

Baptist and Reflector

October 12, 1994

VOL. 160 ■ NO. 41

STATEWIDE EDITION

■ this
week's
news

global —

■ Southern Baptists return to Rwanda. — Page 2

■ Covington native earns 'hero' status in Brazil. — Page 3

national —

■ Churches reminded about changes in tax reporting laws. — Page 3

state —

■ Editorial cites need for supporting world hunger offering. — Page 5

■ Ivan Raley shows love to Rwandan refugees. — Page 7

■ Lawrenceburg church uses off-site Sunday School classes as missions tool. — Page 8

■ Training opportunities available across Tennessee. — Page 10

Clarksville churches join to share facilities

By Lonnie Wilkey
For Baptist and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — Two Cumberland Association congregations, one white and one black, have joined together in what may be the first effort of its kind in the state.

Gracey Avenue Church, an older white congregation in Clarksville, and Greater St. James Mission, a two-year-old congregation sponsored by Gracey Avenue, celebrated "Partnership Day" Oct. 2.

The two congregations will maintain separate identities, but will use the same building and church facilities. Greater St. James previously had met in a rented building, but had outgrown the facilities.

Gracey Avenue will worship on Sundays at 9 a.m., while Greater St. James will worship



CUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION Director of Missions Wesley Pitts, right, joins Gracey Avenue Church Pastor James Redding, left, and Greater St. James Mission Pastor James Brigham on 'Partnership Day' Oct. 2 as the two churches united together in the same location.

at 11:20 a.m. The two churches have joined together for a joint Sunday School at 10:15.

Each church will maintain

separate offerings and separate prayer meetings on Wednesday nights. The churches will share utility bills and ex-

penses and both pastors will have offices at the church.

While black churches have had access to white churches in the state, this appears to be the first time a church facility has been used in a partnership agreement by both black and white churches, said Gracey Avenue Pastor James Redding, a former program associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department.

Willie McPherson, director of the Home Mission Board's black church extension division, acknowledged that what the two Clarksville churches are doing "is not something that happens with regularity.

"I'm sure there are some churches that have done it, but it's rare," McPherson said, adding that he "doesn't know of any such effort that involves — See Clarksville, page 6

SBC Cooperative Program gifts for 1993-94 set record

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program gifts for the fiscal year 1993-94 totaled a record \$142,866,783 surpassing last year by more than \$6 million and the budget requirement by more than \$4 million, according to Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

The SBC fiscal year — which ended Sept. 30 — CP total was a 4.6 percent in-

crease over last year's \$136,539,729.

The 1993-94 SBC program allocation budget called for \$138,234,735. The \$142,866,783 given represents 103.4 percent of the budget.

Highest previous year in the CP's history was 1989-90 when \$140,710,282 in gifts was received by the SBC. This year's record amount reversed a decline in gifts.

"The all-time record high in Cooperative Program receipts is overwhelming evidence that Southern Baptists, the people

in the pews of our churches and the pastors in our pulpits, are committed to meeting the challenge of the Great Commission," Chapman said.

SBC President Jim Henry of First Church, Orlando, Fla., which leads the 38,000 SBC churches in CP giving, said the "record giving sends a strong message that the grassroots have a great and growing confidence in our institutions, our leadership, and our Cooperative Program." □

MOVING? Cut out and mail address label and new address to Baptist and Reflector, 901 Commerce St., Suite 400, Nashville, Tenn.

900-004-10-0122
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400
NASHVILLE
TN 37203



Centennial guest

Tennessee native and Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry, center, was welcomed Oct. 4 to Central Church Bearden, Knoxville, by Pastor Larry Fields, right, and Pastor Ementus Henry Chiles. Central sponsored a reception for area pastors to meet the SBC president. Henry was one of four special guests who preached the church's observance of its 100th anniversary. See page 6 for story and additional photos.

Carson-Newman College cited in national news publication

JEFFERSON CITY — U.S. News and World Report has named Carson-Newman College one of the South's top ten regional liberal arts schools. In its eighth annual "America's Best Colleges" issue published Sept. 19, Carson-Newman ranks tenth on the list based on academic reputation, student selection, faculty and financial resources, graduation rate, and alumni satisfaction. The college was cited a week later by the same magazine for high educational values and efficiency.

The Jefferson City school, one of Tennessee Baptists' three schools of higher education, is listed along with other institutions such as Emory and Henry, Hillsdale, and

Mary Baldwin. The news came as C-N opened its 144th academic year with a record enrollment and \$3.1 million pledged since June in the Victory Lap of the college's largest ever capital campaign.

Among the region's liberal arts colleges, C-N was ranked seventh by the magazine in academic reputation and eighth in student selectivity.

With an enrollment of 2,163 Carson-Newman has a student/faculty ratio of 13:1. For the sixth year, the average ACT score of C-N freshmen has topped state and national averages. In compiling the rankings for its Sept. 19 issue, the magazine surveyed presidents, deans, and admissions — See Carson-Newman, page 2

Missionaries re-enter Rwanda

By Craig Bird
For Baptist Press

- 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

KIGALI, Rwanda — Southern Baptist missionaries have re-established a physical presence in Rwanda — more than five months after evacuating the African country in April when it plunged into ethnic bloodshed.

"We're just trying to pick up the pieces like the rest of the country," said Foreign Mission Board missionary Larry Randolph, administrator of the Southern Baptist mission organization in Rwanda.

"We're trying to get in contact with Baptist leaders, see what happened to our property, and see what we can do to meet the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of the Rwandans."

At least three Baptist pastors were among the hundreds of thousands of Rwandans killed, Randolph confirmed. He also has been told that "four or five" evangelists who worked for the Baptist Union of Rwanda are dead.

Only six of the 35 ordained Rwandan Baptist pastors have been located, "though we assume, and hope, that most of them are scattered in the refugee camps," he said.

Almost all other surviving Baptist leaders also remain out of the country, and likely will for some time. So missionaries have many added tasks as they resume work.

The fate of properties has provided some good news. Most Baptist-owned

buildings are pockmarked with bullets, but "at least 90 percent of the buildings in Kigali are structurally sound — and that includes our churches, offices, and homes," Randolph said.

He has visited six churches and found all of them in good shape. The compound where the Randolphs live includes a mission guest house and offices.

"It was looted and trashed, but not damaged," he said.

The home of missionaries **David and Janet Hooten, Knoxville**, sustained the most damage. The entire roof and a chain-link fence were hauled away.

"Either the looters had a lot of time or there were a lot of them — or both," Randolph said.

Randolph and his wife, Diane, began staying in Kigali for short periods of time in late August. They returned the first week of October. **Missionary Katrina Knox, Columbia**, who has been working at the Baptist camp for Rwandan refugee children in Goma, Zaire, plans to return to her home and work in Butare by mid-October. The Hootens, now working in Rwandan refugee camps in Tanzania, will move back "as soon as we can find them a house," according to Randolph.

Missionaries Stan and Marlene Lee, Fort Worth, Texas, have agreed to work in Goma for six more months.

The other Foreign Mission Board missionaries who evacuated Rwanda include Martha Colwell, Athens, Ga., who is in

the United States on furlough, and Vernon and Sandi Sivage, Midland and Wheeler, Texas, respectively, who have transferred to Uganda.

Two other couples appointed to Rwanda are completing language study in France. Tim and Kathy Cummins, Georgetown, Texas, and Atlanta, respectively, plan to arrive in the country in November; he will work as a mass media evangelist and she will be involved in church and home evangelism. Billy and Dana Blankenship, Weatherford, Texas, assigned to agricultural evangelism, have not finalized their plans.

The Rwanda missionaries likely will work in human needs projects for a while, Randolph said. They have requested funds from the Foreign Mission Board to fund the children's camp in Goma through next May. Diane Randolph is developing a program to assist women made widows by the Rwandan tragedy. Hooten, an agriculturist, and Knox, a nurse, also can help meet basic needs, which are tremendous.

"A lot of people we knew are dead and a lot we can't find, but we're thrilled just to be back home," Randolph admitted. "We had water when we went back and the electricity, and postal service was supposed to resume a couple of weeks ago. ... There's food in the markets and traders are beginning to import items.

"It will be a tough place to live and work emotionally — but it's where we want to live and work." □

Carson-Newman cited in national news publication ...

— Continued from page 1

directors of 1,400 schools, asking them to rate those institutions in their same category. The results were combined with educational data provided by the ranked colleges.

Carson-Newman president Cordell Maddox said he was pleased that the school was named with "such a prestigious group given that our tuition compares quite competitively." He said the C-N trustees recently voted to

keep tuition increases to an absolute minimum to ensure affordability.

In its Sept. 26 issue, *U. S. News and World Report* ranked Carson-Newman as fifth among the South's liberal arts schools in providing "quality education at a relatively reasonable cost." The citing came in the magazine's first annual "America's Best Values" survey in the national publication.

The Tennessee Baptist

school was fourth on the "Most Efficient Schools" list, which ranks institutions' spending on educational programs per student. The high ranking verified Maddox's report on keeping tuition affordable.

The magazine said the listings were devised to help provide families with a realistic measure of value by relating the cost of attending an institution to the quality of education.

Considered in the values and efficiency ranking were schools in the top 20 percent of the "best schools" ranking earlier. Carson-Newman is the only liberal arts school in Tennessee to make the best values and efficiency list.

Carson-Newman College awards more than \$11 million in financial aid annually, taking \$3.5 million from the institutional budget. Ninety-one percent of the students received some financial aid. □

Texas attorney files charter for new convention; has 'no intention to use it'

Baptist Press

HOUSTON — Houston attorney J. Walter Carpenter has filed a charter for a "Texas Baptist Convention, Inc.," should the need arise for a new convention, he said last week.

Carpenter told the Texas weekly newsjournal, *The Baptist Standard*, he had "no intention to use it, but it is there to use if things go from bad to worse and conservative leadership in Texas wants it. It is merely an enabling thing in the event it is needed."

