

Baptist and Reflector

October 5, 1994

VOL. 160 ■ NO. 40

STATEWIDE EDITION

■ **this
week's
news**

global —

■ Polish seminary complex opens. — Page 8

national —

■ BSSB trustees are optimistic on budget. — Page 3

■ Take historical look at worship in SBC. — Page 3

state —

■ Committee seeks TBC resolutions before annual meeting. — Page 3

■ Memphis area seeks prayers for revival. — Page 7

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

*900-004-10-0127
* HISTORICAL COMMISSION
* 901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400
* NASHVILLE TN 37203

West Tennessee strategy summit explores way to win region to Christ

By Keith Currey
For *Baptist and Reflector*

JACKSON — Church leaders from across West Tennessee met at Union University Sept. 22 to develop a strategy for winning their region to Christ.

The West Tennessee strategy summit was organized "to give area associations an idea of the bigger picture so they can look to the future," according to Jere Phillips, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Missions Department.

"Regular strategy meetings are held in all regions of the state to help associations see the needs of their area," Phillips said. "The West Tennessee summit is critical because of a steady decline in population and a greater trend toward poverty."

Due to the changing makeup of the West Tennessee community, churches are seeking to address these changes in an effort to reach more people for Christ. Two-thirds of West Tennessee's counties have lost population over the last 10 years, while 70 percent of the region's churches are either plateaued or declining.



TIM COX of Memphis addresses participants at the West Tennessee strategy summit.

"This summit allows us the opportunity to present the statistics and discuss methods of meeting the changing needs of West Tennessee," Phillips said.

Key statistics regarding trends and changes in West Tennessee were shared by John Lamb, chief planner for the state of Tennessee's local planning assistance office.

Lamb presented demographic information documenting how West Tennessee's population has steadily decreased and grown older in the past decade.

Larry Ingram, professor of sociology at University of Tennessee-Martin, analyzed the statistics further.

"These figures suggest an uphill battle for West Tennessee churches," he said. "Evangelism is the chief emphasis of many churches, but there is an increasingly smaller number to evangelize."

"However, it is a lot easier to talk about our problems than to go into homes and try to answer them," he concluded.

George Guthrie, chairman of Union's religion department, expressed similar views when sharing biblical perspectives of missions and church leadership. "The bottom line is to get 'out there' and be in the midst of people," Guthrie said.

Statistics reveal unchurched populations ranging from 59-80 percent in West Tennessee counties. "Just because the population is declining doesn't mean the church must decline as well. There are still many people to be reached," Phillips said.

Reaching the unchurched will require new approaches to ministry, such as the — See West, page 2

September CP gifts increase

September was a good month for Cooperative Program giving in Tennessee Baptist churches.

TBC churches gave \$2,305,554 in September, up \$605,665 over the amount given last September. The amount was \$7,000 over the monthly budget needs. For the year giving is about 7.5 percent behind budget needs.

With one month to go in the budget year, giving is up 2.65 percent over the same time last year. "We need \$2,392,024 in October so we can hold to the increase," said TBC Executive Director James Porch.

Porch asked Tennessee churches to send their October gifts in after the fourth Sunday so they can be counted among this year's receipts. October is a five-Sunday month, which means churches would not be able to send those receipts by Oct. 31.

Last year Tennessee Baptists responded to the challenge and sent almost \$2.8 million to the TBC in October. "We appreciate what our churches did last October and we trust they will make a similar effort this year," Porch said. □

Red tape delays Haiti relief efforts

Baptist Press

DAVIE, Fla. — President Bill Clinton said Sept. 26 he will lift U.S. travel and trade sanctions against Haiti, but that hasn't yet cut the red tape tangling the start of a major Southern Baptist relief project there.

That's the word from Mark Rutledge, Southern Baptist missionary to Haiti, who's been trying for several weeks to get U.S. government permission for Southern Baptist relief planners to travel to Haiti. The planners will assess human needs in the island nation, paving the way for a relief project sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond and the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis. — See Red, page 2



Association meetings have begun

Truett Association was the third Tennessee Baptist association to hold its annual fall meeting. The association met Sept. 29 at Immanuel Church in McEwen and on Sept. 30 at Fellowship Church, Dickson. Director of Missions William L. Gray, left, looks over the program with moderator James Moody, pastor of First Church, McEwen, and clerk Brenda Sewell of Cedar Grove Church, Hurricane Mills. Most associations will hold their annual meetings in mid-to-late October.

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
- **Subscribe to the Baptist and Reflector** for one year and receive 51 copies. Family or individual subscription — \$7.50, clubs of 10 or more subscriptions — \$7.25, church (more than 50 percent of families) — \$6.50. Send check/money order to address listed below.
- **To contribute a news item**, call or write the Editor; Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor; or Connie Davis, assistant editor.
- **To advertise** — Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor
- **For billing and subscription list questions** — Betty Williams, bookkeeper
- **For information about trial subscription plan** for church or association edition — Lonnie Wilkey, Connie Davis, or Susie Edwards, administrative secretary
- **For information about local church edition** — The Editor, or Mary Nimmo, church pages coordinator
- **For production answers** — Gina Dykeman, news and production assistant
- **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- **Board of directors:** David George, chairman; Joe Littlefield, vice chairman; Mickey Basham, Christine Bess, David Crocker, Russ Dunham, Gary Gerhardt, Dean Haun, Diane Jordan, Howard Kolb, Leonard Markham, Paul Moody, Ray Newcomb, Don Owens, Richard Patton, Mike Thrower, Gary Watkins, Laurann Whetham, and Larry Williams
- **Office** — Baptist and Reflector, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027
- **Mailing address** — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- **Phone** — (615) 371-2003. **FAX** — (615) 371-2080
- **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
- **Address changes** — Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- **Postmaster** — Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780)
- **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for Christmas week.



Printed on recycled paper

Criswell stays busy on 50th anniversary at FBC

By Toby Druin
Baptist Press

DALLAS — At 85, most Southern Baptist pastors have folded their tents and called it a career. W.A. Criswell will be 85 on Dec. 19, and chances are if you put up a tent anywhere in his vicinity, he would show up to preach in it.

That is one way of saying the venerable senior pastor of First Church, Dallas, is still doing what he does best — preaching.

"I thought that when we got another pastor to help me here at the church that I would be at such leisure," he said recently in his 32nd-floor office in the Lincoln Plaza across the street from the church.

"But I am doing more now than I have ever done in my life."

For instance, he noted, he recently has preached in San Diego, in Jackson, Tenn., and in several Dallas-area churches, most of the time on behalf of Criswell College.

"I used to rarely accept any invitations outside the church," said Criswell. "Now I am going all over creation. This is what I call retirement. I never dreamed it would be like this."

Criswell observed his 50th anniversary at First Church on Oct. 2 and preached the Sunday evening message. It climaxed a week-long series of events marking the milestone. It was kicked off Sept. 25 with a box supper and parade featuring '40s-vintage cars, a precious memories time, and an appearance by SBC President Jim Henry at the evening service.

The week's activities included a Monday banquet at the Fairmont Hotel honoring Criswell and his wife, Betty, with special guests to include Sen. Phil Gramm; a Thursday evening worship service with guest speaker Charles Swindoll; a Friday evening musical tribute to the Criswells led by former ministers of music and choir members; and a day of prayer and commitment Saturday with baptisms and the Lord's Supper. Sunday, Oct. 2, was "Happy Anniversary" day for the Criswells and new pastor O.S. Hawkins and his family.

Criswell was 34 years old and the pastor of First Church, Muskogee, Okla., when he was called to succeed the Baptist legend, George W. Truett, who had been pastor at the Dallas church 47 years.

That was the highlight of his ministerial

career, he said.

"Hardly anything could ever happen in the life of a preacher like their choice of me to follow Dr. Truett," he said. "Can you imagine a boy in Muskogee, Okla., being called to follow that great man?"

Criswell is a native of Eldorado, Okla., the son of a cowboy-turned-barber, but was reared in Texline in the northeast tip of the Texas Panhandle. He felt called to preach when he was 6, made his public profession of faith at 10, and began to preach when he was 17. He is a graduate of Baylor University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he earned a doctor of philosophy degree in 1937.

While at Southern, he was pastor of rural churches and at one of them met and married a young school teacher, Betty Marie Harris, who was the church pianist. The Criswells have a daughter, Mabel Anne.

Criswell's honors are too lengthy to list. He has been president of the Southern Baptist Convention (1969-70), has written 54 books, has spoken in Baptist meetings all over the world and counted several presidents of the United States in his Sunday morning audiences. □

Taylor named to lead SBC Sunday School work

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Bill Taylor, executive pastor of North Phoenix Church in Phoenix, Ariz., is the choice of the administration of the Baptist Sunday School Board to become director of the Bible teaching-reaching division, Gene Mims told trustees Sept. 27 during their semiannual meeting.

Taylor, 55, who has held his present position since January,

was minister of education and administration at Prestonwood Church in Dallas for 11 years, 1982-93. He has served at University Church, Coral Gables, Fla.; Roswell Street Church, Marietta, Ga.; and Memorial Church, Metairie, La.

"We conducted a national search for the best person to fill this key post and came to see through Bill's life, ministry, and work that he met all the criteria we needed," Mims, vice presi-

dent of the church growth group, said. "We are looking to him to become part of a dynamic team we're building in the church growth group to communicate our message that church growth begins with Bible study."

Mims said Taylor will join a "distinguished line" of leaders of Southern Baptist Sunday School work that began with Arthur Flake followed by J.N. Barnette, A.V. Washburn, and Harry Piland who retired from

the board in June to become associate pastor of First Church, Dallas.

BSSB President James T. Draper Jr. called Taylor the "premier minister of education in America today. He is a man of vision and creativity. He is solidly a biblical conservative who shares the ideals and dreams of our vision and our commitment to serving our convention as we endeavor to reach our world for Christ." □

Red tape delays Haiti relief ...

— Continued from page 1

So far, the FMB has pledged \$386,000 in hunger and relief funds to meet immediate needs. The board also may contribute more than \$400,000 for a two-year water well project there, officials said.

