

Baptist and Reflector

November 30, 1994

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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New president strong on partnership missions

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor
Baptist and Reflector

CORDOVA — Frank Hawkins, newly elected president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, says he believes partnership missions and evangelistic efforts can strengthen unity among Tennessee Baptists.

Speaking to TBC messengers after his election here Nov. 16, Hawkins said the "hands on" ministries involved in overseas missions lends cohesion to Baptists here and to churches where there is joint ministry.

Hawkins ought to know. He and his wife Pat served as missionaries to Brazil, 1966-70.

He has a message for Tennessee Baptists. "Let us build on our great heritage," he said in an interview, "and join with a great sense of hope.

"Missions and evangelism give us a way to impact our state and our world with ministry. These are our gifts and also our great strengths," he said.

Hawkins and his wife Jean are natives of Rock Hill, S. C. He graduated from Furman University in 1957, and received the B.D.

degree from Southeastern Seminary in 1960.

While in Brazil they served as pioneer missionaries and he taught in the local seminary.

Later he earned the Th.M. degree in pastoral care, and the D.Min. at Southern Seminary. He was a pastor in Louisville while studying.

Prior to becoming pastor at Kingsport, Hawkins was pastor of First Church, Statesboro, Ga., 1975-80.

The new president believes there are at least two focal areas where Tennessee Baptists will continue emphasis.

"Missions and evangelism, especially in the partnerships, have the appeal and power to be the cohesion to keep us together," he said. "I agree with Jim Porch — it's a historic theme to keep us together."

The second focal point, he said, is strength in higher education. "We need to stay on target and undergird our schools. Our young people need to have our support, to go out as mature, decision-making people in Tennessee and in the world. They will take Christ to the world's people in many ways," he said.

Hawkins believes, "We have a good sense



LEAD Tennessee Baptists: Pat, Frank Hawkins

of community and fellowship, with unity and respect for each other. I'll do all I can to strengthen that. We have free congregations, but in the spirit of cooperation."

— See President's, page 2



SMALL CHURCH Pastors of the Year, above, and their spouses are, from left, Mark and Carla Roberts, Tazewell, Forrest and Marilyn Creekmore, Portland; and Jane and Tony Crossnoe, Paris. **BELOW**, honored as Bivocational Pastors of the Year were, from left, Marlon and Virginia Stephens, Trenton; Carol and James Growden, Nashville; and Paul Broyles, Limestone.



Convention honors small church, bivocational pastors

For *Baptist and Reflector*

CORDOVA — Six Tennessee Baptist pastors were honored Nov. 15 during the 120th annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention for their work as small church and bivocational pastors.

Three pastors, one from each region of the state, were chosen as "Small Church Pastors of the Year" and "Bivocational Pastors of the Year."

The awards honor men "who have demonstrated excellence" in ministry, said Frank Hawkins of Kingsport, who chaired the selection committee.

Selected as small church honorees were Tony Crossnoe, West Paris Church, Paris; Forrest Creekmore, Chestnut Grove Church, Portland; and Mark Roberts, Tazewell Church, Tazewell.

A small church pastor is classified as one who is full-time pastor of a church with an average Sunday School attendance of less than 100.

Bivocational honorees were Marlon D. Stephens, West Side Church, Trenton; James Growden, Hillcrest Church, Nashville; and Paul Broyles, Pleasant Grove Church, Limestone.

Bivocational pastors are those who have full-time employment other than the local church.

The honorees were cited for exemplifying the qualities of authentic Christian ministry, demonstrating persistence in less than encouraging circumstances, and showing visionary leadership. □

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Annuity Board announces changes in prescription drug procedures

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Participants in the Southern Baptist Annuity Board's Comprehensive Medical plans soon will be able to save money with enhanced outpatient prescription drug benefits, effective Jan. 1.

The new benefits will save money and simplify the process, according to Joel Mathis, head of the insurance division.

Participants who use their new PCS Health Systems card at a participating pharmacy will be able to buy up to a 30-day supply of a generic prescription drug for just a \$5 copayment. If a doctor prescribes a brand-name drug, the copayment will be \$12 for up to a 30-day supply of the drug. Participants who choose a brand-name drug when the doctor will allow a generic must pay an additional charge, Mathis said.

PCS will pay a first-dollar benefit, meaning

participants will not have to meet a deductible for this benefit.

Participants who do not use the PCS card, for whatever reasons, will probably pay more at the drugstore, but will still be able to receive a benefit. However, the new benefit will be paid after a claim is filed through PCS, not Prudential, Mathis said.

"Participants will have to deal only with PCS for their benefits when they buy prescription drugs at a local pharmacy. That should help simplify the process, and the new copayment structure will save money for most people," Mathis said.

The current prescription drug benefit allows participants to pay a special PCS price at the pharmacy and then file a claim with Prudential for reimbursement. Prudential will not process claims for outpatient prescriptions filled after Dec. 31, he said. After that, Prudential will only cover medicine claims related to hospital admission. □

Union administrators announce retirement plans

Baptist Press

JACKSON — Union University President Hyran Barefoot announced his retirement, effective June 30, 1996, at the Nov. 22 meeting of the university's trustees.

In addition, Maggie Nell Brewer, vice president for student affairs, also announced her retirement effective, June 30, 1995.

"I want to express my sincere appreciation to all my colleagues at Union — administrators, faculty, staff, trustees — for their support and cooperation during

these years I've served as president," Barefoot told the trustees.

Barefoot was inaugurated as the university's 14th president in 1987. He joined the Union faculty in 1957 as associate professor of religion and Greek. He has served in a number of positions, as a teacher, a department and division chair, academic dean, and vice president for academic affairs.



BAREFOOT

Under his leadership as president, Union's enrollment has risen 26 percent, from 1,764 students in 1987 to 2,370 in 1994. Several major construction projects also have occurred during his tenure.

Barefoot pledged not to "coast out" until June 1996. "There is too much work still to be done and it will require everyone working full time to do the work — including the president," he said.

Brewer joined the university staff in 1965 and was named vice president of student affairs in 1984. □

Retired Tennessee pastor Fred Ponton dies

Fred O. Ponton Sr., 79, of Maryville died Oct. 21 at Blount Memorial Hospital.

Ponton was a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist College, Pineville, Ky., and Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City. He attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He served as pastor of churches in southwest Virginia and East Tennessee for 40 years.

Survivors include four daughters — Rosalie Weston of Maryville; and June Mas-sengille, Carol Williams, and Fred Ponton Jr., all of Knoxville. □

State paper trustee bumped by convention

Associated Baptist Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — William Parker of Lake Mary was replaced as a commissioner of the Florida Baptist Witness Nov. 15 because of complaints about his church's lack of involvement with Baptists in the state. Parker is a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

Parker was a frequent critic of former editor Jack Brymer, who resigned in August because of political pressure from conservatives.

Parker was eligible for a second three-year term and

was initially nominated for the post. But the Committee on Nominations, meeting during the Nov. 14-16 state convention, replaced him with another nominee.

According to several committee members, Parker was replaced because his church, First Church of Markham Woods in Lake Mary, is not affiliated with a local Baptist association. The church recently withdrew from one association and was denied membership in another. The church's contributions to the Cooperative Program also did not meet the committee's standards, members said. □

Southern Baptist refugee aid free from corruption

Baptist Press

GOMA, Zaire — Corruption keeping food aid from reaching many Rwandan refugees in Zaire has not prevented Southern Baptist relief donations from reaching needy refugees, said James Westmoreland.

Relief efforts administered by the board have avoided a corrupt distribution system because Southern Baptist missionaries directly supervise the distribution of humanitarian relief, said Westmoreland, FMB associate area director for eastern and southern Africa. "They make sure the relief donations get to where they're supposed to," he said.

Malnutrition has increased by 15 percent in many refugee camps, even though international relief groups are delivering 25 percent more food than needed to feed the estimated 825,000 refugees, according to media reports.

Spokesmen for relief organizations blame the rising malnutrition on a distribution system that allows Rwandan militiamen and former Rwandan government officials to sell food-stuffs delivered by aid groups. □

Householder takes CBF office

Lloyd Householder, Brentwood, has been named director of a newly-established Cooperative Baptist Fellowship office in Nashville.

The Tennessee branch of CBF recently met and affirmed the vote of the CBF coordinating council to open the office.

Householder, a Tennessean who retired from the Sunday School Board in 1992 after 32 years, will send out a newsletter and help CBF leaders in planning and communicating.

Major emphasis, he said,

will be to strengthen fellowship among those interested in CBF, to help communications, and to strengthen planning.

At the SSB Householder was assistant vice president for communications, and Baptist Press bureau chief.