Events which might bring on separation of "conservatives" from the Baptist General Convention of Texas and es-

tablishment of a new convention, he said, could include inclusion of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in the BGCT budget if the Cooperative Missions Giving Study Committee report is rejected at the annual convention in Amarillo, Oct. 31.

"I would expect that would trigger this (new) convention," Carpenter said, adding he had "no idea" if the approval of the committee report, which would permit CBF gifts to be considered as Cooperative Program gifts, which would "trigger" establishment of the new convention. "I am not in the loop of the leadership decisions. I merely do what I am asked to do," he said. □

Rates hold steady for medical plans

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Rates for the first six months of 1995 will not increase for participants in three Annuity Board medical plans that cover church ministers, church staffs, and seminary students.

Rates will not change in the Comprehensive Medical, Major Medical, and Catastrophic Medical plans, according to board officials.

Life and long-term disability rates also will not change for 1995. A decision has not yet been made about 1995 rates for participants in the PruCare HMO.

Although there is no across-the-board increase for the first half of 1995, rates

may change for participants who move to ZIP Code areas with higher rates or who have birthdays that put them into higher age brackets. Participants who add a first or second dependent to their coverage will also see an increase.

There has been no rate increase in the Personal or Seminarian Comprehensive Medical Plan since July 1, 1992.

"Participants are benefiting from good claims experience and the Annuity Board's and Prudential's effective management of the plans," said Joel Mathis, an Annuity Board senior vice president and head of the insurance division. □

Former Tennessee pastor and Covington native

Courage, Lottie Moon get pilot through rescue flights

By Jan Johnsonius
For Baptist Press

BRASILEIA, Brazil — Missionary pilot Warren Rose, a native of Covington, had never put his life at risk by landing at night on an unlighted, dirt runway.

But for the 25 burn victims stranded Sept. 9 near the Brazilian jungle town of Brasileia, he and another pilot were their only hope for survival.

Minutes earlier, Rose had signed a document releasing the Brazilian government from responsibility in the event of a crash. Now his thoughts focused on avoiding the unlighted antennas and towers that surrounded the landing strip.

As he broke through the low-lying clouds and dense smoke, he was met by an amazing sight. The townspeople had lined up their cars, with the headlights illuminating the airstrip. The rest of the jungle was in darkness.

"The way the Lord worked is amazing," said Rose, a former pastor of Natchez Trace Church, Camden, and a graduate of Union University, Jackson.

Earlier that day a flatbed truck was traveling the jungle road between the towns of Brasileia and Asis. It carried about 30 people on the back and a container of diesel oil.

The truck passed a brush fire which caught up with the vehicle. The diesel oil exploded,



SOUTHERN BAPTIST MISSIONARY pilot Warren Rose of Covington, right, seen with his wife, Kathy, of Memphis, and his single-engine plane in this file photo, made multiple night landings on an unlighted dirt runway in Brazil in September to ferry burn victims to medical care.

burning 25 of the passengers and the driver. Three died at the scene. The others were transported to a small clinic in Brasileia, but the clinic had no supplies or anesthesia.

Meanwhile, Rose was contacted at about 6 p.m. in Rio Branco, the capital of Acre. He had just finished an emergency flight.

Night flights normally are illegal in the Brazilian state of Acre, but the emergency outweighed the risks. At first, no government official wanted to assume responsibility for Rose's flight, but he finally convinced an Air Force colonel to let him make the flight.

Through it all, Rose's wife, Kathy, said she had a sense of peace, although she knew the dangers of flying over a jungle in the dark, through smoke clouds, and landing on a runway lit only by the headlights of cars.

So Rose took off on a flight which would earn him the state's highest award for valor and gain new respect for Baptist work there.

He made the flights with a nurse who kept IV fluids going. He completed his second flight at about 3:30 a.m. with four more patients. He was accompanied on that flight by his father, Coy Rose, who was visiting as

part of a volunteer team from Covington. The elder Rose went along to offer his flying expertise.

Rose completed his last flight at 7 a.m. By that time several victims had already died. Within days the three passengers from Rose's first flight would be dead. The death toll now stands at 20 and could go higher.

But Rose's willingness to take such risks for the Brazilian people opened their eyes in ways nothing else could. His mother, Jeanette, noted the people "were amazed that an American would risk his life" for them.

Brazilian newspapers were

filled with stories of the daring night flights of Rose and Brazilian pilot Silvio Abilio Almeida de Lima, who also joined the rescue effort.

"They made us look like heroes, saying we risked our lives and flew by instinct," Rose said.

"That instinct was the Global Navigation System, provided by Southern Baptists through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Rose said with a laugh. "It was right there on my panel telling me where the runway was. It's so sophisticated that I not only knew where the airport was, I had the end of the runway programmed into the computer on my plane." But Rose admits there was a risk. No computer could program in how to avoid unlighted antennas and towers. The Brazilian pilot also had the navigation system.

State legislators in Acre obviously realized the risk. They voted in September to award Rose and the Brazilian pilot the Order of the Star, the highest medal of honor and courage given by the state.

"What has happened has called attention to what we're doing as Baptists," Rose said.

"Sometimes we're seen as only being concerned about sharing the Gospel and not the physical needs of others. "This says we care. It lends credibility and opens the doors for people to be more receptive. The authorities and mayors now have a higher opinion of who we are as Baptists," he said. □

Churches to be affected by new tax reporting laws

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Although tax time is still months away, church financial secretaries should be preparing to help donors comply with new tax laws related to charitable giving, IRS employees advised.

Effective Jan. 1, 1994, any single contribution of \$250 or more to a charity must be substantiated in writing by that charity. The documentation also must indicate whether the donor received any goods or services in exchange for the contribution.

Because of this new law, church officials will want to get out donor statements as soon as possible each quarter or at year-end, said Karin Gross, a senior technician reviewer with the IRS chief counsel. Gross and Howard Schoenfeld, IRS special assistant for exempt organizations, spoke to Baptist editors in Washington Oct. 2.

The two said the IRS already has received numerous phone calls about the changes, many from people who have misunderstood the new law.

Here are highlights of their explanations:

- Deductibility is not changed. The new law relates only to documentation of deductions, not what may be counted as a tax deduction.

- The law affects only single contribu-

Effective Jan. 1, 1994, any single contribution of \$250 or more to a charity must be substantiated in writing by that charity.

tions of \$250 or more. To illustrate, consider two people who both give \$5,200 annually to their churches. One person gives \$100 every week to the church and therefore is not affected by the new law. The other person gives \$433 once each month, and therefore is affected by the new law.

- Documentation is required. Before filing a tax return, a donor must obtain from the church a statement which lists all contributions of \$250 or more and reports any goods or services given to the donor in return. A donor's cancelled check will not be considered adequate documentation because they do not indicate whether any goods or services were received in return.

- Compliance is the goal. Upon request of Congress, the IRS wants to eliminate charitable deductions claimed wrongly. That's why the no-goods-or-services requirement is key to the new law. For example, a person might pay the church more than

\$250 to participate in a mission trip. That payment differs from a regular tithe or offering, which is given without expecting to receive any goods or services in return. For the mission trip, the money paid is not a contribution to the church but provides lodging, food, and transportation services.

- Mixed gifts have a different standard. Payments to a church of more than \$75 that are part charity and part payment for goods and services must be documented as such. For example, should a church hold a fund-raiser where individuals pay \$100 to attend a concert, the donor could deduct as a contribution only the amount of that \$100 that didn't cover the value of the concert. So if tickets otherwise would have cost \$20, the donor may deduct only \$80 as a charitable contribution, and the church's documentation must note this distinction.

- Timeliness counts. Documentation of charitable gifts required under the new law must be received by the donor before the tax return is filed.

- There is no standard format. The IRS has no standard format churches must use. Any form will suffice, so long as it provides enough information to substantiate the amount of the deductible contribution and the statement that no goods or services were received in return. □

Laity, pastors disagree over church influence

Associated Baptist Press

GLENDALE, Calif. — People in the pew are more optimistic about the influence of the church than are most of the pastors who lead the churches.

That's the finding of two new polls by the Barna Research Group, headed by George Barna of Glendale.

About half of all pastors of Protestant churches in the United States say the Christian church is not making a discernable difference in society, the survey showed.

A companion survey, however, found 67 percent of American adults believe the clergy are doing an "excellent" or "good" job and 70 percent believe churches serve people's needs "very well" or "pretty well." □

■ 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. □

Working mothers

I am a little offended by the articles in today's Christian publications about working and non-working mothers. The article in the Sept. 28 issue by Keith Hinson and Debbie Von Behren is great and wonderful for families who make the choice for mom to stay home, but those of us who work see it differently. The working mother's view is never mentioned.

The ladies in the report keep talking about their faith as if working moms don't have any. God has given me faith to trust in him in the decision to work. He had led me to a fine Christian center where my children are entrusted to the care of godly Christian women who include God in every daily routine. He has given us a family who loves him and sees our 4- and 6-year-old as gifts to be reared as servants unto him.

In the process of working I have had the privilege of sharing my faith and the love of our Savior with others.

If you feel God has led you to stay home I commend you, but please remember the faith of working moms. When God described a virtuous woman in Proverbs 31:10-31, he did not leave us out. Verse 24 tells how she goes in the marketplace and sells her good to the merchants.

All Christian mothers are under God's guidance, let him direct us. Proverbs 3:6 says: "In all thy ways acknowledge him

(God) and he shall direct thy paths."

Karen E. Hicks
Martin 38237

Writing to trustees

This is a request of the trustees of each of our Tennessee Baptist institutions to consider. As protection against a hostile takeover by some future boards that might wrench the institutions from those who have nurtured them through the years, it is suggested that the trustees deed their properties to the convention. This would give the convention effective ownership. The trustees would then lease the property for their use.

With this plan no change would be necessary in method of choice of trustees or operation of the institution.

The convention would be in firm control since a lease would not be renewed to hostile trustees. Admittedly, if evicted, hostile trustees could take the endowment and go elsewhere to carry on an institution, but at least Tennessee Baptists would have a physical facility to start over and elect another board of trustees to rebuild a cooperating institution.