The public "thinks this is a great thing," said Rutledge of Clinton's announcement that he will suspend the U.S. embargo. But the missionary is getting a different view from U.S. government officials who call the shots about who and what goes into Haiti.

"They are saying, 'Don't believe it until the executive orders (signed by Clinton) actually go out,'" said Rutledge, who has been staying temporarily in south Florida since leaving Haiti in June. "The real bottom line is that, legally, nothing is being done. It's only been talked about."

Meanwhile, Rutledge spends his days calling officials to try to find the fastest way to get the Southern Baptist team into Haiti.

Until commercial flights to Haiti resume, the U.S. Treasury Department must grant permission for a private plane, passengers, and supplies to travel there. Then permission must be granted by the United Nations. Then the request goes back to the Treasury Department, which issues the necessary licenses. The process could take at least four weeks, Rutledge said.

Another option is for the team to travel to Haiti on already scheduled humanitarian aid flights allowed into the country by the U.S. military. Rutledge and other project leaders are trying to find such a flight, but nothing has developed.

Qualified Southern Baptists who want to volunteer for these projects should call the Brotherhood Commission at 1-800-280-1891 or (901) 722-3787. Financial contributions for the Haiti project may be sent to the human needs department of the FMB, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va., 23230-0767 or to the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn., 38104.

The team will include Rutledge and his wife, Peggy, from Murfreesboro, and Glendale, Calif., respectively; International Service Corps workers Ed and Mary Brentham, from Belton, Texas; and journeyman Todd Lowe, from Belton-Honea Path, S.C. Other members include FMB and Brotherhood officials and some leaders from state Baptist conventions experienced in relief projects.

"The (survey) team have their bags packed and ready to go," said Russell Griffin, assistant vice president at the Brotherhood Commission. "But we're on hold until the (U.S.) government says we can go."

Once they finally get into Haiti, planners will determine how Southern Baptists volunteers who follow them can best meet needs. The first project likely will be food distribution, lasting about seven weeks. Additional volunteer teams may work in medical care, water well repair, water purification and construction.

The relief projects will involve at least 150 Southern Baptist volunteers enlisted by the Brotherhood Commission. □

West Tennessee ...

— Continued from page 1

Mississippi River Ministry.

Tim Cox, director of church and community ministries for Shelby County Association, and Bill George, director of missions for Beulah Association, shared about their involvement in MRM, which covers a seven-state area surrounding the Mississippi River, the poorest region in the United States.

The two men affirmed the need for crossing racial boundaries and breaking boundaries of self-reliance and pride.

"It all boils down to whether or not lives are impacted. If we don't find a means of showing lost people the way, we will be accountable," Cox said.

Concluding the conference were Phil Lovelace, pastor of First Church, Somerville, and Charles Pratt, director of missions, who shared church and associational perspectives of their changing region.

The all-day summit was sponsored by the TBC Missions Department and Union University. □

Sunday School Board trustees optimistic about new budget

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Despite a projected deficit of more than \$3.7 million in funds provided from operations (revenue less costs and expenses) for 1993-94, Baptist Sunday School Board trustees adopted a 1994-95 operating budget which reflects total revenue from operations of \$250,480,000 and funds provided from operations of \$3,374,000.

Board finances were the major topic of discussion during the trustees' Sept. 26-28 meeting in Nashville.

During that meeting trustees also learned of a plan to "downsize" the number of board trustees from 93 to 55 by the year 2000 and voted to close four Baptist Book Stores.

Board officials expressed optimism that the financial situation of Southern Baptists' publishing board will "turn around" beginning next year.

Total revenue for 1993-94 is up about \$16 million over last year, but will fall short of the budget by about \$13 million, according to Ted Warren, the board's vice president for business support group and chief financial officer. Revenue for the 1993-94 year, which ends Sept. 30, is projected around \$224 million, with a budget of nearly \$238 million, Warren said.

In his report to trustees President James T. Draper Jr. acknowledged the board "has a cash flow problem, but we're not broke."

Draper projected the loss of revenue will be reversed by next year, with all loans paid off by 1997. Draper said the board has borrowed money, with trustee approval, for investments in curriculum research and changes, Baptist Book Stores-related items such as a computer system and remodeling and relocation of stores, and



A FAMILIAR FACE returned to Tennessee for the Baptist Sunday School Board trustee meeting Sept. 26-28 in Nashville. Former Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Director D.L. Lowrie, right, now pastor at First Church, Lubbock, Texas, visits with fellow trustee Leon Bolton, a member of Highland Heights Church, Memphis. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

in the development of "Secret Adventures," a family-oriented video series.

The board elected to borrow money "rather than use reserves because we could borrow money at a lower interest rate than our reserve funds were earning," Draper said.

The board had about \$13.6 million in outstanding loans as of Sept. 15, but has reserve funds of \$49.9 million, Draper said.

Draper, who began his fourth year as president in August, said the board's goal is profitability. "We realize that year in and year out we can't spend more money than we bring in," he said.

While the bottom line is profit, the primary priority of the board is ministry, Draper added, acknowledging there is a tension between ministry and business.

"If we don't have any money, we don't have any ministry. The more money we

have, the more ministry we can do. But ministry comes first," Draper said.

In his report, Draper characterized his tenure as years marked by change. Those changes have caused a perception of chaos, he said, but they were needed to meet the demands of today's world.

Concerning staff changes Draper report-

ed, "We are nearing the end of this massive process of restructuring." Staff cuts have resulted in 121 less employees than when he came — or 1,646 rather than 1,767 — a 6.8 percent reduction. Draper said the number of employees will continue to change as announced staff cuts become effective and as further "organizational fine tuning" is conducted.

In other business, Tommy French of Louisiana reported on a plan which would reduce the trustee board to 55 members by the year 2000. French chaired a committee a few years ago when the board, as did other SBC agencies, began to eliminate "local members."

French told trustees the board spends about \$185,000 a year in meetings for trustees. Cutting the number of trustees to 55 would reduce costs to the board and give the board "a more workable number," he said.

Currently, a state with 20,000 members has one trustee, with an additional trustee for every 250,000 members. The new plan would keep the 20,000 in place, but would add a trustee for every additional 500,000 members.

The plan, if approved by the trustees in February, would be enacted through attrition, resulting in the desired number of 55 by the year 2000, French said. Tennessee would go from 13 trustees, which includes local members currently being phased out, to three trustees. The plan also would need approval from the SBC Executive Committee and messengers during annual session.

The decision to close book stores in Vancouver, Wash.; Columbus, Ohio; Phoenix; and the Atlanta-South branch was opposed by some board members, primarily those in the affected states.

According to Chuck Wilson, vice president of trade and retail markets, the decision was based on a long history of poor financial performance at the four stores. He noted that the stores in question derive 40-50 percent of their revenue from mail order business, a channel that will continue to be available to customers in those areas.

The recommendation passed with three dissenting votes.

In other business trustees approved a 3 percent increase over current church literature prices and several recommendations concerning specific board products. Also, trustees approved creating a new periodical, "Special Education Today," to meet the needs of church leaders and families of persons with handicaps and disabilities.

Trustees also adopted six bylaws changes and dealt with referrals from messengers at the 1994 SBC in Orlando. No specific actions were taken on the referrals. □ — Connie Davis and Lonnie Wilkey

Baptist colleges, two SBC agencies look to strengthen 'World A' missions efforts

By Tim Fields
For Baptist Press

WILLIAMSBURG, Ky. — A consortium of 43 Southern Baptist-related colleges and universities has approved a cooperative agreement with the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board and Education Commission designed to strengthen and expand international education exchange programs.

The coalition of schools, known as Cooperative Services International Education Consortium (CSIEC), has worked with the FMB's Cooperative Services International program since 1987 to coordinate exchange of professors and students and to establish satellite higher education programs predominantly in "World A" countries where missionaries are not allowed or are restricted.

CSIEC now is involved in about 300 projects with educational institutions in 80 countries, particularly in China, the former Soviet republics, and other "World A" countries.

Under the new agreement ratified by CSIEC members schools (including Tennessee's Belmont University, Carson-Newman College, and Union University) Sept. 23 at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky., the two SBC agencies will each contribute about \$30,000 a year to help fund an administrator and a clerical person for CSIEC. Those persons will operate out of Education Commission offices in Nashville. The FMB and Education Commission also will help establish and maintain an international computer data bank to match up schools with overseas opportunities.

Cordell Maddox, outgoing CSIEC chairman and presi-

dent of Carson-Newman College, said the two staff members will "operate under the policy, supervision, and direction of the CSIEC board" but will be accessible to and will work closely with Education Commission and FMB staffs.

Stephen P. Carleton, executive director of the Education Commission, expressed appreciation to the FMB for joining the commission in this effort.

Carleton said the investment of the 43-member schools in CSIEC personnel, students, and support is estimated at more than \$1 million. "The use of Cooperative Program funds and resources from the FMB and Education Commission is a wise investment," he added.

FMB President Jerry Rankin said the development reflects the FMB's commitment to "mobilize Southern Baptist resources and personnel in our missions task." □

Committee seeks resolutions prior to TBC annual meeting

Messengers desiring to present a resolution before the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, which meets Nov. 15-16 at Bellevue Church, Cordova, are asked to mail a copy of the resolution prior to the annual meeting.

Resolutions can be mailed to the office of the Executive Director, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024-0728.

All resolutions received in the office will be presented to the Committee on Resolutions for their consideration.

According to convention bylaws, "Resolutions, including those sent to the Committee on Resolutions prior to the convention, must be submitted during a business session only by registered messengers. Resolutions

must be submitted no later than the last miscellaneous business session of the first day of the convention. Only titles of proposed resolutions shall be read into the record when presented, but the full resolution must be in writing and submitted to the presiding officer, recording secretary, and the Committee on Resolutions."

According to TBC bylaws, the Committee on Resolutions is to receive written resolutions from the floor, and review, comment on, draft, and recommend "any memorials or resolutions it may deem wise from among those referred to it by the convention."

