

Baptist and Reflector

February 1, 1995

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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Churches, associations act on 'Here's Hope'

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

When Rebekah Sharpe's church started its "Here's Hope" emphasis on witnessing, she felt God telling her to be a bolder witness to her faith.

So when religion came up in her contemporary issues class at Sullivan East High School, Bluff City, she felt God had provided the opportunity.

Sharpe, 18, explained class members were discussing heaven and hell and the meaning of life.

"I shared that Jesus is the answer to get to heaven and he's the answer for life and he can help you with all of your problems. All you have to do is ask him to come into your heart," said Sharpe, who is a member of First Church, Bluff City.

"It's scary because you think, what are they going to think about me. It was hard when I started out, but then God gave me the words. Each time I've become more confident," said Sharpe.

She refers to other opportunities she has had to share her faith since signing a witnessing commitment card at her church on Jan. 8. Sharpe witnessed to a fellow psychology student during an exercise in

which students were to get to know another student.

Sharpe also has shared her experience with her church, which has encouraged others, reported her pastor, Frank Blevins.

Since the commitment day Blevins has provided time during Sunday services for testimonies of some of the 65 people, like Sharpe, who signed commitment cards.

The church, which has an average Sunday School attendance of 200, has embraced "Here's Hope — Jesus Cares for You, Share Jesus Now," a Southern Baptist evangelism effort scheduled for Jan. 1 — March 1. Participants try to witness to a person each day during the 60-day period.

It has developed a different lifestyle "among a large portion of our church," said Blevins.

The church has emphasized witnessing before to observe Soul Winning Commitment Day the second Sunday of January. But this year the church combined that observance with an all-out drive for "Here's Hope" which began before Christmas.

The culmination of the drive will be a recognition service where full reports will be given

by participants, added Blevins.

Associations also have gotten into the "Here's Hope — Share Jesus Now" action. Cumberland Plateau Association designated \$3,300 to promote the program among citizens who pass through Crossville. The association rented a billboard for a year in the city which is emblazoned

with the words and emblem. Associations also have gotten into the "Here's Hope — Share Jesus Now" action. Cumberland Plateau Association designated \$3,300 to promote the program among citizens who pass through Crossville. The association rented a billboard for a year in the city which is emblazoned

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Helping in the effort was Arthur Woody, a member of Emmanuel Church, Crossville, and sign painter, who prepared the billboard free of charge.

Roy Davis, director of missions, reported the location is strategic. "You can't miss it and we hope everybody else won't miss it."

First Church, Martin, also is participating in the emphasis.

On Soul Winning Commitment Day, reported Roger Oldham, pastor, members were given a choice of six kinds of commitments. Those ranged from trying to witness to one person per week for eight

with the words and emblem. Associations also have gotten into the "Here's Hope — Share Jesus Now" action. Cumberland Plateau Association designated \$3,300 to promote the program among citizens who pass through Crossville. The association rented a billboard for a year in the city which is emblazoned

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Ministers, churches face tax changes

By Keith Hinson
For Baptist Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Churches and ministers are in for several significant changes in tax law as the season approaches for income tax preparation.

That's according to Richard Hammar, a CPA and an attorney in Springfield, Mo., who is author of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board's 1995 tax guide and author of the annual Church and Clergy Tax Guide.

One key ruling by the U.S. Tax Court established a seven-factor test to determine whether a minister should file income taxes as an employee or as a self-employed person.

That's an important issue. — See Ministers, page 2

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Ministers, churches face tax changes

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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- **Office** — Baptist and Reflector, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027
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Hammar noted, because a minister who is audited may be in for additional taxes, interest, and penalties if the tax return is filed incorrectly.

If a pastor has received Form W-2 from his church and reports that income on Line 7 of Form 1040 this year, then he is likely filing correctly as an employee.

Most pastors have a "dual status" when filing their annual tax returns:

■ On the one hand, they are self-employed for Social Security purposes, because they do not have Social Security withheld from their paychecks. Instead they pay their own self-employment tax, which is calculated on Schedule SE.

■ On the other hand, they are employees for purposes of income tax, which is calculated mostly on Form 1040. Although pastors are employees for income tax purposes, they are eligible for such tax breaks as housing allowance.

Further, unlike the average taxpayer employee in America, most pastors do not have federal income tax withheld from their paychecks. Instead, they pay quarterly tax estimates to the IRS.

According to Hammar, the seven factors established by the tax court to determine whether a minister should file as an employee for income tax purposes are:

1) the degree of control exercised by the church over the details of the minister's work. If a church has the right to determine how a minister performs work for the church, such as the manner of conducting worship, then the minister is most likely an employee, Hammar said.

2) whether the minister provides his own office or whether the office is in a facility provided by the church. "In other words," Hammar said, "who paid for the church where your office is?" The Internal Revenue Service sees a church-provided office as evidence the minister is probably an employee.

3) the opportunity for profit or loss. "Are you going to be realizing a profit or loss based on the success of the church?" Hammar said. If a minister could be terminated because of declining church receipts, then most likely the minister is an employee — not self-employed.

4) whether the employer has the right to discharge the worker. Hammar noted most churches have the right to dismiss their ministers, and that fact indicates the ministers are employees.

5) whether the work is part of the church's regular business. Most likely, Hammar said, most staff ministers would be seen as employees, since their functions are necessary to the ongoing work of the church.

6) the permanency of the relationship between the church and minister. "In other words, how long has the minister served at the church?" Hammar said. "The longer the minister has served, the more likely he will be considered an employee."

7) the relationship the parties believe they are creating. Does the church regard the minister as an employee, and does the minister regard the church as employer? If so, said Hammar, then the

minister is probably an employee.

Based on the seven-factor test, Hammar believes most Southern Baptist pastors should classify themselves as employees when filing their 1994 tax returns.

Whether a minister is self-employed or an employee is a critical issue for many ministers, Hammar said, because filing as self-employed has a key tax advantage not available to a minister who files as an employee.

Self-employed ministers can deduct on Schedule C any professional expenses (such as books, seminars, business mileage and convention expenses) that have not been reimbursed by the church. By deducting the expenses on Schedule C, the money is sheltered from self-employment tax and income tax.

For example, if a self-employed minister has \$500 in unreimbursed professional expenses, then that is \$500 on which the minister does not pay income tax or self-employment tax.

But if a minister files as an employee, the \$500 is only deductible on Schedule A after being reduced by 2 percent of adjusted gross income. It remains fully deductible for self-employment tax purposes on Schedule SE.

Because of this 2 percent reduction, many ministers do not have enough unreimbursed professional expenses to provide any income tax benefit. This is especially true if the tax return is prepared as "married filing jointly" with a minister's spouse who is employed.

The reason is because the 2 percent reduction is larger since adjusted gross income includes the spouse's wages as well.

Hammar advises most ministers to file as employees. He warns ministers who incorrectly file as self-employed may be in for stiff additional taxes, interest and penalties if the IRS audits.

Why? Because in an audit, the IRS will move professional expenses from Schedule C — where they are fully sheltered from income tax — to Schedule A where the expenses are reduced by 2 percent of adjusted gross income. The minister is then often left with either a small deduction or no deduction at all.

Another key issue in determining a minister's proper tax status is fringe benefits, Hammar said. "The tax court was clear that the question of whether one is an employee or self-employed will often depend on the number of fringe benefits provided by the employer," he said.

"The more fringe benefits, the more likely the worker is an employee. If you have health insurance, life insurance, retirement, and paid vacation from a church, these are the kinds of fringe benefits given to an employee."

Hammar noted several other changes for the 1994 tax year: moving expenses have been defined more narrowly; housing allowance cannot be used to make payments on second mortgages and home-equity loans, if the loan proceeds were used for non-housing purposes; church travel expenses for family and other family members as long as it has a legitimate business purpose. □



Churches, associations act on 'Here's Hope'

— Continued from page 1
cottage prayer meetings, a Sunday School promotion coinciding with the Final Four NCAA basketball finals, a youth retreat, and a revival.

Concord Association also has joined the action, choosing to adjust its annual evangelism conference to focus on "Here's Hope."

James Powers, director of missions, explained the conference was moved to early January to support the emphasis and the theme was aligned.

And people in Rutherford County responded. Attendance was up about 100 to about 450, Powers reported. All churches in the association were represented.

After a challenge made by Bobby Welch, pastor, First Church, Daytona Beach,

more than 75 people made commitments to try to witness each day for 60 days.

Powers said he's not surprised by the response, noting the association has a continuing focus on evangelism reflected in its staff. It is the only Tennessee association with a staff member assigned strictly to evangelism — Shelby Smith, evangelism equipper.

Powers explained the emphasis by noting evangelism must come before education and Southern Baptists already have a good education program. He added the need is apparent when one learns churches in the association baptized 609 last year but 6,000 new people moved into the area.

Another church, First Church, Old Hickory, has combined the "Here's Hope" emphasis with a Sunday School growth compe-

tion, witnessing training, and a revival.

Duane Swanson, minister of education and outreach, explained the three-month emphasis began with Soul Winning Commitment Day. A Sunday School promotion, which also began in January, is using a football analogy and point system for outreach and growth to foster competition among classes. It has engendered excitement and increased attendance during the last couple of weeks, reported Swanson.

After six weeks of witnessing training led by Pastor Jud Hays during Discipleship Training, church members will be asked to witness to 30 people in 30 days. A revival will culminate the activities.

Swanson predicts the emphasis "is going to pay big dividends in the spring." □

Search begins for program associate, adult work, in DT department

Recommendations are being accepted now for the position of program associate, director of adult work, in the Discipleship Training Department, the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The position became open as a result of action by the TBC Executive Board at its December meeting at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

Don Mauldin, former pro-

gram associate, was approved as associate department director responsible for family ministry in the Discipleship Training Department.

Recommendations should be

sent to: Human Resources Office, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024.

