

Baptist and Reflector

October 26, 1994

VOL. 160 ■ NO. 43

STATEWIDE EDITION

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Haitians welcome missionaries; assessment team surveys needs

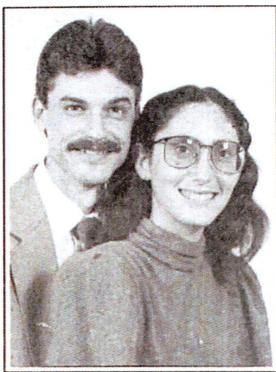
By Tim Yarbrough
For Baptist Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Despite the hardships they have endured since they last saw their missionary friends, welcoming Haitians expressed concern about the family of Mark and Peggy Rutledge — not their own — when the Southern Baptist missionary couple returned to Haiti Oct. 13.

"Everyone has been happy to see us," said Mrs. Rutledge.

Since the Rutledges left in June due to deteriorating political conditions in the Caribbean nation, their Haitian friends and Baptist colleagues have been forced to endure practically every hardship imaginable.

"They shared about losing jobs, the scarcity of goods, and the high prices," Mrs. Rutledge said. "With the high price of fuel many couldn't afford (to travel) to work because it would cost more than their weekly wages. But there is a lot of optimism" now that President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has returned to power.



THE RUTLEDGES

The Rutledges, from Murfreesboro, and Glendale, Calif., respectively, returned to Haiti along with International Service Corps volunteers Ed and Mary Brentham of Belton, Texas, and journeyman Todd Lowe of Belton/Honea Path, S.C.

Since their return, the Rutledges have worked to re-establish ties with local Haitians and get their equipment operating. Their vehicles haven't operated since June and have had to be revived — as have their ties to Haitian Baptists.

And continued deterioration in the country means the Rutledges have to be concerned with much more than the agricultural center and livestock breeding program they run in the central plateau, where their home is located.

A Southern Baptist assessment team of representatives from the Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, Florida Baptist Convention, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas arrived in Haiti Oct. 16.

At a mission house in the Haitian capital, Rutledge briefed the team on the current situation. The 11-member group was divided into three groups and assigned to procure food and determine the availability of warehouse space for food distribution.

"What we're trying to do is strike a balance between the ongoing work we have here and the work that needs to be done to meet immediate needs. That's the struggle now," Mrs. Rutledge said during the three-hour meeting.

"Channels aren't running — See Haitians, page 2

Tennessee childcare unit on standby for Texas flood relief

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Southern Baptists are providing disaster relief at strategic locations in many of the 26 flooded southeast Texas counties declared a federal disaster area by President Bill Clinton.

Floods in the region of Houston and East Texas have claimed at least 10 lives and forced thousands of families to flee from their homes. In some areas, 30 inches of rain fell.

Texas Baptist relief workers had served 5,852 meals as of Oct. 20. Texas Baptist Men reported thousands of meals were prepared and served by individual churches.

The Oklahoma Baptist childcare unit was dispatched Oct. 22 to join the Texas Baptist unit. The Illinois and Tennessee childcare units were notified to be on standby.

Volunteers available for clean-up and projects can call Texas Baptist Men at (214) 828-2354. □

Non-metro SBC churches increase

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The per-capita number of Southern Baptists outside metropolitan areas increased during the 1980s, according to a study by the Home Mission Board's director of town and country associational missions.

Gary Farley noted during a decade when many denominations reduced their work in the most rural areas of America, Southern Baptists were still planting churches and reaching people. "Historically, we have just done well in those kinds of places," Farley said.

In 1990, one out of every 13 people in non-metropolitan America was a resident member of a Southern Baptist church, compared to one out of 13.3 people in 1980. Non-metro areas are counties outside urban regions identified — See Non-metro, page 2



Passing the gavel

Outgoing Sweetwater Association moderator Gerald Atkins, far left, pastor of Fairview Tabernacle Church, Sweetwater, passes the gavel to new moderator Gale Miller, pastor of Notchey Creek Church, Madisonville. With them are, from left, Clayton Dunsmore, pastor Cedar Fork Church, Philadelphia, vice moderator; Shannon Clayton, Fairview Tabernacle, clerk; Director of Missions Bennie Creel; and Sheri Stephens, Notchey Creek Church, treasurer.

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Zambian official intervenes in Baptist legal battle

Baptist Press

LUSAKA, Zambia — Intervention by a government official has delayed — but not yet defused — a Baptist legal battle over missionary work permits and property in Zambia.

The deputy minister for home affairs called a meeting Oct. 7 before a scheduled Oct. 11 court hearing and negotiated a settlement that "returns the situation to the status quo," Southern Baptist missionary Bonita Wilson told Baptist Press. Wilson is acting administrator of the Baptist Mission of Zambia, the Southern Baptist mission organiza-

tion in the African nation.

The settlement will be submitted in final written form to Zambian Baptist leaders and Southern Baptist missionaries by the government. But the mission organization already has begun acting on the verbal agreement. Forty-nine Foreign Mission Board missionaries are assigned to Zambia.

The agreement means requests for government-granted work permits for Southern Baptist missionaries will be considered without a letter of endorsement from the Baptist Convention of Zambia. That had been normal procedure from 1964, when the mission

organization registered with the government, until 1992, when convention leaders petitioned the immigration office not to grant missionary work permits without convention approval. After extended negotiations, the Zambian immigration office decided June 17 not to renew work permits for missionaries Joe and Gloria Turman and Lonnie and Fran Turner. Gloria Turman is a Brownsville native.

That decision led the Baptist Mission of Zambia to file a legal appeal June 22.

The central issue in the dispute is the convention's request to approve all renewals

of work permits for Southern Baptist missionaries, although the mission is a separate legal entity registered with the Zambian government. The Zambia mission for years has voluntarily sought convention approval for any new missionaries, but renewal of permits for established missionaries has never been a part of the agreement with Zambian Baptists.

Applications were resubmitted Oct. 11 for the Turmans and Turners and four other couples whose permits have since expired. The results of the renewal applications are not yet known. □

Southwestern trustees begin Hemphill era

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees heralded the beginning of the Ken Hemphill era, Oct. 17-18, hailing a spirit of prayer and revival on campus and hearing their new president say his first three months on the job had been the "most challenging and invigorating" of his life.