At the recent meeting, Earl Davis, Memphis pastor, resigned as moderator of the Tennessee CBF. Michael Smith, Memphis pastor, will serve as interim moderator until Patty Moore, moderator-elect, Maryville, takes office next spring. □

President's strength lies in missions ...

— Continued from page 1

Hawkins believes that Tennessee Baptists can shape the convention's identity. "We each have the voice and the power to do that," he said.

The new president talked about his personal strengths as a pastor.

"You have to be familiar with God's Word, and in practical ways to lead the people in that way," he said. "The pastor has to lead with a clear voice

of hope in the community.

"I believe this is one of my strengths as a pastor," he added.

Hawkins said he tries to follow Scripture in being a servant, not a ruler. "The pastor should lead the fellowship to be a trusting community. He must be able to help bring people to Christ, and to insure that God's good news becomes incarnational through the church." □

Baylor regents reject Samford president

Baptist Press

WACO, Texas — Baylor University's board of regents adjourned their two-day meeting Nov. 18 without naming a successor to retiring President Herbert Reynolds at the 12,000-member university.

A show of support for nominee Thomas Cortis fell short of a required majority, according to a report in the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* quoting Baylor regent Nancy Thurmond of Fort Worth. Cortis is president of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Baylor's office of communications and marketing issued a one-paragraph announcement after the meeting, making no mention of the regents' vote. "The Baylor University board of regents has ad-

joined its special two-day meeting after receiving a report from its Presidential Succession Committee," the statement said. "There will be no news conference and no statement from the board or from Baylor."

Cortis has led 4,300-student Samford University since 1983 and earlier was president of Wingate College in North Carolina for nine years.

Thurmond, in the *Star-Telegram* article, was quoted as voting against Cortis, basing some of her objections on his family's ties to conservatives who dominate the Southern Baptist Convention, namely his brother, Mark, a Winston-Salem pastor who is a conservative leader in his state and former trustee chairman of the Foreign Mis-

sion Board.

"Dr. (Tom) Cortis is a very erudite person, a very substantial person," Thurmond said. "But my conferences with people I trust in the denomination who know his family caused some doubts," leading to her fear of a "fundamentalist takeover." News reports in the local Waco paper mentioned similar concerns without naming specific regents.

Samford trustee chairman A. Gerow Hodges of Birmingham said Nov. 22, "What has occurred appears to be a backlash of denominational politics and is grossly unfair to a person of Dr. Cortis' professional standing and character."

Hodges said nothing has changed with Cortis who "was and is" Samford's president. □

Milan Baptist's 100th birthday provides gifts for Lottie Moon

For Baptist and Reflector

MILAN — Nina Mann loves missions.

For 70 years she has been an active member and missions supporter at First Church, Milan.

So, it really was no surprise what she wanted for her 100th birthday.

At a celebration Nov. 11 at Ridgewood Healthcare in Milan, a box for donations to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions was placed on a table.

Friends and relatives who came to wish her a "happy birthday" donated \$256.80 for the offering which bene-



NINA MANN'S 100th birthday benefited missions.

fits foreign missions in honor of Mann.

In addition, First Church has a Circle named the Nina Mann Circle in her honor. □

Draper makes changes at board following loss of \$8.2 million

By Linda Lawson
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. announced Nov. 18 he will recommend to the trustees the creation of the position of chief operating officer among actions to strengthen the board's financial operations for 1995 and beyond.

Draper said he is creating the position and taking other steps to improve budget management in light of 1993-94 financial results in which the board generated record revenues of \$224.6 million, but operated at a loss of \$8.2 million.

The 1993-94 revenue total of \$224.6 million represents an 8 percent increase over 1992-93 revenues of \$208 million. The negative \$8.2 million in funds provided from operations compares to a negative \$2.1 million in 1992-93. Board reserves totaled \$49.5 million at year end.

Ted Warren will assume the chief operating officer's post immediately on an interim basis, pending trustee ap-

proval in February 1995. Warren has been chief financial officer and vice president of the business services group since last February.

Warren, 47, will have responsibility for daily operations of the board and will report to the president. Draper said the new structure will "enable me to focus more on development of strategies." Vice presidents Gene Mims and Charles Wilson and Mike Arrington, executive director for corporate affairs, will report directly to Warren. Previously they reported directly to the president. Warren will continue to direct the business services group while a search is begun for a replacement.

"While this board is in the enviable position of having resources to absorb this kind of loss for the short term, we are taking immediate steps to change the way we do business and improve results for 1994-95," Draper said.

He acknowledged, "We had antici-

pated operating at a deficit for the year due to investments in areas such as literature improvements, remodeling, relocating of Baptist Book Stores, and development of products.

Draper said his proposed actions received the endorsement of the trustee officers and committee chairmen and vice chairmen during a Nov. 15 meeting in Nashville.

Trustee chairman Kirk Humphreys, a layman from Oklahoma City, described the year-end financial results as a "compelling event that demands action. I believe the steps Dr. Draper has initiated are appropriate and needed. The trustee leadership has unanimously expressed support for his actions and his leadership as president of the Baptist Sunday School Board."

In other actions, Draper said responsibility for trade publishing (Broadman & Holman) and the retail division (Baptist Book Stores and direct marketing) which have reported to one vice president will be divided so that each can receive closer attention. Broadman & Holman will continue to report to Charles Wilson.

The 65-store Baptist Book Store chain and the board's direct marketing operation will report to a newly created vice presidential position and a search will be initiated for the best person to fill the post, Draper said. "This has grown to almost a \$90 million business that warrants its own vice president," he said.

In addition to leadership changes, Draper said a 30-day review of the 1994-95 budget is in process "to assure that our revenue and funds provided from operations goals are realistic and attainable. We are committed to greatly improved results for this year."

Draper praised employees for "positive developments taking place that represent a foundation on which we can build the future."

He cited the *Experiencing God* products have sold more than one million copies since the introduction of the discipleship course in 1990. "The dollars generated are important for our business, but even more important are the lives transformed by those who have utilized the materials we provide," Draper said. □



WARREN

'Christy' shelved until spring after Thanksgiving movie

Baptist Press

TOWNSEND — Once again, CBS is flirting with the virtuous maiden named "Christy."

When viewers saw her last year, the heroine of Catherine Marshall's famous Christian novel was struggling to educate children at an early 20th century mission in East Tennessee. She seemed to be making progress in her spiritual war with superstition and poverty.

Behind the scenes, "Christy" was struggling in the Nielsen ratings race. After a highly-rated Easter special

and a five-week trial run, "Christy" was gone. Viewers were stunned when the series didn't appear in the fall lineup, even though its producers said CBS received a record number of calls, cards, and letters.

"Christy" returned for a two-hour special Thanksgiving night, but will vanish again. CBS has ordered 11 additional episodes to air sometime this spring.

"I keep hoping that a miracle will happen and that she'll be able to stay," the mission preacher said in the Thanksgiving show when it appeared Christy might leave the cove.

Tell that to the lords of network television.

Executive Producer Ken Wales continues to plead for another round of support from those who claim to want to see an alternative in prime time.

"This is our second chance and you rarely get a third," said Wales. "I fought this battle a year ago, and now I am fighting it again. In the spring, we'll have to fight it all over again," Wales said.

While "Christy" has been a hit in the smaller markets of the Bible Belt, it failed to do well in America's 30 largest metropolitan markets. □

Historical Commission's May to retire

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Lynn E. May Jr., executive director-treasurer of the Historical Commission since 1971, will retire, effective Aug. 1, 1995.

His tenure as executive exceeds that of all current SBC agency executives.

At retirement, May will have completed 39 years on the commission's staff, having served as research director from 1956-71. He will have served on the staff of the com-

mission (chartered in 1951) more than 86 percent of the agency's life.

Under May's 23-year leadership as the agency's executive, the Historical Commission's budget has grown from \$132,500 in 1971-72 to \$603,650 in 1994-95.

Significant acquisitions have resulted from the SBC's 1981 designation of the commission as the official depository for denominational archives.

Microfilm, book, and oral history holdings have risen substantially.

The Louisiana native also has been managing editor of *Baptist History and Heritage* since 1971. □



MAY

■ 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. □

Pastor needed

Trinity Church, a congregation of 120 people located in Metterich, Germany, which is near Bitburg, is in need of a pastor. The congregation is mainly people connected with the American military.

Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English-language) and is founded on the principles and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention.

If God is leading you to serve as a pastor in a missions setting, please contact: Randy Mauldin, 53 FS, PSC 9 Box 534, APO AE 09123.

Randy Mauldin
Metterich, Germany

Missionary thanks

We were on furlough earlier this year in Morristown. We enjoyed the love and support of many Tennessee Baptists and especially those at First Church, Morristown.