Recommendations must be received by March 1. □



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SBC commission initiates transfer of college to National Baptists

By Tim Fields
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Members of the Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary voted Jan. 24 to begin steps to turn over complete governance and ownership of the financially strapped American Baptist College to the National Baptist Convention (NBC), U.S.A., Inc.

In a special called meeting in Nashville, the commission unanimously adopted a motion by Max Brand of Newport News, Va., to transfer governance and ownership within two years or less. The motion further stipulates an end to all Cooperative Program funding of American Baptist College (ABC) by the end of fiscal year 1996-97.

ABC, located in Nashville, is the only four-year accredited Bible college designed primarily for training church leaders of African descent. It has been

jointly operated by the SBC and NBC since 1924.

The college operates under the charter of American Baptist Theological Seminary. The name American Baptist College is used to better reflect the school's status as an undergraduate theological training center as opposed to a postgraduate seminary. The school operates under the direction of a board of trustees, comprised of 16 National Baptists and 16 Southern Baptists.

The Southern Baptist trustees also serve as the Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary.

The commission, working through the staff of the Education Commission, transmits to the college Cooperative Program funds which for the 1994-95 budget year will total \$256,832. More than half of the money (\$165,000) is earmarked for scholarships for Baptist students pursuing a

career in the ministry. The remainder is reserved for general operations.

The seminary commission also unanimously adopted an eight-point resolution and plan of action to implement the motion. The resolution states:

"Since 1924 ... we have moved from a racially segregated society and an era of white patronage of black institutions to a time when all of the colleges and seminaries of Southern Baptist general bodies are open to all who would study there without regard to race, and at a time when the undergraduate programs of the denomination's colleges and of the seminaries are equipped to provide African Americans who have been called to the ministry of Jesus Christ with the preparation prerequisite to seminary training.

"The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., is fully capable of supporting and selecting those who govern this sem-

inary without any assistance from the Southern Baptist Convention," the resolution states.

The resolution calls for the SBC to "surrender all its rights in regard to American Baptist Theological Seminary, including any rights it may have to the property of the American Baptist Theological Seminary or to participate in the seminary's governance."

The plan outlines a proposal for an orderly transition of governance, including a proposed change in charter to be submitted to the full board of ABC in May. If approved, the charter would require ratification by the National Baptist Convention in annual session.

The resolution also requests the SBC to dissolve the seminary commission which would require convention approval in both 1995 and 1996.

Stephen P. Carleton, executive director of the Education Commission and executive sec-

retary of the seminary commission, said the timing of the commission's action revolved around two important issues.

First, he said, Henry Lyons, new president of the NBC, "publicly challenged his denomination to show pride in the school and to support it at much higher level.

"This new and unprecedented public support by a National Baptist Convention president for American Baptist College marks a new era and could breathe new life into the school," Carleton said.

The second matter related to finances, Carleton said, noting that despite consistent financial support from Southern Baptists, the school has financial debt in loans and accounts payable in excess of \$565,000.

He said the school is unable to secure directors' insurance for its trustees. "This has caused great concern for trustees of both conventions," Carleton said. □

Former Mississippi College president hospitalized following arrest

Baptist Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Former Mississippi College President Lewis Nobles is in a San Francisco hospital after he collapsed Jan. 26 while being arrested by federal law enforcement agents acting on a fugitive warrant issued after he failed to appear earlier in the day at a pretrial court hearing in Jackson.

David W. Johnson, special agent in charge of the FBI in Mississippi, said Nobles, 69, was located around midnight Jan. 26 at a San Francisco hotel where he had registered under an alias.

"A significant amount of cash was seized from Nobles at the time of the

arrest. Shortly after Nobles' arrest, it became apparent that he was experiencing medical problems, and he was immediately attended to by paramedics and taken to a hospital," Johnson said.

Nobles remains under guard in the intensive care unit at St. Francis Hospital in San Francisco, and will not appear before a federal magistrate in California until his doctors approve, Johnson said.

Meanwhile, U.S. District Judge William Barbour of Jackson has ordered that a psychiatric evaluation of Nobles be performed at a federal facility after he is released from the hospital.

Nobles is scheduled for trial Feb. 7 on a 20-count federal indictment charging him with diverting at least \$1.7 million in contributions intended for the Baptist-affiliated college in Clinton. Nobles resigned Aug. 3, 1993 under pressure from trustees over his handling of large donations intended for the school. Four days later the college filed suit against Nobles to recover at least \$3 million in donations alleged to be missing.

Nobles' medical emergency and psychiatric evaluation have put the Feb. 7 trial date in jeopardy, but no decision has yet been made to postpone the trial.

The indictment against Nobles includes allegations of fraud, money laundering, income tax evasion, and illegally enticing women to cross state lines for immoral purposes.

Barbour issued the arrest warrant in Jackson after Nobles did not show up for a Jan. 26 pretrial hearing involving routine motions to suppress evidence prosecutors intended to use at his trial.

Nobles was last seen by a family member on the evening of Jan. 24. His 1992 Oldsmobile was discovered on the afternoon of Jan. 26 at Memphis International Airport. The FBI did not release further details of Nobles' apprehension. □

Little Rock BSU director asked to resign over beliefs

Associated Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A veteran Baptist campus minister in Little Rock has stepped down because of questions about his beliefs.

Dan McCauley, 50, Baptist Student Union director at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, since 1977, was asked by supervisors to resign or face firing following recent complaints about his theology by two students and their pastor, according to sources.

Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, told members of the state's executive

board that McCauley's views on biblical authority, extrabiblical revelation, and security of the believer "differ significantly from our commonly held faith" as Southern Baptists, the *Arkansas Baptist News-magazine* reported in late December.

Moore told the paper that McCauley's disputed views "have not been taught in formal settings but have been communicated in conferences with individuals and with the staff from time to time."

As a condition of his severance agreement, McCauley said, he is not free to discuss details of the resignation. He

is on leave of absence with pay until March 31.

However, in a text of a sermon he preached Jan. 15 at a Little Rock church, McCauley said he believes "there is some misunderstanding" about his views.

McCauley said he believes the Bible is "fully inspired by the Holy Spirit" and "totally sufficient in leading us into an understanding of who God is and our responsibility in that relationship." However, he said, "I believe the Bible is a tool to lead us to God, not a substitute for a relationship with God," McCauley said during the sermon. □

Missionaries open relief center in Japan

Baptist Press

KOBE, Japan — Southern Baptist missionaries have opened a distribution center for relief supplies being delivered by Japanese military trucks to earthquake-devastated Kobe.

Kobe Baptist Church, which survived the earthquake that leveled large sections of the city, will distribute food, water, and other relief supplies, reported Dennis Folds, a Southern Baptist missionary stationed near Kobe.

Foreign Mission Board missionaries Bob Sherer, Bob Dilks, and Mike Brooks are overseeing distribution of the much-needed supplies to residents of the area around the church.

The earthquake, which struck in the predawn hours of Jan. 17, killed more than 5,000 people and left as many as 300,000 homeless.

A FMB assessment team surveyed missionary and church property in the city Jan. 21-22 to identify churches and mission buildings needing repair, said Christine Hailey, associate administrator of FMB work in east Asia. Early reports indicated two churches and one missionary house sustained significant damage.

However, it may be some time before potential Southern Baptist volunteers will be allowed into the city to help with relief and repair projects, said Jim Foster, human needs director for the FMB.

Government officials still say they won't allow most foreigners into the city until the worst devastation has been cleared away.

Contributions for Japan quake relief may be sent to the Human Needs Office, FMB, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va., 23230. □

Golden Gate Seminary to open Arizona campus

Baptist Press

PHOENIX, Ariz. — An Arizona regional campus of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary officially will open this spring.

The Arizona campus will be based at Arizona Southern Baptists' Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, but class offerings will not be limited to that campus or the Phoenix area in the future.

The Arizona campus, which will offer master's level degree programs, is a cooperative effort of Golden Gate and Grand Canyon, start-up assistance offered by the Arizona state convention and Foundation. □

■ 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. □

Big anniversary

Ridgeview Baptist Church of Chattanooga, Tennessee, will celebrate 50 years of ministry Sept. 10. The planning process is underway.

We invite any former members, pastors, or staff persons who may read this letter. Send your name and address to: Ridgeview Baptist Church, 6 North Moore Road, Chattanooga, Tenn., 37411. We will make specific plans for those who will be present, will insure their receiving an invitation.

Ray Stoncypher, pastor
Ridgeview Church
Chattanooga 37411

Taking another view

A recent letter writer suggested that discovery of a genetic cause for homosexuality would change the morality of such a lifestyle. While genetic determination is a popular approach to the problem of homosexuality, such a finding would not change the biblical view of homosexuality. Scripture finds one cause for all of mankind's failures: Adam's fall in the garden. Other explanations for man's sinfulness are not addressed in the Bible, because God knew that the important issue was the cure for man's sin.

Some "experts" in the field of human behavior would want us to believe that since, in their view, homosexuality is genetic, then the homosexual

lifestyle is "normal and natural." Thus, a homosexual has a choice in how he acts. I would strongly disagree. What one "feels" is one matter; how one acts is another. Genetic predisposition does not dictate action.

The Bible teaches that God designed "natural" roles for men and women. Being fallen, some choose not to honor these biblically mandated instructions. Such have failed in their sexuality, just as we all have failed at other points in our lives to be what God wants us to be. We have all fallen short of the glory of God. Those who choose a homosexual lifestyle are not forced to do so. The origins of the "feelings" that lead them to that decision do not matter. What is important is the solution to their problem: forgiveness in Christ.

Edmond Long, pastor
Westview Church
Chattanooga 37421

Sees differently

The letter of Jan. 18 about homosexuals is wrong about morals, the Bible, and scientific history. Galileo's discoveries in astronomy merely added to and did much to verify what Nicolaus Copernicus had published on his death, 21 years before Galileo was born. Old manuscripts saved from burnings of the Library at Alexandria were a source for Copernicus, probably, for our planetary system was in records 100 years BC in Africa, and further back in other places.