The desirable means of execution of this idea is for the chairman of the trustees at each institution to take the initiative in discussing this idea and set up a peaceful transition rather than waiting for an upheaval on the floor of the convention.

Norris Gilliam
Kingsport 37664

Praises revival

First Church, Livingston, concluded what we have called "Revival Harvest" Sept. 29. Actually, First Church has been in revival for several weeks. On Sept. 18, we had nine people come on public profession of faith for baptism, one came by letter, and five others came to rededicate their lives and seek God's direction for future decisions.

Ken Jordan, a former pastor of First Church, Livingston, led us in the "Revival Harvest" services. During the morning worship service Sept. 25, we baptized seven. During the services that week we had a total of 26 professions of faith, 24 of whom will be baptized into the church.

Two will join Moodyville Church.

This has been the best year for First Church in a long time. We have baptized 34 people into fellowship this church year.

Revival began when we voted last spring to do about \$60,000 worth of remodeling in our educational building and sanctuary. Throughout the work there was never a single negative vote in the business meeting nor in con-

versation about what we were doing. We also had a new church sign erected in front of the church.

Our people have begun to work together and to have an excitement about winning others to Christ. On Feb. 1, I will begin my ninth year as pastor, and I have never seen such a wonderful spirit within the fellowship. I am truly blessed to be the pastor of a church which gives 17 percent of all undesignated offerings to the Cooperative Program and 4 percent to Riverside Baptist Association. God is truly at work here.

Donald L. Cobb, pastor
First Church
Livingston 38570

Reid was special

Orvil Reid was an extraordinary man. My family had the opportunity to enjoy him and Alma as few families have. In 1980 Orvil and Alma had just retired to the Forth Worth Southwestern Seminary community when we left Tennessee to attend graduate school there.

I first met them in a seminary course for senior adult ministry. Orvil commented one day, early in the course, "I keep hearing you talk about 'us' and 'them' and 'we ministering to them.' Alma and me, are we an 'us' or a 'them?'" The class roared! I knew then I had a special friend. We had an instant bond and rapport because of our Tennessee roots.

My wife, Dale, our daughter, Paige, and the Reids set out to look for them a house to buy. They didn't have a car, so we drove them in ours. They looked at several, made a decision, and paid for it in cash. It was the first home that they had ever owned.

Orvil and Alma were instant "family." They were surrogate grandparents to our 4-year-old daughter who had moved 600 miles away from her grandparents. Paige would run all the way across the yard at Gambrell Street Church just to get a "toss in the air" from Orvil and a special hug from Alma. We dined in their home numerous times, and still we hold dear the Mexican treasures that they gave to Paige. We cringed when Orvil took Paige by her heels and tossed her to and fro. But as she giggled and screamed, we knew that she loved her special friend, "Papa" Reid.

We shall always cherish our very special relationship with the Reids. What special people! What a special man! We shall miss him!

Gary N. Williams,
executive director
Madison-Chester
Association of Baptists
Crockett Baptist Association
Jackson 38305

Experiencing life's ups, downs

Life at the Wilkey household has had its ups and downs in recent weeks — literally.

Five-year-old Daniel has been learning to ride a bicycle without training wheels. And, he has had the "busted" lip and skinned knees and elbows to prove it.

Though I wish he had not gotten hurt it has been fun watching him learn.

Daniel is still at that age where failure did not stop him from obtaining what he wanted.

Thank goodness for bike helmets. When he fell off, even if he were hurt, he would get right back on that bike and go again. Now, he's riding that bike like an old pro.



WILKEY

■ an occasional word

By Lonnie Wilkey,
associate editor

Though he doesn't understand, I hope he continues to handle life's "ups and downs" like he did when he was 5.

It seems the older we get, the easier it is to let life's "downs" keep us down.

Everybody, including Christians, will have some tough times in their life. Jesus did not promise us a trouble-free life just because we accept him as Lord and Savior.

What he did promise was that he would be there to "pick us up when we fall off our bikes." □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



October-

- 13 — The development of a Christian Health Education Center in Coronel is needed.
- 14 — More response from Tennessee volunteers is needed for the November evangelism project.
- 15 — Missionary Carol Henson in Santiago is preparing to coordinate Vacation Bible School throughout Chile.
- 16 — Remember retired missionary Hubert Hardy as he continues to listen and heed God's voice.
- 17 — Retired missionary Divina Park, now residing in Kentucky, wants to continue experiencing God's power in her life today.
- 18 — Missionary evangelist Bill Baer is helping churches start and grow.
- 19 — Our crafts team of volunteers in Santiago are leading seminars.

Christ — eternal or created being?

"The firstborn of every creature" — Colossians 1:15b (KJV)

If the above is a true translation, then Christ is not eternal but a created being. He was the first of God's creative work, but is not eternal.

Long before I knew the first letter in the Greek alphabet I said this is not what Paul meant. The word translated "firstborn" means just that in Luke 2:7. Though virgin-born Jesus was Mary's firstborn; later by Joseph she bore other children. But a word must be translated in its context.



HOBBS

In Colossians Paul is refuting Gnostic philosophy which denied that Christ was eter-

■ Baptist beliefs

By Herschel Hobbs,
Baptist theologian

nal. He was arguing that he was the eternal God in bodily form in his incarnation (v. 9). If so, then Christ was/is eternal.

Many years ago I researched the Greek word in Kittel's multi-volume work, one of the most exhaustive works on the Greek language. The last line of the treatment said this word is sometimes used to express prior being with the sense of lordship. It cites this verse as an example.

So Christ is eternal, existing prior to creation. He is the Creator and the Lord of all creation. □

World hunger problem points up disparity

People may have a choice about where they live but no one can choose where they are born.

Millions of people are born into situations where hunger is a way of life and starvation becomes reality.

World hunger is a universal problem that will not go away.

Tennessee Baptists, if not already involved, are urged to plan for an awareness time during this month when world hunger is in the spotlight.

In fact, some churches observed October 9 as World Hunger Day. The fall season is an appropriate time to emphasize

the need to provide food wherever it is needed. This is harvest time for many food crops, and the Thanksgiving season is rapidly approaching. Thanksgiving makes people aware of food, and long ago it was a day for sharing. That

gesture gets little notice now.

The total Southern Baptist world hunger offering this year was down by 25 percent, though needs are escalating. Tennessee Baptists gave \$368,389 in 1992-93, about \$100 per church. According to Ray Gilder, Missions Department associate, about 10 percent was used in Tennessee, another 10 percent went to the Home Mission Board, and 80 percent was used by the Foreign Mission Board in food distribution.

The Missions Department, answering requests coming from associations, made

distributions to Brinkley Heights Church, Memphis; Copper Basin Association; Western Heights Center, Knoxville; and Montgomery Village Center, Knoxville, among others. There are no administrative costs.

Though World Hunger Day was scheduled for October 9, churches may have the observance at any time. The TBC encourages churches to observe a World Hunger Day through the use of rice bowls as banks for world hunger offerings. The bowls are available from Rice Bowl Inc., P. O. Box 3216, Spartanburg, S. C. 29304, for

a small fee. More information can be obtained by calling (803) 583-3682.

Some Baptists give to hunger plans sponsored by TV evangelists or others, Gilder says, but the best plan is to use the wise stewardship of giving through Baptist institutions. This always works.

Churches can get information from the TBC Missions Department. Real hunger knows no boundaries.

Whether hunger or starvation happens in Rwanda, Somalia, New York, or Tennessee, help is needed. Giving and praying can make the difference. □

Henry says it's time to move on

If applause is an indication of approval, SBC President Jim Henry's presidential message to the Executive Committee September 19 received a mixed reception.

Response from some Southern Baptists seemed reserved though others applauded with vigor. But hold it, this is really no way to judge the impact of a message. The proof will come when decisions are made.

The tone of Henry's talk was conciliatory instead of strident. His message was sincere and apparently addressed to all Southern Baptists, including the Executive Committee.

The former Two Rivers (Nashville) pastor seemed to be saying enough is enough. While he did not suggest recompense for what has happened in the Southern Baptist Convention during the

past decade, he did say it is time to move on. He noted that many churches are on the brink of making decisions to leave the SBC or whether to withhold CP funds.

Let's bring them in, he said. Some will say "no," and some of the churches in question may say it is too late. But the Christian and intelligent response is, let us try, remembering who we are.

Many Southern Baptists appreciated Henry's decision to dump paid parliamentarian Barry McCarty, an outsider. He was needed for a couple of years, but quickly became anathema to numbers of messengers. This paper for several years has encouraged what Henry finally did.

What a joy it would be if Southern Baptists make positive decisions here and now. This is an opportune time. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

An easy target

One reason the world is so busy bashing Christians and Christianity is that we are so good at it ourselves.

Christians are easy targets. If we do good, we are pooh-poohed as *do-gooders*. If we don't, the world accuses us of being *no-gooders* and hypocrites.

Are you weary of Christians bemoaning how the world "bashes" Christianity. Whining and hand-wringing are useless and unbecoming of God's children. Just serve Christ!

We would be on more secure ground if we would only pause, assess the damage and reality.

If we are truly doing our calling as Christians, false accusations will be seen for what they are — false.

If we are not actively serving Christ by using our spiritual gifts to carry out our assignments, then we deserve the criticism.

But the main point for us to remember is that we often are our worst critics. We need to pull together.

In an old episode of Andy Griffin, an escaped prisoner was on the loose, headed toward Mayberry. Sheriff Andy stationed Barney and Gomer on the roof of the sheriff's office as lookouts.

They spotted the escapee heading into town. In a fit of agitation, Barney shouted to Gomer to "go get the police."

Gomer nervously replied in his high-pitched voice, "But Barney, *we are the police!*"

Christians, Baptists in particular, are quick to judge and accuse other Baptists. When the world "bashes" us, they are just playing follow the leader. Baptists, in this case, are setting the pace as we bash each other.

