

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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Baptists plan quick aid in U.S.-occupied Haiti

By Mary Speidel
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — While the world breathed a sigh of relief after negotiators averted a U.S. invasion of Haiti, Southern Baptists stepped up relief plans to ease the pain of suffering Haitians.

The projects — a joint effort of the Brotherhood Commission and Foreign Mission Board — likely will send at least 150 U.S. volunteers to Haiti. First they'll distribute food to hungry Haitians. Additional teams may work in medical care, water well repair, water purification, and construction.

"We're grateful it appears there will be a peaceful solution" to the crisis in Haiti, said

Ronald Wilson, who directs FMB work in the Caribbean. "We're evaluating when we can return to Haiti through various means so we can minister to human needs."

Planners first thought the relief projects would occur shortly after an expected U.S. military attack against Haiti. That scenario changed late Sept. 18 when negotiators led by former President Jimmy Carter reached an 11th-hour agreement with Haitian military leader Raoul Cedras. The deal, made as 61 U.S. invasion planes were on their way to Haiti, requires the nation's military leaders to step down Oct. 15.

"We're praying for a smooth transition so we can minister, but also for the nation of Haiti. We very much want a peaceful transition," said Wilson.

Missionaries David and Judy Heady, from Owensboro, Ky., and some of their colleagues spent most of the day Sept. 18 praying for U.S. and Haitian leaders trying to negotiate a settlement. The Headys, Southern Baptists, serve in Haiti through Global Outreach, a mission agency in Tupelo, Miss.

"There's been an extreme amount of tension," reported Heady by phone Sept. 19 from his home overlooking Port-au-Prince bay as he watched U.S. soldiers land in Haiti. "But we're thankful to God that in that 11th hour the troops were turned around and we didn't have a forceful entry by the U.S. military into this country."

A team of Southern Baptists hopes to travel to Haiti to assess human needs as — See Baptists, page 2

Tennessee trustee challenges Midwestern students

By Brenda J. Sanders
Midwestern Seminary News Office

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — "For the believer, Jesus Christ stands as the role model of a man who is fully surrendered to the control of the Holy Spirit," Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustee Roger Oldham told students during a recent convocation service on campus marking the beginning of the academic year.

Oldham, pastor of First Church, Martin, has been a Midwestern trustee since 1991 and is chairman of the board's instruction committee. His message focused on the text of Luke 4:1-37, a passage that describes a 40-day period in which Jesus was led into the wilderness, "a place of desolation and deprivation."

Oldham observed that Jesus, while in the wilderness, experienced sunburn, dry, cracked lips, hunger, and dizzying heat. "But in the midst of his wilderness experience, he knew he was being led by the Spirit."

The devil offered Jesus three significant temptations: the desire to meet physical needs such as satisfying his hunger, the desire for personal power, and the desire for personal pride, Oldham said. "Those are the temptations that we face today," he said, noting the temptation for personal power is appealing.

"The devil will lure us and tempt us with power games. It is a terrible thing when a man or woman of God is sucked into the vicious vortex of the power struggle," Oldham said.

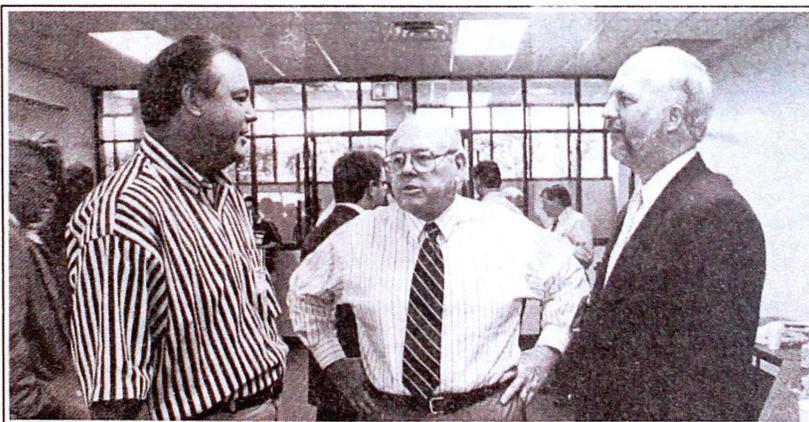
Because Jesus was fully surrendered to the control of the Holy Spirit, he was able to face the temptation of personal power, the Tennessee pastor pointed out.



OLDHAM

"And how did he do it? — by citing the Word of God. Jesus knew the Word. ... He had memorized the Word, he had spent time in the Word. The Word of God was his meat; it was his drink."

Believers today can follow Jesus' example and "have the same confidence in the Word of God that Jesus had. ... And in our simple biblicalism, we can simply believe that God's Word is true," Oldham said. □



Reaching the unreached

About 85 people attended a 'Reaching the Unreached' conference Sept. 6-7 at the Baptist Center. Speakers included John Bisagno, pastor of First Church, Houston, Texas; Harvey Kneisel, minister of missions, First Church, Houston; Dottie Williamson, home missionary, Jackson, Miss.; and Charles Chaney, Home Mission Board vice president. The conference offered strategies and models that have been used to reach those who haven't heard the Gospel. Above, Chaney, center, visits with Jere Phillips, right, director of the TBC Missions Department, sponsor of the event, and participant Tommy Vinson, pastor of Leawood Church, Memphis. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

**ACTS to carry
executed Tennessean's
testimony to youth**
Baptist Press

FORT WORTH — A voice from the grave will speak to young people via satellite Sept. 28, Oct. 5, and Oct. 6 when ACTS and FamilyNet telecast convicted cop killer Stephen Nethery's last interview, conducted the day before his execution in Texas.

Nethery was a Tennessean from Soddy-Daisy.

The interview is on the program "Close-up and Personal," broadcast on FamilyNet Sept. 28 at 8 p.m. EDST and simulcast on both ACTS and FamilyNet Oct. 5 at 11 p.m. EDST and again on Oct. 6 at 10:30 p.m. EDST.

Family Net is the Southern Baptist Radio and Television — See ACTS, page 2

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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State execs review HMB committee report draft

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Executive directors from more than 30 state Baptist conventions reviewed the confidential draft report concerning the Home Mission Board's relationship with state conventions.

Roy Smith, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and president of the state executive directors organization, called the discussion "a helpful process."

"I think it most important that we had a chance to share in the discussion of what we might do to enhance our work in the future," Smith told Baptist Press after the meeting, which he termed "open,

candid, and helpful."

The state executives met Sept. 16 with members of the controversial committee which was created by a vote of the HMB executive committee last June.

HMB board chairman Bob Curtis of Ballwin, Mo., agreed the meeting was beneficial, saying it cleared up misunderstandings and misperceptions. "I think the meeting alleviated a lot of preconceived concern about (the committee's) intent," Curtis said. "Our purpose has never been to investigate the state conventions but to strengthen and enhance our relationships."

Greg Martin, HMB director from Mississippi who made the motion creating

the committee, agreed the meeting was positive with "open and honest dialogue."

James Porch, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, attended the meeting. "My initial desire is to affirm Dr. Larry Lewis for his integrity and leadership. As to the forthcoming committee report, I pray that in its final form it will be healing in both nature and intent," he said.

Curtis and Smith told Baptist Press other members of the group also affirmed the leadership of Lewis and his staff.

Curtis said the report is confidential at this point because it is still a working draft. □

Population document flawed, ethicist says

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The final product of the recent United Nations conference on world population was "better than it could have been" without strong religious influence but remained seriously flawed, said a Southern Baptist ethicist who participated in the summit at Cairo, Egypt.

The action plan from the International Conference on Population and Development was adopted without reservation by more than 150 countries, while the Vatican and about 20 countries signed on to the document but without endorsement of various portions of it.

Dan Heimbach, associate professor of Christian ethics at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., who attended the conference, cited examples of ways in which it is "not a good document,"

though better than the one proposed before the conference.

■ While the document says abortion "in no case should be promoted as a method of family planning," the document says abortion "should be safe" where it is legal.

■ While the statement emphasizes the importance of family, it does not present the two-parent home as the ideal.

■ While it no longer calls for confidential access to reproductive services for minors, it says adolescents should receive "special family planning information."

Vice President Al Gore, who headed the United States delegation but did not stay for the entire meeting, meanwhile said the final document "is a watershed in defining a global approach toward stabilizing the world's population" and has the "full support of the United States." □

ACTS to carry executed ...

— Continued from page 1

Commission broadcast television service that reached into more than 50 million homes. ACTS is the agency's cable television service that reaches into more than 20 million homes.

"Producer Rosser McDonald interviewed Stephen Nethery just a day and a half before he was put to death by lethal injection, after midnight on May 27, 1994," said Jack Johnson, RTVC president. "This is the chilling story of a young man who had every Christian advantage, took the wrong road, then came to know Christ. I wish every young person in America could see and hear Stephen Nethery's testimony prior to his death."