In their first regular meeting since they fired President Russell H. Dilday Jr. last March, trustees heard reports from various areas of campus life, elected the seminary's first full-time faculty member, and scheduled

Hemphill's inauguration for May 1, 1995 at Travis Avenue Church in Fort Worth.

Trustees elected Karen O'Dell Bullock as assistant professor of church history. While she and other women have taught on an adjunct basis, she is the first hired on a full-time basis. Trustees also elected Stephen Stookey to the faculty.

Trustees established three professorial chairs in honor of W.A. Criswell, pastor, First Church, Dallas; Jimmy Draper, Baptist Sunday School Board president; and Rebekah Naylor, Southern Baptist missionary doctor to India. □

Haitians welcome missionaries ...

— Continued from page 1

smoothly," her husband added, noting security is a concern. "Many of the warehouses have been depleted due to looting."

The assessment team toured annex offices of the Baptist Convention of Haiti in Port-au-Prince Oct. 17. Well-drilling equipment is located at the offices, where Southern Baptist volunteers likely will be housed while doing relief

work. The location will be a staging area where volunteers will be fed, equipment repaired, and supplies stored and distributed.

The assessment team is working with the Rutledges and other missionary personnel to plan how Southern Baptists can respond to immediate and long-term needs of the Haitian people. The Brotherhood Commission is seeking at

least 150 volunteers to work in projects such as food distribution, water well repair, water purification, medical care, and construction. Volunteers may begin working in Haiti in late October.

Qualified Southern Baptists who want to volunteer for the Haiti relief project may call the Brotherhood Commission at 1 (800) 280-1891 or (901) 722-3787. □

Loudon County's Atwood to retire

LENOIR CITY — Raymond C. Atwood, director of missions of Loudon County Association since 1982, announced his retirement Oct. 17, effective April 30, 1995.

He formerly was pastor of First Church, Rayville, La. He also has served two churches in his native state of Arkansas.

Atwood and his wife, Wanda, plan to live in Jonesboro, Ark. upon retirement.



ATWOOD

Missions has been a trademark of Atwood's 12-year tenure. During that time 287 volunteers from 21 churches have volunteered for various missions assignments. They have built five church buildings in four countries and witnessed 12,580 professions of faith. □



Nashville Association meets

Nashville Association met Oct. 17 at Gallatin Road Church, Nashville. New officers are, from left, Mike Shelton, Central Church, Hendersonville, vice moderator; Jud Haynes, First Church, Old Hickory, moderator; Mary Lou Stewart, Long Hollow Church, Hendersonville, clerk; Director of Missions Jim Freedman; and Raymond Langlois, Hillview Mission, Goodlettsville, outgoing moderator.

Non-metro SBC churches ...

— Continued from page 1

as "metropolitan statistical areas" by the U.S. Census Bureau. About 73 percent of America's counties are non-metropolitan; they contain 20.2 percent of the population.

About 36 of all Southern Baptists live in non-metro areas. Vermont (92.6 percent), Mississippi (75.4 percent), and Idaho (74.9 percent) have the highest percentage of Southern Baptists who live in non-metro areas.

While the percentage of rural population continues to shrink, the actual number of people in non-metropolitan counties grew 1.3 million during the 1980s, the report notes.

"Rural America is growing and needs new churches," Farley said. He cited five reasons

for Southern Baptist growth in non-metropolitan areas:

- (1) Southern Baptists continue to plant churches in those areas;
- (2) Southern Baptists continue to be evangelistic;
- (3) Mainline denominations pulled out of some areas where the denomination is declining;
- (4) Much of the non-metropolitan growth in that decade occurred in the sunbelt; and
- (5) Southern Baptists continued to aggressively plant and develop congregations in the rural newer convention areas outside traditional Southern Baptist territory.

Figures released by the Home Mission Board show that 38 percent of Tennessee Baptists live in non-metro areas. □

Promise Keepers, Brotherhood discover common strategies

Baptist Press

DENVER — In a meeting of leaders from the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Promise Keepers, the two men's organizations discovered complementary agendas designed to strengthen local churches.

Both organizations seek to train and equip men to serve God and be the spiritual leaders the Bible calls them to be — at home and in their church.

Promise Keepers desires to motivate men to their godly calling while the Memphis-based Brotherhood Commission seeks to equip the local church to effectively minister, teach, and send out its men.

The meeting was in re-

sponse to a motion at the Orlando SBC that the Brotherhood Commission pursue linkages with Promise Keepers, said Brotherhood Commission President James D. Williams.

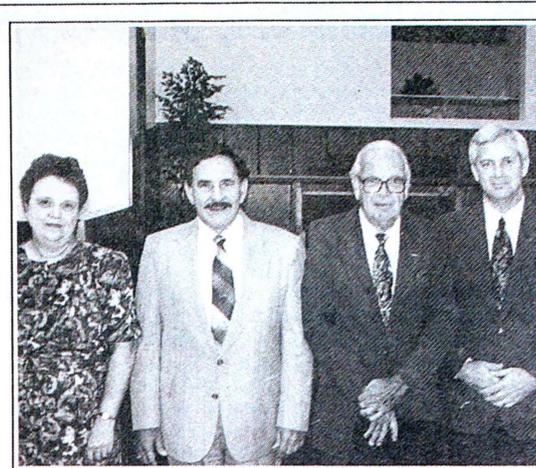
"We are convinced that we have much to gain through relationships with various national men's ministry groups," he said. "We are especially excited about Promise Keepers and their emphasis on male accountability," he added.

Glenn Wagner, Promise Keeper's vice president for national ministries, described the organization as a "catalytic ministry" that raises the need for men's ministry in local churches. "If a man is Southern Baptist we want him to be the best Southern Baptist," Wagner said.

"It was refreshing to see how God is moving among men in America and how he is creating relationships to build his kingdom," said Jim Burton, Brotherhood Commission's Men's Ministries director.