Some might say this is a ploy of Satan himself, that he wants to keep us splintered so we cannot mount a strong answer to his shenanigans.

That is true, but when we follow Christ wholly, criticism surely will come but it will be groundless and harmless. He that is in us is greater than he that is in the world.

Baptists, don't bash your co-laborers in Christ. ☺

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor



ALLEN

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Small boy to daddy: "Pop, why did the snowman have a hot water bottle on his head?"

Daddy: "I don't know."

Small boy: "Because he was committing suicide."

Take this thought

People who would never commit suicide are killing themselves gradually with bad habits. Appetite, avarice, and ambition, can kill our body as well as our spirits. Thomas Fuller said, "He lives long that lives well ... time misspent is not lived, but lost." Goethe said, "A useless life is only an early death."

Memorize this Scripture

"What is your life? ... a vapor that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away" (James 4:14).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help to realize my strength can be as the strength of 10 if my heart is pure. □

Family may be the couple

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

The manner in which the public communicates with childless couples is a real concern to

many people. I have been asked to address this specific area.

Some couples are childless by choice and others are childless by chance. The reason for their childlessness is a matter of very personal information. MYOB (mind your own business) is a good formula for us to use in this area.

While I acknowledge that children are the gift of God and that the Bible assumes that every couple will want to have children, there are those today who choose to remain childless.

Like Paul's choice to remain single for the sake of his calling, some choose today to remain childless in order to give themselves more fully to their understood calling.

There probably will be long term consequences to their choice in the area of family relationships of later life when the extended family will be smaller for those who choose not to have children. When they know this and make informed conscious choices, they

must be honored by friends and family.

It seems to me that the principle Paul applied to food offered to idols in his day would apply here. In Romans 14:13 Paul admonishes us "not to judge one another."

The real sensitivity, stress, and pain come to those couples who are childless by chance. They would love to have children but for whatever reason, they are infertile.

Well-meaning friends and family sometimes seek to find out what is going on by using questions that to the couple may have the feel of the Spanish Inquisition.

There is no way that questions can be asked without the appearance of being nosy and intrusive.

Let's look at some suggestions for relating with childless couples.

1. Don't ask why the couple does not have children!

2. If the subject of childlessness does come up, let the cou-

ple take the lead in the conversation.

3. Don't make suggestions for possible correction of

the situation. Medical advice and help can give proper assistance.

4. Don't share your own "war stories" unless they will give comfort and hope instead of guilt and shame.

5. Be supportive and encouraging.

My wife and I learned this lesson by experience. We were not able to have a child for six years

before a doctor helped correct the problem. Many well-meaning friends and family caused us real pain by innocently asking questions and offering advice.

It is difficult to understand how sensitive this issue is unless you have been in that position. I sincerely encourage all of us to be aware and sensitive of the feelings of others in this very personal and sensitive area. □



BARKLEY

'Find Us Faithful' theme of Central Bearden centennial

For Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Oct. 2-5 was a busy time for members of Central Church, Bearden, as they observed 100 years of service in Knoxville.

An average of more than 1,000 people attended five services dedicated to the centennial celebration. The celebration theme was "Find Us Faithful."

Three former pastors, including an interim, joined SBC President Jim Henry in presenting a series of centennial messages. Former pastor

Bill Bruster, now director of the western region of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, kicked off the celebration Oct. 2 during Sunday morning worship.

During the evening service a musical drama *God with Us* was presented by the Sanctuary Choir.

Interim pastor Harold Bryson, now a consultant with the Baptist Sunday School Board, spoke Monday evening, Oct. 3.

Henry spoke on Tuesday evening, Oct. 4. He was followed the next evening by

Henry Chiles, pastor emeritus who served the church for 21 years.

On Tuesday evening, Henry, a native of Tennessee, thanked the congregation for "100 years of being a strong Southern Baptist church."

The SBC president cited several principles that will guarantee the future of churches for another 100 years.

Basing his message on the church at Antioch, found in Acts



AT LEFT, CENTRAL BEARDEN Pastor Larry Fields, center, is flanked by his two predecessors at the 100-year-old Knoxville church. On the right is Henry Chiles, pastor emeritus, and Bill Bruster. The four men have a combined 43 years of service. BELOW, HISTORICAL COMMITTEE member Francis Waldrup displays an original copy of church minutes from 1894.

11, Henry noted that successful churches in the future must:

- (1) have a commitment to penetrate the community;
- (2) always maintain a potential for change;
- (3) follow the principle of discipling;
- (4) have a pattern of Godly examples as models and mentors;
- (5) be predominated by generosity;
- (6) be a worshipping church; and
- (7) pray and fast, resulting in power.

Pastor Larry Fields observed, "This has been a wonderful week. God has blessed us in so many ways. We give him the glory."

The Central pastor told the congregation, "For 100 years the Lord has called us to be faithful to him. The greatest

years are still ahead."

On Tuesday evening Knox County Association Director of Missions Walter Taylor presented the church a plaque on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society.

Taylor recognized the church for its contributions to the association and for being an encourager to the churches in the association.

Central's history began in 1894 when R. H. Edington saw the need for a church in the Bearden community and invited those interested in starting a church to his home. Although several area pastors discouraged them, the eight who attended the meeting proceeded to organize and build.

The first building was constructed that year. It cost \$1,200 and seated 300 people.

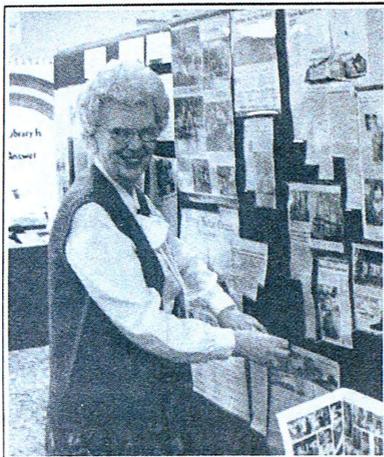
Today Central has a mem-



bership of 3,800 and an average Sunday School attendance of 1,400. The present sanctuary was built in 1958.

The church has had 20 pastors during its history, but only three in the last 40 years — Chiles, Bruster, and Fields.

A centennial cookbook has been published and an extensive church history is being produced. □ — Lonnie Wilkey



CHRISTINE PARRIS looks at old newspaper clippings about Central Bearden. Parris served on the Historical Committee which was chaired by her husband, John.

Clarksville churches join to share facilities ...

— Continued from page 1

an African-American church." McPherson said that what the two Clarksville churches have done is "a good idea."

"We need to have more churches across our convention willing to share facilities ... until one is strong enough to have its own building."

Redding said the two churches have been studying the possibility of sharing facilities since June.

For Gracey Avenue, he said, the benefit is having an enlarged ministry and the opportunity to reach its community which is at least 50 percent black. "Joining with Greater St. James Mission will allow us to minister to the whole community," Redding said.

Redding noted the benefit to Greater St. James Mission, which began in January of 1993 is that it will have larger facilities.

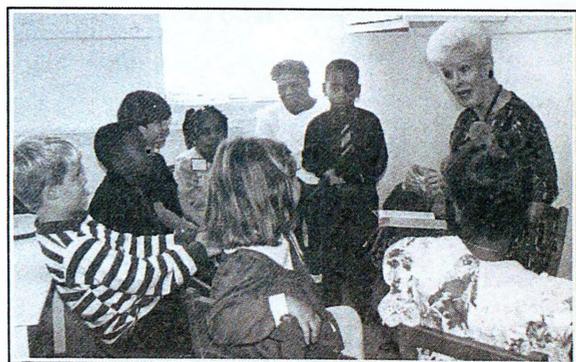
Also, Redding added, working in cooperation with Gracey Avenue members will provide their workers opportunities to

learn more about who Southern Baptists are and give them some training as teachers. "It is an opportunity for them (Greater St. James Mission) to have a growing experience," Redding said.

Redding acknowledged a few Gracey Avenue members were not in favor of the action and left. The majority of the church, however, supported

the move. "There's an excitement in this church we haven't seen in a long time," the Clarksville pastor observed.

Redding pointed out Gracey Avenue is a transition community and has been for the past 15-20 years as more and more whites moved out of the community and African Americans moved in.



FRANCIS CONKLIN, right, and Eula Mae Martin teach a combined Sunday School class at Gracey Avenue Church, Clarksville. On Sunday, Oct. 2, Gracey Avenue joined together with Greater St. James Mission to share church facilities.

Though the church has tried to minister to the African Americans, "we realize there are cultural differences that kept us from ministering to the community.

"Now, we will minister side by side," Redding said.

Greater St. James Pastor James Brigham also is excited and pleased about the move.

"I'm looking forward to being a part of this," Brigham said. "I feel the Lord has directed the two congregations to follow this path."

The mission pastor observed the church is excited to be part of the Southern Baptist family.

"Eyes have not seen and ears have not heard all the good things that will come from this relationship," Brigham said.

The two churches had a goal of 150 in Sunday School on Oct. 2. They came close with 132. Redding said there were more than 250 people combined at the two worship services. □

Retired TBC pastor Philip O. Davidson dies in Arkansas

Philip O. Davidson, 80, retired pastor of Frayser Church, Memphis, died Sept. 24 at his home in Conway, Ark.

Davidson, who served Frayser Church from 1951-79, also served churches as pastor in Texas. After retirement he held 17 interim pastorates in 15 churches in Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi.

He was extremely active in SBC and TBC life. Davidson was a former first vice president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and member of the TBC Executive Board. He also was a trustee of Union University.

The Texas native served as moderator of Shelby County Association and was a former trustee of the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

Davidson is survived by his wife, Dana, four children — Joan Enock, Beverly Walton, Lee Davidson, and Donald Davidson — and seven grandchildren. □

Volunteer earns thumbs-up from refugee workers, Rwandans

By Craig Bird
For Baptist and Reflector

GOMA, Zaire — Ivan Raley has a Ph.D in counseling that didn't do him any good in Africa because he couldn't speak the language. He has years of experience as a pastor and preacher, but nobody asked him to speak while he was in Goma, Zaire.