Nethery, whose grandfather and great grandfathers were preachers, never denied killing police officer J.D. McCarty in February 1981. Instead, he expressed guilt and remorse for what happened.

Nethery, who along with a friend left Soddy-Daisy to find

"the good life" in the big city of Dallas, said what he did was not the fault of how he was raised by his parents, Hal and Evelyn Nethery, who lead the singing and play the piano, respectively, at Pilgrim's Rest Church in southeastern Tennessee.

"I had every break in the world. ... I had no good excuses. I had everything I needed. I had love and support ... a family. They took me to church and they tried to teach values to me. I just rebelled from an early age."

Nethery said he was "born again" July 1, 1981, about four months after he killed the police officer. During his 13 years of incarceration he received two stays of execution.

Asked what advice he would give young people, Nethery said: "Well, I feel like the most important thing in life is to have that personal relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. And, above everything, to make sure you have that intimacy." □

Baptists plan aid ...

— Continued from page 1

soon as arrangements can be made, Wilson said. The group will include missionaries who left Haiti just before a ban on U.S. commercial flights there took effect June 25. They are career missionaries Mark and Peggy Rutledge, from Murfreesboro, and Glendale, Calif., respectively; International Service Corps workers Ed and Mary Brentham, from Belton, Texas; and journeyman Todd Lowe, from Central, S.C.

Other team members likely will include leaders from the Brotherhood Commission, the FMB, and some state Baptist conventions experienced in relief projects, Wilson said.

The team will determine what needs Southern Baptist volunteers can best meet in Haiti. "We'll seek to meet the most immediate needs," said Wilson. That probably will be hunger relief.

"The information coming out of Haiti says that the food crisis is becoming worse and worse," said Rutledge, who has been monitoring the situation while staying temporarily in Hollywood, Fla.

Heady confirmed that report in a Sept. 16 interview. "Yesterday in our (medical) clinics, three-fourths of the babies we examined were in states of severe malnutrition," said Heady. "We had a 4-year-old in last week who weighed 16 pounds and a 3-year-old yesterday who weighed 12 pounds. The embargo has had a devastating effect on the public."

Based on such reports, Southern Baptist relief planners expect volunteers first will work in food distribution for about seven weeks. Project logistics are still being worked out in light of the changing scene in Haiti.

Trained Southern Baptists who want to volunteer for these projects should call the Brotherhood Commission at 1-800-280-1891. □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



September—

- 22 — Special blessing upon the life of Carol Poe today as she observes her birthday. She and her husband have served diligently as coordinators of our partnership.
- 23 — Ask for positive responses to the in-home Bible studies Missionary Andy Tuttle is beginning.
- 24 — Tennessean Jean Quinn is beginning her quilting ministry in LaSerena, to provide low-income women an opportunity for additional income. She will be sharing the plan of salvation daily with her group.
- 25 — Remember Missionary Martha Miller as she teaches young ones, birth—3-year-olds, in Sunday School.
- 26 — As the Comunidad Cristiana of Nunoa begins to utilize their facilities as a community center for various outreach activities, may God open doors and minds and hearts to cause these opportunities to be effective and productive.
- 27 — Give thanks for the leadership, people, and growth of La Barnechea, the new mission, in Santiago. Ask God's sustaining power to be upon this church, and missionary Carol Henson, as they experience this transition and reach new people.
- 28 — The Bostons are preparing to leave Chile and come to the states on furlough. May their time away from the field refresh and renew them.

Samford University trustees vote to elect own successors

By Mark Baggett
For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM — In a swift and unexpected move, Samford University board of trustees voted to become a self-perpetuating board, saying the move was necessary to keep political factions of the convention from stacking the board.

At its regular fall meeting Sept. 13, the board voted to change its charter and to re-incorporate in order to change its method of selecting trustees.

Since 1845, the state convention has elected the members of the Samford board, usually following the recommendation of the state's committee on boards. Historically, the committee has consulted with the school's president.

The Sept. 13 vote means the board elects its own members without needing convention approval. However, the Samford board retained the requirement trustees live in Alabama and be members of Alabama Baptist churches.

The change, effective immediately, will force the state convention to decide at its annual meeting Nov. 15 in Mobile whether to respond by challenging the legality of the move in court, by escrowing funds, or even withdrawing some of its funding for the school, or by accepting Samford's insistence its close ties with Alabama Baptists will remain intact.

"This university does not want to change its mission or its relationship with Alabama Baptists," said President Thomas Cortis. "We did not take this action out of hostility, retribution, or in response to any particular event. This is a result of quiet, reflective thinking about the future and destiny of this institution."

Board chairman Gerow Hodges of Birmingham said the move was made with future generations in mind. "It boils down to the long-term future of the institution," he said. "The future of the institution is too valuable to the Lord's kingdom, to Alabama Baptists, and to future students to put at risk. We have the responsibility as trustees to see that those who come behind us will find us faithful."

Dewey Corder, president of the state convention and an ex-officio member of Samford's board, was not present at the meeting and said he could not predict the impact of the decision. Troy Morrison, executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, also could not attend the meeting.

"I don't want to be reactionary, al-

though I was surprised," said Corder, pastor of First Church, Trussville. "I respect the integrity of the board members, and Dr. Cortis has affirmed to me Samford's relationship with the state convention."

This is the result of quiet, reflective thinking about the future and destiny of this institution.

— Thomas Cortis, president

responsibilities as state convention president."

Neither Corder nor Morrison, nor Chris Doss, the convention's attorney, was informed of the proposal beforehand, although Cortis called each after the vote. Cortis said he would have been "putting them in an untenable position" by giving them prior notice.

Morrison, in a statement, said, "I am very disappointed that the trustees of Samford University felt it was necessary to take this action at this time." He noted, "This is not a time to panic. This is an Alabama Baptist matter and should be discussed within the family of Alabama Baptists. The Alabama Baptist State

Convention has faced other problems in the past and has dealt with them. I am sure we will deal with this matter as we have the others. We must not let this action hinder us from our efforts to reach our world for Jesus Christ."

Samford, which enrolls 4,500 students and is among the top 5 percent of institutions in the country in endowment, currently receives approximately \$4 million of its \$68-million budget from the Alabama Baptist State Convention's Cooperative Program budget. School officials said Samford gives back almost half that amount in scholarships to dependents of ministers and ministerial students.

Cortis said recent events "alarmed" trustees about the potential for political manipulation of the trustee process. "It appears that political factors increasingly impact the Southern Baptist Convention, with obvious potential to disrupt the Alabama convention," the board said in "A Report to Alabama Baptists," a six-page question-and-answer statement mailed to pastors following the vote.

Calvin Kelly of Birmingham, one of two trustees voting against the change, said, Samford has "effectively been stolen from the state convention." Kelly said he also resented the "slick, orchestrated" way the vote took place and said it "reeks of distrust and paranoia on Samford's part." □

CLC trustees affirm signing of document

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission trustees unanimously affirmed CLC Executive Director Richard Land's signing of the controversial and historic document "Evangelicals and Catholics Together" and also affirmed the desirability of (the CLC staff) pursuing efforts with like-minded groups outside the denomination.

The trustees' affirmation, during their annual meeting in Nashville Sept. 13-14, was in response to a motion referred by the 1994 SBC in Orlando. That motion sought to censure

Land and Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis for signing the document and to bar future cooperative efforts. HMB trustees recently affirmed Lewis' signing of the document, then 11 HMB trustees signed a minority report dissenting from the action.

During the CLC meeting no trustee spoke against or voted against the motion to support Land. Land told trustees he was surprised the document stirred so much controversy, particularly among conservatives in the denomination.

In other actions, trustees:

- Voted not to accept Coop-

erative Baptist Fellowship funds retroactive to June 15, when the SBC in Orlando adopted a motion directing SBC agencies and institutions to decline funds from the Fellowship. Land previously had returned a check for \$1.47 from the CBF issued to the CLC after June 15.

- Approved the 1994-95 budget of \$1,684,238, a slight increase over the current \$1,665,131 budget.

- Approved presenting the CLC's Distinguished Service Award to U.S. Congressman Tony Hall, D-Ohio, for his work on behalf of world hunger and pro-life issues. □

Missionary 'muscle man' dies

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH — Orvil W. Reid, 86, who used his physical strength to gain a hearing for the Gospel as a Southern Baptist missionary in Mexico, died Sept. 9.

Reid discovered the spiritual potential in his muscles shortly after arriving in Mexico in 1938. Looking for a way to reach Mexicans, he noticed they would pay to watch circus strongmen.

"When I saw crowds in Mexico turn out to watch circus entertainers do feats of strength, I knew that if I developed my body I could use

it for the glory of God," he said.

He began by demonstrating simple feats. But later he allowed people to drive cars over him, pull ropes and towels tight around his neck, and smash stones and split wood blocks on his stomach — all while he recited poetry, sang, and quipped.

