

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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Home missions offering second highest in history

Baptist Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions last year were the second highest in the history of the special offering, according to Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis.

Lewis, speaking to the Woman's Missionary Union executive board, praised WMU members for conducting the annual missions offering which makes up nearly half of HMB funding.

According to the year-end, unaudited report, 1994 gifts totaled \$37.18 million, 2.4 percent more than 1993 receipts. The largest offering was \$37.6 million in 1992.

Lewis said he is confident "this time next year I will be able to announce to you that the 1995 Annie Armstrong Offering was the largest in history." The 1995 offering goal is \$50 million. "I agree that is an ambitious but reachable goal," he said.

This year marks the 100th year WMU has promoted a home missions offering. □

Get your paper with personal style and flair; churches only

Tennessee Baptist churches, have you noticed the big increase in postage for mailing your church newsletter?

Have you calculated that weekly total into monthly or annual dollars?

Are you aware that there is an alternative for you — one that is efficient and economical?

Have you read about the churches that are taking advantage of the Church Page Trial Plan?

Do you realize that postage rates for church news letters have just increased — and may increase again in a few months? (See story below.)

We have a plan just for you, a plan that can give the church secretary more time for actual church work. It is a plan that eliminates for you some of the costs you incur in gathering news, preparing copy, addressing, mailing, and paying for the address changes of your church newsletter. It uses Cooperative Program dollars wisely — without duplication or overlapping.

Here's the plan that is so simple it is almost ingenious:

Use the pages of the *Baptist and Reflector* for your newsletter — it is that easy.

Do this, and we do most of the work for you. Our staff is trained to help you.

A church can use the back page of the paper each week, and additional pages as necessary. Just gather your news and announcements, get them to our office in person, by Fax, by telephone, or by mail — and we pre-

pare your page(s) for you — using your personal touch in design. We can also design it for you. There is sufficient lead time to include the most timely news and information. You can call on Mondays with late news.

The cost is very economical, and each church page receives personal care from our professional staff.

What are the benefits?

In addition to the economical and efficiency factors, church members will be able to read, on the remaining pages, the news and features, etc., that are published weekly in the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Each subscriber will have home church news and other Baptist news in one attractive, readable package.

Also, there is a special subscription rate for churches using the Church Page Plan.

The *Baptist and Reflector* has other plans for church-wide subscriptions, a smaller group within the church, and for individuals.

Even if the church does not choose the Church Page Plan, it is economical to subscribe for at least half of the active church membership. There is a plan for this group also.

Remember, this paper is your official Tennessee Baptist newsjournal with proven record. We provide all the latest pertinent news for Tennessee Baptists and their churches.

Telephone our office in Brentwood right away for additional information (615) 371-2003. — Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor. □

Editor warns of postage hike from 'Contract with America'

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Postal rates have just jumped almost 23 percent for nonprofit mailers, such as churches, state Baptist newspapers, and other religious publications.

But if one item in the "Contract with America" — now being debated in Congress — is adopted, rates will rise another 22-23 percent, according to Bob Terry, editor of *Word and Way*, the state Baptist newsjournal of Missouri.

The item of concern in the Contract with America calls for "reform of financing of future federal retiree benefits," said Terry, who serves on the Mailers' Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC), a group of mailers that meets quarterly with the senior management of the United States Postal Service (USPS).

The proposed reform would

require the USPS to make advance payments totaling \$11 billion to the federal government to fund the next five years of USPS retiree benefits, Terry said. That's quite a contrast to the present arrangement, in which the USPS pays retiree benefits to the federal government on a "pay as you go" basis — "or as the obligations come due," said Terry, who represents a broad-based coalition of religious publishers, including Southern Baptists on the MTAC.

"The Postmaster General has said if (the reform is enacted), they will immediately file for another postal rate increase," Terry said, because all benefits for USPS retirees are provided by postal revenues — not from tax revenues.

It's not only nonprofit mailers, but all postal consumers who will likely be impacted by the rate increase, Terry said.

He said the cost of a first-class stamp could jump to 35 cents by the end of 1995 if the reform is enacted. (Stamps rose from 29 cents to 32 cents on Jan. 1.)

Terry urges concerned Baptists and others to contact their congressmen and senators in Washington and urge them not to vote for the part of the Contract with America that calls for "reform of financing for future federal retiree benefits."

The steep increase on Jan. 1 in nonprofit postal rates was a surprise, since the USPS board of governors had requested a much smaller increase from the Postal Rate Commission, (PRC) which has the final say in postal rates.

Although the USPS board of governors had only requested a 16-17 percent increase for second-class mail and 4 percent

for third-class mail, the PRC increased the rates 22 percent for second-class and 14 percent for third class, effective Jan. 1.

Terry noted the Jan. 1 increase was in addition to a more modest increase that had already occurred on Oct. 1, 1994. That increase was one of a series of slow and steady increases provided for by the Revenue Foregone Reformation Act, (RFRA) which was enacted two years ago, Terry said. Under the act, on Oct. 1 of each year, second-class rates rise by 2-3 percent along with a 4 percent increase for third-class rates. The Oct. 1 increases will continue for the next four years, according to the terms of RFRA, Terry said.

RFRA also ensures that nonprofits will continue to pay lower postal rates — 100 percent of the cost of handling the mail but only 50 percent of institutional or overhead costs. □

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

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WMU board approves foundation

By Teresa Dickens
For Baptist Press



FORMER WMU DIRECTOR Alma Hunt poses with Jim Henry, SBC president, at the Alma Hunt Museum of Woman's Missionary Union, which Henry helped dedicate at the organization's national headquarters Jan. 7 during the WMU board meeting. Hunt served from 1948-74.

TALLADEGA, Ala. — The Woman's Missionary Union's executive board accepted during its Jan. 7-11 meeting a report from its Long Range Planning Committee, which called for, among other things, the formation of a foundation.

The committee's report was presented during the Sunday evening session of board's annual meeting at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly, Talladega, Ala. Along with board members, the five-day meeting also was attended by state WMU executive directors and their staffs; national WMU staff; invited furloughing foreign missionaries; and other guests.

In a Jan. 10 vote, the board voted to establish the Woman's Missionary Union Foundation, which it received as a recommendation from the Long Range Planning and Finance committees.

The board also approved a loan to the WMU Foundation for start-up cost. The funds will be released to the foundation over five years with repayment due to WMU, SBC, by the end of its 15th year of operation.

The foundation will operate independent of WMU, SBC, with its own staff and board of trustees. The foundation's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws will call for the WMU executive director and national president to be members of the foundation's trustees.

Although the foundation will be a separate entity, its purpose will be to support national missions projects of WMU, SBC; to provide contin-

gency funds for its own operations and WMU work within the states; and to assure the financial security of WMU, SBC, into the future.

The WMU's existing Second Century Fund, Vision Fund, and various scholarships will eventually be transferred to the foundation. Stipulations for the distribution of each fund or scholarship will remain the same.

"The WMU Foundation will allow gifted lay people who appreciate the work of WMU and desire to assure its ongoing ministry to assist us," said Delanna O'Brien, WMU executive director. "It will also broaden the awareness of the many missions projects initiated by WMU, benefiting many at home and around the world physically and through the sharing of the good news of Christ."

The board also approved the recommendation of the committee to employ a chief operations officer, with the title Senior Associate Executive Director, to streamline planning and decision-making processes. June Whitlow, who has served on the national WMU staff for 28-years, was named to the position by the board.

The board also heard reports on three items approved during their June 1994 board meeting that were an outgrowth of the Long Range Planning Committee. Two related to the committee's call to strengthen operations by utilizing new technologies.

Patricia Ferguson, WMU information services group manager, told board members the national office is now online with MissionsNet, a new library under SBCNet in CompuServe.

Ferguson also announced the Baptist Sunday School Board was providing state WMU offices memberships to and start-up kits for CompuServe.

Both developments, she noted, will strengthen communication with Southern Baptists and state WMU leaders.

The other report concerned the development of a network of volunteers for WMU-related ministry projects. The board learned that the network will be called WMU Volunteer Connection and that a volunteer coordinator will be secured.

In other business, the WMU executive board:

- approved the establishment of the Jessica Powell Loftis Scholarship fund for Acteens. Loftis was an Acteen in a Birmingham-area church who was killed in an automobile accident in October 1993 along with her father. Loftis' mother, Deborah, and grandmother, Mary Carlton Stear, gave the initial gifts to fund the endowed scholarship.

- approved the budget for the WMU Vision Fund, which was created in June 1993 to fund ministry projects. The budget for 1995, totalling \$194,000, includes funding for WMU's social issues projects, the Alma Hunt Museum, Girls in Action camps in new work areas, and assistance for language work, among other items.

- approved the report of the task force assigned to develop Project HELP: AIDS, the 1995-96 social issue. As approved, the project will include a nationwide effort to collect items needed by local AIDS ministries and an international project. □

- 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.
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Printed on
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Here's Hope participants will need persistence in witnessing: Robinson

Baptist Press

ATLANTA, Ga. — As Southern Baptists' first simultaneous witnessing effort gets under way, Darrell Robinson urged participants to not get discouraged.

Robinson, Home Mission Board vice president for evangelism, said he sometimes shares the Gospel 15 or 20 times before he leads anyone to Christ.

When people do not make a profession of faith, Robinson said he gives them a Gospel booklet and his phone number. He tells them to call him if they change their mind.

People's response to the Gospel is a work of the Holy Spirit, Robinson said. "We can't determine that, but we can be a faithful witness."

The effort for Southern Baptists to share Christ every day for 60 days began Jan. 9 with the theme of "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now." While one goal is for people to make professions of faith, another goal is for Christians to obey the command to witness.

Last fall David Zimmerman, pastor of Atkinson Road Church in suburban Atlanta, trained members to share their faith by using the "Roman Road" material. The main thing members learned, Zimmerman said, was "they don't have to get people saved to be successful."

