

Baptist and Reflector

November 2, 1994

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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week's
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Tennessee volunteers serve Texas flood victims

By Tim Yarbrough
For *Baptist and Reflector*

ANGLETON, Texas — It's vacation time, but the last place you'll find Roscoe England is on the beach.

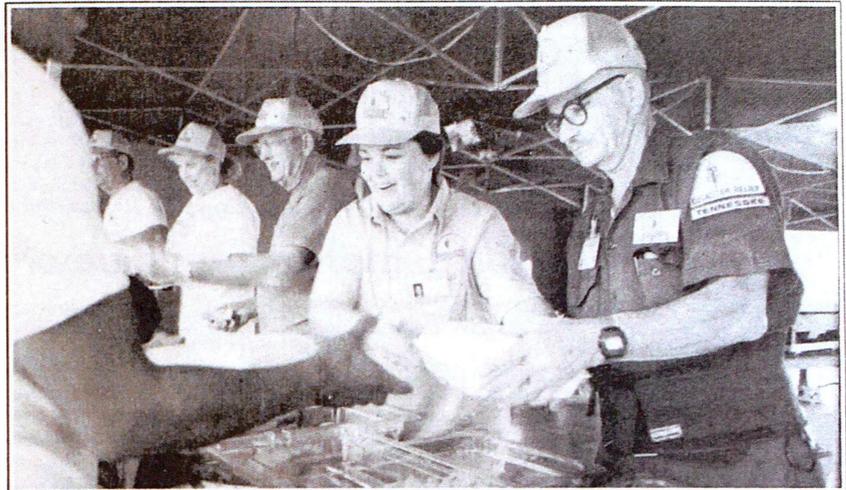
England, a member of Ball Camp Church, Knoxville, is a machinist with a company in Oak Ridge. This is the third week of vacation he's taken this year, but instead of soaking up the sun on some exotic beach, England is burning the midnight oil serving on the Tennessee Baptist Convention disaster relief unit.

"I receive a blessing from it. It has to be a calling ... there's really no other way to explain it. In fact, I think you have to be just a little bit crazy to do this kind of work," he said.

The Tennessee unit, led by TBC Brotherhood Director Cameron Byler rolled onto the fairgrounds in Angleton early Oct. 27, after a 26-hour drive from Franklin. Through a lot of hard work and sweat, the Tennesseans were preparing meals for hungry Angleton residents by nightfall.

Originally, Texas Baptists had put the Tennessee child-care unit on standby, but instead requested the disaster relief feeding unit.

By Friday, they were preparing thousands of meals for distribution by the American Red Cross. About 150 residents of an ARC shelter at the fairgrounds received meals



TENNESSEE BAPTIST volunteers Connie Stricklin, center, of Hopewell Church, Savannah, and Dick Staggs, right, of First Church, Benis, serve flood victims at an American Red Cross shelter at the fairgrounds in Angleton, Texas, Oct. 28. — Photo by Tim Yarbrough

daily at a serving line set up by the Tennessee volunteers.

It's the quick action of faithful volunteers like Elberta and Ray Roberts of Knoxville that helps ease the pain of disaster relief victims.

"On these trips, I never quite know what day it is," said Mrs. Roberts, a retiree. "Christ lived from others. We know this is an opportunity to do the same."

Volunteer Ed Simpson of McLemoresville Church, Trezevant, noted "anyone who can use a mop or broom, or who can wash pots and pans

can do this. This is a way I can give of my time." He said he's given 65 days to the Lord this year, and he's ready to give more."

The camaraderie of the Tennessee volunteers is evident.

Between the hectic cooking and cleanup times, team members exchange "war" stories of past disaster responses.

Nearby, Brookside, Texas, resident Howard H. Hyde, a Marine veteran confined to a wheelchair, sat inside the ARC shelter with hundreds of displaced residents of all ages. He thanked the Tennessee Baptist

volunteers for the meals they prepared. "It's good and it's eatable," said Hyde.

In a telephone interview with the *Baptist and Reflector* Oct. 31, Byler said the Tennessee unit is feeding about 2,000 meals a day.

He said the possibility exists that the Tennessee unit may relocate from its present site. If that's the case, the unit will probably be in Texas until the middle of next week, he said. "It's a day by day thing. By Wednesday (Nov. 2) I feel we'll begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel." □

Baptists witness signing historic signing of Middle East treaty

By Robert O'Brien
For Baptist Press

WADI ARABA, Israeli-Jordanian Border — John Anthony and Bill Clinton had come a long way from kindergarten days together in Hope, Ark., to a historic moment together in a scorching Middle Eastern desert Oct. 26.

Surrounded by 5,000 others, including Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry, Anthony watched his former classmate take center stage with King Hussein of Jordan and Prime Minister Rabin of Israel.

The scene at Wadi Araba,

on the Israel-Jordan border, held great promise for regional peace as leaders from the two nations signed a peace treaty pledging to end 46 years of war and forge a lasting peace.

Anthony, a Southern Baptist representative to Israel for 21 years, flashed back 43 years to Arkansas, and the day when he, Clinton, and future presidential advisor Mack McLarty posed for a kindergarten class picture. Today, that picture adorns a postcard sold in Hope.

"What a long way we've come from that picture to the signing of a treaty which could — See Baptists, page 2

Tennessee Baptists increase gifts to Cooperative Program in 1994

As they did last year Tennessee Baptists responded to the challenge.

Earlier this month, TBC Executive Director James Porch asked churches to send in their Cooperative Program gifts for October early so they could be counted as 1994 CP gifts. TBC churches did just that, sending \$2,745,236 to the Cooperative Program in October, \$446,859 over the monthly budget need. The fiscal year ended Oct. 31.

The total Cooperative Program giving for the 1993-94 fiscal year totaled

\$26,206,772, or 95 percent of the 1993-94 budget.

The current fiscal year total exceeds the previous year's giving in 1993 by \$550,722.

This pattern of sacrificial and disciplined giving prepares us well to meet our 1994-95 budget which will be presented at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention later this month, Porch said.

"Once again, these Cooperative Program gifts represent the commitment of Tennessee Baptists to our mission ventures," he said. □

Baptists witness historic signing of Middle East ...

