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■ **this week's news**

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Tennesseans have major roles in HMB's Season of Home Missions

By David Winfrey
For Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The Home Mission Board's 1995 Season of Home Missions definitely has a Tennessee flavor.

The author of the home mission study is a former Tennessean as is a missionary couple in Seattle, Wash., who are featured during the Week of Prayer for Home Missions in early March. In addition, Ken Weathersby, program associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Mission Department, is another missionary featured during the Week of Prayer.

With the theme "Win All," this year's Season of Home Missions highlights a variety of Southern Baptist evangelism efforts.

The season, from mid-February to mid-March, includes the Week of Prayer for Home Missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, the home missions study, and Sunday School emphasis day.

From block parties to truck-stop chaplaincy, Southern Baptists are using creativity and common sense to take the Gospel to people who might

never enter a church, said Joe Westbury, author of the home mission study, titled *All Things to All People*. Westbury, who formerly lived in Jackson and Memphis Tennessee, also is a Union University graduate and former staff member.

"Our missionaries have learned that you don't do evangelism the same way in Boston that you do in Mississippi," Westbury said. "As they have adapted to the locations where they are assigned, they have also adapted the Gospel presentation to people there."

In addition to profiling the work of home missionaries, this year's study offers tips from the missionaries that individual Southern Baptists or churches can use to be a better witness.

Woman's Missionary Union has adopted an unprecedented



WEATHERSBY



WESTBURY

\$50 million goal for the 1995 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions. WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien said the goal is ambitious but reachable. "It's far beyond anything we've ever done before, but it's definitely not beyond the realm of possibility," she said.

The previous highest offering was \$37.6 million in 1992. WMU adopted the \$50 million Annie Armstrong and December's foreign missions offering goal of \$100 million in recognition of the denomination's 150th anniversary, O'Brien said.

This year's Week of Prayer for Home Missions will be March 5-12. Home missionaries, whose work is highlighted this year includes Tennessee missionary Ken Weathersby of Memphis and Tennessee natives Charles and Daisy Joynner, now based in Seattle.

Weathersby, who also is a TBC staffer, is a new work strategist who helps start African American churches in West Tennessee. See related story on page 7.

The Joynners, both natives of Tennessee, start congregations through apartment ministries in metro Seattle. □

CP gifts keep upward direction

Cooperative Program giving through Tennessee Baptist churches continued an upward trend in January, according to a month-end report from James Porch, TBC executive director/treasurer.

Porch reported that the January CP gifts from the churches totaled \$2,209,048. "Tennessee Baptists continued their faithfulness in financial stewardship," he said, "despite the fact that January had five Sundays."

He added that churches were helped in getting their gifts in to the Baptist Building since January ended in the middle of a week.

The January total was \$26,995 above the monthly budget needs. At the end of January, total Cooperative Program gifts for the budget year (which began Nov. 1, 1994) totaled \$6,325,348, an increase of \$558,432 over the same period last budget year.

"We give God the glory," Porch said. "Once again Tennessee Baptists gave testimony through their tithes and offerings of their commitment to missions here in Tennessee and around the world." □



Long range planners

The TBC Long Range Planning Committee met at the Baptist Center recently to consider the feedback from the committee's preliminary report given to messengers at the TBC annual meeting last November. The group, led by Gary Coltharp of Jackson, is developing goals for the six areas identified thus far — spiritual awakening, evangelism/missions, education, ministry, fellowship, and stewardship. Working in a small group were, from left, Walter Taylor and Marvin Cameron, Knoxville; Frank Hawkins, Kingsport; and Bob Polk, Elizabethton.

Agency places Southwestern on probation

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Association of Theological Schools Commission on Accrediting has placed Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary on probation from January 1995 to January 1997, according to SWBTS President Ken Hemphill.

"It is important to note that probation does not mean a loss of accreditation," said Hemphill, emphasizing Southwestern remains fully accredited in all degree programs.

ATS began examination of — See Agency, page 2

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Agency places Southwestern Seminary ...

— Continued from page 1

the seminary, one of six affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, after trustees fired 16-year President Russell H. Dilday Jr. in March 1994. A fact-finding team representing ATS and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools visited the seminary in May, with a subsequent ATS visit in November. No SACS actions concerning Southwestern has been announced.

According to Daniel O. Aleshire, associate director of the ATS Commission on Accrediting, "The commission is of the opinion that students can receive an creditable theological education at Southwestern during this period of probation."

"Both 1994 visiting committee reports have assured the commission that the seminary has a talented faculty skilled in their disciplines and loyal to the seminary, that students are appropriately qualified and motivated to pursue graduate theological education, and that an able and experienced administrative staff supports the work of the newly elected president."

"It should be understood that Southwestern's accreditation by the Association of Theological Schools continues during this period of probation."

Hemphill, elected by trustees to the Southwestern presidency last July, added the ATS Commission on Accrediting acknowledged substantial progress has been made and the academic process has continued unhindered at Southwestern.

"Nevertheless, they have decided that a probationary period of two years would strengthen the academic progress at Southwestern."

"As president, I am disappointed in the decision of ATS to place us on probation. However, if we believe it is in the best interest of confessional and denomination theological education, we can take full advantage of the appeals process," Hemphill stated.

"Nevertheless, I would hasten to add that we are going to work as fully and cooperatively as possible with ATS to resolve quickly the issues so that we can further strengthen the work and ministry of one of the finest theological institutions in world."

According to ATS, probation is intended to provide ample time to correct inadequacies which, in the judgment of the

Commission on Accrediting, "may be remedied within a relatively short but specified period of time."

According to the official notification from ATS, the commission voted to place Southwestern on probation because, in its judgment, the seminary's board of trustees failed to exert consistent and disciplined efforts:

(1) to provide for the regular and ongoing evaluation of the president;

(2) to ensure that faculty appointment, promotion, and tenure decisions carefully correspond to published policies and criteria; and

(3) to attend sensitively to the several constituencies and publics of the seminary, and to discharge its responsibility for the establishment, maintenance, and exercise of the institution's integrity and freedom from inappropriate external and internal pressures and destructive interferences or restraints.

The commission will remove probation when the seminary has met, to the satisfaction of the commission, the following criteria:

(1) The board of trustees demonstrates that it has consistently made decisions about personnel — both administrative and faculty — according to its formally adopted criteria

and procedures;

(2) The board demonstrates that it has paid careful attention to its own continuing education and development; and

(3) Faculty and students are able to attest, through some fair and appropriate means, that their freedom of inquiry, within the seminary's confessional boundaries, is assured; and the board has made reasonable efforts to assure a stable institutional environment that supports the ministry of teaching, research, and service.

Hemphill said he believes Southwestern adequately answered the concerns raised by the ATS commission, but went on to address the ATS issues, beginning with academic freedom.

Noting there is "no documented incident where academic freedom has been violated," Hemphill said, "ATS appears to be responding to fears that academic freedom may be curtailed rather than to any actual cases where academic freedom has been violated. We feel it is inappropriate to base a decision on suspected or possible problems rather than actual ones."

Southwestern has one month to appeal the ATS decision. Hemphill indicated the seminary has not decided if it would appeal. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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HEMPHILL

HMB leader notes varying levels of response to 'Here's Hope'

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — As Southern Baptists witness during "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now," Darrell Robinson says they will encounter five levels of spiritual development among non-Christians.

Robinson, Home Mission Board vice president for evangelism, said people can move from any level to the point of accepting Christ in one visit. But for some people, reaching the point of making a profession of faith may take several contacts.

The five levels and the response Robinson recommends are:

(1) Ignorant. They know nothing about the Gospel and they must be taught.



Here's Hope.
Jesus cares for you.

(2) Indifferent. They've heard the Gospel story, but they are apathetic toward it. They must be stirred to make a response.

(3) Hostile. They've heard and rejected the Gospel and are antagonistic. Christians witnessing to hostile people should respond in love, Robinson said. Rather than reacting to their anger, be a good lis-

tener, he suggested.

(4) Interested. They've heard about the Gospel and want to know more. They must be cultivated to reach a point of accepting Christ.

(5) Ready. They've heard the Gospel, and they want to accept Christ immediately. Christians need to lead them in a prayer to repent of their sins, ask forgiveness, and invite Christ to be their Savior and Lord, Robinson said.

"Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now" is Southern Baptists' first simultaneous witnessing effort. It runs through March 9. □

Memphis-based Brotherhood agency seeks short-term volunteers for China

MEMPHIS — The Southern Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, is acting as recruiter of volunteers for a short-term mission project in China.

The Chinese government has requested up to 150 teachers to go to China to teach English to students and teachers. "The task is tremendous and it will take cooperative efforts to get these volunteers," said Tim Yarbrough, project manager.

Teachers to China is a proj-

ect of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The Brotherhood Commission and the National Fellowship of Baptist Educators are responsible for enlisting the teachers.

A college degree is necessary and volunteers pay most of their personal expenses.

The work begins July 1. For more information contact Tim Yarbrough or Debbie Pippin, Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, (901) 272-2461, or 1-800-280-1891. □

Tennesseans participate in Capitol event

BRENTWOOD — Two Tennessee Baptists will participate in a Leaders of Faith Day at the Capitol, Nashville, on Feb. 13 at 1 p. m. at the War Memorial.

This first-time event is a time of prayer and education. Speakers include Bobbie Patray, member of Two Rivers Church, Nashville, addressing "How a Legislative Bill Becomes Law." Opening statements will come from Tennessee governor Don Sundquist. Bill Bates, TBC legislative con-

sultant, will lead a prayer.

Other speakers include David Barton, "The Role of Men of God in the Founding of Our Nation," and Rep. Bobby Ward, "How to Talk with Your Representative." There will be a time for questions and answers.

Participants will have a tour of Capitol committee rooms, watch the General Assembly in session, and attend a reception with legislators. For information, call (615) 662-1435, Leaders of Faith Day at the Capitol. □



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Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes' J.L. Ford to retire; search begins for successor

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — J.L. "Pete" Ford, executive director of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes since 1987, has announced he will retire, effective Dec. 31.