"Jesus said, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' Our job is to follow."

Zimmerman said he also wanted to teach his members they don't have to have an-

swers to every spiritual question to share Christ. "All of us who come to Christ do so with many unanswered questions, and we still don't know all the answers," he said.

In a Sunday service at Atkinson Road, 60 people agreed to participate and another 17 committed to share Christ sometime in the 60 days.

By Wednesday night, members already were excited about their attempts to share Christ although they did not report any professions of faith, Zimmerman said.

"One lady was just pumped," Zimmerman said. "She said the words just seemed to flow right out of her mouth as the Lord made her sensitive" to a non-Christian she knew. □

Billy Graham plans crusade via satellite

Baptist Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Evangelist Billy Graham will preach the Gospel by satellite in March to as many as 10 million people in 165 countries.

Graham's "Global Mission" crusade, scheduled for March 16-18, is being called the largest evangelistic outreach in the history of the church and one of the most complex technical efforts ever attempted.

It will originate in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where the 76-year-old Graham will preach March 14-18 at Hiram Bithorn Stadium. Satellite broadcasts will begin March 16. □

Bill proposed to establish commission on gambling

By Tom Strode
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A Congressman from Virginia hopes to establish a panel to study the impact of gambling in the United States.

Rep. Frank Wolf, R.-Va., announced Jan. 10 he will introduce a bill to form the National Gambling Impact and Policy Commission for the purpose of compiling information on gambling's effect on economics, crime, families, and individuals.

The nine-member panel Wolf proposes will have three

members appointed by the president, three by the Senate majority leader, and three by the speaker of the House of Representatives. One of the appointees should be a governor from a state which has legalized gambling, he said.

The United States is on a "gambling binge," Wolf said. "This is an issue of national economic importance, and I believe the new Congress should examine it closely over the coming months."

The commission, he said, should review the cost and effectiveness of federal and state regulations, gambling's impact

on other businesses, the influence of gambling promoters on the development of policies regulating gaming, the relationship between gambling and crime, teenage gambling, and the effect of pathological gambling on those involved.

The commission also should propose whether gaming operations on Indian lands should be regulated by the states, not just the federal government, he said.

Wolf said the commission should be established in "a fair and balanced" way, in order to centralize data so "governors, state legislators, and citizens

can have the facts they need to make informed decisions."

The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission applauded Wolf's proposal.

"A congressional commission has the potential of alerting Americans to the dangers of gambling in the same way that the Commission on Pornography formed in 1985 by then-Attorney General Edwin Meese warned of the danger inherent in allowing unbridled proliferation of pornographic material," said Lamar Cooper, the CLC staff member who handles the gambling issue.

"The gambling industry has convinced large numbers of the public and state legislators that gambling revenue is a 'free lunch' to state budget needs, but there still 'ain't no free lunch,'" Cooper said.

"An unbiased commission could point out the discrepancies that exist between what the gambling industry promises to state governments versus what it actually delivers.

"The use of gambling as a source of revenue does not come without a cost. That cost is the negative impact it has on people and communities," Cooper said. □

Texas conservatives discuss funding of state, SBC causes

By Toby Druin
For Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Conservative Baptist Fellowship of Texas took on a new name and talked about new directions in missions giving but gave only bare mention to the question of forming a new state convention at a rally Jan. 10 here.

About 300 people attended the meeting at the Radisson Plaza Hotel following an evening session of the Texas Baptist Evangelism Conference.

Previously known as the Conservative Baptist Fellowship of Texas, it will now be known as "Southern Baptists of Texas," according to Miles Seaborn, chairman.

Seaborn, a Fort Worth pastor, said they were "in the process of reorganizing and restating our name and re-

defining our board of directors."

Four to six regional meetings will be held during the year, a newsletter will be distributed, and "we are talking to people about being candidates" for office at the state convention in San Antonio next fall, Seaborn said.

While he said he is constantly asked if they are planning to start a new state convention, Seaborn gave no definitive answer, saying only he had spoken to a "national leader" who had urged the group "to make sure your heart is for missions and evangelism" and had said the "Southern Baptist organization is open to you."

A brochure distributed at the meeting said the organization "is a network of biblical conservatives who believe in the Southern Baptist Convention has a bright future" and gives churches a "powerful way to reach our world for

Christ." The brochure used the SBC logo.

Seaborn said the organization was given permission by SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman to use the logo. Chapman told the *Texas Baptist Standard* the guidelines for use of the logo give "wide latitude" for its use by organizations in friendly cooperation with the SBC.

Focus of the 90-minute meeting was on how churches could direct their missions giving in light of the convention action in Amarillo last fall broadening the definition of what constitutes a Cooperative Program gift.

Although the action in Amarillo requires no church to change its method of supporting the Texas Baptist and Southern Baptist conventions, the conservatives resent the new provision that support of the BGCT alone or sup-

port of the BGCT and other "worldwide Baptist missions and ministries" such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship also qualify as CP gifts.

Some Texas Baptist churches reportedly are considering redirecting their gifts around the state convention to the SBC Executive Committee or giving only minimal support to the state convention and the rest to the SBC.

Among the pastors who reported what their churches are doing regarding CP giving was O.S. Hawkins of First Church, Dallas.

He said the church has a committee studying what to do with its CP support and has been escrowing its CP funds since October. He said he was sure there would be a change in the percentage of its gifts going to the state convention, but added, "There are a lot of good things going on in Texas." □

SWBTS awaits accrediting report

Compiled from news reports

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is awaiting word whether any actions have been taken by the Association of Theological Schools' accrediting commission in connection with the trustee firing of Russell H. Dilday Jr. as president last March.

Scotty Gray, SWBTS executive vice president, told Baptist Press Jan. 10 the seminary has not received any official notification of any actions taken by the commission Jan. 6 in Pittsburgh.

A five-member delegation from the seminary made a presentation to the commission during the meeting. Gray said commission action, if any, was voted on after the Southwestern delegation departed. Gray declined to identify who spoke on behalf of Southwestern or what was said on the seminary's behalf. Among the SWBTS delegation were new President Ken Hemphill and Baptist Sunday School Board President Jimmy Draper, who is a former chairman of trustees for the seminary.

ATS teams visited Southwestern last May 23-25 and again on Nov. 14-15 for "fact-finding" and follow up visits.

Among concerns of ATS is the alleged abuse of power and proper procedures by trustees, who fired Dilday despite giving him glowing job evaluations right up to the end.

Many observers believe Southwestern will be placed on probation by the accrediting agency.

"It is my opinion that the seriousness of the charges would justify probation," said one administrator familiar with ATS proceedings.

Most faculty members and administrators contacted by Associated Baptist Press said they expect probation. ATS officials, meanwhile, declined to comment until after the school has been notified and has a chance to appeal.

Probation, while not as serious as withdrawal of accreditation, can hinder a school's ability to attract students and financial support. □ — Compiled from a Baptist Press story by Art Toalston and an Associated Baptist Press article by Greg Warner

Tennessee Baptist churches celebrate noteworthy anniversaries this year

Tennessee Baptist churches celebrate anniversaries each year, and 1995 is not an exception.

Almost 70 churches this year will reach the ages of 100, 125, 150, and 175. None, as far as we know will reach the 200th year. First Church, Mountain City, was 200 last year.

Since anniversaries are special occasions in the lives of churches, the *Baptist and Reflector* tries to report on as many as possible. The staff tries to report personally on those reaching the designations listed above.

Churches noting other special increments (such as 25, 50, 75) can send information to us for publication.

Churches with those special birthdays this year include:

175 years: Hickory Cove, Rogersville; First, Nashville; Old Sweetwater, Sweetwater.

150 years: Battle Creek, Springfield; Beech Springs, Gleason; Cave Springs Missionary, Tazewell; Coal Hill, Harriman; Corinth, McDonald; Elon, Halls; Hickory Valley, Maynardville; Milan, Maynardville; New Hope, Hendersonville; New Market, New Market; New Salem, Limestone; New Salem, Sevierville;

Philadelphia, Waynesboro; Pleasant Grove, Mountain City; Puryear, Puryear; Reelfoot, Troy; Rocky Springs, Bolivar; Smithwood,

Knoxville; Tazewell, Tazewell; Zion, Benton; Zion Hill, Turtletown.

125 years: Antioch, Lenoir City; Bishopville, Heiskill; Bowmantown, Jonesborough; First, Christiana; Clear Branch, Erwin; Clinch River, Lake City; Dry Valley Missionary, Mulberry Gap; Elk River, Butler; Enon, Halls; Enon, Jonesborough; Four Mile, Maryville; First, Grand Junction; Leatherwood, Waynesboro;

Little Mountain, Roan Mountain; First, Loudon; Lucy, Millington; Mount Harmony, Riceville; Mount Pleasant, Tazewell; Mount Pleasant Missionary, Vonore; Mount Union, Clarkrange; Oak Grove, Milan; Spruce Pine, Mooresburg; St. Elmo Avenue, Chattanooga; Ten Mile, Ten Mile; Walnut Grove, Decatur; Wilsonville, Newport.

100 years: Ball Play, Old Fort; Bells Camp Ground, Powell; Blackwater Union Missionary, Mulberry Gap; Cedar Grove, Kingston; Cedar Spring, Cleveland; Clear Branch, Luttrell; Cross Bridges, Columbia; Daysville, Rockwood; Deep Springs, Dandridge; Fairview, Obion;

Florence, Murfreesboro; Glenlock, Sweetwater; Lexie Cross Roads, Belvidere; Missionary Grove, Camden; Mount Gilead, Bethel Springs; Raven Hill, Tazewell; Sylvia, Dickson; Valley Grove, Knoxville; and Walnut Grove, Dickson □ — Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor.