Though the English measuring system was not known then, the polar circumference of the earth had been calculated to within 10 miles of its modern value by establishing an exact distance north and south between widely spaced points, and getting an exact angle on the pole star from each place. Galileo was born in 1564. Columbus sailed in 1492, and knew the world was round, though thinking its circumference was 8,000 miles, rather than 25,000, known by educated royalty of Spain. The "hull-down" attitude of ships beyond the horizon was known even to uneducated sailors. Flat earth was a hoax of a Catholic Inquisition that knew better.

As a Genetics buff for decades, I have faith in a developing science of hope for mankind. The notion that homosexual behavior can be excused by their genes, is without logic. Among about 3,000 "genetic ties", even the obnoxious habit of smoking affects many. All one has to do is not to light. Neither do homosexuals "have to do" their things. A recent Southern Baptist Convention vote showed most moderates and conservatives agree on the subject.

And Christ said in Matthew 5:17; "Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the Prophets. I am not come to de-

stroy but to fulfill.

William A. Vandiver
Waverly 37185

Getting nervous

D.P. Brooks in his letter said we should keep our minds open on the matter of homosexuality because Christ — not our preconceptions — is the correct principle of biblical interpretation. When I read this letter aloud at the supper table, my sons (16 and 20) were astounded. Their image of a Southern Baptist is apparently a person who believes something in spite of the evidence.

I tried to convince them that in my 50-year sojourn on this earth I have met other Baptists who are also open to the truth wherever it leads. But they see a closed Baptist mindset, and it is wearing very thin with them.

I don't know how the evidence will turn out on why a person is homosexual. But if I had already made up my mind, some of the preliminary findings in regard to genetics would be making me very nervous. When the church gets collectively nervous, it tends to lash out with venom in a most un-Christlike manner. May God save us from denying what we claim to stand for — the Truth.

Larry Maples
Cookeville 38501

Born straight

D.P. Brooks of Nashville recently suggested in a letter that Christians who disparage the homosexual lifestyle are misinformed. The writer alleged that we are biblically misinformed because "the coming of Christ sets aside some Old Testament laws." He ranked prohibition of homosexuality as belonging to transient codes like "kosher laws and teachings on slavery" that no longer bear authority for Christians. However, prohibition of homosexuality is not unique to the Old Testament. In Romans 1:24-27 the Apostle Paul called homosexuality "unnatural," "indecent," and described it as "perversion." In I Corinthians 6:9-11 he listed unrepentant homosexuals as among those who will not inherit the kingdom of God. Thus a Christian under the authority of Scripture cannot view the prohibition of homosexuality as obsolete.

I think the writer should rethink his conclusion regarding homosexuality and possible genetic causes. Even if one should conclude that biological factors create homosexual tendencies, this provides no real justification for homosexual behavior. The seminal view of the transmission of the sin nature recognizes that hereditary factors influence all personal sin. Hereditary factors no more excuse homosexual behavior than they excuse alcoholism, adultery, or murder. Homosexuals are fully accountable for their behavior

since the Gospel of Christ promises full deliverance from homosexuality. I Corinthians 6:11 describes some who had abandoned homosexuality because they were "washed," "sanctified," and "justified" at salvation. Whether people are born gay or not is debatable. This much is sure: when you are born again, you are born straight!

Charles Quarles, pastor
Hickory Ridge Church
Memphis 38141

In full context

D.P. Brooks' letter of Jan. 18 tries to justify homosexuality by placing four unrelated issues under the singular heading, "cultural mores." Responsible, biblical, "intelligent interpretation" requires separate treatment of these issues, using God-given common sense instead of twisted logic.

(1) Homosexuality is a sin and will always be a sin; God himself calls it sin in the Bible. One cannot ignore or change that fact.

(2) Galileo's issue was scientific. The Catholic Church was neither biblical nor righteous in their treatment of Galileo. This issue is scientific, therefore it cannot be used to justify the sin of homosexuality. Genetic homosexuality is a scientific impossibility.

(3) Stoning laws in Deuteronomy are concerned with civil laws in the theocracy of Israel. Brooks fails to fully present these laws' contexts, resulting in their misrepresentation. Today, we don't stone people for severe disobedience and sexual immorality, but these lifestyles remain seriously sinful. Jesus said to the woman caught in adul-

tery, "Go, and sin no more." Jesus forgave her and commanded her to forsake such sin forever. Jesus' love extends to the sinner, not the sin. Eternal life and forgiveness is for the repentant sinner. The sin of homosexuality requires repentance. Misrepresentation of Israel's theocratic, civil laws cannot be used to justify homosexuality.

(4) Brooks' argument implies omitting parts of the Old Testament to justify homosexuality and satisfy sinful society. This is blatant biblical irresponsibility to allow convenience for sin.

Interpreting the Bible through Jesus Christ, one finds that God's truth about sin, forgiveness, and salvation is consistent and unchangeable. Christ's death provides forgiveness for the sinner, not justification for sin. Other logic fails. We must accurately present and defend God's truth, instead of vainly grasping for man's perversion of God's truth, i.e. homosexuality.

Donald A. Davidson, pastor
National Avenue Church
Memphis 38122

Director needed

The Greater Dayton Association of Baptists is seeking a Director of Church Development. Our association consists of 88 churches, 10 missions, and seven mission ministries. The DCD's job description basically relates to equipping the churches to accomplish their mission.

Resumes should be forwarded to: Ron Mitchell, 5310 Packard Drive, Huber Heights, Ohio 45424.

Ron Mitchell
Huber Heights, Ohio 45424

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests

TENNESSEE BAPTIST PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS



CANADA • MICHIGAN • POLAND

February

- 1 — Polish Baptists are planning for tent revivals in six cities in Poland during June, July, and August.
- 2 — Pray for the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists in their efforts to teach and apply the doctrinal study on stewardship this spring.
- 3 — Pray as Canadian leadership works out logistics to bring in an assist team from all over Canada.
- 4 — A number of churches in Canada are plateaued. Pray for their growth.
- 5 — There are three Baptist Women/Baptist Young Women retreats scheduled at Lake Bambi Baptist Conference Center in Michigan this month. Pray for the leaders as more than 500 women will participate.
- 6 — Pray for the state literacy work in Michigan and for Wanda Owsley, state literacy consultant.
- 7 — PRAISE — The Lord has answered prayers for the completion of the roof and siding for the Migrant Center at the Good Samaritan Church in Lawrence. Pastor Jesus Lopez and his wife, Elsa, minister to 15,000 migrant workers each spring and summer.

BWA, a worldwide family of Baptist friends

There is a big meeting scheduled later this year for the worldwide family of Baptists. First there is a day of celebration and recognition on the calendar.

Baptist World Alliance Day is February 5, but some Baptists will celebrate the family on another day.

Of course there are no legal ties between all the groups that comprise such a family, but the spiritual ties are strong and deep. As in all Baptist relationships, the ties are only as tight as we want them.

The wellknown Baptist hymn says it all: "Blest be the ties that bind our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above."

On February 5, BWA Day is a reminder of our Baptist brothers and sisters around the world.

Though Southern Baptists form the largest body in this fellowship, each of us is a part of 38 million Baptist believers representing a community of 100 million in more than 200 countries.

Southern Baptists are a mobile people. Many thousands are volunteers in partnership projects each year, blanketing God's good earth with hands-on servanthood. Thousands more travel on vacations and business trips — and pause to worship and fellowship with Baptists whom they may never see again.

Each time this happens, Baptists are

participating in a worldwide fellowship, an expression of Christian caring that binds believers together.

This summer thousands from the Baptist family will meet in Argentina. Many Tennessee Baptists can help celebrate with Baptists of worldwide vision as the Baptist World Congress meets in Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 1-6.

The theme for this massive display of Baptist fellowship is "Celebrate Christ, the Hope of the World!"

Every five years the Baptist World Alliance has a congress where groups, conventions, conferences, and unions of Baptists gather. More than 10,000 are expected in Buenos Aires in July.

God's people will forge a panorama, a rainbow of nations, as they group to worship, praise, study, sing, pray, and honor the Lord Jesus. This display of faith is a living testimony of willingness to heed

Building tabernacle not always necessary

It was a unique experience. The teachers were being taught.

When T.W. Hunt completed about eight hours on "The Mind of Christ" with Executive Board staff leadership group in a Camp Linden retreat setting recently, there was enough humility left over to fill twelve large baskets. We were covered.

After Hunt spent an hour thoroughly explaining every detail of the crucifixion of Christ, our stunned group sat in hushed solemnity for another hour.

There were some testimonies, prayers,

the Great Commission. Testimonies will reveal that the Gospel is truly going out into all parts of the earth.

What can Tennessee Baptists do? It is important to recognize the spiritual strength of the greater Baptist family. Remember to pray for the BWA and Baptist kin from "the ends of the earth."

It is imperative to pray and give for the Gospel message, the winning of people to Christ, the planting of churches, and the discipling of new Christians.

Southern Baptists are used to playing leadership roles. In doing so, we also must recognize the active presence of the Holy Spirit at work among all family members.

The BWA suggests an offering on February 5. Any gift should be sent to the BWA Office at 6733 Curran St., McLean, Virginia 22101, for use in relief aid, discipling, hunger relief, and other needs. □

tears, reverent singing — and someone remarked that we should build tabernacles.

It was as if each person were cognizant of holy moments, afraid to break the fragile sense of awe. Someone else reminded the group that the Mind of Christ would go with us from the mountain top into the valleys.

Finally Hunt discovered the key. "Next hour," he said with a smile, "we'll talk about the resurrection."

That did it. There was holy hilarity all around, but no need for tabernacles. □

one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Who, me, an expert?

In the words of the Preacher, there always will be many books and studying.

In Ecclesiastes 12:12, we are reminded, "One further warning, my son: the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body."

Now for a wordsmith, those are strong words.