Through mass rallies and leadership seminars, Promise Keepers has raised the consciousness of ministry to men, Burton said. "They understand their mission and are well focused. They don't want to become the local church, just its helper," Burton said.

The Denver-based Promise Keepers began four years ago under the leadership of Bill McCartney, University of Colorado head football coach. In 1994, more than 250,000 men attended Promise Keepers stadium events. □



Loudon County welcome

Host pastor Thomas Baines of Bethany Church, Loudon, right, welcomed officers to Loudon County Association to the church Oct. 18 for the association's morning session. From left are secretary Pat Amos, Pleasant Hill Church, Lenoir City; Director of Missions Raymond C. Atwood; and moderator Obie Campbell, pastor of New Providence Church, Loudon. Amos is in her 27th year as associational secretary.

Mississippi Baptist leaders find compromise over college

By Tim Nicholas
For Baptist Press

CLINTON, Miss. — Three weeks of negotiations have resolved a situation that had removed Mississippi College from its longstanding ties to the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

An agreement was reached Oct. 13 that instituted a system of checks and balances designed to preserve the interests of the convention and the college trustees.

On Sept. 22, MC trustees changed the college's charter to prevent the Mississippi Baptist Convention from electing more than a fourth of the trustees. The change would have had the trustees electing two-thirds of their own board. This was done, said trustee chairman Harry Vickery, "to protect the college ... from denominational politics." Vickery also noted the board

needed to be enlarged and more diverse.

The furor that erupted among convention leadership included threats of court action and withholding of the \$2 million in Cooperative Program monies the college gets yearly. A called Mississippi Baptist Convention Board executive committee meeting the next day began efforts to reconcile the situation.

As a result of those efforts, this is apparently the first time any Baptist institution has returned to denominational hands after a charter change effecting a secession. Other Baptist schools separating recently from their state convention include Baylor University, Waco, Texas; Furman University, Greenville, S.C.; and Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.

The resolution, approved by the executive committee, the MBC board, the convention's education commission,

and the MC trustees, requires agreement from both the trustee group and the convention's committee on nominations before a potential trustee's name goes before the Mississippi Baptist Convention for voting.

The trustee board still will be enlarged to 24 from the present 15. Up to a third will be in church-related vocations, and MC alumni living outside the state can be nominated.

Basically, the plan returns the system to what has been called "a gentleman's agreement" as has existed in the past where institutional executives submitted requests for trustees with those requests honored by the Committee on Nominations.

The new plan was announced by Vickery to the faculty at MC Oct. 14.

Although the written documents appear to allow MC to elect trustees following any impasse at the nominating

committee level, MC Executive Director Bill Causey said the MC trustees agreed to allow the election of trustees to be a mutual responsibility. The agreement is that any openings following a convention will have the joint approval between the trustees and the executive committee.

MC President Howell Todd, speaking to the MC faculty, called it "a refreshing new day, a new era of cooperation." Later, Todd offered his "utmost appreciation for the untiring efforts of Bill Causey, the Baptist leadership, and Harry Vickery."

Causey said, "The starting point of negotiations is that you're dealing with good people who have the larger view of the work of the Lord." Checks and balances, Causey said, "was the key to the negotiations."

Said one participant, "The divorce is off." □



In Sequatchie Valley

Buddy Strickland, right, attended his first annual meeting Oct. 18 at First Church, Jasper, as director of missions for Sequatchie Valley Association. Welcoming him to the fold were, from left, outgoing moderator Roger Webb, pastor of Baptist Hill Church, Jasper; vice moderator Mike Brown, pastor of First Southern Church, Pikeville; clerk Nancy Holmes of First Church, Whitwell; and moderator Virgil Powell, pastor of South Whitwell Church, Whitwell.

BSSB to produce curriculum for 'Right from Wrong' campaign

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Baptist Sunday School Board will produce undated curriculum to support widely-known speaker and writer Josh McDowell's "Right from Wrong" campaign, according to an announcement by McDowell and board President James T. Draper Jr.

At a meeting of key Sunday School Board leaders Oct. 19, Draper said he hoped the board's decision to produce curriculum and to promote McDowell's "Right from Wrong" resources, produced by a variety of Christian publishers, will continue to encourage "Christian publishers to work together to do more things."

The BSSB will be the only producer of printed curriculum for use in the campaign, Draper said.

The "Right from Wrong" campaign was begun in 1993 and is supported by 42 denominational and para church groups. It has as its goal "to launch a nationwide grassroots effort to resource parents, grandparents, pastors, youth workers, and Christian educators to equip youth to know right from wrong, enabling them to make right choices."

McDowell, a Southern Baptist, said he believes youth, including Christian youth, are "growing up in a culture of declining morality." □

Organizations, schools plan events during TBC annual meeting

Tennessee Baptist Convention-related schools and organizations, along with Southern Baptist Convention seminaries, have scheduled meetings in conjunction with the 120th annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The convention will be held Nov. 15-16 at Bellevue Church in Cordova. A synopsis of meetings follows.

Belmont University will host an alumni and friends dinner Nov. 15 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Bellevue. President William Troutt will speak. Tickets are \$8 and may be purchased at Belmont's booth at the convention. For more information, call Carl Whitmore at (615) 386-4517.

Carson-Newman College alumni and guests are invited to a dinner Nov. 15 at 5:30 p.m. at Bellevue. President Cordell Maddox and others from the college will share. Tickets are \$5.75 per person and reservations are required by Nov. 10. For more information, call Vickie Butler at (615) 471-3222.

The **Church Music Conference** banquet is set for Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. at First Church, Memphis. Entertainment will be provided by Kevin Hamilton, comedian and minister of music at Whitten Memorial Church, Memphis. Tickets are \$8 and reservations should be made by Nov. 3 to the Church Music Department, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024.

A **Data Center** featuring information from Cooperative Program/Stewardship, Church Annuity Programs, Missions, and Sunday School departments, will be held in the exhibit display area at the convention. Churches will be able to get a variety of personalized information in those areas.

Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist

Academy will hold a reception for alumni Nov. 15 at 5 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Bellevue.