I had the wonderful opportunity of being able to share with others at the Baptist Women Get-together in Gatlinburg in April. I am writing to inform the Baptist

Women who promised to pray for us as we have come back to a new place of ministry. I specifically asked prayer for a house in the area God wanted us to begin a new work. Last week we received money and began paper work on a house in our target area. It will still be several months before we can live there, but we feel God has answered our prayers. Also, our boys have adapted exceptionally well and are enjoying being back in Uruguay.

We appreciate the prayers. They have been answered.

Carla Roy
C.C. 37
Lagomar, Canelones
15000 Uruguay

Marks of unity

I arrived at Bellevue Church considerably ahead of gavel time for the Wednesday morning session of the TBC, and one of the most poignant moments of the entire three days in Memphis was about to unfold! Bro. Bill Bargiol, Big Emory director of missions, and I were talking with a couple of other brothers when Paul Woodford walked up and whispered to me to-

member him in prayer, as he was going that day to Savannah and supervise the admitting of his mother — against her wishes — into a rest home.

Overhearing this and noting the pained expressed in Paul's request, Bargiol pulled Woodford into our circle, at the same time suggesting that he voice a prayer then and there. As we all bowed our heads and embraced, Bargiol addressed our Heavenly Father for the comfort and strength needed by our brother and his family that day. This was typical, I think, of all our Barnabas brothers in Tennessee, the directors of missions.

Shortly, Adrian Rogers arrived with a smile of welcome to us and a firm handclasp, followed by that gesture of filial fellowship, a holy hug! I enjoyed the whole day then, remembering "how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" in Tennessee and throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

Michael L. Prowse, DOM
Stone Association
Cookeville 38503

■ Baptist beliefs

By Herschel Hobbs,
Baptist theologian

Paul's prayer request

"And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the Gospel." Ephesians 6:19

The Lord had told Paul he would preach before kings (Acts 9:15).

He had preached to Agrippa, a puppet king. Now he is in Rome awaiting his appeal to Caesar.

Judging by his defense on other occasions, before Caesar or his tribunal he related his Christian experience.

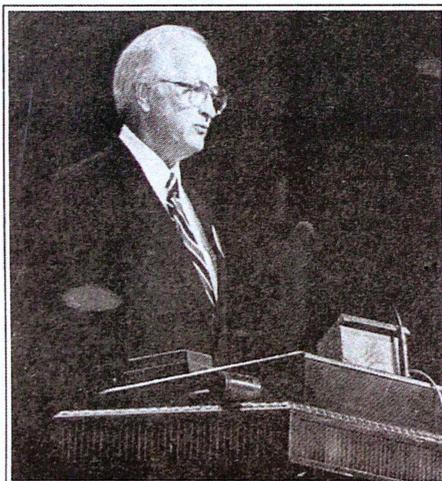
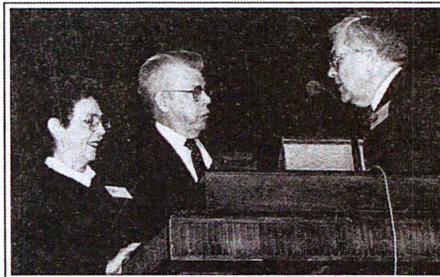
As he contemplates this appearance before so august a body, he does not want to be cowed and fail to present Christ to them. So he asks his readers to pray that he will speak "boldly."

If Nero was present at Paul's appearance we can be certain that he heard at least one Gospel sermon before committing suicide in June A.D. 68. □

Messengers, visitors participate in convention activities



RECEIVING RECOGNITION ON RETIREMENT as directors of missions from James Porch, right, TBC executive director, are, photo to left, Christine and Charles Earl, who served 10 years in Holston Valley Association; photo in center, Mary Lou and Herbert Higdon, who served 11 years in Madison-Chester and Crockett associations; and photo to right, Wanda and Raymond Atwood, who served 12 years in Loudon County Association.



TBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Chairman David George of Immanuel Church, Nashville, presents the board's report.



WEST TENNESSEANS, from left, John McBride, director of missions, Shelby County Association; James and Dorothy Humphreys, retired director of missions and wife, Carroll-Benton Association; and Mary and Roy Jennings of Memphis visit during the convention.

Foreign missions finds ways to help world

Tennessee Baptists don't have to look far to discover foreign missions. Poland, and Canada — including British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba — offer opportunities to take the Missions Course, and steps beyond.

Of course, Tennesseans have been involved in foreign missions for a long time. We have had official partnerships with Burkina Faso, Venezuela, the Philippines, Chile, during the last twelve years — not to mention the many church and associational ties with other foreign areas. We have been there!

Now we come to the time of the Dec. 4-11 Week of Prayer, coupled with the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. Much of the Foreign Mission Board's work in 1995 depends on the 1994 LMCO.

The national goal is \$86 million, and Tennessee Baptists claim responsibility for \$7.5 million of it. Broken down, if each of the 2,950 churches gave \$2,542, the goal would be met.

Many Tennessee Baptist churches, however, are very small and won't be able to match what large churches give.

A noble goal would be for every church to give something, perhaps a goal commensurate with budgets and/or active membership.

While gimmicks or slogans are sometimes helpful in meeting goals, the \$86 million and the Week of Prayer theme of

"Risk!" are not gimmicks. They translate as reality.

Tennessee Baptists should be aware of needs in other countries, places where there are Southern Baptist missionaries or representatives at work. Missions is not new to Tennessee volunteers.

Hundreds have served. Not only have they displayed a willingness to go and share Christ, they have built churches and homes, put down wells, preached and taught, treated physical illnesses, trained and disciplined — at their personal expense, and using vacation time.

That is why the ongoing partnership with Michigan is still thriving, and why new partnerships with Poland and Western Canada show great promise.

Missionaries Jim and Linda Rice explain the Week of Prayer "Risk!" theme. The Rices serve in Uganda. They have had cars taken at gunpoint, sat through days of bombardment, helped close friends grieve as relatives and schoolmates died with AIDS, and have been harassed by drunken teenage soldiers with automatic weapons. When they went to Uganda, the infamous Idi Amin was in power.

Most of the violence has abated, but the threat of AIDS is real. Uganda is saturated with HIV-positive people, and the Rices work with many of them.

They have never worried about getting the disease, however. They are raising their 10-year-old daughter Kristen in a time of high risk.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Farewell, hello

We have just passed Thanksgiving Day and with reckless speed, a restless world is hurtling, with barely a pause, toward Christmas.

Homes and churches struggle to avoid the miasma of futile shopping, eating, preparing for endless "celebrating."

In the midst of all this clamor, God has a way of reminding us that real life continues.

He is alive — and all that



ALLEN

we are as Christians bears witness to his glory.

For me, it was all bundled up into one week.

Just as the Tennessee

Baptist Convention was concluding, precious little Mikayla made her way into the world, the seventh "grand" for Betty and me. Celebration!

The very next day came word that Hudson Baggett, that great, wise and caring, Baptist editor from Alabama, had stepped across the threshold of heaven to see Jesus. Celebration, oh yes, a time of bittersweet joy and sorrow!

On the third day after, our dear friend Stephen went back to the hospital — so doctors can continue their search for the malady that has invaded his body. Faith? Yes, his and Stephanie's faith grows stronger and bolder day by day. Celebration? When we pray for God's healing mercies, there are tears of celebration.

Stephen said it best — for all of us, for all of these wonders in compacted life, just one week's worth. How can anyone ever face life — joy or sorrow — without the Savior? How indeed, how!

So there are more important things in life than busy buying, giving and getting. There are those spirit-given moments in time that God meets with us in ways we never forget. And he allows us to invest ourselves, our inner selves, in his way of doing things. This is called blessing.

When life moves at a pace far too rapid to hear his still, small voice, *detour*. Stop, rest, find the place of the quiet heart. He is there.

Sometimes, when we truly seek him, that place is one's own heart.

Solomon's wisdom is good for couples

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

I am sharing an idea this week that I got from Mike Thrower, pastor of Brunswick Church in Memphis and a member of the Executive Board.

In Song of Solomon, 7:10-13, the writer gives four good guidelines for couples who like to have an exciting and fulfilling relationship.

This formula includes *commitment, companionship, compatibility, and compassion*.

"I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me," the writer states in verse 10. A prime ingredient for an exciting relationship is *commitment*.

In our age of entitlements we have majored on the rights that we can expect from others and minored on the responsibilities that we have toward others.

The writer of Proverbs said we must be friendly if we expect to have friends. This means that "to have a mate one must be a mate." I see couples who want the other to show commitment to them without the responsibility of showing commitment to the other.

I hear statements like,

"She ought to know I love her; I'm still here, ain't I?"

In verse 11 the chorister talks of going out into the villages to spend the night. The emphasis here is on *companionship*.

Couples who want to enjoy being together have to make time to be together.

I recommend weekend events like Fall (and Spring) Festivals of Marriage sponsored by the Sunday School Board. I regret that my wife and I didn't get away together more often when the children were smaller.