Just before his retirement Reid, at age 68, planned and completed a "Run for Life" from the Home Mission Board in Atlanta to the FMB in Richmond. The effort led 341 people to faith in Jesus.

He is survived by his wife, Alma, a native of Linden. □



Beary special gifts

Glenda Palmer of the Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union recently delivered 32 teddy bears to Jeff Lane of the Brentwood Fire Department. The effort, involving TBC employees, was a project of the Baptist Women's group at the Baptist Center. The bears will be given to children whose homes are burned.

CBF holds \$200,000 sent for SBC agencies

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is holding nearly \$200,000 designated for Southern Baptist Convention agencies but cannot forward the money after an SBC vote prohibiting its agencies from receiving CBF funds.

Cecil Sherman, CBF coordinator, told members of the organization's coordinating council Sept. 10 that he sent a letter July 8 to the churches which had sent the funds "asking for instructions on how they want us to deal with the money. We will return it to them or redirect it to a place we can deliver it." A second

letter will be sent in a few weeks and a third in December.

But, Sherman said, "...monies which are not redesignated by the end of the year will be placed in the CBF global missions offering."

The CBF is a three-year-old group of moderate Southern Baptists critical of SBC leadership. The council, which conducts business between the organization's annual general assembly, also approved affiliation with 14 state (including Tennessee) and regional groups, changed dates and locations for future general assemblies, and added eight missionaries during its Sept. 8-10

regular meeting.

A recommendation to establish criteria and a process for recognition of CBF-affiliated state and regional organizations was approved after lengthy discussion. The proposal establishes "some kind of quality control for use of the CBF name" and how groups "formalize their desire to have an official connection with the CBF."

Sherman reported 1,275 churches have sent funds to the CBF in 1994, however, only 500-600 appear to be church support" with the remainder designated gifts passed through the local church. □

Volunteer enlistment critical to meet church ministry needs

By Charles Willis
Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Every church member is needed in some position of service if all the ministry needs of the congregation are to be satisfied, according to a national consultant in church administrative services.

Jim Ryan, of the pastor-staff leadership department in the Baptist Sunday School Board, told participants in Bible Preaching Leadership Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center he believes a lack of leadership in Southern Baptist churches is not God's failure, but that of church leaders and members. Leaders "have failed to enlist and train God's people in service," he observed, "and some of God's people are living in blatant disobedience to God's will. Christian service is not optional."

Volunteers are prevalent in the Bible, Ryan said, in descriptions of disciples, saints, brothers and sisters, gifted persons, laborers together, priests and living stones.

Today, many people respond positively when volunteer opportunities are presented, he said. While the reasons people give for saying "yes" are not always the ones leaders would prefer, Ryan said many of the reasons are sound.

Among those he has compiled are:

- It sounds like fun.
- They really need and want me.
- It is a chance to learn new skills.
- It could help me with my personal life.
- I have gotten a lot of help; now it is my turn to repay.
- My best friend is asking me.
- I will have a chance to really influence what happens.

Ryan suggested diagnosing leadership needs of the current church organization, preparing a leadership roster of

needed workers, dealing in positions rather than people in current roles and listing only those positions to be filled.

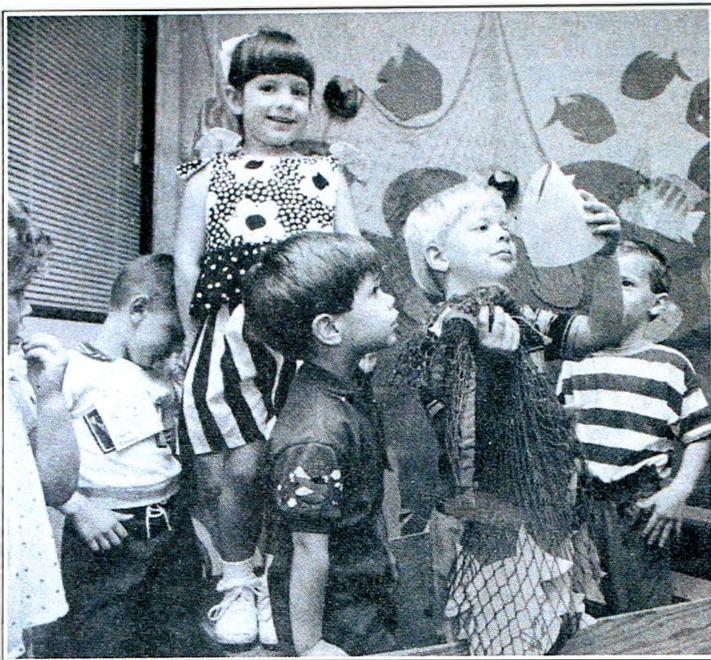
Needs for additional classes and departments to be created should be cited to forecast additional volunteer leadership needs and to provide for growth potential. Then, he said, priorities should be ranked, enlisting the strongest leader for each position. A job description should be prepared for each position.

Ryan said he advocates evaluating every church member for service, asking introspectively if the person could serve if willing and whether the person's current gifts and training would be acceptable to the church.

Among ways to search for volunteers among members, he suggested a Christian service survey, a gift search, a series of sermons on spiritual gifts, personal consultation with adult teachers for suggestions, a survey of new members, checking varieties of leadership lists and training records within the church, hosting an enlistment banquet and conducting a leadership commitment service.

Developing a climate for service is important, he said, through spiritual preparation in sermons and challenges, keeping leadership needs before the church and testimonies from those who serve. Among the cautions Ryan offers those planning to enlist volunteers is to avoid hallway discussions or telephone requests, to never apologize for asking someone to serve God, and to remember you have God's help and power.

In addition to fully describing the specific volunteer need and providing sample copies of materials to be used, he advocates adequate training to provide understanding of responsibilities, to improve the quality of work and to acquaint workers with the church's objectives, goals, purposes, plans, policies, procedures and doctrines. □



PRESCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S Sunday School classes are important to parents who look to see if their children will be well cared for in a happy, secure environment.

Children's workers can do more to help limit infectious diseases

By Susan Doyle
Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Childcare practices followed in the average Southern Baptist church are not adequate for the proper control of AIDS and infectious diseases, said a childcare expert.

Speaking to a group of children's leaders in a conference sponsored by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, Wendy Dever, minister to preschoolers and children at The Rock Church in Rex, Ga., talked about how infectious diseases are being handled in the church setting.

"The church today is in trouble," Dever said. "If the state inspectors came in and looked over our practices, I'm sorry, but I think there would be a whole lot of church nurseries closed down."

If workers love babies and children and want to work with them, they should follow the procedures every time, she said. There is no room for just some of the time. "If workers won't follow the procedures, they should not be allowed to work with little people," Dever said.

Dever listed the following as just a few of the practices which should be performed without fail in all church children's areas to help control disease:

■ **Wearing gloves.** Gloves should be located in every room in the children's area of the church. A fresh pair of gloves should be worn each time a worker changes a diaper, cleans a cut or scrape, changes a bandage, or cleans up after a child has vomited. Gloves provide protection not only for the worker but also for all the children, she said, and should be made of the proper material, should fit well, and should be disposed of properly.

■ **Changing diapers.** Diapers should be thrown away only after they have been placed in a plastic bag and the bag closed properly, she said. The diaper

changing surface should be cleaned with a bleach/water solution after each diaper change. Babies hands should also be wiped clean during the diaper change.

■ **All surfaces in the room should be cleaned on a regular schedule and with proper cleaning materials** — floors twice a day, beds once a day, toys at least twice a day. "Little people just don't have the resistance they need," she said.

■ **Washing hands.** Hands should be washed often, Dever said. Workers should wash their hands before they enter the children's room, before and after physical contact as often as possible, after trips to the bathroom, after a cough or sneeze, before handling any food or drinks, and after handling diapers or contaminated items.

■ **Marking food and bottles.** Children's food and bottles should be clearly marked and only given when following instructions given by parents. "Never send home dirty bottles and dishes," Dever said. "The message you'll send home is that this child is not important to us."

Adults are watching to see if children are well cared for and secure, she said. "When young families come to your church, they don't want to go down to the adult department and see what's going on. They want to go to the children's area and meet the people who are going to be loving their children," she said.

Workers can show their care and concern by providing an environment where everything that can be done to eliminate and contain disease is done.

Dever told the group if they had not been touched by AIDS, it probably would not be long before they are.

There are numerous myths about AIDS which are now widely accepted as truth, she said. "The best thing we can do as people who love little people is be informed." □

Avoid 'teaching rut' with variety

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Ann Cannon knows about the world's worst teaching method. It isn't lecturing or even reading the lesson from the book.

