

Baptist and Reflector

VOL. 160 ■ NO. 45

November 9, 1994

STATEWIDE EDITION

■ **this
week's
news**

national —

■ Southeastern Seminary gains more students than other Baptist seminaries. — Page 3

■ Sullivan analyzes SBC politics. — Page 4

state —

■ Southern shifts extension studies from Belmont. — Page 2

■ Texas Baptists expand Cooperative Program giving plan. — Page 3

■ Gallatin Church enters worship center. — Page 8

■ Alabama board considers declaring state of emergency because of school decision. — Page 10

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

900-00410-0127
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400

Annuity Board responds to committee requests

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Trustees of the Annuity Board meeting here Nov. 1 prepared responses to two requests from the SBC Executive Committee and to a June 1994 action of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Trustees also approved a 1995 operating budget of \$36.6 million and heard reports of major growth in benefits and contributions.

The spending plan for 1995 represents a 5 percent increase over 1994, with much of the increase related to growth in number of participants served and expenses related to the transition to a new customer service system and other computer and software requirements.

The retirement side of the budget is \$27.7 million and the insurance segment is \$8.8 million.

The two parts of the budget, like the assets of retirement and insurance, are accounted for separately, with each major segment of Annuity Board business responsible for its own expenses. No Cooperative

Program funds are received for operating costs of the board.

Trustees heard of an 18 percent rise in benefits paid through September, or \$123.9 million. Treasurer Harold D. Richardson told trustees it is possible total retirement and relief benefits may reach \$160 million in 1994.

Trustees considered two messages from the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. The EC asked the board to report in writing its "involvement" with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and to forward to the committee copies of all contracts with the CBF. A second action by the EC asked board trustees to add "abortion" to the list of "industries" prohibited for investments, and to specify "contributions" of a corporation as a reason to prohibit holding that company's stock.

Powell told trustees he will report that the Annuity Board provides a Convention Annuity Plan and traditional group insurance products to the employees and mis-

sionaries of the CBF and would send a copy of the convention Annuity Plan document to the EC.

In another CBF-related matter, trustees voted to honor the directive of the Southern Baptist Convention not to accept future relief contributions channeled by churches through the CBF, but to accept such gifts as are currently held by the CBF designations for the Annuity Board.

Trustees accepted the report of their investment committee to amend the investment guidelines to include abortion industry as a prohibited investment.

The trustees' relief committee approved 39 relief requests.

The committee made available emergency grants of up to \$2,000 for churches, associations, or pastors suffering losses in recent floods inundating sections of Texas.

Fifty-four people were added to the Adopt an Annuitant benefit roll to receive an extra \$50 a month, bringing to 1,506 the total now receiving the benefit through the board's endowment department. □



Former Chile coordinator speaks at associational meeting

Former Tennessee/Chile on-site coordinator Richard Poe, far left, recently spoke at the annual meeting of Sullivan Association. With Poe, who is now a director of missions in Virginia, are, from left, Alan Buckles, new moderator; Mike Stout, outgoing moderator; Steve Taylor, host pastor (Glenwood); and Director of Missions Tommy Holtzclaw. Other associational meeting photos on pages 6-7. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

Mississippians approve college compromise

By Tim Nicholas
Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi Baptists, after an intense debate in their Nov. 1-2 annual meeting here, declined to change the way they fund Mississippi College and gave the sale of Clarke College property in Newton another 60 days to reach closing.

Mississippi College in Clinton has been the subject of much discussion since September when trustees changed the

charter to make themselves into a self-perpetuating board with only one-fourth of the trustees elected by Mississippi Baptists.

That charter change was amended after negotiations with convention leadership which would allow for joint approval of trustees by the MC trustees and the convention's nominating committee.

Some messengers, unhappy with any change that prevents direct and unhindered election of trustees from the floor of the

convention, suggested either a change in the way the college is funded or to escrow these funds, about \$2 million a year out of MC's total budget of nearly \$30 million, until the former system is re-established.

In other business messengers approved a 1995 Cooperative Program budget of \$22.6 million. The amount going to SBC causes outside the state is 37 percent, or \$8.3 million. Rex Yancey of Pascagoula was re-elected as president. □

TBC Annual Session meets next week at Bellevue Church

The 120th Annual Session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention meets Nov. 15-16 in suburban Memphis.

The two-day meeting and other related events will be covered by *Baptist and Reflector* staff members.

Attendance could top the 2,000 mark as messengers travel to one of the western-most churches to vote on partnerships with Poland and the four western provinces of Canada, and on a budget for 1995.

The staff will report on convention actions in the Nov. 23 issue.

Special plans have been made for the convention program. The *Baptist and Reflector* has produced a Cooperative Program edition which will be distributed to all messengers, and mailed to subscribers as a section of the Nov. 16 edition.

It will explain how CP dollars are used by all TBC ministries.

Convention President Ray Newcomb will call the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Wednesday night will emphasize missions beginning at 6:30. FMB President Jerry Rankin will speak. □

SBTS shifts extension studies program from Belmont

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — In an unexpected move, Belmont University officials have been notified the school will no longer house the extension studies program of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Effective with the 1995 spring semester Southern's extension studies program will be located at the Baptist Sunday School Board and Two Rivers Church, Nashville, according to Robert D. Hughes, director of extension studies at the Louisville, Ky.-based seminary.

Belmont University School of Religion Dean Steven Simpler said the letter he received dated Sept. 29 was "a surprise because I had no idea something like this was going to happen." Though the seminary has provided free facilities and staff support for the extension studies program since 1986, Belmont was not informed Southern was thinking about moving the program, Simpler said.

Simpler said students in the program often expressed satisfaction of being on a campus and having access to library and bookstore facilities. He said there normally are 20-30 students in the program which meets only on Mondays at the campus. Though Belmont provided the space and staff support, Southern Seminary had com-

plete control of the program as far as classes and professors were concerned, Simpler said.

The letter from Hughes, thanked Simpler and his staff "for the excellent support Belmont has given to the extension studies program." While not giving a specific reason why the center was being moved, the letter hinted of denominational politics. The letter noted "this decision has nothing to do with the administration of the program that you have provided. It is rather an outgrowth of the changes that have taken place in our denomination in recent years."

When asked about that in a telephone interview, Hughes told the *Baptist and Reflector* "In the climate of the SBC there are shifting relationships as there always have been. Six or seven years ago we shifted to Belmont. We are now comfortable shifting back to the Sunday School Board," he said.

Hughes said the program was housed at the Baptist Sunday School Board before it was moved to Belmont in 1986 at Belmont's initiative. Two Rivers made a request to house the program at the same time the seminary was exploring ties with the Sunday School Board, Hughes said.

Hughes said the decision involved national denominational ties and changing technology of education. He said the seminary currently is exploring interactive video (teleconferencing) with the board and is currently working with them on a continuing education conference.

"We have strong ties with the Sunday School Board anyway. This is a practical, pragmatic move," he said.

Hughes said some courses also will be taught at Two Rivers in a local church environment. "Two Rivers will provide a lab setting for the type of education we're trying to provide," he said.

Simpler said Southern's decision to move the program "won't affect us or hurt the program and students."

The Belmont dean said the school is willing to help in the transition. "There is no rancor or pettiness on our part. Basically, it is their (Southern's) program and their decision to make."

Simpler also noted he was sorry Belmont would no longer be able to provide that particular service to Tennessee Baptists. "That's why we were willing to invest the money (to house the program)," he said.

Southern Seminary also has an extension studies program at Union University in Jackson.

Hughes said the seminary has no plans to move that program from Union. □



SIMPLER

Baptists respond to ACLU letter on prayer

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — The school prayer debate is flaring again after Mississippi public school superintendents received a letter from the Mississippi chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi detailing "specifically prohibited" prayer practices.

Mississippi Baptists already are planning their response. The letter from David Ingebretsen, executive director of the ACLU of Mississippi, offered to

help superintendents enforce the Sept. 2 decision by U. S. District Judge Henry T. Wingate that struck down the school prayer law passed by the 1994 Mississippi Legislature.

Ingebretsen said "Judge Wingate ruled Mississippi schools must maintain 'an atmosphere of religious neutrality.'" He spelled out five prohibited practices.

His letter advised superintendents that ACLUM will monitor compliance with the ruling and offer assistance to

parents whose children are "impermissibly subjected to organized school prayer."

Paul Jones, executive director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention said his agency will be working with local Baptist congregations in crafting a response to the letter.

He said, "We intend to counter the impression that superintendents and school boards must surrender their right to make policy if a complaint is raised about religion."

Orthodox churches resist evangelicals

Baptist Press

SOFIA, Bulgaria — New Southern Baptist workers are starting to put down roots in Bulgaria, but it is unclear how deep they will sink into the soil of this formerly communist country still hostile to evangelicals.

Roger and Janice Capps are the latest additions to the Foreign Mission Board's force of missionaries and shorter-term workers in Bulgaria.