The **Ministers' Wives Fellowship** will hold its annual luncheon Nov. 15 in the Senior High Assembly Room on the third floor at Bellevue Church. Bette Stalnacker will present special music. Tickets are \$8 per person and may be purchased by mailing a check to Mrs. Bobbie Estes, 5320 Twin Woods, Memphis, Tenn., 38137. Tickets will also be available Nov. 14 at Bellevue Church.

The first annual fellowship banquet of the **Tennessee Baptist Directors of Missions group** will meet Nov. 16. The complimentary banquet is for both active and retired DOMs. Guest speakers are Jerry Rankin, FMB president, and Doug Beggs of the SBC Brotherhood Commission. Buses will leave promptly at 4:30 p.m. for the Shelby County Association camp. The dinner begins at 5 p.m. and buses will return participants back to Bellevue in time for the evening session of the convention. For more information, call Bennie Creel at (615) 442-6604.

A reception for **Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board retirees** will be held Nov. 15, following the close of the evening session. Those to be honored are Jarvis Hearn, Libby Shepard, and Martha Couch.

The **Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board** will meet Nov. 14, 3:30 p.m., in the chapel at Bellevue Church. The board also will meet immediately after the Nov. 16 afternoon session for its organizational meeting. New members elected during this year's convention are urged to attend this brief meeting.

The **Tennessee Baptist Joggers Jubilee**, sponsored by the *Baptist and Reflector*, will be held Nov. 16 at 6:30 a.m. in the parking lot of Bellevue Church. All walkers and joggers are invited. It is not a race. Prizes will be awarded to all participants.

The **Tennessee Baptist Religious Education Association** will hold its annual banquet Nov. 14 (the date was incorrect in the listing of TBC activities provided to the *Baptist and Reflector* in the Oct. 19 issue) at the Pink Palace Museum in Memphis. Tours begin at 5 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Decorations will be in a 1950s and '60s theme and persons should dress accordingly. The Gloryland Band from Germantown Church will entertain. Tickets are \$10 per person. Reservations and checks should be sent by Nov. 1 to Carl Schooling, TBREA secretary/treasurer, First Church, P.O. Box 687, Union City, Tenn., 38261. Make checks payable to TBREA.

The **Tennessee Baptist Recreation Association** will hold its banquet, Nov. 15, at 6 p.m. at Kirby Woods Church, Memphis, in the activities center. The meeting, sponsored by TBRA and the TBC Church Media Library/Church Recreation Department, will feature the talents of soloist Chuck Maxwell. Tickets are \$15 per person (spouses of TBRA members may attend the dinner for \$10). For more information, call TBRA president John Stracener at (615) 893-2514 or Eleanor Yarborough at (615) 371-2033.

Union University will hold an alumni and friends banquet Nov. 15 at 5 p.m. in the dining hall of Bellevue.

Tickets are \$6 each and can be purchased at Union's booth or in advance by calling Louise Lynch at (901) 661-5208 or 1 (800) 338-6644.

Tennessee alumni of **Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary** will have a luncheon meeting Nov. 15 at noon at The Old Country Buffet, 6114 Macon Road, Memphis. Cost for the luncheon is \$5 per person. For more information or to make reservations, call Mark Mangrum, president of the Tennessee alumni chapter, at (901) 254-8024.

Tennessee alumni of **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary** are invited to a luncheon Nov. 15 at noon at Bellevue. Jimmy Dukes, assistant provost at NOBTS, will speak. For more information, call Tracy Bennett in the NOBTS alumni office at 1 (800) NOBTS-01, ext. 3291.

Tennessee alumni of **Southern Baptist Theological Seminary** are invited to a reunion luncheon Nov. 16 at noon at Bellevue. John Polhill, J.B. Harrison Professor of New Testament at Southern, will speak. Tickets are \$10 per person. Reservations and checks should be sent by Nov. 1 to Joe R. Stacker, MSN 157, Baptist Sunday School Board, 127 Ninth Avenue North, Nashville, Tenn., 37234.

The **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary** luncheon will be held Nov. 15 in the fellowship hall of Bellevue Church at noon. Al Fasol, Southwestern professor of preaching, will speak. Tickets are \$6.75 per person and may be purchased from Fred Trexler at 1368 Dexter Lane, Cordova, Tenn., 38018, and during the convention at the Southwestern booth in the exhibit area. □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership

October—

- 26 — Pray for the salvation of the husband of Ismenia Golas who attends First Baptist Church in Talca.
- 27 — Our team of 23 people is meeting today for orientation before serving in Chile next month.
- 28 — The Bio Bio Association are planning to support an institute later this year.
- 29 — Remember the missionary assigned to your association.

- 30 — Sherra Armstrong, our home missionary, ministers through daily contacts at home and in her community.
- 31 — Pray missionary Doris Dyches will have a humble and contrite spirit.

November—

- 1 — Retired missionary Oleta Snell is celebrating her birthday today.
- 2 — A construction project is being conducted today through Nov. 7 at San Carlos Mission.

Church Annuity Plan to change effective Jan. 1, 1995

For *Baptist and Reflector*

The Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention voted Sept. 9 to adopt the amended Southern Baptist Protection Church Annuity Plan, to become effective Jan. 1, 1995.

Messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting Nov. 15-16 at Bellevue Church, Cordova, also will vote to adopt the new plan.

Major changes in the plan, if adopted by messengers, are:

- All eligible non-ministerial participants will receive free the protection section of the Church Annuity Plan. Presently, only ministers are allowed to receive the protection section. The protection section includes disability and survivor benefits and is funded by the first \$17.50 of the state convention contribution.

■ All ministerial participants must now earn the matching contribution that is presented automatically contributed to their retirement account. The matching dollars that go directly to the minister's retirement account will begin after the first \$52.50 contribution by the participant. This is a \$1 state convention contribution for every \$3 participant contribution is \$17.50.

■ A loan provision will be added to the plan but administration of this provision will not begin until Jan. 1, 1996.

■ All participants with "Plan A" contributions are eligible to receive retirement benefits as early as age 55 even though they are still active in church employment.

■ Upon termination of Southern Baptist employment the participant will be eligible to access both salary reduced and employer paid contributions under IRS regulations. In the past only salary reduced contributions could be withdrawn before retirement age.