"The worst method is the one you use every week and it can be something very creative. But no matter how great it is, your kids are going to get bored with it if you keep using it over and over. You've got to have some variety, change things up a little," Cannon, a Christian writer, conference leader, and youth worker at Wieuca Road Church in Atlanta, said. She led the seminar "How to Break Out of My Teaching Rut" for youth workers attending the Church Growth-Sunday School Leadership Conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

Common "teaching ruts" identified by Cannon included: depending too much on one method, failing to get the youth to participate in the lesson, using

the same teams or class groupings, and waiting until the last minute to prepare. Cannon said research has shown the average youth worker spends only 17 minutes a week preparing to teach the Sunday School lesson.

"You've got to spend more time than that and you can't leave God out of the process," she said. "Your prayer life is also very important. You need to be praying for the lesson and for each class member by name."

Teachers interested in avoiding the "rut" must be willing to risk trying things that may be outside their comfort zone, such as drama, monologues or storytelling, Cannon said.

Another help is doing usual or normal activities in unusual ways. "Maybe during the lecture you could give them all some paper so they can doodle while you talk. This may sound strange, but it keeps them quiet and they often end up doodling what you're talking about in the lecture." □

More can be better, along with efficiency

It is not often that a company asks its customers whether the product's price is right. Certainly that is true in the business world where financial profit is the motive of the owners.

The company owner and those who produce the product most likely will know whether the price is too high, too low, or just right.

However, if you have a good product selling at a ridiculously low price, the company and its employees may need to charge more in order to remain financially stable and have a quality product.

If the company is subjected to arbitrary cost increases in the production and handling of the product, the customer usually gets the bill — but not always.

You have probably guessed by now that reference is being made to the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Even though the paper is produced and sold at a tremendous bargain price to many grateful customers, the paper wants more readers to achieve a lower production cost.

Here is the bonus: it is more cost effective to have more subscriptions. With more subscriptions this paper can be produced for less cost and sold for a lower price.

Approximately 50 Tennessee Baptist

churches accepted the challenge given especially for *Baptist and Reflector* Day on Aug. 21. Almost 5,000 extra copies of the paper were sent to those churches for use Aug. 21.

The special day on the denominational calendar served to emphasize the role and significance of the *Baptist and Reflector*. For some churches it was an opportunity to get acquainted with the paper. For others who are longtime subscribers and friends, the relationships were strengthened.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Before the question of cost is addressed, a look at the paper's role will be helpful.

■ The paper provides news, features, facts and figures, and other information that is encouraging, enlightening, informative, and helpful to its readers.

■ The paper represents the interests of churches, church members, associations, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, as well as Southern Baptist and worldwide Baptist news and events.

■ The paper is the only official newspaper of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

■ The paper presents an accurate picture of Tennessee Baptists to the world.

■ The paper's staff tries diligently to

produce the best possible state Baptist newspaper in the most efficient, least costly, most informative and reliable package possible.

With second class postage costs rising constantly and with occasional hikes in the cost of newsprint and production, we have to look always at ways to offset price increases and increase efficiency.

With these measures underway, the most important step would be to have more subscribers. This is exceedingly difficult in today's world where little reading is done, but a bargain is a bargain. With an individual subscription costing \$7.50 a year, and the lowest rate amounting to \$6.25, our rates are low.

But some other state Baptist papers with more subscribers charge as little as \$4.25 for a year. That is cost efficient.

We will continue to provide a good and healthy product, with the strong belief that more and more Tennessee Baptist churches will begin subscribing through the church budgets for every resident family. Then we will be able to provide the lowest rates for everyone!

Now is the time for Tennessee Baptist churches to subscribe for all resident families. Churches will be together, and more Baptists will be better informed. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Joy of Orvil Reid

To know Orvil Reid means to know joy in full measure. So if you knew him, you knew a joyful person, and in some way his joy would have brushed against you.

You see, his joy came from the Lord and his exuberance spared no energy, his drive toward excellence in Christian courage and commitment knew no bounds.

Spare, almost thin, surprisingly agile, he continued to



ALLEN

amaze crowds when he was past three score and 10.

What did he do, this missionary to lost people? What was it that made him

so unusual?

Read his story on page 3 of this week's paper, but stay here with us for a closer personal look.

Orvil Reid was a death-defying missionary to Mexico. He worked under the banner of Christ, serving almost half a century through the Foreign and Home Mission boards.

When he retired, he returned his severance pay, and raised more missions money by running from Atlanta to Richmond. He laughed at Satan — not because he doubted his evil authenticity. He laughed because Orvil was servant to the Overcomer.

He made people laugh also, with his corny (but clean) jokes and his endless banter while he went about his work of showing unbelievers how weak Satan is when faced toe to toe with someone who laughs in his face.

Oh, letting the vehicles run over his trim body wasn't all that big a thing, he would say. Just remember that a human body is the dwelling place of Christ. When the best man in the crowd couldn't wrestle him down for a legitimate "pin", Orvil would remind us that daily we wrestle with the worst Satan can offer, and we win because of our Advocate.

When Orvil died the other day, as he joined the Lord he left thousands of smiling Christians.

I may never remember one of his corny jokes, but I will always know that when I met Orvil Reid, I met a real man who loved to laugh. ☺

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Mrs. Smith complained the doctor's bill for her son's measles was too high. He said, "But I made seven trips to see Billy."

She said, "Yes, but he exposed the entire class and 14 of them came down with it. Don't I get credit for increasing your business?"



WOOD

Take this thought

We get help in strange ways. Never underestimate the importance of friends who can speak a good word for you. Don't forget to thank your benefactor. Shakespeare called ingratitude a "marble-hearted friend."

Memorize this Scripture

"Ye are our epistle ... known and read of all men" (II Corinthians 3:2).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to remember I am a part of everyone I have ever met. May I not forget that it is true also, everyone I have met is a part of me. □

Making time for family

We live under the tyranny of the urgent. The hectic schedules of our lives demand that certain deadlines be met.

The family seems to get lost in the shuffle of schedules and the array of appointments that we all have.

I want to make a couple of suggestions concerning the appropriation of time for the family.

Every family should strive to have at least one night a week set aside for the family to enjoy some activity together. I think it is also important for families to attempt to eat at least one meal together each day.

I am also realistic enough to realize that this will be next to impossible for some. For these let me simply encourage you to shoot at the target even if you don't hit the bull's eye each time.

This is certainly one of those instances where it is better to have aimed at something and missed than to have aimed at nothing and hit it.

One night a week should be guarded as an island in the middle of the turbulent times of demand to relax and enjoy the safety and security of the family. These don't have to be big ticket items.

It can be simply renting a movie, popping some popcorn,

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

and being together or maybe a picnic at a local park. There are two main considerations for me.

First, these should be activities that are planned by mutual consent with equal voice and vote by all. Second, everyone should participate by mutual consent.

Children can be given a choice: "You watch the movie with the family or go to your room with no television or phone."



BARKLEY

They are still given the privilege of making the choice, but the "right" choice is encouraged.

There was a time when life seemed to be slower. The family did not think anything of sitting down together to eat two, sometimes three meals a day.

Today with our busy lifestyles, it appears to be impossible for families to sit down, face each other and talk while eating a meal together. Some, however, are complicating this problem by standing around a bar or sitting in front of a television while eat-

ing. I know of some families where each member of the family prepares a plate and goes to his own room with his own television to watch while he eats.

Meal times can be a natural time for sharing the events of the day with each other.

Some parents freely admit that they don't know what their children are doing or with whom they are doing it. Meal time would be a great time to invite them to share.

I am surprised at some children who seem to have no idea what their parents do all day on their jobs.

These children do not seem to have the opportunity to hear a parent talk about what went on in their day.

These suggestions require intentional intervention. God is not going to stick an extra hour in a day or night in our week so that we can spend time together.

Each of us will have to carve out our own place for the family in our already busy schedules. □

Dr. Barkley has offices in Bartlett and on the campus of Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis. Readers are invited to send questions for discussion to the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Congregation meets in house, yet ministers

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

Whatever happens to the Cooperative Program funds which support church planter apprentices?

In the case of James Henderson, they helped him grow a congregation in Memphis.

From 1989-91 Henderson received the monthly stipend to enable him to try to begin a congregation. At that time a few people were meeting in his home. But several months lat-

er the group had begun meeting at a day care center and had organized into Oak Haven East Mission.

Support also came from local Baptists. Lamar Terrace Church sponsored the group. And seven Memphis churches provided Henderson financial assistance through Shelby County Baptist Association.

When the African-American congregation was ready to buy its first property, the Tennessee Baptist Convention helped again. It provided a grant to

supply funds for the purchase. The congregation bought a building which had been a residence. And now that they need to build an addition to the building, they have received a building loan from the TBC.

The congregation is thankful for its relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention, said Henderson, even though most African-American churches align with the National Baptist Convention.

For Henderson, it all began when he was just 25 years old. He was working for the phone company. He had two cars and a nice house, but "I didn't have life," said Henderson.

One day as he serviced a phone for a handicapped man, he accepted a spiritual tract from him. As he read it in his vehicle, Henderson read John 10:10 and realized that God through Jesus offers abundant life.