So the Fairview man wound up drawing simple pictures in the sand and using hand gestures to show Rwandan refugees how he wanted a shower stall built.

And he used lots of smiles and hugs to communicate his love for a people he felt a strong call to help.

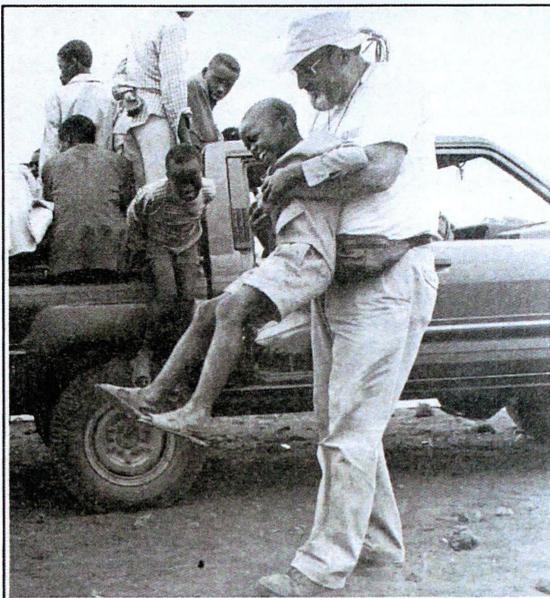
"I admit it was really frustrating to get to do what I thought I would do," Raley said. "That was true with most of the Southern Baptist volunteers. We got here and it was nothing like we expected. We had some doctors doing construction and it took half a day to do what you could accomplish in a half-hour in the United States.

"Like one lady said, 'I came out here to do great things for God and I'm not getting to do them.' I looked around at what I was doing and realized lots of people — volunteers and Rwandans and Zairians — could do what I was doing, and do it better since I don't know much about building.

"But I knew from the bottom of my heart that God had called me to Goma for a purpose and the only unique contribution I could make was to be me. And I'm convinced that years from now the men I worked with will remember this crazy, old, bald-headed white man and remember the love of Jesus that came to them through me. And no one can love them the way God called me to love them. And that must be why God sent me here."

When Raley saw news reports of 800,000 refugees crossing into Goma in three days and the abject living conditions, he immediately started trying to get to Zaire to help. He had just completed a 10-year pastorate at Grassland Heights Church in Franklin and "was waiting to see what God wanted me to do next." The desire to help the refugees overwhelmed him.

A call to his congressman to see if his U.S. Navy commission could be reactivated got a double dose of advice: 1) The commission would take too long, and the Navy wasn't going to Zaire anyway; and 2) Try the major relief agencies.



IVAN RALEY DELIGHTS a Rwandan boy with attention during a break from building a Baptist camp for unaccompanied minors.

But the Red Cross, Care, and other agencies said they were only sending medical teams or French speakers. So Raley went to the Tennessee Baptist Convention building in Georgia, which had been hit with major floods. But the Tennessee Baptists involved in that project were returning home that same day.

"Shucks," Raley told the secretary. "I can't go to Georgia and I can't go to Zaire. What is God trying to tell me?"

"Did you say Zaire?" the secretary asked. "Wait a minute, we just got a fax about Zaire."

The message was from the Brotherhood Commission, seeking volunteers to go to Goma as part of a joint relief project with the Foreign Mission Board.

Raley's wife of four months had opposed his initial efforts to go to Zaire, but when he returned with news about the Brotherhood Commission request, she switched.

When he said, "I'll go if we can raise half of the \$3,000 it will cost," she chastised him.

"That's really tacky," she pointed out. "You stand in the pulpit and preach about faith and you say you'll go 'if.' Start packing and get your shots — you're going even if we have to sell the car."

So Raley got to Goma. The shower stall got built. And 20 Rwandan refugees now walk around flashing the thumbs-up sign Raley taught them — one of his ways of showing them that Jesus loves them.

Raley is now serving as interim vice president, Middle Tennessee Region, Tennessee Baptist Children's Home. □

Haiti volunteer 'richer for having shared some'

For Baptist Press

KNOXVILLE — Connie Bull wept when she couldn't return to Haiti.

She knew she'd probably get another chance to do so. But she cried for Haitians she might never see again.

"I wept for the faces of the children who may not be there when I get back because they have starved to death," said Bull, an elementary music teacher in Jefferson City and a member of Cumberland Church, Knoxville. She planned to teach this summer at Baptist music camps in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, the island nation's second-largest city. She taught there several earlier summers as a volunteer through the Foreign Mission Board.

Bull never thought of canceling her travel plans earlier this summer when tensions escalated between Haiti and the United States. "Everyone in my church kept saying, 'Surely you won't go now.' But I said, 'If there's a plane leaving, I want to be on it.'" But the planes didn't leave. In June she learned the U.S. government was banning commercial flights to and from Haiti. The move was supposed to help pressure Haiti's ruling military junta to give up power.

"When I heard there would be no commercial air travel, I fell apart. I mourned, I wept, I wailed. I prayed in Creole (the heart language of Haitians)," said Bull, who picked up the language in just five weeks of service in Haiti.

Since then, she has found comfort in a videotape of her Haitian students sent by fellow Southern Baptist Dawn Goodwin, who taught with her in previous camps. Goodwin, of Jefferson City, currently teaches in a Christian school in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital. "It has witnessed to me — their faith, their faces, the way they smile and praise God amid all this adversity," said Bull of the tape.

Bull wishes she could have spent more time meeting physical needs she saw in Haiti. Doing so often opens doors to tell Haitians about Christ.

"It will get their attention if you can save their child's life," she said. "If you can build a well so their child won't die from diarrhea, then they'll listen to what you have to say. If you can meet that physical need, they know your God is strong and he can meet other needs."

Bull wishes she could volunteer for an upcoming relief project in Haiti sponsored by the mission board and the Brotherhood Commission. The project will involve at least 150 Southern Baptist volunteers in food distribution. Volunteers also may work in water well repair, water purification, medical care, and construction.

"If I weren't teaching school I'd be there," said Bull. "And I'd pack everybody's bags" who could go.

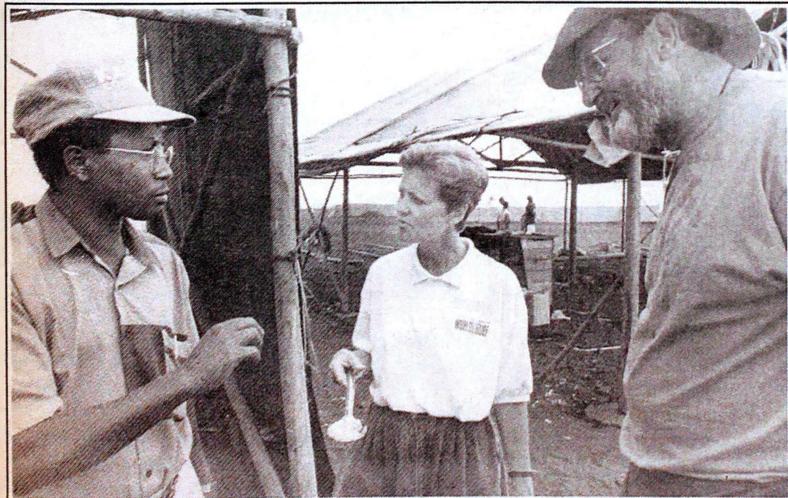
"A cup of water given in Jesus' name — that may be too simplistic for some because a cup of water sure isn't going to meet all the need," said Bull.

But it's a significant drop in the bucket.

"It's like when Esther was considering whether to go in to beg for the lives of her people. Mordecai sent word, saying, 'If you do not take this opportunity, God will send someone else,'" said Bull, recalling the Old Testament story of Queen Esther who saved the Jews from annihilation during the reign of King Ahasuerus.

"Some people might say, 'OK, God, send someone else.' But then they'll have to answer for the missed blessing, the missed opportunity," said Bull. "It makes all of us richer for having shared some." □

Qualified Southern Baptists who want to volunteer for the Haiti relief projects should call the Brotherhood Commission at (800) 280-1891 or (901) 722-3787.



VOLUNTEER IVAN RALEY TALKS with missionary Lucy Driggers and a Rwandan Baptist refugee pastor. — Photos by Kevin Morley

Off-site Sunday School classes missions tool for church

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

LAWRENCEBURG — New Prospect Church in Lawrenceburg is caught up in something exciting and its ministers find it hard to explain.

It may have begun, Pastor Roger Beshears reported, with the emphasis on a spiritual vision of "relationship evangelism." Other factors are the openness of the church members to the Holy Spirit and to other leadership, a missions trip to Chicago, Ill., and youth leadership, he added.

The results of the work at New Prospect are as numerous as the factors. One outcome is that church members are leading Sunday School classes which meet at a government subsidized housing project and a nursing home which draw 66 people. The church only has 220 on an average Sunday in Sunday School.

"We need to take the church out of the four walls to where the people are," said Beshears.

Members have accomplished that through relationship evangelism, he explained. It is being accomplished by integrating "church visits" or witnessing into daily activities — while shopping in department stores or attending a

ball game, explained Beshears and Lewis Thomas, minister of music and youth. Members are armed for this outreach with tracts and information materials about the church.

Beshears attests to the success of this approach. While shopping recently in a retail store he made more contacts with potential church members "than I could visit in one day." And the person contacted is "more receptive" in these situations, he added.

Members got to practice relationship evangelism in Chicago this summer. The church hosted a missions trip there which drew 31 youth and 12 adults, said Thomas. He wanted to continue the momentum gained there at home. Thus the idea for the class at the housing project. The church's goal is five classes meeting by the end of the year.

Held during the morning in the summer and now following school in the afternoons, the class draws about 20 youth from the church and 20 youth and children from the community. The youth are assisted by Thomas and his mother, Jenny, a member of New Prospect.