—Continued from page 1
affect the whole world," Anthony said in a telephone interview, describing his experience. "I've known this guy all my life, now he's here doing this, and I'm witnessing it."

But Anthony knows that Israel and Jordan, struggling to break out of fierce Middle Eastern conflict dating back many generations, had to come a lot further than he and his former classmate.

And he knows they have a long way to go in actually bringing peace to the troubled region.

But his adrenaline was still pumping hours after the event.

"I was awed. I was thrilled. I was overwhelmed. I was happy. I was hopeful," Anthony said after attending the signing ceremony. His wife, the

former Connie Goble of Mt. Ida, Ark., joined him afterwards for a special luncheon and a reception with first lady Hillary Clinton.

The invitation came jointly

from Hussein and Rabin through the influence of the White House and McLarty, with whom Anthony has kept close contact over the years. Anthony was the only Baptist in the Middle East invited to the signing.

Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., was a member of the 58-member delegation invited by the White House to attend the signing. He also attended the

luncheon and sat at the Anthonys' table.

"In our 21 years working in Jerusalem, we've seen what it's like to live amid war, fear, and pain," Anthony said.

The week before the signing, he said, at least 27 people died in terrorist attacks in Israel.

"One of the guys who grew up in our church (in Jerusalem) had to lie down on the floor and play dead. He was seeing the terrorist changing his (ammunition) clips and shooting people. They shot one of his friends. Killed him! See how close things are to us?"

The Anthonys' daughter, Allison, dates an Israeli believer in Jesus who served in the Israeli army. They have empathized both with the stress and tension the young man experienced in dealing with ter-

rorists — and with the stress of Arabs who have found themselves in conflict with the Israeli military.

"We know families (on both sides) who have children who have had to be in a state of war ... with each other," Anthony said.

Anthony noted he has been in the homes of both Arabs and Israelis. "We've seen the hurts. We've felt the fears," added Anthony, who hopes the peace treaty will help establish a new environment for his work.

"Anytime you focus less on fear and terror and when the next war is coming, you have more emotional energy to turn toward reading your Bible instead of dodging bombs or terrorists. You've got more time to concentrate on the Lord," he said. □



ANTHONY

■ Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Riley emphasizes value of families to improve education

By Mark Wingfield
For Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The family is the "essential building block for learning" and a key to improving the education of America's children, according to Secretary of Education Richard Riley.

Riley released this fall a new report on American education titled "Strong Families, Strong Schools." In it, he says parents who become more involved with their children's education will ensure their children learn more.

He calls on all parents to turn off the television, read with their children, and get involved in school affairs. And he calls on businesses to find creative ways to help parents gain more quality time with their children.

The education secretary further calls for schools to be more inviting of parental input and participation.

"Parents — including those who have strong religious values — must be at the

table when it comes to public education," he said in a recent speech at the National Press Club. "But they must also be willing to build bridges and not see public education as the enemy. I assure you that nothing will be gained by tearing down public education and making the public school classroom the Bosnia of America's competing factions. When a community is divided, the children always suffer."

In formulating the report, Riley said he and his staff met with 125 groups, including some religious groups. These meetings revealed a common desire among all the groups to strengthen families.

"There is no more important place to begin putting our house in order than by recognizing that our children's expectations about the future are rooted in day-to-day family activities that help children learn and develop good character," Riley said. "America needs to give up its get-it-now, live-for-today mentality and start looking down the road to make sure

that we give all our children the America they deserve."

Riley called the family "the rock on which a solid education can and must be built."

Parents and other family members are "the most important teachers of their children," he declared. This is true regardless of a family's social status, income, or educational background, he said.

"Three factors over which parents exercise authority — daily attendance in school, reading material and literature in the home, and the amount of television a young person watches — are some of the strongest indicators we have that home life makes a difference when it comes to learning." Reading to children and encouraging them to read are essential tasks of parenting, Riley said, but noted for this to happen, parents must change their lifestyles.

Americans need to get their priorities straight. "Without a good education, a young person can grow up to be a tragic and unhappy figure." □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



November—

- 3 — May the building completed yesterday during a construction project at First Church, Rancuyua, be used to glorify God.
- 4 — Our Evangelism Team is preparing to depart tomorrow for Temuco. Ask God for traveling mercies.
- 5 — Missionaries Martha Miller and Jim Spikes Jr., and retired missionary Maurine McTyre are celebrating birthdays today.
- 6 — Today John McTyre, retired missionary, observes his birthday.
- 7 — Georgia Mae Ogburn, a retired missionary, is in ill health and just recently suffered a broken hip.
- 8 — Tennessean John Gent is serving in Temuco today as leader of our Evangelism Team. Also, pray for the missionaries who will be translating and tending to the many details of this project.
- 9 — Donna Mae Bobby is teaching Bible classes in Betania, a home for alcoholics and drug addicts in Valdivia; she is also still recovering from knee surgery.

Conversions, mission activity up among SBC college students

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist student ministry program reported several gains in fiscal year 1994, including an increase in conversions and missions involvement among college students.

The total number of students reached, however, was down following an increase the previous year.

According to the 1994 Student Ministry Information Report, compiled by the Baptist Sunday School Board's national student ministry, 7,528 college students made professions of faith during the year, up significantly from the 1993 total of 6,389.

The number of students involved in missions (including

summer, semester, short-term, and other missions projects) increased from 27,152 in 1993 to 28,217 this year.

1994 also was a good year for student missions in Tennessee, reported Ircel Harrison, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Student Ministries Department.

There were 2,044 students involved in missions projects, compared to 1,609 the previous year, Harrison said.

He noted there also was an increase in students involved in witness training. Most areas in the state, however, were basically the same, he said.

"It was an excellent year for student missions in Tennessee. We had good student involvement in different kinds of activities," he said. □

BC trustees take steps to relocate

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission approved a process for relocation of the agency's facilities during their Oct. 21-22 meeting.

A recommendation brought by a trustee committee to sell the agency's facilities at 1548 Poplar Ave. to the city of Memphis for \$1.25 million was unanimously approved. The recommendation also included plans to enter into contract with the Belz Corporation of Memphis for the construction of office and warehouse space totalling 70,000 square feet on a five-acre tract in suburban Cordova for roughly \$3.75 million.