Since that time, Henderson has had other lucrative careers. He has operated a greeting card and gift shop and worked in the insurance in-

dustry. But he's discovered unique benefits from leading a growing congregation. He's found peace and joy he's never known before, said the former member of Lamar Terrace Church, Memphis.

He credits Lamar Terrace with much of his spiritual growth. It was the first and for many years the only African-American church in Memphis which was a member of the Southern Baptist Convention. Henderson also is a graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis.

Henderson's spiritual pilgrimage is reflected in the congregation's new name, which was adopted after it relocated. It is known as Zoe — the Greek word for life — Mission. And the community's residents need life, said Henderson.

In its location in southeast Memphis, 20,000 people live within a one and one-half mile radius of the mission. Those people have access to two black Baptist congregations, he noted. Zoe Mission is the only black Southern Baptist congregation within a five-mile radius.

The large concentration of people in such a small area is reality for the residents of the projects — government subsidized housing projects. And the members of Zoe are attacking the problems found in the

projects, some of which are located across Knight Arnold Street from the church, said Henderson.

On most Saturdays he joins several members in visiting prospects for the church in the projects. They contact the families of children who attended Vacation Bible School. During the visits im-



HENDERSON prompts conversations with residents result in new prospects, reported Henderson.

The mission, which drew about 50 one recent Sunday morning, provides tutoring for students, holds a Bible study in an apartment complex, and has a clothes closet in conjunction with other churches in the area. And members have plans for a food pantry, job training, youth recreation, family counseling, and drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs.

"We have a lot of social services in the city of Memphis, but I feel that the church should be meeting some of those needs," said Henderson.

"I'm just believing the Lord is going to send us all that we need to do this ministry that he has for us." □



BREAKING GROUND FOR ZOE MISSION, Memphis, are, from left, Devin Lipscomb, Morsito Taylor, Walter Lipscomb, Brandon Lipscomb, Vanessa Lipscomb, James Henderson, pastor, and John Draper of Shelby County Baptist Association.

Final medical project for partnership heals many Chileans

For Baptist and Reflector

Thirty-six volunteers served on the final medical project of the three-year Chile/Tennessee Baptist Partnership Aug. 5-16.

Larry Rogers, a pediatrician and member of First Church, Concord, Knoxville, led the team which served in six rural areas near Temuco, including the Mapuche Indian Reservation. The volunteers were requested by the local Baptist association's Woman's Missionary Union.

Team members visited patients in a rural hospital, Vilcún Hospital, and distributed toys to the children there, reported Missionary Clara Brincefield. The medical personnel were anxious to visit with the North Americans. And at the Baptist church in Vilcún the volunteers treated nearly 500 people in three days with limited space and equipment, reported Brincefield. A Chilean doctor

working with the team said, "You must go home and tell your people to come. You are showing the love of Christ with your medical skills."

Local pastors and lay leaders were on duty all day at each of the six medical clinics held to do spiritual counseling with each patient, she added. Hundreds of people accepted Christ. "Yes, I want to receive Jesus as my Savior,"

was a statement often heard that week, reported Brincefield. □



HOLDING A NEWBORN baby in Vilcún Hospital is Marilyn Schultz, right, a nurse from First Church, Concord, Knoxville, as she makes rounds with Missionary Annette Racey, middle, who served as translator for a Chilean nurse.



VISITING CHILDREN in Vilcún Hospital is Larry Rogers, pediatrician from Knoxville and leader of the project. — Photos by Clara Brincefield



DENTAL ASSISTANT Linda Rogers of First Church, Concord, Knoxville, prepares one of hundreds of patients who waited to see a dentist. The dental workers were allowed to work in a local public dental clinic.

Texan begins 20th year of ministry to deaf in Knoxville

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — When Jerry Seale came here in 1975 to serve as pastor of the deaf congregation of First Church, Knoxville, he thought he would eventually return to his native state of Texas.

Twenty years later, he's still in Knoxville and though his roots are in Texas, he's at home in Tennessee.

Seale, who is hearing, became interested in ministry to the deaf in 1970 while participating on a mission trip to Jamaica.

It was there he began feeling a call to work with the deaf. Upon returning to the Dallas-Fort Worth area, he entered Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and began to learn sign language.

He began working in a volunteer position with the deaf in a local church. Seale later served as missionary to the deaf for the Baptist General Convention of Texas where he "gained a wealth of experience."

The travel demands were great and inconsistent with his lifestyle and family goals, Seale recalled, noting that he became interested in serving one church and in 1975 he accepted the call to Knoxville.

Despite not being a major metropolitan area, Knoxville has a large deaf population. Seale credits this to the fact that the Tennessee School for the Deaf is located in the city. Plus, he added, the University of Tennessee offers a deaf education program and the Tennessee Valley Authority, located in nearby Oak Ridge, employs deaf personnel.

Seale estimates there are more than 3,000 deaf people in Knoxville. The deaf congregation at First Church consists of 75 family units and about 235 members, Seale said.

Those numbers give First Church one of the largest deaf congregations in the Southern Baptist Convention, trailing only First Church, Dallas, and a church in Houston. At one time the Knoxville church was the largest in the SBC, Seale noted.

First Church has had a ministry to the deaf since 1860, Seale said, noting, however, that it was a "casual" ministry until 1922 when Laura Formwalt, a member of the church and a teacher at the School for the Deaf, became committed to providing ministry to the deaf in the city. For almost 45 years she did the ministry by herself, Seale said.

In 1968 the church called its first minister to the deaf whose approach was education and Bible study.

When Seale was contacted about moving to Knoxville, he made it clear he was more interested in a pastoral approach, primarily to the resident deaf congregation.

Seale said the Knoxville congregation, because of their needs, preferred their pastor to be hearing.

Ninety percent of their children are hearing, so Seale can also communicate with them.

"Since the beginning I've wanted to be their pastor, not just their preacher or teacher," he said. He noted there is a unique level of intimacy established between himself and his congregation that pastors of hearing churches do not have.

"I am called on to interpret in doctors' offices, on the job, and in banks," he explained. "I am privy to categories of information a regular pastor would not have," Seale said.

In addition, he is trained in marriage and family counseling which also causes a degree of intimacy, he said.

"Unless a therapist understands deafness and the cultural aspects, he or she can't really help a family or couple to heal," Seale said.

When preaching, Seale signs his own sermon. Someone else adds the vocal for the hearing in the congregation, he noted.

Seale explained that sign language is easier understood by the deaf when words are not spoken.

Unlike some churches which need to involve hearing people to minister to the deaf, the First Church congregation does not have a great need for hearing people. The worship services are led by the deaf and Sunday School classes are taught by the deaf, he said.

The deaf congregation relates well, however, to the hearing membership of First Church, Seale observed.

In an effort to keep the deaf congregation involved with First Church, there is a deaf member on all committees, Seale said. "It makes them feel they are a part of the church."

Seale noted the church has tried to accommodate the needs of

the deaf. The senior pastors of the church have been very supportive and some have even learned to sign, Seale added.

The deaf ministry at First Church has been a training ground for other ministries in Tennessee and around the world, something of which Seale is proud. "The congregation has had a significant influence on ministry to the deaf across the Southern Baptist Convention," he said.

Seale's ministry at First Church has been aided by his family, who all know sign language. His wife, Gaynell, has taught Sunday School and interpreted in the community. Seale's daughter, Anna, is a student at Belmont University in Nashville and is involved in the deaf ministry at Brentwood Church, Brentwood. She wants ministry to the deaf to be a part of her career, he said.

As he begins his 20th year in Knoxville, Seale's goals are simple.

"I want to continue to empower our deaf people spiritually and in their own ministries among themselves.

"It's taken me this long to understand how important that is. Because of my longevity I can be a catalyst," Seale said. □



PRESENTING A PLAQUE of recognition to Pastor Kevin Quinn is George Hill, left, director of missions, Carroll-Benton Association.

Union Academy Church celebrates 150-year ministry

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

MCKENZIE — The new pastor had been on board for half a year but the people of Union Academy Church, Carroll-Benton Association, wanted to proceed on schedule with celebration of the church's sesquicentennial.

"It was a significant occasion," said Pastor Kevin Quinn, "so we decided to go ahead." A history was written.

On Sept. 4 the church celebrated 150 years of ministry in Big Buck Community.

On the big day, the church had Gerald Stow of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes as speaker, flanked by singing from local musicians and a table-bending dinner on the grounds.

The afternoon program allowed time for all former pastors to do some remembering. Member Helen Barrow shared some memories.

Quinn dedicated a new cornerstone in the church build-

A more suitable place to worship.

— Founding group, 1844

ing, noting the 150th anniversary's observance.

In the morning service, George Hill, director of missions for Carroll-Benton, presented the church with a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society, and made references to the church's long history in the community.

Fleetwood Scates, one of the older church members, spoke briefly in the afternoon service. He became a member of the church in 1914. Three members present had had family members in the church for at least 100 years.