The Kentucky native was ordained into the ministry at Oakfield Church in Madison County, Tenn., in 1947. He was pastor of three Tennessee churches before accepting the Adult Homes post in 1987 — Englewood Church, Jackson (1954-59); First Church, Woodbury (1959-1964); and Eastland Church, Nashville (1965-87).

Ford holds degrees from Union University, Jackson; New Orleans (La.) Baptist

Theological Seminary; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro.



FORD

The head of Adult Homes promotes the ministry of TBAH and manages and directs six existing TBAH institutions across the state: Deer Lake Retirement Community, Nashville; Baptist Health Care Center, Lenoir City; Baptist Village of Johnson City; Rainbow Acres, Jacksboro; Stoneway Acres, Lebanon; and Coach House Retirement Home,

Scotts Hill.

A search committee, led by Arthur Mason of Manchester, has been assembled to begin searching for a successor.

Other search committee members are David Brown, Ducktown; Howard Foshee, Nashville; Roy Graves, McKenzie; Bill Baird Griffith, Cookeville; Earl Skogman, Knoxville; and Pat White, Nashville.

Correspondence regarding nominations and recommendations should be submitted by March 15 to: Dr. Arthur Mason, Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Inc., P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. Screening of resumes will continue until the position is filled, Mason said. □

Union, Belmont teams ranked first

For Baptist and Reflector

The latest men's and women's NAIA basketball polls show two familiar teams at the top.

Last week, Belmont University's men's basketball team joined Union University's women's team as the top teams in the country. The two schools are affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

For both teams, it is the first time in school history they have been ranked number one in the nation.

Union's Lady Bulldogs have occupied the top spot since Jan. 9, compiling a 21-1 record.

The Belmont Rebels learned of their ascension to the top on Jan. 31. The

men's team has compiled a 24-1 mark, with the only loss coming at the hands of Western Kentucky, an NCAA Division I team.

Both teams have had success in the past.

Under Coach David Blackstock, the Lady Bulldogs have won five District 24 titles, seven conference championships, and five national tournament berths in the last seven years. The Lady Bulldogs were the runner-up in the national championship game in 1993.

Belmont, under Coach Rick Byrd, is the defending Tennessee Collegiate Athletic Conference champion and last year made it to the quarter-finals of the national NAIA tournament in Tulsa, Okla. □

Florida-HMB budget talks 'profitable,' Florida executive says

Associated Baptist Press

LEESBURG, Fla. — Discussions prompted by a proposal to alter the relationship between the Florida Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will likely result in concessions that will cut down on paperwork and give the state more clout in obtaining funds for missions work, leaders learned Jan. 20.

A recent meeting with Home Mission Board officials was "profitable," said Florida Baptist Convention Executive Director John Sullivan in a report to the State Board of Missions. Together the two entities are "hammering out an addendum to the Cooperative Agreement," which spells out how the two

agencies conduct missions in Florida, he said.

Asked if the compromise would prevent the national board from unilaterally cutting funding for state programs, Sullivan replied, "Yes, sir. That's the last part of our negotiations."

Last August, Florida's state budget and allocation committee proposed effectively removing the Home Mission Board from missions work in the state. Instead of sending about \$1.9 million to the Home Mission Board and getting about \$1.3 million of it back to fund HMB-approved projects in the state, the proposal called for Florida to send only the \$600,000 difference to Atlanta and to assume responsibility for the state's total mission program without

oversight from the national agency.

At the time, Sullivan said the proposal was prompted by a "unilateral" 6 percent cut in funds given by the HMB to support work in state conventions and the formation of an HMB study committee to "investigate" states which accept funds from churches designated for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an alternative missions organization whose money SBC agencies are forbidden to accept.

In September the Florida state board agreed to postpone action on the plan at the request of a committee that is studying the structure and programs of the SBC. The structure committee is scheduled to bring a recommendation to the SBC Executive Committee when

it meets Feb. 20-22 in Nashville.

The HMB committee studying how the agency ought to relate to state conventions which forward designated funds to the CBF completed its work in December, encouraging "mutual trust" between state and national entities but asking the states to "renew" their support of traditional giving channels, but proposing no sanctions against state conventions which choose also to relate to the Fellowship.

In an interview with James Hefley, a columnist for the Indiana Baptist state convention newspaper, HMB President Larry Lewis said while the Florida budget proposal is on hold, "the possibility of such a funding reduction is still hanging over us." □

Missionaries give invitation and everyone in Russian church responds

Baptist Press

YELETS, Russia — The generous gift of a Kentucky church not only purchased a building for a small Russian Baptist congregation but opened the door for 80 people in a nearby village to become Christians.

Missionaries Larry Lindsey and Norman Lytle traveled to Yelets Baptist Church Jan. 28 to deliver the bulk of a \$14,000 gift from members of Binghamtown Church in Middlesboro, Ky. The money pur-

chased a building for the 25-member congregation.

Lindsey said a woman from a village about 18 miles away heard the missionaries were coming and asked if they could come to her village and tell the people about Jesus. This elderly woman apparently was the only Christian in her entire village, he said.

No churches of any kind exist in the village. And the tiny Baptist church in Yelets is the only evangelical church in that city of 140,000.

At the woman's request,

Lindsey and Lytle went to the village the afternoon of Jan. 28, after a morning celebration at Yelets Baptist Church. They took with them several members of the Yelets church and Russian missionary Vladimir Boyev, who served as translator.

Eighty people gathered in a cultural hall to hear the missionaries. Some of the Baptists from Yelets sang, and both Lindsey and Lytle preached. The service lasted more than two hours in the unheated hall.

At the conclusion, the translator asked all who wished to profess faith in Jesus Christ as Savior to come forward.

"Everyone in the cultural hall came forward, including the director of the cultural hall," Lindsey explained. All 80 people present said they wanted to become Christians.

Astonished, the missionaries asked the people if they had misunderstood the call to come forward.

The people replied they understood perfectly and all wanted to become Christians,"

Lindsey said.

Lindsey said the event demonstrated to him "how great God is and how powerful the Holy Spirit is. I could only sit back and thank the Lord for letting me in on this event," he said.

At the conclusion of the service, the one woman who had been a believer invited all the new believers to begin a Bible study in her apartment, Lindsey said. Some of the Baptists from the Yelets church offered to help the new believers organize, he added. □

Pro-lifers voice caution at choice of Tennessean as new surgeon general

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton apparently has chosen a much less combative medical professional to replace fired Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, but pro-lifers charged only his tone is different, not his policies.

Henry Foster, 61, is Clin-

ton's choice as the next surgeon general, the president announced Feb. 2. Foster, an obstetrician/gynecologist and educator at a medical school in Nashville, has been honored for his successful efforts against teen pregnancy in Nashville. His program promoted postponement of sexual activity but also distributed

condoms, according to news reports.

Foster also has performed abortions, a White House official confirmed, according to the *Washington Times*. He also has been affiliated with an abortion rights group. Foster said he has performed fewer than 12 abortions, all related to saving the life of the mother, or

cases of rape or incest.

While Foster may sound more appealing than Elders, we urge Southern Baptists and the Senate to pay close attention to the policies which he will advocate," said James A. Smith, director of government relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "As a longtime supporter

of Planned Parenthood and as a doctor who has performed abortions, there should be no question as to the agenda he will pursue," Smith said.

Patrick Mahoney, executive director of the activist Christian Defense Coalition, said someone with a different style than Elders is not enough if their policies are the same. □

■ 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. □

Sermons offered

I have hundreds of printed sermons which I would be glad to mail to pastors and laypersons who might be interested in having them. They are in packets of 20 different sermons. These sermons were sent out to the television audience upon request during the 36 years I was

pastor of Dawson Memorial Baptist Church in Birmingham. Printing costs were paid for by their contributions. I hate to have them sitting around if they could be of help in providing ideas or illustrations to others in the Lord's work.

If any readers would like a packet of these free sermons, write me (address below) and I will mail them at no expense to the inquirer.

Edgar M. Arendall
144 Lucerne Blvd.
Birmingham, Ala. 35209

Missions emphasized

In just a short time Southern Baptists will be participating in the Week of Prayer for Home Missions and encouraged to give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. This in-gathering of money and outpouring of prayer on behalf of the lost of our nation is unique among all denominations.

As was true in Annie Armstrong's day, much of the focus this year will be on the need to broaden our evangelistic vision. She led the women in the latter part of the 19th century to reach out to the native Americans and African Americans. Today our population, and therefore the needs, are far more diverse, with churches now worshipping in over 100 languages.

Diversity in every arena of life calls for new and innovative approaches which involve us all. Our theme for this year's Season of Home Missions is appropriately, "Win All," and is based on I Corinthians 9:22, "I have become all things to all men so that by all means possible I might save some."

Filipino Christian freed after 120 days, missionary thanks Tennesseans for prayers

We trust that your new year is going well and that God is continuing to bless you. We continue to appreciate and enjoy receiving the *Baptist and Reflector*.

I want to update Tennessee Baptists who might have been praying for Sixto Escudero. Sixto was kidnapped by Muslim extremists from his store in M'Lang, North Cotabato, on Sept. 4, 1994. He was a new Christian, 64 years old, and barefoot, when armed men rushed inside and dragged him to a waiting jeepney.

He was thrown into a small banka (outrigger boat) and taken to a remote place. He was held for 120 days in a small nipa shanty that was so small that he couldn't stand up. He was able to lie down. For the first several days he was brought warm water for bathing, but after several days, there was no water, even cold, for bathing. His daughter, Milagros, is in one of our Bible study groups, and our prayers, of course, were for his safe release.

However, we always prayed also for his safety, for gentle treatment since he is an older man, and that he would be kept dry. At one point, the family was allowed to send him his glasses and his Bible. Since there was nothing else he was allowed to do, he spent hours each day reading and contemplating on God's Word.

