

■ this week's news

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Tennessee missionaries in 'right place, right time'

By Mary E. Speidel
For Baptist Press

LAS MARGARITAS, Mexico — Charles Collins drums his hand on the steering wheel, keeping time to music on a Christian praise tape.

"I will trust in you and will not be afraid," the lyrics say.

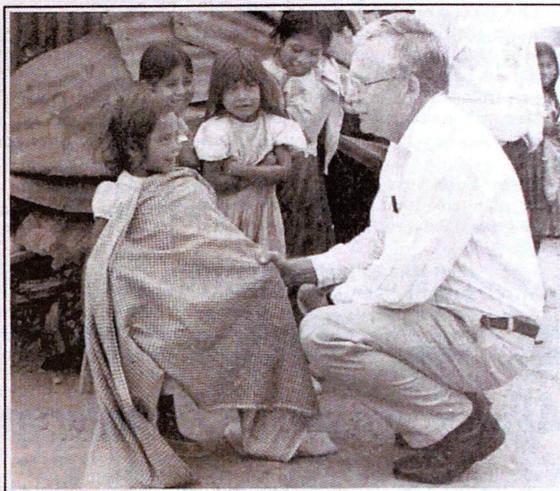
This morning Collins and his wife, Jan, have good reason to fear.

Just a few weeks earlier, Mexico's Zapatista rebels set up barricades along roads in this region. They searched vehicles at gunpoint, boarded buses, and demanded money from passengers.

But today all seems calm along the route from San Cristobal de Las Casas to Las Margaritas in Chiapas, Mexico's poorest and southernmost state. The only roadblocks: several checkpoints manned by the Mexican military.

Collins stops his truck at one just outside San Cristobal. After he shows a Red Cross identification card, a soldier waves him through.

Collins volunteers as a paramedic with the Mexican Red Cross. But that's not what brought him to Chiapas. He and his wife, from Jackson and Yuma, Tenn., respectively, are the only Southern Baptist missionaries in the state. They



CHARLES COLLINS makes friends with a girl living in a refugee camp inside a sports stadium in Las Margaritas. Last year Collins and his wife, Jan, both Southern Baptist missionaries from Tennessee, helped coordinate Baptist feeding kitchens for refugees in the area. — Photo by Warren Johnson

came to help plant and develop Baptist churches.

Earlier, they planted churches among indigenous people in Guatemala. There, while translating for Arkansas Baptist medical volunteers, both felt God leading them to get medical training. During the couple's next furlough and a leave of absence in Jonesboro, Ark., Collins, a former

pastor, trained to become a paramedic. Mrs. Collins, a former teacher, trained to become a licensed practical nurse. "We wanted to increase our scope of ministry when we returned to Guatemala," she explained.

But, when it came time to go back, God instead directed them to Chiapas, which borders Guatemala.

"They arrived at just the

right time with just the right skills," observes missionary Larry Gay, who directs the work of Southern Baptist missionaries in Mexico.

The Collinses moved to the state capital of Tuxtla Gutierrez just a few months before Indian rebels took up arms on New Year's Day 1994. The Zapatista National Liberation Army — demanding social justice for the region's indigenous people — seized several towns in Chiapas. About 150 people died in the two-week conflict with government troops.

Such tensions were nothing new to the Collinses, who lived near guerrilla warfare in Guatemala. But the missionaries were new to Chiapas, "still trying to get a handle on living in Mexico," Collins recalls.

On Jan. 15 of last year, they received a call from Gay, asking them to see how Baptists might minister in the wake of the uprising.

A few weeks later the couple were cooking beans for war refugees. Collins' Red Cross connections helped them get government permission to operate three feeding kitchens in shelters near the combat zone. Doors also opened because of Baptists' good reputation for relief work in Mexico's 1985 earthquake.

— See Tennessee, page 2

Sunday School Board finances improve, trustees told

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — After a 1993-94 loss of \$8.2 million, the Baptist Sunday School Board experienced a successful first quarter ahead of budgeted income, trustees learned during their Feb. 6-7 meeting, where they approved a new upper management structure designed to improve budget management.

Citing resources such as Sunday School literature, *Experiencing God*, and *The Mind of Christ*, President James T. Draper Jr. said the board must "provide materials to point individuals to the only food that satisfies spiritual hunger for eternity." Meeting the needs of individuals and churches through development of these kinds of materials, along with stronger financial controls, has contributed to a positive report, he indicated.

Actual revenue of \$59,073,000 was \$687,000 above the revised budget of \$58,386,000 for the first quarter, which began October 1994. Expenses of

\$56,707,000 were \$2,215,000 below budget. Funds provided from operations (FPO), which is revenue after costs and expenses, stood at \$1,575,000, compared with a budgeted negative \$1,349,000.

Trustees approved a revised 1994-95 operating budget of \$243,403,073, and FPO of \$100,000 or .04 percent of total revenue. They also approved a revised fixed asset budget of \$9,314,000.

Trustees approved, effective immediately, a newly created position of executive vice president and chief operating officer and elected Ted Warren, vice president for business and finance, to the post. He will continue serving as interim vice president of the renamed finance and business services group until a vice president is elected. In his new role, Warren supervises all vice presidents and the executive director of corporate affairs and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the board.

In a related matter, trustees also authorized dividing trade publishing (Broad-

man & Holman Publishing) and retail markets (Baptist Book Stores and direct marketing), with each reporting to a vice president. Chuck Wilson, who has been responsible for both areas, was elected vice president of the trade publishing group, while a vice president for retail markets will be elected later.

Corrective actions are in progress as the board works toward an improved financial position for the years ahead, Warren told trustees. Among those actions implemented are cost control and reductions, monthly and quarterly accountability meetings, and selection of a new systems vendor to replace current board systems, many which are more than 20 years old.

In another matter, a charter amendment that will downsize the board by attrition from 93 members to about 58 by the year 2000 was approved. The amendment also must be approved by the SBC Executive Committee later this month and by messengers to the 1995 SBC annual meeting in Atlanta. □ — Charles Willis

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

900-00410-0127
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCIAL SUITE 400
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Tennessee missionaries in 'right place' ...

— Continued from page 1

Two other Foreign Mission Board missionaries, Phil and Peggy Templin, who live in a nearby state, moved temporarily to Chiapas to help the Collinses. Their days started before dawn and ended late at night.

"Sometimes I said, 'God, I'm tired. If you want to do something here, you're going to have to do it because I can't,'" Collins admits. "I saw God move in that."

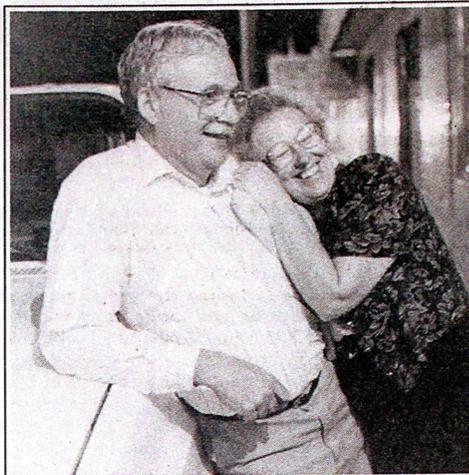
The project drew more than 150 Baptist volunteers from across Mexico to staff the kitchens. They fed up to 1,600 refugees twice a day before turning over the kitchens to the government last May.

The first refugee fed was Patricia Mendez, 13. Today she greets the Collinses after worship at a new Baptist mission church in Las Margaritas, which resulted in part from the feeding project.

Mendez's mother, Elsa, a Tojolabal Indian, recalls how her family first met Baptists.

When Zapatista rebels seized their town, they gave local men 24 hours to join their forces. Anyone who declined would be killed, they warned.

Rather than take up arms, the Mendez family left their home and farm. "Although it was a poor house, it was our house. We were crying when we took our first steps. We thought we would never be



CHARLES AND JAN COLLINS relax following a long day of ministry in Chiapas. The Southern Baptist missionaries both hail from Tennessee. Charles, of Jackson, is a former pastor of Mt. Zion Church, McNairy, and Curve Church, Ripley. He and Jan, of Yuma, are both Union University graduates. Jan was reared in Trenton.

able to return," she says.

The family found shelter in another town. But a few weeks later local officials made them move on. Townspeople feared

refugees brought disease; some even thought they were Zapatistas.

When refugees arrived at the shelter in La Independencia, "they were shell-shocked," Collins recalls.

It took time to gain their trust. When Baptists invited the refugees to worship services in nearby Las Margaritas, "a rumor arose that Baptists were part of the Zapatistas and this might be a way of winning us over," says Mrs. Mendez.

But she and her family went anyway. "We saw that God was with (Baptists). And we realized we needed to accept Christ," she explains.

Today they and several other refugee families have become Christians and attend the mission church in Las Margaritas. The congregation recently purchased property for a church building. For now they meet in the home of Lindoro Fonseca, a Baptist layman who for years prayed God would provide a Baptist church in his town.