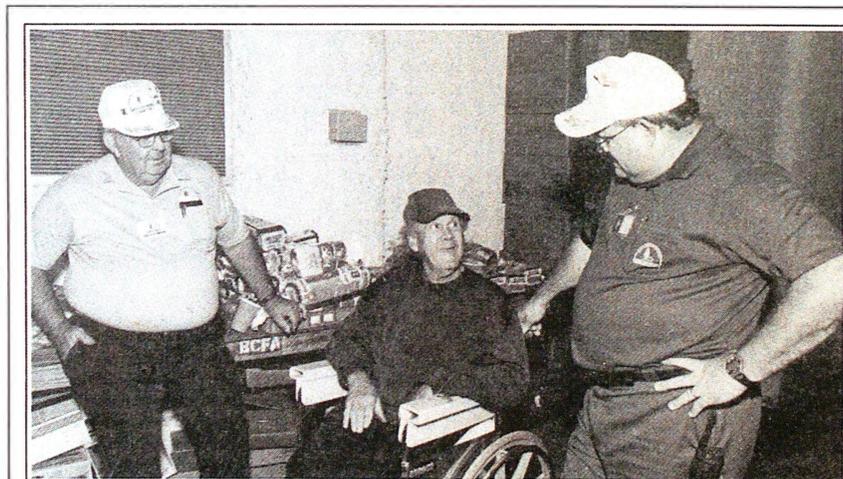
The Capps arrived in August. They have received a visa allowing them to stay through July 1995 while they study the Bulgarian language and culture through a government-sponsored program.

Paul and Judy Ridgeway, newly appointed missionaries who received a one-year visa when they arrived in June, also are in the program.

The couples are working alongside five shorter-term International Service Corps workers, who will leave when they finish their assignments next summer.

Mission board officials say they hope more ISC workers will be allowed into Bulgaria.

Influenced by Eastern Orthodox leaders, government officials have begun clamping down on evangelical mission work; foreigners will be allowed to stay only as long as their work contributes to the national economy. □



Rescued from flood

Howard Hyde of Brookside, Texas, in wheelchair, talks with Cameron Byler, Tennessee Brotherhood director, left, and Mickey Caison, national disaster relief director at the Brotherhood Commission, at an American Red Cross shelter. Hyde was found stranded in his home during Houston-area flooding. The Tennessee food unit closed down last Friday after helping provide almost 300,000 hot meals to flood victims. The childcare unit also closed down and Tennessee Baptist volunteers headed home.

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



Printed on recycled paper

Texas Baptists vote to expand Cooperative Program definition

By Ken Camp
For Baptist Press

AMARILLO, Texas — Texas Baptists at their annual meeting Oct. 31-Nov. 1, voted to expand the definition of their Cooperative Program giving plan.

And that should send the national Southern Baptist Convention a message that Texas Baptists favor "states' rights over federal control," said newly re-elected convention president Jerold McBride.

McBride, pastor of First Church, San Angelo, was elected by acclamation to a traditional second term as president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

About 6,200 messengers to the 109th annual BGCT session approved without discussion a \$63.5 million giving goal, including a \$41 million Texas Baptist budget for 1995. Gifts will be distributed 64.5 percent to Texas causes and 35.5 percent to worldwide missions.

Texas Baptists broadened the definition of Cooperative Program giving to include "Texas only" gifts or church-related gifts to non-Southern Baptist Convention worldwide causes such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or Baptist World Alliance, along with the support of the BGCT and SBC budgets in the traditional manner. The giving plan will take effect Jan. 1, 1995, the beginning of the BGCT's fiscal year.

The report from the Cooperative Missions Giving Study Committee changes the way the state convention counts contributions it receives from the state's 5,500 Baptist congregations — which totaled \$60 million in 1993.

Approval of the expanded Cooperative Program does not mean the BGCT is pulling away from the SBC.

— Jerold McBride, BGCT president

Messengers, who numbered 6,079 at the time of the vote, turned back a minority report that would have rejected the committee's recommendation and an amendment that would have weakened it.

Cecil Ray of Georgetown, chairman of the study committee, urged adoption of the committee's recommendations as a way to give "breathing room essential to keeping Texas Baptists working together."

John Hatch of Lake Jackson presented as a substitute a minority report from five members of the study committee, recommending "all gifts to the Baptist General Convention of Texas and/or the Southern Baptist Convention shall be recognized as Cooperative Program gifts." Any "radical change" in the Cooperative Program could result in diminished giving, he said. Joining Hatch in speaking in favor of the minority report were John Bisagno, of Houston, and Henry Adrion III, of Texas City.

Approving the full committee's recommendations for an expanded definition of Cooperative Program giving would "send shock waves across the Southern Baptist Convention," Bisagno said.

Three members of the study committee — Dean Dickens, pastor of Cliff Tem-

ple Church, Dallas; Texas Woman's Missionary Union President Mary Humphries of San Marcos; and Charles Davenport, pastor of First Church, Tulia, who also was elected first vice president of the convention, spoke against the minority report.

Dickens and Humphries, both former foreign missionaries, disputed Hatch's contention that the full committee's approach would result in a drop in missions giving.

Humphries said she joined many messengers in longing for the "golden days" when all Southern Baptists gave gladly to a unified budget, but she said that does not reflect the present reality.

The chair ruled on a show of ballots that the minority report failed. Observers estimated it failed between a 2-1 and 3-2 margin. Following that vote, Michael Dean, pastor of Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth, offered an amendment to the original recommendations.

Dean moved that the proposed definition of Cooperative Program giving be replaced with the recommendation: "That the BGCT will recognize and distribute as Cooperative Missions Giving those gifts to any other causes associated with Southern Baptists according to the instructions of the local church."

Dean termed the amendment a way to create more broad-based support for the committee report, crossing "political lines." He maintained under his approach, all gifts would be recognized as "cooperative" and treated the same way.

Russell Dilday, also a messenger from Travis Avenue and former president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, spoke against his pastor's amendment, saying it "institutionalizes a divided approach" to recognizing missions support.

On a show of ballots, the amendment failed by a larger margin than the minority report.

The unamended full committee report was then approved by a show of ballots, again estimated at a 2-1 or 3-2 margin. The decision to proceed without a ballot count was questioned from the floor. But Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Church, Austin, and a supporter of the minority report, affirmed the chair's ruling.

At a news conference the next day, McBride said he would have favored a tabulated count by secret ballot. But he was advised against it by parliamentarians once the show of ballots was ruled to show a clear majority favoring the committee report.

Approval of the expanded Cooperative Program does not mean the BGCT is pulling away from the SBC, McBride said.

"It's not a distancing. But we're saying, 'It's our decision how we will give our funds.'" — This article also contains information from a story written by ABP Executive Editor Greg Warner.

SBC leaders voice appreciation for Texans' giving

By Art Toalston
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Thanks for what you've done and what you will do, a key Southern Baptist Convention spokesman told Texas Baptist churches after that state's Baptist convention altered its Cooperative Program ties to the SBC Oct. 31.

Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president, issued a statement Nov. 3, noting, "Texas Baptists as a whole have been extremely faithful in their giving to world missions through the tradi-

tional Cooperative Program," the channel by which local churches support the work of their state conventions and the national and international SBC missions and ministry causes.

"Although I regret that the BGCT has unilaterally redefined its participation in the Cooperative Program," Chapman continued, "I believe Texas Baptists will continue strong support of SBC

missions and ministries."

In his statement, Chapman voiced concern that an air of confusion may result from the BGCT action, which allows church gifts in Texas to be counted as "Cooperative Program" to such non-SBC causes as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Baptist moderates.

"Already I am getting calls about the confusion which the new action has created. I fear that this action has established a climate of competition in Texas compared to a long-standing spirit of cooperation. I can envision the Southern Baptist churches in Texas be-

ing inundated with fund-raising efforts by all sorts of Baptist organizations," he said.

Meanwhile, Ron Chandler, executive director of the SBC Stewardship Commission, which carries responsibility in the SBC for CP promotion, said his agency "will continue to challenge Southern Baptists to support Southern Baptist missions through the channels that have historically proved themselves."

Chandler recognized the Texas convention as an autonomous body, yet noted their action "will make our work more difficult." □



CHAPMAN

Southeastern leads increases in SBC seminary enrollment

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — The total number of students enrolled in courses for credit at the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries is up 2.4 percent this fall, according to officials from the schools.

Four of the seminaries reported increases ranging from 32.7 percent to 3.4 percent. Only two schools reported a decrease.

Individual seminary fall enrollments are: Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, 3,254; Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.,

1,868; New Orleans (La.) Seminary, 1,815; Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., 1,027; Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., 913; and Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., 441.

"In spite of the proliferation of seminaries in Baptist colleges and universities, Southern Baptist students apparently prefer the high quality education being offered in our six seminaries," said Landrum Leavell II, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and current chairman of the Seminary Presidents Council.

The largest increase, 32.7 percent, came at Southeastern followed by New Orleans, 7.9; Golden Gate, 6.3; and Southern, 3.4.

Midwestern had the largest percentage decrease, 11.3, followed by Southwestern with a 5.9 percent decrease.