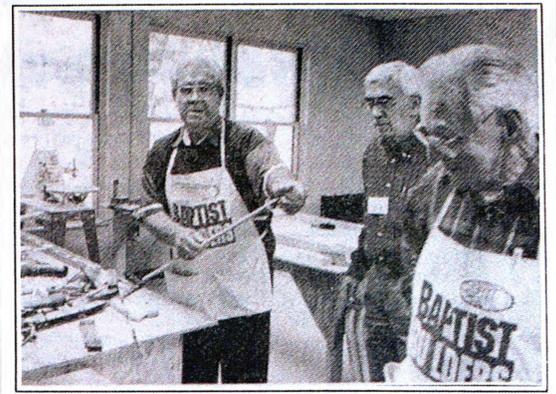
The contract to build would be contingent upon securing funding for the project. The trustee action authorizes the president to request capital funds from the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program capital needs budget and a low-interest loan for a period of five to seven years until funds can be provided by the SBC. Meanwhile, the city of Memphis, with plans to use the agency's facilities for a small-business incubator program, must apply for a federal grant.

"I'm confident that if God wants us to have this, he's going to put all the pieces together," said James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president. "There's a lot to be jug-

gled here, but we are confident that the SBC Executive Committee will respond favorably to our request." The request will go to the Executive Committee's program budget subcommittee next February.

In other actions, trustees took steps to boost its \$10 million Opportunity Now capital campaign by approving a position for a development officer, and approved organizational changes.

Among those changes, Michael Day, previously associate to the president, was named executive vice president. Day, 42, will provide staff assistance to the president's office and take a larger role in the agency's day-to-day operations. □



Tennessee teacher

M.B. Howard, left, a Mission Service Corps volunteer and member of Oak Grove Church, Covington, shows Paul Becton, center of Tallahassee, Fla., and James Owens of Savannah, Ga., how to put together a Lord's supper table. The men worked on sanctuary furniture during a Oct. 17-21 Senior Adult Chautauqua at Ridgecrest, N.C. Conference Center. — Photo by Terri Lackey

Alabama board names attorney, committee to study Samford action

By Mark Baggett
For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The Alabama Baptist state board of missions has voted to retain an attorney and appoint a committee to review Samford University trustees' actions to become a self-perpetuating board.

Acting on a proposal submitted by Executive Secretary Troy Morrison, both the executive committee and then the state board voted in a special Oct. 13 meeting to hire James Guenther, longtime Southern Baptist Convention counsel in Nashville, to study the legal implications of Samford's Sept. 13 ac-

tion. Chriss Doss, the state convention's attorney, removed himself from the issue because he is director of the Center for the Study of Law and the Church, with offices at Cumberland School of Law on the Samford campus. Doss was not present at the meeting.

With only two dissenting votes, the state board also voted to authorize state convention president Dewey Corder to select a committee to study the matter. Corder, pastor of First Church, Trussville, said he would name no more than 10 people to the committee and would try to have it in place quickly. Corder said he hoped the committee would meet and present a report

to the state convention at the convention's annual meeting Nov. 14-15 in Mobile.

Also at the mid-October sessions, Samford President Thomas Cortis was given opportunity to address the two groups. He strongly defended the Samford action, insisting the convention has never "owned" Samford University and the trustees has a legal right to change their charter.

At the Oct. 13 meeting Morrison said it was his opinion that "the trustees (of Samford) did not properly observe the bylaws of the Alabama Baptist State Convention when they took the action to amend their charter

without convention approval."

The Alabama Baptist leader observed questions of convention control of the entities "seem to be a phenomenon experienced widely in the religious community of Baptists." He said the questions should be answered with the help of "good, sound, expert legal advice by an attorney who knows the law but who also knows the polity and policy of Baptists."

Morrison recommended Guenther as convention counsel on the issue because he is "the most knowledgeable person regarding the polity and policy of the Southern Baptist Convention and its legal relations to its entities." □

Hold on to those petitions — O'Hair story is still just a rumor

For Baptist and Reflector

WASHINGTON — Like a bad dream, the Madalyn Murray O'Hair rumor keeps coming back.

This time, however, it's back with a slightly different twist.

Instead of the old, obviously photocopied page that has been going around for years, an apparently retyped version is making the circuit.

The message, however, is basically the same and refers to the same petition number — 2493.

In answer to inquiries to the *Baptist and Reflector*, the paper's staff contacted the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's office in Washington, D.C.

James Smith, director of government relations for the CLC, said there is no truth to the rumor.

He noted that since 1975 "when Petition No. 2493 (sometimes known as R.M.

2493, R.H. 2493, R.R. 2493, H.H. 2493, and H.R. 2493) was rejected by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), there have been no attempts to bar Christian programming by the FCC. Additionally, Ms. O'Hair was not involved in Petition No. 2493," Smith said, noting the FCC has received more than 22 million pieces of mail related to Petition No. 2493 since it was filed.

"We urge all Southern Baptists to not give credence to this persistent and damaging rumor. Continuing the flood of letters will only cause Christians to look like poorly informed rumor mongers," Smith said.

Smith assured that the Christian Life Commission will "sound the alarm" if anything "which remotely resembles the intent of Petition No. 2493 should ever come under serious consideration" by the FCC or the United Congress. □

57,000 people fill Georgia Dome to hear evangelist Billy Graham for possibly last time

By Jon Walker
For Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Billy Graham and Jimmy Carter, two of the best-known Southern Baptists in the world, shared the stage Oct. 26 during the opening night of the evangelist's Atlanta crusade, where 57,000 people filled the Georgia Dome amid media speculation it would be the last, great Graham event in the city.

Carter said it was Graham who encouraged his peace-making efforts in Haiti and North Korea, adding the evangelist sent him two letters this year, the first telling him how much the people of Haiti wanted peace and urging Carter to help them, the second asking Carter to be the honorary chairman of the Atlanta crusade but also detailing North Korea's desire for peace.

"Of those who bring this message of peace from the Prince of Peace, Billy Graham is at the forefront," the for-

mer president said.