"We see God's hand in the things that have happened here," he says. □

Alternative pastors' conference planned for SBC in Atlanta

Associated Baptist Press

TAMPA, Fla. — A Florida pastor is organizing a "middle-of-the-road" conference for June 18-19 in Atlanta as an alternative to the SBC Pastors' Conference.

The two-day "preaching and worship conference" will feature messages from Richard Jackson, Jess Moody, and Frank Pollard — all longtime Baptist pastors and former candidates for SBC president — among others.

The meeting will begin Sunday night, June 18, and continue with three sessions on Monday, all at Wieuca Road

Church in Atlanta.

The SBC Pastors' Conference, which annually draws 15,000-20,000 people, will be held simultaneously in the Georgia Dome downtown. The Southern Baptist Convention opens June 20, also in the Georgia Dome. "My goal is not to compete with the Pastors' Conference but to say, 'This is a contrast,'" said Don Letzring, pastor of Wellwood Church, Tampa, and organizer of the meeting. "I believe God can bless two conferences simultaneously. But I'm prepared for some criticism."

Letzring said the traditional Pastors' Conference is "more

limited in who it invites" and is skewed to the right theologically. "There are still a lot of people who go to the SBC who like the middle-of-the-road preaching that used to be a part of it," he said.

Letzring says there are many "middle-of-the-road" Southern Baptists who are not attracted to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of moderate Southern Baptists. Those people continue to attend the SBC annual meeting yet feel left out of the new power structure, says Letzring.

Letzring said there is nothing political about this year's

alternative preaching conference and that he is not promoting a presidential candidate to oppose incumbent Jim Henry of Orlando, Fla. Some conservatives were also invited to speak, but did not accept, he added.

In fact, Letzring said, he plans to invite Henry to address the alternative conference. "If he would make an appearance at the Pastors' Conference, I hope he would do the same for this conference," he said.

First Church, Nashville, Pastor Dan Francis is one of the scheduled speakers. □

Graham's global missions to reach Japan quake survivors, Rwandans

Baptist Press

NEW YORK — Modern technology will carry Billy Graham's Gospel message even to earthquake survivors in Japan and Rwandan refugees in Africa during the evangelist's upcoming Global Mission international crusade via satellite.

According to Bob Williams, director of international ministries for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and director of Global Mission, survivors of the recent earthquake that devastated Kobe, Japan, still have opportunity to participate in the March 16-18 crusade to be aired from Puerto Rico to 175

countries. Williams said 30 locations were planned, but many of those were destroyed. "The city leaders have agreed to help by bulldozing an entire city block to clear an area for an open air meeting by satellite on a large screen," he said.

Graham, in a news conference in New York Feb. 7, noted Kobe is just one of many places in the news where preparations are being made for Global Mission. They also include four evangelistic missions planned inside the refugee camps in Goma, Zaire, where over 1.8 million Rwanda refugees still reside. "UN and other relief workers tell us they expect many to attend," Graham said. □

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests



February

- 15 — Pray for Tongber aned Pa Vang, Hmong pastor, who recently began a new church in Michigan at Warren Woods Church in Macomb Association.
- 16 — Pray for the new Laotian work in Ypsilanti (Huron Association) and Pastor Sangthong Lithpraseuth.
- 17 — Good Shepherd Church is moving into a new building. Pray for Pastor Juan Holguin and the members during this time.
- 18 — Pray for the renovation of a chapel in Krakow, Poland.
- 19 — Pray for a number of Native American pastors and their work among Canada's First Nations people.
- 20 — A BSM director replacement is needed in Canada while Nancy Tallent is on furlough.
- 21 — A career BSM missionary is needed to serve in Montreal, Quebec.

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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- **For production answers** — Donna Wagers, news and production assistant
- **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- **Board of directors:** Dean Haun, chairman; Gary Gerhardt, vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Christine Bess, Russ Dunham, David George, Frank Hawkins, Diane Jordan, Pat Landrum, Joe Littlefield, Paul Moody, Bill Northcutt, Charles Parker, Richard Patton, Mike Thrower, Conyer Walker, Gary Watkins, and Laurann Whetham
- **Office** — Baptist and Reflector, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027
Mailing address — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
Phone — (615) 371-2003.
FAX — (615) 371-2080
- **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
- **Address changes** — Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- **Postmaster** — Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780)
- **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for Christmas week.



Printed on recycled paper

Many requests still unmet

Number of home missions volunteers increases in 1994

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The number of volunteers for home missions work increased almost 10 percent in 1994, compared to 1993, according to the Home Mission Board's volunteers in missions office.

Despite that increase, however, many home missionaries' requests for help still go unmet, board officials say.

Southern Baptists will observe Volunteers in Missions Sunday Feb. 26. Last year, 68,915 people volunteered for mission work, up from 62,755 in 1993.

Leaders say such figures dispute conventional wisdom that volunteerism is declining.

"Something we've been hearing lately is that the age of volunteerism is over," said

Mike Riggins, associate director of the HMB's Mission Service Corps department.

"Yet with God's people we're finding that not to be the case," he said. "Really, I think we've just seen the tip of the iceberg as God moves among his people to get involved in missions and ministry."

Short-term volunteerism (for projects lasting less than four months) grew 9.6 percent in 1994. A record 66,899 volunteers served in such projects with youth, college, and adult volunteers all increasing. In 1993, there were 61,002 short-term volunteers.

The number of youth, comprising more than half of all short-term volunteers, rose from 35,310 to 38,092.

Adult volunteers increased to 25,843, a 12 percent gain.

College student volunteers rose 9 percent last year from 2,717 to 2,964. Mission Service Corps volunteers increased 15 percent in 1994, according to MSC Director Bob Mills. At the end of 1994, the HMB volunteer division had 2,016 MSC volunteers, compared to 1,753 the previous year.

Mission Service Corps is the HMB's volunteer program for mission work lasting four months or longer. MSC volunteers serving at least two years are included in the HMB missionary count.

Of the almost 5,000 home missionaries assigned by the HMB, 1,094 are MSC volunteers who have completed at least two years of service, according to the MSC office.

Yet, despite the increase, some requests go unmet, ac-

ording to Mike Robertson, director of the HMB student missions department.

Not all the volunteers assigned by the Home Mission Board, he noted. Some are assigned by other Southern Baptist agencies, volunteers coordinated by partnerships between state conventions, and through direct contact with churches.

"As a result, the impact of youth workers was mixed in 1994, he said. Figures show youth volunteers increased overall, but the number of youth assigned by the HMB dropped 23 percent, from 18,275 to 13,969.

"Where that creates a problem for us is that some of our priority locations with critical needs went unfilled," Robertson said.

The need for summer youth teams is especially great for work at inner-city mission centers, resort settings, and churches outside the Southeast, said Valerie Hardy, associate director of the student missions department.

Many hotel managers and campground owners depend on teams to offer Christian day camps with reliable children's activities, Robertson said. A shortage of youth teams could hurt some ministries' reputations, he added. "We're in danger of losing our inroad and opportunity to witness not only to the tourists, but also to the year-round residents," Robertson said.

More information about volunteer opportunities is available by calling the HMB at 1 (800) HMB-VOLS. □

Anti-abortion vaccine looms as challenge to pro-life cause

Baptist Press

WHEATON, Ill. — As the controversy heats to a boiling point over the trial entrance of RU-486, the abortion pill, into the United States, another potentially more destructive abortion technology is simmering on the horizon.

Christian bioethicist Lawrence Roberge said in a paper recently presented at a Christian bioethics conference at Trinity Evangelical Seminary in Illinois that this new abortion recipe

is almost done — and it could replace RU-486 or any other abortion procedure as the main method of abortions.

"This process of abortion would avoid the public scrutiny," said C. Ben Mitchell, consultant on biomedical and life issues for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "If this became a widely used drug, it would clearly change the strategy of the pro-life movement," he said.

Roberge calls the new abortion technologies "vaccines," not because they

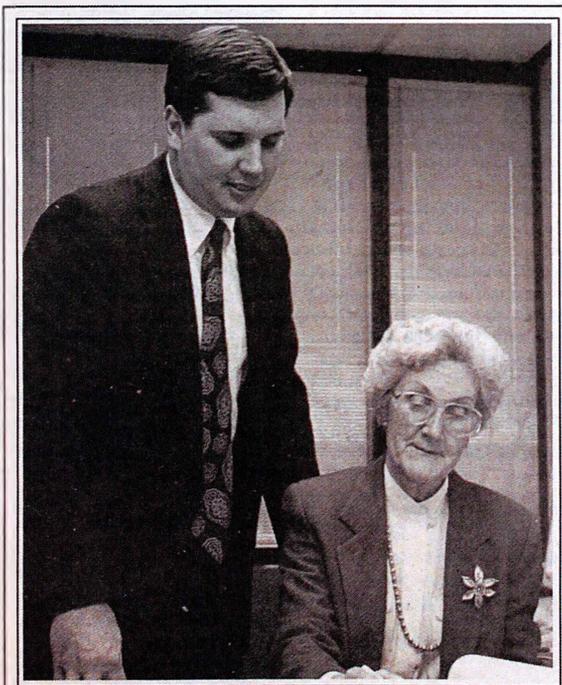
prevent pregnancy, but because they are designed to attack an early pregnancy and wipe it out in or around the first week of pregnancy, when the baby is barely the size of a dot over this i.