For additional information, call Gary Rickman, director, TBC Church Annuity Programs Department, at (615) 371-2009. □

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Messengers preparing for annual meeting

The 120th annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention will be held November 15-16 at Bellevue Church, Cordova (Memphis).

Tennessee Baptist state conventions usually are ordinary. The reports are heard and recommendations are heard. Music, devotionals, sermons bring a measure of spiritual warmth and togetherness. Officers and other leaders are elected.

A budget will be approved and business will be discussed.

In all of these "ordinary" things, the convention does its work. Because the program schedule gives time for messengers to speak on germane matter, there is always that element of surprise.

In pre-convention discussions here and there, there does not seem to be any unusual interest. There are some items that will always be discussed even though they may not be on the agenda. That is the Baptist way.

Decisions made by the messengers are important — and vital to the health and welfare of the convention. As we work together, it is necessary for a strong consensus with committed cooperation to set the course of ministry in between annual meetings. For this reason, some "guidelines" can be helpful.

1. Messengers should plan for the annual session. Once elected by the local church body, each messenger should prepare for the meetings. Fellowship is one

of the bonuses of the annual meeting, but the sessions inculcate the main business. Know the schedule. Become familiar with agenda items. Plan to be faithful in attendance.

2. Decorum is a necessity for efficiency and fairness. Messengers should respect the rights and needs of others. Though each messenger has rights and privileges, the wellbeing of the main body of messengers is paramount.

3. Be flexible. Each messenger can be flexible without surrendering personal privileges or Christian standards.

4. Respect for officers, other messengers, and all who speak and give reports is a mark of good behavior.

5. Think through motions, statements, and resolutions before addressing the body. If your idea or thought already has been presented, is it still necessary? Make sure such actions are germane to convention business. Although each messenger has the right to speak, there is no reason to repeat what already has been said.

6. The officers and parliamentarian usually know the procedures for conducting convention business properly. They are dependable. Procedural problems can develop when messengers make unnecessary amendments, substitute motions, and the like.

7. Elections at times can be highly competitive. Messengers who nominate anyone should think and pray first, and make certain the nominee is willing to

serve if elected. Serving in an elected position is an honor and privilege, a place for committed service. It should not be considered a reward, but rather an opportunity to honor the Lord and practice servanthood.

8. Serving as a messenger is a position of responsibility. Voting is a serious matter. Messengers should listen closely to nominations, to reports, and to any matter that is debated. Voting should be done by conscience, not by any measure of popularity. Each vote is important. No one should attempt to tell another how to vote.

There are other tips for messengers, but the main idea is that messengers are responsible. The role of messenger does carry commitment.

The church approves a messenger not to do the will of the church or any other individual, but to act responsibly as a good Christian citizen, a church member who wants the best for the state convention and all its ministries.

The annual meeting at Bellevue on November 15-16 promises to be one of the best. We should have 2,000 messengers. The Wednesday night program will emphasize missions at home and abroad. Representatives from Chile, Michigan, Poland, and Canada will be present as Partnership Missions is celebrated.

Jerry Rankin, Foreign Mission Board president will bring the missions message. Throughout the evening, and indeed in all activities, Tennessee Baptists will be blessed and challenged. □

one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Who are heroes?

It was only a casual meeting. In fact, he did not even notice my presence.

I had stopped at the store that was equipped with an air pump. One of my tires looked suspiciously as if it were headed toward evil.

As I waited in line to get coins for the air pump (for air that used to be free), I spotted him.

He was acting as all the other customers, patiently waiting his turn to pay for a purchase.

When he reached the counter, of course, the clerk recognized him and asked if he had come for his special cigars.

He nodded affirmatively, and the clerk served them up.

There was no fuss or disturbance. No one asked the celebrity for an autograph, no one groveled. Now off stage, he was an ordinary citizen.

I got the feeling that the celebrity wanted to be just that, an ordinary citizen making a purchase at the local store. Every celebrity pays a price. In today's world, they are treated as though they were commodities, not people.

Many of them, especially in Tennessee's show world, are heroes to just plain folks. Some may deserve that status, others surely do not.

The man I saw at the store evidently longs for moments when he can be himself, without having to fret about personal appearance or what anyone thinks of him.

Heroes are hard to come by. It seems to me we often overlook genuine heroes and bow before those who are only performers who are shouting, "Look at me, don't you think I'm great!"

Genuine heroes, real personalities, are those who shun the spotlight and realize real performance is that which is judged "well done" by Christ.

They are all around us, in the churches and marketplace, in schools and shops, in places where we would never think of looking in our search for heroes.

They are ordinary people, serving the Lord with all the gifts he has given them. □



ALLEN

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Ron: "My wife is ambidextrose."

Don: "You mean ambidextros, don't you?"

Ron: "I mean ambidextrose. She can polish off a box of candy with either hand."

Take this thought

Words don't have meanings. They mean what we want them to mean. Some words meant one thing 50 years ago, but they mean something else today. Be sure what you say is what you mean. Tennyson said, "Words, like nature, half conceal and half reveal the truth within."

Memorize this Scripture

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver" (Proverbs 25:11).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to watch my words. May I try to use words that cannot be misunderstood or misinterpreted by those who hear me speak. □

The SAGA of family crisis

There are so many storms that buffet the Christian family today. Crime, drugs, sexual immorality are all attacking the family today in ways past generations never dreamed would happen.

I know that each of these has its own unique and individual threat to the family, but there are some common problems which each of these crises present. I use the acronym SAGA for **shock, anger, grief, and adjustment** to describe the typical reaction to crisis.

When crisis first strikes, one of its reactions is SHOCK. There is a sense of disbelief that something like this could happen to our family. I'll wake up and this will have all been just a bad dream.

Families should recognize that this is to be expected and not allow these feelings of being overwhelmed to blow them away. Long-range decisions should not be made in this stage of dealing with crisis.

Families in shock do not have their rational capabilities necessary for good long-range planning.

families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

The second stage of the saga of crisis in the family is ANGER. Anger can be directed toward those perceived to be the cause of the crisis. It may be directed toward circumstances which brought about the crisis.