Although Graham spoke of world peace, he quickly moved to his familiar focus on eternal peace through Jesus Christ. Noting how much the world has changed since 1950 when he held his first crusade in Atlanta, Graham said back then no one had run a four-minute mile, CNN was just a dream, and Martin Luther King Jr. was only 21.

"This was supposed to be the Christian century," said the silver-haired 75-year-old, "but it's been anything but the Christian century It seems every time we solve one problem, another one breaks out."

However, Graham said God does not change. "God was the same a million years ago as he is today, and he'll be the same one million years from now as he is today."

The way of salvation also

has not changed, he said. "In the last generation, (the cross) was the only way of salvation. The only way of salvation today is Jesus Christ, and he'll be the only way of salvation a hundred years from now."

Approximately 2,400 people came forward at the end of the service to make decisions.

Prior to the crusade, Graham met with evangelism leaders at the Home Mission Board and discussed ways to share the Gospel with every American by the year 2000.

"I appealed to Dr. Graham to convene a meeting of evangelism leaders from each denomination and each para-denominational group to see if we couldn't work together to develop a unified strategy," said HMB President Larry Lewis.

Lewis said he shared his feeling with Graham that no one denomination, even the SBC, could do it alone. Lewis said Graham seemed receptive to the idea and promised to prayerfully consider it. □

Tennessee features Associations gather for business, fellowship

Recognitions

Jefferson County Association recognized the 75th anniversary of its annual meetings by hearing Glenn Toomey, retired director of missions, who gave a brief history of the association from his book, *Milestone Sixty: History of the Jefferson County Baptist Association 1919-1978*.

Weakley County Association honored Fane Castleman for 10 years of service as associational WMU director.

Judge Frank Hammons was honored for more than 30 years of service as RA director of **Polk County Association**.

Mrs. Melvin Carter of **Fayette Association** was recognized by the Brotherhood of First Church, Hickory Withe, for her late husband's Brotherhood work in the association.

Two churches of **Northern Association** — Lone Mountain Church, Tazewell, and Warwick's Chapel Church, Luttrell — were recognized for having celebrated their 125th anniversaries.

The minutes of **Gibson County Association** were

dedicated to the late Ann McDivitt, wife of Jerry McDivitt, pastor, Northside Church, Milan; Lonnie Jones, longest serving member of the association's executive board; Floyd O'Daniel, retiring member of the association's board of trustees; and Hillard Goode, a retired pastor.

The late Ben Walker, former director of missions of **Tennessee Valley Association**, was honored for his 14 years of service in that role. Also Teresa Folkerth, missionary to Pakistan, was remembered on her birthday, which fell during the meeting. Her parents, Bob and Bessie Roop, are members of First Church, Spring City.

Beech River Association dedicated its minutes to the memory of Cletus Duke, who served as pastor in the association.

Haywood Association dedicated its minutes to Jean Sorrell, who has served the association in different roles for 28 years. She formerly was director of church media library. Her husband, H.K. Sorrell served as pastor of Brownsville

Church, Brownsville, for 30 years.

The Work

Weakley County Association recognized Beech Springs Church, Gleason, for leading the association with 60 baptisms during 1993-94.

The messengers of **Sweetwater Association** decided to hold a World Mission Conference in 1996 and continue its partnership with the Ukraine for one more year.

Fayette Association heard Charles Dill, director of missions in Michigan. Ten pastors from the association plan to visit Oakland and Huron associations in Michigan during April to lead "Here's Hope" revivals.

Haywood Association heard a report of a record number of baptisms during 1993-94. The association baptized 33 percent more people than the year before. Church members also worked in 11 missions trips formed by 171 volunteers. Four of those projects were outside the United States. Plans were made for an area-wide tent crusade in August, 1995; simultaneous revivals March 26-31, 1995; and a World Missions Conference in 1996.

Riverside Association heard a report that its baptisms increased 25 percent during the past year.

Plans to hold a World Missions Conference in 1999 were adopted by **Gibson County Association**.

Business

Fayette Association adopted a motion to take a love offering during the meeting for fur-



ELECTED TO SERVE WEAKLEY COUNTY are, from left, Raymon Cameal, pastor, Central Church, Martin, moderator; Jerry Summers, pastor, First Church, Sharon, vice moderator; Richard Skidmore, director of missions; Gerie Sheffield, member, First Church, Dresden, clerk; and Mrs. Jerry Seamans, member, Adam's Chapel Church, Dresden, treasurer.

nishings and other needs of the association's new Mission Center located in Somerville. It has been built mostly with volunteer labor. The completion date is projected at Jan. 1.

Bradley Association instructed its program committee to study programs of other associations of similar size and recommend changes for the annual meeting.

Tennessee Valley Association made changes in its constitution and budget to allow the associational secretary to work more hours.

The messengers of **Wilson County Association** acted to enter into a strategy planning program directed by a committee led by Carl Price, pastor, LaGuardo Church, Lebanon.

Sweetwater Association messengers gave an offering of \$1,000 for Fairview (Ballplay) Church, Tellico Plains, to offset the cost of its new sanctuary, which was the site of the meeting.

Holston Valley Association added Ridgeview Church, which was Oak Grove Mission,

and Cool Branch Church, Sneedville, to the association and accepted the retirement of Charles D. Earl, director of missions, Jan. 1, 1995.

Riverside Association voted to buy a site and build an association office on East Main in Livingston.

Polk County Association adopted a plan for an associational camp. The camp will be decentralized so several activities can be held at the same time.

Mulberry Gap Association added New Freedom Church, Bean Station, and Cedar Spring Church, Thorn Hill, to its fellowship.

Resolutions

Riverside Association adopted a resolution warning young people away from drugs and alcohol and urging people to vote in the upcoming election.

Editor's Note — Additional reports from associational fall meetings will appear in upcoming issues. □



NEW OFFICERS OF FAYETTE Association and leaders of the fall meeting pose and include, from left, Hazel Price, member, First Church, Somerville, clerk/treasurer; Ralph Thomas, pastor, First Church, Oakland, moderator; Charles Dill, director of missions in Michigan; Jere Phillips, Tennessee Baptist Convention; and Bob Campbell, director of missions.



