Clay Frazier, retired pastor, Morristown

Some would believe that the attributes of love and judgment are contradictory. Love has a tough quality about it. Real love does not accept any kind of conduct. Love has a demanding quality. The soul of all ethics derives its authority from the judgment of God. Man may twist the ethic and get it out of shape, but judgments of man start with judgment of a holy and loving God.

None shall escape God's judgment — vv. 3-5

The first chapter of Romans establishes the truth that all have sinned. The second declares that all will be judged. That we judge others establishes the fact that we will be judged by God (v. 3). Man may ignore God's goodness, but he cannot ignore God's judgment. It will come to pass here and in the here-

after. Man often runs and hides from the arm of the law here on earth, but he will eventually face God. The righteous judgment of God must be faced.

God's judgment will be just — vv. 6-8

No one will deny that we have judged others unjustly. We may also feel we have been judged unjustly. We can be assured that God's judgment will be just. These verses (vv. 6-8) indicate that those who patiently seek "glory and honor and immortality" shall have eternal life. God will judge everyone according to his deeds, and those who are contentious and obey unrighteousness rather than truth will receive the indignation and wrath of God.

Man cannot be saved by good works, but by the atone-

ment of Christ. Paul is not putting forth an idea of salvation by works. The entire book of Romans does away with every other way of salvation, except the grace of God in Christ.

We have in our churches of today such a "positive" Gospel that we have almost cut out the "negatives" of sin, judgment, and eternal hell.

Since God is judge, leave judging to him — ch. 14:10

Many times we assume the role of God and judge openly, or in our thoughts and attitudes. The admonition is clear in this Scripture that we should be careful about judging our brother. Paul stresses that all will stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

All defendants will confess in judgment — vv. 11-12

Not often do people who are

Focal Passages
Romans 2:3-8, 14:10-12;
1 Corinthians 4:3-5

judged in our courts confess to their guilt or crime. In God's great court room at the end of the age, everyone of us will acknowledge he is Lord and confess he was and is right and righteous. We will give a full account to him and confess our every wrong. There is no hope outside of Christ. We cannot stand on our own in the blazing light of God Almighty and his judgment seat.

Only judgment of God counts —

1 Corinthians 4:3-4

We live in a time when we are aware of our peers. We should be more aware of God's regard and less of people's

regard. Paul said he cared little about how people judged him. He was careful as to how he judged himself (v. 3). Many of us are more self-conscious and people-conscious than being God-conscious. When it is all over here, and we stand in the presence of God and all that is real, only that which he judges worthy shall stand.

We will be judged on motives as well as conduct — v. 5

We will be judged more for "why we did it," than "what we did." God will make plain in that great day the innermost motive of our heart. Praise in this present time may be too early. Judgment will reveal whether our deeds shall have the praise of God. Man's only hope is that Christ died for sins, and we have accepted him as Savior and Lord. □

New BSSB-FMB venture to involve 750 students

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Up to 750 Southern Baptist college students from across the country will be involved in short-term mission projects overseas next year as part of a new initiative sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's National Student Ministry.

Global Student Involvement (GSI) will send teams of students and student leaders for two-week mission projects in Central Asia, Indochina, Southeast Asia, North Africa, Eastern Europe, and several other locations around the world, according to NSM consultant Brad Gray, who is coordinating the project in cooperation with the Foreign Mission Board.

"We already have 524 positions ready to fill and we're

expecting to have as many as 750," he said, adding most of the projects will take place in "World A" countries — locations the FMB has identified as being closed to a traditional missionary witness. □

Texas attorney general rules slot machine gambling illegal

Baptist Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas Attorney General Dan Morales announced on Aug. 23 his ruling that slot machine gambling could not be legalized in the state without a constitutional amendment — a decision praised by gambling opponents.

"We are not surprised that Attorney General Morales acted with integrity on this issue," said Phil Strickland, director of the Texas Christian Life Commission, adding Morales "refused to play poli-

tics with it." Dan Martin, executive director of Texans Against Gambling, likewise said he was "extremely gratified" by the attorney general's decision, saying any change in the constitution — which prohibits games of chance — should not be done "easily or frivolously."