The Preacher is right, of course, on both counts.

We are living in times when everyone is an expert on something. And we don't want to wait long for them to tell us. From looking at the books in bookshops, and checking on the titles listed in catalogs and other listings — I have come to realize that a large percentage of the American public is writing. I don't know how many are reading.

What do they write about? Well, they don't have to have great subject matter or talent. A catchy title helps — as do a smart looking jacket and a list of convenient "how tos."

The Lord must have made millions of ignorant people, and kept them that way, because writers find easy buyers.

Some writers are able to develop "groupies," or fans who believe they must have every book written by some authors.

Usually the stories put down wholesome lifestyles and display the blood, sex, and evil intrigues that are favored by so many people.

But we can make some value judgments by checking out the fruits. The plots are simplistic. We are made to believe the heroes are pretty good guys — even though they are guilty of volumes of wrongs.

Just like strangers, friends will tell us that the plot is good — you just have to overlook the tawdry stuff. (By the way, it is the same for movies.)

We can learn how to do anything, everything, or nothing by reading or looking.

The few good books that hit the store shelf seldom are best sellers. After all, who wants to know how to live righteously?

Oh, I wanted to sell some too, but who would care? After all, the shelves are filled, and I can't tell anyone "how to."

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Judge to bailiff: "Three days have passed, and the jury is still out. Go and check on them."

Bailiff: "Your honor, all the jurors are lawyers. They are working on their speeches to elect a foreman."



WOOD

Take this truth

Long-winded discussions on trivial things can waste time. Such can avoid facing real issues. Thoreau said, "You cannot kill time without injuring eternity."

Memorize this Scripture

"Act like sensible people ... make the most of your time" (Ephesians 5:19 Moffatt).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to avoid wasting time when I major on minors. May I remember time waits for no one. □

'And the truth shall make you free'

Racial prejudice cuts like a two-edged sword. It hurts those who are victimized and those who practice it.

Personal focus usually is on the victims of racism. These are people who are despised or ostracized for no other reason than their skin color or their ethnic origin. Millions worldwide still experience such prejudice. The ethnic war in former Yugoslavia and the tribal slaughter in Rwanda are examples. Elsewhere situations are improving.

Southern Baptists observe Race Relations Sunday Feb. 12. It should have meaning.

The death knell has sounded for apartheid in South Africa. But more must be done to eliminate the physical acts of discrimination in the United States and elsewhere.

For all the evil racial prejudices produces for the victim, the person who harbors prejudice is in bondage even more than the slave who is in physical chains.

Sadly, the persons bearing the prejudice often do not realize the effect of their attitudes and behavior on their personal

lives. Racial prejudice deprives one of the joy of getting to know all of God's people and the privilege of sharing God's Word with every person encountered.

Jesus talked about such spiritual bondage when he said, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). He was

relations matter

By Louis Moore

addressing a group of Jews who "believed in him." He told them that if they would continue to abide in him, they would know the truth.

Their response was illustrative of their lack of understanding.

The Bible records their arrogant response: "We are Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man."

Jesus replied, "Verily, Verily, I say unto you, whoever commits sin is the servant of sin" (John 8:35).

The eyes of these Jewish people were blind to their sins.

Today millions of people in the world are blind to their sins of racial and ethnic preju-

dice and its associated hatred and arrogance.

Those who are oppressed and those who oppress are in need of the prayers and witness of those who are called Christian.

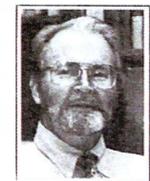
Those who know the truth that Jesus Christ died to save each person who believes in him must not allow the sin of racial and ethnic prejudice to continue to be a stumbling block to Christian witness for a sin-sick world

that needs to hear the Good News of salvation.

Racial and ethnic prejudice is wrong because it tries to slander someone else who is also precious to Jesus. This kind of prejudice is usually based on heresy and lack of knowledge.

It is wrong because it denigrates persons who are worthy in God's sight and created in his image. It overlooks Paul's strong testimony that all people are equal and deserving of respect. □

Louis Moore, former associate, Christian Life Commission, is now with the Foreign Mission Board. Wm. Fletcher Allen contributed to this article.



ALLEN

Ministering to victims of Alzheimer's

By Ken Walker
For Associated Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Termed "the funeral that never ends," Alzheimer's Disease affects four million Americans and 19 million family members.

Among them is the United States' former first family. Ronald Reagan recently went public with a handwritten letter sharing he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, in hopes of increasing awareness about the disease which kills more Americans than all other ailments except heart disease, cancer, and strokes.

Alzheimer's Disease destroys brain cells, gradually causing memory loss, confusion, and personality change in its victims. Unless there is a cure, Alzheimer's cases are expected to number 14 million by 2050.

Those numbers create a

stats

■ Approximately four million Americans have AD, with 19 million family members affected. Another 37 million know someone with AD.

■ AD is the fourth-leading cause of death among adults.

■ One in 10 persons over 65 and nearly half of those over 85 suffer from AD. Cases are now showing up in the 40s and 50s.

■ A person with AD can live from three to 20 years or more after the onset of symptoms.

■ The disease costs society approximately \$100 billion a year. Neither Medicare nor private health insurance covers the long-term care most patients need.

■ Home care costs an estimated \$47,000 annually. Insurance typically pays \$12,000 and the remainder comes from families and other informal care givers.

■ Half of all nursing home patients suffer from AD or a related disorder. The average annual nursing home costs \$36,000, but is more than \$70,000 in some areas.

■ The federal government will spend an estimated \$311 million for AD research in 1995.

(Statistics from the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association, Chicago. For more information, contact the association's Benjamin B. Green-Field Library, (312) 335-9602.) □

mission field, according to speakers at a recent seminar at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Kentucky.

The disease is so debilitating and creates such deep issues for patients' families — emotional depletion and feelings of guilt, loss of hope, and abandonment — that it can challenge simple concepts of the Almighty, experts say.

"As Americans we're taught that we have power over everything," said James Phillips, one of 15 participants exploring pastoral and congregational responses to Alzheimer's. The disease, he added, "makes us look at God's power."

"Too many people have a magical concept of God," added David Wentroble, who works in a nursing home in Connecticut. "Faith evangelists say, 'If you have enough faith, healing will come.' People expect a lightning bolt of healing in a case like this and it doesn't always happen."

Led by Nancy Ramsay, professor of pastoral theology at the Louisville seminary, and Kathryn Barlow Westmoreland, chaplain at Llanfair Retirement Community in Cincinnati, Ohio, discussions included a look at the theologi-

cal and spiritual issues affecting Alzheimer's patients.

Using a case study of a couple named Carl and Ruth, participants explored reactions to the pain that afflicts many families. The example involved a woman whose husband of 53 years no longer remembers her, their children, or anything else of the past.

"I never dreamed our lives would end this way," she told a neighbor. "I'm still married, but my husband is gone." Her feelings include:

■ **Abandonment.** Family members stopped coming by and friends quit offering dinner invitations. Although Carl had been Sunday School superintendent for 25 years, church officers visit only quarterly to offer communion and a bulletin.

■ **Embarrassment.** Carl mistook his daughter for his wife several times and said inappropriate things to her.

■ **Fear.** Ruth seemed each day closer to feeling overwhelmed. She questioned her ability to hang on and the reality of her faith.

While hypothetical, the case study struck close to home for those who minister to Alzheimer's patients and their families.

"A lot of people ask if it's okay to pray that (their loved one) die," said Georgine Buckwalter, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and director of pastoral care for Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky. "They say, 'I'm not sure how to pray or what to feel.'"

"I spent a (recent) night with a woman who asked questions like this," echoed another participant. "She said, 'Pastor, is there evil or death in me? Is evil taking me over and making me say things I wouldn't normally?'"

"You have an image of what hell is all about," added another. "There's no closure and it's like a burning fire that never goes out."

Alzheimer's, like other developmental disabilities, casts a new light on the biblical description of humans, "created in God's image," said Ramsay. She believes that refers to a relationship with the Creator rather than intellect.

This invites us to rethink what it means to be the church," she said, "to be with those who are no longer able to understand what that relationship means." □

— Ken Walker is a freelance writer in Louisville, Ky.

Minister views Alzheimer's up close

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — As a longtime pastor and former missionary to Japan, James Phillips has dealt with many parishioners with Alzheimer's Disease. But none of that prepared him for his own experience.

Two months ago, after years of caring for his steadily deteriorating wife, Ruth, he placed her in a nursing home. He shared that experience at a recent seminar on Alzheimer's here.

"It's one thing visiting someone else who has this horrible disease and then seeing how it devastates you," Phillips said. "Some days my faith is stronger; many days it's weaker."

A Presbyterian pastor for nearly 40 years, Phillips is associate director of the Overseas Ministries Study Center in New Haven, Conn. His presbytery assigned him to the independent missions agency 11 years ago.

It's a rewarding position, one that helps maintain a positive outlook in spite of his personal struggles. After 37 years of marriage, one of the emptiest feelings is going to bed alone, he said.

Then there is the emotional loss of a once-vibrant partner. A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, a Southern Baptist school in Arkadelphia, Ark., Ruth Phillips once worked as an administrative assistant to a large law publisher in Chicago. She served alongside her husband for 17 years in Japan, where they raised two daughters.

Now she doesn't know them or her two grandsons, ages 3 and 1. The boys don't understand what's wrong with Grandma or why Grandpa doesn't bring her along on visits,

Phillips said.

Phillips said he visits his wife every other day. "Some days I think she knows who I am, some days she doesn't," he said. "It's hard because she was a brilliant woman. But that's all been wiped out. In her mind she's probably living back in her childhood. It hurts, but that's the reality of this disease."

Ruth had suffered from paranoia for 15 years after they returned from Japan, but her doctors aren't sure if that was a link to the disease. After increasing stages of forgetfulness, she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 1991.