An advantage of this ministry over a bus ministry which transports people to church activities, said Beshears, is that those involved could attend New

4 The reason all this works is we have a church that's willing to change. ... The church has caught the vision and I'm just along for the ride.

— Roger Beshears, pastor
New Prospect Church, Lawrenceburg

Prospect's regular activities because the class is set for an alternate time. And it's attracting people not attending the church. In this case the class is reaching African-Americans.

A nursing home is the site of the second class. It was begun by New Prospect member Scottie Frakes. He has such a good ministry among the residents, noted Beshears, they "get excited" each week because of the class.

The next class may be in a fast food restaurant, he reported.

The youth of New Prospect have become energized and prepared for leadership through several activities, reported Thomas. One important activity held each quarter has been the "Awesome God Night."

Meeting in a former theater, the events draw hundreds of area teen-

agers. Since they began a year ago, 92 youth have made professions of salvation, he added.

"The reason all this works is we have a church that's willing to change," said Beshears. In just 18 months he has seen the church change from 80 in average Sunday School attendance to 220. But statistics aren't important to him.

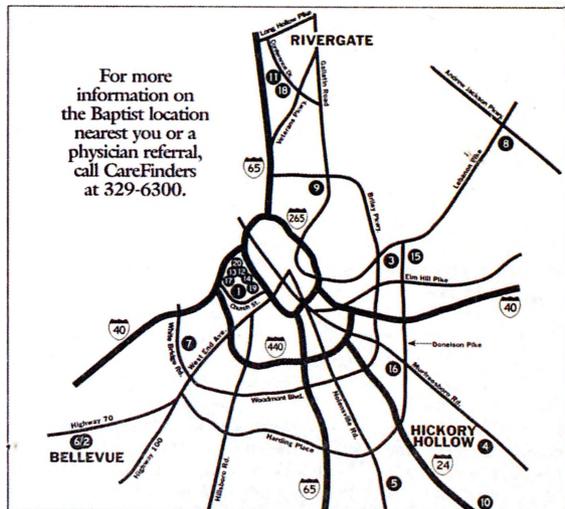
"Which is best — a person getting Bible study or numbers on a board?"

The changes at the church cannot be attributed to the pastor or the staff, said Beshears. "The church has caught the vision and I'm just along for the ride."

But it seems to be a fun ride for the staff. Beshears added, "If you want your neck hugged, you come to New Prospect Baptist Church." □

Ask for directions to Baptist Hospital and you'll get 20 different answers.

Baptist Hospital is everywhere you need us, with more services and more convenient locations than ever. In fact, Baptist has the most comprehensive healthcare network in Nashville, with twenty locations offering the same quality of care that generations have come to depend on throughout



Middle Tennessee. Whether you need a routine check-up, walk-in treatment for a minor illness, medical care for a homebound relative or treatment for an injured worker, you're never far from all the services of Baptist Hospital.

Baptist Hospital
So much for so many.

Baptist Hospital
1. 2000 Church St.

Baptist Bellevue Medical Center
2. 7640 Highway 70 S.

Baptist Convenient Care
3. 2601 Elm Hill Pk.
4. 2547 Murfreesboro Rd.
5. 5441 Nolensville Rd.
6. 7640 Highway 70 S.
7. 28 White Bridge Rd.
8. 4473 Lebanon Rd.

Baptist Healthcare Group
9. 602 Gallatin Rd.
10. 5801 Crossing Blvd.
11. 740 Conference Dr.
12. 1633 Church St.
13. 300 20th Ave. N.
14. 1911 Church St.

Baptist WorkSmart Center
15. 2525 Perimeter Place
Baptist Occupational Medical Center
16. 1420 Donelson Pk., St. B15
17. 342 21st Ave. N.
18. 740 Conference Dr.

Baptist Hospital Home Care
19. 327-4658

Baptist Medical Equipment and Supplies
20. 210 McMillan St.

All services provided in a non-discriminatory manner.

TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the people

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

■ West Jackson Church, Jackson, will ordain **Rod James** Oct. 16.

■ the leaders

■ **B. Allen Livengood**, pastor, New Ebenezer Church, Elba, Ala., and recent graduate, Florida Baptist Theological College, Graceville, has been called as pastor of Brace Church, Brace, effective Sept. 18. Livengood, son of Charles Livengood, late director of missions, Alpha and Judson Baptist associations, has served as youth pastor, Pomona Church, Dickson, and Rocky Head Church, Arton, Ala., and as interim pastor, Lick Creek Church, Linden. Livengood and his wife, Melanie Litton Livengood, have served as house parents of Chrysalis Home for Girls, Newton, Ala.

■ **Darrell Newman**, min-

ister of music, White Oak Church, Chattanooga, will be honored Oct. 30 for 20 years of service. The recognition will be held after the morning worship service and include a luncheon.

■ **Joe Wright Jr.**, pastor, Bentonia Church, Bentonia, Miss., has been called as pastor of First Church, McMinnville. He is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., and The Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, Miss.



WRIGHT

■ **Joel Newton**, pastor, Mount Horeb Church, Ethridge, and his wife, **Cheryl**, were leaders at the Fall Festival of Marriage hosted by the Baptist Sunday School Board at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly Oct. 8-9.

■ **Kevin Gevedon** has been called as pastor of Immanuel Church, Shelbyville. Gevedon, who is a student at Belmont University, Nashville, is serving as pastor for the

first time and considers Southside Church, Shelbyville, his home church.

■ the missionaries

■ **Earl and Jane Williams**, missionaries to Liberia, are on an assignment in Ivory Coast and can be reached at LIMCO YEKEPA, BP 182, Danane, Ivory Coast. The former Jane Williams, she was born in Knoxville and lived in Oak Ridge.

■ **James and Rebecca Jones Courson**, missionaries to Taiwan, are in the states and can be reached at 200 Hutchins Dr., Wilmore, Ky. 40390. She considers Woodbury and Birmingham, Ala., her hometowns.

■ **Rich and Susan Hinkle Hutchens**, missionaries to Venezuela, are on the field and can be reached at Junta Misionera Foranea, Apartado 80920, Caracas, Venezuela. She considers Knoxville her hometown.

■ **John and Kathleen Joslin**, missionaries to Japan, are in the states and can be

reached at 3570 Ownby Rd., Sevierville, 37862. They are natives of Sevierville.

■ the churches

■ **First Church, Woodbury**, will celebrate its sesquicentennial Oct. 16. Activities will be held during the morning worship service, a luncheon, and an afternoon service.

■ **Mossy Grove Church, Harriman**, will hold revival Oct. 16-19. Herman "Butch" Adcock of First Church, Sweet Home, Ore., will speak.

■ **Bob Mowrey**, pastor of Park Avenue Church, Nashville, will lead revival services at **Bartlebaugh Church, Chattanooga**, Oct. 16-19.

■ the associations

■ **Stewart County Association** held an area crusade led by Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld, evangelist from Gleason, leading. Ten people made professions of faith and about 50 made other

spiritual decisions.

■ the schools

■ **Carson-Newman College**, Jefferson City, has named **Michael V. Carter** as provost and vice president for academic affairs. The new position is part of a restructuring of the college's administrative staff. Carter joined the college in 1985 as assistant professor of sociology. He also has served as interim vice president and associate dean and vice president of academic affairs.



CARTER

■ **King's Academy**, a part of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour, will hold an area-wide Youth Rally Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. The music group The Educators of the academy will perform. Recreation will follow the concert.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

A real Satan?

By Richard F. Adkinson, pastor Hillhurst Church, Nashville

Is there an actual being/person who is called "the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil and Satan?" (Revelation 20:2).

Yes. Indeed there is. Why do I believe in his existence? Jesus spoke of him. The inspired Word of God speaks of him. I see evidence of him in my family, my church, my nation, and my own life.

God himself, through Simon Peter, tells us, "your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). God also tells us through Moses, that Satan is not only powerful but "subtle" (Genesis 3:1). Our Lord Jesus tells us that Satan is a thief and he "cometh not but for to steal, kill, and destroy" (John 10:10).

How is Satan working in your personal life now? What is his methodology for the destruction of your personal life, family, church, and nation? He has a method and if one does not work, he will try another (Ephesians 6:11).

Are we at his mercy? Are we but victims of his destructive power? Study James 4:7-8 and Revelation 12:11 for your answer. □

Assumptions, expectations

By Moncrief Jordan, pastor First Church, Jefferson City

One of the most disturbing charac-

teristics of human nature for me is our tendency to make "unhappy assumptions," or the twin malady — to have expectations far too low. Unfortunately, I wrestle regularly with this all-too-prevalent way of coming at life, and so, as always, I must begin my reflection with my own need.

But I find this spoken to in a marvelous way in the records about the events of Easter morning. Some women came to the tomb to try simply to complete some tasks that had not been finished on Friday afternoon.

Do you remember their response when they found the stone had been rolled away and the tomb proved to be empty? They did not see this as an act of God, a fulfilling of the promise, or an event about which they could rejoice with great joy. On the contrary, this seemed like just more evidence of how low man could stoop, how discouraging life could get.

In the midst of their despair and grief, now they felt they had to find the body that robbers of graves had taken. Insult had been added to injury. Their immediate, understandable assumption was that depraved men had added one more atrocity to the depressing events of that week — their highest expectation seemed to be the simple recovery of that body that had finally given itself over to death on that dreadful cross.

It is hard, perhaps, impossible, for us to imagine how they felt when they were told forthrightly that the emptiness of that tomb was an act of God! Christ's body was not there because he was alive. What was thought to be an

act of evil men proved to be another manifestation of the greatness and power of God's love.

How desperately many of us need to let that dimension of our faith penetrate our lives! □

Sufferers, yet comforters

By J. Harold Durham, Sunday School director First Church, Bluff City

The word *comfort* comes from the Greek word *parakletos* which means to call along side. It is used 10 times in John 14:3-7 and as another name for the Holy Spirit in verse 16.