The couple takes a trip into the vineyards together in verse 12. This suggests *compatibility* of interests.

Couples don't have to share the same hobbies, but there should be something that they can both enjoy doing together.

I don't know any couple who could not find something that they shared an interest in together if they were to sit down and talk about it. My wife and I enjoy camping to-

gether. It is fun just to walk the trails together and to sit around the campfire as night sounds surround us.

The woman describes little extra things she has done for her lover in verse 12. *Compassion* is evidenced by her statement. Compassion is sometimes demonstrated best by little, unexpected, unusual efforts we make for each other.

It may be a love note on the plate or pillow. It might be a flower delivered to her at work or brought home at the end of a day.

It might be his favorite desert even though you had to buy fast food on the way home.

Many times it is not the value, but the serendipity of the gift or gesture that gives it worth.

If you are looking for ways to add spice, savor, and zest to a dull, dreary, dismal relationship, I recommend the advice of the seasoned sage Solomon.

Try commitment, companionship, compatibility, and compassion. □



BARKLEY

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

A little girl watched her mother put cream over her face. "What's it for, mommy?"

Mom: "To make me pretty." Little girl (when her mother removed it): "Didn't it work?"

Take this truth

Some problems remain unsolvable whatever we do! Sometimes we ought to keep on trying. Sometimes we need to be honest and leave the solution to God.

Wise people know when to do which.

Memorize this Scripture

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Pray this prayer

"Lord when I face difficult problems help me to remember God keeps watch above his own." □



WOOD

Missionaries willing to 'Risk!' set examples for Southern Baptists

By Steve Barber

RICHMOND — "Risk!" The theme for the 1994 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions calls Southern Baptists to do what their missionaries have done for almost 150 years: Take risks for the sake of a lost world.

"Missionaries are constantly subjected to risks of political upheaval, natural disasters, threats to one's health, and criminal activity in order to share the Gospel and God's love," says Jerry Rankin, president of the Foreign Mission Board. "What are Southern Baptists willing to sacrifice that a lost world might know Jesus Christ?"

Rankin says "God is waiting for his people to take the risk" through strategic prayer and sacrificial giving.

For missionaries already on the field in a world fraught with dangers, "Risk!" is more than a concept. It is real — and so are the results:

■ In Kenya, God impressed Herb and Becky Cady to leave their assignment as schoolteachers and move to the Suswa District, where water is scarce and electricity nonexistent, in order to reach the Maasai people. In the last three years, they have seen God start more than 20 churches in the area and recently, six Maasai pastors have been ordained.

■ In Liberia, facing unsafe water supplies and an almost nonexistent communications system, missionaries have returned to this civil war-ravaged country to supply

food and other forms of response to human suffering alongside Liberian Baptists. The aid has totaled \$2 million thus far. Missionary Bradley Brown has returned to minister and continue a seminary with a record enrollment of 92 students, while a recent crusade yielded 1,500 professions of faith.

■ In South Korea, college students harbor years of resentment and anger and are quick to erupt in violent riots and demonstrations. Missionaries John and Vivian Conrad work with students as part of their assignment. Meanwhile, South Korea's revival, one of the longest in Christian history, continues.

■ In Peru, Larry and Joy Johnson initially faced opposition from the Quechua people near Cajamarca, but the missionaries moved ahead with human needs projects that included drilling wells and building roads. Now they have the trust and friendship of the Quechuas and have even been named "outstanding citizens" by the government itself. The greatest reward: 25 churches have been planted over the last 10 years as a result of the human needs projects.

■ In Venezuela, a group of missionaries refused to accept the "conventional wisdom" that major cities in Latin America are all but impenetrable to the Gospel. Led by Bill Cashion, they found 30 areas in Caracas in need of new churches and directed medical teams, assisted by Southern Baptist volunteers, into these areas. After three years, with additional promotion and preparation, new works have been started in these same areas. □

Perils missionaries face

Persecution. Zealots threaten believers and churches, especially in Europe and Asia.

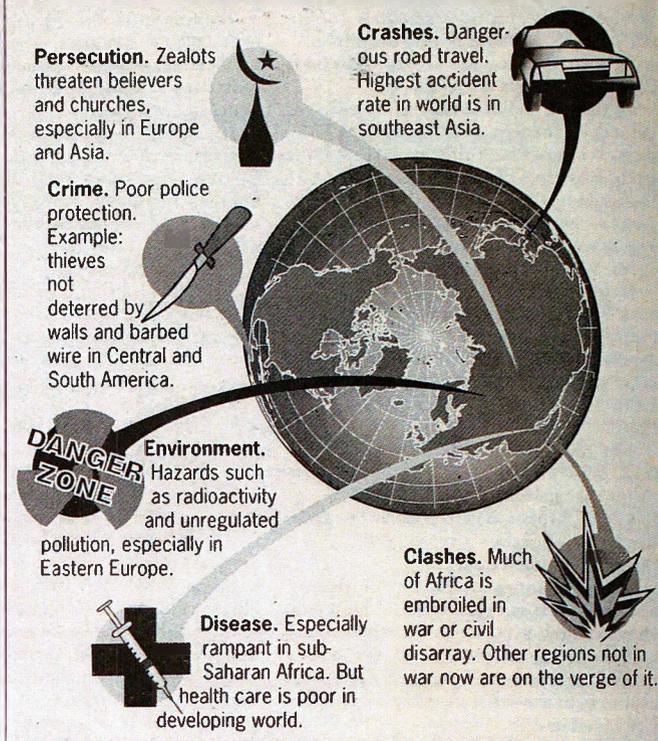
Crime. Poor police protection. Example: thieves not deterred by walls and barbed wire in Central and South America.

Environment. Hazards such as radioactivity and unregulated pollution, especially in Eastern Europe.

Disease. Especially rampant in sub-Saharan Africa. But health care is poor in developing world.

Crashes. Dangerous road travel. Highest accident rate in world is in southeast Asia.

Clashes. Much of Africa is embroiled in war or civil disarray. Other regions not in war now are on the verge of it.



(FMB) GRAPHIC By Marty Croll

Risk!

**Week of Prayer
for Foreign
Missions
Dec. 4-11, 1994**

**Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering**

**National Goal: \$86 million
State Goal: \$7.5 million**

Prayers make difference

RICHMOND — Southern Baptists know how to pick up the phone and make things happen — specifically, the men and women who make the 9,000 to 10,000 calls a month to the Foreign Mission Board prayerline.

During the recent months, things have happened around the world which can only be explained by the prayers of those callers, said Terri Willis, associate director of the board's International Prayer Strategy Office.

Willis points to several prayer requests which were posted on the prayerline and the results that followed:

■ **Prayer Request** — On Sunday, Aug. 28, at 3 p.m., a new French-language African evangelistic film will premier in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. The film title, translated, is "The Answer." An audience of 1,500 people is expected, including local government officials and others who are not Christians. Pray that the Lord will bless this showing and the continued use of the film in evangelistic outreach in French-speaking West Africa.

■ **Prayer Answer** — The doors to the hall where the film was shown opened one hour before the premiere. A steady stream of people entered the hall until well after the scheduled starting time. From the beginning until the ending, the viewers were spellbound. At the end of the movie, they burst into tremendous applause. Many people made decisions on-site. But others, late into the evening, were still knocking on the doors of the homes of Baptist missionaries and national Christians. Even the next morning, they were still coming.

■ **Prayer Request** — This summer in Albania, Southern Baptists will have 100 college students trying to show the "Jesus" film

in 400 villages across the country. Pray for protection of the teams. Pray that the pseudo-religious leaders attempting to block the showing would be ineffective. Pray that the teams could expose the Albanians to the truths of the Bible. Pray that the team members will remain healthy and minister boldly and wisely.

■ **Prayer Answer** — More than 2,300 decisions for Christ were registered this summer at film showings in more than 175 villages in Albania.

■ **Prayer Request** — Pray that Southern Baptist missionaries working in Trinidad and Tobago would receive visas so they can continue their ministries.

■ **Prayer Answer** — We have just received word that the government of Trinidad and Tobago has reversed an earlier decision that forced six of our missionaries to leave the country. Two-year visas have been granted these three couples, and they will resume their ministries in the twin island Caribbean nation.

■ **Prayer Request** — Dr. Rebekah Naylor serves alongside Indian national physicians as a Southern Baptist missionary surgeon at the Baptist Hospital in Bangalore, India. Her work permit expires in October. In July, application for permission to continue her work was submitted to the Medical Council of India and the Indian government. Pray that the work permit will be granted.