Overall, the seminaries reported a total of 9,318 students enrolled in courses for academic credit, an increase of 220 students from October 1993. That figure is the total non-duplicating student headcount in doctoral, master's-level, and undergraduate courses. □

Graham's Atlanta crusade draws 17,259 responses

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Billy Graham Crusade is history, but the results of the fall harvest will be felt possibly for generations.

The average evening attendance — at 62,500 — was a record high for a Billy Graham Crusade in the United States and Canada, according to a Billy Graham Evangelistic Association official quoted in *The Atlanta Constitution*. An overflow crowd of more than 78,000 for the Saturday youth night was the largest ever for a single event at the Georgia Dome.

The response at the close of each service was equally strong, with thousands filling the stadium floor each night after Graham gave his simple invitation. A total of 17,259 commitments were registered at the regular crusade services, plus another 1,800 at the children's crusade on Saturday morning. □

■ about letters to the editor

- Make it concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length.
- Name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Include address and phone number.
- Avoid personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone.
- Send original copy. Form letters and "open" letters will not be published.
- Only one letter in a three-months period per writer will be published.
- If letter does not conform, it will be returned.
- Opinions and ideas expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the *Baptist and Reflector* and its staff. □

A tribute

In appreciation for all the spiritual guidance you have given to me, I offer a tribute to a sister in Christ who served her Lord and his church well. Even as God commanded "love thy neighbor as thyself," she did so in many ways.

In response to Jesus' request "pray the Lord of the harvest to

send forth laborers, the harvest is plentiful, laborers few," she brought me and anyone who would come to church, or Vacation Bible School. She taught classes in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, while teaching in public school five days a week until retiring.

Before she bid farewell to this world she remembered the church she loved all her life with a monetary gift to continue glorifying God. Thank God for loyal Christians like "Miss" Minnie Grove.

Minnie Grove was a member of Shellsford Church for 78 years at her death on Oct. 22, 1993.

Leona Hillis
McMinnville 37110

Dedicated volunteers

I am a Southern Baptist missionary, serving as a general evangelist in Chile, South America. On numerous occasions I have served as a translator with partnership teams from Tennessee Baptist churches.

In a couple of weeks I will travel to southern Chile to work yet again alongside Tennessee Baptist volunteers. Please allow me to say that without exception I have been most impressed with the high caliber of the people who have come to help us. They exhibit a positive attitude, a servant spirit, and a dedication to get the job done in a manner that will bring glory to God.

It has been a joy for me to work with Tennessee Baptists

over the past three years. This partnership has been a definite blessing to me, to my family, and to the churches that I work with here in Chile. Thank you for being so missions minded.

As our official partnership comes to an end in a few months, let me say that from my perspective, it has been a great success. May God richly bless you in the future, as we continue to serve our Lord until Jesus comes.

Bill Baer, missionary
Vina del Mar, Chile

Judge not

In the article "There's hope, future for SBC" in the Sept. 28 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, SBC President Jim Henry said, "We have brothers and sisters in Christ who have been unfairly judged and labeled because at some point they did not dot every 'i' or cross every 't.' This intolerance has burned bridges rather than rebuild them — this is not in the Spirit of Jesus Christ."

May I add the Scripture found in James 4:12 which says that we are not to judge one another. We were not called to judge but to love and encourage others. Someone has said that the Christian Army is the only army that shoots its wounded. Is it because pride always judges?

Proverbs 18:19 warns "a brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city."

Betty Jo King
Kenton 38233

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership

November—

- 10 — Laura Frances Snow, church program promotion missionary, celebrates her birthday today in Santiago.
- 11 — Missionary pastor David Miller and the members of the Baptist Center in Puerto Varas need a godly vision for future growth, outreach, and education.
- 12 — Our TBC construction team departs today for Molina where they will serve through Nov. 21. May God grant them safety in travel and joy for their journey!
- 13 — John Seals, leader of our construction team in Molina, is organizing the team and their work as they begin construction tomorrow.
- 14 — The 12-year old Redentor Church in Valdivia has never had a pastor. Recently, Pastor Abdon Nunez moved to the field, and the church is growing in ministry and numbers. Praise God for answering the prayers of his people!
- 15 — The Lord has mightily used Marilyn Graves, missionary nurse, to establish and strengthen the medical work in Concepcion. She is now leading a group of nurses to begin nurses' Christian fellowships in other cities in Chile. Ask God to bless their efforts.
- 16 — Missionaries Mike Racey and Clara Brincefield are giving leadership to the Berea Bible School at the Theological Institute in Temuco, where lay leaders are trained. Pray also for the volunteer teachers and for the students as they prepare to be better leaders.

Early SBC politics evolve with westward movement

Beginning in the early 1960s, those "east of the river" who planned and carried out somewhat dramatic methods to get what they felt would be a fair representation on the boards of trustees of Baptist agencies succeeded in their objectives. They soon got elected to positions to which they aspired.

They had formed a closely knit political group within the convention from those with compatible feelings. They set up and executed a "smart" strategy. They worked in unison for unity among diverse persons and groups. They enlisted support of private journals and non-convention Bible schools. They enlisted the "right" people at the right time and in the "right" way to be effective at voting time.

They went after individuals with similar feelings, then moved to enlist various minority groups who had sought earlier acceptance by the convention of their individualistic ideas and positions but had never been able to prevail previously.

With these subgroups they formed a large, but rather fragile, coalition of people and movements growing out of the past and then were able to actuate

them at the appropriate time. It was their success in planning and executing such united and well-planned efforts which provided them with the majority of convention votes and giving them key official positions they were seeking.

Somewhat later (1968) another movement emerged in another part of the convention whose objectives were broader and more intense. They were designed not only to get elected to certain "offices," but to seek control of the many boards and agencies of the convention by controlling the election of trustees through systematic presidential appointments.

They absorbed the earlier movement as their own, using the same people and methods to attain their enlarged objectives nationwide.

Up to this point in time, the convention presidency had not been politicized. Always it had been a position of influence, but not one of power. The historic method of operation of the presidency was aptly expressed by Pat Neff when he was president of the convention.

Being a skilled presiding officer as he moved up through state political

■ a historical view

By James L. Sullivan, retired BSSB president

strictly by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention and the intent of the writers of those official documents. It was that the president of the convention was to be president of "all" cooperating Southern Baptists. He was primarily a presiding officer of the convention in annual sessions.

At the end of each session, Dr. Neff would tap the gavel and say, "Adjourned. I'll see you again next year." In essence, that was it.

He made no trips except those few required of him. He appointed necessary convention committees, seeing that they were made up of representative Baptists.

He never tried to influence his appointments in their decision making.

That past practice has changed as the presidency has now become institutionalized. Appointments have at times become more discriminatory and objectives more partisan. Discipline appears to have become somewhat rigid. The machinery of the convention obviously became subject to political tampering.

Being one who has never been as

ranks to become governor of Texas, he went

concerned about who "ran" the convention as "how" it is run, I could readily accept some "tightening of the ropes" in an effort toward efficiency, but such rigid control of messengers and events seems odd in Baptist life anywhere.

The problem I saw and felt was that the original imbalance, which grew out of the old "society system" in which major financial donors were named to direct the expenditure of their gifts, maybe did need some improvement.

At all times and by all means the Southern Baptist organizational machinery should be representative of all the convention people. What we have actually experienced is a shift from one imbalance to another without correction of the basic problem.

As this series continues, I will note some of the other changes wrought for better or worse, discuss the "flip side" of the controversy and deal more with some of the general situations which made the controversy possible, if not inevitable.

Also, I will deal with some possible "light" I see at the end of the tunnel as possible convention solution to an unfortunate situation. □ — Sullivan wrote this series of articles for his church newsletter three years ago. Future articles in this series will be reprinted every other week.



SULLIVAN

It's convention time; so what else is new?

If the title for this editorial seems trite, it is. But the words are meant to emphasize that sometimes it is easy to place little importance to such meetings.

Next week when Tennessee Baptists gather for their 120th Annual Session, they will participate in a meeting for which planning has been underway for at least twelve months.

There are some special things, some "first time" events scheduled. An orderly convention is not left to happenstance. Planning for the next year's meeting begins immediately after each current annual session. The Convention Arrangements Committee meets regularly with the Executive Board staff and convention officers in extensive and intensive planning.

Messengers thus are able to conduct convention business, act on reports and recommendations, elect leaders, and hear inspirational messages — knowing there is meaning and orderly process taking place.

But the business of the convention is not bound to a pre-planned agenda. It would be unusual for any drastic changes to be made in the order of business, but messengers always have the privilege of introducing items for discussion. Approval of the agenda takes place early in the schedule.

There are new items of interest in

every annual meeting. For the 120th Annual Session, November 15-16, in an historic church in a new facility, messengers can be totally involved:

■ We meet in historic Bellevue, Tennessee's largest Baptist church house which is "home" to the largest state congregation. It has great accommodations.

■ Messengers will have a Cooperative Program edition of the *Baptist and Reflector* which explains the support of Cooperative Program dollars for every ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Planned and produced especially for this convention, the paper provides definitive information about the use of CP dollars in Baptist life and work.

The CP edition will be an integral part of the overall convention theme of Cooperative Program Dollars Making a Difference. It will be distributed to each messenger for extensive use during the two-day meeting, and will be mailed to all *Baptist and Reflector* subscribers along with the regular news edition that week.