Submitting any resolutions prior to the convention will greatly facilitate the work of the Resolutions Committee. □

■ 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. □

About the 'crisis'

Mr. Patterson in disagreeing with Mr. Sullivan (*Baptist and Reflector*, Sept. 7), stated conservatives are only responding to a "theological crisis."

As a history teacher, he surely knows that all of the world's dictatorships have been started by people who believed they were "responding to a crisis." If there was not one, leaders would invent one.

Hitler's "crisis" with the Jews comes to mind. He convinced millions of Germans that the Jews had to go. Few did the dirty deeds but millions stood by and watched it happen. Does that sound familiar in the Southern Baptist Convention today? Few are involved in the deeds, but like the Germans, few Southern Baptists are trying to stop them.

Saul, with perfect eyesight could not see what he was doing to Christians but later as Paul with blinded eyes he could see perfectly.

Moderates agree with conservatives on three of their five definitions of inerrancy. Only a few conservatives even agree with John R. Rice's "naive inerrancy" and even a few moderates can agree with "absolute inerrancy." Happily, almost all moderates agree with conservatives on "balanced inerrancy."

If moderates accept conservatives' own definitions of inerrancy, where is the "theological crisis"? Is it real or only invented for a political purpose?

Ralph H. Lee
Maryville 37801

Loved Orvil

Thank you for your articles about Orvil Reid. My girlfriend

and I met Orvil and Alma in Fort Worth in the neighborhood near Southwestern Seminary. We became friends and shared a few meals at Wyatt's Cafeteria.

The Reids lived simply and zealously. My girlfriend in that Texas memory has become my wife and the mother of our children. When we read the names of our friends we remember the fire in Orvil's heart and the careful stewardship of Alma.

Those two fireballs for Christ and missions were still touching people long after leaving their fields in Mexico. We were two who can say "give us a thousand more like them" as they go to their rewards.

Lon Chenoweth
Bethlehem Church
Oneida 37841

Time to vote

Brothers and sisters, are you registered to vote Nov. 8 in the state elections? Please do so!

Is there anyone in your church not registered to vote because he or she cannot make it to the Election Commission's office in your county? Take him or her!

Know your candidates. Find out how they stand on issues that affect you and your church. There seems to be an anti-Christian shift in our federal, state, and local governments.

It has occurred because we Christians slept and got intimidated by those who hate God. We must remember that he

that dwells in us is greater than the father of lies. Don't be afraid to encourage your flocks to make every effort to vote this election.

William McClure
Maryville 37804

Souls saved

Let me praise God for the many souls saved in Crossover Orlando prior to the convention.

I want to praise God for the progressive evangelism that was instilled into this country preacher by some truly great giants of the Lord; F.M. Dowell, one of the best God ever let me meet; Leonard Sanderson; Jessie Bingham; W.A. Criswell; and many others.

The Lord just gave us six precious souls saved in Vacation Bible School and \$1,000 given to missions in Mexico. These people make a total of 461 since God said build him a soul-winning church between Sparta and Doyle. All glory and honor to God!

I work for a living, driving an 18-wheeler milk tanker. I have had three saved where I unload milk: a 40-year-old Catholic, a 21-year-old guard, and a driver who was a former dope addict. Praise God!

I praise the Lord for True Love Waits. We have 12 teenagers who signed the pledge cards.

Boyd M. Roberts, pastor
Grace Church
Doyle 38559

Student subscribers

Southwestern Seminary has students who call your convention home and students who leave here to serve in your state. As one who teaches denominational polity and administration, I would like to call on the churches to help us complete the education of your students.

Southwestern has had to stop a 10-year practice of providing the *Baptist Standard*, Texas Baptists' news magazine, to our students.

This served to keep our students informed about what was happening among Baptists not only in Texas but also in the United States and around the world.

It would seem appropriate for each church in Tennessee who send their men and women to Southwestern or other seminaries to keep their students informed by providing these students with information about Baptists. A gift subscription to the *Baptist and Reflector* is a small investment in those who will lead our churches and denomination.

Royce Rose,
associate professor of admin.
Southwestern Seminary
Fort Worth 76122

■ We try to see that all Tennessee Baptists who are students of Southern Baptist seminaries receive the paper. Any assistance will be appreciated. — Editor

Disagreements, arguments, may start movements

Identifying the precise point of beginning of the current convention controversy is a matter of open discussion. Some date that beginning in New Orleans in 1968. My experience and opinion place its beginning at an earlier time.

It was a policy of the Sunday School Board that made me aware of major Baptist disagreements which evolved into movements among us anywhere in the nation. When one appeared, we tried to understand its cause immediately.

It was this policy which brought to my attention a movement which I consider the beginning stages of the current controversy in



SULLIVAN

North Carolina, Georgia, and northern Florida some 15 years before it emerged in the 1979 Houston Convention.

It is my studied opinion that a disagreement ended up in an argument, which then evolved into a movement which in turn developed into the current controversy. That came in the early 1960s.

Specifically, a group of pastors in North Carolina felt that they were not being given enough consideration when

■ a historical view

By James L. Sullivan, retired BSSB president

officers and trustees were being selected to serve agencies and institutions in their state convention as well as in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Their unrest and concerns spread rapidly into Georgia and North Florida which had compatible historical backgrounds.

Having studied their complaints and concerns, I concurred that there might be some justifiable grounds for their complaints and that the situation could be improved.

I was willing to commit myself to helping revise the election process to that end.

Ultimately, the men involved wanted more immediate action and did not want to await constitutional and bylaw revisions. I could not go along with their methodology which I felt amounted to a type of coercion if they moved without first addressing the necessary revision process.

Since then, it has become a force growing in size and influence from one state to an interstate base and then with the affiliation of many minority

groups to have enough votes that they could have now the majority of votes in the convention as recent elections show.

The initiators of the movement were and are close friends of mine. I hope we still are, even though I have not identified with the movement initiated by them, their sympathizers, or their successors who changed and enlarged goals and intensified pressure methods to attain even broader goals over time.

Up until my first visit to the area for study and verification, no theological movement had been interjected into what was then a pure political process. The Bible issue had not been involved as it came later to be.

My impression then and now is that the Bible issue was introduced to help in unifying and motivating the movement, not because it was a burning issue among Southern Baptists at the time. Baptists' love for the Bible was and is wholehearted and almost universal.

This historic respect, I think, grew from a childlike faith more than out of theological inquiry. □

— Sullivan wrote these articles for his church newsletter three years ago. Future articles in this series will be reprinted every other week.

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership

October—



- 6 — Missionary Mark Driggers is celebrating his birthday while on furlough; also remember retired missionary Gerald Riddell.
- 7 — Pray for the salvation of Manuel Sanchez in Temuco.
- 8 — Missionary Betty Hart reports there is much spiritual indifference, as well as strongholds of satanic forces, in Antofagasta.
- 9 — Fernando who is unsaved and attends Puerto Varas Church.
- 10 — Retired missionary Frank Mitchell's birthday is today.
- 11 — May missionary evangelist Bill Dyches be blessed with inner strength today on his birthday.
- 12 — Lee and Phyllis Walker are working with young people in the Nunoa Church in Santiago.

Cooperative Program is dollars and more

At times Southern Baptists discuss the Cooperative Program almost reverently, as if it is a living, moving being.

Well, it really is not a living being, but the idea of the Cooperative Program closely resembles a reliable old friend to all the ministries of Southern Baptists.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

The CP also is the method of giving that binds Southern Baptists and their ministries with praying, going, and giving.

October is the month designated on the denominational calendar as Cooperative Program Month. Thousands of churches across the Southern Baptist Convention will celebrate the CP in various ways during this month.

Of course, the usual kind of celebration is participatory through giving of tithes and offerings.

Many churches, however, may want to use October as a learning time by giving members opportunity to know more about the CP, the reasons it was begun, how it works, and the ministries it undergirds.

Materials for use in a local learning setting are available in the CP/Stewardship Department, Baptist Center, in Brentwood.

In brief, the churches send a portion of their funds to the Tennessee Baptist Convention to be distributed two ways. A portion goes for Southern Baptist ministries, and a larger portion is used for all TBC entities, including the three colleges, Executive Board departments, auxiliary, agency, Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, and Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes.

Tennessee Baptists already are generous givers, but better understanding of

the process, purpose, and history probably make for even greater generosity.

The CP does have characteristics of a living, moving being. It resembles an active process of getting things done for Jesus Christ through the joint efforts of individuals and churches.

The result is always joyful experiences. The CP is a blessing of gift and giver. Share the word about the CP, and celebrate in the churches. October is a good month for learning also. □

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

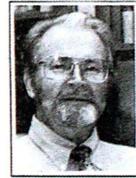
Arbeit macht frei

On a recent warm and sunny day, just like usual late September days in Poland's south, history was made.

But first, before hearing the rest of the story, let's turn back the clock.

Caught in the grips of World War II, the people of Oswiecim were helpless when the conquering Germans decided to build a work camp near their little town.

The camp at Oswiecim soon became known as the dreaded concentration camp which housed workers and killed more than three million people who were counted as "sub-human" by the conquering Nazis.



ALLEN

The Germanized name was Auschwitz-Treblinka. At the end of the war Allied forces freed the few prisoners and eventually tracked down camp commander Rudolf Hoess.

Treblinka was destroyed, but Auschwitz still remains, a silent, grim reminder of depravity. Hoess testified at his trial that under his command two and a half million Jews, gypsies, and others despised by the Nazis were gassed, and another half million died from starvation and overwork. Many were Polish citizens.

Each day as the work crews staggered out to do slave labor and then back in, they walked under the main gate archway. It carried the slogan, "Work Makes One Free," or "Arbeit Macht Frei." What a travesty.

Now, back to the present. A few days ago, the papers carried a photo of modern soldiers passing under the "Arbeit Macht Frei" sign.

The news noted that they were the first uniformed German soldiers in fifty years to pass through the gates. The Germans were invited by Poland's leaders in an effort to smooth old scars, to bury the past and help knit together relations between the neighbors.