Vaccines would be 100 percent effective, with few immediate side effects, and could last over several years, acting on a monthly basis. It is possible a woman could abort 12 children a year in early embryonic stages without even knowing she is pregnant.

Although such vaccines would re-

move from the public's eye much of the uglier concepts connected with aborting older unborn babies, the CLC's Mitchell says he believes the rhetoric of the abortion issue must remain the same. He noted, however, the picketing abortion clinics might lose effectiveness.

"It might cause our strategy to become more neighborly," he said, noting the focus might shift more from clinic sidewalks to "ministry to or relations with our neighbors who might be the subject of or wanting an abortion." □



Good month

William Maxwell, Central Administration Division director, and Evelyn Vaughn of the Accounting Office, prepare to mail a January check to the Southern Baptist Convention in the amount of \$4,202,526. Of that total \$3.2 was designated for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, \$790,118 for SBC Cooperative Program, and the remainder for designated SBC items.

Catholic mission leaders visit FMB

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Responding to the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention resolution on improving SBC relations with Roman Catholics, seven U.S. Catholic mission leaders visited the Foreign Mission Board home office Feb. 2-3 and met with FMB officials.

Discussions ranged from Latin America, where tensions sometimes run high between established Roman Catholic churches and the bustling number of new evangelical churches to World A — that unreached area of the globe where neither Southern Bap-

tists or Roman Catholics have much toehold.

"It was a mutual dialogue and fellowship with no expected outcome," said Sam Pittman, FMB executive director of public affairs and facilitator for the meeting.

Pittman initially invited Frank Ruff, the official Roman Catholic liaison to Southern Baptists. Ruff asked to bring "some friends" and the visit soon expanded into the bigger meeting.

Ruff has become familiar to many Southern Baptists through his annual attendance at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting and

visits to various Southern Baptist organizations and meetings, such as the SBC Executive Committee meeting twice each year.

"The other Catholic visitors and I were inspired by the commitment Southern Baptists and Southern Baptist churches have to world missions, which makes the work of the Foreign Mission Board possible," Ruff said, noting he wished "Catholics had as deep a commitment.

"We all see ourselves as disciples of Jesus doing his mission, and it makes sense to me that we at least know what the other disciples are doing." □

SBC Cooperative Program giving dips slightly

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for January dropped 2.16 percent below that month a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

For January 1995, the total was \$13,946,164, compared to \$14,254,071 in January 1994,

a difference of \$307,907. The fiscal year-to-date (October-January) figure of \$48,441,082 is .37 percent below the previous year-to-date figure of \$48,621,957, a difference of \$180,874.

However, the month's CP receipts were 22.57 percent above the required amount in the SBC program allocation budget and, for the year-to-date, receipts are 6.43 percent

above the budget requirement to this point. The budget requirement each month is \$11,378,310.

Designated gifts for January totaled \$20,071,120, compared to \$21,655,020 in January 1994, a drop of 7.31 percent. The year-to-date designated totals stands at \$27,138,827, a 3.47 percent decline over last year's figure of \$28,113,779. □

'Here's Hope'

The positive reports on the "Here's Hope" witnessing campaign are very encouraging, and I am hoping that the much-longed-for revival will be a result.

Although it takes some courage to stand up or speak out for Christ the blessings it brings is worth it all. Since there are a variety of ways to witness, no one need miss the blessing.

One way is to pass out tracts in parking lots, through the mail, and leaving them in public places. Any witnessing ministry must be done with love and much prayer. In my experience of offering tracts, I have very seldom encountered a hostile attitude, but almost everyone expresses appreciation.

*Norma Cox
Holladay 38341*

Share Gospel

I respond to a letter entitled "Law and culture" (*Baptist and Reflector*, Jan. 18). The writer states: "How will bashers of gays and lesbians feel when science proves that homosexuality is not personal choice but results from genes?"

It is a dangerous methodology to condition our understanding of Scripture on what science might prove. True science (as opposed to "scientism") and Scripture do not conflict. The same God who created an orderly universe in which science is possible is also the Author of Scripture. Certain individuals lean

toward certain sins, but the solution to over eating is not to deny ill-effects of obesity, but to confront the problem in the strength Christ proves.

The letter writer believes that the OT has been set aside and uses examples of stoning immoral women and disobedient children. We no longer do that; but immorality is still sin and disobedience to parents is still sin. The same is true with homosexuality. The NT does not abrogate but confirms OT strictures against homosexuality (Romans 1:24-32; I Corinthians 6:9-11).

On superficial examination it would appear that when Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said (in the OT) but I say unto you" that our Lord was relaxing OT standards, but the opposite is true. Jesus uses these words to expand the prohibition of murder to include anger (Matthew 5:21-22). He does the same thing with adultery: now the lustful look is wrong (Matthew 5:27-28).

Gay bashing is un-Christian. But if we love gays as we ought, we will love them enough to share the Gospel with them. To accept the homosexual lifestyle is to offer no hope to those who are entrapped by it.

*Larry Spargimino, pastor
River Bend Church
Bristol 37620*

Cockrum recognized

"Know ye not that a prince and a great man has fallen this day?" (II Samuel 3:38). And so

we release our brother to be with the Lord. Buford E. Cockrum, Navy veteran of World War II returned in 1944, married Virginia Irwin whom he met when both were teenagers at Harrison-Chilhowee. In 1948 they "sailed" for Africa and served as missionaries for 17 years. He supervised building Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Southern Baptist Hospital at Ogbomoso, Nigeria.

He served as pastor of First Church, Livingston, 1965-68, Woodbine Church (Nashville), 1968-73, and was the first Chaplain for Tennessee Preparatory School, 1973 until retirement in 1987. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, Sept. 7, 1994.

Since retiring from TPS, he worked at our Baptist Bookstore. He suffered a heart attack in front of the bookstore on Jan. 12. The funeral at Woodbine Church was conducted by his pastor, Marvin Spivey, his brother, Dudley Cockrum, and Virginia's brother, Jack Irwin. J. Dele Adeleru, Nigerian pastor who knew of the Cockrum's work but was too young to have known them in Nigeria, "happened" to be in Nashville, came and spoke of his love and affection for Bro. Cockrum.

Recently when Bro. Cockrum conducted the funeral for a man from his Sunday School class, he prayed "let us not see death as a loss but as a victory." Another victory has been gained!! His favorite song was "My Lord, Thy will be done ..." and he lived

that way.

Only God knows the lives Buford E. Cockrum has touched. The 44-65 year old men's Sunday School class he taught will miss him very much. All those who came after him found him faithful.

*Woodbine Baptist Church
Nashville 37210*

Praises college

American Baptist College, an African-American school which Southern Baptists helped to form in Nashville in the 1920s, is in dire straits. It is seriously in debt, and unable to meet current obligations, including purchase of books and periodicals for its library, and its buildings are in poor condition.

I read with great concern the recent decision of the Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary, as reported in the *Baptist and Reflector*, to cut all Southern Baptist ties with the school. I feel it is tragic that, although we as Southern Baptists have provided heavy subsidies to our own seminaries, we would leave American Baptist in such a state. Perhaps the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. should provide more assistance, but I think Southern Baptists have a continuing obligation. In a day when we need more trained black ministers who can serve as male role models in their churches and communities, how can we turn our backs on the school? The school provides

training for a number of black students from the Bahamas and Africa, who will return to their country as missionaries.

I hope Southern Baptists will not turn away from a fellow brother in need but will show compassion and concern.

*Albert W. Wardin Jr.
Nashville 37215*

Pastor in Naples

Calvary Baptist Church, a congregation of 80 people located in Naples, Italy, needs a pastor. The congregation is mainly connected with American military families. Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English Language) and is founded on the principles and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention. If God is leading you to be a pastor in a mission setting, please contact: Steven E. Rankin, NEPMU - 7, PSC 810 Box 41, FPO AE 09619-4299.

*Steven E. Rankin, chairman
FPO AE 09619-4299*

Seeks associate

First Church of Black Forest is looking for a bivocational associate pastor of music/worship. We need a team player with a heart for God and creativity and flexibility in music styles who can develop a dynamic music ministry. 25+ hours per week. It could lead to full-time position. Please send resumes to 10915 Black Forest Rd., Colorado Springs, CO, 80908 by Mar. 31.

*Ron Clement, pastor
Colorado Springs, Co 80908*

Shown at right are the forms which have been developed for Tennessee Baptists to use to make nominations for people to serve on TBC boards or committees.