THIS NEW OFFICE BUILDING OF New Salem Association in Carthage was the site of an open house Oct. 23 prior to the association's annual meeting that day. It is located four miles west of Carthage on Highway 70 adjacent to Carthage Road Church.



CHILHOWEE ASSOCIATION officers for the coming year are, from left, front row, Frances Henderson, Calvary Church, WMU director; Gloria Sexton, Rocky Branch Church, media library director; Tony Cothron, East Maryville Church, music director; back row, Director of Missions John Churchman; Ray Luck, Mt. Lebanon Church, moderator; and Tom James, Calvary, clerk.

Even in politics, truth should be paramount

It is election time again, all across Tennessee and the nation. Aren't we all tired of charges and counter-charges? Candidates are abusing truth.

Ah well, next week truth will rise again. The elections are scheduled for November 8, and the wild, reckless rhetoric may ease for a while after that.

Christian citizens have right and responsibility to measure political candidates. Not only is voting important, it is imperative to hold candidates accountable for their actions and words. It is unconscionable to subvert truth.

Often in circles of hall talk or gossip, someone declines to name the source of some juicy (but unflattering) morsel by saying, "I'm sorry, but I am not at liberty to reveal that."

A company official or someone in government may remark, "We are not ready to make that public." So truth is subverted again, and the cloud of suspicion rises again.

Isn't this fuzzy reasoning to think truth has to be hidden or glossed over?

Children, especially young children, can be expected to dodge the truth when it calls for punishment or embarrassment. Adults act this way frequently.

Someone has said that what all lead-

ers need is a good dose of honesty and truthfulness.

In arguments great and small, it may seem easier to suppress the truth and replace it with expediency.

In the political arena, distortions and half-truths are the rule rather than the exception. Unfortunately this sometimes happens in denominational politics also.

When this becomes a way of life, those involved will need good memories. Often lies and half-truths are used as weapons to clear the road of someone you don't like. The next step is character assassination.

Citizens of a great nation deserve better. We should not be content to suffer barrages of "he's evil, I'm good" political advertising. We can demand higher standards, pure ethics.

If advertisements for commercial items were loose with the truth as are these political ads, no one would ever buy the products.

Mud-slinging is too tame a term to describe what is happening. Good leadership can't be expected from any candidate who (1) lies and distorts everyone's record, and (2) who gleefully points out drummed-up negatives about the opponent while portraying himself as an an-

gel with charisma and Wall Street wizardry. Why do they want the office?

Those candidates who discuss pertinent issues and stick to important topics should be rewarded with rapt attention. There are some who honor truth and respect the opponent. They should be commended and thanked.

Citizens have a responsibility to remind candidates as often as necessary that lying in campaigns is wrong. It sets the stage for lying later in office.

Think of the millions and millions of dollars wasted on denigrating the opponent at the expense of truth. Somewhere there should be a group that keeps an account of the lies and innuendoes.

Since many candidates resort to mud wrestling, voters are faced with the brutal truth that both candidates are unlikely to be honest and truthful if elected. As some oldtimers would quote, they wouldn't know the truth if it stared them in the face.

So what is the answer. Some folks will refuse to vote. Some will choose by political party. Some will be swayed by words. But citizens must find a way to take negativism out of politics. Everyone needs to live by truth, and then it becomes a way of life. □

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Seeing Tennessee

One way of seeing Tennessee is to take off on the associational meetings trail.

This road is no place for the weak or disinterested. No commonplace trip, the route leading to associational meetings is demanding, adventuresome, and sometimes risky.

You have to be willing to sit behind the steering wheel hours on end, and you must be ready for short nights and long days. It seems difficult, but oh the rewards easily compensate for the weariness.

A quick and early breakfast will be balanced with a sumptuous lunch prepared by the world's best cooks, Tennessee Baptist women. And a brief bite at lunch often is followed by a genuine "sit-down" supper of culinary delights.

The hosts and cooks are not stingy either — they will keep coming by to fill your plate with the best, and advise you to "save room for this delicious chocolate-coconut pie made with Aunt Bessie's own secret handed-down recipe."

At the meeting, you will learn that "seldom is heard a discouraging word" even if the skies are cloudy all day.

The messages will be from the heart, and business matters often tell of superb accomplishments for the Lord.

Along the associational meeting trail, you will learn that the people are genuine, their love for God is real, their desires come from prayer and Bible study.

The roadway itself is lined with Tennessee's brightest and best colors. This is the "showing off" season, and the landscape is awesome as far as you can see. The October skies are their bluest, just for you!

Now this is not to say there won't be a cross word or two. And you may find an occasional cold and hard biscuit. It's possible that rain may ruin your avenue of color.

But this is true. October is a rare month. Where else could you find such people, such beauty in nature, such good spiritual and physical food? Anywhere? Perhaps, but it's always this way in October chasing across Tennessee. □



ALLEN

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

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

Charting course for blended family

■ families matter
By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

We live in a day when the ideal family and most other institutions in our society seems to have been abandoned.

Many people have the mind set that since I can't be perfect, I may as well not even try. Before we can forge the course, we must find the compass and determine the coordinates.

The compass for the family is God's intention for the family. God's design for the family was one man and one woman committed to each other as companions for life while raising their own biological children.

As in most of the other areas of our lives, we fail to live up to God's ideal. This does not mean that the compass doesn't work anymore for us, or that we are excused from attempting to use it.

When we confess our sin and shortcoming to God, even in family matters, he cleanses us and helps us to start over (1 John 1:9). Even if you have drifted off course, God's compass and design can help you make course corrections to get you back on the journey.

Once you have taken the compass in hand, you must plot your co-ordinates in order to determine your direction from here.

If you find yourself divorced, remarried, in step-relationships, you need to understand that God's compass will still work and that God has not abandoned you because you got off course. By determining, "I'm not where I hoped I'd be but I'm not where I'm going to stay," you can give yourself permission and motivation to move in the right direction.

Once I have gotten my compass — God's will — and determined my co-ordinates — fallen but forgiven — I am now ready to plot my course for my desired destination.

In order to arrive at the happy, healthy, and wholesome family, the blended family will have to set its FACE to the desired direction.

Forgive themselves, as God has forgiven them, and finish their business with the issues of past relationships.