The land of Chopin, Conrad, Copernicus, Paderewski, Curie, and Kosciusko, made a good decision. This example of peacemaking is a worthy model of what any group, any individual can do — for good. *

Court turns down appeal on lottery

Thanks to the Tennessee State Supreme Court, the chicanery employed by some proponents for a state lottery has failed again.

Persistent efforts to override the State Legislature did not get court approval. Individuals and Tennessee Democratic party officials asked the court to rule that the lottery issue should be on the statewide November ballot as a referendum. The court ruled Sept. 28 that a resolution to lift a constitutional ban on lotteries failed to get enough votes in the state Senate during the spring session.

Everyone knows that already, but others, grasping greedily at straws, said the combined vote of the Senate and the

House should have determined the outcome. Not so, said the court, the vote had to pass each house on its own.

This means no lottery in Tennessee until at least 2000. But wait, folks, don't go away. Be alert. In January or before, it will get into high gear again. Previous efforts will pale compared to what's in store for Tennessee.

Be prepared to thank legislators who opposed the lottery. Be prepared to express your views to new members and with those who favor a lottery. It is not a dead issue. It is not dormant, just taking a short breather before the real fight.

"Never quit" is the lottery forces' motto. It must be the same for the opposition. □

Is it unity or uniformity?

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Joe: "Who is your wife going to vote for?"

Bill: "Whomever I vote for."

Joe: "And you?"

Bill: "She hasn't decided."

Take this truth

Nothing pains some people more than having to choose between alternatives. Yet, the difference between a highly successful person and a mediocre one is the ability and willingness to make hard decisions. Whatever else the "image of God" in us means, it involves the will. A poet said, "help us to rise above the deep intent — the deed, the deed!"

Memorize this Scripture

"But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose ... whom you will serve" (Joshua 24:15 NIV).

Pray this prayer

Lord, give me the strength of character to accept the responsibility for my life. May I never expect someone to make decisions I should make. Impress upon me one supreme truth: "I can never win at anything unless I risk losing." □

In most weddings that I have performed, the unity candle has been used. It is a

symbol of the oneness that is produced and praised by God himself in the first biblical description of the union of marriage in Genesis 2:24, "... and the two shall become one flesh."

Men and women have been struggling since that day to understand and implement that divine decree.

There are, it seems to me, dangerous extremes on both sides of this issue.

As in driving, the goal would appear to be to stay in the road and out of the ditch.

There are some couples who get into trouble because of their understanding of this concept. They feel they need to walk alike, talk alike, and do everything the same.

In an effort to accomplish this, they give away so much of themselves that they are no longer sure who they are anymore.

In marriage, as well as in all of life, there is a need for each of us to be what systems therapists describe as differentiated.

Under God I must be who I am. The person who feels that he or she must always be or do what someone else expects is

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

living in a prison without walls. The confinement and restriction are just as real.

My mother-in-law has a great gift of old sayings. One is "too thick won't stick."

When the wife or husband is so dependent on the other spouse that they feel they must do everything the other person wants, the meshing of that relationship will eventually smother the marriage. It won't work.

The ditch on the other side of the road is that marriage is opposite. The partners may be so independent that they live like room-mates instead of soul-mates.

Comic Rodney Dangerfield once said, "My wife and I sleep in different rooms, eat at separate times, take separate vacations. ... We're doing everything we can to keep our marriage together."

To some extent we still live in the "me" generation where we have been taught to "do our own thing" and to "do it my way."

After getting three children to the age where we could leave them, my wife and I took

a camping trip last year for three days, just the two of us.

She was excitedly telling some of her co-workers about her anticipation of the trip when one of them asked, "What will you do for three days all by yourselves?"

That certainly is a tragic commentary on the marriages of our day.

The concept should be unity, commitment without confining conformity.

Ideally there should be the willingness to be what my partner needs or wants on my part without my perception of a demand on her part.

The oneness of marriage has to be freely given. When it is demanded, it becomes a prison.

We each have to manage our own attitudes toward unity. I am responsible for the offer, and not for the requiring of the performance. □

Readers are encouraged to submit questions or problems for discussion by Dr. Barkley in this column at some future date.

This series deals with problems of the family and offers solutions that can be adapted to individual circumstances.



BARKLEY

Mack's Grove Church completes month-long anniversary

For Baptist and Reflector

DRESDEN — During the month of September Mack's Grove Church, Dresden, observed its centennial anniversary.

Members enjoyed presenting a drama, renewing acquaintances with friends and leaders, and remembering.

Pastor Bill Wolfe called the congregation to remember during the final centennial service Sept. 25.

He reminded them of Christian leaders who lived and served during the years Mack's Grove was being started.

William Booth lived during that time, Wolfe cited. Booth left the poverty of his childhood to help others who were poor by starting the Salvation Army, he reported. He led two million people to serve that organization, Wolfe said.

Thomas Dewitt Galmadge also lived during that time. He

shared his faith through a newspaper column. He also was known to preach to 5,000 people a week.

D.L. Moody, who is more widely known, was near the end of his life in 1894. He preached to 100 million people, dealing with 750,000 personal-

ly about their faith.

Wolfe also mentioned Sam Jones, who worked for ecumenical cooperation among different denominations, and George W. Truett, a conservative who preached the importance of salvation over a social Gospel.

"If you don't know the God that caused people to come together with a vision for people 100 years later, you need to know that God. He stands ready to do for you what he did for them 100 years ago," said Wolfe. □



VISITING DURING THE CELEBRATION are, from left, Mayo Mansfield, former pastor; Richard Skidmore, director of missions, Weakley County Baptist Association; and Bill Wolfe, pastor.



ACCEPTING CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION from Bill Wolfe, pastor, are members of the Centennial Committee, from left, Lana Ferrell, Margaret Mansfield, Betty Taylor, David Mansfield, T.J. Ferrell, and Mike Morris.

Perry Michel sets retirement

For Baptist and Reflector

Perry "Red" Michel, pastor of Belmont Heights Church, Nashville, since 1980 announced his retirement Sept. 18.

Michel and the late Alda Nichols Michel came to Nashville from First Church, Brookhaven, Miss., where he was pastor for 11 years. Mrs. Michel was killed in an automobile accident last May.

Michel has served the Tennessee Baptist Convention as chairman of the search committee for executive director/treasurer which selected D.L. Lowrie, chairman of the budget and program committee, and in various other capacities. He presently serves on the TBC Executive Board and the budget and program committee.

He is active in the Nashville Baptist Association having served as chairman of the administrative committee, chairman of finance committee, and vice moderator.

He will remain in the Nashville area and continue ministry through revivals, pulpit supply, and interim work. □

Church constitutes, dedicates in same-day ceremonies



Signing the charter member scroll of University Heights Church, Cookeville, on the day of its constitution is Joe Wiles, Baptist Student Union director, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, as the following look on, from left, Lydia Julen, pastor of Stevens Street Church, Cookeville, the sponsoring church; David Julen, pastor; Phillip Baker, first music director of the mission; Don Wynn, an interim pastor from Stevens Street; and Michael L. Prowse, director of missions, Stone Baptist Association. The congregation constituted on Aug. 28 and dedicated its building, which was owned by another denomination. It had been a mission congregation only for two years. It is the fifth congregation added to the association in four years.

Lewisburg church holds 150th anniversary events

For Baptist and Reflector

Mount Lebanon Missionary Church, Lewisburg, observed its 150th anniversary Aug. 25-28.

Activities prior to Sunday included an ice cream supper, bonfire and storytelling, a country fair carnival and Gospel singing. On Sunday, Aug. 28, members heard the church's history presented and fellowshiped with visitors attending the homecoming/anniversary events. Former pastor

J.L. Baker spoke. Also a singing was held that day. Glen Cupp, who has served as pastor of the church for eight years, led the service.

The early congregation worshiped in a cedar log structure erected about 1820 on the property of Isom O'Neal. It served as a school as well and during the Civil War was used as a hospital.

Mr. Neal deeded land in 1943 to the group and they organized the next year. This land remains the site of the church. □



PARTICIPATING IN THE PRESENTATION of a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society are, from left, Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Barnett, Glen Cupp, pastor, and Harold Smith, director of missions, New Duck River Baptist Association.

Drawing 600 to prayer meetings

Awakening could start in association: Memphians

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Twice this year some 600 Baptists have gathered in Memphis to pray for two hours.

Those gathered heard music and directions for prayer, but primarily they prayed personally for revival or spiritual awakening.

Their goal may sound old-fashioned, but many in the association agree its needed.

Six years ago a strategy planning committee of the association identified the association's greatest need as revival. "The churches in the association and the Baptist witness in the county was in desperate need of revitalization," explained John McBride, director of missions, Shelby County Association.

"The Baptist influence in the county appeared to me to have dimmed over the years. Though Baptists are the largest denomination in the county, we were ignored by the media."

Citing infighting, competition, and churches in transition as factors, McBride noted, "We did not have the spiritual dynamic and thus the power that the city desperately needed from us. Our churches need revival because they're God's instruments, and until and when God brings revival to them he won't bring revival to the masses."

Five years ago a spiritual awakening council began working — and praying, according to Gregory Frizzell, current chairman of the council.

The focus might be old-fashioned, said Frizzell, who is pastor of Georgian

Hills Church, Memphis, but that's the key. The impact of revivals of the past are what America needs today. Especially when one projects the church 10 years from now without a revival, he noted.

And by looking at the history of revivals, continued Frizzell, one learns they are initiated by the prayers of people for their local area over several years time. One revival in the 1790s in America followed a nationwide prayer meeting held the first Monday of each month, he noted.

The association is key, said Frizzell, because it is small enough to bond those praying.

The council began its work. It didn't see the work as "choosing a theme or event or schedule or program," he continued. Instead it simply tried to foster prayer for revival. During the first four years results came slowly, said Frizzell.

But this year is different. God is beginning to work, said Frizzell. The council felt people were ready for some training in prayer and prayer meetings, he continued.