Messengers are encouraged to use the paper at the sessions as a supplement to reports and recommendations.

■ Messengers can participate in a superlative media presentation which explains, in dramatic fashion, the work of the departments, institutions, colleges,

and other TBC entities. The mini-series will follow a Baptist family and explain how Cooperative Program dollars touch the lives of family members.

Chapters of the series will introduce segments of convention sessions, and closely relate to all TBC ministries.

■ Wednesday night emphasizes missions in Tennessee Baptist life. The closing session of the convention begins at 6:30 and will major on TBC involvement in foreign and home missions.

Messengers usually tend to leave the convention before it officially ends — sometimes leaving an excellent program being played to hundreds of empty seats.

This one will challenge each person who participates. Music plays a vital role in all convention sessions — and especially on Wednesday evening.

There will be reports on Tennessee partnerships with Michigan, as well as Poland and Canada (which should be approved earlier in the week). Representatives from the three partnerships will be present. Jerry Rankin, president of the Foreign Mission Board, will give a missions challenge and a call to commitment. The convention should close on a high emotional and serious hour.

The thrust of the entire Tennessee Baptist Convention's challenge for committed growth by individuals and congregations is the centerpiece of the meeting. Blessing and commitment? Yes! ☐

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Serious business

There always should be joy and laughter in the Christian life, but the reality of that life also includes serious business.

Some of Christianity today majors on the joy and minors on serious commitment.

We accept assignments then, not on the validity of the hard work it might involve, but on the joy that participation can give.

Joy is vital to life — but it must not come at the expense of serious, sustained, obedience to Christ.

Commitment to the upward call of Christ involves hard work, and an unbending

willingness to be shaped by the Master Potter.

That may include joy and good times, but it most certainly includes unstinting loyalty to Christ, the One who calls.

Backing away from that loyalty is something that Satan applauds. For every step we move away from Christ is a step closer to evil.

Commitment means a life of surrender, glad surrender. It means that the follower gives up personal desires and plans and, yes, takes up the cross and follows Christ.

Sadness may come to us when, like that young and wealthy man, we divert our loyalty in order to "be happy."

Peace for the body may not be a part of the committed life, but it will be for the committed inner being. For what shall a person give to find joy for the soul?

Now we who are Baptists should pay attention to the nominating committee's request. How is it made? Is there a sigh of relief when we accept the job without counting the cost? Are the responsibilities adequately explained?

Is the person spiritually gifted for the job, or is it just one more vacancy filled?

What shall a man's soul be worth if he always seeks the easy way?

I don't mean to sound gloomy, but commitment means commitment. Half-committed means half-done.

The world will never follow the Christ of half-committed Christians. ☪

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor



ALLEN

■ just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Man at a sale: "Is this radio marked \$5 any good?"

Clerk: "Sure but the tuning button is stuck. You can get only one station. If you like that station, it's great."

Take this truth

Some people can see only one side of a question — their side. They think it's cute to say, "You can disagree with me if you want to be wrong — ha ha." This attitude shows more than bias or prejudice. It reveals an individual's insecurity. A mature person listens to all sides even those with which he disagrees. You "ain't" learning "nothing" when you're talking!

Memorize this Scripture

"Test everything. Hold on to the good" (I Thessalonians 5:21 NIV).

Pray this prayer

"Lord help me realize many other people are Christians also and love the Lord as much as I do. Help me to not only respect them but love them and listen to them." ☐

Three attitudes in communication

Communication between human beings is a very complicated process.

Most of us have been in situations when the harder we tried the worse we appeared to function in the process.

This week I would like to suggest to readers three areas of concern in improving the process of communication in the family.

Three attitudes that will enhance our ability to communicate are *attending, affirming and adjusting*.

Attending is necessary to convey one's willingness to enter the arena of communication. It is mainly just being there physically and emotionally.

Affirming encourages communication by helping the other person to understand that we value him or her.

Adjusting is required because we are all uniquely different, and communications is a special process with each individual with whom we come in contact.

Attending will involve both attitude and actions. In order to effectively communicate, we must be able to put aside our own issues while focusing

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

on the other person without giving away our own uniqueness and needs.

This requires a constructive tension between the awareness of our own tendency toward our self-centeredness and our need to attend the needs of others.

Most of us are more transparent than we realize. We give away the lack of attending by our body language.

Yawning in the middle of an intense discussion is likely to be interpreted as boredom.

Positive body language such as eye contact, facing and leaning toward the speaker, smiling, and nodding agreement can all enhance the perception of attending.

I should acknowledge that one can be guilty of overkill such as a "stare-down" glare instead of eye contact.

I have a very deep voice and constantly have to be aware of the way my voice is being interpreted.

My son sometimes accuses

me of "yelling" at him when I think that I am speaking in a normal tone.

I remember once when I was on the pulpit platform in a church service and leaned over to whisper something to the minister of music.

One of the ushers in the vestibule came to me after the service and told me that he had heard what I said.

If we want to communicate an attitude of attending, we must also watch the tone, pitch, modulation, and diction of our voices.

Since the most critical times of attempting communication is in crisis, most people enter the process with some degree of apprehension, fear, anxiety, and uncertainty.

One of the best ways that we can disarm these emotions is to make sure that we are doing a good job of attending.

We all need to remember that this is, first of all, an attitude that is communicated through actions such as body language and voice.

Next week we will discuss the two other attitudes, affirming and adjusting. ☐



BARKLEY

■ Tennessee features Associations conduct business, fe



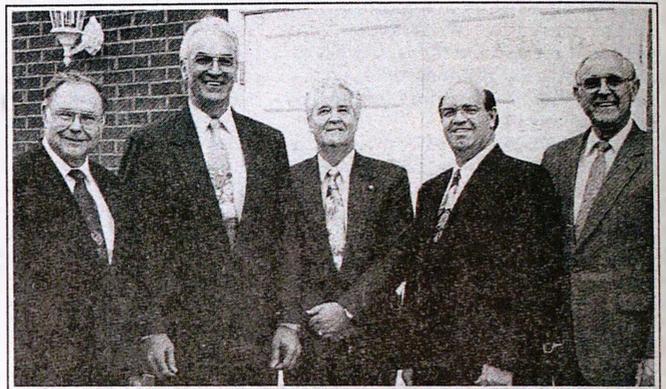
DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS Roy Davis of Cumberland Plateau Association, far left, met with officers of the association at their annual meeting at Mountain View Church. From left are, Linda Hassler, First Church, Crossville, clerk; Henrietta Baldwin, Clear Creek Church, treasurer; Charlie Ivey, pastor, Bethlehem Church, moderator; and Bill Roberts, pastor, Memorial Church, vice moderator.



OFFICERS OF Duck River Association for the coming year are, from left, John Segree, pastor, First Church, Estill Springs, moderator; Janet Patterson, First Church, Tullahoma, clerk; Daryll Smiley, pastor, Cross Roads Church, Estill Springs; and Director of Missions Baylon Gilliard.



PARTICIPATING IN Big Emory Association's annual meeting were, from left, Bill Wilson, TBC Convention Ministries Division director; Larry Gilmore, pastor, College Heights Church, Gallatin, who gave special messages; Director of Missions Bill Bargiol; James Hutson, pastor, First Church, Rockwood, moderator; Gary Lynn, minister of youth and education, First Church, Kingsport, vice moderator; and Tommy Hensley, pastor, Kellytown Church, outgoing moderator.



CARROLL-BENTON ASSOCIATION met Oct. 17 at Howse Church, Atwood. Participating in the meeting were, from left, Director of Missions George Hill; Billy Murphy, host pastor; Hal Lawler, music director, Howse Church; Malcolm Norton, pastor, First Church, Trezevant, moderator; and Dennis Beal, pastor of Enon Church. Beal gave the Baptist and Reflector report.

Recognitions

William Carey Association dedicated its minutes to the late Mary Ann Andrews, the wife of Gilly Andrews, pastor, Friendship Church.

Sullivan Association presented the following missions awards — Acts 1:8 Award — Fred Brooks, West Colonial Hills Church; Dick Lorah, Higher Ground Church; and Ermalie Bond, Litz Manor Church; Samaria Award — Rod Horton, Colonial Heights Church; Jim Bunting, First Church; Judea Award — Jim Ramey, Sullivan Church; and Jerusalem Award — Elmo Owens, Bays Mountain Church.

Phyllis England, who has served six years as media director of **Cumberland Plateau Association**, and Frankey Henderson, who has served five years as associational Brotherhood director, were honored by the association.

Stone Association dedicated its annual to the late Leroy Jackson, pastor emeritus, Trinity Church, Cookeville. He was founder and pastor of

Trinity for 47 years. Jackson was 102 years old when he died last December.

The Work

Thomas Martin, director of missions, Bay Area Association, Michigan, spoke to **Cumberland Association**, to support the Tennessee/Michigan Baptist Partnership.

Business

Wilson County Association voted to do strategy planning during the next year. The committee given the task will be chaired by Carl Price, pastor, LaGuardo Church, Lebanon. Messengers also learned that next year's meeting will be its 75th.