Once, they were ready to execute him. They bound his hands and were taking him away for

execution when a downpour came. You will remember that we had been praying that he would be kept dry.

In the downpour of rain, the captors were completely drenched, but Mr. Escudero remained totally dry! When the Moslems, who are faithful to Allah, saw that he was dry, they were amazed and knew that Someone was watching over him.

They didn't execute him. When they asked him how he was able to remain dry, he pointed to words he had written in charcoal on his shanty wall — Jesus Christ. After 120 days being held captive, Mr. Escudero was freed and God was glorified! Because of God's faithfulness, Mr. Escudero's other children all accepted Jesus as their personal Savior.

Recently Mr. Escudero, by nature a very shy man, gave his testimony of God's love and protection to Grace Church in Manila. He also gave his testimony at Davao International Baptist Church in Davao City.

We give all praise and glory to God, but we also wanted to express appreciation to Christians everywhere who are faithful in lifting us up in prayer, and especially to those who prayed for Mr. Sixto Escudero.

Marvella Thompson
Southern Baptist Missionary
Mindanao/Visayas
Davao City, Philippines 8000

Our nation desperately needs to experience God's touch. How he longs to bring healing! So what is lacking? He calls us to:

Pray. Never before has the power of prayer been so affirmed. "Ask and it shall be given unto you." What he has done in other areas of the world in response to prayer he longs to do in the U.S.

Go. Whether as short- or long-term volunteer or as a career missionary through the Home Mission Board, we can all be "on mission" in our homeland.

Give. This year's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal of \$50 million is a reminder to Southern Baptists of God's blessings of 150 years as a denomination. Although the offering goal is challenging, it is also reachable.

The needs are urgent, the time is now. May we do what has never been done before in order to WIN ALL for Christ.

Dellanna O'Brien, executive director
Woman's Missionary Union
Birmingham, Ala. 35242

by any one segment of our denomination? I have watched in dismay as our convention has been taken over and many of us pushed out, so to speak. Our mission money and support still go to the Cooperative Program, because I love and support our missionaries and they had no part in what has happened. I feel Tennessee Baptist and the Southern Baptist Convention are still supported by many folks like us who dislike what has happened, but still love our denomination and most of the folks who work for it.

I think you have done an excellent job in reporting news in the *Baptist and Reflector*. I read and enjoy every word in each edition of the *Baptist and Reflector*, yet I also believe the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was created out of a specific need. I am very interested in what and how they do things and ask God's blessings on them.

Sue deLoache Brown
Chattanooga 37405

Writer differs

I was appalled by the letter to the editor in a recent *Baptist and Reflector* by Larry Beeler, pastor of First Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, in which he stated he was offended by any news of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in the *Baptist and Reflector*. Why should he say what news should and should not be printed? Does he think the *Baptist and Reflector* is owned

Help offered

As director of church minister relations/alumni affairs at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary I invite all alumni of our seminary to use the services of our office.

We have the privilege of sending out resumes at the invitation of churches and various denominational institutions and agencies for every type of staff position. We receive approximately 125-150 requests per

month for assistance in finding persons to fill staff vacancies. At least 80 percent of those requests are full-time positions.

We will be happy to send an activation form to you. Simply call or write our office and request the form and information. Our phone number is (504) 282-4455, ext. 3331. Our address is 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA., 70126. This service is for students and alumni of New Orleans Seminary.

Reuben "Lucky" Teague, director
Church Minister
Relations/Alumni Affairs
New Orleans, LA., 70126

Blasphemy

"Now therefore what have I here, saith the Lord, that my people is taken away for naught? They that rule over them make them to howl, saith the Lord: and my name continually every day is blasphemed." Isaiah 52:5

"Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?" James 2:7

"But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation." Mark 3:29

"And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice." I Kings 19:12

I think the above verses show that blasphemy coming from the mouth only (Isaiah 52:5, James 2:7), can be forgiven, while blasphemy coming from the heart (Mark 3:29, I Kings 19:12) cannot be forgiven.

Archimedes A. Concon
Memphis 38117

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests

TENNESSEE BAPTIST PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS



CANADA • MICHIGAN • POLAND

February

- 8 — Pray for Henryk Szczch, new director of the Senior's Home in Bialystok, and his new co-workers.
- 9 — Pray for the workshop for missionaries planting new churches in 12 cities in Poland in February and for funds for Polish missionaries establishing churches.
- 10 — Canadian Baptists request prayer for work in Whitehorse, Yukon.
- 11 — Pray for the 10 students of the Canadian seminary who will graduate this spring.
- 12 — Canadian Baptists are holding a National Dayspring Women's meeting Sept. 14-16. Begin praying for the leaders and participants for this meeting.
- 13 — Dolly Bradford, migrant consultant in Michigan, requests prayer for supplies and volunteers needed to complete the electrical wiring and plumbing at the Migrant Center at Good Samaritan Church in Lawrence.
- 14 — Pray for the 254 churches who will observe the Week of Prayer for Home Missions and give to the Annie Armstrong Easter offering. The state goal is \$100,000.

Baptist heritage nurtured by colleges

Tennessee Baptists' three institutions of higher learning are successful in more than one way.

As churches plan to recognize the schools on February 19, *Seminary, College, and School Day*, a closer look is helpful.

The schools provide excellence in education for their students. They do it efficiently, economically, courageously, and with three-pronged emphasis on spiritual, physical, and mental growth.

It is easy to consider the financial investment of Tennessee Baptists as the top priority. As vital as that investment is, spiritual support is even more important. Expressing positive views also is supportive.

It is a two-way street. What Tennessee Baptists give to Carson-Newman College, Union University, and Belmont University is returned a hundred times by the graduates' lives poured into countless Tennessee communities and churches.

But the giving doesn't stop there. Southern Baptists will celebrate as churches and individuals on February 19, to honor the schools and their students and alumni. Many Tennessee Baptist churches will participate.

The three institutions are very much alike, but they also are very different. Since the three are strategically and geographically located in the three "grand divisions" of the state, their locations give each one a distinct "flavor."

Through the years, the cultural heritage of the people, communities, and churches has influenced the colleges.

More importantly, students, staff, and faculties, have been shaped in part by local people. The cultural distinctives of West, East, and Middle are woven into the fabric of the schools.

Leaders of the schools have known this for many years, and have appreciated the cultural crossover.

As college families blend with communities, heritage becomes more valuable than the quaint provincial customs and habits. But even local family histories can become a viable part of college life.

The three institutions of higher learning are so persuasive in offering a Tennessee lifestyle that many students stay put or return as a part of the community. That persuasiveness may be subtle — but proves to be a bonus to the graduate and to the community.

Of course the chief assignment of the schools is to provide quality education in a Christian setting. They are succeeding remarkably. Giving students the best in teaching, surrounding them with a solid atmosphere of accomplishment within strong moral guidelines is the goal — and purpose. We salute Carson-Newman, Union, and Belmont and give them high marks.

They provide Tennessee Baptists with a sense of honest pride.

The fourth institution of learning,

Harrison-Chilhowee Academy, has a long history of helping students with special needs. HCA was a pioneer in schooling for pastors who needed more education, and could not attend seminary.

The school now is trying to work through some difficult but needed changes. The academy continues its appeal for international students.

Tennessee Baptists owe a debt of gratitude to our colleges and academy. They deserve support. Visit them, get to know the administration, faculties, students. Friends depend on each other. □

Stop outrageous acts

Don't blame it on the good people of Maury and other counties, but there are some dangerous cowards among them.

Recently hoodlums tried to wreak havoc on several buildings, and several were church houses.

Fires were set and crosses left at churches with Black congregations. Were these thoughtless acts of vandalism? Were they senseless acts of drunks or hoodlums? Was it coincidence that the churches were Black?

Whatever the "reason," the wanton deeds are reckless and smell racist. Racism is a hard word — but the fact that only Black churches were victimized makes such accusations ring true.

Law enforcement agencies, community people, and churches of all races must stand together against this sordid violence — and they must stand tall. □

one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Speak, listen too

Live and learn, do or die, show and tell, look before you leap, move and lose, tried and true — cute little slogans, aren't they? How about stop, look, and listen?

We can all remember favorite sayings that trip lightly off the tongue.

Each has some application for lifestyle, and in many instances, power.

At a recent staff retreat we heard the message of a nationally known motivational speaker. His premise — and he proved it — gave listening as the answer.

Listening properly does give control to the listener.

I want to place alongside that message some ideas gleaned from a medical publication a few years back.

The writer said he had once thought that education, politics, position, or station in life were keys to power.

A seminar showed him the real keys. Five simple ideas make a person powerful, he said. We can look at them, and relate them to Christlike life.

Pay attention. Give importance to the speaker and learn by listening carefully. We can learn from others.

Be accountable for my own experience. Other views may be more or less valid, but I am accountable for mine.

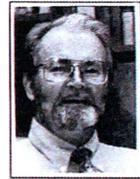
Keep my agreements. This is fundamental to the development of trust, a most valuable quality. When we are trustworthy, the world gains.

Speak the truth. Even when it is not easy, speak the truth. My silence may be a noisy echo of my values.

Ask for what I want. Much has been said and written about winning the lottery or some big sweepstakes. The Christian life is not grounded on frivolous expectations. Asking for what I want, within God's perfect will, is all right, because I want to please him.

Great people have qualities that are usually disregarded by the world. But showing up in the world each day — present, accountable, trustworthy, honest, and plain speaking will help us seize the day.

Well, I think we can find all five characteristics wrapped up by "doing unto others..."



ALLEN

By Wm. Fletcher Allen,
editor

just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Little Girl (watching mother spread face cream over her face): "What's it for, mommy?"

Mother: "It makes me beautiful."

Little Girl (watching mother remove it): "Didn't work, did it?"

Take this truth

Some days everything goes wrong. Every day something seems to go wrong. Have you heard of the new puzzle to help children adjusting to our modern world? Any way you put it together it's wrong. We Christians, however, have a Savior and Lord who can make all things right.