Phillips kept his wife at home, first taking her to two day care centers and then employing three women to help care for her while he was at work. However, Ruth constantly fell, both during the day and at night.

By then, their social life had already vanished. They had to quit attending concerts because she shouted in the middle of performances. Her appearance and eating habits grew messy. Her speech deteriorated into meaningless ramblings.

While he learned to cope with many of the personal setbacks, recently he battled the anxiety of how to pay for the nursing home bills. Ironically, if he were penniless, some financial assistance would probably be available.

Phillips finds strength in Scripture, particularly Psalms that talk about the Lord giving strength for each day as it comes. He is grateful, too, for the support of his co-workers, family, and friends. □

to help —

■ **Provide "respite care."** Stay with the patient to allow the care giver time away from home or to attend Sunday services.

■ **Offer transportation.**

■ **Take sermon tapes to the care giver if she or he is unable to attend church.**

■ **Call and send cards to the care giver as a sign of remembrance.**

■ **Play music.** Old hymns and simple childhood songs often stimulate a patient's memory.

■ **Remember the importance of rituals.** Serving communion in a care giver's home if the person is unable to attend church can be very meaningful.

■ **Visit AD patients in nursing homes.** "When I look at the (visitors' log), I'm amazed at the lack of visits by pastors and churches," said Angela Flack, who works at a nursing home in Louisville, Ky.

additional ministry ideas —

■ **Provide counseling for care givers and allow them the freedom to express their anger.**

■ **Educate your congregation.** Mention Alzheimer's from the pulpit. Explain the disorder in the church newsletter. Bring in special speakers on the topic. Help members to avoid insensitive comments, such as asking a patient, "Don't you remember who I am?"

■ **Find "bright spots"** while the person is still able to function in public. Use the patient as a helper for a children's Sunday School class.

■ **Lead Bible studies for care givers,** reviewing select passages and how they relate to the person's feelings.

■ **Organize a "Time Out"** program where care givers can leave a loved one while they take care of personal business.

■ **Place resources in the church library,** such as booklets, books, articles and lists of social services agencies. □

Puryear members celebrate 150 years of history

For Baptist and Reflector

PURYEAR — The smell of kerosene lamps, ladies in long skirts, bonnets, shawls, and hats, and men in overalls, bandannas, dark pants, and string ties set the scene as Puryear Church celebrated its 150th anniversary on Jan. 8.

Three members were recognized for longest continuous membership — Wayne Littleton, more than 80 years, and Mary Mason Brannon and Beth Morris Wilson, 68 years.

Previous pastors and wives were recognized.

Present were W.A. Farmer, retired, Como; Norman Culpepper, retired, Jackson; H.D. Hudson, pastor of Oak Grove Church; Paul Barkley, professor at the School of Nursing, Union University, Memphis; Ron Harber, chaplain, Methodist Hospital, Memphis; and Paul Veasey, director of denominational support, Union.

Western District Association Director of Missions Bill Smith presented a plaque of recognition to the church from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society and a certificate from Union University.

Nelda Osborn read "Reflections from the Past," excerpts from minutes taken throughout the history of the church.

Pastor Mickey Basham preached a sermon entitled "Stones of Remembrance," taken from Joshua: 3 and 4.

Small stones inscribed with Puryear: 1845-1995 were given to all present to remind them to pray for God's continued blessings on the church.

Several items from the past were on display: a large old pulpit Bible used many years ago that had been found discarded in an old coal shed by Joe Hart and was restored by some members of the church; the first book of minutes thought to have been destroyed were discovered and returned to the church by Richard Vance a few years ago. The book contained the Constitution, Rules of Decorum, and minutes through 1862. Also displayed were an old homemade outdoor sign and the first bulletin. □ — Nelda Osborn



WESTERN DISTRICT Association Director of Missions Bill Smith, right, presents a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to Puryear Church Pastor Mickey Basham.



SEVERAL FORMER PASTORS returned to Puryear Church to help members celebrate the church's 150th anniversary. From left, current pastor Mickey Basham, Paul Veasey, W.A. Farmer, Norman Culpepper, H.D. Hudson, Ron Harber, Paul Barkley, and Western District Association Director of Missions Bill Smith.



WAYNE LITTLETON, 97, has been a member at Puryear for more than 80 years. With him is his sister, Aggie Lee Paschall.

Deceased DOM gives final gift to CP ministries

For Baptist and Reflector

ROGERSVILLE — Even at his death, Henry Guy Jackson continued to plug the Cooperative Program.

Jackson, a director of missions for 33 years in Tennessee, was a firm believer in the CP, said Johnnie Hall, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Discipleship Training Department, who delivered the message at Jackson's funeral.

Jackson, 81, who died Jan. 17, planned his funeral in 1983. Included in his instructions was a desire to have a Cooperative Program display and printed envelopes where people could give monetary gifts in lieu of flowers. The gifts would fund the Henry Guy Jackson Mission Fund and would be invested with the Tennessee Baptist Foundation with proceeds going to the CP and credited to Holston Valley Association, where he last served as DOM.

Jackson is survived by two sons, Dan and Henry Guy Jr., and five grandchildren. □

Feb. 19 is Baptist Seminary, College, and School Day

Tennessee schools highlighted during SBC agency's annual emphasis

By John Adams
For Baptist and Reflector

Sunday, Feb. 19, is Baptist Seminary, College, and School Day throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

Tennessee Baptists have four schools that are counted among Southern Baptist educational institutions — Belmont University, Nashville; Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour; and Union University, Jackson.

There are at least three good reasons why Baptists observe this special day.

First, Baptists and other evangelicals have always supported Christian education. When the Puritans founded Harvard, just a few years after arriving in Massachusetts, one of the policies of the college was, "Let every student be ... pressed to consider well that the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ" In the first 150 years of our nation's history, every college, with the exception of one, was a church-related college.

Second, Baptists recognize the distinctive differences that exist between Christian and secular education. What are these differences? Christian education recognizes God as the creator and sustainer of mankind; secular education does not. Christian education recognizes the Bible as the word of God; secular education does not. Christian education recognizes the importance of training young people for leadership in the local church; secular education does not. Christian education recognizes Jesus Christ as the only begotten son of God and savior of all mankind; secular education does not. Christian education

has God at the center of its learning; secular education has man at the center of its learning.

Third, Stephen Carleton, executive director of the Education Commission, has established three goals for the agency. These areas of concentrated emphasis include: every college a center of academic excellence, every college

a center for soul winning, and every college with an international outpost to the kingdom.

The Education Commission and the Foreign Mission Board, working together, already have over 300 mission projects involving faculty, students, and administrators in more than 80 countries. A primary focus of this work has been "World A" countries where missionaries are not allowed or are restricted. Baptists, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, have found ways to circumvent Satan's obstacles.

There are several reasons why Southern Baptist pastors and churches will observe Baptist Seminary, College, and School Day on Sunday, Feb. 19, or some other appropriate Sunday. These reasons include: Baptists historically have been committed to Christian education, the distinctive differences between Christian and secular education, and Baptists believe that Christian education is missions.

For more information on Baptist Seminary, College, and School Day, contact the SBC Education Commission at 901 Commerce, Suite 600, Nashville, Tenn., 37203. □ — Adams is vice president for religious affairs at Union University and is a member of the board of commissioners of the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

Practical ways for observing Baptist Seminary, College, and School Day in local churches

The Southern Baptist Education Commission and its Executive Director Stephen Carleton suggest several ways pastors and churches can observe Baptist Seminary, College, and School Day.

- Plan a Sunday morning breakfast on Feb. 19 or some other appropriate Sunday for the youth in your church. Invite a youth who may attend a Baptist college or a representative from a Baptist college to speak.

- Order one or more copies of *Guide to Southern Baptist-related Colleges and Schools* from the Education Commission, 901 Commerce Street, Suite 600, Nashville, Tenn., 37203. The directory gives specific information on all Baptist schools, including the four from Tennessee.

- Plan a youth trip to a nearby Baptist college.

- Invite a choir, music ensemble, student-led revival team, or some other Baptist Student Union group to come to your church for an evening of worship and music.

- Pastors may consider preaching on the values of Christian education.

- Ask juniors and seniors in your church to visit high school guidance counselors and request information on Baptist schools they may be interested in. Tennessee's three schools of higher education are Belmont University, Carson-Newman College, and Union University. □ — John Adams

Member leads Lobelville church into nursing home ministry

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

A.E. Hood's life changed when his wife entered a nursing home a year ago.

He started visiting the Perry County Nursing Home in Linden each day to spend time with Sudie. They would visit and eat lunch together.

As he made new friends there, he discovered many had spiritual needs. Hood asked his pastor, Jerry Wood, First Church, Lobelville, if he could help.

Soon a team from the church was visiting the nurs-

ing home each Thursday.

After six months of the weekly services, the ministry has made a difference, reported Hood.

But that's not what caused Hood to call the *Baptist and Reflector*.

The retired employee of Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in Memphis explained he called because he saw a miracle at the nursing home Jan. 12.

Fount Moore, 74, who has lived at the nursing home for 17 years, accepted Christ on that day, said Hood.

Some of the residents of the

home become "hardcore" after many years of institutional life, he explained. This was the experience of Moore. The first time Hood talked to him he said he was going to die and go to hell.

"I wondered who could help him," said Hood.

But that didn't keep Hood from visiting with him and sharing his faith in God with him.

They talked almost every day for three months before Moore made the decision, added Hood.

Now when Hood visits

Moore, he says he feels really good, remarked Hood.

Since he's shared the important news, Hood is glad to report on the ministry at the nursing home.

About 40 residents gather for the service, which is led by Wood; Ron Springman, music director at the church; Junior Spencer, a deacon; and Hood. The residents eagerly anticipate each meeting, said Hood.

He has heard some say they have never studied the Bible in such depth as they have under the direction of Wood. The residents also enjoy singing hymns

as a group.

Hood, a Sunday School teacher of many years, also leads a daily devotional he leads each afternoon. It is attended by residents and staff members of the facility.