■ 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. □

Good teachings

There are many good questions about Training Union. Why are we trying to study the things we have to contend with every day of our lives, instead of the Holy Word of God?

There is so much in the Scriptures we will never realize in a lifetime even if we study them every day!

Why change the year ending for the Sunday School quarterly when it now coincides with the church year? Is this just something to have a change of no benefit?

Eugene Hall
Newport 37821

Opportunity waits

Baptists have a great opportunity to affect welfare reform by promoting family values and the work ethic.

Certainly government can punish people for not working, for having illicit sex, or for having illegitimate children. But the government cannot make people work, or refrain from sexual behavior, or not have children. Besides the present welfare system was not even designed to eliminate poverty or illegitimacy!

Certainly able-bodied clients should be required to register for work or job train-

ing. But government cannot make businesses hire these clients. Government could give businesses some incentives for hiring welfare clients. But government should not punish a person just because he/she is poor!

Government cannot prevent poverty or illegitimacy. Punishment cannot prevent poverty or illegitimacy.

The causes of poverty and illegitimacy are too many and too complex for simple solutions.

Jim Pennington
Johnson City 37603

Law and culture

How will bashers of gays and lesbians feel when/if science proves that homosexuality is not personal choice but results from genes? The religious right reminds us when the Catholic Church persecuted scientists for findings counter to their worldview. Galileo discovered that the world was not flat with four corners but was a ball orbiting the sun instead of the sun orbiting the earth. The church forced him to recant under threat of execution. The church had its Bible with the picture of a three-tiered universe, and it had power; but Galileo had the truth. Many

similar conflicts between church and science followed the same pattern.

Persecutors declare that "The Bible says plainly ...," failing to take account that much of what the Bible says plainly, especially in the Old Testament, has been set aside. For example, if a boy was stubborn and out of control his parents were to charge him before the elders of the town. If the charge was proved true, they were to stone him to death (Deuteronomy 21:18-21). If a girl got married and it was found that she was not a virgin, she was to be stoned to death (Deuteronomy 22:20). There are other similar examples.

The coming of Christ set aside some Old Testament laws. He said, "You have heard (in the Old Testament), but I say unto you" Honest interpretation requires us to recognize that in the Old Testament especially we have revelation of truth and the presence of cultural mores. Ancient laws made good sense in their ancient setting, but are set aside in our own time. It didn't destroy or weaken the Bible to admit that the three-tiered universe pictured in the Scriptures is not scientific truth. Koshier laws and teachings on

slavery no longer fit or apply. The Bible is a divine/human book which requires intelligent interpretation. A line in the *Baptist Faith and Message* says, "The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ."

D.P. Brooks
Nashville 37214

■ Baptist beliefs

By Herschel H. Hobbs,
Baptist theologian

Giving, not taking

"Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." — Ephesians 4:28

One of the most prevalent sins among pagans was stealing. Many of Paul's readers had come out of paganism when they became Christians. It is possible that some of them were still bothered by their previous lifestyle. Or he simply reminded them that as Christians they should no longer practice theft.

Instead, they should work with their hands in making an honest living and be able to help others in need. Once stealing hands became sharing hands to God's glory. □

Many pastors on verge of being 'denominationally lost,' Henry warns

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — SBC president Jim Henry is concerned younger pastors in the SBC lack the vision for what their involvement in a strong convention can accomplish in the kingdom of God.

Furthermore, Henry said, an active denominational relationship does not threaten local church autonomy.

During a recent visit to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Henry said many younger pastors "are on the bubble. It's not that they don't love Southern Baptists, but they don't know fully the value of the convention. Many are apathetic to who we are as Southern Baptists."

These pastors are not against what has happened in the convention in recent years, Henry said in an interview, but they feel their involvement in denominational activities doesn't make any difference.

Affirming his gratitude for the conservative shift within the SBC, Henry said while the convention may have conservatives in leadership now, he has a fear of the independent-minded that remains in some churches that says, "I can do it and I don't need my brothers and sisters."

"If these guys don't understand their relationship denominationally and fail to support the convention, it won't make any difference who is in leadership," Henry said. "It

will be just a matter of a generation and then everything we have gained will be gone.

"I do not want them to be denominationally lost. For the health and welfare of the convention, Southern Baptists in their 40s and younger need to consider their denominational responsibility," Henry said, suggesting the desire for independence and one's space, which has placed a gap between many churches and the convention, is symptomatic of the culture in which we live.

"If we can get pastors to really see what God is doing with Southern Baptists ... with prayer and support, there is not a denomination in the world that can accomplish as much for ... Christ." □

Welcome Bledsoe Association readers

Bledsoe Association has become the first association in the state to print its newsletter on the back page of the *Baptist and Reflector* on a continuous basis.

Bledsoe took advantage of a trial plan and found it to be beneficial, according to Brent Lay, director of missions for the Gallatin-based association which has a membership

of 33 churches.

Lay said he found using the *Baptist and Reflector* to be an effective cost and time savings means of communicating to the churches.

Churches also can use the *Baptist and Reflector* to print their newsletters. For more information on the Church Page Plan, call (615) 371-2003. □

1,400 volunteers sought for Nairobi crusade

Baptist Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — The largest foreign missions volunteer effort ever undertaken by Southern Baptists will focus on Nairobi, Kenya, this summer.

Requests for 1,400 American volunteers to work with 100 Kenyan Baptist churches are straining the resources — and the imaginations — of

planners on both continents.

That number, if reached, would more than double the 550 Southern Baptist volunteers who participated in 1990's Kenya Coastal Crusade, where more than 55,000 people accepted Christ.

The volunteers, who will participate about two weeks each, will team with local Baptists and Foreign Mission

Board missionaries in door-to-door visitation, mass evangelism rallies, leadership training, discipleship of converts, and starting churches.

The six-week Nairobi crusade is scheduled for June 12-July 18. For information, call 1 (800) 888-8657. Press 1, when prompted by the phone mail greeting, then 3 for Africa volunteer information. □

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests

January

- 18 — The Lord's leadership as Michigan seeks a church extension director.
- 19 — Church planter Tony Duck as he looks for a place to live.
- 20 — Pray for Eva Gutkowski, leader of Polish Baptist women's work, hospitalized in Texas.
- 21 — Pray for financial support for pastors in Poland.
- 22 — Begin praying for the convention meeting Oct. 12-15 and the election of new leadership.
- 23 — Pray for two Greek-speaking churches in Montreal and Quebec that are without pastors.
- 24 — Pray that the Baptist Student Ministries council at the Universities of Winnipeg and Manitoba will be unified and will work together as a team for greater involvement of students from all churches and for the growth of campus meetings.



Time for injury report; big game ahead

Every week big-time football compiles for news media a comprehensive list called "the injury report."

The report includes the status of players who have some physical injury. The list indicates whether the player(s) will be able to play in the Sunday games.

Big Foot Smith, bruised bicep, probable, says the list. And, *Tommy Tosser*, sprained wrist, doubtful; *Billy Buster*, broken nose, day-to-day.

Some injuries are serious, others not so bad, some very slight. Team owners or coaches may try to make opponents guess.

It is interesting to compare such injuries — which could prevent a team from playing its best — with excuses given by Christians who may be lazy or unconcerned.

Could it be that churches need an injury report?

Names of probable replacements are sometimes listed in sports news. That is a luxury not always available to the church.

News reporters even speculate about the adequacy of the replacement player and his effect on team play. There is no guarantee of a substitute if a church member fails to make a report, witness to a lost person, teach the eight-year-olds, sing the anthem's lead, cook for the homeless, visit a shut-in.

The sports team doctor carefully examines the injured players after each game, and may call on medical experts for additional diagnosis and treatment advice. Perhaps church behavior could be mod-

eled after sports teams.

Perhaps some Christians (Baptists even) need some tight taping around injured spiritual ankles, knees, ribs, hearts.

Perhaps some medication can be prescribed for lackadaisical attitudes. Will the coach (pastor) dare to assign a hundred laps around the parking lot to strengthen weak knees?

Will the minister of education make the recalcitrant class member read through the Bible in a week — because he failed to study the lesson?

Can he tell the tardy teacher to write "I will not be late because time in Bible Study is vital to personal growth" a hundred times?

Maybe the music minister can get the choir to sing through the hymnal in seven weeks to cure absenteeism. Where are the subs?

And the good pastor, what about him? When someone goes to sleep during the preaching time, perhaps he should mete out several Sundays of standing during the sermon. Could he render a stiff financial penalty to the slow givers when ministries are not supported with good stewardship? What is the penalty for failure to be a witness? Are staff members guiltless?

In some instances, Baptists look like the bruised and battered players. But excuses for weak faith are futile in the real "game" of good against evil.

Egos definitely do not need to be wrapped, but there is need for strengthening by the Holy Spirit of God.

Band-Aids will not suffice. Boldness

and courage are demanded. Paul's attitude is the pattern.

In II Corinthians, he reports these indignities and sufferings: hard work, imprisoned frequently, flogged, exposed to death, whipped five times with thirty-nine lashes, three times beaten with rods, stoned, shipwrecked three times, always on the move, in danger from people and nature, betrayed, hungry, sleepless, without clothing, pressure of concern for all the churches, sympathetic suffering.

But he persisted, and by the grace of God, he prevailed with his assignment.

Hard work lies ahead as Tennessee Baptists face crucial issues of AIDS, gambling, the abortion issue, drug and alcohol abuse, increased needs for new ministries, faithfulness in stewardship, reaching people for Christ, and scores of others.

Daily living of the committed Christian life accepts no substitutes.

Oh, the world will not be watching the news reports to find out why we are not playing the game. But real life calls for more than tattered and torn excuses. The wrappings of our spiritual sicknesses quickly vanish when we see ourselves through the eyes of Christ.