Memorize this Scripture

"Every valley shall be raised up ... the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed" (Isaiah 40:4).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help us to rest confident in your promise you will make all things new. May this give assurance we can face any problem that comes. □

Higher education: it's for life

From the founding of the Southern Baptist Convention, missions and education have gone hand in hand.

Southern Baptists' ongoing effort to reach the world for Christ always has included the commitment to introduce Christian truth into every area of life and to be obedient to the clear intent of the Scriptures in carrying out a teaching ministry.

Christ's Great Commission spells out the responsibility of all Christians to teach "whatsoever I have commanded you."

Based on this scriptural mandate, early Southern Baptists established educational institutions and emphases.

The SBC created the Education Commission (located in Nashville) in 1915 to promote and serve Southern Baptist seminaries, colleges, and schools in their task of educating students for life.

Today there are 69 seminaries, universities, colleges, Bible schools, and academies which are members of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

The oldest of these institutions was founded in the 1820s and the newest in the

education matters

By Steve Carleton, Education Commission

1970s.

Sixty-two of these institutions have a financial and/or historic tie to state Baptist conventions. In most instances these schools are operated by trustees elected by the respective Baptist conventions.

The six Southern Baptist theological seminaries and the American Baptist College receive direct financial support from the SBC.

The trustees of these institutions are elected by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Our Southern Baptist-related educational institutions are committed to educating students for life.

Professors and staff integrate their personal faith and professional disciplines in a way that fosters the personal growth and academic excellence of their students.

Students are encouraged to develop a faith that produces a life-long commitment to Christian witness and ministry.

Baptist Seminary, College,



CARLETON

and School Day is set each year on the Southern Baptist denominational calendar for the third Sunday in February. This year it comes on Feb. 19.

This important day is an opportunity to remember in prayer the more than 7,500 professors and administrators and other workers, and the more than 230,000 students at our Southern Baptist-related educational institutions.

Carson-Newman College, Belmont University, Union University, and Harrison-Chilhowee Academy, Tennessee Baptist schools, are included in these numbers.

For additional information on Baptist schools write to the Education Commission, 901 Commerce, Suite 600, Nashville, 37203. □

Steve Carleton is executive director of the Education Commission, Southern Baptist Convention, which is located in Nashville.

Editor's note: Dr. Paul Barkley's column, *Families Matter*, which usually appears here each week, is expected to return next issue.

Cancer survivor credits faith, prayer

By Russell N. Dilday
For Baptist Press

JONESBORO, Ark. — It was the summer of 1992. Just a few nights before, Kathie Dalton had awakened on her bedroom floor staring up at her husband, two children, and an emergency medical technician following a 20-minute seizure.

Dalton, an assistant professor of nursing at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, went in for tests immediately. "The doctor told me, 'Kathie there's something in your head,'" she recalled. "Some sort of growth."

He admitted her to the hospital, where she underwent more extensive testing. The tests showed a brain tumor the size of a quarter. "Immediately I had a sense of denial," she said. "No, it can't happen to me. I take care of people. They don't take care of me. Maybe there's something on the films and the CAT scan, but it's not what they think it is."

Jan Pettigrew, a registered oncology nurse and grief crisis counselor in Little Rock, said a cancer diagnosis is especially shocking. "When a diagnosis of cancer comes, it's as if somebody comes up and rips off the whole front side of a person.

"It reveals a very naked, scared, vulnerable human being. Suddenly life is threatened. There are so many issues confronting them: the D words — death, dying, dependency, disfigurement. And a great sense of loss of control."

More tests followed for Dalton. "Reality hit on the Friday

following my tests," she recalled. "Dr. Pyle met with my mom, dad, and husband, but they wouldn't talk to me about it.

"I wanted them to talk to me about it, not about the weather," Dalton said. "I wanted them to say, 'Kathie, we understand you have a brain tumor.' I tried to explain to them I wanted to talk. I wanted people to listen to me and understand."

Finally, she said, her family and doctor met in her room. "This is what I remember: The blinds were pulled. I knew something was wrong. I asked them what was up."

"Kathie," replied Dr. Pyle, "it's a malignant tumor. We give you six months to a year to live."

How can this be? What have I done, for God to let this happen to me? she thought. "I was so frightened."

Karen McGrath, also an assistant professor of nursing at ASU, has worked with cancer patients as a cancer clinical nurse and said Kathie's fears were normal.

"Cancer patients experience an extreme amount of fear and anxiety from the unknown," explained McGrath, a member of First Church, Clinton, Ark. "It is a fear maybe not of death, but of what comes before death: the physical mutilation of the body, pain, financial ruin, changes of family roles, and the worry about being a burden to someone else."

Dalton was referred to a radiologist. "Chemotherapy is not effective for this type of tumor," she explained, "and I

learned that if the tumor was removed, it would affect my motor skills, my speaking, even my life."

"Does Kathie Dalton want to live or die?" her radiologist asked her. 'I want to live,' I told him."

A member of Walnut Street Church in Jonesboro, Dalton began to cling to that hope, expectation, and support from fellow church members.

McGrath said support is essential to cancer patients. "They need to know other people are there. Be aware of those who don't have many friends and be supportive of those people. One of the greatest fears cancer patients have is being alone, abandoned."

"Vulnerability demands vulnerability," Pettigrew pointed out. She said friends and family members can help by being "willing to resist the urge to flee, to lean into your awkwardness, and to exude a staying power that says I care enough about you that I don't care if I look funny or don't have the words to say, I'm going to be with you through this process. I'm willing to pay the price and have my vulnerability exposed."

"I learned so much about prayer during that time with other church members," Dalton said. "I asked, 'What have I done to deserve this?' and my friends told me, 'It's not what you've done. Something happened to your body. God will help you get through it.'"

J.D. Stake, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's crisis support min-

istry, agreed that faith and support are essential ingredients.

How do you pray, though? Dalton wondered. "I learned you have to say, 'Dear Lord, just get me through this.' You don't have to have fancy words. That's what I pray every morning."

The prayers of Dalton and other Walnut Street Church members accompanied more than five weeks of radiation therapy. "We wanted to slow down growth and we all prayed for it to slow down.

"We prayed for God to use this," she added. "I was doing consultation for six hospitals plus my full-time job. God might have been telling me to slow down, so I quit all but two hospitals, and focused on getting well.

"We've learned to be a closer family through this, not because momma may die, but because of love."

She said the experience also taught her "how to use opportunities to witness for God without being preachy."

After the radiation therapy, her radiologist presented some startling news. "He said the tumor was getting smaller and I told him it was God. The tumor started out about the size of a quarter and it's now the size of a black-eyed pea."

She credits prayer with her survival and positive medical prognosis. "Prayer worked and was important to me," she said. "I think it was God's way to help me know I am not dead. I see people give up. When you give up, that's it." □

dos and don'ts —

Tips from Jan Pettigrew, registered oncology nurse and grief crisis counselor, Little Rock, Ark.

■ **Don't put your friend on a pedestal where they have to be an inspiration to everyone.** Don't put that kind of pressure on them.

■ **Don't try to "fix" them or cheer them up.** You cut off the openness when you become a cheerleader.

■ **Don't say you understand, even if you do.** "All this does is switch the conversation from them to you."

■ **Don't tell them about other people's "war stories."** They get barraged with these stories.

■ **Don't take away their wrestling.** "Grief takes as long as it takes."

■ **Don't spiritualize their suffering or apply a spiritual Band-Aid.** "God will get to that person and teach them what he wants them to know."

■ **Do let the person wrestle openly without having to censor their thoughts and feelings.**

■ **Do remove the pressure from your friend to have to be a witness.** "It's hard to be a witness when a person's throwing up or is depressed."

■ **Do let your friend tell their story.** "They need to tell their story over and over to try to make sense out of it. Be quiet. Let them talk even if you have heard it 40 times plus."

■ **Do enter their woundedness by invitation only, "with fear and trembling at the awesome privilege bestowed on you."**

■ **Do offer to sit and hold your friend and just let them cry.** "Every time you reach to put your arms around your friend, the Lord Jesus reaches the rest of the way."

■ **Do be specific in your offers to help.** "People who are hurting can't reach out. They don't have the energy. For instance, tell them you will drop by their house, get their groceries or bring back dinner." □

Members of stricken families offer hope to others

Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — I can and I must go on, wrote George Purvis in his journal following the death of his wife, Laura Belle.

"It was the most devastating thing that ever happened to me," he said of her death, caused by the effects of treatments for bone marrow cancer. "Half of me just went away.

"One thing I've learned about grief," he shared. "Grief is in direct proportion to the investment in the loss. If you have a lifetime of closeness, you have a greater loss." That clearly means that Purvis' loss was great. "We dated since I was 16 and we had been married 46 years. Nobody ever thought of us as individuals. It was always Laura Belle and George, George and Laura Belle.

"She died Oct. 19, 1993. At first I just walked around lost and talked to myself, the Lord, and her," he said. "For some people, when they lose a spouse, they quit. I

am not of that type."

When Mrs. Purvis was diagnosed with bone marrow cancer in 1992, Purvis decided to keep a positive attitude about her illness. "I thought whatever the problem, I was going to be a part of the solution," he recalled. "I didn't say or do anything unkind to her or that I wish I had done differently. The last few days I stayed by her bedside. I don't have any regrets from that time."

According to Jan Pettigrew, a registered oncology nurse and grief crisis counselor, fellow church members and friends also feel helpless, especially after the death of a loved one.

"One thing the Christian community doesn't understand is that it takes time," she explained. "There are a lot of messages (from Christians) to be strong — not to grieve or you must bypass grief — that's real unspiritual. Grief is God's way of healing and it takes a long time."

Purvis, a member of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, since he was 13, has

walked the long road of grief recovery "with lots of support from my family, church, friends, and my pastor, Rex Horne."