Dragging the corpses of past relationships has a chilling effect on present relationships.

Accepting the new family, warts and all, the same way you would want to be accepted.

Commit yourself to the work that will be required to make this new family work. All my ministry I have battled people who thought good marriages were made in "heaven" rather than worked out down here on earth.

Finally, expect God will be with you and help you to develop the kind of family he wants you to have.

Blended families are not excluded from God's promised land. They do, however, need God's compass, true co-ordinates, and reliable course map to make the journey. □

— Dr. Barkley is a certified counselor and also teaches at the Union University campus at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis. This series deals with problems of the family and offers solutions that can be adapted to individual circumstances. Readers are invited to share questions or problems for discussion in this column by mailing them to Paul Barkley, 6385 Stage Road, Suite 1, Bartlett, Tenn., 38134.

Start with a smile
Climbing a tree to escape a bear chasing him, a man prayed: "Lord, let this bear be a Christian."
Looking down, he saw the bear kneel in the snow and mutter softly, "Thank you Lord, for this meal I am about to receive."
Take this truth
Be careful how you pray! The Lord sometimes answers our prayers and then we realize we didn't want what we asked him to give us. Don't pray for another Pentecost unless you want to do what the Christians of that day did when the power came! One writer spoke of "battering the gates of heaven with storms of prayer." Be sure you want what you ask God to give you!
Memorize this Scripture
"Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).
Pray this prayer
"Lord, give us more than the desire to pray. May we also know how we should pray. Help us also to realize prayer makes certain demands on us. May we be willing to pay the price!" □



BARKLEY

In Cumberland Plateau Association

Baptists fight liquor by the drink

For Baptist and Reflector

CROSSVILLE — A crowd gathered on the courthouse lawn Oct. 18 to help kick off Citizens for a Cleaner Crossville's campaign to encourage voters to vote against liquor by the drink inside the city limits on the Nov. 8 ballot.

The Citizens for a Cleaner Crossville group includes several Cumberland Baptists in key positions of leadership, according to Cumberland Plateau Association Director of Missions Roy Davis, who is an assistant chairman of the organization.

Area Southern Baptists involved are Mary Rose Kenner, Oak Hill Church, chairman; Roland Smith, Central Church, prayer chairman; Linda Hassler, First Church, Crossville, publicity chairman; Billy Kemp, Central Church, youth committee chairman; and Bill McCrary, Oak Hill Church, telephone chairman.

Citizens for a Cleaner Crossville is a political action committee that was helped organized by United Tennessee League Executive Director Waymon Jones to oppose the

City of Crossville liquor referendum. It is made up of citizens representing several churches and denominations in Crossville.

Cumberland County is considered a "dry county" despite the presence of beer sales, which is allowed under state law with no input locally, and the sale of liquor by the drink at private clubs.

"Once it (liquor by the drink) gets in, it is very hard to get it out," Hassler said.

Davis, who contacted Jones at UTL after learning little was being done to fight the liquor effort, said response has been good. "Some people have really gotten involved," he said, noting the group has passed out "a lot of material and tracts."

The local committee has

been funded by donations and love offerings from individuals.

Two messages came through loud and clear at the rally — get out and vote and urge others to vote no.

During the rally pastors, youth leaders, recovering alcoholics, persons with alcoholics in their families, and others spoke against liquor by the drink sales. They cited their opposition to the referendum because of a fear of increase in alcohol-related traffic accidents and because of the message and affect the referendum will have on youth in the community. □ — Complied from an article by *Crossville Chronicle* Editor Mike Moser, who is an active member of Central Church.



34 years of teaching

Ruby Coday, center, recently received a plaque from First Church, Kenton, for 34 years of teaching in the Children's 1 Department. Presenting the plaque were Pastor Wayne Perkins, left, and Sunday School director Joe Stephens.

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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

David claims God's promises

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Ephesians 5:3-20**

Children of light

By Ray Fullilove

The Apostle Paul continues to underline the demand for discipline. The discipline is classified with one imperative command — "walk as children of light" (v. 8). In expressing these words from his heart, Paul remembered the light of Christ which changed his life.

Perhaps Saul of Tarsus could not erase that shared word about Jesus Christ from his heart. It was these words which became an everlasting light to his dark conscience. With a mind which was above average, those significant words moved him with conviction as he repeated to himself, "In him was life; and the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness and the darkness comprehended it not" (John 1:4-5).

Regardless of the darkness which consumed Saul of Tarsus — the denial of Jesus Christ as the light of the world, the revealed love of God, and the Lord of lords — he could never forget when Jesus Christ became real to him. This experience may have brought blindness to his eyes, but it became a blessing in his heart by his becoming Paul the Apostle (Acts 9:1-21).

Thus, we understand Paul's emphasis to these Christians in Ephesus to "walk as children of light." We become "the light of the world" because Jesus Christ is the light in our life. As lights that shine for Jesus, we reveal the invincible influence of the power of God to a world in darkness.

Turned on by power of Christ — vv. 1-2

Paul reveals that we become the children of light because we are turned on by the power of Christ. It is the power of Christ which redeems us in the love of Christ (v. 1), which reforms us to reveal the love of Christ (v. 2b), and which reflects an attraction to Christ as a "sweet-smelling" fragrance (v. 2b). Jesus, the light in our hearts becomes the life for our daily living.

**Turned off by perversion
in world — vv. 3-7**

When Jesus Christ becomes the light in our lives, the redeemed of God are turned off to the darkness in the world. We will be turned off by the perversion in the world. Paul enumerates this as he notes that, as children of light, we will find a disgust in the perversion in the world as to its practice (v. 3), as to its pollution (vv. 4-5), and as to its presence (vv. 6-7). There will develop in our lives as Christians a desire to be separated from the world, to shine for Jesus, and to stand up in our convictions for Jesus Christ.

**Turned up by principles
of Word — vv. 8-20**

As the children of light, we will reveal to others that, indeed, we will "let our light so shine before men, that they may see our good works, and glorify our Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Our light for Jesus will intensify in its brilliance because it will be turned up by the power in consecration (vv. 8-10), to stand up for Jesus in our conviction (vv. 11-16), and to sing for Jesus in our contentment (vv. 17-20). As the children of light, we are secure in Jesus (John 5:12), satisfied in Jesus (II Peter 1:19), and stabilized in Jesus (I Peter 2:9). □ — Ray Fullilove is pastor of Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis.