Well, football players usually get the best available medical assistance. Each one is an investment. The wounds are healed, the game is played, life goes on.

Renewed commitment is necessary for those who serve Christ in the predicament of ordinary people. Yes, it does matter how the game is played. Sick souls are healed by the Savior, but he cares little about bruised egos — and life goes on. □

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Silent monolith

Krakow sits astride the Vistula River in Southern Poland, bathing in grandeur.

Once the seat of the Polish monarchy, it still bustles with activity befitting a city of a million.

The legends that embellish its heritage speak clearly to those who like to hear tall stories, wild yarns. Who knows the truth of sagas born centuries ago?

The stunning beauty and charm of the old city belies

its modern outlook.

For some reason the Nazi armies spared Krakow in World War II from the devastation visited upon Warsaw and other cities of industry.

On the outskirts late one August afternoon, we stopped our vehicle for a trek across a field and up a hill to see firsthand a monument to citizens who died during WW II.

We had slipped out of the big city traffic and, lured by a desire to see other places, we spotted the huge monument.

We passed two girls seated on the top step of the stoneway that led up the hill.

I could imagine they had come to pay homage to the fallen heroes.

Once on top, we saw that it was not a beautiful structure, nothing sculpted from marble. Yet, with austere majesty, it holds a certain splendor.

On the face of the monolith were carved several huge likenesses of Polish people overlooking the city.

The other side bore words depicting the pathos of war, death, and perhaps some brief word of remembrance.

A few minutes later we trod downhill and then made our way back to the heart of beautiful Krakow.

Opting for an American style meal, we chose burgers. Somehow, there was a certain incongruity to the meal.

The light laughter and idle talk momentarily quelled a more serious discussion.

But our thoughts of those silent hilltop voices lingered well past the familiar "good night."

Stern lessons, those war years. Bitter, and not forgotten. A proud nation stands and says, "Never again." ■



ALLEN

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

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

Free to be me in family

All of God's children need the freedom to be who they are, even if at times that means giving permission to mess up.

Dottie Rambo wrote a song a few years ago that said, "He's still working on me." All of us, adults and children, are still under construction.

Let's explore three areas of freedom in the family: freedom from roles, freedom from expectation, and freedom of expression.

We all have a tendency at times to hide behind our roles, such as, "Daddies don't cry," "Parents always know," "Children usually mess up."

We need the freedom and courage to be real. There are times when the pain (emotional or physical) is so great that daddies do cry.

Parents need to give themselves permission and the relief of saying "I don't know" sometimes.

Kids should not be allowed to hide behind the idea that we expect them to mess up. They have a way of living up or down to our expectations.

The family should be a place where there is the security to take off the mask, to be real and genuine. We should feel

■ families matter
By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

free from role playing.

The family also should be a place where we are free from expectation. I do not mean by this that there is no accountability for our actions or attitudes.

There is so much stress created in our world for persons to perform up to standards which may have been set unreasonably high.

The family can be an island of tranquility where each member is free from those unrealistic expectations.

As in most issues of the family, there must be a balance between the extremes.

One extreme is impulsiveness, where there are no boundaries on personal freedom, and the other extreme is suppression where there is no freedom.

A critical area found in many Christian families relates to the freedom to express anger. Anger is looked upon as a negative emotion that is not tolerated and certainly not encouraged to be expressed.

Much of the depression that I find with Christians is simply anger that has been "stuffed" or turned inward because the person felt no freedom to express it.

When we live under the tyranny of the practice that anger is not acceptable in any form, we don't know what to do with our anger when it does occur. It certainly will occur.

We can't help how we feel, but we can help how we act out our feelings.

We all need to know that we have the freedom to express our feelings, even if it is anger, in appropriate ways.

This discussion does not mean a member can be as rotten as he/she wants to be in the family, simply because they have to be accepted.

It is meant to be an encouragement in establishing a climate in the family where members know they will not be "thrown out" when they show some of their bad attitudes.

Often the best way to learn is through our mistakes. □



BARKLEY

Start with a smile

Little Margie had been punished for squabbling with her brother. At mealtime, Daddy called on her for the blessing. She bowed her head and said, "Thank you Lord for preparing this table for me in the presence of my enemies."

Take this thought

All of us like to be vindicated publicly and soon when we feel we have been wronged. Some of David's fiercest psalms were cries for the Lord to destroy those who were mistreating him. We need to remember God doesn't "pay all his debts in October."

Memorize this Scripture

"Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath ... 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay' says the Lord" (Romans 12:19).

Pray this prayer

Lord, you know who needs punishment and when. Help me to leave this decision in Your hands, in Jesus' name. Amen. □

Students with state ties graduate from SBC seminaries

Southern Baptists' six seminaries held graduation services in December. Approximately 40 students with Tennessee ties were among graduates of four of the seminaries — New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS); Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS); Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS), Louisville, Ky.; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS), Fort Worth, Texas.

Photos and information on students were provided to the *Baptist and Reflector* by the seminaries. Information is listed in this order — name, name of home church and location (home town used when church not provided), school, degree.

Abbreviations of degrees are as follows: associate of arts (A.A.); bachelor of general studies (B.G.S.); master of church music (M.C.M.); master of divinity (M.D.); master of divinity with biblical languages (M.D.B.L.); master of divinity in church music (M.D.C.M.); master of arts in Christian education (M.A.C.E.); master of music (M.M.); master of arts in marriage and family counseling (M.A.M.F.C.); master of arts in religious education (M.A.R.E.); doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.); doctor of ministry (D.M.); diploma in theology (Dip.T); and graduate diploma in religious education (Gr.Dip.R.E.).

Speakers during December commencement services at the seminaries included: New Orleans — Landrum Leavell, retiring president of New Orleans Seminary; Southeastern Seminary — Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., and president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Southern Seminary — David Gyertson, president of Asbury College, Wilmore, Ky.; and Southwestern Seminary — Jerry Rankin, president, SBC Foreign Mission Board.

Each of the six SBC seminaries are fully accredited. □



Richard Bray
Memphis
NOBTS
Ph.D.



Wm. Kendrick
Greenvale
Church Hill
NOBTS
M.D.



Kelly McGinnis
Northview
Memphis
NOBTS
M.C.M.



Johnny Mosley
First Church
Cleveland
NOBTS
M.A.C.E.



Elizabeth Rhea
South Clinton
Clinton
NOBTS
M.D.



Freddy Cardoza
Humboldt
SEBTS
M.A.C.E.



Joel E. Story
Bristol
SEBTS
M.D.



Penny Bowers
Parkway
Goodlettsville
SBTS
A.A.



Donald Click
First, Concord
Knoxville
SBTS
Dip.T



Kim Crossno
Woodland
Jackson
SBTS
M.C.M.



Karen W. Davis
Nashville
SBTS
M.D.



John A. Finley
Memphis
SBTS
D.M.



Donna Gandy
Nashville
SBTS
M.A.C.E.



Mark A. Hicks
Sweetwater
SBTS
M.D.



David Jamieson
Brentwood
SBTS
M.D.



David G. Kitts
Oakwood
Knoxville
SBTS
M.T.



Melody Kidd
Grace
Knoxville
SBTS
M.A.C.E.



Marcus D. Kidd
Knoxville
SBTS
M.D.



Jim McAfee
Pastor, Mt. Olivet
Mt. Juliet
SBTS
M.D.



Kathryn Mills
Memphis
SBTS
M.D.C.M.



Dawn Palmer
Franklin
SBTS
M.A.C.E.



Gerald Perry
West Haven
Knoxville
SBTS
A.A.



Mary D. Stewart
Woodmont
Nashville
SBTS
M.A.C.E.



Brian Wilson
Bristol
SBTS
M.A.C.E.



David T. Green
Wildwood
Etowah
SWBTS
M.A.M.F.C.



Kevin C. Hall
Two Rivers
Nashville
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



Patrick S. Hood
First Church
Church Hill
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



Maury Johnson
Memphis
SWBTS
M.A.M.F.C.



Danny B. King
First Church
LaFollette
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



James Locke III
First Church
Mt. Juliet
SWBTS
M.D.B.L.



Terrell Marcom
Northside
McMinnville
SWBTS
M.D.B.L.



William Nelson
Wallace Memorial
Knoxville
SWBTS
M.D.



Walter Norvell
White Haven
Memphis
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



Stephen Pentecost
Memphis
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



Eric Reed
Central
Chattanooga
SWBTS
M.D.B.L.



Chas. Spindler
Whitehaven
Memphis
SWBTS
M.D.



William Taylor
Crossville
SWBTS
Gr.Dip.R.E.



David Wheeler
Hickory Hills
Mt. Juliet
SWBTS
Ph.D.



Todd Young
First Church
Nashville
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.

TBC Pastors Conference president

Ron Herrod resigns to begin evangelism ministry

OAK RIDGE — Ron Herrod, pastor of Central Church, Oak Ridge, has resigned to begin a new organization for evangelism and missions. His final Sunday as pastor will be Jan. 22.

He came to Central Church in 1990 and has been pastor of Southern Baptist churches for 36 years. He currently is president of the Tennessee Baptist

Pastors Conference.

The new organization will be geared to evangelistic crusades and Bible conferences in the United States with four months each year devoted to overseas evangelism projects.

Herrod has been a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and is currently on the board of regents for

Criswell Center for Biblical Studies. He also is an author.

His ministry includes mission projects in 30 countries and many revival and evangelistic crusades in the U.S.

Herrod and his wife, Emily, will continue to live in Oak Ridge, and for the present he will continue serving as the Pastors Conference president until they relocate. □

Tax seminars to be held in three locations

Three tax seminars, sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Church Annuity Programs, will be held across the state in February.

The tax seminars, which target church treasurers, pastors, and church staff members, will be led by a representative of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

Dates and locations are:

Feb. 14 — First Church, Concord, Knoxville, 9:30 a.m.