People in the association attended conferences on prayer led by T.W. Hunt, prayer consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board, and Henry Blackaby, prayer consultant for the Home Mission Board.

The pastors in Shelby County Association have met monthly for prayer meetings that have drawn 30-40 pastors, reported Frizzell, who often prayed for two hours.

As a result of the pastors' meetings more unity is being experienced among

pastors, reported McBride. Pastors also are catching the vision for revival that they can't get within the four walls of their churches, said McBride. And that vision is needed because of the many churches in the county which are moving, merging, or dying, he added.

Pastors can develop a "lone ranger mentality," Frizzell explained. This perception can lead them away from the very people who are uniquely able to understand and thus trust them — other pastors.

As a result of the pastors' prayer meetings, pastors are becoming closer — honestly sharing their needs. "It's become clear that pastors desperately need a pastor," he said.

They need each other for another reason, he added. Pastors are facing "more attack and more pressure than at any time in recent history."

Pastors are key to revival among churches, Frizzell added.

One of the impacts of the emphasis on Shelby County churches, according to McBride, has been small groups forming to study *Experiencing God* and *Fresh Encounter*. Those studies have changed many churches and led one church, Kirby Woods, to become more involved in missions — by increasing

missions offerings and becoming a key church. The key church program leads churches to sponsor five mission congregations in one year.

The process toward revival has begun, said Frizzell, but the association still has a long way to go, he said. The upcoming annual meeting of the association — Oct. 17-18 — will be another occasion for prayer for revival.

Frizzell's commitment to the effort stems from personal struggles. Georgian Hills Church has faced unusual challenges since he has served there, he noted. In addition to trying to adjust to a transitional community in North Memphis, the church fought legal battles spanning five "grueling years," said Frizzell.

Church members fought "a spiritual battle here with that and God completely won the victory," he stated. Today the church is thriving, he added.

His hope for revival has led him to write a book, *Local Associations and United Prayer: Keys to Coming Revival*, with the support of Henry Blackby. Frizzell and Blackby wish other associations would "share the burden" and unite in prayer. Associations, then, can lead the denomination to revival, he explained.

But he was quick to add, "Of all this, nothing has been done by the council, but it is totally of God. No council can bring revival," said Frizzell.

"I'm convinced that this is just about what every association needs — that is 2 Chronicles 7:14," said McBride. □



FRIZZELL

National council on alcohol programs meets in state

For Baptist and Reflector

Representatives of state organizations which deal with alcohol problems gathered for the 99th annual American Council on Alcohol Problems Sept. 19-21 in Pigeon Forge.

The meeting drew about 70 participants and was hosted by the United Tennessee League based in Nashville. UTL is an organization which fights alcohol and other drug problems and gambling. It is partially funded by the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

State Senator Randy McNally (R) from Oak Ridge, spoke to the council and was awarded its 1994 annual distinguished service award. The award is made each year to an outstanding public official who has made a significant contribution to American society, reported Wayman Jones, director of UTL.

Southern Baptists besides Jones also were involved in the meeting. Herbert Gabhart, president emeritus, Belmont

University, Nashville, who is UTL board chairman, spoke. Dan Ireland, outgoing president and director, Alabama Citizens Action Program, was honored. Curt Scarborough, a Southern Baptist in St. Louis,

Mo., who is director of Christian Civic Foundation, is executive director. Jones was elected secretary/treasurer.

ACAP passed resolutions affirming states which lower the legal blood alcohol content

threshold, any restraints on alcohol advertising, and higher taxes on alcohol beverages.

Organizations in 36 states, 22 national religious bodies, and other fraternal organizations make up ACAP. □



VISITING DURING A BREAK are participants from Nashville, from left, Wayman and Pat Jones of United Tennessee League; Raymond Langlois, pastor, Hillview Mission, Goodlettsville; and Lamar Cooper of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Banquet set by group housing exceptional people

For Baptist and Reflector

Baptist Homes for Exceptional Persons, Inc., will hold its annual banquet at Immanuel Church, Lebanon, on Thursday, Oct. 13. BHEP is a private, non-profit organization that develops Christian group homes for people with mental handicaps.

BHEP operates one group home in Lebanon which has been in operation for four years. A second home is being built on the same property.

The banquet program will be led by representatives of Baddour Memorial Center, Senatobia, Miss. The center is a residential community for adults with mental handicaps.

Complimentary banquet tickets are available by calling (615) 444-5563. □

Rich diversity highlights 'authentic' Baptist worship

By Trennis Henderson
For Baptist Press

Editor's Note: This is the fourth part in a 12-part series in "The Spirit of Southern Baptists, 1845-1995," produced by the SBC Historical Commission.

NASHVILLE — Worship is central to the ministry of Southern Baptists' 38,700 local congregations. When Baptists talk about "going to church," they generally are referring to gathering for corporate worship.

Amid the prominent role of worship in Baptist life, diverse methods and styles abound. "Typical" Baptist worship services vary from a rural congregation with a simple format of singing, praying, and preaching to a suburban mega-church that highlights praise choruses and "seeker" services.

On any given Sunday, worship elements may range from a denim-clad song leader strumming a guitar to a formal liturgical service complete with an orchestra and a robed minister. Worship settings run the gamut from tiny one-room church houses perched on the end of dirt roads to plush, state-of-the-art worship centers in prime locations near bustling freeways.

From the earliest days of Southern Baptist life, the worship service has been a focal point of church activity. Even in the early 19th century, years before the birth of the Southern Baptist Convention, impromptu worship services across the nation's sprawling frontier helped shape the future of the denomination.

Describing such a service in *Frontiers: The Story of Missouri Baptists*, Gordon Kingsley recounted that an itinerant Baptist preacher arriving in a backwoods settlement or clearing "would pull his worn Bible from his saddlebags and, thus armed with the badge and sword of his trade, would preach to the family and to neighbors if any existed — in the house, under the trees, wherever he could be heard."

Southern Baptist historian H. Leon McBeth wrote in *The Baptist Heritage* early Southern Baptist worship "was marked by diversity, spontaneity, and a spirit of warm and informal fervency."

E.C. Dargan, a professor of ecclesiology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at the turn of the century, emphasized "worship provides the power to nurture the true spiritual life of the church." The 1994 Broadman & Holman book, *Has Our Theology Changed? Southern Baptist Thought Since 1845* notes Dargan identified five primary elements of corporate worship: prayer, praise, Scripture reading, preaching

or teaching, and the giving of tithes and offerings.

Continuing to utilize those same basic elements today, many Baptist congregations in this century have consciously sought to move beyond total spontaneity to some level of worship planning. On the denominational level, "the convention has made numerous efforts in the 20th century to provide churches with adequate materials to guide and upgrade their worship," McBeth pointed out. He said messengers to the 1925 SBC annual meeting adopted a resolution "deploring the prevailing low standards of worship" and set in motion efforts to strengthen the musical

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, describes "authentic worship" as "human response to the revelation of God." Declaring "worship has a single focus, and that single focus is to adore God and him alone," Hemphill continued, "True worship is balanced, involving mind, emotion, and will. It incorporates attitudes such as reverence and awe and respect, and actions such as bowing and praising and serving and giving."

How are such principles applied on a practical level in Southern Baptist worship services today? According to Rob Hewell, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's church music ministries department, effective worship requires a balance of preparation, expectancy, spontaneity, and authenticity.

Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, Ark., said worship services there are designed to "help people encounter God." As pastor of the state's largest

Southern Baptist congregation, Floyd said he and other members of the church's worship team "spend a lot of time not worrying so much about the 'how' of worship as seeking to help individuals encounter Christ. That's our real thrust."

Danny Henderson, associate pastor of First Church of Sugar Hill, Ga., echoed that view. Noting "intentional worship planning" is a growing trend in Southern Baptist life, he emphasized, "You can tell when you're in a service that has been planned."

Henderson said the primary consideration in planning and conducting worship services should be a conscious response to the question: "Who are we worshipping?" Insisting all worship services should be designed to worship God, he said, "We must draw together and realize we're in the presence of God to worship and praise him. We haven't come together just to sing everybody's favorite songs."

Moving beyond the actual worship service, Henderson emphasized the true measure of authentic worship is "whether or not it affects worshippers' daily lives."

What is the ultimate impact of the diverse expressions of Southern Baptist worship? According to the 1958 *Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists*, most Baptist worship services are specifically designed "to meet such spiritual needs of the worshippers as forgiveness, assurance, conviction, and dedication," adding that "genuine Christian worship results in purity of heart, strength of conviction, power for living, and zeal for service." □

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

The Spirit of Southern Baptists 1845-1995

components of worship.

The increased emphasis on music in recent decades has prompted even greater diversity in Baptist worship. Praise choruses, youth musicals, and elaborate dramatic pageants have become an integral part of many churches' ongoing worship emphasis.

One prominent Southern Baptist document that says surprisingly little about worship is the 1963 *Baptist Faith and Message* statement. It does affirm the Holy Spirit "enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service" and the Lord's Day "should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private." The absence of any details about specific elements of worship beyond the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper may provide a silent testimony to the primacy of local church autonomy in planning and conducting worship.

Primary concerns for many worship leaders in recent years have moved from the mechanics of worship to the purpose of worship. According to Franklin Segler in his 1967 Broadman book, *Christian Worship: Its Theology and Practice*, "Worship is an end in itself; it is not a means to something else ... We worship God purely for the sake of worshiping God."

Former SBC President H. Edwin Young told Executive Committee members in a report earlier this year Southern Baptists' "greatest need is worship. When we are a part of a church that worships," he emphasized, "there will be evangelism and there will be discipleship."

Ken Hemphill, former director of the Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth and now president of

Polish seminary complex opens; Southern Baptist help noted

Baptist Press

RADOSC, Poland — Southern Baptists from North Carolina and Arkansas were among those recognized during Sept. 17-18 ceremonies dedicating a new Baptist seminary and conference center in formerly communist Poland.

Polish Baptists have been working since 1989 to complete the \$1-million facility, a complex of five major buildings in the fast-growing area of Radosc near Warsaw. The seminary building's interior is only partially complete, but classes began meeting there Sept. 19.