Cumberland Plateau Association voted to take \$10,500 out of its general fund to pay on the office building loan balance.

Stone Association added University Heights Church, Cookeville, to its membership.

Concord Association added Stonebrook Church, Murfreesboro, to its fellowship.

Cumberland Association voted to add Bethel Church, Palmyra, to its association.

Greater Tabernacle Church, Lawrenceburg, was accepted by messengers into **Lawrence County Association**.

Resolutions

William Carey Association adopted a resolution affirming the autonomy of congregations in light of directives from the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention and the messengers to the SBC meeting this year to refuse missions funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and considering the investigative action of the Home Mission Board into state conventions. These actions "indicate a departure from historic Baptist polity," said the resolution. It called for the rejection of any hierarchy in Southern Baptist life. The association also passed resolutions in opposition to a liquor by the drink referendum for the city of Fayetteville, one asking for unity

among churches and people, and one urging participation in evangelistic efforts in 1995.

Stone Association passed a resolution urging the defeat of a referendum on Nov. 8 in Algood which would allow the opening of a liquor store and liquor by the drink.

Cumberland Plateau As-

sociation adopted a resolution emphasizing the positive benefits of cooperation in the Lord's work "as our Lord Jesus Christ commanded." It urged unity among its churches and the practice within each church body of a ministry of reconciliation.



PASTOR OF CALVARY CHURCH, John Coates, left, and Charles Chandler, Tri-Cities Church, were among recipients of the Uttermost Parts of the Earth Award from Sullivan Association. The awards were given for mission service.

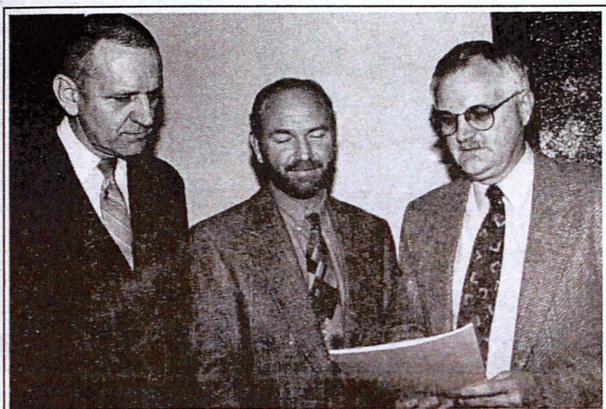
■ Tennessee features fellowship, worship in fall meetings



DYER ASSOCIATION leaders included, from left, Charlie Halliburton, pastor, Finley Church, new moderator; Roy Stinson, pastor, Gates Church, out-going moderator; Vickie Shelton, secretary/clerk; Donald Williams, pastor, McCullough Chapel Church, new vice moderator; and Joe Naylor, director of missions.



AT WILLIAM CAREY ASSOCIATION meeting leaders were Frances Alexander, seated, association secretary, clerk/treasurer; and, from left, Mike Johnson, pastor, West End Church, vice moderator; Joe Mayberry, director of missions; and David Neal, pastor, Cash Point Church, moderator.



DIRECTING THE MEETING of New Duck River were, from left, Ted Cashion, member, Parkview Church, vice moderator; J.C. Christian, pastor, Rover Church, moderator; and Tom Sumners, member, Parkview Church, clerk.



CHOSEN TO LEAD HAYWOOD ASSOCIATION for the next year were, from left, Ken Culver, pastor, Calvary Church, vice moderator; Linda Pratt, association secretary, clerk/treasurer; Charles Pratt, director of missions; Bob Connerley, pastor, Brownsville Church, moderator; Dewey Jones, member, Holly Grove Church, assistant treasurer; and Hobert Lovelace, member, Allen Church, historian.



LEADING GIBSON COUNTY ASSOCIATION meeting were Virginia Stephens, seated, association secretary, clerk; and, from left, Wayne Perkins, pastor, First Church, Kenton, moderator; Randy Crews, pastor, First Church, Rutherford, vice moderator; and Ken Sparkman, director of missions.



ELECTED TO DIRECT CONCORD ASSOCIATION during the upcoming year were Ken Sharp, left, pastor, Patterson Church, assistant moderator; and Darrel Whaley, pastor, Bradley's Creek Church, moderator.



ENJOYING FELLOWSHIP at Shelby County Association meeting were, from left, Chuck Herring, pastor, Mullins Station Church, vice moderator; Lowell Adams, pastor emeritus, Grace-land Church (now Gracewood, Southaven, Miss.) retiring clerk/treasurer after 12 years; and Mike Thrower, pastor, Brunswick Church, moderator.

Birds Creek celebrates historic anniversary

Members of Birds Creek Church in Whitlock celebrated the beginning of their 175th year Oct. 23. Founded in 1820 the church is the oldest congregation in Western District Association and hosted the association's first meeting.

A highlight of the morning service occurred when Pastor Steve Gallimore baptized an entire family of five. The rural church near Paris also had 200 present for Sunday School.

Former pastor Carlos Owens, a retired missionary to Africa, delivered the morning message. Noting the church has had good vision and leadership over the years, he encouraged current members to look to the future. Another former pastor, Ron Brashear of Corbin, Ky., spoke during the afternoon service.

Western District Director of Missions Bill Smith presented the church a plaque on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. □



WESTERN DISTRICT ASSOCIATION Director of Missions Bill Smith, left, presents a plaque to Pastor Steve Gallimore in recognition of the church's 175th anniversary. **BELOW**, Gallimore welcomes former pastors to the church. From left, Carlos Owens, Buchanan; Omar Jenkins, Benton, Ky.; Gallimore; Delbert Coggins, Tunica, Miss.; and Ron Brashear, Corbin, Ky. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey



Musicians on Mission set to perform at Ohio, Michigan state conventions

Musicians on Mission, a smaller group of the Tennessee Baptist Chorale, left Nov. 8 and will perform at two state conventions and one other location before returning Nov. 11.

This is the first time the group will perform at a state convention other than Tennessee, said Julian Suggs, director of the TBC Church Music Department. Suggs will lead the MOM group.

On Tuesday they will sing at the Ohio Baptist Convention. The next night they will sing at the Michigan Baptist Convention in conjunction with the retirement of that convention's executive director, Robert Wilson.

On the return trip they will perform at Northside Church in Indianapolis, Suggs said.

The larger Tennessee Baptist Chorale will perform dur-

ing the annual TBC meeting Nov. 14-15 at Bellevue Church, Cordova.

The majority of those making the trip are ministers of music at their respective churches. They provide their own expenses for the trip, Suggs said. Among those going on the three-state tour are:

Allen Bowling, Mike Bundon, Mike Dannel, Richard Dickerson, Elwood Doss, David Elkins, Bob Fleming, Norman Gardner, David Glover, Milton Gresham, Ray Hatton, Doug Jewett, John Joiner, Jim Justice, Mark Karki, John Kimberly, Robert Lawson, John Link, Frank Marshall, Rick Marshall, Bob Matthews, Herman May, Mary McDonald, Philip McKibben, Joe Morgan, John Norvell, Henry Simpson, Tom Wickes, Tracy Wilson, and Joel Worley. □

In Gallatin

College Heights 'crosses over' to new worship center



PASTOR LARRY GILMORE, top center, his wife, Linda, and children, Josh and Charis, lead the 'cross over' Oct. 23 from College Heights Church's old sanctuary to its new \$1.6 million worship center. **BELOW**, Gilmore, far left, introduces members of the church's building committee, from left, Bill Butler, Gene Large, Jeff Mercer, Tony Dallas, and Wayne Diel. — Photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen



The last two weeks of October were a special time for members of College Heights Church, Gallatin. On Oct. 23 members "crossed over" into their new worship center.

Recently completed, the worship center contains approximately 20,000 square feet and was built at a cost of almost \$1.6 million.

College Heights will continue to use its former sanctuary as a chapel.

A week later, the congregation met on Sunday evening, Oct. 30, to dedicate the new facility. Harold Allen, pastor of First Church, Gallatin, when it began College Heights as a mission, spoke. First Church dismissed services and attended the dedication at College Heights.

James Porch, TBC executive director, also attended the dedication service. □



TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the leaders

■ **Cumberland Church**, Knoxville, has called two staff members. **William H. Poyner Jr.**, minister of music and youth, First Church, Adamsville, has been called as minister of music and senior adults, effective in November. **Brad Bull** began serving in September as minister of youth and young adults. Poyner is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Bull is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

■ **Mark Caldwell Sr.**, has been called by Union Church, Wartburg, as pastor. He formerly was bivocational youth minister, Black Oak Church, Clinton, where he served for seven years. He also was vice president of a bank, a position he



CALDWELL

resigned to serve in Wartburg.

■ **Forest Park Church**, McMinnville, has called **Bobby Vickers** as pastor, effective Oct. 1. He formerly served Oak Hill Church, Fayetteville, for six years.

■ **Blue Springs Church**, Rutledge, has called **Don Edwards** of Milan as pastor, effective Nov. 20. **Don Mitchell** of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, serves as interim pastor.