The forms to the side are smaller replicas of the original forms which are being sent to every Tennessee Baptist church and to moderators of all 68 associations in the state.

Tennessee Baptists are encouraged to use a copy of the original form. Recommendations for the Committee on Committees or Committees on Boards should be made by March 15. Forms should be mailed to the appropriate committee, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. □

RECOMMENDATION FORM

**Convention Committees
Tennessee Baptist Convention**

Please use this form to recommend resident members of Tennessee Baptist churches to the Committee on Committees. A separate form should be used for each recommendation. Mail all recommendations to Chairman, Committee on Committees, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027. All recommendations will be considered by the Committee on Committees. However, no persons submitting a recommendation should assume his recommendation will automatically be submitted to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The deadline for recommendations is March 15.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone (Home) (____) _____ (Business) (____) _____
Approximate Age _____ Sex: M _____ F _____
Association _____
Resident Church Membership _____
Address _____
Sunday School Enrollment 0-250 _____ 250-500 _____ 500+ _____
Church Staff Member? Yes _____ No _____ Title _____

Check the Convention Committees you feel this person person could best serve.

- Committee on Arrangements Committee on Credentials Committee on Audits
- Committee on Resolutions Committee on Boards Historical Committee
- Committee on Committees Committee on Constitution & Bylaws

Please respond to the following questions.

1. Do you have this person's permission to submit this recommendation? Yes _____ No _____
2. List this person's present and/or past experiences on any TBC Committee(s) and dates of service.
3. Indicate the amount of mission gifts given through Tennessee Baptist causes in 1994. \$ _____
4. Indicate this person's occupation. Please be specific.
5. Is this person you are recommending acquainted with the duties and responsibilities of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Committee for which he is being recommended?
6. What gifts, abilities or experience does this person possess that qualifies him for consideration on a Tennessee Baptist Committee?
7. Describe this person's involvement and activity in his/her local church.

Name _____ Address _____ Phone (____) _____
Please Submitting Recommendation Area Code

RECOMMENDATION FORM

**Executive Board/Boards of Trust, Committee on Committee
Tennessee Baptist Convention**

Please use this form to recommend resident members of Tennessee Baptist churches to the Committee on Boards. A separate form should be used for each recommendation. Mail all recommendations to Chairman, Committee on Boards, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027. All recommendations will be considered by the Committee on Committees. However, no persons submitting a recommendation should assume his recommendation will automatically be submitted to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The deadline for recommendations is March 15.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone (Home) (____) _____ (Business) (____) _____
Approximate Age _____ Sex: M _____ F _____ Ordained _____ Lay person _____
Association _____
Resident Church Membership _____
Address _____
Sunday School Enrollment 0-250 _____ 250-500 _____ 500+ _____
Church Staff Member? Yes _____ No _____ Title _____

Check the Convention Committees you feel this person person could best serve.

- Executive Board Children's Homes Belmont University
- Baptist Health System, Nashville Carson-Newman College Baptist Health System, East Tennessee
- Union Health System Baptist Health Systems, Memphis Harrison-Chilhowee
- Tennessee Baptist Foundation Committee on Committees Adult Homes

Please respond to the following questions.

1. Do you have this person's permission to submit this recommendation? Yes _____ No _____
2. List this person's present and/or past experiences on any TBC Board(s) or Committee(s) and dates of service.
3. Indicate the amount of mission gifts given through Tennessee Baptist causes in 1994. \$ _____
4. Indicate this person's occupation. Please be specific.
5. Is this person you are recommending acquainted with the duties and responsibilities of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Board/Committee for which he is being recommended?
6. What gifts, abilities or experience does this person possess that qualifies him for consideration on a Tennessee Baptist Board?
7. Describe this person's involvement and activity in his/her local church.

Name _____ Address _____ Phone (____) _____
Please Submitting Recommendation Area Code

History — as plain as the nose on your face

As a favorite subject in the classroom, history does not always sway the student. Lulled unto sleep, the student often is victimized by a senselessly boring textbook or a teacher who has an enduring love for calendar dates.

History should not, must not, be taught that way. History must be absorbed. Not only is history gathered from the bookshelf, it is swept up daily from the winds of change swirling about us — into the life of the student. It becomes part of us.

History is as plain as the nose on your face, but more exciting, as evident as breathing in and breathing out.

This is the sesquicentennial anniversary year for the Southern Baptist Convention. It reminds us that the SBC was founded 150 years ago by Baptists who believed in the Living Lord, structured their lives on the bedrock of Holy Scripture, and knew joy and hard times.

David McCullough, noted author and historian, said this about history:

"In writing about history or biography, you must remember that nothing was ever on a track. Things could have gone any way at any point. As soon as you say 'was,' it seems to fix an event in the past.

"But nobody ever lived in the past, only in the present.

"The difference is that it was their present. They were just as alive and full of ambition, fear, hope, all the emotions of life. And just like us, they did not know how it would turn out.

"The challenge is to get the reader be-

yond thinking that things had to be the way they turned out and to see the ranges of possibilities of how it could have been otherwise."

So we see, as McCullough so aptly puts it, history for Southern Baptists did not have to turn out exactly as it has. The history of 150 years so ably and bravely carved onto the pages of time was *their* present, *their* adventure.

History cannot be tried on for size. Historians, teachers, authors, can make it an investment rather than a meaningless collection of dates and names.

The break between Southern and Northern Baptists came in 1845 when about 300 delegates (now called messengers) from eight Southern States and the District of Columbia, met at Augusta, Georgia, on May 8-11.

Several factors played a role in the split, but the major catalyst was slavery and its role throughout the youthful United States.

The 31-year-old Triennial Convention's bonds of cooperation shredded when its Home Mission Society ruled that prospective missionaries could not be slaveholders.

But it was always missions that held the distinctive priority for those who formed the fledgling Southern Baptist Convention when those 300 men (women could not vote) met at First Baptist Church, Augusta.

Representatives of the delegates hammered out a definitive statement in the preamble of its constitution.

The statement today remains basically unchanged. It was bold for its time, and it is bold for ours.

It spelled out the identity of the delegates, the place of meeting, and purpose for which the convention was formed: "... for the purpose of carrying into effect ... organizing ... combining ... directing the energies of the whole denomination in one sacred effort for the propagation of the Gospel ..."

They nailed it to the spiritual foundation on which they stood. They wrote it on the pages of their hearts.

And now, 150 years later, formation of any Southern Baptist body or cause can fly that banner with ease when searching for a mission statement, a vision.

Looking toward May 8-10 when many Southern Baptists will gather in Augusta to step on "Beulah land," it will indeed be a time to remember.

Names etched on history's walls of remembrance include great and small heroes of the faith. For these stalwarts who laid the foundations and built on them include many giants, many ordinary folk. Before we grew to worldwide recognition, some paid with blood.

Now, we ask the questions. Is it not time to lay aside the swords of revenge, despair, and disunity — and forge from them plows for new mission fields?

Is it not time for strength of purpose to over-ride selfishness, for cooperation to replace the lust for power? Can we not break the chains of a new kind of slavery? Build bridges, Southern Baptists, missions for the future. □

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Out of the past

Last week's editorial spoke words of affirmation for Tennessee Baptists' three colleges and for higher education in general.

It was noted that February 19 is the day to recognize this vital part of Baptist life.

A few days ago Don Mitchell of Carson-Newman sent me a copy of a "Survey of Southern Baptist Schools" which was presented at the 1921-22 session of the Education Board of the Southern



ALLEN

Baptist Convention, meeting in Birmingham.

The report was interesting and different from any recent report.

For example, the survey noted that "Southern Baptists now have 120 schools — senior and junior colleges, academies, and Bible and theological schools."

The combined enrollment included 14,481 men and 19,181 women, and there were 2,635 ministerial students. There were 2,566 volunteers for "definite Christian service."

The report stated, "This indicated that girls for various reasons are able to take more advantage of higher education than boys."

Value of all the property was placed at \$27.9 million.

Haven't things changed!

Belmont University was not yet a part of the TBC education system. But we had three colleges — Union University, Carson-Newman College, Tennessee College, and a school — Hall-Moody Normal School, as well as six Home Mission Board mountain schools, including Harrison-Chilhowee.

Other remarks given from the report indicate that many changes have occurred in the 74-year interlude since 1921.

Other things have not changed, however. Faculty and administrations must move in agreement.

Faculties are still good, students are still confused between playing kid and giving up to maturity. Pranks may be more inventive.

But Tennessee's three colleges and its academy still work hard toward being the best. We have changed, but good schools are priority. ■

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Problem solving in the family

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

Many families today do not have any plan for solving problems. They just wander off into the fray believing that something will turn up or make itself evident.

Something will make itself evident! I use a phrase to incorporate a process that works for me: Communicate Definite Goals and Select a Target.

Though it sounds simple, one must communicate accurately in order to solve problems. One major difficulty in communication occurs when the message received does not understand the same message that the sender thinks he/she sent.