North Carolina Baptists have contributed heavily to the construction project as a result of their 1990-92 partnership with Polish Baptists. Southern Baptists from the state composed the majority of the 36 foreign visitors at the dedication, attended by about 400 people, including Baptist leaders from Germany, Belarus, Sweden, and other countries.

Layman J.M. "Jimmy" Shults, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church, Pine

Bluff, Ark., also has given \$35,000 for Polish Baptist work during the past six years. Shults, once a hog producer and now a real estate investor, had wanted to do something for Poland since World War II. During the war, two Polish nurses cared for Shults after he suffered severe frostbite while being marched by German soldiers to a prison camp.

Shults' latest gift, \$15,000 given in memory of his late wife, Victoria, will buy a printing press for the Polish Baptist Union. The press will print newspapers, publicity materials, Bible studies, and other church-related items. His first gift to Baptists in Poland came while Eastern Europe was still closed to the West. A plaque in the union's new printing facility at the seminary complex acknowledges Shults' generosity. Meanwhile, Moldovan Baptists provided tradesmen for the seminary and conference center. With the money they earned they built a new church in Moldova.

"God prepared for us people who in the right time were appointed to do the

Lord's task," said Konstany Wiazowski, Polish Baptist Union president, thanking all who helped build the seminary.

Seventeen students are training for pastoral ministry and full-time Christian service at the seminary. For now, 12 single students are sharing a three-bedroom apartment in a building that one day will be occupied by teachers and staff. Student housing eventually will open in the seminary building.

Students are "eager for the new term and eager for being equipped," said John Floyd, FMB director for work in Europe.

"They need another \$100,000 to finish the facility," said Floyd. "They're looking at another year of hard work." Meanwhile, four of the five buildings in the complex are at least partly usable.

Tony Cupit, representing the Baptist World Alliance at the dedication, praised the vision of the small community of Polish Baptists — about 3,500 believers in 56 churches — for making the seminary dream a reality. The facility "would grace any city and ... will bring great

glory to God," Cupit said.

Radosc has been a spiritual nerve center for Baptists for more than 70 years. A former Roman Catholic priest who embraced Baptist beliefs made the property available for a Bible school in 1923, and it eventually was conveyed to Baptists. A Swiss-style home on the site — once used for feeding orphans — still stands. Polish Baptists have used it for conferences and assemblies through the years.

Gustaw Cieslar, pastor of two Polish Baptist congregations, will direct the seminary. FMB missionary Mark Edworthy is teaching a class on evangelism this fall at the new seminary. Later he will teach courses on preaching, missions, and discipleship. Edworthy and his wife, Susie, are assigned to church planting in the Warsaw area.

"We are building for the future," said Arsenius Krasnopolski, construction manager. "The architects and I tried to imagine every future eventuality that Polish Baptists may need and we have tried to make provision for this." □

TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the churches

■ **First Church, Monterey**, will hold revival Oct. 9-13. Harold Hunter, evangelist in Nashville, and Ron and Sherry Goodwin, musicians from Tifton, Ga., will lead it. Ron Goodwin is the former minister of music and youth for Cornerstone Church, McMinnville.

■ **Audubon Park Church, Memphis**, held its 50th anniversary celebration Sept. 25 and Oct. 2. Howard Kolb, pastor emeritus who served the church for 29 years and James Porch spoke during morning worship services. Other events included a golf tournament and development of fund to be used for church remodeling.

■ **Parkview Church, Jackson**, celebrated its 68th year and a homecoming Oct. 2. The church's note of debt was burned that day, making it debt-free. From Oct. 24-28 Bobby Moore will lead the congregation in revival.

■ A conference, "Christians-Making an Impact" will be held at **Parkway Church, Goodlettsville**, Oct. 29-30. Greg Jesson, a social analyst for Focus on the Family will lead it. On Saturday night Jesson will speak on "The Death of God in America: Understanding Our Culture." On Sunday Jesson will speak at

both worship services. To make Saturday childcare reservations, call (615) 824-4220 or 868-6663.

■ **First Church, Trimble**, held revival Sept. 18-21 which resulted in 125 people making professions of faith, 76 of those youth. To reach the youth Tim Williams, the speaker from Callahan, Fla., held public school rallies on drugs, which drew 181 youth to a meeting in the church's gym. Another meeting for children drew 110.

■ The youth of **Kirk Church, Collierville**, held a day camp for children age four to grade three Oct. 1. The youth led the children with stories, games, music, and provided lunch.

■ **Bethel Church, Harrison**, held revival Sept. 18-22. Willie H. Aikin, a former pastor of Oak Ridge, lead it.

■ **Dotson Memorial Church, Maryville**, will hold revival Oct. 23-26. Phil Glisson, an evangelist based in Memphis, will lead it.

■ **Mill Creek Church, Nashville**, will hold revival Oct. 27-30, led by Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis.

■ the associations

■ Charlie Pollard, pastor of

Macedonia Church, Gordonsville, has been elected president of **Wilson County Baptist Association Pastors' Conference**. George Coaker, pastor, Greenvale Church, Watertown, has been named vice president.

■ the schools

■ **Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour**, will begin its second session of its 1994-95 Preachers School Oct. 8. The nine-week course will include Epistles of John, Bible Book Study of James and Jude, and Evangelistic Preaching. Classes meet from 8 a.m. to noon. Benefactors have funded tuition costs. For more information, call (615) 573-8321.

■ the missionaries

■ **John and Janie Harmon Basham**, missionaries to Kenya, are on the field and can be reached at Baptist High School, Box 90452, Mombasa, Kenya. He grew up in Bristol and considers Chattanooga his hometown. She is from Chattanooga.

■ **Charlie and Vida Campbell**, missionaries to the Philippines, are on the field

and can be reached at P.O. Box 1140, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya 3700, Philippines. He was born in Athens and grew up in Madisonville.

■ the leaders

■ **Union Chapel Church, Kingston**, has called **Johnny Gray** of McMinnville as pastor, effective Sept. 4. **Effert Snodderly** of Lenoir City was interim pastor.

■ **First Church, Waverly**, has called **Dale Campbell** as minister of music/youth, effective Oct. 5. He was formerly minister of music/youth for Greenvue Church, Florence, Ky. He also has served in Delaware and Illinois. Campbell is a graduate of Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas.

■ **Phillip Andrew Brasher Jr.**, has been called as pastor of First Church, Como, Miss., effective Aug. 28. Brasher is a former member of First Church, Parsons.

■ **Belmont Church, Mount Carmel**, has called **James Adams**, bivocational pastor for six years, as full-time pastor, effective Sept. 23.

■ **Al Miller Jr.**, has been called as pastor of Meadowview Church, Georgetown.

He has served as a minister of youth at Meadowview Church and several other churches.

■ **Mark Drake**, church, Maryville, has been called as pastor of First Church, Galatin, effective Sept. 25. Drake is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City;

Southwestern Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and Luther Rice Theological Seminary, Lithonia, Ga.

■ **Wendell L. King**, retired pastor, Blooming Grove Church, Woodlawn, has recovered from heart surgery and is available for revivals, supply preaching or interim work. Contact him at (615) 441-3711 or at 110 Reeves St., Dickson, Tenn. 37055-1235.

■ **Bruce Hullette**, retired minister, and his wife will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 16 at Oak Grove Church, Mount Carmel. A reception will be from 2-4 p.m.

■ the people

■ **Pleasant Heights Church, Columbia**, has ordained **Mark Nichols** and **Gary Stewart** as

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Applying Greek mythology

By R. Steven Taylor, pastor
Glenwood Church, Kingsport

Greek mythology tells of Cadmus who, while searching for his sister, came upon a dragon that blocked his travel. Cadmus fought and killed the fierce dragon. Then he pulled out all the teeth of the savage beast and buried them in a field.

The next time he traveled that way he was surprised to discover that every tooth had become an armed giant. It seemed impossible that he could pass through them. How could he overcome them?

He thought of a scheme. While hiding behind a tree, he threw a stone. One of the giants, thinking another giant had struck him, hit him in return. The other giants began to take sides and quarrel. Their fighting escalated and soon involved their weapons.

Finally, all the giants got involved in the fight. Before long all were either dead or wounded, and Cadmus was then able to pass.

What's the point, you ask? This church is full of potential spiritual giants. But if Satan can sow seeds of discord and disunity, then we will end up like the giants in the Greek myth —

fighting one another. And when Christian brothers and sisters fight, it gives Satan great pleasure.

However, when Christians pray — when they become one in mind and in spirit — Satan trembles. Under God, let us always be mindful of one another and guard the unity of the church so that Satan does not get an advantage over us. □

Mindset of congregation

By Edward Cooper, pastor
Merton Avenue Church, Memphis

Without a doubt, external factors greatly impact the life and future of a church. Factors such as declining economy, deteriorating housing, debilitating crime, disintegrating community life — all can take their toll on the life of a church.

I am convinced, however, that a far greater factor that impacts a church is not external, but internal. It is sometimes referred to as "the heart of the people" or "the vision of the church" or "the prevailing mindset of the congregation."

I rejoice today and am most grateful that what I see and hear coming from our people is the heart, vision, and mindset that says, God has planted us

here to grow, minister, reach out, and extend grace in the name of Jesus.

With that internal factor, regardless of externals, we do most certainly have a bright future in Midtown. □

First, Second, Third Church

By David B. Lay, pastor
North Knoxville Church, Knoxville

I heard recently about a charter boat that wrecked in the Caribbean. According to the story, there were nine survivors when the ship went down. These folks made their way to the nearest land, an uncharted island. Once on the island, they realized that it could be years before they were rescued.

Therefore, the three Catholic survivors immediately formed the Our Lady of Deliverance Catholic Church. Not to be outdone, the three Methodist brethren followed suit by establishing the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church.

The three remaining survivors, all Baptist, responded by calling a business meeting. After much discussion, they formed the First, Second, and Third Baptist Church.