Feb. 15 — Baptist Center, Brentwood, 9:30 a.m.

Feb. 16 — Madison-Chester Association, Jackson, 9:30 a.m.

There is no cost to attend the seminars and reservations are not required. For more information, call (615) 371-2008. □

Brotherhood project provides clean water

By Bob Carey
For Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — After hosting missionaries Dale and Gaye Coleman, the Baptist Men of Oak Grove Church near Covington knew exactly what the Southern Baptist missionaries to Togo needed.

"We wanted to give them a Pure Water — Pure Love water purification unit," said Jeff Koonce, an Oak Grove member and Big Hatchie Association Brotherhood director.

Pure Water — Pure Love is a new program of the Brotherhood Commission's men's ministries department. It will place water purification units in career missionary homes throughout the world. The program will allow a missionary family to have pure water and will help the family minister more effectively in countries where water can be a major health problem.

"We're excited about the fact that churches can help provide our missionaries the basic physical needs of life — water — and that the missionaries can then tell the people about Christ — the living water," said James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president.

"We are trying to purchase 2,500 units at a cost of \$250 for each unit. For churches, it can be a great way to have a personal touch of missions,"

Williams added.

The Pure Water — Pure Love program officially begins on Baptist Men's Day Jan. 22. Baptist Men's units across the country will be challenged to make this a project for their men's group.

The Pure Water — Pure Love program brings missions closer to home, Williams said. As donors purchase each unit, a label will be attached with the donor's name. Missionaries receiving the unit will provide some basic information to the church about their family and country. This information will allow a church to know how to pray specifically for the missionaries and their country. Each time the missionaries take a drink of pure water, they will be reminded people in the United States are praying for them, Williams said.

"We believe that missions education can be enhanced when it becomes a personal part of your life. Ideally, when the missionaries return home on furlough, they would share with the sponsoring church," he noted.

For the Colemans, the new unit means other ways of sharing the Gospel in Togo, a small country in west Africa.

"I may not be a medical missionary, but I give water to people on my porch every day," Gaye Coleman said. "We give water to everyone who comes to our house. It's a cultural

part of welcoming visitors."

For Dale Coleman, an agricultural specialist, it will mean another step toward changing the way Togolese villagers look at health, sanitation, and water.

"In this part of the world, just the availability of water has been a big boost in public health," Coleman said. "We have a six- to seven-month dry period. The quality of water drops so greatly. The people have come to realize the necessity of having pure water free of contamination. This is a new idea to them. It has shown them the way to a better life.

"As rural workers we will be trying to introduce the pure water concept to the villagers," Coleman continued. "Many cities have good water and it draws the rural people. With the movement of people to the cities, it causes deterioration of the water. By showing villagers the idea of pure water, they can stay in rural areas and have a quality life. It's important to upgrade the quality of life in villages. The villagers provide the food for the country. When villagers leave for the city, the manpower to raise the agriculture diminishes and the entire country suffers."

Coleman said he previously has benefitted from Brotherhood programs.

"I was involved in Royal Ambassadors before going on the mission field. It was a ma-



MISSIONARIES Dale and Gaye Coleman of Togo admire the new water purifier given to them by Oak Grove Church, Covington, represented by Jeff Koonce, left, as James Williams, Brotherhood Commission president, watches. The gift is the first of a new project of the commission entitled Pure Water — Pure Love.

major part of the reason I went to the field," Coleman said of the Brotherhood Commission's program for boys in grades one through six. "RAs helped me get a real taste of missions. I became the RA director at church and later worked in the association.

"Teaching the kids about missions and the requirements to be a missionary helped me realize God was calling me. It took me six years to meet the requirements, but RAs kept me going."

Gaye Coleman cited several benefits to Pure Water — Pure Love. She said she believes the project will take a major burden — worrying about the health of missionaries — off

the local mission office. More importantly, she said, "It will make a direct connection for the missionaries on the field to churches back home in the U.S. We know they care."

The tabletop units will provide 4,000 gallons of clean water or enough to supply a missionary family approximately four years of clean water before a new filter is needed. Placed on the countertop next to the sink, it is an easy addition to most faucets, requiring little skill to install and no electricity to operate.

Further information about the Pure Water — Pure Love project is available from the Brotherhood Commission at (901) 272-2461. □

Sparta church takes TeamKid curriculum and runs with it

By Connie Davis
For Baptist and Reflector

Bear Cove Church, Sparta, has led children's clubs for its community for three years. For the past six months it has been a lot easier because of the new TeamKid curriculum.

David Shelley, pastor, explained he always has enjoyed working with children. His background includes serving as children's director at Immanuel Church in Lebanon and at a Dallas, Texas, church. So he led the Sparta church to develop a ministry to children. By reaching children churches can reach families, he said.

The church has an afterschool club for children once a week. And each spring or summer members hold a neighborhood club meeting in seven to 10 areas of the city to contact children who may not be involved in church.

The TeamKid curriculum, produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville since April, saves him hours of preparation, said Shelley. Until then, he was writing his own curriculum.

TeamKid is a "tournament club" approach to developing a Christian foun-

ation in children, explained Cindy Franks of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Discipleship Training Department. It is a new concept among BSSB materials for children, she said, and has been widely accepted.

Shelley praised the materials, which are easy to use yet creative. To build the team concept TeamKid Club members can wear club T-shirts and learn the TeamKid song. Activities, which support the Children's Bible Drill program, include games, viewing videos, and working in workbooks.

To start an afterschool club, Shelley said he contacted two area elementary schools to ask permission. For a while it was held on campus. When another organization began offering a daycare program, the church decided to move the club to its church site to avoid any perceived competition, he added.

Members transport the children by van. They have more kids than they drew while they were meeting in the school. Shelley attributes the growth to TeamKid and God. He even has to turn away children because of a lack of vans.

Although the church only has 170 on an average week in Sunday School,

it reaches about 30 children each week in the afterschool club, which is held each Monday. And the neighborhood club meetings last year drew about 200 children.

The church also holds TeamKid Clubs for children attending the church. The program rescued a disintegrating Sunday night program for children, said Shelley. He explained the leaders offered Bible Drill but some children weren't interested in that program.

Now on Sunday nights from 5 p.m. to 6:30, TeamKid Club draws about 25. And on Wednesday nights the curriculum is combined with Royal Ambassador curriculum, explained Shelley, which involves about 25 boys.

The ministries have earned the church a good reputation in Sparta concerning programs for children, said Shelley. And it has helped the church.

"Most of the growth we've had you can tie it in with the TeamKid program," he said. Since last year the church has increased in Sunday School average attendance from 130 to 170.

Franks said Bear Cove is a good example of what churches can do with

the TeamKid curriculum.

There are several reasons for its success, said Franks, noting 33,000 children have enrolled in six months. TeamKid Clubs meet in the United States, Canada, Germany, Korea, and Russia.

TeamKid uses sports analogies and an award system which is non-competitive, she said. It is flexible, appropriate for two to 40 children in each club. And the leader's manual may be xeroxed.

Franks detailed other factors. Age groupings are more appropriate for the learning skills of children — Grade 1, Grades 2-3, and Grades 4-6. And the games are appropriate for settings with or without grass.

The curriculum is so good the TeamKid concept will be used in the doctrinal studies, Franks added, and has been adapted for a new curriculum, KidShare, which helps children deal with divorce. KidShare, which offers a confidential format for children and their own private book, is available now, said Franks.

The TeamKid concept is "totally different" from anything else produced by the BSSB for children, said Franks. □

Board, author agree to withdraw Joshua commentary

Compiled from news reports

NASHVILLE — The manuscript for a volume of *The New American Commentary*, planned for release this year, has been withdrawn by mutual agreement between the author, Stephen Wyrick, and the publisher, Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Wyrick, professor of religion at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton, Texas, and author of the manuscript for a commentary volume on the book of Joshua, was out of the country and unavailable for comment to Baptist Press.

He told Associated Baptist Press, however, in early January that differences over the manuscript centered around methodologies.

"The methodologies I de-

sired to employ during the research and writing and the methodologies they desire to be employed are irreconcilable," Wyrick said.

Among concerns raised by editors are his dating of the events described in Joshua and his treatment of disputed texts, he said.

The 40-volume commentary set, authorized by Baptist Sunday School Board trustees in 1987, is designed to espouse an inerrantist view of Scripture.

Wyrick, then a professor at California Baptist College in Riverside, was one of 45 original authors contracted to write volumes for the commentary series. However, as editors have changed over the last eight years, restrictions have been added "to where the present editorial staff is not com-

fortable with my approach," Wyrick said.

Current editor Ray Clendenen declined to be interviewed, deferring to Charles Wilson, vice president for trade publishing at the Sunday School Board, which owns Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Wilson told Baptist Press the manuscript did not meet standards established for the 40-volume NAC by trustees in 1987.

The trustee criteria involves: strong, scholarly defense of the traditional authorship of the biblical books, the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch, a presentation of an apologetic for creationism, consistency with the *Baptist Faith and Message* and the Chicago Statement on Inerrancy, and writers who hold to the posi-

tion of inerrancy.

"Dr. Wyrick's manuscript did not meet standards established for all volumes of the NAC and, after considerable discussion, we agreed to discontinue efforts toward publishing that material," he said.

Wilson said the manuscript was not consistent with the Chicago Statement on Inerrancy, which holds that inerrancy implies an internal consistency within Scripture.

Wyrick told Associated Baptist Press his commitment to inerrancy was never questioned in his disagreements with editors. "That's never been an issue," Wyrick said.

Wyrick said he ran into problems with commentary editors over the dating of Israel's conquest of Palestine and issues raised by recent textual

studies and archeological finds.

He believes new findings can challenge traditional interpretations of the Bible. "Archeology neither proves nor disproves the Bible. It sheds light on biblical text," Wyrick said.