The Christian at times may even be angry with God because "This simply is not fair." I would have us remember this was one of the charges Job brought against God in his attempt to work through the terrible tragedy of losing his family, his wealth, and his health.

Anger is a normal and natural response to crisis since crisis usually involves the loss of belongings, important people, or relationships in life.

GRIEF is the third stage. In this stage the depression and despondency over the loss experienced in the crisis tends to overwhelm the family. When Christians grieve a loss, we have the promise of the

Other Comforter who will be by our side and come to our aid with a "peace that passes all understanding."

The final stage in my saga of family crisis is ADJUSTMENT. In order to successfully work through crisis a family must make adjustments to the loss incurred and go on with life. This is easier to talk about than it is to do. Christ has promised never to leave us to walk alone and to give us grace sufficient for every day and problem.

With our trust in the one who promised that "we can do all things through him," we must focus on the future and what we must do to carry on.

At first the focus must be on the immediate, but we must gradually move our vision to the future as we make the adjustment to the crisis.

The saga of family crisis moves us from the initial shock of the problem, through anger that is generated and grief that is normal, to the adjustment that is essential. □



BARKLEY

Retired B & R staffer Eura Lannom dies

Eura Lannom, a staff member for 41 years with the *Baptist and Reflector*, died Oct. 16 in Nashville after an extended illness.

Lannom served in various roles with the paper from 1942-83, including a two-year stint as acting editor between the editorships of James Lester and Al Shackelford.

The Kentucky native is survived by a daughter, Kathy Lannom Lake. Lannom was a member of First Church, Donelson. □

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Union, Carson-Newman host pastors conferences

Two Tennessee Baptist colleges will host local pastors conferences in November.

The West Tennessee Pastors Conference will meet Nov. 1 at Union University in Jackson.

A fellowship time begins at 10 a.m., followed by the program at 10:45 a.m. in the Harvey Lecture Hall. The Ministers Wives Fellowship will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the Coburn Dining Room.

Union professor George Guthrie will present the 1995 Winter Bible Study of Galatians during the meeting.

A complimentary lunch will be served in Union's cafeteria at noon.

The East Tennessee Pastors Conference will meet Nov. 3 at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City.

The biannual conference will be led by Thomas Lea, professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth,

Texas. Lea will present a study of Paul's message in the book of Galatians.

David Hull, pastor of First Church, Knoxville, will deliver the sermon.

The event is free to area pastors. Registration begins at

9 a.m. in the recital hall of the music building. Lunch will be provided.

Participants are invited to join in dialogue with Hull and Lea, along with C-N President Cordell Maddox, during the noon meal. □

Classified

PART-TIME BIVOCATIONAL POSITION: Family Ministries director sought by Southern Baptist church of 550 members. Responsibilities include planning, directing, and implementing programs with emphasis on youth and senior adults. Send resume to East-analtee Baptist Church: Attn: Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 3281, Riceville, Tenn., 37370.

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

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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

Transformed in Christ

By Ray Fullilove

The Apostle Paul continues to underline the demand for discipline.

One writer stressed the importance of this division in this epistle with the right emphasis. "In the first three chapters, Paul dealt with the doctrine of the Christian life. In the last three chapters, he dealt with the duties of the Christian life.

"In the first three chapters, he talked about the riches of the Christian. In the last three chapters, he talked about the responsibilities of the Christian.

"In the first half, he told what the Christian believes. In the second half, he told how the Christian behaves. To properly understand these two dimensions, they have to be kept in order. The doctrine leads to duty. The belief results in behavior."

We demonstrate before others the dynamic power of Christ in our lives. We reveal Jesus to others because of the transforming power of Christ in our lives.

The self-proclaimed atheist, Robert Ingersoll

**Bible Book Series
for Oct. 30
Focal Passage
Ephesians 4:17 — 5:2**

could not deny the transforming power of Christ in his devoted aunt named Sarah.

Deeply impressed with her convictions, in one of his books attacking the Bible, he wrote in the flyleaf: "If all Christians lived like Aunt Sarah, perhaps this book would never have been written." Our transformed life in Jesus Christ makes a difference in winning the lost to Christ. We reveal the transforming power of Christ in our lives in three ways.

**Different life
— vv. 17-19**

Repeating the same emphasis as he noted in verse one, Paul underlines the necessity of living for Christ. It will be seen in our lives which have been changed by the power of Christ. It will be noted with a new vitality (v. 17), with a new vision (v. 18), and with a new value which intensifies

godliness (v. 19).

It is true what Paul noted in II Corinthians 5:17 that any person in Christ becomes a different person. We will become a new person with a forgiven past for a fulfilling future. In Christ Jesus, we will reveal a different life.

**Different love
— vv. 20-32**

The transforming power of Jesus Christ in our heart also changes our desire to be like Jesus (vv. 20-21), a discernment to follow Jesus with a resistance to old lifestyles (v. 22), with renewed spiritual insight (vv. 23-24), and with a redeeming grace in relationship to God and toward others (vv. 25-32).

There will be a marked difference in our honesty toward others (v. 25), our harmony with ourselves (v. 26), our honor toward work and for the welfare of others (vv. 27-30), and to the wonder of Christ in

the words we say to others (vv. 31-32).

There will be a noted difference in our love to reveal Jesus Christ in our lives and to reach others for Christ.

**Different Lord
— ch. 5:1-2**

The transforming power of Christ Jesus will be revealed in our lives because there will be a different life, a different love, and a different Lord. Jesus Christ becomes, not only our source for salvation, but our strength to overcome for him. Jesus Christ will become to us our Lord of lords and King of kings. We possess a different Lord in our life in surrender (v. 1), in spirit (v. 2a), and in sweetness (v. 2b).

When Jesus Christ becomes our Lord, we will consecrate ourselves to follow Jesus, create a penetrating love for others, and cultivate a pleasing atmosphere attracting others to Jesus. There will be no mistaking that Jesus is Lord of our lives. What a difference a day makes — when we stay with Jesus! □ — Ray Fullilove is pastor of Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis.