■ the people

■ Two young men who were members of Northwood Church, Nashville, during the period when Marion E. Smith was pastor have been ordained to the Gospel ministry. **Steve Farless** was ordained Oct. 29 at Lighthouse Church, Nashville. **Tony Warren** was ordained at Westview Church, Kingston Springs, on Oct. 30.

■ **Rob Plummer** of Brentwood has been named campus editor for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is associate editor of *Towers*, the seminary's weekly newsletter

and a writer for the seminary's office of public relations. The Duke University graduate is studying for the master of divinity degree. He has taught English for a year in China and worked as an intern for the U.S. Department of State in Washington. He considers Brentwood Church, Brentwood, his home church.

■ the churches

■ A one-day revival at **Pine Grove Church**, Wildersville, resulted in five people saved, two requesting baptism, and many others making other spiritual decisions. Leading the services were Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld, an evangelist from Gleason.

■ The revival which began Nov. 8 at **Noeton Church**, Morristown, is being led by Terry Winstead.

■ **New Corinth Church**, Rutledge, is holding revival Nov. 7-12. Arthur Pedigo, pastor, Byerleys Chapel Church, Mascot, is leading it.

■ The puppet ministry of **Cherokee Church**, Memphis, presents its annual Living Christmas Tree on Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 10 at 1 and 3:30 p.m. and Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.

■ **Mitchell Springs Church**, Rutledge, dedicated its new picnic pavilion Oct. 23. It

was given in memory of Lowell Roach, who was a deacon. Mike Roach, his son, spoke during the special service.

■ **First Church**, Linden, held a revival which resulted in many spiritual decisions. It was led by James E. Messer Sr., staff evangelist, First Church, Theodore, Ala. Messer also led recent revivals in several other Tennessee churches and spoke to messengers attending the ALPHA Association fall meeting.

■ the schools

■ The basic teacher education program in the School of Education and Humanities at **Belmont University**, Nashville, was recently granted accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation and Teacher Education (NCATE). The agency is charged with evaluating an institution's ca-

capacity to meet national standards in the operation of programs preparing teachers and other professional school personnel.

■ **William Blevins**, director of **Carson-Newman College's** Barnabas House Counseling Center and professor of religion at the college, will lead a workshop, "Innocent Victims: Kids Coping With Divorce." It will guide participants to identify specific skills that can be used to increase a child's ability to cope with the situation. It will be held Nov. 12 in the Gentry Auditorium from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. For more information, call (615) 471-3311.

■ the hospitals

■ **Baptist Hospital**, Nashville, will hold a free diabetes screening Saturday, Nov. 12 at The Mall at Green Hills from 9 a.m. to noon. It is in recognition of National Diabetes Awareness Month.



BURNING A NOTE representing the debt of Calvary Church, Lenoir City, on its auditorium are, from left, R.C. Tipton, Gladys Manis, Edith Taylor, Scott E. Cagle, pastor, Pat Reed, Glen Hill, and Ruby Jones. The observance was held Sept. 18 and included a Sunday afternoon service in which Clarence Sexton, former pastor, spoke.



PASTORS OF MOUNT HERMON CHURCH, Clarksville and their wives gathered on the 160th anniversary observed Oct. 16. From left, first row, are Joyce Frazier, Diane Murphree, Laura Green, Mae Smith, Eloise Robertson, Dona Suiter, and Yewline King; second row, Craig Webb, current pastor; Steve Murphree, Clifton Green, Rex Smith, Fulton Robertson, and Larry King. Activities included a revival preceding the day led by Steve Murphree. Honored that day were long-time member Mallie Evans, 96, for 82 years of service along with 22 others who had been members for 50 years.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

The cart before the horse

By Kevin Goza, pastor
First Church, Lebanon

You have heard the old saying, "Don't put the cart before the horse." Well, it seems that really happened.

There was a man who took a great deal of pride in looking neat and well-groomed. He also had a horse that was indisputably the most beautiful horse in the country. Whenever he rode it into town, people would stop and stare.

One day he bought a very old buggy. It was in disrepair, but the man knew that when he finished reworking the buggy, it would be the most beautiful buggy in the county. He carefully sanded and repainted it. He worked on the wheels making sure they ran true and

were greased properly. Finally, after many weeks of work, the man had an elegant piece of art.

That afternoon, the man decided to ride into town to show it off. He took a bath, put on clean clothes, and went to the barn to get his horse. But when he got to the barn, he found that his horse was dead! In the weeks of work on the buggy, he had forgotten to feed it.

This man had put the cart before the horse!

I'm afraid we are guilty of doing much the same thing. Many people are willing to get involved in activities to help support the church, but will then neglect the thing that constitutes the reason for the church's existence: the worship of God and service to him.

Worship is the horse, which empowers our church to move forward. The

building and all that goes on within it is the cart, allowing us to carry the Gospel to others. □

Use of talents

By Jim Growden, pastor
Hillcrest Church, Nashville

God has never held anyone accountable for talents he did not possess. He does hold us accountable for talents he has given us, whether they be few or many. Matthew 25:14-30 tells the story about a one-talent man and his stewardship of that one talent. From the story, we learn talents are to be used, not hoarded. They are to be developed and expanded by effort and experience. When the one-talented man reported on his stewardship he said to his Lord, "I was afraid, and went and hid your

talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours."

The one-talent man was called a "wicked and lazy servant." He was not condemned because he failed to earn five talents. His Lord did not condemn him for having squandered the one talent or because he had invested it unwisely. He was condemned because he had done nothing with his talent.

To ignore responsibility and just not do anything with what God has given you is to be unfaithful. You do not have to be dishonest, immoral, or violent to be condemned by the Lord. Just do nothing when you should be doing something.

Read Matthew 25:14-30 and allow God's Word to guide you.

Thank you for letting me be your pastor. □

Alabama board declines to shift convention date, site

By Mark Baggett
For Baptist Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Alabama State Board of Missions came to the brink of declaring the convention in a state of emergency Oct. 28, finally rejecting a proposal to cancel the upcoming convention and move it from Mobile to Huntsville.

By a 44-29 vote, the board turned down a recommendation by the executive committee, which had voted 11-7 earlier in the day to postpone the convention until Nov. 29, move it to Huntsville, and hold a "solemn assembly" in place of the scheduled convention in Mobile.

Executive Secretary Troy Morrison pleaded for the proposal to be adopted, saying a memorandum by University of Mobile President Michael Magnoli caused a crisis that threatened the convention's integrity.

Magnoli's memorandum, dated Oct. 6, to the university's staff, faculty, and students — along with a letter to pastors sent by two UM officials — praised presidential candidate Fred Lackey as a friend "who is worthy of our consideration." The memo also urged students

to attend the convention and promised to provide "a fact sheet noting the crucial issues and the times they occur on the program."

Lackey, pastor of First Church, Athens, apparently will face former Executive Secretary A. Earl Potts for the convention's presidency.

"It is our opinion that this is the most potentially destructive instrument that has ever occurred in the history of the Alabama Baptist State Convention," said Morrison, who said he had received hundreds of phone calls and letters, and even a threat on his life. "I have never heard such venom, hatred, bitterness, and anger that comes from the lips and hearts of pastors," he said.

Morrison said Magnoli's memorandum raised three concerns: that the budget process for funding of Christian higher education would be manipulated, that an institutional endorsement of a candidate is unprecedented, and that the

implications of an institutional "block vote" would be disastrous.

Magnoli said his memo wasn't intended to make a political statement and that convention officials had created a crisis that didn't exist.

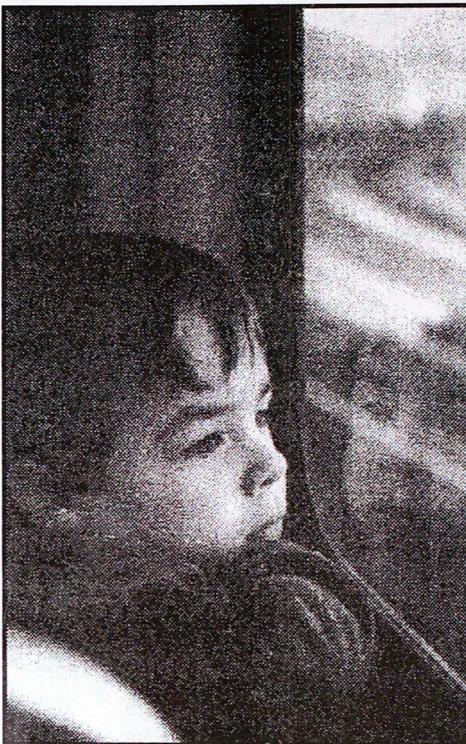
The Mobile president said

the specially called session was an example of the convention's "double standard" in treating Samford University and the University of Mobile.

"You cannot create a crisis based on internal memos and use them to turn the light and heat off of one institution and

onto another," Magnoli told the board. "If either of the two candidates is destined to be president and it is God's will for it to happen, it will happen. Moving the convention would deny us visibility, but it has caused more of a focus on who we are and what we believe." □

DESTINATIONS



School, home, church, grandma's house...this is the scope of a typical child's world. Others wonder where they'll sleep next — in the corner of a smoke-filled room with only a tattered blanket for comfort? Or will an alcoholic parent with just enough money for one more drink take them to school with no intention of ever picking them up?