We must continue asking for feedback and be willing to make adjustments to our communicative style if we are going to get our message across. Recently a couple had a big argument because the husband said to his wife, "I can't believe you didn't wake me up." He insisted he did not mean anything derogatory, but was surprised she had let him sleep.

Because of her own filters and past experiences with him, she understood that he was fussing at her for allowing him to run late and she responded in that fashion. Before they

could get ready for church, that "failure to communicate" had escalated into a family feud and neither was speaking to the other.

The second step in this process of family problem solving is to define the problem in relationship terms. Here we are not as concerned with outcomes in terms of goals.

Our concern is "how is this problem affecting our relationship?" The problem solving process often focuses on the problem to the detriment of the relationship.

This step will help maintain a focus on the importance of the relationship. The next step is to set a goal. The process will be derailed easily if we do not set specific goals. I suggest the simple "3-M test" for goal setting.

This states that goals should be meaningful, measurable, and meetable.

A goal has little chance for success if it is not meaningful to all concerned. The entire

family needs to be co-opted into ownership in the goal.

If the goal is not measurable, it will be difficult to determine when it has been accomplished. This leads to frustration, a sense of defeat along with much unfinished business.

The final test to good goal setting is that the goal must be meetable — realistic.

I am only five feet and eight inches tall. I also am almost 50 years old.

I do not think that a meetable goal for me is to play basketball in the National Basketball Association.

Many times we set goals that are meaningful and measurable — we really want to accomplish it and we have determined a way to be accountable. But we just set the standard so high that we are set up for failure by our own actions.

Problem solving in the family involves "Communicating Definite Goals and Selecting a Target." We looked at the first three today; next week we look at Alternatives, Selecting Solutions, and Taking Responsibility. □



BARKLEY

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Older man to little girl playing in a mudpile: "You're pretty dirty, aren't you?"

Little girl, "Thank you, sir, but I'm a lot prettier clean."

Take this truth

Since beauty is in the eye of the beholder, it will always remain a subjective evaluation as to who is pretty and who is not. Depends on with whom you are comparing the person. Life is that way in many categories. It consists of "swap offs." Cleanliness is, as Wesley said, "Next to Godliness."

Memorize this Scripture

"Whatsoever things are true ... honest ... just ... pure ... think on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to think clean thoughts, knowing that whatever I think in my heart, I am. Help me to flee the lusts that drag me down and can destroy my influence and character. May I keep myself fit for the Master use. In Jesus' name. Amen. □

Tennessee and Canadian Baptists form student ministries link

For Baptist and Reflector

Located on the Pacific coast of Canada and overshadowed by snow-covered mountain peaks, Vancouver, British Columbia, is a multicultural, cosmopolitan city where Canadian Southern Baptists are seeking to develop a strong Christian witness.

A key part of this strategy is the program of Baptist Student Ministries.

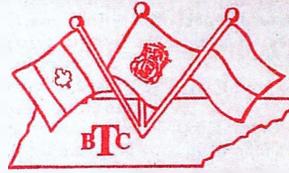
John Nance, national director of Baptist Student Ministries for the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists, invited Ircel Harrison, director of the Student Ministries Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, to forge a first link in the new Canada/Tennessee partnership. In January, Harrison led Bible studies at the British Columbia Student Ministries Conference near Vancouver, then joined

Nance to visit four churches and eight campuses in Vancouver and in Victoria, the provincial capital.

"The Student Ministries Conference was like one of our International Student Conferences," said Harrison. "Only a few of the students were Anglo. Ethnic backgrounds included Ghanaian, Korean, Filipino, Asian Indian, Mandarin Chinese, and Cantonese Chinese. These are sharp students who are daily being challenged as they take a stand for Christ on their campuses."

The two student ministry leaders also met with the Student Ministries Council of

TENNESSEE BAPTIST PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS



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Capilano Baptist Association and sealed an agreement to place a Tennessee student in Vancouver as a semester missionary in the fall of 1995. The student missionary would work with an established ministry at the University of British Columbia and develop a new ministry at Langara College which would link students with Gladstone Baptist Church.

The work at UBC, a campus of over 44,000 students, is led by Salt and Susan Jones, who are Foreign Mission Board career missionaries doing student work. Both previously did student work in Taiwan. Craig O'Brien, pastor of the Gladstone church, was a member of the BSU Council at the University of Georgia as a student.

Primary funding for the semester missionary will be provided by Tennessee students through the Baptist Student Union Missions Program. Additional funding will come from the Home Mission Board and the Capilano Baptist Association. (See story below.)

Harrison was among both old and new friends in Vancouver. As a local director in Mississippi and Tennessee, he began taking student groups to

Wisconsin when Nance was state director of student ministries for the Minnesota-Southern Baptist Convention. Susan Puckett Jones was a student ministry colleague of Harrison in Mississippi. O'Brien attended a leadership retreat that Harrison led for Georgia students several years ago.

A new friend was Rich Caruthers, a Missions Service

Corps student ministries director who works with Simon Fraser University, the other major university in Vancouver.

Nance and Harrison concluded their tour with a visit to the provincial capital, Victoria, which is located on Vancouver Island and is accessible only by boat or air. A city of 300,000, Victoria is the site of the University of Victoria and Camosun College. There are two small Southern Baptist churches there, but no college student ministry.

Nance has targeted this as the number one spot to place a Missions Service Corps student worker. In this program a person receives prayer and financial support from individuals who feel called to assist with the ministry. The leaders Harrison met with in Canada expressed one concern. "They do not expect this partnership to be only one way. Canadian Southern Baptists look forward to hosting their Tennessee partners, but they have a lot to offer as well," Harrison said. He and associate director, Rodney Wilson, are developing ways to bring Canadians to Tennessee to enrich the vision and missions awareness of students across the state. □



JONES



O'BRIEN



TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION Student Ministries Director Ircel Harrison recently met with British Columbia Student Convention leadership. Left to right, front, were Ann Newsham, 1995-96 vice president; Kristin Cato, 1995-96 president; and Lily An, 1994-95 (outgoing) president.

BSU summer missionary needed in Vancouver

Tennessee BSU is seeking a qualified, committed college student to serve in Vancouver, British Columbia, for fall semester 1995. The student may be male or female, but must be an active member of a Southern Baptist church and a Tennessee Baptist Student Union.

The applicant should be able to conduct small group Bible studies, lead in discipleship development (one-to-one or one-to-two), and

willing to learn. Student must be outgoing and have the ability to work with people of varied racial and ethnic backgrounds. Musical ability is not mandatory, but it would be helpful.

Additional information and application materials are available from any local director of Baptist student ministries or from Rodney Wilson, Student Ministries Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, at 615/371-2056. □

Hilldale sees evangelism emphasis produce results

For Baptist and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — Hilldale Church Pastor Verlon W. Moore believes strongly that "a growing church will continually place emphasis upon evangelism."

Moore recently preached a Soul-Winning Commitment sermon on "Where Are The Tears?" The sermon was to challenge Hilldale members to be sensitive to witnessing opportunities, he said.

On that Sunday there were 14 professions of faith and two additions by letter.

The hearts of the Hilldale congregation were stirred for souls, Moore said.

He noted the church set up an evangelism table in the foyer and stacked with Here's Hope New Testaments for people to place in their of-

fices, businesses, shops, schools, and other locations.

Written on the inside of the New Testaments was the following message: "If you need spiritual help, please call Hilldale Baptist Church, 648-8031. Please feel free to take this Bible home with you as a gift." Moore noted 200 Bibles were taken.

In addition, the church also placed Soul Winners New Testaments on the table. Moore purchased the testaments for \$1.90 each and made them available to members for only \$1 each. Every one of the 125 testaments were taken.

After the New Testaments were gone, very inexpensive tracts, "Get the Seed Out of the Barn," were placed on the table and a thousand tracts were taken and distributed.

During a Sunday evening service Moore gave people tips on how to use the tracts and went over the "Roman Road" with members. He noted they were very receptive.

During the following week, Hilldale members worked hard and sowed seeds, Moore reported.

The church held "Super Sunday" at the end of the week. Fourteen were baptized, six others made professions of faith, two joined the church by letter, and there were 1,457 in Sunday School.

"I feel the evangelism day was one of the best days we have had because of our people's involvement," Moore said. He noted the church has decided to have a permanent evangelism table "as soon as we can get the new supplies for it." □

Haywood volunteers travel to Philippines

For Baptist and Reflector

A team of 10 men from Haywood Association will travel to the Republic of the Philippines Feb. 22-March 9 to work with Filipino Baptists in evangelistic crusades and to construct a small church where no church buildings exist.

Haywood Association Director of Missions Charles Pratt will lead the team, the fifth from Haywood that has traveled to the Philippines. The upcoming building will be the sixth that Haywood volunteers have helped to construct.

Funds for the materials are being donated by New Hope Church, Dyer, in Gibson County Association.