Union Academy Church was organized in December 1844 with 14 members. □



SINGING AT CELEBRATION are Phillip and Peggy Welch, right, and daughters and son, Angela Hartz, Stephen, and Stacy. Daughter Beverly Walker is their accompanist. Phillip Welch is church music director.



PASTOR JERRY SEALE of the deaf congregation of First Church, Knoxville, pauses in the church's sanctuary.

■ Tennessee features Cross Plains church dramatizes centennial



PROVIDING MUSIC FOR THE DRAMA are members of the Mount Carmel Church choir, from left, front row, Mildred Swann, Martha Ellen Henry, Sheila McDuffy, and Bill Yeager.



SINGING DURING THE DRAMA are, from left, Kaci Faulkner, Beth Keith, Sara Velma Osborne, Lindsey Forewright, Anna Fisher, Katie Cope, and Rachel Lambert.

For Baptist and Reflector

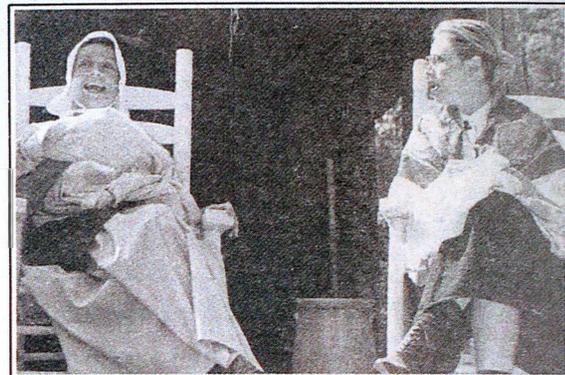
CROSS PLAINS — About 500 people gathered Sept. 11 at the site where people had met 100 years ago to begin Mount Carmel Church, Cross Plains.

Some sat on bales of hale. Many wore clothes from that era. They met at a house which was significant to the events — it was a tenant house of the couple who initiated the church and donated

the land for it.

The crowd relived the history by watching a drama about that couple — Amanda and George Swann.

The audience watched a family struggle in one central Tennessee town. They saw children learn from their parents. They saw family members express different personalities. They learned that love and persistence by one woman resulted in a church which remains today. □



DISCUSSING THEIR HOPES, including those for a church, are Amanda Swann, left, played by Cindy Owen, and Perneicie Ayers, her sister, played by Janice Hellmann.



HONORED DURING THE ACTIVITIES are Lana Osborne, left, author of the drama and city manager of Cross Plains, and Mildred Swann, center, who initiated the drama, by Bill Owen, pastor.

Acteans from Clinton serve in Dominica

For the eighth consecutive year Acteans from Edgemoor Church in Clinton served as Acteans Activators. Activators are members of the organization for girls in grades 7-12 which become involved in missions.

This year an eight-member team served in Dominica, an island in the Caribbean with about 85,000 inhabitants. They helped Melody and David Graham, Southern Baptist missionaries, hold Vacation Bible School in Boetica and Bense, two villages. A total of 130 children and youth enrolled and 26 made professions of faith.

The Grahams are health care workers on the island. He operates the Mustard



POSING DURING STAY in Dominica are team members, from left, Nichole Long, Julie Longmire, Kristin Crabtree, Bonnie Hughes, Sherri Wentworth, Patsy Longmire, and Allison Longmire. — Photo by Lola Byrd

Seed Dental Clinic. Mrs. Graham does literacy work in a prison and works with expectant mothers. □



TBREA Officers Meeting

Meeting recently at the Baptist Center in Brentwood were the officers of the Tennessee Baptist Religious Education Association, from left, Roger Hagan, First Church, Memphis; Cindy Franks, Tennessee Baptist Convention; Jim O'Dillon, Ooltewah Church, Ooltewah; Rusty Sumrall, Nashville Baptist Association; and Carl Schooling, First Church, Martin. O'Dillon is president of the organization.

■ the churches

■ **Calvary Church, Oak Ridge**, will hold revival Oct. 16-19. It will be led by Phil Glisson, evangelist with Leawood Church, Memphis.

■ **Parkburg Church, Pinson**, had 18 people make professions of faith and 16 make other commitments during its Aug. 21-24 revival. Henry Linginfelter led it.

■ **Sharon Church, Savannah**, broke ground Aug. 14 for an addition to its present building. It will add a two-story educational building and family life center, which is scheduled to be open by the first of the year.

■ **North Springfield Church, Springfield**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary Oct. 2. Michael O. Duff, pastor, will speak during the morning worship service and former pastors will be recognized.

■ **Falcon Church, Selmer**, will hold a Fall Ladies Conference entitled "Walking and Talking With Jesus" Oct. 22. Marolyn Ford will lead it. The schedule is 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information call (901) 645-8208.

■ An addition which will include classrooms, fellowship hall, and outside baptistry, will be built and renovations will be made to the **Puncheon Camp Church, Washburn**.

■ Revival services will begin Oct. 2 at **Fairview Church, Luttrell**. Charles Smith will lead the services.

■ **Oak Grove Church, Washburn**, is building a baptistry.

■ **First Church, Memphis**, will hold a Homecoming Weekend Sept. 24-25 to celebrate its 155-year history. Activities include a Fellowship Night Sept. 24 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The Sunday morning worship service will include testimonies by former youth now involved in vocational ministry. A luncheon will follow.

■ **Natchez Trace Church, Camden**, will hold revival Oct. 22-26. Don Womack, evangelist from Memphis, will lead it.

■ Rob Pelkey of Laurel, Ind., will lead a Sept. 25-28 revival at **Falcon Church, Selmer**.

■ **Mount Hermon Church, Clarksville**, will hold revival and anniversary events Oct. 12-16. Revival will be Oct. 12-16 with former pastor Steve Murphree leading. On Oct. 16

the 160th anniversary will be celebrated. Activities include a luncheon, presentation of history, and recognition of leaders.

■ The 80th anniversary celebration and Homecoming of **First Church, Big Sandy**, will be Oct. 2. King Thetford, former interim pastor, will speak during the morning worship service. A luncheon and performance by the music group, "Elect," will follow.

■ the work

■ Seven members of **First Church, Whiteville**, traveled to First Church, Virginia, Ill. While there they did survey work and presented an overview of the *Experiencing God* study to the church.

■ **Audubon Park Church, Memphis**, sent a team of six men to First Indian Church, Ripley, Aug. 9. The team built shelves in two classrooms, the fellowship hall, and a storage area.

■ the schools

■ **Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City**, has presented its 1994-95 Teaching Excellence and Leadership Awards to James Collins, associate professor of psychology, and Catherine Graham, assistant professor of English. The award is given annually to a non-tenured faculty member for his or her teaching and leadership.

■ The **Belmont University School of Music Sam A. Wilson Building** was officially opened Sept. 13. Sam Wilson, its namesake, owned a shoe-selling business for some 60 years. He died at the age of 92 on June 6.

■ **Union University, Jackson**, will hold its annual fall revival Sept. 26-30 in the G.M. Savage Memorial Chapel. Ken Whitten, pastor, Idlewild Church, Tampa, Fla., and David Bell, musician from Atlanta, Ga., will lead it. Services will be at 10 a.m., expect on Sept. 29 when they will be at 9:25 a.m., and at 7 p.m.

■ **Point of Grace**, a recorded musical group, will perform Oct. 1 at **Union University's** annual Campus Day. The group will perform at 6 p.m. in the G.M. Savage Memorial Chapel. Other activities include a faculty reception, music and dramatic presentations, campus tours, and organizational displays.

■ deaths

■ **Ernest Ray Bullington**, church treasurer of Liberty Church, McEwen, for over 40 years died recently.

■ **C. Albert Pruett, 70**, died Sept. 5 at his home in Haines City, Fla. He had served for 55 years in churches in Chattanooga, Georgia, and Alabama.

■ the leaders

■ **Dale Elenburg**, assistant professor of New Testament and Greek, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, has been called as bivocational pastor of Rossville Church, Rossville.

■ **Fort Robinson Church, Kingsport**, has called **Wayne Shoemaker** of Kingsport as minister of youth and music, effective July 17. Formerly Shoemaker was interim youth director, Oak Grove Church, Mount Carmel and did home construction.



SHOEMAKER

■ **Carl Meyer** has been called by First Church, Oakland, as minister of music and youth. Meyer also will attend Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.

■ **First Church, Gallaway**, has called **Howard Welch** as interim bivocational pastor. Welch is a graduate of the University of Louisville, Louisville, Ky., and is serving as principle of Oakland Elementary School, Oakland.

■ **Andy Sims** has been called as pastor of Forty-Five Church, Moscow. He formerly served in Louisiana as an evangelist.