Under his ruling, legalization of casino-style gambling would require a two-thirds vote in both the Texas House of Representatives and Senate. If approved by two-thirds of the legislature, it then would have to be approved by voters in a statewide referendum.

If Morales had ruled legalization of slot machines — the bread and butter of the casino industry — had not required a change in the state constitution, the matter could have been approved with a simple majority in the legislature and no statewide referendum. □

Texas Baptist paper devotes issue to youth

Baptist Press

DALLAS — "We need to do some things differently in Baptist communication."

That thought, confirmed by an in-depth study of the weekly *Texas Baptist Standard*, prompted Editor Presnall Wood to turn over an entire issue of the paper to youth. There were no regular Sunday School lessons or features. The Aug. 10 issue was 24 pages of youth-oriented and youth-directed reading, timed to be circulated around the beginning of the school year.

Wood said the first reaction was "very good." The paper printed extra copies and a number of churches ordered more issues to distribute to their youth.

In an editorial in the special issue, Wood said they did the issue because "the directors, editor, and staff of the *Standard* want youth to know they are important to the *Baptist Standard* and be informed Baptist youth." □

Alabama, UM leaders reach agreement on Nicaragua campus

Baptist Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — An agreement between two Alabama Baptist State entities and University of Mobile officials has been reached in a dispute over the university's branch campus in Nicaragua.

Last year, Troy L. Morrison, the convention's executive secretary-treasurer, and legal counsel raised questions regarding the convention-affiliated university's new campus in San Marcos, Nicaragua, which is ultimately expected to house 600 students.

Concerns were expressed related to whether convention bylaws had been violated, finances, and liability.

In special called meetings Aug. 19, the convention's executive committee and state board of missions ratified the agreement in nearly unanimous votes. Earlier, the university trustees had ratified the agreement.

Points of agreement include that the university will limit financial support of the Latin American branch campus to specifically designated gifts and funds generated from the endeavor and that university trustees will insulate and indemnify the Alabama Baptist State Convention from liability for the campus, including at least \$10 million in compre-

hensive general liability/indemnity insurance to protect the university, the convention, and their representatives against any claims stemming from the campus. □

Annuity Board closes Short-Term Fund

Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Short-Term Fund, one of four investment funds offered by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, will be closed in December, and a new International Equity Fund will be added to available choices in 1995, according to Annuity Board President Paul W. Powell.

"Most participants have determined that other funds are more appropriate for the long-term accumulation of money to provide for retirement income needs," Powell said.

"Total assets in the Short-Term Fund have steadily declined, and we have seen an increasing need to offer the opportunity to directly access non-U.S. equities," he added.

The Annuity Board is preparing notices to be sent to each person in the Short-Term Fund plan who will be given the opportunity to transfer accumulations to one or more of the remaining plans — Fixed Fund, Balanced Fund, or Variable Fund. □

Davis takes HSU post; Howell named interim dean at Midwestern

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — M. Vernon Davis, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been named director of graduate theological education and professor of theology for Hardin-Simmons University's Logsdon School of Theology in Abilene, Texas, effective Jan. 1, 1995.

Davis has served at the Kansas City seminary since 1983, joining the faculty as associate professor of Christian theology. He was elected vice president by trustees in 1987.

Seminary President Milton Ferguson appointed John C. Howell, professor of Christian ethics since 1960, to serve as interim vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty.

Howell served as academic dean at Midwestern from 1976-82, before returned to full-time teaching in 1982. □

Did you know your church newsletter could be on the back page of the Baptist and Reflector?

Just think, once a week you could get all your Baptist news — Tennessee, SBC, and your own church information — in one neat package, delivered to your home. Several churches across Tennessee already use the Church Page Plan which enables them to print their news on the back page of the *Baptist and Reflector*. This saves them postage, printing, and other related costs.

And, now here's an offer for those churches willing to try something new. Send us your church newsletter. With that information, we will prepare a trial page so you can see exactly how your newsletter would look if it were on the back page of the *Baptist and Reflector*. Then, if you like it, we will make a special three-months trial offer for your church to consider. There is no obligation. Take advantage today. This offer is available on a "first-come" basis.

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