Several Haywood churches are providing gifts for the team to carry and money to purchase Bibles for new Christians in the Philippines.

Team members are Jerry Foster, Zion Church, Brownsville; Mike Hopper and Terry Brown, Holly Grove Church, Bells; Bill Presley, Allen Watts, David Garland, and Pratt, Brownsville Church, Brownsville; Pastor Ken Culver, Calvary Church, Brownsville; Pastor Randy Crews, First Church, Rutherford; and Mike Gilbert of New Orleans, La.

The teams will serve with the East Pangasinan Baptist Association in Pangasinan Province, about 200 miles north of the capitol city of Manila. The evangelism teams will be speaking in high schools and doing home visitations during the day and outdoor crusades at night.

Tennessee Baptists had a three-year partnership with the Filipino Baptist from 1989-91. □

College professor reports on work in Poland

By Mark E. Biddle, assistant professor of religion, Carson-Newman College
For Baptist and Reflector

Dr. Biddle was in Poland during January teaching theological students at the recently opened Polish Baptist Theological Seminary. The seminary is located at Radosc, near Warsaw. He is one of the first Tennessee volunteers in the three-year Poland/Tennessee Partnership Mission project.

Carlton and Doris Carter, Nashville, are planning to help at the seminary library several weeks this summer as Tennessee Baptist volunteers. — Editor

"They are certainly building for the future," Southern Baptist missionary Mark Edworthy told me as we toured the new Polish Baptist Theological Seminary in Radosc-Warsaw, Poland.

Three partially completed new buildings surround the old frame structure, scheduled for demolition in February, which formerly served as a retreat center for Polish Baptists. The apartment complex, temporarily home to students, will house faculty, staff, married students, and assorted others. Dining hall, library, faculty, and administrative offices, classrooms, and single student housing are or will be located in the main seminary building.

Behind "Bethel," the old frame structure, stands a conference center with a capacity of 100 guests. Since Polish Baptists number only about 3,500, these facilities represent a grand vision for the future, indeed.

I arrived in Poland Dec. 31 to teach Biblical Hermeneutics, a course I also teach at Carson-Newman in the seminary's January term. The 15 students of the seminary's first entering class

began returning from the holidays late the following day. Even more than the impressive campus, they represent the future of Polish Baptists. Over the course of our month together, I came to know them as friendly, warm, diligent, inquisitive, and above all, devoted to the cause of Christ and to their Baptist identity.

There are about 60 Baptist churches in the Polish Baptist Union and another 40 mission stations. Only 40 churches have pastors. This shortage can only be expected to worsen. Judging from the work I was about to witness first hand, Polish Baptists can expect a period of significant growth.

Just before the new year, Mark Edworthy presided over the constitution of the Second Church of Warsaw (45 members with an average Sunday attendance of 80) little more than a year after it began as a mission station. Many of the seminary students are currently involved with short-term missionary Scott Russell (their English teacher) in outreach efforts among Warsaw's youth.

Missionaries Mark and Tatiana McNeil, now in Polish language study at the seminary, are scheduled to begin church-planting work in Bailystok next July. Another missionary couple is expected to arrive on the field in October to plant an English-language church in Warsaw.

Polish Baptists need ministers in their pulpits if they are to keep pace and to insure the health of their churches. They also need to establish a tradition of theological, especially biblical, scholarship. There are virtually no Protestant theological books in Polish — very few commentaries, no church

histories, no Baptist histories, nothing on pastoral care or preaching or evangelism.

As the students and I discovered during the course of the January term, the Polish Bible itself is poorly translated, often to the point of unreliability. The students are eager and serious about their studies. Some have poor backgrounds in biblical knowledge, church history, and Christian doctrine.

None of these needs is lost on the president of the new seminary, Gustaw Cieslar. Until very recently, Cieslar pastored the church in Krakow, two and a half hours from Warsaw by train, while overseeing the work at the seminary. I watched him work as contractor, construction foreman, chaplain, translator, administrator, publicist, and conference organizer. I often wondered how he has been able to maintain his perspective.

But he is also a visionary. He hopes that the seminary may soon publish a Baptist theological review to address the need for biblical and theological resources. Students are required to study English to equip them to read — and hopefully translate — theological works unavailable in Polish and to prepare them to be leaders among European Baptists.

Plans are being made to fully utilize the facilities for conferences, Bible camps, language camps (a wonderful outreach tool), etc., in the summer months and during the academic year. Cieslar wants to establish research institutes for evangelism, biblical studies, etc., to provide not only Baptists, but other free-church and evangelical groups with the resources needed for

their work.

Jesus once compared the kingdom of heaven to a mustard seed. God's grand future grows from a small seed sown in the soil. It was exciting for me to watch the Polish Baptist future taking shape before my eyes.

During my one-month stay I was present at the inaugural meal in the new dining hall, watched as the student rooms on the second floor were finished, enjoyed one of the first cups of coffee in the new student lounge, and sat with President Cieslar in the newly finished faculty lounge.

About 40 youth workers from all over the European Baptist Federation were in conference on campus the third weekend in January and over 80 people involved in work with Polish university students met the following week in the conference center. Seminary students and Polish Baptist volunteers all pitched in to finish laying the carpet, plumbing the bathrooms, and installing light fixtures the week before these conferences. At one point I doubted that all could be made ready in time.

Konstanty Wiazowski, president of the Polish Baptist Union, translated for me on several occasions. Sitting in my temporary office before class toward the end of the month, we discussed the TBC/Polish Baptist Union relations.

"One swallow does not make spring," he said. I assured him that Tennesseans, especially Tennessee Baptists, love nothing better than helping. What help does the seminary need? A librarian, construction workers, landscapers, cabinetmakers, English teachers, computer specialists . . .

Spring is well on the way for Polish Baptists; but we Tennessee Baptists can do a great deal to help fill summer's fields with laborers and trust God that fall's harvest will be full. □

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BIDDLE

RAs move into own building thanks to church's Brotherhood

Baptist and Reflector

It was a dream of Bob Davis, Bob Schaefer, and Bill Durham, Royal Ambassadors counselors at Persia Church, Rogersville, to have enough meeting space for the RAs so their projects wouldn't have to be stored after each meeting. The rooms RAs met in were used by Sunday School classes and Discipleship Training groups. And the projects — woodworking and crafts — required a lot of time and space to store.

The RAs needed their own building, the counselors decided. When they passed their idea on to other Brotherhood members at Persia Church, the men agreed and adopted the project.

Just a few years later, the group had held enough dinners

and the RAs had gotten enough people to invest in cinder block for the walls of the building to begin construction in April 1993.

All of the workers were members of Persia Church, reported Bobby Tucker, pastor. The only contractor used was one to finish a cement floor.

It took 19 months of working mainly on Monday nights and on Saturdays, and periods when the only work done was fund-raising, explained Tucker.

The RAs, which include boys in grades 1-6, raised about \$3,000. The rest of the \$7,000 project was given by church members. Tucker said this was a big accomplishment because church members are paying for a new addition to the church campus. Persia Church has about 200 attend-

ing Sunday School on an average Sunday and about 25 men who are members of its Brotherhood organization, which is led by Larry Carter.

The RA Building is 900 square feet providing for two classrooms and a shop area. It is very well built, noted Tucker, giving credit to the many skilled volunteers in the church.

Those workers have formed stronger relationships because of the project, as well as church members who fellowshiped at fund-raising meals and contributed paint and lumber. And the RAs, who are now making bird feeders in their new shop, have space for other boys, many who

need male role models, the counselors reported.

Churches "have a tendency to give the leftovers to some of their missions organizations,

especially children's," said Tucker. Using that measure, Persia Church is unusual. □

— Connie Davis



ROYAL AMBASSADORS hold an oversized key to the new RA Building of Persia Church, Rogersville, during the dedication service in November. The RAs are joined by their counselors.

Churches, associations report DT figures

For Baptist and Reflector

First Church, Clarksville, led Tennessee Baptist churches in Discipleship Training enrollment increase, according to figures released by Johnnie Hall, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Discipleship Training Department.

The Clarksville church showed an increase of 945 enrolled in DT courses.

Cumberland Association, where First Church is located, led all associations with an increase of 795.

Overall, DT enrollment decreased by 9,663 in the state in 1994, Hall said. "We rejoice in our enrollment from the churches and should be discouraged by the decrease we see, but because of the reason we don't feel too bad. "Two years ago when we started Life courses, such as Experiencing God, Fresh Encounters, and others, that increased enrollment greatly and when those courses were completed, the groups did not continue in other studies. I believe that is the reason for the decline in 1994," he explained.

Other associations reporting increases in Discipleship Training of at least 150 were:

Sullivan, 518; Hamilton County, 480; Concord, 471; Big Emory, 440; Western District, 310; Wilson County, 271; Weakley County, 227; Crockett County, 219; Tennessee Valley, 199; Fayette, 168; Sevier County, 157; and Union, 152.