■ **Prayer Answer** — Naylor received a two-year renewal of her license to practice medicine at the Baptist Hospital in Bangalore, India. Her license has just been renewed through October 1996. Please continue to pray for her. □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



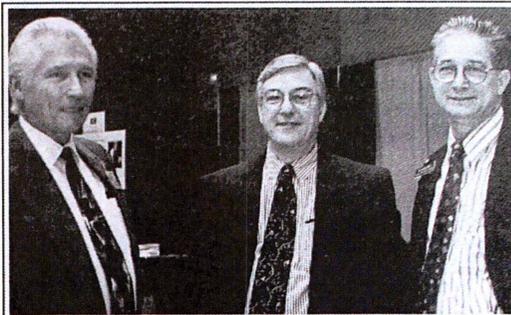
December —

- 1 — Jim and Lori Spikes and their children frequently suffer from respiratory infections due to the smog in Santiago.
- 2 — Of those saved during the recent evangelistic campaign in Arica, some are diligent in their new faith while others resist discipleship.
- 3 — A volunteer requests prayer for a police sergeant who attended nightly services in Santiago, but never made a decision for Christ.
- 4 — Missionary Bill Baer serves as director of the Bible Institute in Vina del Mar.
- 5 — Missionary Carol Henson is planting churches around Santiago and is responsible for Vacation Bible School, which begins next month.
- 6 — During this Foreign Mission emphasis, thank God for our foreign missionaries and ask for him to make his presence real in their lives today as they serve him around the world.
- 7 — Missionaries Miriam Nunez, home evangelist, and Mike Racey, educator, have birthdays.

Tennessee Baptist Convention Nov. 15-16 at Cordova



VISITING AT THE TBC DISPLAY are, from left, Shirley and Tommy Strong, managers, Camp Linden; Vickie Anderson, WMU; Archer Thorpe, TBC Cooperative Program and Stewardship Department; and Ron Blankenship, pastor, Haywood Hills Church, Nashville.



MEETING IN THE DISPLAY AREA were, from left, Frank Ingraham, coparlamentarian of convention from First Church, Franklin; Lamar Cooper, SBC Christian Life Commission, Nashville; and Waymon Jones, United Tennessee League, Nashville.



JARVIS HEARN, left, retiring director of the TBC Partnership Missions Department, 'signs' with Verlon Moore of Clarksville during a reception honoring TBC retirees. Hearn was active with ministry to the deaf in Tennessee for many years.



JAMES PORCH, left, TBC executive director, gives Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Church, and host pastor of the convention, an inscribed Bible.



BAPTIST BOOK STORE worker, Becky Brooks, left, of Nashville, visits with Ric Lee, center, pastor, Auburn Church, Auburntown; and Ricky Scott, pastor, First Church, Smartt, at the book store exhibit in the display area.



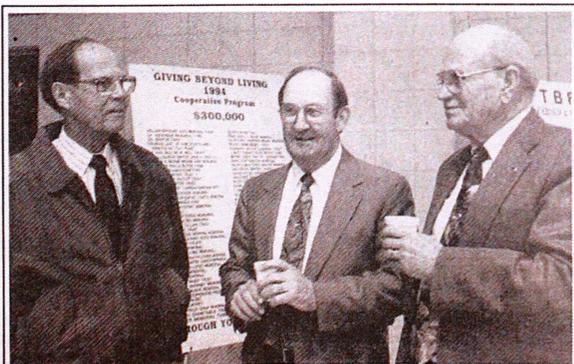
COUNSELING ON annuity programs is Gary Rickman, left, TBC, who is assisting Mike Smith, pastor, Second Church, Memphis.



TAKING A BREAK FROM ACTIVITIES a boy takes a nap on a couch in the vestibule of Bellevue Church.



TALKING ARE Bill Vance, left, pastor, Orinda Church, Orinda; and Ken Bush, Haywood Hills Church, Nashville.



PAUSING IN THE DISPLAY AREA are, from left, Bernard Campbell, retired pastor from Memphis; Ronnie Wylie, pastor, Southside Church, Dyersburg; and Hilliard Goode, retired pastor from Humboldt.



GATHERED DURING THE CONVENTION are, from left, James Bond, pastor, Prosperity Church, Auburntown; Don Owens, pastor, Immanuel Church, Lebanon; and Linda and Bill George, director of missions and wife, Beulah Association.

At Two Rivers Church, Nashville

More than 2,000 people attend national drama festival

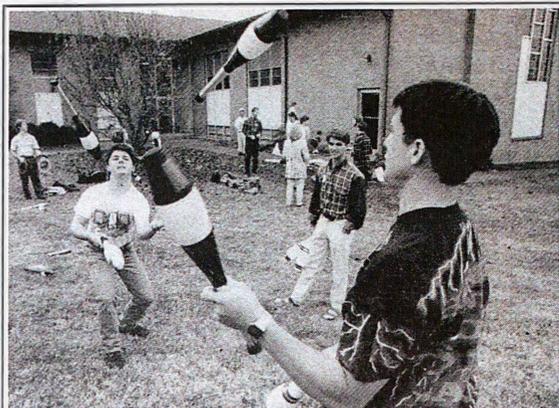
By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — More than 2,000 people attending the Nov. 11-13 National Drama Festival were urged to have as their purpose bringing people to see Jesus rather than calling attention to their performances.

The festival, which offered a wide range of hands-on classes, as well as sessions dealing with the theological and philosophical aspects of drama in the church, was sponsored by the pastor-staff leadership department of the Baptist Sunday School Board and held at Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

Calvin Miller, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, was the keynote speaker. He sounded a caution to participants, which was echoed by leaders of individual conference sessions.

"Call attention to Christ," Miller urged the congregation of Southern Baptist artists, including actors, directors, pro-



LARRY HAMMOND, left, of the Tennessee Tech BSU in Cookeville, and Sean Hartzog of Louisville, Ky., juggle pins together in an outdoor class at Two Rivers Church, Nashville. — Photos by Jim Veneman



CHRISTY HAINES, a professional costume designer and makeup artist, demonstrates the removal of a false beard from the face of Matt Blankenship. Both are members of Clearview Church, Franklin.

ducers, clowns, puppeteers, jugglers, and mimes. "Don't absorb it (attention) all for yourself. Sometimes God redeems by art. He is always honored by artists who bring the congregation to salute Jesus Christ."

In a session on pageants,

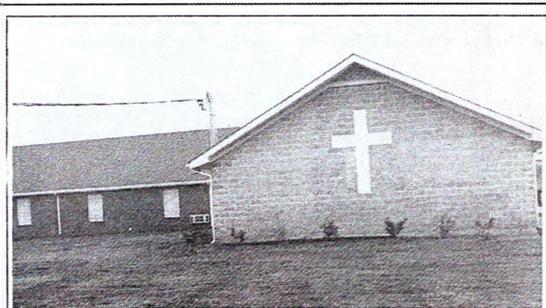
Wayne Johnson, minister of media at First Church, Orlando, Fla., urged conferees not to let the spectacle of a production overshadow the message.

"Don't ever sacrifice the story," he admonished. "When you lose the story, it is wrong. You design the story, and out of

that all the other elements grow. Cute isn't what we're about."

Producers of religious pageants can create the illusion of spectacular biblical events, he observed, but "there are some things you can't do. Only God can do those."

Drama is not something done in church just for fun, said Claudia Hatfield, a conference leader from Emmanuel Church, Alexandria, Va. "Drama is an offering," she maintained. "It is to make people think, to make the message come alive," Hatfield added. □



Dedication in Concord Association

Members of Riverdale Church in Murfreesboro recently dedicated a debt-free worship center and educational facility. The church was constituted in 1990 with 50 members after beginning in 1988 as a mission of New Hope Church. The worship center was built in 1993 and a year later an education wing was added. Pastor Randy Sledge noted 'God has blessed us in an enormous way.' Below, participating in the dedication service were, from left, John Seals, chairman of deacons; Sledge; Bob Dowdy, retired pastor of the mother church; Concord Association Director of Missions James Powers; and Max Burnette, music leader, Riverdale Church.



Memphis church hosts interfaith workshop on Jehovah's Witnesses

MEMPHIS — Speedway Terrace Church will host an interfaith witness workshop in the area of Jehovah's Witnesses Jan 26-27, 1995, sponsored by the TBC Missions Department and the Home Mission Board.

The workshop will address the question, "If a Jehovah's Witness comes knocking at your door, could you be an effective Christian witness to him or her instead?"

The workshop begins Jan. 26, from 2-9 p.m.

with dinner provided. It will continue the next day from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. with lunch provided.

Participants must complete both days' sessions in order to become an interfaith witness associate.