By Samuel Dean

There was never a king like David. He was highly esteemed during his reign, was greatly honored in history, and became the ideal king for the future kingdom that God would provide. Even today the Jewish people look for a messiah to fulfill a promise to the house of David.

Through many events, God led David to be a successor to King Saul. The youngest son of Jesse from Bethlehem was chosen by God. The shepherd boy became a musician in the court of Saul. In a battle against the Philistines, David became a hero when he slew Goliath. His rise in popularity became a threat to Saul. Although Saul tried to kill David on several occasions, David respected the office of king and did not seek to destroy Saul. In a battle with the Philistines, Saul and some of his sons were killed, and David became king.

There is a very important theological concept called election that is at the heart of our lesson. The people of Israel are called to be God's people (vv. 23-24). God had established a covenant with his people. They had a special relationship to God, a relationship based on God's initiative.

It is important that we remember that election is not simply

**Convention Uniform Series
for Nov. 6
Focal Passage
II Samuel 7:18-29**

favoritism. God chooses people for a purpose. They are to perform a task in his redemptive plans. Election is more than an honor bestowed upon one; it involves a place of responsibility. Chosen people are to be instruments of God.

Just as God had chosen Israel, David had been chosen by God. It was not David's accomplishments that won him kingship. It was the grace of God that expressed itself in the selection of him. David stood in awe of God's choosing. "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?"

Just who are we that God would desire us to be his children? It is God's gracious choosing that includes us in his family. No wonder Christians love to sing, "Amazing grace that saved a wretch like me." Whenever we begin to think that we deserve God's grace, we are close to thinking that we are doing God a favor by allowing him to choose us!

There was true humility in David's heart as he dealt with his response to God's election of him. From David's grateful heart, God was extolled because of his greatness. There was no one like God (v. 22). David had not forgotten the source of his exaltation to kingship. A position of power did not blind him

to the ultimate source of that power.

Out of a deep sense of gratitude, David wanted to do something for God. David desired to build a temple to house the Ark of the Covenant. God needed a house.

It is an admirable thing to want to do something for God. Having a beautiful church building should be something that we desire. Just as David was bothered by his living in a nice house compared to the tent for the Ark, we should be disturbed to live in fine houses and let the church run down and the Lord's ministries become crippled. If we can do better, we should.

Although it was good for David to have the desire to build God a house, it was not God's will for such at the moment. Solomon would be the one to build the temple. It was God's desire to establish David's house forever. Through David's hereditary line the kings of Israel would be chosen. The dynasty founded by David would rule for 400 years until 587 B.C. with the fall of the Southern Kingdom to the Babylonians.

God is interested in more than buildings. Building nice office complexes and ornate sanctuaries must be kept in perspective. We can build our own kingdom and neglect the call to ministry and missions. God is desirous of building a people who are responsive to the doing of his will in life. God wants men and women for his glory, not monuments erected for veneration. □ — Samuel Dean is pastor of First Church, Clinton.



FULLILOVE



DEAN



HOWARD

Portrait of God's love

By Elizabeth Howard

I have heard that prostitution is the oldest profession practiced by women. One woman bartered her flesh for sleeping space in a cave, an animal skin to keep her warm, a mess of porridge to fill her hungry stomach; another bartered for velvet bedcovers, jewels, ostrich feathers, and imported fruits and spices.

In either case, men and women perverted God's intention that one man and one woman join in marriage and be faithful to that union.

The story of Hosea and Gomer, a prostitute, is troubling. We must keep in mind the lesson God was trying to teach the Israelites who had prostituted themselves to Baal, a pagan god whose worship involved sexual rites with temple prostitutes. We should also ask what the story teaches us about ourselves.

Unfaithful wife — ch. 1:2

Was Gomer a prostitute before or after her marriage? Was she, or had she been, a temple prostitute? We do not have definite answers to these questions, but we do know her marriage to Hosea parallels Israel's "marriage" to God. Hosea's love for her and his struggle to maintain his marriage pictures God's love for Israel and his struggle to keep the nation faithful to him. Children were born to Gomer. From their names (vv. 4-9) scholars conclude that at least one of them was not Hosea's.

Loving husband — ch. 2:16, 19-20

God promised a day when he would betroth the Israelites to himself forever. They would have a new relationship with a strong foundation — righteousness, judgment, loving-kindness, mercies, and faithfulness —

**Life and Work Series
for Nov. 6
Focal Passage: Hosea 1:2;
2:16, 19-20; 3:1-5**

qualities scarcely found in Israel in Hosea's day. However, God's promise was based on Israel's turning away from Baal worship, just as Gomer's restoration as Hosea's wife depended on her giving up her adultery.

Costly goal — ch. 3:1-5

God told Hosea to go, to take the initiative in restoring Gomer, to love her in spite of her adultery, just as God loves his people in spite of their worship of other gods. Often, it seems impossible to restore a relationship broken by unfaithfulness, but Hosea did not hesitate. He scraped together what he had, his silver and the barley he may have needed for the winter, and bought Gomer, who had been reduced to slavery, her body now owned by her paramour.

He laid down some rules: she must stay at home, isolated from her old lover(s). In like manner, the nation of Israel must show its repentance. God would take away the rulers, who had led them into idolatry, and the false gods they were worshiping. In due time, Israel would repent and seek the Lord.

Like the family of Hosea and Gomer, America's families suffer from unfaithfulness, neglect, and abuse. God's message to Israel is the message we need to hear. We must repent of our failures, give up our gods of materialism and sexual sins, and restore love and faithfulness in our homes. □ — Elizabeth Howard is a member of Cumberland Homestead Church, Crossville.

the associations

■ **Jennifer Kennedy Dean**, a nationally known teacher, speaker, and conference leader, will lead "The Praying Life, Living Beyond Your Limits," Nov. 12 in the chapel of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood. The event is sponsored by Nashville Association Woman's Missionary Union. For more information, contact Judy Scott, 2711 Priestlake Dr., Nashville, Tenn., 37217.