The ministry has been a blessing to Hood, too.

Since Sudie has been at the home he has had to limit his visiting in the community to see her.

"It's a blessing. The Lord is blessing us each day," he said.

He just wanted to tell everybody, he added. □

Colbert to assist in church starting

ATLANTA — Gerald Colbert is the new Home Mission Board staff member working with Tennessee Baptists to start churches.

Colbert, formerly director of church extension for the Baptist State Convention of Michi-

gan, replaces Bill Long who retired in December.

As a field-servicing associate, Colbert will work with Tennessee state and associational leaders in strategy development, conference planning, and personnel. □

Kingsport pastor Herman Norton dies

Herman Norton, 61, pastor, Cedar Grove Church, Kingsport, died Jan. 14 at a Kingsport hospital.

Norton, who had served the church for 18 years, had been pastor of Southern Baptist churches for 31 years. He had served Gramita Baptist Mis-

sion, Middlesboro, Ky.; Sunshine Church, Harlan, Ky.; Reservoir Road Church, Kingsport; and Harmony Church, Jonesborough.

Norton is survived by his wife, Cornelia; a daughter and son; two grandchildren; and a sister and brother. □

Retired Watauga Association pastor dies

Retired Tennessee Baptist pastor Roger N. Estep, 77, of Elizabethton died Jan. 16 at Johnson City Medical Center Hospital after a brief illness.

He served the following churches in Watauga Associa-

tion: Beck Mountain, Bethel, Little Milligan, and Riverview. He was a member of Dungan Chapel Church, Elizabethton.

Estep is survived by his wife, Eliza, two daughters, a son, and six grandchildren. □

<p>This is Joe Youthworker.....</p>	<p>These are Joe's unhappy kids....</p>	<p>Union University presents the 1995 Jackson, TN GOOD STUF Student Conference Friday May 12th 6pm-Midnight Andy Stanley • Lanny Donoho • David Bell & the Good Stuf Band • pizza • pizza • pizza • pizza •</p>
<p>This is Joe with a GREAT idea!...</p>	<p>These are Joe's HAPPY kids at the GOOD STUF Conference....</p>	<h1>Any Questions?</h1>
<p>For more information call: YOUTH MINISTRY RESOURCES • 700 OLD ROSWELL LAKES PKWY • SUITE 150 • ROSWELL, GA 30076 404-993-9177 • FAX 404-594-0014</p>		

TAX SEMINARS

Free information

FOR: This year's tax seminars, sponsored by the Church Annuity Programs Department, will target church treasurers, pastors, and church staff members. Make plans to attend one of the following seminars.

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■ the people

■ Beech Springs Church, Mason, ordained **Shey Esch**, **Horn**, **Jerry Summers** and **Bill Verdell** as deacons. The congregation also ordained **Essell Essary** to the ministry in December. Essary is serving New Salem Church, Cedars, in his first pastorate.

■ Russwood Church, Ringville, ordained **Charles Morrison** as a deacon.

■ **John Davidson** was ordained to the ministry by Trinity Church, Kingsport. Davidson is serving a church in Georgia as pastor.

■ Mount Gilead Church, Cedar Grove, licensed **Philip Hoffman** to preach.

■ **Larry Spears** was ordained by Barnesville Church, McMurtown.

■ Parkview Church, Lewisburg, ordained **Kevin Turner** and **Bob Wenslow** as deacons on 8.

■ **Helen and Charles** of Liberty Church, Ewen, deliver homecooked meals to elderly people in the community each Tuesday. They call their ministry the Sunshine Food Service of Liberty Church.

■ First Church, Gleason, ordained **Clarence Barham** and **Robert Parsley** as deacons in December.

■ the leaders

■ Thompson Creek Church, Lenoir, honored **Don Malone**, pastor, and his wife, **Maria**, on Dec. 11 for 25 years of service.

■ **Gary Marshall** is serving as pastor of Robertson Creek Church, Bulls Gap.

■ Pleasant View Church, Albott, called **Roan Crain** as minister of youth.

■ Pleasant Ridge Church, Albott, called **Jeff Foster** as pastor.

■ **Tim Parker** is serving

as minister to students at First Church, Morristown.

■ Montvue Church, Morristown, called **Tom Stanton**, as pastor.

■ **James and Trish Jackson** were called by First Church, Kingsport, to serve as minister to students and minister of activities, respectively, of First Church, Kingsport. James was minister of youth and children at a church in Louisville, Ky., and a staff member of Centrifuge for the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. He is a graduate of Georgia State University, Atlanta; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Trish also served as a Centrifuge staff member. She is a graduate of Georgetown (Ky.) College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ First Church, Dover, called **Terry Kirby** as pastor.

■ **Henry Richardson**, youth and music director, Hickory Valley Church, Hickory Valley, was licensed to the ministry by the church.

■ **Richard Mason** has served as pastor of Brainerd Hills Church, Chattanooga, for 10 years and **Earnie Burfett** has served as minister of education for four years.

■ **Tim Wuester**, a music evangelist, has returned from Fort Worth, Texas, where he was attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, to Gallatin. He is available, along with his wife, **Amy**, for engagements. Wuester can be contacted at 350 E. Main St., #4, Gallatin, 37066, (615) 451-2679.

■ Campbell's Chapel Church, Bristol, called **Brad Fogarty** as youth minister.

■ **Ed and Laura Young** were honored by Memorial Church, Hixson, Jan. 22 on their 65th wedding anniversary. Ed Young has served churches as pastor in Mississippi, Texas, and Tennessee.

■ Milton Church, Milton, called **Carlton Connelly** of Antioch as pastor, effective Jan. 1.

■ Old Pond Hill Church, Athens, called **Kenneth King** as pastor.

■ **Eddie Wilson** celebrated his fifth anniversary as minister of music and senior adults at Silverdale Church, Chattanooga.

■ **Rob Perry** was called as minister of music and activities at Concord Church, Chattanooga.

■ **Darrell Newman** has served as minister of music at White Oak Church, Chattanooga, for 20 years.

■ **Richard Blalock** celebrated his 10th anniversary as pastor of Apison Church, Apison.

■ **Michael Roach** was called by Grace Church, Morristown, as minister of youth.

■ Higher Ground Church, Kingsport, called **Richard Ratliff** as staff evangelist. He is available for revivals, supply, and special meetings.

■ Fairfield Church, Morristown, called **Mark Ayers** as minister of youth.

■ **Jerry Milam** is serving as pastor of Wrigley Church, Lyles.

■ **Jerry James** resigned as pastor of Piney Church, Hohenwald. **Richard Tate** is serving as interim pastor.

■ **David Manchester** was called as pastor of Oak Hill Church, Leoma.

■ Covenant Church, Cleveland, called **Harold Firestone** as interim pastor.

■ the churches

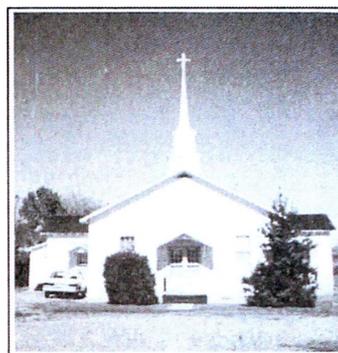
■ New Home Church, Martin, celebrated its centennial anniversary.

■ First Church, Bemis, will host a Woman's Conference March 18. **Marolyn Ford** will speak. For more information contact the church, Attention: Virginia Askew, 116 Bemis Lane, Jackson, 38301.

■ Hornbeak Church, Hornbeak, celebrated its cen-



NEW TRUSTEES of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc., gather during the annual board meeting in Brentwood with **Gerald Stow**, second from left, president. From left are **Glenn Weekly**, pastor, First Church, Hendersonville; **Stow**; **Edsel West**, pastor, South Harriman Church, Harriman; **Walter Jackson**, pastor, Judson Church, Nashville; **Nancy Persons**, member, First Church, Seymour; **Peggy Patterson**, member, First Church, Franklin; **Billy Hammonds**, pastor, First Church, Trenton; **Richard Holden**, pastor, First Church, Alcoa; and **Lloyd Comer**, member, Immanuel Church, Lawrenceburg.



THE NEW STEEPLE of Fairview Church, Obion, was installed in memory of **S.W. "Sie" Fielder**. The dedication service, which was led by **J.D. Mays** of Alamo and **Harvey Evans**, pastor, drew about 80 people.

ennial anniversary.

■ **Charlotte Road Church**, Nashville, will hold a parenting seminar Feb. 5 and 12. The three sessions each day will begin at 10:50 a.m., 5:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. The seminar, "Shaping the Next Generation," will be led by **David** and **Elaine Athison** of Nashville.

■ **First Church**, Woodland Mills, celebrated its 125th anniversary.

■ deaths

■ **Ron Griffin**, 62, retired pastor, Cherokee Church, Memphis, died Jan. 14. The resident of Cabot, Ark., had served as a Southern Baptist

minister for 39 years. He was a graduate of the University of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Memorials may be made to First Church, Cabot, and the Mount Carmel Church, Cabot, building fund. His wife, **Martha Lynn Sexton** of Cabot, survives him.

■ state events

■ The Fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists will hold an evangelistic rally Feb. 11 at Boone's Creek Church, Gray. Speakers include **Billy Edmonds**, **Phil Glisson**, and **Fred Davis**.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

O.J., Susan Smith

by Marvin Cameron, pastor West Hills Church, Knoxville

O.J. Simpson. Susan Smith. Two names. One a man. The other a woman. One from the big city. The other from the rural south. What in the world could such two disparate people have in common? It is the fact that they are charged with the most well-known crimes in this decade.

The O.J. trial began last week. All three networks covered the opening statements of the trial live. Two cable networks will have gavel-to-gavel coverage. Reporters are gathering from around the globe. Even Garry Trudeau's "Doonesbury" has its own "trial coverage." The same will be true, on a smaller scale, in the Susan Smith trial which begins later this year.