The top churches in increases, following First Church, Clarksville, were:

First Church, Concord, Knox County, 730; Woodland Park, Hamilton County, 662; West Jackson, Madison-Chester, 432; First Church, Collierville, Shelby County, 385; First Church, Paris, Western District, 351; Belle Aire, Concord, 346; East

Ridge, Hamilton County, 320; First Church, Smyrna, Concord, 299; First Church, Jackson, Madison-Chester, 283; White Haven, Shelby County, 273; Calvary, Knox County, 263; First Church, Fairview, Nashville, 250; Kirby Woods, Shelby County, 242; First Church, Ellendale, Shelby County, 231;

Central Bearden, Knoxville, Knox County, 225; First Church, Mt. Juliet, Wilson County, 218; Kingston, Big Emory, 211; Tri-Cities, Sullivan, 209; First Church, Shelbyville, New Duck River, 208; and First Church, Sevierville, Sevier County, 208. □



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National bus director's retreat set for Tennessee

The first National Bus Director's Retreat is scheduled for March 13-15 in Pigeon Forge.

Individuals involved with bus ministries in their churches are encouraged to attend this retreat. Speakers include Tom Lee, Baptist Sunday School Board contract consultant for bus ministry and member of First Church, Jacksboro.

Registration fee for the conference is \$25 per person. Registration should be mailed to Doyle Landers, Mt. Olive Church, 2500 Maryville Pike, Knoxville, Tenn., 37920-4814.

For more information, call Lee at (615) 834-5788.

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Six TBC churches earn 'honor' status

Six Tennessee Baptist churches earned the distinction "Honor Church" during the 1993-94 church year.

The six churches, along with their DT director, pastor, and association are:

Bethel, Clinton; Gloria Oakes, director, Robert J. Burns, pastor

Cave Hill, East Tennessee; Dennis Balch, director, James Suggs, pastor

Kidwell's Ridge, Nolachucky; Troy Nester, director, Otis Harold Noe, pastor

Northport, East Tennessee; Audrey Myers, director, Tony Rutherford, pastor

Norwood, Knox County; Kathy Stokes and Linda Cox, directors, Samuel P. Jolley, pastor

Oak Street, Chilhowee; Dale Finger, director, Ernest Condee, former pastor.

The Honor Church program, promoted by the TBC Discipleship Training Department, gives church members motivation for worthy actions toward specific goals set within time limits, involve each department in the challenge of one common aim, and provide growth in church membership through short-term attempts toward long-range goals. □

Missionary/Evangelist

Needed to pastor and grow an Ethiopian congregation

Duties will include: Bible teaching and preaching in the Amharic language; leading weekly Bible studies; preparing materials for weekly and daily Bible study; discipling and counseling new Christians and believers in spiritual and emotional matters; preparing tracts and discipleship and outreach materials in Amharic; and serving as a liaison between church members and local support staff.

Requirements include fluency in Amharic and English; bachelor of arts in religious studies (major field of study: theology/Bible); six years experience as a minister of religion or associate minister of religion; agreement with Southern Baptist theological beliefs as expressed in the *Baptist Faith and Message*.

Salary: \$933/month

Send resumes to the following office for referral to the employer: Barbara Galloway, Job Ser Prog and Tech Supp., Tennessee Department of Employment Sec., Nashville, Tenn., 37245-1200
Job order number: TN 1477126

WOW Training Workshop

WOW Training is 13 weeks of personal evangelism training for youth of all ages and their leaders. It was developed by the Personal Evangelism Department of the Home Mission Board to prepare youth for the challenge of Continuing Witness Training (CWT). The WOW training workshop is for ministers of youth and youth Sunday School leaders. The training is being offered in a few select places in the United States. This workshop will certify participants as equippers to use both the WOW Event and WOW Advance Training materials. Participants must attend all training sessions to be certified. WOW advance materials can be ordered only by a certified equipper.

Registration fees postmarked 14 days before the workshop are: \$28 per participant, \$10 for spouse sharing materials, \$15 for full-time college or seminary students, and \$65 for three to six people from the same church, \$10 for each additional person. Full refund of registration up to the 14-day deadline. There is an additional \$10 for anyone registering at the door. Registration fee includes all materials. It does not include travel, food, or lodging. To register, send this ad with your name, address, and telephone number. Make checks payable to Home Mission Board and mail to Youth Evangelism Office, WOW Registration, 906 S. National, Springfield, Mo., 65804.

March 3-4, Lawrenceburg, TN	April 7-8, Spanish Fort, AL
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■ the people

■ **Steve Waggoner, Carl Wiser, Mike Fuqua, and John Grissom** were ordained by Whitsitt Chapel Church, Nashville, as deacons Feb. 5.

■ **Leatherwood Church, Waynesboro**, has ordained **Ronald Burks** and **Kenneth Melson** deacons.

■ **Geraldine Ziegler** has served Central Church, Chattanooga, as secretary for 42 years. She has served with six pastors

■ **Ben Catlett** was ordained a deacon by First Church, Jefferson City.

■ **First Church, Waverly**, ordained **Lester Oliphant** and **Joel Frazier** deacons Jan. 22.

■ the leaders

■ **Gary DeBerry**, pastor, Shady Grove Church, Leesburg, Ala., has been called as pastor of Broadmoor Church, Nashville. He is a graduate of Jacksonville (Ala.) State University, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He served as a foreign missionary from 1977-93.

■ **Eddie Graber** has served three years as pastor of Central Church, Chattanooga.

■ **Hickory Hills Church, Mount Juliet**, has called **Dan Milliken**, associate pastor, Bethel Church, Columbus, Ga., as pastor, effective Feb. 8. He is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Milliken has been Baptist Student Union director, Volunteer State Community College, Gal-

latin; and interim pastor, East Cheatham Chapel, Nashville.

■ **Gibbs Hammond**, pastor, Timothy Street Church, and full-time chaplain for the Knoxville Fire Department has been named by Knox County Association as bivocational pastor of the year.

■ **James McDonald**, minister of music, Lincoya Hills Church, Nashville, has celebrated his 11th anniversary there.

■ **Bill Sherman**, pastor, Woodmont Church, Nashville, recently celebrated his 26th year of service there.

■ **Mike Segers** and **Bill Davis** were honored for their work on the staff of Inskip Church, Knoxville. Segers is minister of youth, education, and activities and Davis is minister of music.

■ **Scott A. Gordon**, minister of children, Ridgeway Church, Memphis, was ordained into the ministry Feb. 5. **Gene McCombs**, interim pastor, Ridgeway Church, led the service.

■ **Scott Linginfelter** of Benton, minister of youth, Laurel Bank Church, Friendsville, a student at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, was ordained to the ministry Feb. 5 by First Church, Benton, where his father **Steve Linginfelter** is pastor. The ordaining council was led by **W.L. Shipman**, director of missions, Polk County Association.

■ the missionaries

■ **Richard and Lesa Wimberly Bray**, missionaries to Chile, are on the field and can be reached at Casilla 3388, Santiago, Chile. He is from Memphis,

and she is from Jackson.

■ **Adney and Velma Cross**, missionaries to Namibia, are in the states and can be reached at 506 Greenmeadow Dr., Franklin, Tenn., 37064. The Crosses consider Clarksville their hometown.

■ **Shirley Farley**, missionary to Mali, is in the states and can be reached at Rt. 6, Box 545, Sparta, Tenn., 38583. She is a native of Sparta.

■ **Eileen Fralix**, Baptist representative to Yemen, is in the states and can be reached at 1451 Whillock Rd., Dandridge, Tenn., 37725. A native of Knoxville, she considers Dandridge her hometown.

■ **Keith and Nancy Johnson**, missionaries to South Korea, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service and can be reached at Yeo Eui Do, P.O. Box 165, Seoul 150-601, Korea. He is a native of Knoxville, and she is from Illinois.

■ **Jane Paysinger**, missionary to Ghana, is in the states and can be reached at 4298 Greenmount, Memphis, 38122. She considers Cleveland her hometown.

■ **Scott and Joyce Herington Pittman**, missionaries to Brazil, are in the states and can be reached at 2477 Tarbet, Memphis, 38119. They are from Memphis.

■ **Gary Powell**, missionary to Spain, has arrived on the field to begin his first term of service and can be reached at Apartado 3, 28180 Alcobendas, Madrid, Spain. He was born in Johnson City and considers Red Bank his hometown.

■ the churches

■ **First Church, Middleton**, will hold its "Here's Hope" revival Feb. 26 - March 2. **Steve Gaines**, pastor, First Church, Gardendale, Ala., will speak and **Henry Simpson**, minister of music, First Church, Huntingdon, will direct the music.

■ **First Church, Franklin**, has voted to buy land for \$1 million to secure access to a bypass near its property. Some of the land will be resold.

■ **Lincoln Park Church, Knoxville**, will observe its 86th anniversary March 19.