He also noted he does not believe "anyone's interpretation of Scripture is inerrant. Interpretation and the text are two separate issues," he said.

Wyrick said he is free to submit the book to another publisher. "Folks have been very gracious at Broadman. They have been very kind. There is just a difference in opinion over how one should approach presenting the date," Wyrick said. □ — Compiled from a BP story by Charles Willis and an ABP article by Bob Allen.

Ruschlikon seminary campus sold for \$20 million

Baptist Press

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland — The International Baptist Theological Seminary sold its Ruschlikon, Switzerland, campus Dec. 19 to a Swiss insurance firm for about \$20 million.

Seminary trustees plan to use proceeds from the sale to pay for a new 14-acre site in Prague, Czech Republic, renovate the 22 buildings there, and relocate. They also plan to establish an endowment to provide scholarships for future students.

The seminary plans to complete its relocation to Prague

this summer. The new owners will take over the site Sept. 1 and use it for a training facility and guest housing.

The 45-year-old Ruschlikon seminary has graduated 1,200 students in its full-time program and hundreds more in short-term courses mainly for pastors and laypersons in Eastern Europe. Former students serve in 65 countries throughout the world. Through the years it had also become a popular conference site for Baptists in Europe.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board founded the seminary in 1949 but later turned it over to the European

Baptist Federation. Foreign Mission Board trustees stopped funding it in 1992, citing philosophical and theological differences.

In deciding in 1993 to relocate eastward, the European Baptist Federation considered such factors as the opening up of Eastern Europe to religious freedom and the high cost of living in Switzerland.

In the sale contract, European Baptists kept the seminary chapel and the land on which it sits. The chapel was built using funds from Southern Baptists' Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. □

Mid-Winter Bible Conference

Sunday Night



Dr. Holle Miller
Sevier Heights Baptist Church
Knoxville, Tennessee

Monday Night



Dr. Johnnie Hunt
First Baptist Church
Woodstock, Georgia

Tuesday Night



Dr. Doug Sager
First Baptist Church
Concord, Tennessee

Wednesday Night



Dr. Jerry Sutton
Two Rivers Baptist Church
Nashville, Tennessee

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Richard V. Holden, Pastor

AIDS conferences scheduled in two state associations

An "AIDS: Crisis for Church and Families" conference is slated for Feb. 13 at the Big Emory Association office in Harriman and Feb. 14 at the Holston Association office in Johnson City.

The conferences are sponsored by the TBC Discipleship Training Department. The hours for both conferences are 12:30-5 p.m. local time.

The sessions will address the realities of AIDS from a medical perspective, pastoral care to persons with AIDS and their families, and how churches can respond to the AIDS crisis.

Cost for either conference is \$3. For more information or to register, call the Discipleship Training Department at (615) 371-2053. □

Departments team up to offer conference

A "Worship for Growing Churches" conference, sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Discipleship Training and Church Music departments, is set for Feb. 20-21 at Poplar Heights Church, Jackson.

The conference is for every member of the worship team — pastors, music leaders, and members of worship committees. It will feature biblical guidelines for praise and wor-

ship, how to work cooperatively with other staff members, and how to design meaningful experiences.

There is no cost for the conference, compliments of the two departments and Cooperative Program funds.

For more information or to register, call the Discipleship Training Department at (615) 371-2053. □



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■ the people

■ **Anthony Williams** was ordained as a deacon Jan. 8 by Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville.

■ the leaders

■ Campbell's Chapel has called **Brad Fogarty** as youth minister.

■ Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville, has called **Albert Trujillo** as director of Hispanic ministries. The native of Colombia works for Datrek Professional Bags in Springfield. Trujillo plans to begin studies at the Nashville extension of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

■ Wynnburg Church, Wynnburg, has called **John Troutman** as minister of youth and education, effective Dec. 11.

■ **David Bailey** has been called as pastor of Mooring Church, Ridgely.

■ **Norman L. Gardner** has been called as interim minister of music, First Church, Portland. He formerly was supply minister of music First Church, Lebanon.

■ **Richard Howard**, minister of music and youth at First Church, Selmer, for 17 years, has resigned effective

Jan. 8. Howard and his wife will do a short-term missions project through the Brotherhood Commission, Memphis.

■ the schools

■ **Dwight Bass**, interim director of Baptist Student Ministries at **Roane State Community College** in Harriman,



BASS

has been named director. Bass, who assumed the part-time position Dec. 8, and his wife, Joyce, worked with youth in Kenya and Namibia through the Foreign Mission Board. Bass is a graduate of the University of Tennessee - Knoxville, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ deaths

■ **Samuel W. Welch**, 86, of Red Bank who was retired superintendent of missions for Hamilton County Association, 1955-62, died Dec. 27, in a local hospital. The member of Stuart Heights Church, Chattanooga, also was minister of education, Red Bank Church, Chattanooga; and Central

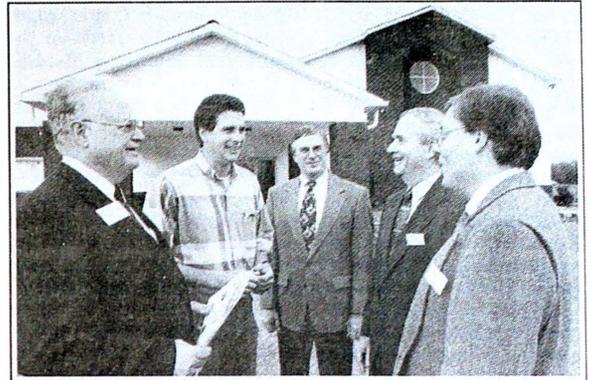
Church, Hixson. Survivors include a sister, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Stuart Heights Church Building Fund, 3208 Hixson Pike, Chattanooga, 37415.

■ **Buford E. Cockrum**, 72, the "greeter" for the Baptist Book Store, Nashville, died Jan. 12 of a heart attack. Cockrum was a missionary to Nigeria, where he served for 17 years; pastor of First Church, Livingston, and Woodbine Church, Nashville; and former chaplain to Tennessee Preparatory School, Nashville. The funeral was Jan. 14 at Woodbine Church, where he was a member. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; two daughters; and several grandchildren.

■ the churches

■ **Calvary Church, Parsons**, heard Dale and Gaye Coleman, missionaries to Togo, Africa, on Dec. 11. The Colemans are missionaries-in-residence at Union University, Jackson.

■ **Blessed Hope Church, Troy**, will hold a Spiritual Life Revival Feb. 11-12 for its deaf congregation, deaf friends, interpreters, and students of sign language. Jim Booth, missionary to the deaf,



LEADING A TOUR OF THE NEW multi-purpose facility of Stonebrook Church, Smyrna, is Bruce Coleman, second from left, pastor, for visitors, from left, Harold Anderson, Alabama Baptist State Convention; and Jerry Grubbs, Davis Byrd, and Steve Newton of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church architecture services, Nashville.

Mississippi Baptist Convention, and pastor to the deaf congregation, Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, will share through dramatic monologues performed in voice and sign language. He will hold a seminar at 3 p.m. on Saturday which will be followed by dinner at 5 p.m. Services are at 7 p.m. both evenings and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

■ the associations

■ **Robertson County Association Senior Adult Meeting** will be Jan. 31 in the Community Room, Robertson

County Funeral Home. At 1 p.m. the Executive Board will meet and at 2 p.m. Vern Powers of Baptist Hospital, Nashville, will speak.

■ The annual association Evangelism Conference of **Beech River Association** will be Jan. 29 at First Church, Parsons, at 7 p.m. Ray Newcomb, past president, Tennessee Baptist Convention, and pastor, First Church, Millington, will speak. Church staff members and wives will meet at 5:30 for dinner and a program. The association also will hold its Pastors' Retreat Feb. 17-18 at Camp Linden, Linden.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Recipe for life

By William C. Bond, pastor
Brainerd Church, Chattanooga

When bread is baking, the house smells like life.

Bread is a wonder of sacrificial work. Someone plants, another waters, still another sows. A reaper brings the grain into the mill, where it is ground into flour. Then we purchase the flour, and mix it with different ingredients, knead it, and let it rise. Many different people working for that most basic of blessings, daily bread.

But it becomes bread in the oven.

Many people are hurting right now. Some are afraid for the future. Some struggle with lingering illnesses. Some seek reconciliation and wholeness at home. Some are so alone that their solitude sits like a lump in their throat. Some seek assurances and find doubt.

Such times of difficulty are the oven in which our faith is firm and revealed. God teaches us that the hardships we endure prove our commitment and prove his presence. Our victories in times of pain or hardship strengthen our faith.

Our beliefs become faith in the oven of life.

I pray that God will spare us all unnecessary pain or temptation and that he will use those difficult experiences to bring us closer to him this year. □

Planning for the next century

By Terry G. Carver, pastor
Edgefield Church, Nashville

As 1995 arrives it is amazing to think that we are only five years away from the turn of a new century! This century has seen as many changes as all the other centuries before it combined. It is no wonder that it seems we can never catch our breaths!

Throughout this century of dramatic change, Edgefield Baptist Church has been here to witness it all. Well over a century ago (1867) this church was brought into existence by God and a group of dedicated servants who shared a vision of a church thriving in this community. Edgefield Baptist Church is a great historical figure in Southern Baptist life and the church community of Nashville.

While we can learn from and build on our past, we must not live in and depend on our past. These are new and different days for our church and community. We will need to change some of

the ways we have been "doing" church, as well as try new ways. Our methods and styles may change; however, some things must never change — our heart for missions, our love for all people, our devotion to Christ, our commitment to God's Word, and our dedication to service, ministry, evangelism, and outreach. These should be as much a part of our church as they were in 1867 or 1957. □

Reservoir of Christians

By Randy Pressnell, pastor
Haynes Flat Church, Speedwell

Recently, I shared with the church an insight received on a trout fishing venture below Norris Dam on the Clinch River. When one is downstream from the dam, it is easy to imagine the potential destructive force of the water above the dam.