On the way to work the other morning I heard a phone-in poll being taken about whether or not O.J. would be con-

victed. In South Carolina the latest question was whether or not Susan Smith should be tried for the death penalty.

As Christians, how do we view these two people, especially if they are both guilty? Both of the crimes were terrible, events that we can hardly imagine taking place. Could we ever forgive O.J. Simpson or Susan Smith?

The Bible tells a story about a man who was an accessory to one of the worst murders in his time. A saint was

killed for the "crime" of preaching the Gospel. The man who consented to the killing, who held the coats of the murders and later went on a trip looking for other victims, was not only forgiven, but became the most profetic of the New Testament writers. We call him Paul.

Forgiveness may be the toughest part of being a Christian. But we do have a model. A man who was being murdered, who took time to say, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." □

BSSB, RTVC slate March launch of weekly 'Home Life' TV show

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission is working with the Baptist Sunday School Board to produce "Home Life," a television series using the same title as the board's popular *Home Life* magazine.

The one-hour program will be broadcast weekly on ACTS (American Christian Television System) and FamilyNet beginning the first week in March.

The television program discusses topics related to home and family life and focuses on lifestyles, values, and relationships," said Bob Thornton, RTVC vice president of television services.

He said the program's primary purpose will be to "celebrate and undergird family life through inspiring interviews,

challenging applications, and practical instruction, while providing role models for healthy families."

RTVC President Jack Johnson said the "Home Life" television show "has been on the drawing board for some time. We are pleased to be working with the Sunday School Board in producing this quality series.

"This program is just another indication of what can be accomplished when two or more Southern Baptist entities exercise a cooperative spirit in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ."

Although not a typical talk show, "Home Life" resembles the syndicated "Live! with Reg-

is and Kathy Lee" program, Thornton said. The hosts, Ralph Baker and Vicki Hutson, both of Dallas, will conduct interviews and discuss relevant issues affecting society. "Through the interviews they will educate viewers about a wide range of topics including world events, God-based relationships, health, and entertainment news," Thornton said.

"Solid biblical principles are woven throughout the program emphasizing family values and Christian ideals to offer practical insight into today's busy

lifestyles," Thornton added.

Charlie Warren, editor of the Sunday School Board's *Home Life* magazine, said he is looking forward to the joint effort. "While there are no specific plans to coordinate the content of the show with each month's magazine, I believe the two will be complementary," Warren said.

"We hope to work with RTVC producers fairly closely on the personalities we feature. We will let them know of our upcoming cover features, and they will let us know some of the people they are going to

interview on the program."

Warren said the main benefit of the TV program to the magazine is the exposure to a large television audience. He said he is confident the program and the magazine have similar objectives.

"Home Life" programs will include many segments similar to those found in the magazine. Author and financial advisor Ron Blue will offer financial advice; clinical psychologists Mike and Mary Stedham will answer viewer questions, and Florence Littauer will provide helpful hints and humor. □

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Exciting Four-Year Report

- 7,721 salvation decisions
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- 18,781 total recorded decisions

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SonRise '95 Goes On The Air



See the Good News Network team of Bill Cox, Michael Ward, and Mike & Kim Blackwood. Also hear from Dean Finley, Craig Williams and others!

What:

SonRise is an exciting and in-depth three-day conference for youth and youth leaders.

Where:

Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Ridgecrest, North Carolina

When:

April 13-15, 1995 (The conference begins with dinner on Thursday evening and concludes with lunch on Saturday)

Cost:

\$93 per person (4 per room rate); \$20 per person deposit (applied to total cost of \$93). Includes two nights lodging, six meals, and conference fees.

Counselors:

Youth (under 18) must be accompanied by a counselor 21 years or age or older. Counselors must be housed in the same area with youth - one counselor for every five youth of the same sex. Counselors are responsible for the conduct of the youth they bring.

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REGISTRATION FORM

SonRise '95 April 13-15 1995

GROUP REQUEST

Please copy this form and mail to: Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770 or call (704) 669-8022

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CHURCH ACCOUNT _____

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CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

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GROUP LEADER _____

Number of Male Reservations, Including Counselors _____

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Total Number in Group _____

Please reserve _____ rooms (4 per room) at \$93 per person.

This cost includes two nights lodging, six meals and conferences. If fewer than four people will occupy a room, call for additional rates. Enclose a \$20 deposit per person. Refunds will be made only if cancellation is received by March 15, 1995.

**Life and Work Series
for Feb. 5**

**Focal Passage:
Mark 6:30-37a, 38-42**

True Compassion

By Elizabeth Howard

We can best understand compassion by thinking of the old cliché — to walk in somebody else's shoes. But Christian compassion involves more than just understanding a person's plight and feeling sorry for him/her. It involves action — doing something about it. Jesus felt compassion for people and healed them or cast out their demons, as we have seen in previous lessons. Today, we will see that he also acted to alleviate weariness or hunger or spiritual needs. More than that, he knew how to enlist the help of others in meeting people's needs.

Compassion for the weary — vv. 30-32

Jesus had sent his disciples on a mission trip to the villages in Galilee (vv. 7-13). They had been gone for some time. When they returned, they told Jesus about all the exciting (and all the distressing) things they had seen and heard and experienced. But Jesus recognized the fact that they were all exhausted. Since they could not rest, or even eat, because of the crowd of people with their many demands, Jesus decided to take them on a retreat. They went by boat, a first century cruise of sorts, though a short cruise at best. However, they were already feeling better when they reached their destination. They were ready for some quiet time with Jesus.



HOWARD

But even here the crowds would not leave them alone, but ran around the lake from all the neighboring towns and were waiting when Jesus and his disciples arrived. When Jesus looked at them, he saw them as a herd of sheep needing a shepherd. As the good shepherd, he had to minister to them. The people in the crowd were being fed only rules and rituals by the Jewish religious leaders; they needed spiritual food that would change their lives. So Jesus spent the rest of the day teaching them many things.

Compassion for the hungry — vv. 33-34

Near the end of the day, the disciples interrupted Jesus to remind him of the late hour and the lack of resources to feed such a large crowd. The disciples saw the need, but they did not have an answer to the problem. They thought only to send the people home or to some place to buy food, which would have been impossible. Fast food restaurants did not exist on every corner as they do today. They must have been astounded when Jesus told them to feed the crowd — five thousand men, plus women and children (v. 44).

Compassion with existing resources — vv. 35-37a

Jesus sent them to find out what was available. They found only five loaves and two fishes, one boy's lunch. They had the crowd sit in groups of fifties and hundreds on the green grass (it was spring). The groups must have looked like flower beds as they spread across the hillside in their multicolored clothing. Jesus took the food, blessed it, and broke it into pieces. The disciples shared in the miracle by serving the people. Everyone ate and was satisfied. Twelve baskets of food, one for each disciple, was left over (v. 43).

This is how God works today. If we are willing to participate, he takes what we have and makes up the difference. □ — Elizabeth Howard is a member of Cumberland Homesteads Church, Crossville.

Jesus institutes Lord's Supper

By Brian Courtney

A discussion of the Lord's Supper usually raises certain questions. "How many times a year does a church observe the Lord's Supper?" "What is the proper term for this observance?" "Who can participate?"

One question, however, never asked but should be is, "What should take place during the observance of the Lord's Supper?" This question takes immediate precedence over the other questions. Why? Because to practice the Lord's Supper without paying attention to its meaning is just eating bread and drinking juice.

What should take place: self-examination

— vv. 20-25

While eating with his disciples, Jesus informed them "one of you will betray me." This statement does two things. First, "one of you" informs Judas that Jesus knows about the betrayal. Nothing is hidden from Jesus. Second, "one of you" invites the other disciples to examine themselves.



COURTNEY

The immediate response of the disciples is a question, "Is it I, Lord?" Jesus' word brought the desired result — self-examination. But Jesus says the betrayer will be identified by dipping his hand in the dish with him. He further says the worst thing a person can do is kill the Son of God. These sentences warn Judas. His response is interesting. He calls Jesus "Master." The other disciples call Jesus "Lord." It's not that Master is a proper title; it's a deficient one. Judas refused to change. His self-examination revealed a grade of "F."

Any observance of the Lord's Supper should have a time of self-examination. Jesus' words, "one of you" and the disciples' "is it I?" remind us that self-preparation for the Lord's Supper is essential. A cheap invitation to the Lord's table, without any call to repentance, is almost like asking, "Is it I, Master?" — the words of a betrayer.

What should take place: bless, eat, and drink

— vv. 26-29

Having caused a self-examination among the disci-

ples, Jesus begins the Lord's Supper. Each action is important and instructional. First, he blesses or gives thanks for the bread and cup. Second, Jesus commanded the disciples to eat and drink. The Lord's Supper is no

**Convention Uniform Series
for Feb. 5
Focal Passage
Matthew 26:20-30**

option for disciples; it is a requirement. Third, the broken bread symbolized his broken body. Jesus not only says that he loves, he shows that he loves — his broken body. Fourth, the cup with its contents symbolizes a new covenant which forgives sins. Biblical covenants consist of commitments on God's part and obligations on the part of people. This new covenant between God and man initiated by Jesus was sealed in his blood not continual sacrifices of animals. Further, this covenant forgives sins. The Lord's Supper reminds us that forgiveness is possible. Fifth, Jesus says that he would not drink again on earth, but he would drink it "new" in the Father's kingdom. The Lord's Supper looks forward to the Christian's glorious hope — a new existence prepared by the Father.

Any observance of the Lord's Supper should contain these actions, but attention and reflection should be paid to meanings. When participants take the bread and juice, they should reflect on Jesus' pain, suffering, and love in their behalf for forgiveness of sin.

What should take place: sing a hymn — v. 30

After completing the meal, Jesus and his disciples sang a hymn. The hymn they sang was probably a part of the Hiel (Psalm 115-118), which concludes, "O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever." The Lord's Supper is concluded the way it began — giving thanks to God. Can we do no less? □ — Brian Courtney is pastor of First Church, Sneedville.