A registration fee of \$15, made payable to Interfaith Witness Department, HMB, is required. Mail check to Susan Babb, TBC Missions Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024-0728. □



First Church, Huntingdon, breaks ground

Pastor Fred Ward, with Bible, recently led church members in breaking ground for a new Family Life Center. The facility will cost \$846,048 and will include 17 Sunday School rooms, an activities center, fellowship hall, office space, and kitchen. Ward told members, 'It is our fond hope that this spot may indeed be holy ground where many may find a burning bush of the revelation and benediction of Jehovah.' Joining Ward for the actual groundbreaking were members of the Finance Committee, Romie Morrisett, chairman; Building Committee, Tommy Cole, chairman; and Interior Design Committee, Betty Butler, chairman. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the churches

■ On Nov. 20 **Prairie Plains Church, Hillsboro**, hosted a community-wide Thanksgiving service. About 175 people representing four denominations attended a service and fellowship meal which followed.

■ The 10th anniversary of its international ministry was observed Oct. 22 by **Brook Hollow Church, Nashville**. The event drew 115 people representing nine nations. The ministry has worked with some 219 adults and 300 children from 29 countries. A Korean Bible class was organized as **Han Vit Korean Church** in 1991. Today it has 160 mem-

bers and has begun a mission in Clarksville, which has 40 members. **Estriberto Britton** of the Tennessee Baptist Convention spoke at the celebration.

■ **First Church, Allardt** has replaced its steeple with a five by eight-foot cross outlined in blue neon light. It was installed Sept. 24.

■ **Colonial View Church, Cookeville**, is holding revival Nov. 27 - Dec. 2 and Appreciation Day Sunday, Dec. 4. Speakers are pastors of some of the local churches that helped construct the church. Speaking Nov. 30 is **Don Rigsby**, Silver Point Church, Silver Point; Dec. 1 - **Ken Altom**, First Church, Cookeville; and Dec. 2 - **Steve Thornton**, Caney Fork Church, Cookeville. On Sun-

day, **Wilson Paker** will speak during the morning service and **Bill Wilson** of the Tennessee Baptist Convention will address the afternoon gathering.

■ **College Heights Church, Gallatin**, had a revival led by **William Blackburn** of Fort Smith, Ark., and **Bud and Barbara Lee**. As a result 151 made public spiritual decisions of which 101 were professions of faith.

■ the schools

■ **Marshall Hargrave**, a member of **First Church, Jefferson City**, and retired minister of education there, has been awarded the **Abundant Life Award** by **Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City**. The award is given for perseverance in overcoming disability and for community service. **Hargrave** was cited for his involvement during retirement in eight missions trips, church programs, the public schools, and as a director of **Habitat for Humanity** and **Samaritan House**, a ministry to the homeless sponsored by the college.

■ the leaders

■ **Terry Wilkinson**, pastor, **Academy Heights Church**,



CHAPLAIN CPT. James D. Powers, right, **Civil Air Patrol**, of **Trenton**, receives the **Chaplain of the Year, Tennessee Wing** award from **Col. Richard C. Bowling**, left, **Tennessee Wing commander**, as **Lt. Col. Reagan** watches. The award was presented during the **Tennessee Wing Conference Oct. 22 in Knoxville**. **Powers** is retired pastor, **Hillcrest Church, Trenton**, and a member of **First Church, Trenton**.

Hendersonville, has resigned effective Jan. 1 to return to full-time evangelism.

■ **First Church, Lenoir City**, has called **Ansell T. Baker** as interim pastor, effective Oct. 23. **Baker** is retired pastor, **First Church, Athens**.

■ **Charles Ingram**, pastor, **Macedonia Church, Lawrenceburg**, for five years has been called as pastor of **Wales Church, Pulaski**, effective Nov. 27. **Carl Bond**, director of missions, **Giles County Association**, has served as interim pastor.

■ **Cedar Grove Church, Maryville**, has called **Douglas**

McPherson of **Halton Road Church, Fort Worth, Texas**, as pastor, effective Nov. 2.

■ **Keith Pierce** of **Glen Lock Church, Sweetwater**, has begun serving **Oak Street Church, Maryville**, as pastor.

■ **Pine Grove Church, Duck River**, has called **Larry Spears** of **Summertown** as pastor.

■ the people

■ **Russwood Church, Springville**, held deacon ordination service for **Charles Harrison** Nov. 13.



POSING TO CREATE "The Windows of Christmas," staged by **Calvary Church, Lenoir City**, are members of the church. This year the drive- and walk-thru event will be **Dec. 11-13, 7-9:30 p.m.**

Associations continue reporting on fall meetings



NEW OFFICERS OF BIG HATCHIE Association are installed by **Ray Jones**, right, **director of missions**. The officers are, from left, **Paul Olson**, **First Church, Covington**, assistant treasurer; **James Beard**, pastor, **Durhamville Church, Ripley**, treasurer; **Jimmy Clay**, pastor, **Elim Church, Ripley**, assistant clerk; **Frances Slover**, **Pleasant Grove Church, Covington**, clerk; **William Northcott**, pastor, **First Church, Covington**, vice moderator; and **Randall Cummings**, pastor, **First Church, Ripley**, moderator.



ELECTED TO SERVE WATAUGA ASSOCIATION this next year were, from left, **Judy Bailey**, **Siam Church, Elizabethton**, assistant clerk; **Sue Anderson**, **Siam Church**, clerk; **Larry Riddle**, pastor, **Oak Street Church, Elizabethton**, vice moderator; and **Don Bowery**, pastor, **First Church, Mountain City**, moderator.



DIRECTED TO LEAD GRAINGER ASSOCIATION during the meeting were, from left, first row, **Sarah Tydings**, clerk and office secretary; **David Tydings**, director of missions; back row, **Raymond Long**, pastor, **First Church, Bean Station**, moderator; and **Terry Greenlee**, music director, **New Blackwell Church, Rutledge**, associational music director.



KNOX COUNTY ASSOCIATION officers leading or named during the meeting are, from left, **Larry Beeler**, pastor, **First Church, Fountain City, Knoxville**, vice moderator; **Walter Davis**, pastor, **Parkway Church, Knoxville**, outgoing moderator; **Walter Taylor**, director of missions; **Glenn Sullivan**, pastor, **Smithwood Church, Knoxville**, current moderator; and **Eugene Fleming**, interim pastor, **Immanuel Church, Knoxville**, clerk.

S.C. messengers strengthen ties with institutions

Baptist Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Messengers to the 174th annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention approved changes in the convention constitution and bylaws that clarify relationships with convention agencies and institutions.

Messengers also elected Jerry Lethco, pastor of Clear View Church, Charleston, as the 1995 convention president, approved the 1995 convention budget of \$23.4 million, and extended a missions partnership with Kenya through 1996.

Revisions in the constitution and bylaws change the convention's legal status,

un-incorporating the general board and incorporating the convention. On Jan. 1, 1995, the general board becomes the board of directors of the convention and will be referred to as the executive board.

Messengers approved charter revisions for the convention's seven institutions, all in keeping with the convention's revised bylaws and the new South Carolina Non-profit Corporation Act. The institutions include Anderson College, Charleston Southern University, North Greenville College, Connie Maxwell Children's Home, South Carolina Baptist Ministries for the Aging Inc., Baptist Foundation, and *Baptist Courier*.

Executive Director B. Carlisle Driggers said changes occurring through the new structure include clarification of the convention's legal status, protection of convention messengers from liability for convention acts and debts, and clarification of the legal relationship between the convention and its seven institutions.

Lethco, who was first vice president of the convention in 1994, was elected president in a run-off with Ronald Davis of North Side Church, Greenwood. Two other candidates were on the first ballot.

Messengers approved the 1995 convention budget of \$23,446,667, only \$41,667 more than the 1994 budget. □

Cooperation shown at BGCO meeting

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Harmony, cooperation, and evangelism highlighted the 89th annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma Nov. 14-16 at Southern Hills Church here.

The 1,247 messengers also approved a 1995 budget of \$17.45 million, which keeps the split at 58 percent for Oklahoma missions and 42 percent to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Charles Graves, pastor of Quail Springs Church, Oklahoma City, was elected convention president in a runoff election over Nick Garland, pastor of First Church, Broken Arrow. Graves received 53 percent of the 456 votes cast. □

Florida Baptists reduce SBC funding

Baptist Press

DAYTONA Beach, Fla. — The Florida Baptist State Convention was characterized by a spirit of cooperation, with only three items causing discussion for the 1,668 registered messengers Nov. 14-16.

Messengers adopted a Cooperative Program budget of \$24,064,477, with 41 percent going to national causes, down from 42.2 percent.

A proposal on a three-year budget plan which would reduce the SBC CP allocation to 40 percent beginning in 1996 passed without comment.

Messengers sent back to committee for further study a proposal to have two semi-annual missions offerings instead of the four currently promoted.