DEAN

the churches

■ To raise money for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, **Bethlehem Church, Westpoint**, sold food to people attending an estate auction of the church's oldest member. The project raised \$750 for the offering. The church hopes to give a record amount this year.

■ **Red River Church,**

Adams, will hold revival Nov. 6-11. Michael Duff, pastor, North Springfield Church, Springfield, and John B. Nolan of Adams will lead the services.

the schools

■ **Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City**, has reorganized, renaming all division coordinators as division deans. The college now has eight deans who direct 22 departments. They are Louis Ball, fine arts; Stan Benson, library services; Kitty Coffey, applied human sciences; Edward Freels, natural sciences and mathematics; Mark Heinrich, social sciences; Ronald Midkiff, education; Don Olive, humanities; and Whit Russell, business.

the leaders

■ **Central Church, Hixson, Chattanooga**, honored **Ron Phillips** on his 15th anniversary as pastor and his family during October. On Oct. 23 an afternoon reception was held and Barry Clingan spoke during the evening service. An of-

fering taken to observe his anniversary will be used to refurbish the church's sanctuary.

■ **Danny Sinquefield**, associate pastor/minister of education and outreach, Trinity Church, Apopka, Fla., has been called as pastor of Faith Church, Bartlett, effective Oct. 23.

■ **Calvary Hill Church, Ripley**, has called **Wayne Rowan**, pastor, Macedonia Church, Ripley, as pastor.

■ **Jerry Milam**, pastor, Gibson Church, Gibson, has been called as pastor of Wrigley Church, Lyles, effective Nov. 20. Paul Hall, retired, Missions Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, served the church as interim pastor for more than a year.

the missionaries

■ **Tom and Hazel Clark Barron**, missionaries to Indonesia, are in the states and can be reached at 15841 Central Pike, Lebanon, 37087. She is from Richton.

■ **Ron and Jan Wilmoth Langston**, missionaries to Botswana, are on the field and can be reached at P.O. Box 228, Lobatse, Botswana. She was born in Jonesborough and considers Etowah her hometown.

■ **Elizabeth Orman**, missionary to Ivory Coast, is in the states and can be reached at 4072 Shirley Drive, Memphis, 38109. She is a native of Memphis.

■ **Samuel and Connie Davis Stallings**, missionaries



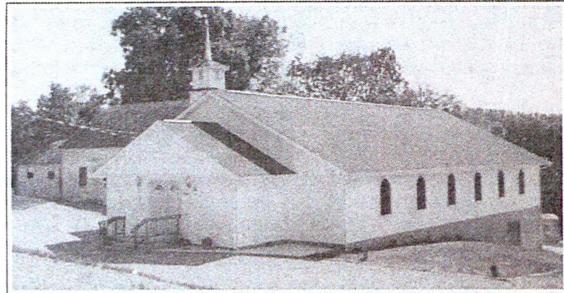
HOLDING SHOVELS to participate in the Oct. 2 groundbreaking and land dedication for Faith Church, Bartlett, are, from left, David Jackson; Sam Steinman; Preston Davis; Bobby Flaherty, mayor of Bartlett; John McBride, director of missions, Shelby County Association; and Mike Day, former pastor who is on the staff of the Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis. The 17-acre site, located on Germantown Road, will be the site of a 33,000 square foot multipurpose building. The congregation, which was formed a year and a half ago, has been meeting in the building formerly used by Covington Pike Church, Memphis.

to the Philippines, are on the field and can be reached at P.O. Box 7506, DAPO Lock B, 1300 Domestic Rd., Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines. He is from Bolivar and she is from Covington.

■ **Joe and Gloria Reece**



STANDING IN FRONT of the new educational building and fellowship hall of Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, Miss., are co-pastors Bob Mizell, left, and Ed Schulker, right, and Reed Caldwell, member. Mizell and Schulker were pastors of Cedar View Church and Victory Heights Church, Memphis, respectively, which merged last year following a buyout from an airport. The new 7,000 square foot building was named Victory Hall in recognition of Victory Heights Church. Mizell was director of missions, New Duck River Association.



MEMBERS OF Stoney Gap Church, Sneedville, in Mulberry Gap Association, are enjoying their new auditorium. Pastor Alonzo Collins reports the congregation began its building project with a goal of \$40,000 and nine months after reaching that goal they began using a debt-free facility. The building was completed earlier this year.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Fight trends with faith, actions

By Bill Bargiol, director of missions Big Emory Baptist Association

We are confronted and impacted with all sorts of information today concerning the rise of crime and immorality and the destruction of the family in America. There is even growing disrespect for the nation.

It is not too difficult to show a correlation between these destructive trends and the growing disbelief of and disrespect for the Bible and the Christian faith.

Our nation was founded on biblical principles, even though the leaders

may or may not have been Christians. Those who came, and who continue to come to this land, come because it provides freedom and benefits grounded in those biblical principles. Yet, so many seek to use every available means to try to destroy and remove from public life the biblical truths which provide the foundation for our society. It is as though persons are intent on committing social and cultural suicide.

More laws on gun ownership, ethics, and morality are not the answer to the needs and hurts of our land.

The answer to our prevailing problems is a return to the faith in and practice of the truths of the Bible in business, community, home,

and personal lifestyles.

I have yet to hear of someone being hurt during Bible study or prayer meeting.

Jesus can solve a lot of our modern problems, if we will let him! □

Losing traditions

By Stanley Spicer, minister of education Spring Creek Road Church, Chattanooga

Have you ever wondered why it is possible to have "In God We Trust" on every piece of United States currency? I recently read that there was a lawsuit over 30 years ago to have this removed from our money. The Supreme Court

ruled that the saying would remain because it had lost its "religious significance" and was just a meaningless tradition. I'm glad it remains, but I'm troubled by the reason behind the ruling. I'm troubled because it's probably true.

How many of the "Christian things" we do have lost their "religious significance." Do we really serve our Lord, or just engage in traditional church acts. Do we attend Sunday School, teach, keep class records, etc., because we really feel that God wants us to?

Even if the things we do are good, let's never forget the reason behind the actions. Let's never lose that in tradition. □