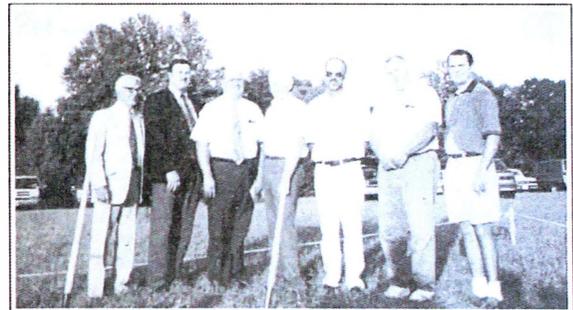
■ **Edgefield Church, Nashville**, has called **Terry G. Carver**, pastor, Union West Church, Oxford, Miss., as pastor, effective Oct. 1. A native of Grenada, Miss., Carver served the Oxford church seven years. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University located in Mississippi State, Miss., and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.

■ **Liberty Church, McEwen**, has called **John Maxcy**, an evangelist in Toledo, Ohio, who served there for 26 years, as pastor.

■ **W.C. Garland**, interim pastor, Gillespie Avenue



GROUNDBREAKING BY NORTH JACKSON CHURCH on Aug. 21 begins the first phase of the church's first building program. Participating are, from left, Bobby Kinard, Bobby Wright, Jerry McCann, chairman of building committee, Harold Freeman, Tom Herndon, Steve Burton, Beverly White, Frances Hearn, Bobby Moore, and Leroy Hicks. The church is meeting in the Baptist Student Union building of Jackson State Community College.



BREAKING GROUND FOR THE FIRST BUILDING of Hillcrest Church, Manchester, are, from left, Bill Williams, deacon; Jeff Clark, pastor; Baylon Hilliard, director of missions, Duck River Association; Dick German, associational missions development director; John Williams, deacon; Frank Jones, deacon; and Jon Robertson, a bank representative. The church, which has been meeting in a motel, received a grant from the Tennessee Baptist Convention to buy four acres.



INITIATING THE BUILDING PROGRAM of East Athens Church by breaking ground are members of the long range planning committee, from left, Mike Dannel, Steve Wilson, Pete Mullins, pastor, Arnold Smith, Donna Housley, Jerry Webb, Pauline Hutsell, Bill Barr, and Larry Toomey. Construction on a multi-purpose building began Aug. 30.

Church, Knoxville, has been called as interim director of evangelism and church growth for the Alaska Baptist Convention. Garland recently retired in Knoxville after serving as director of evangelism/home missionary for the Hawaii Baptist Convention. He is the

former pastor of Valley Grove Church, Knoxville, and First Church, Humboldt.

■ **Kenwood Church, Clarksville**, has called **Walter W. Smith** of Pleasant Green Church, Hopkinsville Ky., as pastor, effective Nov. 1.

Baptist Memorial Hospital joins parenting center for community outreach programs

MEMPHIS — Strengthening families in our community — that's the goal of a new affiliation between Baptist Memorial Hospital-East and The Parenting Center of Memphis.

"We decided that combined services would give each organization an opportunity to strengthen their work in the community," said Jill Fazakerly, BMH women's and children's services community outreach manager.

Women's and Children's Ser-

vices already offers a variety of free programs for the community including classes for parents expecting a new baby.

The mission of The Parenting Center of Memphis is to prevent child abuse and neglect by educating adults on how to be better parents. They place a special emphasis on teen and adolescent parents.

In 1993, 50 percent of births were in Memphis and Shelby County were to teenage mothers. The Parenting Center of Memphis

and BMH Women's and Children's Services are working to make a difference for these mothers and their families.

The Parenting Center provides many programs to teach better parenting skills.

"Under the new affiliation, The Parenting Center will bring more of their classes to Baptist Memorial-East, and we will be taking our people and programs out into the community to areas that are currently underserved," Fazakerly said. □

Daughter of former TBC Executive Board member found stabbed to death

Judy Freels, daughter of former TBC Executive Board member Mattie Mullins, and her husband, Kelver, was found dead outside her parents' Johnson City home Sept. 6. She was the niece of Joe Stacker, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's pastor-staff leadership department.

The 31-year-old Freels, an active member of Central Church, Johnson City, was

stabbed to death, according to police reports. There was no evidence of "robbery, burglary, or sexual assault," said a police spokesman.

Freels and her two sons were staying at her parents' home. Her husband, Russell Freels, worked out of town as a restaurant manager.

Mullins, a retired Holston Association pastor, is interim pastor of Midway Church, Johnson City. □

Madden joins Cargill Associates

Tom Madden, retired executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention,



MADDEN

has accepted a position with Cargill Associates, a church stewardship consultant.

Cargill Associates is a fund-raising consulting firm in Fort Worth that has led capital stewardship programs for churches and church-related institutions in every state and

several foreign countries.

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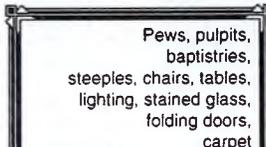
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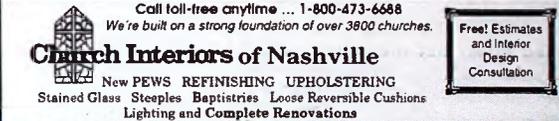
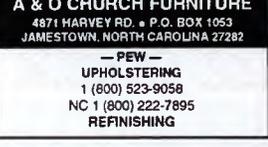
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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Song of love — Bible Book Series for Sept. 25

By Carl Scarlett, pastor, Miracle Church, La Vergne

Solomon wrote 1,005 songs (I Kings 4:32); those that were written on other subjects were not chosen by the Holy Spirit to be included in Scripture. The Song of Solomon presents the beauty of a pure love between the bridegroom and his bride which grows stronger and more beautiful with the passing of time and events.

It is most probable that Solomon wrote this song during his early years when his relationship with God was so close that he relates his personal relationship to that between a husband and wife who love each other with their entire being.

The song opens with the young maiden expressing her love for Solomon (v. 4). She is not fair-skinned as were the other women of the palace

because she had taken care of her own vineyard and the sun had left her complexion darkened. Solomon assured her of his heart's delight in her beauty (v. 15). She returned the praises of her delight in the king as her beloved (vv. 12-14).

The song expresses the thoughts and dreams of two people who are in love and see nothing but beauty, charm, and devotion for each other (ch. 2:3-6).

Description of bride's charms — ch. 4:9-12

The bridegroom was so in love that his thoughts were only of the bride and her beauty. To describe the wife as a sister was common in Solomon's day and the intent showed a deep respect for the wife (v. 9).

The wife is more pleasant

Focal Passages Song of Solomon 4:9-12; 5:9-11; 5:16—6:5; 8:6-7

than the most refreshing drink of the day which in ancient times was wine. The natural fragrance of his wife was more pleasant than all the perfumes of that day (v. 10).

Solomon describes the sweet taste of his bride's lips as being sweeter than honey and milk and her garments smelled sweeter than the forest of Lebanon (v. 11). The natural beauty of Solomon's bride far exceeded anything in the world.

Maiden's description of her beloved — ch. 5:9-11, 16

Now the bride describes her beloved. Her thoughts were only for and of him. This is a

beautiful picture of true love that makes a marriage last until death (v. 9).

The groom stood tall above all other men with strength and stamina. He was altogether lovely to his bride as her husband, lover, and friend.

Assertion of mutual, exclusive love — ch. 6:1-5

For a brief time Solomon and his bride went through a brief separation, and she asked the daughters of Jerusalem to help her find him. They sarcastically implied that perhaps he had left her for another woman (ch. 6:10). She said that her trust in him had not diminished, no matter what others might imply.

The real test of one's love comes in those moments when we can't always be with our love and our trust and faith in

them is strengthened even when others taunt or tempt us to distrust our true love.

The beloved was so taken by the beauty of his love that he asked her not to look at him. Her beauty made him feel uncomfortable with himself (v. 5), but he could not find any flaw in his love (v. 5).

Strength of love — ch. 8:6-7
In ancient times the seal was used to show ownership. The maiden wished that she might be like a seal on her beloved's heart and hand. Love to her was as strong as death, and she had felt the cruel pain of jealousy for her love (v. 6).

The beautiful song of love is a perfect picture of true love between a husband and wife. It is a perfect picture of the love Christ has for his bride, the church. □

□ Choosing to serve God — Convention Uniform Series for Sept. 25

By Randall Cummings, pastor, First Church, Ripley

Joshua's occupation campaign was complete, and Israel was about to go through a basic transformation. After Shechem, the people would not return to war but to their inheritance (v. 28). They had fought since crossing the Jordan River. But the people no longer would be soldiers or sojourners. They would be farmers, herdsmen, shop keepers, and land owners.

Joshua completed his term as leader of Israel by having the people renew their covenant vows. Joshua's speech seemed at first to be a glorious recitation of God's mighty acts. However, the speech ends with a call to decision.

Focal Passage Joshua 24:1-2, 11-16

A paraphrase of the beginning of the address could be, "We descend from idolaters." The attention of God was not won by the noble character of the forefathers. God's acts for Israel were gracious — undeserved favors.