Ken Whitted of Tampa was elected convention president on first ballot over two other candidates. □

Yarbrough elected GBC president in disputed vote

Compiled from news reports

MACON, Ga. — In one of the closest elections in recent history, John Yarbrough was elected president of the Georgia Baptist Convention Nov. 15 by a margin of 34 votes over Jim Ramsey of Albany.

Yarbrough was backed by convention conservatives while Ramsey was supported by moderates. Both men announced their candidacies last spring, believed to be the earliest announcements in Georgia Baptist Convention history.

Balloting in the election was confusing, with uncertainty about how and where to mark ballots. Messengers had to vote twice.

Because many ballots were not clearly marked, an audit committee had to review several ballots to determine the intent of voters. The controversy

deepened when two moderate Baptists on the tellers committee were refused entry into the audit room to monitor the ballot counting.

The two tellers, David Key of Union Point and John Wyatt of Tucker, were prepared to issue a news release calling for a "reliable and objective system for validating ballots." But after an hour-long conference with top Georgia Baptist Convention leaders, who promised to bring in outside auditors to monitor future elections, they withheld their press release.

Almost 5,400 messengers registered for the Nov. 14-16 convention in Macon.

Messengers also:

- rebuffed an attempt to increase the percentage of Cooperative Program dollars staying in Georgia to 70 percent and passed a CP budget of \$34,623,000.

- approved with no debate a report clarifying what it takes to be a "cooperating" church in the GBC.

- approved a historic resolution of acknowledgment of and repentance for the sin of racism within the SBC, both past and present. □ — BP & ABP reports

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Unit Coordinators Needed

The Georgia Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, Inc. is currently looking for individuals to fill Family Service Unit Coordinator positions at our Baxley and Palmetto campuses. MSW degree preferred, master's in human services field and at least 2 years supervisory experience required. Responsibilities include supervision of social workers and group leaders, budget management, and more. Must have a good driving record, no criminal record, and be familiar with Southern Baptist beliefs. Salary range is \$21,500-\$23,000 depending on education and experience. Call Judy George at 1 (800) 252-0872.

Couples/Singles Needed

The Developmental Disabilities Ministry (DDM) of the Georgia Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, Inc. is currently looking for couples without dependent children and singles to fill full-time positions in the Metro Atlanta area. DDM is a state-wide program of group homes serving adults with mental retardation. These are live-in positions with a work schedule of 6 days on, 3 days off. Qualifications include a HS education or GED, minimum age of 21, a good driving record and no criminal record. Salary range per person is \$9,500-\$11,500. Serious inquiries only. Call Judy George at 1 (800) 252-0872 for further information.

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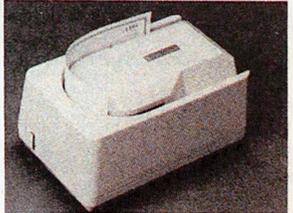
Group Leaders Needed

The Georgia Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, Inc. is currently looking for couples and singles to fill Group Leader positions at our Baxley, Meansville, and Palmetto campuses. Qualifications include a HS education or GED, minimum age of 25, a desire to work in a Christian environment, a good driving record, no criminal record, skills in the area of group dynamics, child care and home management. Group Leaders live in a cottage with 8-10 young people. Salary range per individual is \$9,500-\$11,500 depending on education and experience. Call Judy George at 1 (800) 252-0872 for further information.

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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

God punishes sin

By Elizabeth Howard

Dr. R.G. Lee, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, for many years, used to preach a classic sermon, entitled "Payday Someday." The sermon was about King Ahab who wanted Naboth's vineyard. When Naboth refused to sell it, Ahab lay down on his bed, turned his face to the wall, and refused to eat (I Kings 21:4). His wife, Jezebel, contrived to have Naboth killed so Ahab could have the vineyard. It was several years before Ahab and Jezebel reaped their reward; but eventually they were both killed, and the dogs licked their blood (a demeaning way to die). Dr. Lee's point was that God punishes sin, though the punishment may be a long time in coming.

The rulers in Micah's day were like Ahab and Jezebel, for Micah wrote: "Woe to those who devise wickedness and work evil upon their beds! ... They covet fields, and seize them; and houses, and take them away; they oppress a man and his house, a man and his



HOWARD

**Life and Work Series
for Dec. 4
Focal Passage
Micah 1:1-5a; 3:8-12**

inheritance (ch. 2:1-2).

Micah's preaching — ch. 1:1-2

Micah was from a small village called Moresheth, but his preaching was directed at the large cities of his day, particularly Samaria and Jerusalem, the capital cities of Israel and Judah. He lived at about the same time as Hosea, though Hosea was in the North and Micah was in the South. His messages came to him in visions which he received from God. The setting is the temple, where God will take the witness stand to testify against the nation. Micah summons all the inhabitants of the earth to hear what God has to say.

Lord's coming — vv. 3-5a

God does not dwell on the earth or in idols made by human hands. He is coming down from heaven to deliver his judgment. Micah uses figurative language to depict the cataclysmic event: the mountains, God's stepping stones, will melt and run down like molten lava, the valleys will split apart. He is coming down because of the sins and

transgressions of Israel, and his judgment will be terrible indeed.

Divine judgment

— ch. 3:8-12

Micah contrasted himself to the many false prophets of his day. Unlike them, his power and his message, a declaration of the sins of Israel, came from God. His strongest condemnation was for the leaders, who were violent and corrupt. He charged the rulers with selling "justice" for a bribe, the priests with teaching for a price, the prophets with prophesying for money. Yet while they were following their immoral practices, they were deeply involved in the forms of religion. Judgment would come because of the leaders, but everyone would suffer. Jerusalem would be plowed like a field, and the temple site would be overgrown with briars.

Some of Micah's prophecies did not come to pass for a long time, but they did come to pass. (The temple was destroyed by the Babylonians more than a century later.) It sometimes seems that people get by with sin, but it may only be that we don't yet have the full picture. There is a "payday someday." □ — Elizabeth Howard is a member of Cumberland Homestead Church, Crossville.

Bible Book Series

for Dec. 4

Focal Passage

Philippians 1:27-2:13

Unity in the mind of Christ

By Ray Fullilove

It is true that "as a man thinketh in his heart so is he." Thoughts can lift us up or let us down, inspire us or indict us, put a smile on our face or sorrow in our heart, make us sing or make us sad.



FULLILOVE

Perhaps this is why Paul declared, "For I am determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (I Corinthians 2:2). Paul's message was Christ. Paul's motivation was Christ. Paul desired to have the mind of Christ. Jesus consumed his thoughts, controlled his spirit, captivated his heart, and confirmed his will. It kept him together with Christ. Thus, Paul commands the church at Philippi, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). Unity is developed when we have the mind of Christ.

Surface our purpose — vv. 27-30

When we let Christ have our mind, our main purpose will be to glorify him. It will unite his church for the challenge before them. With a world still resistant to the Word of God, still rebellious to the will of God, and rejecting Jesus, the Living Word of God, our purpose is to stand on the Word of God, for the Word of God, and to proclaim the Word of God. The church at Philippi is admonished to continue the fight of faith. Paul encourages them to remain faithful. When Christ consumes our mind, we will find that it will surface God's purpose.

One, it will keep us going in a world that needs to know that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. It will keep us glowing for Christ (v. 28). Our testimony stands out as a pronouncement against sin, but inspires us in our proclamation for Christ.

Then, it will keep us glowing (vv. 29-30). In adversity, the church advances. In persecution, it gains power. In death, it declares victory. In suffering, it succeeds for Jesus. When Jesus consumes the mind of the church, the church conquers for Jesus.

Signify our power — ch. 2:1-18

When we think of Jesus, we desire to be like Jesus. When we begin to let the Holy Spirit control our mind, we will be motivated to live like Jesus. We will find where our power resides. We will find that we succeed by letting go, getting to the top by going to the bottom, gaining everything by giving away everything. It is becoming a servant to others that they may see Jesus in us. The way of our Savior was the way of a servant.

Thus, we see that our power to glorify Jesus is decisive (vv. 1-3), demanded (vv. 4-5), demonstrated (vv. 6-11), and is different (vv. 12-18).

The way that we win the world to Jesus is to walk in the way of Jesus. It will unite our fellowship, lift up our Savior, change our disposition, and shine brighter in a world which seems to grow darker. The hardest step is to die to ourselves. But that is the way of the cross. The world needs to see Christ lifted up in our lives.

Stimulates our potential — vv. 19-30

Servanthood develops sainthood. Great men of God become known because of the unknown people in our lives. Little people with big hearts for Jesus touched them.

Paul became a champion of the faith because of companions in the faith. They were Timothy and Epaphroditus. Their potential for Jesus was generated as they served the people of God. It is noted by the example of consecration (vv. 19-24), the example of compassion (vv. 25-28), and congeniality (vv. 29-30). Our potential is developed in service.