**Life and Work Series
for Oct. 30
Focal Passage:
Genesis 9:1-6,
8-10, 12-13**

Respect for life

By Elizabeth Howard

Daily, we are bombarded with reports of murders and other types of violence — gangs in our streets, guns in our schools, abuse in our homes. People are killed in restaurants, on subways, in the workplace. No place is safe from the madness sweeping our nation.

Abortion is almost commonplace, and the support for euthanasia seems to be growing. Animal and plant species are disappearing as the natural habitat is polluted or destroyed altogether. Clearly, many people have little respect for life.

Blessing, burden — vv. 1-3

After the flood, Noah and his family built an altar and worshiped God, offering burnt offerings of every clean animal and bird which they had preserved on the ark (ch. 8:20). God then blessed them, telling them again to replenish the earth, just as he told Adam and Eve in the beginning.

However, the relationship between human beings and other creatures had changed. For the first time, the flesh of animals is mentioned as a source for food. Perhaps this is the reason fear and dread had become barriers, separating mankind from all other creatures.

Value of human life — vv. 4-6

Although human beings could eat the flesh of animals, blood was forbidden. Blood is a symbol for life; all life comes from God and belongs to him.

The flood had destroyed many human beings and many animals, but God made it clear that life was still precious. Human beings could eat the flesh of animals, but they had no right to destroy indiscriminately.

Furthermore, the killing of a human being had always been wrong and that fact had not changed. People are created in the image of God; for this reason, murder is a grievous sin against God himself. When murder occurs, however, human beings, under the power of the law, have a responsibility for avenging that death.

Covenant with the earth — vv. 8-10, 12-13

God established his first covenant with Noah, his family, and the creatures of the earth — never again would the earth be destroyed by a flood (v. 11). We, and all creatures, are included in that covenant relationship, for God told Noah the covenant is "between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations."

The sign of God's covenant with the earth is the rainbow. The bow is a weapon of war, but the rainbow symbolizes peace. From space, the rainbow is a circle; according to Revelation, a rainbow encircles the throne of God (Revelation 4:3).

When we see a rainbow in the sky, it should remind us of God's promise and of the sanctity of life, especially human life, but also the life of all creatures, and of our responsibility for caring for and preserving life. □ — Elizabeth Howard is a member of Cumberland Homestead Church, Crossville.

King Saul disobeys God

By Samuel Dean

Obedience is a response sought by everyone from dog owners to kings. Governments expect it of subjects, parents of children, coaches of players, the mafia of its family members, and religious leaders of their cults.

Demanding obedience can be either good or bad, depending on the circumstances.

When individual rights are squelched and respect for people sacrificed to seek compliance with despotic wishes, obedience is degrading.

The greatest positive expression of obedience is found in being true to God and following his will.

Our lesson focuses on the failure of King Saul to be obedient to God.

Situation confronting Saul

Saul was dealing with a grave crisis that was precipitated by the Philistines. Possessing warfare technology far advanced to the Israelites, the large number of Philistines from the coastlands descended on the people.

In fear, the Israelites scattered into caves and other places of safety.

Saul and part of his army were at Gilgal, a shrine where they awaited the return of Samuel to offer a sacrifice invoking God's

**Convention Uniform Series
for Oct. 30
Focal Passage: I Samuel 13:5-14**

blessing. Mutiny among the troops was occurring. The volatility of the situation prompted Saul to respond in Samuel's absence.

Disobedience of Saul

The people needed God's help immediately. Since Samuel was not present to offer the sacrifice, Saul assumed the role of the priest and made an offering to God.

Upon his arrival in the camp, Samuel learned what Saul had done. When questioned about his actions, Saul gave three reasons for his unauthorized conduct. Too many men were fleeing. The Philistines were poised for an attack. Moreover, Samuel had not honored his commitment to return in seven days.

There are plenty of reasons to be found for justifying any conduct.

A healthy teenage boy once justified his extended absence from church by telling me that it was the cold weather that kept him home. He would come "when the weather warmed up."

Excusing our behavior is easy.

Consequences of disobedience

Disobeying God had consequences. Samuel dealt firmly with King Saul. Not only had Saul acted foolishly, but the price for his actions would be the loss of his kingship. Perhaps Saul always remembered those haunting words of Samuel, "But now the kingdom shall not continue."

Living in obedience to God

Being obedient to God is not always easy, for it is the will of God that we live in Christ.

Living in Christ will call for a greater ethical sensitivity. The value system of our culture will be challenged by the presence of the Lord.

Opinion polls will not dictate the correctness of our behavior. Ethics based on the emotion of the moment should be replaced by the teachings of our Lord. "Herd mentality" will yield to the lonely path of discipleship.

The words of Jesus will always ring in our ears: "Follow me." □ — Samuel Dean is pastor of First Church, Clinton.

■ the leaders

■ Poplar Grove Church, Trenton, welcomed its new pastor, **Jay McIntosh** of Houston, Texas, Oct. 9. McIntosh is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ On Sept. 18 Parkway Church honored **Walter H. Davis**, pastor, on his 10th anniversary. Members also observed the church's 16th anniversary that day. Walter Taylor, director of missions, Knox County Baptist Association, spoke. Davis also has served as associate pastor/minister of youth, Park Avenue Church, Nashville; minister of music and youth, Colonial Hills Church, Southaven, Miss.; and associate pastor/minister of music and youth, Old Hickory. He was moderator of Knox County Association in 1993-94.

■ **Arden Taylor**, minister of education/administration for Central Church, Oak Ridge, has been called as associate pastor. Calvary Temple, Savannah, Ga.

■ Fellowship Church, Knoxville, has called **David Mosher** as bivocational music director, effective Nov. 13. He teaches English as a Second Language courses at The King's Academy of Harrison-

Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour. Mosher is a graduate of Harrison-Chilhowee; Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; and the University of Tennessee - Knoxville.

■ **Jim Meredith**, pastor, Whitehaven Church, Memphis, was honored Sept. 4 on Pastor Appreciation Day to observe his 10th anniversary of service. His wife, Margie, also was honored by the former and present members present.

■ **Tracy Wilson**, minister of music and senior adults, First Church, Rogersville, has been called as minister of music and education for First Church, Dandridge, effective Sept. 19. In addition the church has called **Scott and Trina Frazier** as ministers of youth.