I think most of us would find this story humorous until we reflect upon the fact that this is how the outside

world generally views us. All too often we Southern Baptists are dismissed by our secular society as being unable to agree on anything and overly willing to fight about everything! To be sure, this characterization is grossly unfair, but much of our negative image has been justly earned in recent years.

I am convinced that it will take a long time to change the opinion of society as a whole. Fortunately, that is not the case on the local church field. We as individual believers in Jesus Christ must seize every opportunity to demonstrate to those around us that we are a loving and caring people.

As they see that we truly love one another and as they see Jesus reflected in our lives, we will gain a hearing for the Gospel. Then we may point them to the one who is the answer for the ills of this sick and dying world. □

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

Pleasant Heights Baptist Men exemplify 'missions in action'

By Marvine Sugg
The Daily Herald, Columbia

COLUMBIA — Pleasant Heights Church practices what it preaches — missions.

On a recent Saturday in September, 24 members of the church's Baptist Men's group put a new roof on a member's home.

The member was Wilda Knupp, widow of J. Lowell Knupp, who was pastor of several Maury County churches during his 44-year ministry, including First Church, Mt. Pleasant; Highland Park, Columbia; and First Church, Santa Fe.

Pleasant Heights Pastor Bob Vassar discovered the needs at Knupp's home.

While at the Knupp home, the Baptist Men also trimmed trees, repaired the sewer line, and did other small maintenance jobs.

"It was a very exciting day," said Knupp, whose husband died in June.

"Not only did the men work, but the ladies provided breakfast, lunch, and snacks throughout the day," she said.

Because it is difficult for her to do housework, several members of the Baptist Women's organization have also helped by housecleaning, painting, and washing windows.

"I have really experienced the love of God these past few months and I'm just overwhelmed with what the church has done for me.

"It can't be measured in terms of money. I told the

men, 'God is really smiling down on you today,'" she recalled.

The work of the two missions organization at Pleasant Heights exemplify "missions in action," as promoted by Southern Baptist churches throughout the state and convention. □ — Sugg is religion editor for *The Daily Herald*. Story is used with permission.

BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES
Manufacturers Lights Baptries Signs Steeples
TOLL FREE 1-800-446-7400
FAX: 804-822-2210
P.O. Box 2250 • Danville, VA 24541

Classified

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

CHURCH ORGANIST: Central Church, Kingston, is looking for a church organist. Call (615) 376-6866.

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.

Call for free BROCHURE
BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE
1-800-251-9679
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, steeples, chairs, tables, lighting, stained glass, folding doors, carpet

VAN WINKLE CHURCH FURNISHINGS & PEW UPHOLSTERY
Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627
Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

CHURCH FURNITURE
Finest Construction
Lowest Prices
Free Estimates
Plain or Padded BAPTISTRIES, STEEPLES, WINDOWS
"Refinishing, Upholstering, Cushioning Your Present Pews"
CISCO
Toll Free 1-800-365-2568 P. O. Box 1068
615/359-3075 Lewisburg, TN 37091

Dean to lead women's prayer conference

Jennifer Kennedy Dean, a nationally known teacher, speaker, and conference leader will lead "The Praying Life: Living Beyond Your Limits" Saturday, Nov. 12, in the chapel of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood.

Dean is author of *Heart's Cry* and *The Praying Life*. The Bible study and

prayer conference for women is sponsored by Nashville Association. The conference will be held from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Registration fee is \$15 and includes materials and lunch.

The fee should be sent by Oct. 30 to Judy Scott, NBA WMU-Missions Support Director, 2711 Priestlake Dr., Nashville, Tenn., 37217. □

LITTLE GIANT MFG. CO.
BAPTISTRIES
WATER HEATERS
STEEPLES
CROSSES-LIGHTS
Buy Directly from Manufacturer
Box 518 Orange, TX 77630
TOLL FREE 1-800-231-6035

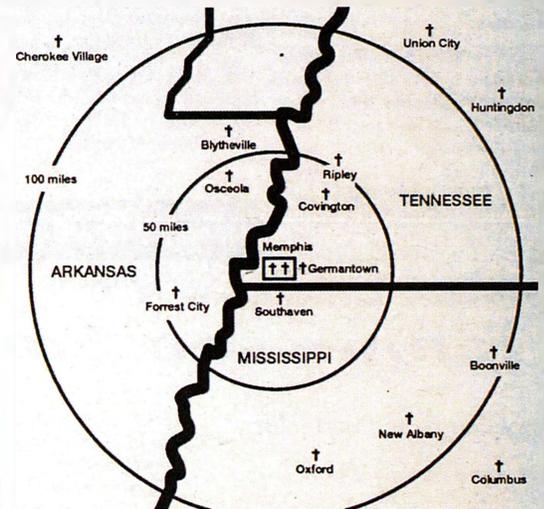
A & O CHURCH FURNITURE
4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053
JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282
— PEW —
UPHOLSTERING
1 (800) 523-9058
NC 1 (800) 222-7895
REFINISHING

Call toll-free anytime ... 1-800-473-6688
We're built on a strong foundation of over 3800 churches.

Church Interiors of Nashville
New PEWS REFINISHING UPHOLSTERING
Stained Glass Steeples Baptistries Loose Reversible Cushions
Lighting and Complete Renovations

Free! Estimates and Interior Design Consultation

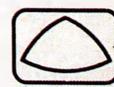
A Plan With A Purpose



Why do we steadfastly support 15 hospitals in three states, including six in Tennessee? Because we want to provide you the best possible access to high quality health care, wherever you live. But more than that, we think of these hospitals as an extension of our mis-

sion. Our regional hospitals are part of an overall plan with a purpose - the Christian ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing. And even though our plans sometimes change, our purpose will always remain the same.

Baptist Hospital Sunday is October 16, 1994

 Baptist Memorial Health Care System



the Classic Commuter
- by -

METROTRANS CORPORATION

Price competitive with standard vans
Low lease rates available

- No CDL required
- Seats 14 passengers with rear luggage compartment
- Coach seating - up to 17 - with an aisle (compare with van bench seating)
- Low step passenger entrance - easy access
- Stronger/safer than standard vans (compare all steel cage construction)
- Roomier seats - full panoramic view
- Bigger than conventional passenger vans
- Vehicles available ranging from 14 to 31 passengers

For more information or demonstration
call 1-800-743-7200

Area representative: Henry Headden

Sunday School lesson commentary

Life and Work Series
for Oct. 9

Focal Passage:
Genesis 2:7-9,
15-18, 21-24

Master designer, master design

By Elizabeth Howard

The first and second chapters of Genesis look at the creation from different points of view. Chapter 1 shows an orderly progression with human beings as the culmination of God's creativity. Chapter 2 pictures God forming Adam from dust, much as a potter forms a statue from clay. Once God has created man, he then plants the garden with trees for food, creates the mammals, and last of all, makes Eve as a companion for Adam. There is some difference in the order of creation in the two chapters, but in each, the human being is the centerpiece of God's creative work, the spiritual creature, above all other creatures on the earth.

Formed from the dust — v. 7

Adam was formed from the ground, and so were the beasts of the field and the birds of the air (v. 19). For that reason, human beings and other mammals share the same physical and chemical properties as those found in the earth.

Yet human beings are different from other mammals. God breathed into Adam's nostrils, and Adam became a creature with a spirit, a being created in the image of God, capable of having fellowship with God.

Formed to work — vv. 8-9, 15-17

Once Adam was created, God prepared a place for him, Eden, a garden with beautiful food-bearing trees, a perfect environment one might say, but in the middle of the garden, there was the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Eden must have looked like a park with an infinite variety of trees and flowers. The human mind cannot imagine all the colors and fragrances that were there, truly a great flower tapestry.

However, God did not intend that Adam live in the shade, bored because he had nothing to do, frustrated because he felt useless. God planned a worthwhile work for him, the work of tilling and dressing the garden. We don't know exactly what work was involved, but we can see that God gave Adam the responsibility of caring for the environment.

Adam was free to eat of any tree in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He had the choice of obeying God's prohibition, or disobeying, and he knew the consequences of disobedience — death.

Formed for companionship — vv. 18, 21-24

God realized Adam needed a companion. He made the beasts and birds, but they were not suitable companions for Adam. He then formed Eve from Adam's rib, and Adam recognized her as the companion he needed. Adam and Eve were part of each other; yet each was a separate identity, valuable in his or her own right. They were the first family, the first marriage. Each marriage is to follow their example — man and woman are to leave parents and form a new family, to join in a new relationship, to become once again one flesh.

□ — Elizabeth Howard is a member of Cumberland Homestead Church, Crossville.

Deliverance by God's hand

By Samuel Dean

The Israelites did evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord permitted the Midianites to raid their crops for seven years (ch. 6:1).

The Midianites, Amalekites, and tribes from the East would descend by the thousands to take the yearly harvest. The Israelites were left without sustenance, sheltering themselves in strongholds because of fear. They cried unto the Lord for help.

Call of Gideon — vv. 1-6, 7-18

The Lord heard the people's cry and sent an angelic messenger to Ophrah where Gideon was working in his father's hidden wine press. The introductory comments of the messenger were shocking. Gideon was told that the Lord was with him and called him a "mighty man of valor."

These words were greeted with much skepticism. If the Lord was with the nation, why were they in this mess?

The Lord would not let Gideon linger in his cynical mood. Gideon was told to go and deliver Israel from the Midianites. The challenge was overwhelming for he felt that he was from the weakest clan in Manasseh and was the weakest in his family (v. 15).

Gideon wanted a sign to prove the messenger was of God. The offering brought by Gideon was miraculously consumed and the

angel disappeared, leaving Gideon in awe of God.

First things first — vv. 25-32

Before freeing the people from the enemy plaguing them, Gideon needed to free his own family and locale from the bondage of Baal. During the night Gideon and 10 of his servants tore down the altar of Baal and erected one to the Lord.

The next day the men of the city were ready to kill him. His father, Joash, saved his life by telling the men to leave it to Baal to defend his cause.