Support also came from another special friend. "When Laura Belle was in the intensive care unit, (fellow Immanuel Church member) President Clinton called me at University Hospital and told me he was praying for her and me. He wrote me and my three children letters and the Clintons sent flowers."

Moore said friends can be helpful, but they must follow some rules to be helpful. "Nobody needs a commentary on their own grief."

Purvis, who is retired chief of information/education, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, also sought professional support. He and a daughter attended a grief recovery group at his church and he visited a professional counselor. As part of the counseling process, he started a journal. One of the things he put down is, I can and I must go on. □

Tennessee missionary helps start churches to 'Win All'

By Steve Barber
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — The service at Greater Hope Church proceeds much as an Anglo visitor might expect at an African-American church. The prayers are fervent, the singing is heartfelt, and the sermon is punctuated, loudly and often, with "Amen," "Hallelujah," and "Thank you, Jesus."

Yet it's also a sign of something relatively new.

Greater Hope is the first African-American Southern Baptist congregation in this part of West Tennessee. This particular Sunday was their first regular Sunday morning worship service, and their new pastor, Richard C. Lee, just earned his degree at a Southern Baptist seminary — Midwestern in Kansas City, Mo.

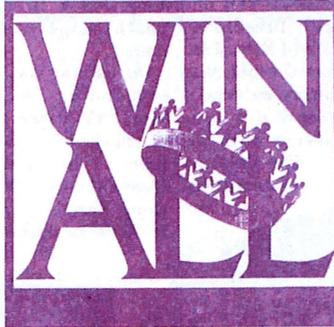
Sitting on the front pew, Tennessee home missionaries Ken and Belva Weathersby couldn't be happier. They embody "Win All," the 1995 theme for the Annie Armstrong East-

er Offering, because their work constantly moves them back and forth, through social and economic barriers that would daunt others.

In this case, it's about taking the Gospel and the "Southern Baptist way" of doing things across the widest chasm of all — race.

Weathersby, as a black church extension missionary for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, was the catalyst for the birth of Greater Hope, located on Jackson's east side.

"My role with Greater Hope began when the Madison-Chester Association began



Week of Prayer for Home Missions
March 5-12

cause the population of Jackson is about 44 percent African-American, they felt like they should start reaching all people."

That's when Weathersby moved into action. He preached to the associational pastors conference about the need, which drew the interest of Englewood Church, an Anglo congregation in the city. He consulted with Englewood's leadership about the details of such a project.

Then he preached at Englewood and returned later to answer questions from the congregation.

"It was a long road, helping the church come to understand what was involved, but they felt called to reach other people who are different," Weathersby said.

An Anglo Southern Baptist congregation moved four years ago out of the facility now used by Greater Hope. Weathersby defines the surrounding neighborhood as transitional, and he has a vision for something even more unusual — a multicultural church.

"Our purpose is to reach all people in the community. If

this church can provide love in the community and ministry and can meet some of their needs, it has the potential to be a multicultural church. I really believe that."

Once churches are established, Weathersby spends time training leadership in program areas, especially Sunday School.

"I try to help them understand totally what it means to be Southern Baptist, what God's people can do working together, because we are all on mission with God," he says. "I help them understand the various agencies of the SBC. We are a diverse people, yet we all have the same purpose."

Weathersby says the door

has also been opened for work in apartments, mobile homes, high-rises, and housing projects. Here again, old racial barriers are crumbling as Anglo and African-American churches join forces to support ministries in these multihousing fields, where about 70 percent of the residents are unchurched.

"In Memphis, our multihousing strategy is based on starting what we call Hope Centers," Weathersby says. "They include a chaplain on call and available to the whole housing complex. One of these is a third-degree black belt, so he started a karate class as a way to do outreach. Another is a heating and air conditioning technician. Now

that's always handy to have on call."

Weathersby also uses block parties, aerobics instruction, and door-to-door surveys that include needs assessment in trying to reach people, as well as an old fashioned method — tent revivals — that have proven "very effective" in low income areas.

He says he continues to see God at work in the African-American community throughout West Tennessee. "We just have to go and present the Gospel," Weathersby observes.

"God is going to do his part," adds Weathersby, who also is a program associate in the TBC Missions Department. □

Profile:

Who: Ken Weathersby

Serving: Tennessee's director of African-American church extension

Born: Nov. 27, 1957 in Jackson, Miss.

Family: Wife, Belva; daughter, Kenyeta, 4, and son, Breon, 1

Hobbies: Walking, basketball, tennis

Favorite Scripture: Isaiah 55:6

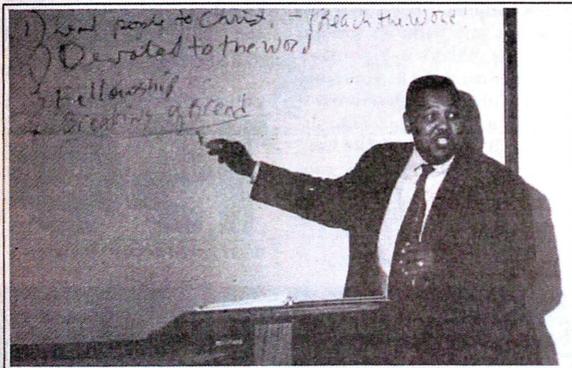
Favorite Book: *My Utmost for his*

Highest by Oswald Chambers

What I like most about being a home missionary: "To touch the lives of people who don't know the Lord Jesus, and to serve as a catalyst for others to do the same."

'Win All' theme: "Everybody needs to hear the Gospel regardless of whether they're red or yellow, black or white."

Please pray for: New churches in Union City, Jackson, and Memphis. "We thank the Lord for the way he is blessing, but the needs are just humongous," he said. "People are ready to respond to the Gospel. We just need God's people to be ready to go."



HOME MISSIONARY Ken Weathersby helps start African-American churches in Tennessee. In addition to being a Southern Baptist home missionary, Weathersby is program associate in the Missions Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He is based in Memphis at the Shelby County Association office.

Tennessee teen named to panel

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Kelly Hamilton of Knoxville has been named to the 1995 National Acteens Panel.

Hamilton, a member of Salem Church, was the only Tennessean selected from nearly 100 teenage Acteens members nationwide who applied to serve on the six-member panel. Acteens is the missions organization sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union for girls in grades seven-12.

Hamilton, a member of Acteens for six years, has completed all levels in Student Act and the Service Aide program. In 1994 she was named a National Acteens

Panel Top Teen and served during 1992-93 on the Tennessee Acteens Panel. She has served on four Acteens Activators mission trips.



HAMILTON

Hamilton, 18, along with the other 1995 panelists, will be featured in the May 1995 issue of *Accent*. Her duties will include participating in state and associational WMU-related meetings and serve as a page at the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta. □

Stanley, Dawson headline youth conference

Evangelists and youth communicators Rick Stanley of Fayetteville, Ga., and Scott Dawson of Trussville, Ala., are the main speakers at the annual Youth Evangelism Conference March 10-11 at Vanderbilt University's Memorial Gymnasium.

Dwayne Moore, a music evangelist from Trussville, will lead the music during the two-day weekend event. Performing during the conference will be Sierra, a women's trio based out of Nashville. Three Tennessee youth are on the program — Mary Bea Skinner, Hendersonville; Joseph Leurs, Nashville; and David Lambert, Maryville.

Because of the anticipated



DAWSON



STANLEY

crowd, the following schedule has been set: West and Middle Tennessee youth are asked to attend the conference on March 10 from 4:30-6 p.m. and March 11 from 9:30-11 a.m.

East Tennessee youth are scheduled for the main sessions on March 10 from 8-9:30 p.m. and on March 11 from 1:30-3 p.m.

On Saturday, March 11,

personal witnessing conferences are scheduled at area Middle Tennessee churches. The conferences are set for 9:30-11 a.m. and 1:30-3 p.m. Each site has been assigned youth from designated associations. Nashville Association youth can go to any of the conferences.

There will be interpreting for the deaf. Also, handicapped parking spaces are available off Jess Neely Drive (by the baseball field).

Churches are asked to send \$2 per person to the Tennessee Baptist Convention Evangelism Department by March 1 to help underwrite the conference. For more information, call (615) 371-2058. □

Southern Baptist missions: new frontiers since 1845

By Mary Speidel
For Baptist Press

Editor's Note: This is the eighth part in a 12-part series in "The Spirit of Southern Baptists, 1845-1995," produced by the SBC Historical Commission.

NASHVILLE — Virginia Baptist J. Lewis Shuck (1812-1863) once dropped a note into the offering plate at a Baptist gathering. "I give myself," the slip of paper read.

In 1835 Shuck was named a missionary to China by the General Missionary Convention of the Baptist Denomination in the United States for Foreign Missions, known as the Triennial Convention. Established in 1814, the Triennial Convention was the first national effort of American Baptists to help churches do the work of Christ's kingdom. The Triennial Convention was modeled after the British Baptist society system of denominational administration.

Missionary Shuck founded the first Protestant church in China in 1842, notes William R. Estep in *Whole Gospel — Whole World*, a recently published history of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Later Shuck transferred from the Triennial Convention to the newly formed Foreign Mission Board. That board and the Board of Domestic Missions (now the Home Mission Board) were created when the Southern Baptist Convention met for the first

time in 1845.

Shuck's father-in-law, Addison Hall, suggested the name for the new denomination when Baptists from the South voted in Augusta, Ga., to separate from northern Baptists in 1845. Conflicts over the slavery issue fueled the ultimate division, but other concerns were involved.

The split was a

Africa — Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Yoruba (Nigeria).

The Civil War took an emotional and financial toll on Southern Baptists. Because of rising inflation and debts, at times neither board could pay regular missionary salaries. The domestic board dropped most of its mission work to provide chaplains for Confederate forces.

To re-

missions collect a Christmas offering for foreign missions. But it was Annie Armstrong who suggested in 1918 the offering posthumously bear Moon's name.