When tragedy strikes, collapsing our life like a house of cards, that's when we cry out to God; that's when we need comfort; that's when we need someone to come alongside and put an arm around us, to be there, to listen, to help. Though God is often silent during those times, he's always there — as the *parakletos*, the father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.

It's like a chain reaction. When we go through suffering, God comforts us. And when his comfort has done its work in our lives then we, in turn, can comfort others.

The person who has suffered the shattering effects of a divorce can best comfort a divorcee. The person who has lost a child can best comfort another parent who has lost a child. A businessman who was once bankrupt can best comfort another person in the throes of financial disaster.

Therefore, one reason God allows suffering is so we might have a well of experience deep enough to draw from it compassion and counsel to comfort others.

"For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ" (John 14:5). □

Enemies of Christians

By Ray W. Fullilove, pastor Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis

It is true — a fact which we need to ponder deeply — a man is not defeated by his opponents, but by himself.

Our opponents of our faith can be: aches which cause us distress; sickness which can cause us stress; procrastination which can cause us regret; discouragement which can cause us to give up; excuses which can cause us spiritual failure.

All of these spell fear. It is this fear which keeps us from God's house and our faith. You can let the devil defeat you, or God help you. □

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.

Evangelism Department sponsors lifestyle witnessing for women

A Lifestyle Witnessing for Women Conference will be held Friday and Saturday, Nov. 4-5, at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

Leading the conference will be Esther Burroughs, assistant director of the church growth and evangelism department of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta.



BURROUGHS Creely Wilson, state coordinator for the conference, said the goal is to

Burroughs is the author of the *Lifestyle Witnessing for Women* materials to be presented.

have two or three women from each association in the state to attend the training and then go back to their associations equipped to train women there.

The conference is designed to help women find their gifts, their place in God's plan, and

the message of God's love for everyday life, Wilson added.

The conference begins Friday, Nov. 4, at 6 p.m. with a banquet and concludes with luncheon Saturday, Nov. 5.

Registration fee, workbook, and all meals are provided for each registrant.

Any woman interested in attending the event should contact associational director of missions or the WMU director in the association.

Assistance for the event is being provided by the Tennessee Baptist Convention Evangelism Department. □

Interfaith witness training to counter Mormonism slated for Johnson City

Training for interfaith witness associates in Mormonism will be held Nov. 4-5 at Holston Association offices in Johnson City.

The workshop is for anyone, including pastors, Sunday School workers, WMU, Brotherhood, or others interested in knowing how to respond to Mormonism.

Mormonism is the fastest growing cult in the United States, estimated at 5.3 million and 8 million worldwide.

The conference begins Nov. 4 from 2-9 p.m. On Nov. 5 the conference will go from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Conference fee is \$15 and includes

lunch. Mail check to: Interfaith Witness, TBC Missions Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024.

For additional information call Bev Smothers in Johnson City at (615) 929-1196 or Susan Babb in Brentwood at (615) 371-2031.

Meals and materials are provided by the TBC Missions Department and the Home Mission Board. □

A & O CHURCH FURNITURE
4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053
JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282

— SOLID OAK PEWS —
PEW UPHOLSTERY / REFINISHING
BAPTISTRIES STEEPLES
EDUCATIONAL FURNITURE
LIGHTING CARPET

1-800-523-9058

Since 1992
Renovation
Pews
1-800-537-4723
Waco, Texas

SAMS INC.

Call for Free BROCHURE

BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE
1-800-251-9678

FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

Steeple & Baptistries

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

Call or write for our free catalog

1-800-523-9058

FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED

WHY PAY MORE FOR LIFE INSURANCE?

VERY LOW NON-SMOKER MONTHLY COST*

Age	\$125.00	\$250.00
50	18.13	30.04
60	27.93	49.62
70	63.75	121.26

Please call Roy Napier (Knoxville, TN)
Toll Free 1-800-274-0776 • 9-9 Mon.-Sat

Jackson National Life, Lansing, MI. Rated A (Excellent) by A.M. Best. Yearly Renewable Term to age 100 - Preferred, form #B0903. Above premiums are first year only. Premiums increase annually to age 100. Preferred, Female rates illustrated above. Please call for other ages and Male rates.

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.

CHURCH STEEPLES

- BAPTISTRIES
- WALL CROSSES
- BAPTISTRY WATER HEATERS

COLONIAL CONTEMPORARY AND MODERN DESIGNS
ERECTION AVAILABLE

WRITE OR CALL FOR LITERATURE OR PROPOSALS

TOLL FREE 1-800-241-3152
J.M.C.
1-800-523-9058

Providing Church Products for 25 Years

A&O STEEPLES & BAPTISTRIES
4871 HARVEY RD. • BOX 1053
JAMESTOWN, NC 27282

Church Buses New and Used
(We take trade-ins.)
Call Henry Headden
Metrotrans Corporation
Brentwood, Tenn.

1 (800) 370-6180
1 (615) 371-6180

Available in 20', 22', 24', and 28' (12 to 41 Passenger)

TO OUR SENIOR PARTNERS



At the recent Senior Adult Conference in Pigeon Forge, we met enthusiastic Tennesseans who have a heart for children. Your enthusiasm, energy, and interest in this ministry reinforced our belief in the importance of seniors' active involvement in the family unit.

As a senior adult, we encourage you to consider your place in the lives of children who perhaps have not had the privilege to share

quality time with grandparents or other senior family members. Maybe your own grandchildren are hundreds of miles away and you, too, miss the closeness and warmth of young people in your life.

When you volunteer your time, wisdom, and talents to the children at Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, you're giving them a special gift indeed. Perhaps you take for granted the patience you've acquired through the years. We so need your God-given ability to see through the pain of a child and reach into the depths of his or her tender heart with a smile or a hug. Teaching young people a new craft, perhaps one your own grandparents taught you may influence the vocation of a child.

So when we call you "partners," we want you to know the important place you have within our TBCH family and how fortunate we are that you, too, are part of our family.



Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc.

Chattanooga • Clarksville • Franklin
Greeneville • Johnson City • Kingsport
Memphis • Millington • Oakdale

TBCH Central Office
5001 Maryland Way • Brentwood, TN 37027
(615) 371-2000 • 1-800-624-8591



Dr. Gerald L. Stow
President / Treasurer

**Life and Work Series
for Oct. 16
Focal Passage:
Genesis 3:6-8,
16-19, 23**

Danger!

By Elizabeth Howard

Imagine a world where everyone goes to bed at night with a full stomach. Where everyone has a job with optimum working conditions, salary, and benefits sufficient for every need, leisure time for rest and recreation, a peaceful home with an ideal companion, a beautiful place to worship God. "A perfect world," we might say. Yet Adam and Eve had all these wonderful things in the garden of Eden, and it was not enough for them. Danger lurked in their "perfect world."

Temptation — v. 6

In her leisure hours, or perhaps while she was working in the garden, Eve saw the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. She must have seen it day after day, worn a path as she traveled to it, stood gazing up at the fruit which looked and smelled so delicious and juicy.

All the while, the crafty serpent whispered lies in her ears, filled her mind with questions and doubts: God had lied; she would be wise if she ate from the tree — as wise as God, knowing good from evil. We don't know where Adam was during this time, but he may have been privy to her dilemma, for he ate the fruit along with her, or soon after. Both sinned, for both willfully chose to disobey God.

Alienation — vv. 7-8

The serpent had not lied entirely, for Adam and Eve did gain a certain kind of knowledge from their sin, the knowledge that they were naked. They tried to make amends, to cover up, by sewing clothes of fig leaves, but their efforts were pitifully inadequate. When God came to visit them, as his custom was, they hid among the trees.

Sin alienated them from God and each other, for Adam blamed Eve. He also blamed God for giving him Eve in the first place. Eve was not willing to accept responsibility either; she blamed the serpent. Thus, today, we blame family, genes, environment, education, employer, friends, someone, or something other than ourselves, when we go astray.

Condemnation — vv. 16-19, 23

First, God cursed the serpent, who would crawl on the ground, eating the dust of the earth, his seed forever at war with the woman's seed. Eve's punishment involved pain and difficulty in childbirth and a submissive role in marriage. It was only after the resurrection of Christ that Paul encouraged mutual submission (Ephesians 5:21-33) in the Christian family. Adam's punishment came in the form of harder labor, a greater struggle for survival, and death. To prevent him from eating of the tree of life and thus living forever, God drove him from the garden.

Sin is a choice and brings painful results. Not all of one's troubles are a result of personal sin, but personal sin — violence, abuse, and wrong lifestyle choices — may cause repercussions for generations. □ — Elizabeth Howard is a member of Cumberland Homestead Church, Crossville.

God's plan for Gentiles

By Ray Fullilove

The spirit of any person is inspired as they write of the Good News of the grace of God. The spirit of Paul seems to intensify as he begins this chapter. Having testified as to the redemptive purpose of God and the reconciling power in Christ, Paul turns his attention to the reason God called him. The Apostle Paul was called to reveal God's plan for the Gentiles. This was the fulfillment of his desire, the fire of his determination, and the fervency in his dynamic spirit. As we open the curtains of this chapter, it is like discovering the motivation which moved the heart of Paul to become the greatest missionary for God. We can feel the emotion of his heart as he speaks about God's plan for the Gentiles.

Ignited by touch of God — vv. 1-6

God's plan for the Gentiles was not a program produced by Paul; it was a plan put in his heart by God. We catch the fire in his heart from the opening words, "For this cause. ..." Paul is saying that in everything I do, say, and accomplish for Christ Jesus is because he called me to reveal his plan of redemption to the Gentiles. Any divine call to God's leader or any divine compulsion to God's laity must never be pursued unless God calls them. Without a call or a cause, we have no contest, or challenge, or compulsion. It is to have a defense for God like David (1 Samuel 17:20), a defiance of the enemy like Caleb (Numbers 14:6-8), and a declaration of hope like Jesus (John 18:37). For Paul, it was confirmed because of his commitment to Christ (v. 1), his call by Christ (v. 1b and Acts 9:15-16), and his confirmation by the command of Christ (v. 2 and Acts 22:19-21). This call to Paul was definite (vv. 1-2), disclosed by personal revelation (v. 3), perceived revelation (v. 4), and a present-day revelation (v. 5). It was

**Bible Book Series
for Oct. 16
Focal Passage
Ephesians 3:1-10, 14-19**

dynamic in the presentation of the Gospel to the Gentiles of the regenerating, reconciling, and the rejoicing power of Christ (v. 6). Where you have the love of Christ in your heart, in your spirit, and in your life, it becomes dynamic!