■ the churches

■ A Big South Fork Bible Conference will be hosted by **Bethlehem Church, Oneida**, Oct. 30 - Nov. 2. Randy Kochersperger will lead the services.

■ **Colonial Church, Memphis**, will celebrate its 40th anniversary Oct. 30. Former pastors and staff members will be recognized. Activities include a luncheon.

■ **First Church, White House**, held revival Oct. 9-12

with **Henry Linginfelter** and **Dick Barrett** leading. People made 87 spiritual decisions, 21 for baptism.

■ A revival at **First Church, Alcoa**, resulted in 44 professions of faith and 45 other spiritual decisions. The Oct. 16-19 services were led by **Harold Hunter**, evangelist based in Brentwood.

■ The 10th anniversary of the international department of **Brook Hollow Church, Nashville**, was observed Oct. 23. The department has ministered to more than 500 men, women, and children from 29 countries. English classes on three levels and Bible classes in English, Japanese, and Korean have been held. In 1989 the Korean Bible class became a mission of the church and in 1991 was constituted as the **Han Vit Korean Church**.

■ **First Church, Dandridge**, held groundbreaking ceremonies Sept. 11 for an education building and an addition of office space. The construction, which is estimated to cost \$1,513,000, will add 20,000 square feet in the education building and 2,500 square feet for offices.

■ **Beech Grove Church** in Duck River Association will hold revival Nov. 6-11. Terry Wilkerson will lead it.

■ **Center Grove Church, Tullahoma**, will celebrate



LEADING THE DEDICATION OF the building of Eastside Church, McMinnville, a church mostly built by volunteers, are, from left, **David Myers**, director of missions, Hamilton County Baptist Association; **Wylie Gross**, volunteer coordinator from Hamilton County; **Ralph E. Hoover**, director of missions, Central Association, and pastor, Eastside; **M.D. Overton**, project coordinator from Central; **Claiborne Henry** from Hamilton County; and **Elbert Marguerat** of Knox County Association. Most of the about 100 workers were from Central, Hamilton County, Cumberland, and Nolachucky associations. The service was held Sept. 18.

homecoming Oct. 30. **J. Harold Stephens** will speak during the morning worship service which will be followed by lunch and a 2 p.m. service. The afternoon activities will feature the music groups, **The Homeward Bound of Decherd**, the **Riva Lake Quartet** of Winchester, and the **Singing Cavaliers** of Shelbyville.

■ the missionaries

■ **Robert and Faye Winfree Carroll**, missionary asso-

ciates, are in the states and can be reached at 125 Roberta Dr., Hendersonville, Tenn. 37075. He serves as field treasurer in the Caribbean. He was born in Old Hickory and considers Lebanon his hometown. She was born in Watertown and grew up in Lebanon.

■ **Chris and Gwen Smith Wilkinson**, missionaries to Nigeria, are in the states and can be reached at 1510 NW 4th St., Gainesville, Fla. 32601. She was born in Fayetteville and grew up in Ardmore.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Where are you with God?

By Ernest E. James, pastor
First Church, Bolivar

A pastor was conversing with a close friend one day at lunch, when he asked his friend, "Where are you with God these days?" His friend repeated the question out loud and said, "Do you really want to know?"

The pastor affirmed his care and interest as a friend. The man frankly admitted, "I'm not anywhere with God and I haven't been anywhere for a long time. When it comes to my Christian life, I'm just going through the motions."

Upon further probing the pastor found that his friend in his younger years had wanted to make his Christian commitment the absolute center of everything. His friend's concluding remarks were very candid, "But I've lost it, and so now I perform more out of habit than anything else." (*Restoring Your Spiritual Passion*, pg. 20).

I wonder if we have the courage to be that honest about where we are with God? How do you think you would answer that question? Do you still possess the energy, the pursuit, and sensitivity of faith you had when you accepted Christ as Savior? Or, do you sense that

you're only going through the motions?

Let us remember that God's plan is that we walk intimately with him in faith and obedience. Maybe we should ask God to give us a renewed passion for loving Christ and following him. That passion could become the energy of our faith that lifts us to extraordinary service and impact within our world.

As a church let us never forget Christ's words, "Apart from me, you can do nothing." Those words remind us of our need to be intimately acquainted with and connected to our Savior by a passionate faith. □

World of wonders

By David B. Ray, pastor
First Church, Parsons

The world is full of wonders. There are wonders in nature, science, medicine, inventions. In fact, the world is one big wonder.

Salt is a wonder. When we think that salt is composed of two poisonous substances, we are filled with wonder. How is it possible that salt, which is necessary to life, is composed of sodium and chlorine, either of which, if taken individually, would kill us? We cannot answer it; it is a wonder!

Water is a wonder. Its chemical formula is H₂O. That means it has two parts of hydrogen for each part of oxygen. Oxygen is flammable; hydrogen burns readily. Unite hydrogen and oxygen into water and we put out fires with it! That is another wonder.

Salvation is the wonder of wonders! How God can take a poor, vile, hopeless sinner and transform him into a respectable person is the greatest wonder of this earth. Is it happening? Yes, it is happening every day. On the skid rows of our cities, in wealthy and poor homes, in jungles; in fact, wherever any soul will accept Christ, the wonder of the new birth is taking place. □

Stop hiding, be honest

By Michael S. Lester, pastor
North Etowah Church, Etowah

Those who know me well know that I am a fan of the old Perry Mason TV show. On days when I am home for lunch you will find me eating in front of the TV set.

During those courtroom scenes, witnesses are called to come forward and testify for the prosecution or the defense. Prior to taking the stand they must swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

However, people do not always tell the truth. Before the episode ends, Attorney Perry Mason has been able to extract the truth from even the most uncooperative witness.

Honesty should be a characteristic of every Christian. Being honest with one another is harder than it appears. We surely do not need to tell everyone everything we know in our effort to be honest. On the other hand, we tend to hide our feelings, problems, and faults for fear that someone might condemn us.

We can discover from God's Word the problems as well as the potential benefits to the body of Christ which occur when we are honest with one another. □

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.