Armstrong was the first corresponding secretary for Woman's Missionary Union, established in 1888 as an auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. The denomination's annual Easter offering for home missions is named for

their progress in global missions against Bold Mission Thrust, a plan for mission advance adopted in 1976 by the convention. Bold Mission Thrust calls for every person on earth to hear the Gospel by the end of the century. One of the plan's goals is to place 5,000 missionaries overseas by A.D. 2000.

Currently, the FMB has 4,045 missionaries working in 130 countries. As of Nov. 1, 1994, a total of 4,903 missionaries serve through the HMB. They work in all 50 states, American Samoa, Canada, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

More than 100 ethnic groups worship in about 100 languages in churches throughout the SBC.

The SBC was constituted in 1845 to do missions. Continued faithfulness to that original purpose will serve Southern Baptists well as they enter the 21st century. □ — To receive free guidelines and to purchase resources to help celebrate the SBC's 150th anniversary, write the Historical Commission, SBC, at 901 Commerce Street, #400, Nashville, Tenn., 37203, or call toll-free 1 (800) 966-BAPT.

The Spirit of Southern Baptists 1845-1995

painful chapter in Baptist history. But through it all missions emerged as the fabric of the Southern Baptist Convention. In fact, many perceived the new convention as a missionary society.

Marion, Ala., became the first home of the convention's domestic board while its foreign board was based in Richmond, Va. The domestic board changed names several times and eventually became the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, now in Atlanta, Ga. The domestic board's early tasks were sending preachers to frontier settlements, helping weak churches in the South — with special focus on New Orleans — and evangelizing African Americans.

Southern Baptists' first foreign field was China. Other early overseas fields were in

main on the mission field, some foreign missionaries supported themselves through secular jobs overseas.

Despite these hardships, Southern Baptists emerged from the war as committed to missions as ever before. In fact, within two years after the war's end, the Home Mission Board appointed 124 missionaries to 15 states and Indian territory. The board also sent out self-supporting evangelists.

Because of the Civil War, the foreign board did not enter any new countries until 1870, when it sent a missionary to Italy, Estep reported. Three years later the board appointed to China a woman who would become the most legendary missionary in Southern Baptist history — Lottie Moon.

It was Moon who launched the idea that Southern Bap-

SBC structure study committee to present recommendation

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The seven-member study committee looking at the programs and structure of the Southern Baptist Convention has a unanimous

recommendation it will present at the Executive Committee meeting Feb. 20 here in Nashville.

The committee, however, is not releasing the recommendation and proposed changes un-

til that time, according to chairman Mark Brister, a Shreveport, La., pastor.

Brister said through "a long series of productive meetings, the committee has moved toward consensus and closure." □

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Career Enhancement Seminars

March 2-3 — Shelby County Baptist Association office, 9 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
March 28-29 — Hamilton County Baptist Association office, 9 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Registration is required. The fee is \$10 and includes conference materials. Register through the association office where you will attend the seminar.

To register call John McBride, Shelby County Association, (901) 756-4012 or David Myers, Hamilton County Association, (615) 267-3794 or Aubrey Hay, (615) 371-2010.

The seminars are sponsored by the respective associations and the Church-Ministers Relations Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

■ the people

■ Sinking Creek Church, Johnson City, ordained five men as deacons — **David Bowman, Lawrence Ledford, Richard Garland, Jeff Matherly, and David Cannon.**

■ Pleasant Grove Church, New Market, ordained **Robin Guinn and Ronald Hancock** as deacons Jan. 29.

■ **Rob Plummer** of Brentwood was among 30 seminarians and young evangelistic leaders invited to attend an Evangelism Leadership Seminar in Columbia, S.C., sponsored by Leighton Ford Ministries. Plummer is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Ford is a former associate evangelist, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

■ the leaders

■ Antioch Church, Benton, called **Ronnie Lane** as pastor.

■ **James Warren** was called as pastor of Statem Gap Church, Morristown.

■ Trinity Church, Lawrenceburg, called **Billy Hill** as pastor.

■ Baker's Grove Church, Mount Juliet, called **Ryan E. Wagers**, pastor, Poplar Grove Church, Glencoe, Ky., as pastor. He has been pastor in Coryton and minister to youth in Kingsport and Louisville, Ky. Wagers was Sunday School Department intern, Kentucky Baptist Convention; director of chaplaincy and pastoral care, Owenton (Ky.) Manor Nursing Home; and an associational evangelism director. He is a graduate of East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

■ Indian Hills Church, Galatin, called **James A. Gammon** as youth pastor. He formerly was pastor of New Highland Church, Brandenburg, Ky. Gammon, who will serve bivocationally, is a graduate of Boyce Bible School, Louisville, Ky., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

■ South Knoxville Church, Knoxville, called **Gary L. French**, former Army captain and recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., as pastor. He has served as pastor of Friendship Church, Lawrenceburg, and East Audubon Church, Louisville. **Gordon Greenwell** has been interim pastor.

■ **Bill Edmonds**, resident evangelist, Faith Promise Church, Oak Ridge, and interim pastor, Trinity Church, Knoxville, was elected pastor emeritus of the Knoxville church Jan. 29. Edmonds was pastor of the church from 1973-80.

■ **Johnny A. Jones** of Thomasville, Ga., was called as pastor of Southwestern Church, Johnson City, effective Feb. 5. He is a graduate of Valdosta (Ga.) State College; Georgia Southwestern College, Americus Ga.; and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been pastor of churches in Georgia and was LIFE Support Coordinator for the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. He is an author and trainer for support group ministries.



JONES

logical Seminary. He has been pastor of churches in Georgia and was LIFE Support Coordinator for the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. He is an author and trainer for support group ministries.

■ Third Church, Nashville, called **Richard Dugger** Jan. 29 as pastor. He has served as interim pastor since July 1994.

He formerly was pastor of Forestburg (Texas) Church.

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

■ **Fred L. Kelly**, a Baptist Sunday School Board employee for 17 years, has joined the staff of a North Carolina church. He is associate pastor/music and senior adults, First Church, New Bern.

■ the churches

■ The sesquicentennial of **Mount Olive Church, Union City**, was observed.

■ **Burt Church, Woodbury**, participated in a community-wide tour of homes and prayer service to help Mary Hoover, 16, who was injured in a car accident involving a drunk driver and has been hospitalized for 10 months. About \$2,800 was raised for her medical expenses.

■ **Leoma Church, Leoma**, collected \$16,093 for the 1994 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. The church has an average Sunday School attendance of about 200.

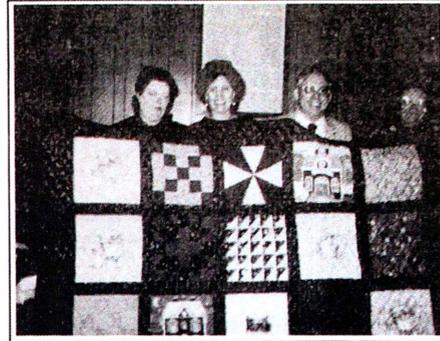
■ **First Church, Bean Station**, will begin a Sunday School mission.

■ **New Blackwell Church, Rutledge**, acted to build a new church plant.

■ **First Church, Gallatin**, will have a one-day revival Feb. 19. Phil Glisson, evangelist based in Memphis, will speak.

■ A seminar, "How to Lead a Child to Christ," will be held at **Pinecrest Church, Johnson City**, Feb. 25, from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information call (615) 926-9394.

■ To observe Race Relations Sunday St. Mary's Church and Lee Village



REPRESENTING WOMEN OF LIBERTY CHURCH, MC EWEN, Shirley Styles, left, and Sally Gram, right, present quilt to John Maxcy, pastor, and his wife, Betty, for Christmas.

Church of Harriman will hold a joint worship service at Lee Village Church on Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. The choir of St. Mary's will sing and Jesse Williams, the pastor, will speak.

■ **National Avenue Church, Memphis**, will hold revival services Feb. 26 - March 1. Phil Glisson of Memphis will speak.

■ The centennial celebration of **Cross Bridges Church, Columbia**, will be Feb. 18-19. Music will be performed on Feb. 18 beginning at 4 p.m. by The Reborns and The Sounds of Glory. Services on Sunday will begin at 10 a.m.

■ **Pine Grove Church, Lexington**, will hold revival Feb. 17-19. It will be led by Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld.

■ the associations

■ **New Duck River Association** will hold a "Call to Prayer for Revival and Spiritual Awakening" Feb. 27 at First Church, Shelbyville, at 7 p.m. Louis Drummond, past president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., will speak.

■ the schools

■ **Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City**, named

Robert W. Muldoon Jr., as director of development, effective Jan. 9. He was director of development and adjunct professor of English, University of Scranton (Pa.). He is a graduate of



MULDOON

The University of the South, Sewanee, and Loyola College, Baltimore, Md. He has worked with insurance companies in planning and taught English at secondary and collegiate levels.

■ **Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City**, is the site of a Feb. 21 seminar, "Making Worship Attractive," led by the Louis and Mary Charlotte Ball Institute of Church Music. Ball is dean of fine arts at the college. It will run from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Also a chapel service will be held at 9:30 a.m. in First Church, Jefferson City.

■ deaths

■ **Ruby Fay Maples Allen, 73**, wife of James Allen, pastor, New Salem Church, Sevierville, died Jan. 26 after a long illness. The funeral was Jan. 29 at Atchley's Funeral Home, Sevierville. She is also survived by three sons who live in Maryland.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Baptist Men's Day honors men

By Roger "Sing" Oldham, pastor First Church, Martin

Baptist Men's Day (Jan. 22) was a good time to reflect upon the value God places upon men. Scripture abounds with charges to men. Some of my favorite passages speak to me as a Christian man, husband, and father.

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong" I Corinthians 16:13, NIV.

"I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing" I Timothy 2:8, NIV

"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand be-

fore me in the gap on behalf of the land so that I would not have to destroy it, but I found none" Ezekial 22:30, NIV.

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" Ephesians 5:25, NIV.

"Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged" Colossians 3:21, NIV.

If our homes, our churches, and our communities are to reflect the character of Christ, men must provide the leadership! God ordained that men bear the responsibility for spiritual leadership. God's divine order has not changed in our egalitarian society.

He still calls men to rise up and take the lead. He calls us to tap into his infinite resources of compassion, mercy, and

grace. He calls us to throw off the yoke of macho and take on the yoke of servant. He calls us to be genuine men of God. May we hear his call and obey! □

Improving ourselves

By Tommy Stevens, pastor Meadow View Church, Lawrenceburg

The beginning of the new year is an exciting time as we learn from the past and look forward to new things to accomplish.

What do you think God would have you to do this year? Perhaps you would consider reading a good book. I can recommend two that may change your life: *Victory over the Darkness* and *The*

Bondage Breaker both by Neil Anderson. The ideas in these books will help you to overcome sin in your life and become a more useful vessel for our Lord. Of course, you will also want to read the Bible through. Reading other books, no matter how inspiring, must never take the place of reading the Word of God.

Would you like to be a better steward? The video tape series with workbook, *How to Manage Your Money*, by Ron Belew has helped me to have more money to spend and more money to give and less interest to pay.

How about soul winning or discovering spiritual gifts? We will have some studies on these areas.

The process of sanctification does not end until glorification in heaven. □

Bees kill missionary kid during hike in Panamanian mountains

Baptist Press

PANAMA CITY, Panama — Andrew Nicholson, 14-year-old son of Southern Baptist missionaries to Panama, died Jan. 28 from stings of a swarm of African killer bees that drove him over a cliff in Panama's Chame Mountains.

Nicholson and classmate Andrew Scoble, 16, were climbing in the mountains during an annual camping trip sponsored by their school. Nicholson's parents are missionaries Glenn and Pauline Nicholson, both from Arkansas.

The boys were near the edge of a ridge when hundreds of killer bees suddenly attacked them, said Richard Schweinsberg in a telephone interview Jan. 30.

The boys began running parallel with the ridge as they tried to get away from the bees, said Schweinsberg, a dorm parent at Escuela Hogar Misionera, the school for missionary children operated by New Tribes Mission.

Nicholson, who was allergic to bee stings, stopped and swatted at the bees, eyewitnesses said. He began swaying on the edge of the ridge and fell more than 100 feet.

An autopsy revealed Nicholson died of the bee stings, rather than the fall.

Almost every square inch of his body was covered with bee stings," said Bob Hensley, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Panama. Hensley and several other Foreign Mission Board missionaries traveled to

the mountain as soon as they learned of the accident.

Scoble, son of News Tribes missionaries Dave and Wanda Scoble, kept running to escape the bees. But by the time he reached some adult sponsors, "every exposed area of his flesh was penetrated by these bee stings. He was starting to swell and stagger." Although Scoble sustained several hun-

ded stings, he is in stable condition and expected to recover fully, Schweinsberg said.

Several children witnessed the event including Nicholson's 16-year-old brother Nathan.

"Please pray that he (Nathan) can get over the anger he's feeling," Schweinsberg said. "He's in shock," Hensley added.

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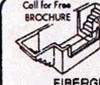


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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

**Life and Work Series
for Feb. 12**

**Focal Passage:
Mark 7:1-3, 5-8, 18-23**

True Spirituality

By Elizabeth Howard

The Pharisees thought they could determine an individual's spirituality by observing his/her faithfulness to rules and regulations, ceremony and ritual. Many people today have the same idea; others believe one's spirituality is determined by his/her emotional experiences. However, true spirituality involves an inward commitment, a renewal that takes place in the heart. Spiritual thoughts and actions must proceed from a clean heart.

Unwashed hands — vv. 1-3

The scribes and Pharisees had not come from Jerusalem to learn from Jesus, but to find something to criticize, some way to discredit him. They watched his disciples just as people who are looking to find fault with the church do today. Whether the disciples had washed their hands or not, they had not gone through the ceremonial cleansing which Jewish tradition required. Over the centuries, rabbis had added many requirements to the Mosaic law found in the Old Testament; the stipulation for ceremonial washing before a meal comes from that body of work.

Useless traditions — vv. 5-8

When the scribes and Pharisees questioned Jesus about his disciples' actions, Jesus called them hypocrites, frauds, mere actors on the religious stage, pretending to be spiritual. Their religion came from their lips, rather than their hearts. The word "heart" had a much broader meaning then than it does now; the heart was the person and the personality, the mind and the will.

The traditional teachings which the Pharisees required had no validity as far as Jesus was concerned, for they had grown out of the thoughts of men with unclean hearts, men who did not know the meaning of true spirituality. All of their practices, rigorous though they might be, were in vain, for they were based on the traditions of men, rather than on the commands of God.

Unclean hearts — vv. 18-23

The disciples had grown up in the traditions of the scribes and Pharisees; so they were puzzled and questioned Jesus about his comments on defilement (v. 15). In explanation, Jesus said that nothing that enters one from outside the body harms the individual spiritually. He was not saying all foods are equally nutritious; nor was he saying that everything one takes into one's body is harmless. He was talking about spiritual health rather than physical health. What one eats goes into the stomach and passes out of the body; it does not enter the heart or the mind. For that reason, all foods are spiritually clean. Jesus said it's what comes out of one's heart, evil thoughts and words and actions, that causes one to be unclean. He listed some specific deeds and attitudes which originate inside the person. These are what makes a man unclean.

Sin resides in one's innermost being, encompasses one's life, breeds evil thoughts resulting in evil actions. True spirituality is based on an inner renewal, a cleansing of the heart and mind. We must drink of the living water from Jesus' well (John 4:14); we must be washed by him (John 13:8). Only then can we be truly clean. □ — Elizabeth Howard is a member of Cumberland Homesteads Church, Crossville.

Jesus Christ is rejected

By Brian Courtney

Rejection — what an ugly word! Yet, it happens! People are rejected for various reasons: the color of their skin, social class, economic status, or beliefs. Maybe it's their physical appearance, emotional stability, or spiritual immaturity. But maybe it's because they are right, and their "rejectors" cannot stand the truth. Jesus knew rejection.

The Gospel of Matthew records King Herod's effort to kill him as a child (Matthew 2:16ff). The scribes questioned his authority to forgive sins (ch. 9:1-7). Our text shows the Sanhedrin's rejection of Jesus which led to his crucifixion. What is here for "rejectors" and "rejectees"?

The way of rejection

Those who took Jesus in Gethsemane led him to "Caiaphas ... scribes and elders ..." (v. 57). This is a reference to the Sanhedrin Court — the Jewish supreme court. This religious body wanted Jesus dead (v. 59) by whatever means it took. The means was securing false witnesses and false testimony. The Sanhedrin could not convict Jesus unless two or more brought the same charge (see Deuteronomy 19:15). How ironic! Accuse an innocent man with false testimony, but do it biblically. This minor delay was overcome by two witnesses who heard Jesus say, "I am able to destroy ... in three days" (v. 61). While Jesus did make this statement, it's meaning is ignored. The court thought he was talking literal destruction of the Temple, but he was talking about the resurrection. Even Caiaphas did not pursue this charge. That's the way of "rejectors." Ignore the testimony and meaning, pursue what you want.

This text issues a warning to "rejectors" about their methods and means. There is a proper way to deal with problems and perceived problem people

(see Matthew 18). But let us examine our methods and means lest we become the Sanhedrin.

The response to rejection

Jesus' response was silence at first. Sometimes in the face of other's rejection silence is the best response. Jesus knew the futility of the situation. He remained calm and in charge.

Jesus' second response was verbal but veiled. He used the term "Son of

man." This term originates in Ezekiel and Daniel and its usage by Jesus implies he was God in flesh and the agent of judgment. This fits this context where "the Son of man" will be "seated ... Power ... coming on the clouds of heaven" (v. 64). This would refer to the Second Coming. However veiled this statement, Caiaphas knew what it meant. Jesus had equated himself with God and this was blasphemy. Rejected — but Jesus told the truth and the "rejectors" did not like the truth.

How does a Christian respond to rejection? First, silence is always a choice. People believe often what they want to believe. No explanation is going to change them, but it may aggravate the situation. Second, talk is always an option at certain times. Clarifying one's position or beliefs to others may break barriers of resistance, if done in a proper way. Jesus was calm. The way of the "rejected."

The result of rejection

Caiaphas asked the question, "What is your judgment?" The reply, "He deserves death." Then they "spit ... struck ... slapped ... saying, Prophecy ..." (v. 68). The ultimate rejection came to Jesus regardless of this response. The same shall happen to others and us in spite of our ways of dealing with rejection. Hear the text and be ready but make sure you are right and truthful! □ — Brian Courtney is pastor of First Church, Sneedville.

**Convention Uniform Series
for Feb. 12
Focal Passage
Matthew 26:57-68**

Jeremiah's personal struggle

By Ray Fullilove

I imagine many of us identify with Jeremiah and the tremendous struggle he faced. When we faithfully preach, and few pay attention; present God's message over and over and few, are moved; and remain true, but results are nil, gloom takes the place of gladness. The present day Jeremiah faces the same doubts as the Jeremiah of the past. The message God gave to Jeremiah was not popular. His message was different. His peers spoke of peace and prosperity and made God approachable. Jeremiah's message was one of judgment and punishment and pictured God harsh and difficult to satisfy. Not wanting to hear an unpleasant message, the people turned to the gods of the world which satisfied them rather than to the God of heaven which demanded complete surrender and separation from the world. Pressed by the matter-of-fact existence, and the malicious reaction of the people, Jeremiah, began to doubt. Remember that Jeremiah preached this message 40 years before God's judgment came. No wonder Jeremiah had a personal struggle. When we face our personal struggle with God's call to us, how do we find the strength to remain true to God?