However, it occurred to me that the purpose of the dam was to hold in a reservoir water to be used in a constructive way. Based on electric power needs, the water is released through turbines that turn electric generators which produce electricity for many customers of the Tennessee Valley Authority. What otherwise would just be ordinary water

in a huge reservoir becomes power to operate the homes, farms, and businesses of our land. What a powerful potential!

Yet, a far greater potential rests in our church and multiplied thousands of churches around the world. That potential rests in ordinary Christians that have never been enlisted to do the work of the kingdom through their church.

I am convinced that God has completely equipped his church for the work of the ministry. The church has the awesome responsibility of calling out the called and helping all Christians discover their spiritual gifts.

Christians may look like ordinary people in a huge reservoir called the church, but when properly channeled, God can use you and me to generate power enough to win our world to Christ. What a powerful potential! □

Articles included in "Tennessee Sampler — views, insights" are written by Tennessee Baptist church and associational leaders. The articles are chosen for publication from newsletters of churches and associations. The *Baptist and Reflector* does not necessarily concur with the views expressed.

Ken Cooper concerned about decline in fitness

By Ken Walker
For Baptist Press

DALLAS — The nation's love affair with exercise is fading, which upsets the Southern Baptist physician who helped spark the modern fitness boom.

If the decline continues, Kenneth Cooper forecasts ominous results for America's population.

"I think we're headed for a dismal future as far as the reduction in deaths from heart attacks," Cooper said, noting deaths by heart attacks have been reduced over the past 25 years.

The author of 12 books, Cooper is an internationally known leader of the health and fitness movement. He is the founder and president of the

Cooper Aerobics Center, which has compiled records on the physical condition of some 70,000 people in the past 25 years. He is a member of Prestonwood Church, Dallas.

Cooper is concerned with the overall downturn in America's physical fitness. Based on Gallup polls, he estimates just 24 percent of the American public exercised in 1968, the year he published his first book, *Aerobics*.

From fewer than 100,000 joggers that year, the number skyrocketed to 34 million joggers over the next 16 years.

Recent figures show only 42 percent of the public is physically fit, Cooper said, figures which lead him to believe the estimates of more than 30 million joggers are highly exaggerated.

"As I've said before, baby boomers led this movement but their kids didn't follow suit. Those kids are now getting old enough that they're starting to have problems and they never kept up with their parents."

Despite the decline, Cooper believes the trend can change, particularly among young people. Good physical education classes need to be reintroduced in schools and society needs to make it safe again for kids to walk and ride their bicycles to school, he said.

"We need to get them away from the TV, which is killing the American student," he said. "It's well proven that a teenager spends as many hours watching television and playing video games as they spend in school."

"That's about 32 percent of their waking hours, while only 2.5 percent is spent studying and less than 1 percent is spent exercising. That's a disastrous trend. You add to that the fast-food generation and it's no wonder our kids are fatter and less fit than they were 10 years ago," he said.

Cooper, a former marathoner, had to quit long-distance running in 1969 because of muscular-skeletal problems. He now uses a combination of walking and jogging to cover 12-15 miles a week. That level provides excellent benefits with low risk of injury, he said.

In addition, research published in the last five years has shown that fitness for health and longevity can be achieved by something as simple as walking two miles in 30 minutes three times a week. Cooper's latest book says people who use a race-walking pace of a mile in 12 minutes will burn more calories than someone who jogs at the same rate.

"In all our studies, we're showing that if you keep yourself at a good level of aerobic fitness, for health and longevity, there is a substantial reduction in deaths from all causes, including cancer." □

English workshops set

Conversational English (English as a Second Language) workshops are scheduled across the state in February and early March.

Workshops will be held in Lenoir City on Feb. 24-25 and March 3-4. Call the Loudon County Association office at (615) 986-2292 for more information.

Another workshop is set for March 10-11 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. For more information, call the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department at (615) 371-2031.

People attending the workshops should plan to attend all sessions. □

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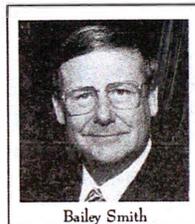
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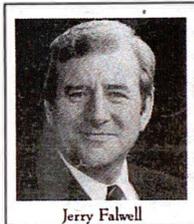
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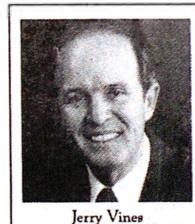
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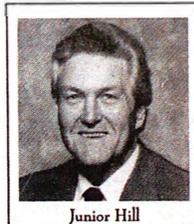
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**Life and Work Series
for Jan. 22
Focal Passage:
Mark 2:14-22**

God's Son gives new meaning to everyone's life

By Elizabeth Howard

Jesus' healing attracted many people to him, so many that he retired to the country (Mark 1:45); but even there great crowds came to him. Among the crowds were the Jewish religious leaders. The scribes were there, accusing him of blasphemy when he told the palsied man his sins were forgiven (2:6-7). Everyone was amazed that the man was able to take up his pallet and walk away. Most glorified God, but the scribes, who must have been amazed, did not glorify God. They only looked for an opportunity to find fault with Jesus.

People today still approach Jesus as did the people of Capernaum — some glorifying God, others looking to find fault.

Jesus and sinners — vv. 14-17

Jesus had called four fishermen as his disciples. His fifth choice may seem an unlikely one, for Levi was a tax collector, considered unclean by the Jews, one not permitted to attend the synagogue. But Jesus knew Levi's potential, for Levi was Matthew who wrote one of the Gospels, including the most thorough and most beautiful account of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Levi left his job and all the riches it promised to follow Jesus.

In gratitude, he invited Jesus and his disciples to dine with him. Other guests were Levi's former associates, the tax collectors. The scribes and Pharisees were not guests and would not have accepted had they been invited, but they were outside, looking for other infractions of their legal system. They questioned the disciples as to why Jesus was eating with sinners. Jesus said: "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." This response can be taken two ways. He might have been calling the Pharisees "righteous," but he was not. He was saying he could not help them because they thought they were righteous.

Disciples and fasting — vv. 18-20

Fasting was a tradition among the Jews. It was practiced during religious festivals and times of mourning. John the Baptists' followers also fasted, but some people (Pharisees?) noticed that Jesus' disciples did not. Jesus answered this criticism by using the analogy of a wedding. Guests do not mourn or fast at a wedding, but rejoice and enjoy the wedding feast. Jesus likened himself to the bridegroom. (By implication, the church, made up of his followers, is the bride.) The time to fast is not while the bridegroom is there, but after he is taken away. This is a reference to Jesus' death on the cross.

The new and the old — vv. 20-22

Jesus used two brief parables to show why his disciples could not simply patch their newfound faith onto the old garment of Judaism, or pour it into old wineskins. The garment would split and tear, the wineskin would burst. Christianity, though growing out of the old religion, is new. Its followers are not bound to rules which have lost their meaning, but live in a spirit of freedom and rejoicing.

Although the bridegroom was taken away and executed, he arose and lives in our hearts. Christians should be joyous people, for the bridegroom is still with us. He gives new meaning to our lives. □ — Elizabeth Howard is a member of Cumberland Homesteads Church, Crossville.

Jesus is transfigured

By Brian Courtney

Some events in the Christian life make an indelible impression that becomes a reference point in the development of Christian belief. Such events might include baptism, the Lord's Supper, a miracle, a sermon, or a hymn. These events at a particular time serve to strengthen Christian faith.

The transfiguration left an impression upon Simon Peter. How can such a statement be made? He refers to it in his second letter, "We made known to you the power ... of our Lord Jesus ... for we were with him on the holy mountain" (II Peter 1:16-18, RSV). The apostle had no doubts about the reality of events on that remarkable day. These events left an impression upon his life. Can this event impress us? Read on with text in hand.

The transfiguration — vv. 1-8

Six days after the events described in Matthew 16, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John to a high mountain. Six days were considered a preparation time for a holy event. For example, creation took six days and then came the institution of sabbath (Genesis 1). Further, Moses waited six days for the Lord (Exodus 24:16). Now after six days another holy event is experienced by the disciples.

This holy event is Jesus' transfiguration. He took on a different physical form or appearance. This text states that "his face shone" and "his garments became white as light" (v. 2). Here Jesus' divinity is made clear to the disciples. This revealing of his eternal nature and glory give reason to believe that he alone is Lord.

Moses and Elijah also appear at the transfiguration. The reason for the appearance of Moses and Elijah are not given by Matthew. Maybe that's the point. Moses was the giver of the law. Elijah was representative of the prophets. But Jesus came to fulfill the law and the prophets (Matthew 5:17-18). He is their Lord, too. He and he alone has supreme authority.

Peter's response is a typical human reaction. The

**Convention Uniform Series
for Jan. 22
Focal Passage
Matthew 17:1-13**

building of three booths is an effort to blend the best of religion. Peter does say Jesus' booth is first, but the inclusion of Moses and Elijah implies that the Gospel, law, and prophets are equal. But this idea is shattered by a voice that says "This is my beloved Son ... listen to him." So much for equality! The disciples fall in fear, but Jesus touches them and reassures them. When they look up they see Jesus and him alone.

What does this text impress on us? It desires that churches and Christians have Jesus at the center, listen to his word, and rest in his sufficient care. Such Christian communities will be transfigured and have no need to seek out other charismatic persons, teachings, or messiahs. Jesus alone, the text says!

Conversing about Elijah — vv. 9-13

If the transfiguration proclaims Jesus alone has authority, how is this authority expressed? The conversation about Elijah gives a clue.