Acts of God in Israel's history — vv. 3-13

Joshua recounted God's acts on behalf of Israel. The many occurrences of the pronoun "I" emphasize the focus of this history. God led Abraham, sent Moses, plagued Egypt, and brought Israel out of Egypt. Victory in Canaan

had not come by Israel's military might, but by the power of God (v. 12).

This recitation had a profound effect upon the elders. Love, awe, fear, and noble humility stirred within them as they remembered what God had done. There also came a deep sense of gratitude.

Gratitude is a powerful motivator in our lives. Many people to whom we express love are people to whom we feel grateful. Even in our relationship with God, gratitude plays a great role.

Robert Robertson's hymn *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* expresses it best of all: "O to grace how great a

debtor, daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to thee."

Call to decision — vv. 14-15

Joshua put the pressing issue before the elders. Already the religions of Canaan and of the forefathers were making bids for the hearts of the people (v. 14). Joshua called Israel to be unreservedly God's as he and his family had already decided. There are few verses that make the case of personal commitment to God as powerfully as verse 15.

In the following verses the elders renew their vows of covenant. Having made that

commitment, Joshua calls them to action: "Now therefore, put away the foreign gods which are in your midst, and incline your hearts to the Lord ... " (v. 23). Even for ancient Israel, faith without works is dead (James 2:17).

Joshua's career as the leader of Israel closed. The three burials recorded at the end of this book emphasize the end of an age. The burial of Joseph's bones points to the end of the sojourn. The burial of Eleazar emphasizes the end of a generation. The burial of Joshua, "the servant of the Lord," points to the end of a line of special leaders given to Israel. □

□ God is faithful — Life and Work Series for Sept. 25

By Clay Frazier, retired pastor, Morristown

The keystone of the attributes of God is his holiness. Growing out of his holiness is love, judgment, and his faithfulness. God can be depended upon. He does not change, despite the changes of this present age. What a sure word in Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

God is faithful — Deuteronomy 32:4

This verse is part of the song which Moses wrote for the close of his ministry, and the inauguration of Joshua. There are few Scripture verses with so many descriptive words for God. Listen: rock, perfect, judgment, truth, without iniquity, just, and right. "Rock" conveys the idea of someone solid, dependable, unchangeable. "Truth" can be translated "faithfulness." He will be faithful to his promises

and just in his dealings. He can be depended upon. He is blameless and will continue to be forever and forever.

I once wrote to a noted Bible teacher complaining in regard to spiritual matters. He answered in a concise sentence. "God does answer prayer." It was enough.

God is faithful to his Word — I Kings 8:18-20

These verses hold Solomon's testimony to the faithfulness of God in promise keeping. The Bible is full of such testimony, as are our lives. If God says it, we can depend upon it. The nature of David's life kept him from building a temple dedicated to God. So God chose Solomon who completed the task.

The temple stood as a testimony that God will do "as the Lord promised" (v. 20). We can review our own lives and say

with Solomon, "As the Lord promised."

My wife and I just celebrated our 43rd wedding anniversary. Together we can, and do, testify that in parenting, pastoring, and provision, God is faithful to keep all his promises.

Faithful in trial (temptation) — I Corinthians 10:13

Paul is clear in writing, that God was faithful to Christians under attack. Perhaps someone was saying, "It was impossible for them to overcome some temptation." Paul says that the God who is faithful can give us the victory over every trial or temptation, and provide a way for us to escape the temptation. Sometimes we will not take the "escape route," but God is faithful to provide it. From my own personal life, I can now see that God always pro-

Focal Passages Deuteronomy 32:4; I Kings 8:18-20; I Corinthians 10:13; I Thessalonians 5:23-24; I John 1:9

vided a way to overcome temptation.

Faithful to his plan — I Thessalonians 5:23-24

God has a purpose and a plan for every life. His purpose is to bring good to us and glory to himself. He is at work in our world and our very lives to bring to pass his external purpose and plan. Paul says that God is faithful to call us and will accomplish his plan. His purpose for the Thessalonians was to be preserved blameless. Remember that God's plan flows from eternity past to eternity future. He is faithful to

prepare us ("sanctify wholly") for time and eternity. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (I Corinthians 2:9).

Faithful to forgive — I John 1:9

Man's greatest need is forgiveness. We need God's forgiveness because he is holy and cares for us. We need forgiveness for our treatment of others because we have hurt them. We need grace to forgive ourselves so we can be whole. Where can we find this? Only from God. The promise is sure that upon confession of sin, we can have forgiveness and more — a spiritual bath. The promise is "to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." In every turn and event of life, we can rest in this assurance that God is faithful. □

African Baptists help Rwanda refugees

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — While Baptists around the world have responded generously to the need of Rwanda refugees, Baptists in Zaire, Kenya, and Burundi are doing just as much to help, and perhaps, at a greater personal cost.

"Baptist churches in Zaire have not had services for a month because they are full of Rwandese refugees they are serving," says Paul Montacute, director of Baptist World Aid. He returned Sept. 2 from a visit to Kenya and refugee camps in Zaire.

Baptist churches in Goma, Zaire, are "much poorer because of their sacrifice," Montacute said.

"We have given up our churches and our schools. We have given medicines. No radio or television have mentioned this," said Mauke

Mathe, legal representative of the Baptist Community of Kivu, Zaire. □

Rwanda refugee situation could worsen

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — If Rwanda refugees do not go home, international aid agencies leave, and heavy rains fall on deforested hillsides now crammed with refugees, then "we will have a worse situation unfolding," says Paul Montacute, director of Baptist World Aid.

Fresh from a visit to Kenya and refugee camps in Zaire, Montacute says Baptist leaders are fearful about the next month. "More than ever Baptists will need to stand beside their brothers and sisters in Rwanda, Zaire, and others who are helping," he says.

Though the new Rwandan government is urging refugees to come home, Baptist pastors

were skeptical this would happen any time soon, Montacute said. They also fear international aid agencies will leave or shift operations to Rwanda and they and other ministers will be left to care for refugees.

Montacute praised the Baptists whose churches had given sacrificially to help the refugees. □

Midwestern trustees question appointment

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — At least 10 trustees at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary called for the removal of a recent faculty appointment by President Milton Ferguson, but a trustee executive committee affirmed the appointment.

Ronnie Prevost was contracted for two years as a religious education professor by Ferguson, but Prevost's posi-

New home

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Ken Hemphill, right, and Michael Quicke, principal of Spurgeon's College in London, England, examine one of the original manuscripts of 19th century British Baptist preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon. Within the next few months, SWBTS will house the original manuscripts of more than 500 sermons by Spurgeon, giving theology students rare insight into the preaching techniques of one of the greatest preachers of all time.



tion favoring the ordination of women deacons apparently caused the trustee upheaval. Prevost, according to trustee chairman Lewis Adkison, assured the executive committee he would not advocate in the classroom or in other places the ordination of women.

Adkison, in a letter to trustees, noted upset trustees had requested a called meeting of the board, but the executive committee unanimously opposed a called meeting.

Acknowledging Ferguson had followed the requirements of a presidential appointment, Adkison nevertheless said the executive committee had "serious concerns" which were expressed to Ferguson about the manner of the Prevost appointment. No elaboration was given but apparently Ferguson promised to be "more sensitive to the concerns of the instruction committee and the entire Board of trustees." □

Dilday named among influential Texans

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS — Russell H. Dilday, who was fired last March as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been named among the 20 most influential people in Texas.

Dilday was listed by *Texas Monthly* as one of the "Texas Twenty." Members of that "first annual dream team of 20 intriguing Texans who stand head and shoulders above the rest" were billed as "Big Shots" on the cover of the magazine's September issue.

Dilday is now serving as special assistant to the president at Baylor University, Waco, and distinguished pro-

fessor of homiletics at the fledgling George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

Dilday said he has trouble seeing himself in that company, however, he has come to realize that "what happened at Southwestern Seminary has had wide-ranging impact outside the seminary's immediate orbit and even outside Baptist life." □

Dentist, sportsman to enlist volunteers

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Two Southern Baptists — a dentist and a sportsman — have been tapped to help the Foreign Mission Board enlist volunteers in medical missions and sports evangelism.

Bill Snowden, 63, and Gene Greer, 72, began working with the board's volunteers in missions department Sept. 1 as Mission Service Corps volunteers.

Snowden, of Pineville, Ky., will match Southern Baptist health care professionals with volunteer medical projects overseas.

Greer, of Dallas, will do the same for volunteer projects in sports evangelism. □

Women's meeting set

Home Mission Board

ATLANTA — "Reaching Women Who Touch the World" is the theme of "Dayspring," an Oct. 6-8 conference for women in Atlanta, sponsored by the Home Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union.

Cost is \$50 per person. To register, contact Gerry Pepton, 3632 Nessa Court, Smyrna, Ga., 30082-3142. □

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.

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