The Christian's road may not always be smooth but our paths *are* directed and lead to the arms of a loving Savior. He merely asks us to tell others — especially the children —

of the hope He offers and demonstrate the Father's love.

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc., helps chart a safe, secure course for hurting children. By meeting their basic needs and winning their confidence, our staff offers ways to cope with and conquer difficult family circumstances. And most importantly, we introduce them to Christ, a Friend and Guide Who will never leave or forsake them.

Knowing your destination is vitally important— especially when getting there can often be so rough....

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc.

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



Dr. Gerald L. Stow
President / Treasurer



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

Discount Christian Software

Free catalog. 100's of titles. Free Proverb-A-Day S/W with first order!
Serious Developments
1-800-338-3229

Classified

BIVOCATIONAL DIRECTOR:
Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, is seeking a part-time or bivocational preschool/children's director. Send resumes to Evelyn Larson, 308 Overhill Drive, Old Hickory, Tenn., 37138

Steeple & Baptistries

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products
Call or write for our free catalog
1-800-527-1459
P.O. Box 1740
Hickory, NC 27603-1340

FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INC. INCORPORATED

WHY PAY MORE FOR LIFE INSURANCE?

VERY LOW NON-SMOKER MONTHLY COST!

Age	\$100,000	\$250,000
25	9.88	19.29
45	13.67	26.88
65	50.55	111.19

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

Level death benefit-term to age 95 with a step premium that increases every year. Written by an A+ (Superior) life insurance company. Preferred Female rates illustrated above. Please call for other ages and Male rates.

A & O CHURCH FURNITURE
4571 HARVEY RD., P.O. BOX 1053
JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282

SOLID OAK PEWS —
PEW UPHOLSTERY / REFINISHING
BAPTISTRIES STEEPLES
EDUCATIONAL FURNITURE
1-800-523-9058

LIGHTING CARPET

L.L. Since 1899
SAMS Renovation
INC. Pews
1-800-537-4723
Waco, Texas

Call for Free BROCHURE
BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE
1-800-523-9058

FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO
3511 HANSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

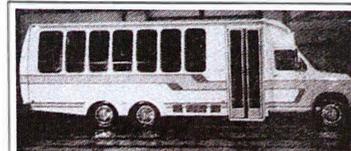
CHURCH STEEPLES
• BAPTISTRIES
• WALLCROSSES
• BAPTISTRY WATER HEATERS

COLONIAL CONTEMPORARY AND MODERN DESIGNS
ERECTION AVAILABLE

WRITE OR CALL FOR LITERATURE OR PROPOSALS

TOLL FREE 1-800-241-3152
J.H.C. Providing Church Products for 25 Years
1-800-523-9058

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



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

Church Buses New and Used

(We take trade-ins.)
Call Henry Headen
Metrotrans Corporation
Brentwood, Tenn.

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

Treating God's love lightly

By Elizabeth Howard

A man vows undying love for an heiress, gets his hands on her money, and disappears. Perhaps, he repeats the pattern with another woman. And another. How empty his love!

Sometimes, people treat God's

love as frivolously as this man treats the love of a woman. But God sees into the heart of

a person; he is not fooled by hypocrisy, but knows the depth of sincerity, the shallowness of insincerity.

Serious charge — ch. 4:1-3

We leave Gomer to work out her restoration. The action moves to the courtroom. The nation of Israel, which has been declining morally, is faced with God's judgment. She faces 10 charges: three negative and seven positive. She has no truth, no mercy, no knowledge of God. She is guilty of cursing, lying, murder, stealing, adultery, breaking bounds (oppression?), and violence.

Because of widespread wickedness, the whole creation is mourning; everything is wasting away; beasts, birds, and fish are dying. Perhaps, there are connections between human beings and nature that we do not understand, but we do know a nation's punishment often involves the land, for every

n a t i o n depends on the land for its sustenance. Also, we know that some sins of humankind

directly affect the environment.

Shallow repentance — ch. 6:1-3

A child hits his sister, and a parent makes him apologize. He says he's sorry, and the children kiss and make up; but as soon as the parent is gone, he hits her again. The apology was superficial, satisfying no one but the parent.

God, unlike the parent who is content with mere form and ritual, demands true repentance. He had torn the nation of Israel, but the people thought they could apologize and receive forgiveness almost immediately, certainly in time for

the seasonal rains to bring the crops.

Sure rejection — vv. 4-6

From a vantage point in Cades Cove, you can watch the fog lift from the Smoky Mountains and swirl away with the coming of the sun. From God's vantage point, he could see that the repentance of Israel — and also Judah — was like the fog, swiftly disappearing.

For that reason, God sent Hosea and other prophets to "hew" the people with his words (judgments). Israel must have thought she had suffered the worst of her punishment, but the worst was yet to come. God rejected her shallow repentance; he wanted to see actions rather than empty rituals, mercy and acknowledgment of him rather than sacrifice and burnt offerings.

Because of her lack of repentance, Israel would fall prey to Assyria. Are we, like the nation of Israel, expecting God to overlook our sins because we attend worship services, sing his praises, tithe? Could the frenzy of violence sweeping across our nation be our Assyria? □ — Elizabeth Howard is a member of Cumberland Homestead Church, Crossville.

**Convention Uniform Series
for Nov. 13
Focal Passage
II Samuel 11:1-10, 13**

David sins against God

By Samuel Dean

In the political climate of the world today, David's sin would be called "Davidgate." His flagrant abuse of his power in the Bathsheba episode would call for a congressional inquiry and impeachment.

David's problem started while his soldiers were out making war in the spring. For some reason, David stayed at home. While walking on his flat rooftop, he spied a woman washing herself at the close of the day (v. 2). His lust for the woman precipitated an inquiry about her. He sent servants who brought her to him for a sexual encounter. The king became a playboy while his men risked their lives in battle.

A king could have had as many wives as he wanted. Sexual encounters were potentially innumerable. Yet, the powerful king wanted a wife of one of his soldiers for a night of fun. While Uriah fought, David used his wife. Perhaps David felt that he was above the norms of acceptable behavior. What an abuse of power!

David's sin was bad enough, but he made his behavior worse by a despicable attempt to cover his sin. When Bathsheba became pregnant, he was afraid the news would be known. He tried to control the news. Evidently Bathsheba did not have a bad reputation, for such would have given a reason for someone else being the father of the child. Instead, he felt it was urgent to get Uriah home to be with his wife to provide cover for her pregnancy. Suspicious Uriah declined.

The failure of Uriah to go along with Plan A caused David to turn to Plan B: arrange for Uriah to be killed by placing him on the front line of battle. Then, David would have the opportunity to marry Bathsheba. The plans were premeditative, cold, and calculating. The execution of the sinister plans went as drawn.

With the "timely" death of Uriah, David felt that the mission was accomplished. The taking of Bathsheba to be his wife brought more than pleasure; it supposedly closed the sordid chapter of his sin.

But wait! Someone knew about his sin. Through God's guidance, Nathan, the prophet, knew and would not let the injustice go. In spite of the danger to his own life, Nathan summoned the courage to confront the king with his sin.

But how does one do such a thing? Nathan was clever in his oblique approach. He told a simple story about a poor man whose only sheep had been taken by a wealthy man. Having been a shepherd, David knew the ethics of the profession. In anger he declared that the man who did such a thing should die. David took Nathan's bait.

With simplistic candor, Nathan told David, "Thou art the man." David saw for himself his sin and confessed. Unlike many men, he did not blame the woman or anyone else: "I have sinned against the Lord."

So many lessons in our story leap out at us:

1. The powerful are tempted to abuse their power.
2. We compound our sin by sinful cover-ups.
3. The cover is always too short to hide our sinful nakedness.
4. "I have sinned ..." involves three of the hardest words to utter.
5. Our sins are against God, as well as others.
6. Forgiveness restores a relationship but does not negate all of the consequences.

A night of pleasure brought hurt to so many: Bathsheba; Uriah; Joab, the commander who did David's dirty work; other men who died because of the military strategy; the child of the union who died; and God himself. □ — Samuel Dean is pastor of First Church, Clinton.

**Life and Work Series
for Nov. 13
Focal Passage:
Hosea 4:1-3; 6:1-6**

**Bible Book Series
for Nov. 13
Focal Passage
Ephesians 5:21-28; 6:1-9**

Relating to one another

By Ray Fullilove

The instructions in discipline continues to be the theme focused in chapters five and six. Leadership for God may be the primary need in the church today, but it is a paramount need in the home.

Many a great leader for God has lost out in the home. The church filled with revival fire is great witness for a world in darkness.

However, the home filled with the radiance of the living Lord is a powerful influence in the community in distress. This principle is found in the words, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought to love one another" (1 John 4:10-11).

The redemption we have in Christ helps us to relate to each other in the home. It is this development of Christian grace which makes the home to become a little bit of heaven on earth. It is marked in three areas: of the husband and the wife, the parents to the children, and the master of the home to the servants.