Covenant breaking condemned

By Ray Fullilove

The picture in Jeremiah is a pathetic picture of a prodigal people before a pleading God. God's plea was, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love and with lovingkindness have I drawn thee unto me" (ch. 31:3). Taking God's grace for granted, God's Word failed to be sealed in their hearts until they became known as the prodigals of God.



FULLILOVE

There was little love for God, little light from him, little loyalty to him. The covenant of God had become a by-word in conversation, a burden in their conduct, and a blight in their intended compromise. Thus, God's people, without reservations, broke God's covenant. In a society filled with sensuality, sensationalism, and sin, they chose the gods of the here and now instead of the God of the there and then. Our task, as Jeremiah, is to preach God's message to his wayward people. His people choose feelings rather than faith, the word of man rather than the Word of God, sins for a season rather than forgiveness for eternity. God's message to his people was now condemnation for breaking his covenant.

A disrespect — ch. 11:1-8

The church will remain a light upon a hill shining in darkness, a

**Bible Book Series for Feb. 5
Focal Passage: Jeremiah 11:1-8;
14:11-12; 15:1-2a**

symbol of hope, and the message of forgiveness. Here we find God's people losing their influence because of hardened disrespect of God's covenant. This developed because they seldom considered God's power (v. 4) and faced the weariness of God who desired to be gracious (ch. 12:8); they seldom conceived sin's power (vv. 5-6) and ignored God's warnings (ch. 13:13-16); and rarely contemplated the power of grace (vv. 7-8) and closed their eyes to salvation (ch. 13:23). When God's people disrespect his Word, they gain denouncement in God's Word.

A deception — ch. 14:11-12

God's patience seemed to be running out. It was like a gracious parent loving and leading a disobedient child, but cannot trust them anymore. God's people called to him with declared intentions, but God saw it as determined deception. It is noted in, one, as being pretentious in their cry (v. 2). God's people only wanted him to accept them so they could continue in their sinful path. Two, it was noted as perjury in their plea (vv. 3-6). They wanted God to answer them so that they could return to play the fool. Three, it was discerned that God's people simply

wanted to play on his mercy (vv. 7-12). Why this deception? It may be because, they heard the word of man instead of the Word of God (vv. 13-14), they walked in a foreign land instead of a land filled with God's presence (v. 18), they cried out to God with pronounced pleas, but their sins spoke louder than their words. God spoke judgment on their sins (ch. 15:3). God's Word is true, "Be not deceived. God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7).

The display — ch. 15:2-11

Condemnation is pronounced against the people because of shallow commitment. God was weary of their repenting and backsliding (v. 6); revealed his wrath with resolution (vv. 7-14); and, willing to restore them (vv. 15-16). God's Word to us in our disobedience is encouragement. Remember that God's Word never fails, always fills our hearts, and will be with us forever. God's Word for wayward people is love and restoration, "I am with thee to save and deliver thee" God desires to restore his people in his love with his enabling grace. Let us come back to him. □ — Ray Fullilove is pastor of Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis.

McCartney retires from RTVC posts

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Richard T. "Dick" McCartney retired as executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission Jan. 1.

He will continue serving the Baptist agency as an advisor and consultant.

McCartney, a native of Arkansas, is a former editor of the Baptist Messenger, the state Baptist paper for Oklahoma. He also has held public relations positions with the state Baptist conventions in Oklahoma and Texas. □

Home mission study available in Spanish

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — For the first time, the annual adult home missions study is available in Spanish this year.

The translation resulted from the Home Mission Board's cooperation with Woman's Missionary Union, said Bob Sena, HMB assistant director of language church extension.

WMU has been influential in promoting missions awareness among Hispanics and lobbying for educational materials in Spanish, he added.

The board's language church extension division esti-

mates Southern Baptists had 3,487 Hispanic congregations in 1993, the latest statistics available. The missions study is the first from either the Home or Foreign Mission boards to be printed in a language other than English. □

Johnsonius named to seminary PR position

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Former Tennessee Baptist Jan Johnsonius has been named director of public relations at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

She will come to her new position this month after serving a year as a special assignment writer for the Foreign Mission Board.

Johnsonius and her late husband, Jim, were missionaries to Argentina. In Aug. 1, 1993 the couple was involved in an auto accident in which she was seriously injured and her husband was killed.

After several months of recuperation she returned to the United States last March to begin a work furlough for the FMB's communications office.

A native of Ohio, Johnsonius worked for a newspaper in Paris, Tenn., where she met her husband. She considers First Church, Paris, her home church. □



JOHNSONIUS

First college joins effort to celebrate SBC sesquicentennial

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Campbellsville (Ky.) College has become the first Baptist college in the nation to announce plans for observing the Southern Baptist Convention's 150th anniversary this year, according to Lynn E. May Jr., executive director of the SBC's Historical Commission.

Campbellsville will focus on the SBC's 150th anniversary during its 1995 Heritage Day on Sept. 20, said Kenneth W. Winters, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention-affiliated institution.

Winters said the college will have a noted Southern Baptist speaker (to be announced later) during the morning convocation service. □

Florida church releases names

Baptist Press

LAKE MARY, Fla. — Facing a \$10,000 contempt fine and further court sanctions, a Florida Southern Baptist church will release the names of donors to former members.

According to pastor William Robert Parker of First Church, Markham Woods in Lake Mary, "Church members can now find out the amount of tithes and offerings given by all other church members. For

many worshipers, giving is a deeply personal aspect of their faith.

"This ruling will have a chilling effect on future contributions to churches and all other nonprofit organizations because of the fear contributors will have concerning the confidentiality of their identity and amount given," said Parker, a member of the SBC Executive Committee.

The decision is an outgrowth of a lawsuit filed in 1993 by Ann Haynes, a former member who was removed from church membership in 1993, according to Parker, because of poor attendance, un-Christian conduct, and a refusal to work out conflicts with the church. Haynes had charged the church and Parker with misuse of funds. □

Carl Henry accepts post at Southern Baptist Press

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Carl F.H. Henry, often acknowledged as the dean of American evangelical theologians, has been named senior research professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

A leading figure in American evangelicalism for the past half-century, Henry was among the founding faculty of Fuller Theological Seminary and also taught at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Henry rose to international prominence as founding editor of *Christianity Today*, which quickly became the flagship journal of the evangelical movement. He also is the author of numerous books. □

Brotherhood agency forms partnership

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Seeking to provide Christian men with positive spiritual role models and training, the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission has announced a new partnership with Dad the Family Shepherd ministry of Little Rock, Ark.

"I believe that missions begins at home. Dad the Family Shepherd targets one of America's critical needs — positive male spiritual leadership in the home," said Brotherhood Commission President James D. Williams.

Dad the Family Shepherd ministry has offered both live and video conferences around the country for 10 years and reached 80,000 men. Many of

the sponsoring churches have been Southern Baptist. With the new agreement, the Brotherhood Commission is endorsing Dad the Family Shepherd seminars and encouraging churches to host one for their men. □

Ben Kelley accepts Brotherhood post

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission has named Ben F. Kelley Jr. to its newly created post of chief development officer.

Kelley, who began Jan. 3, will be responsible for directing the agency's \$10 million "Opportunity Now" capital campaign.

Prior to joining the Brotherhood staff, he was a development vice president for a children's medical center in Memphis.

Kelley and his family are members of Germantown Church, Germantown. □



KELLEY

Hebrew grammarian John O. Strange dies

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — John Olen Strange, 77, a Southern Baptist Old Testament and Hebrew scholar for nearly 50 years, died Jan. 11 at his home in Slidell, La.

A specialist in Hebrew grammar, Strange taught at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary from 1953-90. Upon retirement he was named professor emeritus of Old Testament and Hebrew.

Strange is probably best known for the book, *Biblical Hebrew Grammar*, co-authored by D. Waylon Bailey, NOBTS professor of Old Testament and Hebrew. □

Stamps promoted by radio/TV agency

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission trustees welcomed Jerry Stamps as senior vice president for administration at their quarterly meeting in January.

Stamps appointment was effective Jan. 1. His previous title at the RTVC was vice president of business services. A former accounting manager, Stamps joined the RTVC staff in 1987 as a comptroller. □

Managing time wisely means managing events

By Linda Lawson
For Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — People who constantly feel events are controlling them more than they are controlling events have a time management problem, a seminar leader said during a recent national student ministries conference here.

"There is admonition for us as Christians to use our time wisely," said Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

"If you think of time only as a clock, you can't manage it," Sheffield said. He suggested defining time as the occurrence of events one after another and time management as the act of controlling events.

To be an effective time manager, he said "each person has to find a system that is comfortable and then work

that system." He outlined his personal five-step approach, beginning with analyzing how you spend your time.

"Most people are spending their time on things they don't consider priorities," he said.

Second, he called for prioritizing work, "determining which things are vital and important and which are urgent. The problem is that we spend too little time on things that are important but not urgent. If we say time management is important but not urgent, it's not getting done.

"What we need to do in our planning is to put a sense of urgency on that which is important," Sheffield said.

Every person should do annual, monthly, weekly, and daily planning, he said.

"If you're not spending a minimum of 15 minutes a day in planning, you're missing the boat," he said.

The third step in Shef-

field's system is organizing both one's work and work area. Then he said people must energize their bodies, minds, and spirits.

Emphasizing that a Christian body is the "temple of the Holy Spirit," he said, "If you're going to do your best job, you've got to be in physical shape."

Intellectual health is vital for every adult, he said. Sheffield urged reading at least one book a month, listening and looking at tapes, and being a learner.

Finally, Sheffield said persons must make maximum use of their time and the tools available to them.

Sheffield noted time management is a tool both for efficiency and effectiveness, and as a tool it must be managed with flexibility.

"People are more important than things. Always remember that," Sheffield told those at the conference. □