**We have the heart of God —
ch. 15:15-19**

**Bible Book Series for Feb. 12
Focal Passage: Jeremiah 15:15-19;
18:3-6; 20:7-9, 11a**

Whether we want to admit it, or not, all of us have faced discouragement and doubt. We want God's assurance as we face adversity, God's touch in our defeats. When we get in this condition, let us remember that we have the heart of God. We have God's presence (v. 15), the one who called us, who knows us, who will be with us to the end. We also have God's peace (v. 16). We will find God's consolation in his Word which satisfies, "soothes the fevered brow," and stabilizes. We have God's power (vv. 17-19). When we come across that spark of grace in God's Word, let us blow it into a flame and feel the power of God again. We will become aware of God's power in meditation (v. 17), in motivation (v. 18), and in ministry (vv. 19-21). To be sure, "If God is for us, who shall be against us?"

**We have the hand of God —
ch. 18:3-6**

When we are down and need the lifting power of God, we have the hand of God. We are made by God (v. 3); we are molded by God (v. 4); we are ministered to by God (vv. 5-6). Nothing can pluck us out of the Father's hand.

**We have the Holy Spirit of
God — ch. 20:7-9, 11a**

Then, our assurance of God's call to us fills our heart as we remember we have the Holy Spirit of God. When everything goes against us, we need a power which can pick us up and keep us going. We have the power of the Holy Spirit. He prevails (vv. 7-8) when we want to give up (7a), to give in (v. 7b), or to give over (v. 8). He permeates (v. 9) as we face our temptations (v. 9a), our travail (v. 9b), and our triumphant victories. The Holy Spirit provides courage as we stand to preach his message before the people (v. 10a); confidence as we remain faithful before discontented peers (v. 10b); and composure in constant pressure (v. 11). The matchless Matthew Henry noted, "Where there is combat, we need our advocate when dealing with our adversary. Where there will be a contest, we need a champion which is Christ." We may have personal struggles; but, praise God, we have a glorious savior and a conquering Lord of lord and King of kings. □ — Ray Fullilove is pastor of Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis.

Motorbikes help missionaries in Japan

Baptist Press

KOBE, Japan — Southern Baptist missionaries in Kobe, Japan, are using motorbikes to navigate debris-strewn streets and deliver relief supplies to victims of the Jan. 17 earthquake.

Missionaries Bob Sherer, Tak Oue, Bob Dilks, and Mike Brooks are assisting members of Kobe Baptist Church, which opened its doors as a distribution center for relief supplies flowing into the devastated city. The quake left more than 5,000 people dead and more than 300,000 homeless in a city of 1.5 million.

Sherer said delivery of supplies has been a real problem because already narrow streets are filled with debris. In addition, heavy equipment is at work pulling down damaged buildings, making a bad traffic situation even worse. □

Missionary shot in Guatemala

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Southern Baptist missionary Keith

Stamps is recovering from gunshot wounds sustained Jan. 20 in an attempted highway robbery in Guatemala.

Stamps, 38, was treated in a Guatemalan hospital and released Jan. 22. A missionary to Guatemala since 1986, Stamps was shot in the right arm and shoulder while driving alone on an isolated stretch of road. He managed to keep driving for six miles until he reached the next town.

Local officials gave him first aid and drove him to the hospital. Stamps, of Clinton, Miss., is the son of Stanley and Glenna Stamps, missionaries to Honduras. □

Stanley to keynote evangelists' meeting

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta, and a former SBC president, will be the keynote speaker for the annual Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists held during the SBC annual meeting June 20-22

here.

According to conference president Ron Pledger of Stone Mountain, Ga., the 1995 theme will be "Through Every Storm There Is Purpose, Power, and Provision." The conference will be held during the Wednesday break of the SBC annual meeting beginning at 1 p.m. in the Georgia Dome. □

Nick News features Kentucky Baptist children's home

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Spring Meadows Children's Homes will be featured Feb. 12 on "Nick News," a weekly news magazine for children on the Nickelodeon cable channel.

The six-minute segment uses children from the Spring Meadows campus to show what life in a modern children's home is like.

Spring Meadows, home to 48 young people, is part of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children which provides care for children who have been abused or neglected, or whose families are in crisis. The agency assists more than 1,200 children and adults each year.

The segment, hosted by Lin-

da Ellerbee, will air nationally on the cable channel at 8 p.m. (EST) Feb. 12. The program is also carried in syndication. □

Home mission vols establish trust fund

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — A band of current and former home missions volunteers has established a trust fund to support future volunteer work.

"Its purpose is to create funding for volunteers and volunteer projects that are not funded through traditional means," said Irene Bennett of Augusta, Ga.

Earnings from the trust fund, to be managed by the Southern Baptist Foundation, will be used on a variety of projects, from student summer missions to Mission Service Corps, the Home Mission Board's volunteer program for adults serving four months or longer.

Don Hammonds, HMB associate vice president for ministry, lauded the fund as a way to get more volunteers onto the mission field and open up areas that have been financially prohibitive, such as expensive inner-city work. □

WMU announces changes in staff

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Woman's Missionary Union has reassigned two staff members and filled two other positions.

June Whitlow, a 28-year WMU employee, and Marti Solomon, a 15-year employee have been named to two newly created positions on the national WMU staff. Jennifer Law and Teresa Dickens joined the staff in early January.

Whitlow became senior associate executive director Jan. 7. In the new role, she serves the organization as chief operating officer.

Solomon was named marketing specialist for distribution, effective Jan. 23. She will work with Baptist and other Christian bookstores to distribute WMU products.

Law has been named design editor in the products editorial group while Dickens joins the staff as communications specialist. Law is a former preschool and children's director in Georgia. Dickens has worked for the Mississippi Baptist Record and Missouri's Word and Way. □

Philip Newberry: no hands, no feet, but all heart

By Jan Johnson
For Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Philip Newberry boasts a mean soccer kick.

So mean the impact sometimes sends his leg sailing a good 10 feet. No problem, though. He just sticks it back on and keeps right on going.

Not having hands and feet is just a minor inconvenience as Philip tackles the world of a typical 10-year-old. There are baseball games to win,

dodgeball and soccer victories to claim, and trampolines to conquer.

Such simple childhood accomplishments seemed unreachable eight years ago. The furlough of then Southern Baptist missionaries to Brazil Randy and Jan Newberry had turned into a nightmare.

On Easter Sunday 1986, they sat by their 2-year-old's bedside watching his limbs grow black and life ebb from his tiny body. The prognosis was meningitis and inevitable death. Their only

hope was prayer and God's grace.

The disease resulted in the amputation of Philip's left arm almost up to his elbow, the right hand at the wrist, and both legs halfway to the knees. But it didn't remove Philip's determination and I-can-do-anything outlook on life.

"I wouldn't have chosen this for my son, but it happened," said Randy Newberry, now pastor of First Church, Briar, in Azle, Texas. "I don't understand all of it, but God has a plan. He assured me that he will get more glory this way than if he'd healed him. God can take what Satan intends for evil and use it for good. That's what God has done with Philip."

Philip may not totally realize it yet, but his family knows his life is a ministry to others. His arena of service is his fifth-grade classroom at Hoover Elementary School in Azle, the soccer field, and Scottish Rite Children's Hospital in Dallas, where he's featured in a video to encourage other children who have lost their limbs.

"It's amazing how many times the Lord has allowed us to minister to people going through similar situations. Philip shows them that you may have some amputations but it doesn't have to slow you down," Randy noted.

Randy observed that Philip accomplishes something new every day. He can put on his pants, zip them, and buckle his belt. In addition he can also throw a spiral football pass, swing a bat, operate a computer, and bound skyward on a trampoline — no small

feats for someone without hands. Philip darts agilely on prosthetic legs but refuses the artificial arms because they get in his way.

Not having hands does have a major advantage particular if you play a sport (soccer) that prohibits their use. But Philip still giggles about the time a referee penalized him for use of hands.

Philip, who also excels academically, has his sights set next on playing in the school band.

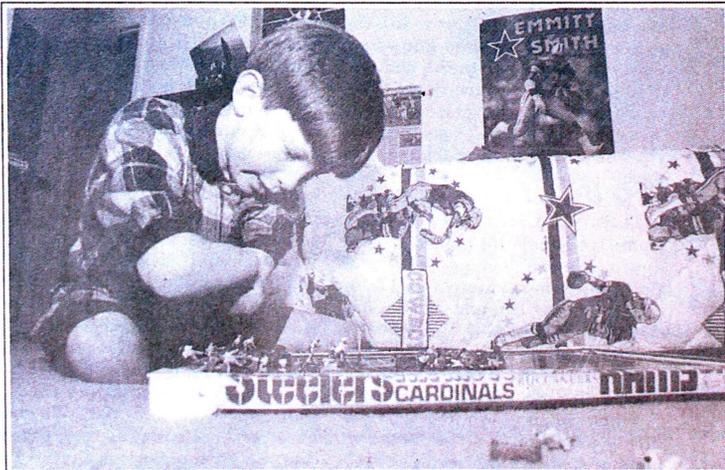
His parents say Philip is always positive and figures out how to adapt. "He doesn't think there's anything he can't do, and his attitude has helped us cope," said Jan.

Yet there are times when Philip says, "What if..."

"If I had hands and feet, I'd be better than (Dallas Cowboy running back) Emmitt Smith," he sometimes laments. "Man, I've got the moves."

The Newberrys resigned from the mission field so Philip could receive treatment in the U.S., but their call to missions remains strong and they're looking into the possibility of doing missions again, either in the states or overseas.

One of the family's prayer needs, Randy said, is not only God's guidance about mission service, but also about the possibility of a physical setback for Philip, whose left leg is not growing correctly. "We're praying for healing that will make the legs the same length, and for wisdom for the doctors as they deal with it," Jan said. □



WHETHER IT'S MANEUVERING tiny football player figures, throwing a spiral pass, zipping his clothing, or kicking a soccer ball, Philip Newberry, whose legs and arms were amputated when he was 2 years old, can do just about anything he sets his mind to. — Photo by Morris Abernathy