Hence, Gideon was given a nickname, Jerubbaal, meaning "Let Baal contend against him." Although the name was given in derision, it became a badge of honor when Baal was proven to be incapable of doing anything to Gideon.

Another sign, please — vv. 33-40

Gideon seemed to be so insecure. Moreover, the task was mind-boggling. He needed more assurance that God was going to produce deliverance. Through "putting out the fleece" he became assured of God being in the plan. Without a reasonable degree of certainty, how can one lead?

A mighty minority — ch. 7:1-7

Thirty-two thousand answered

the call of Gideon for battle. To Gideon's probable amazement, the Lord said the army was too large. A reduction in force was necessary! After 22,000 went home because of fear, the remaining group of 10,000 was reduced by the way they drank water! Only 300 and the Lord were necessary to win the battle.

This military stratagem must have seemed like a colossal mistake. Indeed, Gideon needed one more assurance to overcome his fear. A reconnaissance mission with his servant into the Midianite camp gave him certainty (vv. 9-14). Finally Gideon became a confident commander.

Rout is on — vv. 19-21

The creative surprise attack by Gideon during the night frightened the Midianites. They were routed by a handful of warriors. Faith dared to believe the incredible and had accomplished what seemed to be the impossible.

Large numbers of people, huge budgets, creative programs, and mammoth institutions may become self-centered and bypassed by the Lord. A little in God's hand is much. A few in God's purpose are mighty. Modern-day Gideons may come from unexpected sources that appear to be weak, inept, and insignificant. A little plus God equals a lot plus God. God is the real difference. □ — Samuel Dean is pastor of First Church, Clinton.

Reconciled in Christ

By Ray Fullilove

It must have been a moment of inspiration for the Apostle Paul when he began to tell about our reconciliation in Christ. The surge of joy in his heart must have surfaced memories upon his mind and rejoicing in his spirit. Paul is testifying to the transformation experienced when we are reconciled in Christ.

New life — vv. 1-3

The flow of thought in this opening verse comes from the preceding chapter identifying that the Source for a new life is in Christ (ch. 1:20). Thus Paul declares that our reconciliation with God in Christ Jesus gives us a new life. The results will be a new desire (v. 1), a new direction (v. 2a), a new dominance (v. 2b), and a new disposition (v. 3).

Paul writes of this fact because his experience with Jesus was personal (I Corinthians 15:10), powerful (Galatians 2:20), and perpetual (Philippians 1:20-21). When we have been forgiven of our sin, fulfilled with satisfaction, and filled with a song, we come to life again. This is our new life in Jesus Christ.

New love — vv. 4-10

When we are brought together (reconciled) to God in Christ Jesus, we will have a new love. Paul shows us that this new love becomes real because of God's love toward us. It is abundant in mercy (v. 4), absolute in miracle, astounding in method (vv. 8-9), and assuring in motivation (v. 10). We are made right with God (reconciled) because of God's grace toward us and not because of our self-righteousness.

New law — vv. 11-18

The law of God supercedes the law of man. Our new relationship with God in Christ Jesus places us under a new law written in the blood of Jesus Christ. Paul is addressing both Jews and Gentiles in these

Bible Book Series
for Oct. 9
Focal Passage
Ephesians 2:1-10, 13-18

churches. Thus, he shows that in spite of their history, all people can be brought together by Christ's story — by the grace of God. Paul is stating that in spite of religion, race, or rationale, all can be brought together in Christ under a new law. It will be law of revelation (vv. 11-12), of redemption (v. 13), and of reconciliation (vv. 14-18).

New loyalty — vv. 19-22

Now Paul marks our reconciliation in Christ with an underlining emphasis — we are never alone! We are never alone because we have Christ and the church (the local congregation). Not only do we possess Jesus, as our Prince of Peace; but, also, we have the joyful support in the presence of the people of God.

This new loyalty makes every believer secure in fellowship (v. 19), stable in foundation (v. 20), and set in faithfulness (vv. 21-22). Through it all, we become a part of God's redeemed people to become the "habitation of God through the spirit."

Our relationship with God, in Christ, can be expressed in the words: "I think of my blessed Redeemer, I think of him all the day long; I sing, for I cannot be silent; his love is the theme of my song. Redeemed, redeemed, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb; redeemed, redeemed, his child, and forever I am." Hallelujah! What a Savior! □ — Ray Fullilove is pastor of Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis.

Baptist Book Stores eliminate positions

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — To position the 65-store chain of Baptist Book Stores to "operate more efficiently in a competitive environment," a total of 116 full- and part-time positions in the stores are being eliminated, including 80 vacant positions, according to Mark Scott, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's retail division.

The changes are part of the board's overall restructuring efforts being completed at the board.

Scott said the 36 affected people work in 18 stores in the chain. The Nashville Baptist Book Store had the largest number of positions eliminated with seven. □

Baptists jailed in Saudi Arabia

Baptist Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Two Baptists and at least one other Christian from the Philippines reportedly remain in prison in Saudi Arabia after being arrested for holding a Christian home meeting.

The three, along with five others, were arrested Aug. 26 for conducting a home Bible study. The Muslim kingdom forbids Christian meetings — public or private.

All eight Christians are

Philippine contract workers. Four or five reportedly were released and are being watched by Saudi Muslim "religious police." But Joel Cunananan, identified as the group's leader, and at least two others remain in detention. □

Former Baptist college president indicted

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — A federal grand jury returned a 20-count indictment Sept. 21 against Lewis Nobles Jr., former president of Mississippi College in Clinton, according to a news release from the U.S. Department of Justice.

The indictment charges Nobles with six counts of mail fraud as part of a scheme going back to 1977, in which Nobles allegedly systematically diverted contributions intended for the college to his own use.

Nobles also was indicted for other offenses including four counts of violating the Mann Act, also known as the White Slavery Law, and tax evasion.

U.S. Attorney George Phillips said the indictment is only an allegation of criminal conduct and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty at a trial.

Nobles was arraigned Sept. 22 and trial date of Nov. 7 was set. He was released on a \$15,000 personal recognizance bond and ordered to continue seeing a psychiatrist. □

Leadership/advisory team named to assist church recreation

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A leadership/advisory team designed to give local church and state perspectives to the national Southern Baptist church recreation program has begun work, according to Tommy Yessick, director of the national program.

Nine recreation-related professionals from across the nation began work in August with Yessick, John Garner, program consultant, and Joe Palmer, who manages the Centrifuge/Crosspoint section for the board's discipleship and family development division.

Yessick said the team, designed to give the program assistance through leadership and feedback, is being developed as a result of a reduction in national staff and elimination of *Church Recreation* magazine.

One Tennessee Baptist is serving on the team — Tommy Lunceford, recreation minister at Kirbywood Church, Memphis. □

Retired New Mexico state editor dies

Baptist Press

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — C. Eugene Whitlow, 82, editor

Southern Baptists' response to call for prayer pays off in Ivory Coast

Baptist Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — Recent events surrounding the premiere of a French-language evangelistic film in Ivory Coast proved the effectiveness of Southern Baptists' prayers beyond a doubt to firsthand observers.

Those who took note included Ivory Coast Baptists and Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries working in the western African nation — and Randy Sprinkle, director of the board's international prayer strategy office.

Sprinkle put out a call to prayer Aug. 26 for the Sunday, Aug. 28, premiere of the film, "La Solution" (translated "The Solution") via the FMB's toll-free PrayerLine (1-800-395-PRAY).

Top personalities, government leaders, and leading Muslims were invited to the premiere in the capital city of Abidjan.

Late into the night after the film's release, people moved by the film began knocking on the doors of Baptist leaders, seeking spiritual answers, said missionary Barbara Whittington.

Their response came as about 675 Southern Baptists called the PrayerLine during the weekend. Abidjan is between four and eight hours ahead of U.S. time zones, meaning the film was premiering as most Southern Baptists were going to church.

"That prayer request went with them to churches on Sunday for sharing in Sunday Schools and prayer groups," Sprinkle said, adding people continued calling the PrayerLine Sunday evening, and at night they were still praying.

Meanwhile, people in Ivory Coast affected by the film seemed "compelled to come for counsel all night long and into the next day," he said. □

emeritus of the *Baptist New Mexican* died Sept. 18 here. He was editor of the paper from 1967-81.

Whitlow's death was due to complications from knee surgery three days earlier. He has had several health problems since suffering a stroke during a partnership missions project to London 10 years ago.

He is survived by his wife, Gretchen, and two children. □

Melissa Rogers named to BJC legal position

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Melissa Rogers, a former associate in a Washington law firm, has been named associate general counsel at the Baptist Joint Committee.

Rogers, who is pursuing a master of arts degree in history at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., has been volunteering services to the Washington-based religious liberty agency since March. She will fill the associate general counsel's position on a part-time basis. She began Oct. 1.

Rogers is married to Stan Fendley, tax counsel to the Senate Small Business committee. She is the daughter of Bill Rogers, professor of Christian education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. □

SBTS church music school celebrates

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's annual Church Music Institute will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the seminary's School of Church Music.

Paul Westermeyer, professor of church music at Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary, will deliver the seminary's Gheens Lectures in conjunction with the Oct. 18-21 event.

The institute also will include a variety of workshops led by Southern alumni and current faculty members. Hugh T. McElrath, senior professor of church music, will present an overview of the school's history.

In addition, the event will feature Milburn Price as choral clinician and Mark Hayes as a workshop and worship leader.

Price, dean of the School of Music at Samford University, was Southern Seminary's church music dean from 1981-93. Hayes, a composer, arranger, and pianist, has written a commissioned work for the 50th anniversary which will be performed during the institute.

Registration for the institute is \$75. For more information, call 1 (800) 626-5525. □

Do your church members know what's going on at your church?

If not, maybe you need a church newsletter. Let the Baptist and Reflector be the means for providing your members information about what's going on, not only in your church but also in the state and the denomination.

Send in the form below and we will provide you information as to how your church can economically print its news weekly, biweekly, or even monthly on the back page of the Baptist and Reflector.

Church _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Person making request _____
 Title _____

Mail form to:

Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024