We are to lift others in the grace of God, to love others by the grace of God, and to show our gratitude toward others because of the grace of God. We are unified together in Christ because we have the mind of Christ. □ — Ray Fullilove is pastor of Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis.

John heralds Jesus' coming

By Samuel Dean

Our lesson for this Sunday may seem odd to begin the season of Advent. Frequently we focus on the Old Testament prophecy of the Messiah to prepare ourselves for Christmas. However, the selection of a study of John the Baptist fits beautifully in our season of spiritual preparation for the Lord's coming.



DEAN

Man called John

Each of the four Gospels has a role for a man called John the Baptist. He is presented as a prophet of God to prepare the way for the Lord's ministry.

John is depicted as an eccentric prophet preoccupied only with truth. He did his preaching in the wilderness of Judea (v. 1). Contrary to our norms of evangelism, the people came to where he was preaching. There was a magnetic quality that drew the crowd to hear his urgent message. People wanted to hear a passionate man of truth.

John's appearance could have been a turnoff. His clothing was of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist. His diet was locusts and wild honey. He would not have made the top ten best-dressed ministers list in Judea. Pulpit committees from Jerusalem would not have interviewed him after seeing his photo on his resume or observing his table manners!

Yet God has a way of using strange people to do his work. The message of God is often presented on strange stages by unexpected actors in life. The appearance of the messenger must not invalidate the message that is presented.

Message of John

The central motif of the preaching of John was clear and simple: "Repent ye, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand" (v. 2). No one misunderstood John's message. He did not mince his words. He went for a direct hit in calling for people to repent. The Pharisees and Sadducees who had come to hear him were confronted with the same message of repentance (v. 7). He spared no one of great status. Truth was truth for one and all. Speaking plainly eliminated being misunderstood.

**Convention Uniform Series
for Dec. 4
Focal Passage
Matthew 3:1-15**

Why in the world would great crowds go to the wilderness and hear a weird man tell them to shape up? Was it not the element of good news in the call to repentance? To repent is to change. Knowing that one can be different is good news. Repentance has the positive side of focusing on what can be different!

One was to repent because the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand. The in-breaking of God's presence in a mighty way was the occasion for a changed life.

Mighty one to come

The Kingdom at hand was to come in the person of one whose shoes John could not carry (v. 11). Whereas John baptized with water, the Coming One would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. If the people thought John was too demanding of them, Jesus would be more demanding (v. 12). Just as John called for repentance, Jesus began his ministry with the same theme (Mark 1:14).

Whenever God comes into our lives, there is a call for us to adjust and to change our course of action. Truth becomes the measuring rod for our behavior. The life of Christ becomes our norm. The mind of Christ becomes our attitudinal guide.

With such a great revelation of God to man in Christ, why do we not change? Change is hard. It is the dying of the old and the birth pains of the new. The old is so comfortable. Anxiety hovers over the new. Indeed, man fears goodness for it calls forth a continuous growing pursuit of what is better.

The Good News is that man can change with God's help. The bad news is that man does not want to bring forth fruits worthy of repentance. Thus God calls and man hides. How blessed are those who hear the call and allow the old to pass away and permit all to be made anew in Christ! □ — Samuel Dean is pastor of First Church, Clinton.

West Texas pastor shot while counseling

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Marion Eugene Stevens, longtime pastor of Southside Church, Monahans, Texas, was fatally shot Nov. 15 while reportedly counseling a couple with marital problems.

Stevens, 68, was pronounced dead at the scene, killed by a shotgun blast to his head, according to authorities.

Carleton Russell Reed Sr., 74, was arrested and charged with murder. Stevens had been counseling Reed and his wife, Virginia, who is a member of Southside Church. □

Vote on women's ordination prompts new association

Baptist Press

CINCINNATI — A new Baptist association has been formed in the wake of a vote by the Cincinnati Baptist Association that fell short of opposing the ordination of women as deacons and pastors.

An amendment to the association's constitution limiting membership to churches that do not ordain women received a 147-80 vote in the association's recent annual meeting, 23 votes shy of the 75 percent needed for the amendment.

That night, an announcement was made that persons interested in forming a new association would meet the next night at New Bethel Church in nearby Norwood. More than 150 members from 22 associations attended. A second meeting Nov. 1 drew 131 people from 20 churches, according to

New Bethel Pastor Kirk Pike.

While a proposed constitution is to be voted on either at the upcoming Dec. 6 or Jan. 3 meetings, the new association has named itself the Ohio Valley Baptist Association and elected Pike as moderator pro tem.

The vote by the Cincinnati association stemmed from a year of controversy over the ordination of a woman deacon at Mt. Carmel Church, home church of Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, moderator of the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and retired executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. Her husband, Joseph, is Mt. Carmel's pastor emeritus.

Robert Dunn, director of missions for the Cincinnati association said the association's vote did not approve the ordination of women or say they do not believe in the Bible. "We did say again we do believe that the choice of deacons is the business of the church. We did say again that the association was not to interfere in the church's business." □

Baptist prisoners freed in Saudi Arabia

Baptist Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Two Baptists jailed for holding a Bible study in Saudi Arabia were released and sent home to the Philippines Nov. 16, church workers report.

The two Philippine Baptists, Joel Cunanan and Jun Moya, were freed unharmed after nearly three months in custody.

Five other Filipinos were released shortly after the Bible

study was broken up Aug. 26 by Saudi Muslim "religious police."

The fate of another Philippine Christian, one of eight detained by the Saudis, remains unclear. □

Ohio Baptists oppose closing of bookstore

Baptist Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Opposition to closing the Baptist Book Store here was voiced in a resolution adopted during the 41st annual meeting of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

The bookstore, slated to close Dec. 31, is located in the Baptist building in a low-traffic shopping area of downtown.

Don Murray, a regional representative of the Baptist Sunday School Board, addressed the convention to say the board will be considering a future Baptist Book Store with greater traffic flow and potential in Ohio.

John Hays, pastor of Jersey Church, Pataskala and a Foreign Mission Board trustee, was elected president in a runoff after an initial ballot with four nominees.

The convention adopted a 1995 Cooperative Program budget of \$3,515,798. □

Indiana Baptists underscore CP support

Baptist Press

MARION, Ind. — Southern Baptists in Indiana honored the work of laymen and laywomen in their churches, re-elected their officers, and made clear their commitment to the Cooperative Program during



RISK!

Traveling in strife-torn Nicaragua is an act of faith for missionaries Viola and Jim Palmer who have risked exploding land mines, hostage situations, and personal assaults to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Palmers recently opened a new work with the Miskito Indians, but getting to their village requires travel by boat and then crossing this log foot bridge. Travel safety is a prayer concern as is the need for more missionary personnel to reach the Indians. 'Risk' is the theme of the 1994 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. See additional information on page 6.

their annual meeting Nov. 15-16 here.

A motion introduced by Sid West of Fort Wayne, was unanimously approved without dissent. It instructed the state's executive board to "maintain our present policy regarding gifts to the cause of Christ as sent by our churches throughout the Cooperative Program."

Messengers adopted a 1995 budget of \$3,191,827 with 32.25 percent of the receipts targeted for the SBC CP. They also re-elected layman Sanford Peterson of Greenwood as president. □

Illinois Baptists repent of racist attitudes

Baptist Press

ALTON, Ill. — Illinois Baptists passed a resolution Nov. 4 declaring "our corporate repentance before God for the sins of our forefathers and of ourselves" regarding racist attitudes.

The resolution reaffirmed Illinois Baptists' "desire for unity and community throughout the Body of Christ." Messengers approved the resolution, which was submitted by the great-grandson of a Confederate soldier, with scattered opposition.

In other actions, messengers elected by acclamation Roger Ellsworth of Benton as president.

More than 1,200 people, including 776 elected messengers attended the meeting. Messengers adopted a \$5.21 million Cooperative Program goal with 40.75 targeted for the SBC. □

California Baptists honor Hogue, meet new executive

Baptist Press

SAN DIEGO — California Baptists honored C.B. Hogue, their retiring executive director, and welcomed his successor, Fermin Whittaker, a Home Mission Board staffer, during the 54th annual meeting of the California Southern Baptist Convention Nov. 15-16.

In other action, messengers turned back a challenge against seating messengers from a church with a woman pastor and declined to increase the percentage of votes required to refuse seating messengers at future conventions.

Messengers approved a \$12.8 million state convention budget which earmarks 28.85 percent for SBC causes. □

West Virginia Baptists hike SBC CP percent

Baptist Press

FAIRLEA, W. Va. — West Virginia Baptists voted to increase the percentage of their Cooperative Program budget for national and international causes by a half-percent during their Nov. 4-5 annual meeting.

Messengers approved the 1995 CP budget of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists at \$812,034, with 29 percent designated for SBC causes.

J. David Jicka of Huntington was elected president. □

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