Cemented in love — vv. 21-23

The fire of devoted love between husband and wife will remain illuminating and inspiring because of the foundation of a living faith, a freedom to ventilate feelings which are received and reconciled, and a fervency of spirit in cooperation.

One, there will be a right fear for the Lord (v. 21).

Two, there will be respect for the place of the husband and wife in the home (vv. 22-27). The husband will see his helpmate as one standing beside him, not below him. One has noted that "Nature makes a woman; election, a wife; but only the grace of God can make her a subject."

On the other hand, the wife sees her helpmate as the leader in the home to love and to lift. "A man's house is his fortress in a warring world, where a woman's hands buckle on his armor in the morning and soothe his fatigue and wounds at night."

Three, there will be the factor which motivates godly relationship (vv. 25-26).

Four, there will be a future which inspires a continuous Christ-like relationship (vv. 30-33).

Communicated in love — ch. 6:1-4

- Responsibility in creating a wholesome relationship

in the home is not only found between husband and wife but also between the parents and children. If there is harmony between the parents in the home, there will be a greater possibility of harmony with the children. The basic factor is communication in love. When parents take time to show concern for their children, take time to communicate with their children, and take time to love their children, then a godly relationship can be cultivated between the parents and the children.

One, there will be stern discipline to respect authority (v. 1 and Proverbs 22:6).

Two, there will be an acceptance of honor toward parents (vv. 2-3 and Deuteronomy 5:16).

Three, there will be a Christ-like attitude revealed by the father (v. 4 and Deuteronomy 6:4-9). In a world gone violent and vicious, the home must come back to God. That responsibility belongs to parents in the home.

Cultivated in love — vv. 5-9

The home is the citadel of Christ in the community. Because Paul realized this, he emphasized Christ to be glorified in every area of the home. This included the relationship of the master of the house to the servants in the house. As was the custom of the day, many of the homes of these Christians in Ephesus had servants. Thus, Paul indicates that the love of Christ must be exemplified toward these servants, as well as servants toward their masters.

His admonition to the servants was that their service should be controlled by their love for Christ (v. 5) and remain consistent in the love of Christ (vv. 6-8).

To the master of the house, Paul admonishes that they should respond with a cooperative spirit of Christ (v. 9). When Christ is honored in the home, then the home does become a little bit of heaven on earth! □ — Ray Fullilove is pastor of Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis.

Iowa Baptists raise CP giving; begin plans for state convention

Baptist Press

DAVENPORT, Iowa — Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship messengers have hiked the percentage of their Cooperative Program budget for Southern Baptist causes by one-half percent and begun the process of becoming a state convention in 1995.

The two steps were among actions taken by 101 messengers from 40 churches during the fellowship's Oct. 20-21 annual meeting in Davenport.

The fellowship's 1995 CP budget of \$299,488 includes a 21.5 percent designation for Southern Baptist Convention national and international ministries.

The fellowship's new convention committee presented a report about plans to become a convention next year.

Ed Gregory, a Cedar Rapids pastor, was elected president of the Iowa fellowship. □

Nevada Baptists elect layman as president

Baptist Press

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Messengers to the Nevada Baptist Convention elected a layman as president and hiked the percentage of their Cooperative Program budget for national and international missions by one-half percent.

Churches sent 161 messengers to the meeting which focused on "Here's Hope for Nevada: Share Jesus Now."

Messengers elected Keith Minty, a layman and member of Nellis Church, as convention president.

Nevada messengers also voted to raise Cooperative Program giving to Southern Baptist Convention causes from 25.5 percent to 26 percent of the CP budget. □

Rwanda pedestrian killed in auto mishap

Baptist Press

KIGALI, Rwanda — A Rwandan woman was killed instantly Oct. 24 when she walked into the side of a vehicle driven by a Southern Baptist missionary in a rural area outside of Kigali, Rwanda's capital.

Missionary Diane Randolph of Dallas was driving a double-cab pickup truck, loaded with Rwandans, in the rain to a church function when the incident occurred. She was not

charged by the police.

In rural areas of Rwanda, as in many other developing countries, streams of people often line both sides of the roads as they travel by foot.

After the accident, witnesses along the road "recognized it was not (Randolph's) fault," said Clyde Berkley, a Foreign Mission Board administrator for eastern and southern Africa.

He noted Randolph was treated with kindness by onlookers at the scene and later by the police. □

Historical agency's Deweese resigns

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Charles W. Deweese, assistant executive director of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, has resigned effective Dec. 31 after almost 21 years with the agency.

Deweese will become director of Baptist publishing for Providence House Publishers in Franklin.

In his new role, beginning Jan. 3, Deweese will direct the acquisition, editorial work production, marketing, and distribution of titles for Baptist-related authors.

Deweese has served as managing editor of the commission's *Baptist History and Heritage* journal and associate editor of the *Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists*, Volume 4.

He and his wife, Mary Jane, have two daughters. They are members of First Church, Nashville. □

Brymer receives first ABP freedom award

Associated Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — A Baptist editor who resigned rather than surrender his paper's editorial freedom has been named first recipient of a religious freedom award sponsored by Associated Baptist Press.

Jack Brymer, who resigned Aug. 26 after 10 years as editor of the *Florida Baptist Witness*, received the award Oct. 27 in Nashville.

Brymer resigned, citing repeated efforts by the paper's board of directors to encourage him to tone down his reporting of controversy and to avoid using news stories from ABP, an independent news service based in Jacksonville. □

Longtime RA leader Frank Black dies

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Frank Black, an employee of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission for 29 years died Oct. 21. He was 75.

Black wrote the Royal Ambassador Pledge which is still in use.

"We have lost a giant in the field of missions education for boys," said James D. Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission.

In addition to the pledge Black wrote and edited the first set of RA advancement books (*Page, Squire, and Knight*) and various other RA materials.

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

SBPA executive

Davis resigns post

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The executive director of the Southern Baptist Press Association, the state Baptist newspapers' organization, has resigned following health problems and urged the association to eliminate the position.

Lynn M. Davis Jr., in submitting his recent resignation, recommended the association not fill the part-time post, noting the work could be done by the association's officers. □

SBTS receives record \$7.5 million in gifts

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary received a record \$7.5 million of contributions during the 1993-94 fiscal year.

Gifts from donors topped the previous record of \$5 million given during the 1988-89 fiscal year, according to Thomas Mabe, the seminary's vice president for institutional advancement.

Of that total, approximately \$3.8 million was received in current gifts. Another \$3.7 million was given in the form of irrevocable trusts.

Much of the money is designated for campus capital projects, Mabe said. Currently, the seminary is securing funds to construct a conference center, the third and final phase of the Honeycutt Campus Center.

A major portion of the deferred gifts, Mabe noted, is set aside for the seminary's new Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth. □



HMB guest

Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis, left, welcomed evangelist Billy Graham to the board's offices in late October. Graham visited with Lewis and HMB evangelism leaders to discuss ways to evangelize America. — Photo by Paul Obregon

Injured volunteer shows some response

Baptist Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Southern Baptist volunteer Paul Sutherland, critically injured during a July mission trip to Argentina, is showing some response after nearly three months in a coma.

Physicians haven't officially said Sutherland has emerged from the coma, but "you can tell he's in there — it's not just a blank stare," said Vivien Hager, Sutherland's daughter, in a phone interview from her father's room at the rehabilitation center.

"Sometimes he responds. And up until the last few weeks we hadn't seen anything like that. He was just lying there with his eyes closed."

Sutherland, from Samford, N.C., suffered a brain contusion after falling from a ladder July 21 while working as a Foreign Mission Board volunteer in Buenos Aires. The 66-year-old Sutherland underwent two surgeries in less than 24 hours there before being flown back to North Carolina in early August. □

Cooperation council fails, says Virginian

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — A committee seeking ways for conservatives and moderates in Virginia to work together has failed, says Ron Crawford, president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Crawford cited recent actions taken by an organization of conservatives in Virginia as the reason the presidential council on cooperation "has not produced the breakthrough we all prayed for."

Among obstacles the council

faced, Crawford said, was the refusal of SBCV to accept a proposed giving option in the Virginia budget designed to appeal to conservative churches and the resignation of conservative leader Tommy Taylor, who was co-chair of the council. Taylor was a strong advocate of the council's aims.

Crawford's assessment, however, was disputed by Howard Baldwin, a vocational evangelist and interim executive director of the newly formed Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia. He noted that when evangelism and missions "becomes our priority, there may no longer be any need for such an organization as the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia for we will have returned to our Virginia Baptist heritage," he said. □

Midwestern trustees approve new project

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees voted to proceed with the construction of a student and family life ministry center at its semi-annual meeting in October.

Originally proposed in 1990 action had been delayed on the \$850,000 building. Trustees unanimously approved the motion to proceed.

Trustees also went into executive session twice to discuss faculty-related matters. They ratified a severance package given to former professor Bill Stancil who was denied tenure by the trustees last year.

Trustees also voted to delay consideration of two faculty members — Larry McKinney and James Hines — until next April so the trustees could have more information on the two men. □