Coming down the mountain the disciples ask a question. "Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?" (v. 10). This teaching of the Jewish expectation was/is that Elijah will come before the Messiah.

Jesus answers their question by affirming that Elijah will come and, in fact, he has already come. This would refer to John the Baptist. However, the religious leaders did not recognize him, treated him poorly, and will do the same to the Son of man. Jesus uses this conversation to prepare his disciples for suffering and suffering is the way of the transfigured Lord.

What does this text impress on us? It desires that churches and Christians open their eyes to the possibility that suffering has power. Suffering disciples at the hands of the Roman Empire, pagan culture, and Jewish leaders turned the world upside down. We've forgotten the power of suffering. Jesus did not. He knew suffering, then the resurrection. □ — Brian Courtney is pastor of First Church, Sneedville.

Jeremiah's call and prophecies

By Ray Fullilove

When there is darkness, desperation, and despair, God sends his messengers. God's people had become so immersed with the standards of the society around them they had left their spiritual values. God still calls his messengers to bring people from darkness to light, from desperation to direction, and from despair to hope. There is need for motivation in the heart of God's messengers to present the good news of God. There could be no greater advice to motivate God's men than was given by a great prophet of God in the past. The words of John Wesley are still inspiring when he said, "Give me a 100 preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen, such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of God upon the earth." We need these words to ignite our spirit, to inspire our thoughts, and to inflame our hearts. God's call to Jeremiah may help us understand the reason God calls men to preach his Word.

The call — 1:4-10

The young man stood before the audience of graduating cadets and their families. The opening remarks by the speaker, a police captain, caught all of our attention — "Why am I a policeman?" He had been

asked this question over and over again. He explained his reason. "It's not for the pay for it is low. It is not because of family because I am away so very much. It is not because of my working situation for I have to be my best in the worst of places. Why am I a policeman? I guess my calling as a policeman comes close to a man being called to the ministry." When God needs people for his task, he does the calling.

God called Jeremiah in the same way. His call came from God (v. 5), he was confronted by doubt (v. 6), given assurance (vv. 8-9), and presented with a plan (v. 10). Every preacher/pastor can verify the fact that the vocation which identifies them is not because of the attraction of being a preacher of the Gospel, but simply because of the call of God to them. His assurance is that God divinely influenced his decision.

Inspiration — 4:1-4

God calls his men for a purpose. The task before them may be accompanied by discouragement, fear, and apprehension. For any preacher of the Gospel to present the hard Word of God in a loving way is difficult. Because of this, God must inspire

the heart of his leaders to present his Word with preciseness and with power. For example, such a way is shown to us in Jeremiah's preaching: God's invitation (v. 1); the value of the testimony of God's people (v. 2); and, the way for God's people to return and be accepted by God. The message was simple, straight, short, and to the point.

Encouragement — 6:16-17

God, also, encourages his messengers. God encouraged Jeremiah when he called him. As God was with him, God will be our support now. Often we forget God's presence in the middle of our difficult task. Remembering the presence of God, it should cause us to remain faithful to the end. We will continue in our calling as we stay secure in our convictions (v. 16a), develop God's perspective (v. 16b), and be faithful to the sounding of God's Word (v. 17). Then, leave the results to God. El Shaddai, the Lord God Almighty, can change the hearts of his people. The preaching of the Gospel is a glorious call — if we just let God do it his way! □ — Ray Fullilove is pastor of Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis.

Top four U.S. office holders are Baptists

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Not only are the top two officer holders in the nation members of Southern Baptist churches, but the next two officials in the presidential line of succession are as well.

When the 104th Congress was sworn in Jan. 4, Newt Gingrich and Strom Thurman became, in order, the next two people in line to succeed the president. Gingrich and Thurman, as well as President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore are Southern Baptists.

If the presidency and the vice presidency simultaneously are vacant, the speaker of the House of Representatives (Gingrich) is next in line of succession, as determined by the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The president pro tempore of the Senate (Thurman) follows the speaker. □

Salvadoran Baptist jailed, later released

Baptist Press

CASABLANCA, Morocco — A prominent Baptist from El Salvador was abruptly released Jan. 9 after he was sentenced to a year in a Moroccan jail for sharing his Christian faith.

Six days earlier, in a twice-delayed trial, Gilberto Orellana was convicted of "proselytization" and sentenced.

Orellana moved to Morocco in 1992 to teach music at a conservatory. He was arrested in December while meeting with five Moroccans, most or all of whom are Christian believers.

Christian workers expressed alarm at Orellana's arrest and were seeking financial

help for his legal expenses. They also sent out a worldwide call for prayer on his behalf.

Those appeals and prayers — and possible contacts by foreign governments — may have accounted for Orellana's release. □

Willene Pierce to head BWA women's area

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Willene Pierce, director of the Maryland/Delaware Woman's Missionary Union the past 13 years, has been selected director of the women's department of the Baptist World Alliance.

She will begin her new duties Feb. 22, according to Catherine B. Allen, women's department president.

Pierce, a native of Kansas, holds degrees from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Pierce comes to the post with a knowledge of women's department operations, having served on the finance committee the last three years. She succeeds Beth Hayworth MacClaren, who is retiring. □

WMU awards \$65,500 in grants

Baptist Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union's executive board awarded \$65,500 in Second Century Fund grants during its annual meeting Jan. 7-11 here.

The grants, assigned to both home and foreign fields, will fund a variety of projects designed to educate and involve women in missions. The Second Century Fund was created by WMU in 1988 as a permanent endowment. □

Bruce Grubbs named conventions manager

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Bruce Grubbs, an 18-year employee of the Baptist Sunday School Board, has been named conventions manager, which includes a joint assignment with the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and the BSSB.

The newly-created position housed at the BSSB, effective Jan. 1, combines similar responsibilities from portions of jobs at each institution, and funding will be shared by the two organizations.

Grubbs will coordinate all physical arrangements related to the SBC annual meeting as well as the BSSB's participation in the annual convention.

Grubbs has been a consultant and manager in various facets of church administration work at the board since 1976. Earlier, he was a pastor in Tennessee churches for 13 years. □

Florida church loses appeal for shelter

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A Florida congregation has lost its attempt to challenge a zoning ordinance that forced it to close a shelter for the homeless.

Without comment, the U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 9 let stand a ruling of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that upheld zoning ordinances enacted by Collier County.

After it was forced to close a shelter that did not conform to the county requirements, First Assembly of God of Naples, Fla., filed suit contending that the zoning laws violate the First Amendment's guarantee of free exercise of religion. Sheltering the homeless, the



Youth celebration

About 2,000 youth and adult leaders attended the first Experiencing God Youth Celebration at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center in late December. The youth celebration was sponsored by the youth section of the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division.

church argued, is an essential aspect of the Christian religion.

In siding with the county, the lower court said the zoning regulations were neutral and applied to all group homes, not just those operated by churches. The intent of the ordinance was not to inhibit religion but to address health and safety concerns, the court said. □

SBC committee target for proposal on racism

Baptist Press

BALTIMORE — The Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Resolutions is the next stop for a resolution of repentance for racism adopted by several state Baptist conventions last fall.

The resolution seeks to break down racial barriers, both real and perceived, between white Southern Baptists and African Americans, according to one of the document's co-authors, Mike Fahey, director of missions for Baltimore Association.

The resolution or similar statements — an outgrowth of dialogue between directors of missions for 12 major metropolitan areas and several African American leaders — was adopted by state conventions in Georgia, Illinois, Maryland/Delaware, Pennsylvania/South Jersey, District of Columbia, California, New York, and New England.

Proponents plan to submit the document to the SBC Resolutions Committee for consideration at the June 20-22 annual meeting in Atlanta. Whether the resolution will come to a vote by SBC messengers will be determined by that committee. □

Ron Chaney named Baptist Life editor

Baptist Press

COLUMBIA, Md. — In a unanimous vote, the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware's general mission board approved the selection of Ronald K. Chaney as editor of *Baptist Life*, their Baptist state paper, in December.

Chaney has been associate editor of the paper since 1991 and interim editor since November 1993. □

Maddox tapped as Capital Baptist editor

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Former White House official Robert Maddox has been named editor of the *Capital Baptist* by the District of Columbia Baptist Convention's executive committee.

Maddox assumed the part-time position Jan. 1. He will continue as pastor of Briggs Memorial Church, Baltimore, Md.

Maddox served on former President Jimmy Carter's speechwriting staff and headed the White House's Office of Liaison to the Religious Community. □

Magazine taps Mohler

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. has been chosen by *Time* magazine as one of its "50 for the Future," a roster of promising leaders age 40 and under. The roster appeared in the magazine's Dec. 5 issue. □

Pastor's use of SBCNet leads to marriage

Baptist Press

WOODBURY, Minn. — When David Van Bebber, pastor of Rosewood Church in Woodbury, Minn., subscribed to SBCNet last April, he did so for all the usual reasons. He wanted to read Baptist Press, send and receive electronic mail, access the various forums, and do all the normal SBCNet kinds of things.

He never dreamed it would lead to the end of his bachelor days.

One of the forums he be-

gan to access was the youth forum. On Wednesday nights, he "talked" via SBCNet to youth and youth ministers, including one high school senior, Paul Guthrie, of Joshua, Texas.

When Guthrie found that Van Bebber was single, he noted that his sister, Patricia, was 29 (close enough to Van Bebber's age) and had expressed an interest in marrying someone in the ministry.

Van Bebber began correspondence with Patricia, which led to telephone calls, which led to more letters,

which led to a week's visit to Texas, where he met Patricia and her parents.

"We hit it off so well that she came to Minnesota in July and met my parents. I proposed to her on the shores of Lake Superior at Duluth, and she said, 'yes.'"

Patricia said she knew "God had the right person for me. God knew my name, address, and phone number. He would bring the right man into my life. I just had to trust him."

The wedding took place in November in Joshua. □