Inspired by truth of God — vv. 7-13

God's plan for the Gentiles was inspired by the truth of God. The truth which Paul preached in the Gospel was unsearchable in revelation (vv. 7-8), universal in reach (v. 9), and unique in the ministry and the motivation of the redeemed of the Lord, the church, (vv. 10-12). The Gospel is God's plan to reach the world regardless of who the people are, what the people do, or where the people may reside. This missionary call is given not only to the called children of God but also to God's church (II Corinthians 5:17-21).

Inflamed by prayer — vv. 14-21

Paul concludes that God's plan for the Gentiles could not be completed without the power of God, which comes only through the avenue of prayer. God's call to the Gentiles compelled Paul to pray. God leads us, not only because we have been touched by God but also that we remain in touch with God by prayer. May Paul's plea become our prayer that "... we would be strengthened by his spirit ... rooted and grounded in love ... and filled with the fullness of God ... unto him be glory in the church." □ — Ray Fullilove is pastor of Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis.

Israel demands a king

By Samuel Dean

**Convention Uniform Series
for Oct. 16
Focal Passage: I Samuel
8:4-9, 19; 12:19-25**

Change was traumatic. The transition from a confederacy of 12 tribes into a nation proved to be a painful experience for Israel. The rule by judges was replaced by the rule of monarchs.

Role of Samuel

Samuel was the last of the judges and became the transitional person to execute the political change to monarchy. A man who had been dedicated to the Lord at birth, Samuel became an outstanding spiritual leader for Israel. Under his leadership a significant victory over the Philistines had been achieved (vv. 3-17.)

Desire for a king — ch. 8:4-9

The people came to Samuel and requested that they have a king. There were three reasons that could have motivated the people.

First, Samuel had grown old (v. 1). Sensing declining health in their esteemed leader caused the people to be anxious about the future. Life without Samuel was threatening to their security.

Second, the people did not trust Samuel's sons who had been appointed judges by their father. Sons are not always like their dads. Eli's sons kept the offerings and had sex with women at church (ch. 1:12-22). Samuel's sons abused their office as judge by taking bribes and preventing justice (ch. 8:3). The people had enough moral

awareness to confront Samuel with the problem of the unacceptability of his boys (v. 5). When Eli had gotten old, Samuel was there to replace him. Now that Samuel was old there was no one in the wings.

Third, all around Israel there were nations with kings. Why did Israel have to be different? A king could centralize their government. He could lead them in the military conflicts. It was time for a change to be like other nations. The desire to conform should always be viewed as a "clear and present danger."

Word of warning — vv. 10-22

Rejection was hard to accept from people whom he loved. Samuel and his sons were being relegated to the past in the future plans of the people. Samuel took his hurt to God. The Lord said that they had rejected God, not Samuel.

At God's urging, Samuel detailed the consequences of their having a king to reign over them. A king would have a lifestyle that would take many of their possessions. Sons would serve in military, daughters in domestic work. Taxation would come. Indeed, the people would be the king's slaves. The people shrugged away the warning. Once a mind is made up

and closed, it is hard for reality to penetrate.

Life after a mistake — ch. 12:19-25

The people got what they wanted. Saul became king. Samuel gave an emotional farewell address.

The people acknowledged their error in wanting a king.

Note that Samuel did not continue to berate the people for their sins. After hearing their confession, it was time for him to encourage them to serve the Lord and be faithful under the rule of a king. He promised to continue to pray for them and to teach them the right way (v. 23).

A leader must watch his anger when rejected. People will not always follow his ideas or wishes. Mistakes by both leaders and followers will be made. It is good to resolve to move beyond our mistakes and sins. Let us learn from Samuel to pray incessantly for one another.

What happens after a mistake is crucial. A life of devastation can erupt. Hopefully, one will choose to learn from the experience and grow in God's blessing. There is life after the decisions of yesterday. When warnings are not heeded and unpleasant consequences ensue, the servant of God must deal with the realities confronting him. Patience, hope, forgiveness, and redemption must become the "tools of the trade." □ — Samuel Dean is pastor of First Church, Clinton.

Minnesota-Wisconsin proposal would drop 'Southern' from name

Baptist Press

ROCHESTER, Minn. — The Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention will drop "Southern" from its name if a study committee recommendation is approved during the annual meeting Oct. 27-29 in Bloomington, Minn.

The committee, chaired by Gerald Palmer of Northwoods, Minn., gave several reasons for suggesting the change.

"The inclusion of the title 'Southern' in a state organization may be a significant factor to people of strong Southern Baptist relationships. In the northern part of the United States, it might be a liability," the committee report said.

Other reasons cited were indigenous and identification factors. □

Williams resigns in Minnesota-Wisconsin

Baptist Press

ROCHESTER, Minn. — David Williams, evangelism and stewardship director for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention, has resigned to become pastor of First Church, Flower Mound, Texas. Williams also served as editor of the convention's monthly paper, *The Min-*

nesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist. Williams, 44, joined the staff in January.

Gomer R. Lesch, 71, of Nashville has agreed to serve as interim editor of the paper on a volunteer basis. He worked in the same capacity in 1993 and has agreed to serve through 1995, according to Executive Director William C. Tinsley. □

Teleconferences to network workers in inner cities

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will host quarterly teleconferences in 1995, offering missionaries, pastors, and other Christian workers in inner-city areas a network to discuss ideas and challenges, HMB ministry leaders said.

The conferences, similar to one broadcast as a test Sept. 15 from Atlanta, will target issues of importance to workers in inner-city areas, said Larry Martin, HMB vice president for ministry.

Technical requirements for participating in the conference include a satellite dish, a TV room that seats at least 10 people, and a phone line.

A second test program will be broadcast Nov. 21. For more information, call Jane Bishop of the HMB ministry section at (404) 898-7447. □

Family activities can have missions focus

By Susan Doyle
For Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — When today's preschoolers grow up and have homes of their own, their homes will be a reflection of the homes they grew up in, said a preschool expert.

"It's scary to realize how much children notice what we do," said Kay Cassibry, Mission Friends consultant for Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. "But we are modeling behavior whether we know it or not."

Cassibry recently spoke to a group of Mission Friends leaders and gave them tips on how to make the home a missions base. Mission Friends is the missions organization sponsored by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union for preschoolers.

"Little things may seem insignificant but they shape our children," she said.

Every day, memories are made and stored in the minds of preschoolers. Those memories can be based on things which will lead them to live Christ-centered lives," she said.

"Memories are such powerful things. We all have them. They may be good. They may

be bad. They link us to our past and they influence our future."

Missions is probably not going to be the No. 1 priority of most families, Cassibry acknowledged. However, some of the activities which family members enjoy together can easily include a missions focus and can help build memories which will influence young children in a positive manner.

Cassibry used the following as examples of the types of things families can do to combine a missions interest with fun learning activities.

- Using a plastic globe, play catch while talking about the different countries where missionaries work.

- Use pictures or maps of the world to help children locate where Southern Baptists have missionaries.

- Make Christmas ornaments with missionary's names and places of service on them.

- Have a garage sale and give the proceeds to a missions offering.

"We're in such competition with the secular world for fun things. Those fun things should have a purpose," she said. □

Senior adult meeting moved to 1997

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Delay in construction of a Nashville arena has pushed the dates of a Southern Baptist Senior Adult Convention back a year, said Jay Johnston, event coordinator in the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family adult department.

The new convention dates are April 28-30, 1997, Johnston said. Sunday School Board officials sponsoring the event learned of the delayed construction plans in June. Since then, Johnston said he has been searching for a new site for the convention, originally planned for May 1996.

As logistics became increasingly difficult to work out, Johnston said he learned senior adults were looking for-

ward to coming to Nashville — "home of the Sunday School Board."

"Several of the senior adults who had been planning to attend the convention in Nashville have said they would rather wait a year if it could still be held here," Johnston said. "Our decision to keep it here and move it back a year was really based on the response of our people," he added. □

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 in the state and the denomination.

Send in the form below and we will provide you information as to how your church can print its news weekly, biweekly, or even monthly.

Church _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Person making request _____

Title _____

Mail form to:
Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024

Top selling author recounts faith decision in Southern Baptist church

Baptist Press

OXFORD, Miss. — When he was 8 years old, John Grisham made a public profession of faith in a Southern Baptist church, he recounts in the Oct. 3 issue of *Christianity Today*.

In the two-page interview, Grisham, whose most recent novel, *The Chamber*, and four previous novels have passed 40 million in sales, replete with movie deals, tells of his Baptist upbringing, his interest in missions, and the questions he deals with as his success mounts.

Of his profession of faith, Grisham said he came under conviction while in the third grade. He talked with his mother, who was a devout Christian and the next week he made a public confirmation of his faith in an Arkansas church. "In one sense, it was not terribly eventful for an 8-year-old, but it was the most important event in my life. It

did not readily change me, but it was very real nonetheless."

Of his interest in missions, Grisham notes, "During my childhood in the Baptist church we would hear wonderful stories and see slides from all over the world. I always wanted to take part in mission work and never really was able to do it the 10 years I was busy practicing law.

"Finally, I was able to go to Brazil last year with about 40 other people ... We went to a remote area of the country and built a church in four days."

Grisham says one of the reasons for his success could be that his books are "relatively clean" and people realized they could give one of his books "to an older teenage son or daughter or to their parents. I hope it says something about our culture that you can be successful without succumbing to all the gratuitous sex and language that is so prevalent today." □