■ the associations

■ **Montgomery Village Baptist Center of Knox County Association** held a Celebration Banquet to honor volun-



THE NEW STEEPLE OF First Church, Al-lardt, is outlined with neon lights for visibility at night. It is five feet by eight feet.

teer builders and others who helped complete its new facility Feb. 2.

■ deaths

■ **Emma Ellen Canaday**, 75, wife of **James Canaday**, pastor emeritus, Central Church, Johnson City, died recently. She was a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City. The Canadays were missionaries for nine years in the Middle East and West Africa. They also did messages in chalk for churches during which Mrs. Canaday accompanied her husband on the marimba. She is survived by her husband.

■ **Steve Steinmann**, 38, Nashville Association Royal Ambassador director and Tennessee Baptist Brotherhood state trainer, died Feb. 7 of a heart attack. Steinmann led Tennessee young men to Alaska two years to lead a camp for boys under the sponsorship of the Tennessee Baptist Brotherhood Department. He was a member of Forest Hills Church, Nashville, where he was RA director and Challengers leader. He is survived by his parents of Chattanooga. Gifts to a memorial fund to provide scholarships for Challengers may be sent to the Tennessee Baptist Brother-

hood Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024.

■ **Morrell Lee** 82, of Shelbyville, retired pastor, Hickory Hill Church, Lynchburg, died in November after a short illness. His ministry as a pastor spanned 54 years. He is survived by his wife, Mildred Lee, of Nashville.

■ the hospitals

■ The Baptist Regional Cancer Center of Baptist Health System, Nashville, and Vanderbilt Cancer Center, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, will cooperate in new clinical research efforts.

■ the schools

■ **Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy Preachers School** will begin its fourth session of the school year. Class will begin Feb. 18 and continue for eight weeks. The courses are "Bible Book Study of First Corinthians," "An Introduction to Biblical Prophecy" and "Developing a Spiritual Church." The courses are for pastors and ministerial candidates. For more information call (615) 573-8321.



LEADERS OF FIRST CHURCH, JACKSON, break ground Jan. 15 for a \$3.4 million expansion and renovation project, which includes adding educational space and a pipe organ. The leaders include, from left, **H. Garrison Coltharp**, pastor; **George Freeman**; **Sully Sullivan**; **Pat Edmonson**; and **Bill Bates**.



MISSIONS LEADERS of Bartlebaugh Church, Chattanooga, pause during a candlelight service celebrating a record **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering** for Foreign Missions of about \$2,500. The church has about 50 active members. Those pictured include, from left, **Carl Vicars**, **Frances Everett**, **Tom Colston**, **Bill Delaney**, pastor; **Drue Colston**; and **Ron Durham**.

BSSB grapples with solutions for timely literature orders

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Acknowledging numerous problems in getting orders for dated literature to churches accurately and on time the last two quarters, Baptist Sunday School Board officials announced corrective actions in process.

"We really missed the mark" for October-December 1994 and January-March 1995, said Ted Warren, executive vice president and chief operating officer. "Our service level to the churches has been far below our standards, and

we are doing everything we can as fast as we can to get things fixed.

"Our goal is high-value dated literature that meets the needs of those who use it and orders that are filled with a 100 percent accuracy rate, arrive on time, and at the lowest possible cost to churches," he said.

Warren said the board re-

sponded to customer requests to make Sunday School literature more "timely and relevant" by reducing production schedules from 40 months to less than 12 months for some titles. This resulted in the need to change processes at every stage, reducing the eight-week shipping cycle to six weeks.

Warren cited several problem areas and noted corrective actions are being taken.

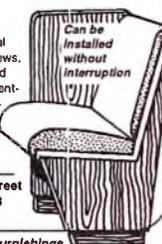
Warren said the entire literature production, distribution, and shipping process is under continuous review, errors are analyzed, and improvement identified and implemented.

He said prayers, suggestions, and support "would be

appreciated as we work hard to solve these problems and meet the needs of individuals and churches." □

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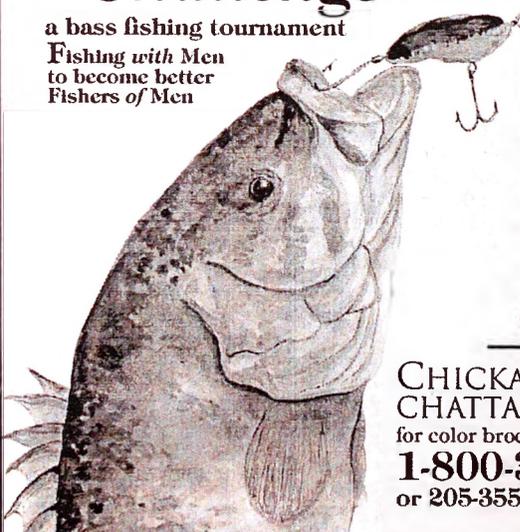
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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

Life and Work Series
for Feb. 19

Focal Passage:
Mark 8:34-38; 9:33-37

True discipleship

By Elizabeth Howard

Discipleship begins at the moment one accepts Christ as Savior, but that is only the beginning. A disciple is a pupil, a learner. As long as we live, we are learning what discipleship means and how a disciple should live. Like Christian in *Pilgrim's Progress*, a disciple sometimes gets lost among briars, mires up in quicksand, but should quickly realize he/she has strayed and seek the true path again.

Jesus and his disciples had gone to several towns and villages teaching and healing the people who came to them, but at the same time, Jesus was also teaching the disciples. Peter had acknowledged Jesus as the Christ (8:29), and Jesus had followed up by talking about his death and resurrection (v. 31). Peter rebuked Jesus for speaking of his death, and Jesus called him "Satan" (vv. 32-33). In a moment, Peter had gone from the high point of recognizing Jesus as the Christ to the low point of being identified as Jesus' arch enemy. Peter, like many of us, had a hard time keeping to the true path of discipleship.

The path of a disciple — ch. 8:34-38

Jesus had been talking to his disciples alone, but now he called the crowd, including everyone in his invitation to discipleship. There are three parts to it, three parts of a whole, for all three are necessary. First, we must deny self, which means we must put our desires in second place. Second, we must take up our crosses. By this, Jesus did not mean some burden over which we have no control. This is a voluntary decision to suffer hardship because of our faith. Third, we must follow him.

To explain further, Jesus spoke in paradoxes. If we live in our selfish worlds, closed against the concerns of the Gospel and the needs of the people, we have lost all that makes life meaningful, not only while we live in our physical bodies, but for all eternity. On the other hand, if we spend our lives for the Gospel, we live meaningful lives, even if we die because of our faithfulness. And what do we have if we gain all the world has to offer, but lose our eternal souls? If we lose our souls, how much of this world's goods must we pay to regain them? No one needed to speak an answer, for the answers are obvious. Jesus then appealed for loyalty on the part of his disciples, in spite of the world's ridicule.

The spiral of service — ch. 9:33-37

As Jesus and his disciples walked along, the disciples began to argue about who would be greatest in the kingdom. When Jesus asked them why they were arguing, they were ashamed. However, Jesus knew without having to be told. He explained "greatness" with another paradox. Whoever would be the greatest must serve others.

He again used a little child as his example. He had said we must humble ourselves and become like little children (Matthew 18:4). We must feed the hungry, visit the sick, etc. (Matthew 25:34-40). The effects of even a small deed of kindness done in Jesus' name do not end there, but spirals out and out and out to Jesus and to the one who sent him — God in heaven. □ — Elizabeth Howard is a member of Cumberland Homesteads Church, Crossville.

Jesus mocked and crucified

By Brian Courtney

Christians everywhere realize, or should realize, the significance of Jesus' death. This gruesome event reconciled human beings to God "in his (Jesus') body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him," (Colossians 1:22). That's significant!

But do Christians realize the suffering Jesus endured, the cost of his death, the agony of crucifixion? To be sure, many churches display crosses, but do we see the cost? Maybe Christians need to hurt. Hear the text and learn the crucifixion process!

Scourging

The first part of Jesus' crucifixion was scourging. Matthew 27:26 states that Pilate, "...having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified." Scourging was a form of corporal punishment which involved whipping a victim tied to a post or bench. The whip used in scourging contained nine leather thongs with each thong having a piece of metal or bone in the end. Each lash made deep wounds in a victim and often exposed the vital organs. The number of lashes was set at forty, but later reduced to thirty-nine. Thirteen lashes were administered to the chest and twenty-six to the back. Often the victim died, but Jesus did not. Christian, does it hurt yet?

Public shame

Several groups of people mocked Jesus during this period. First the Roman soldiers stripped Jesus, dressed him in a robe, put a crown of thorns on his head, and gave him a reed. Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews." Then the crowds taunted him with the false charge that he had threatened to destroy the temple. Then the chief priests, scribes,

and elders spoke more truly than they imagined when they mocked him, "He saved others; himself he cannot save." Then the thieves joined in the same way. Ponder this spectacle. Gentiles, Jews, common people, religious people, and criminals mock and publicly shame Jesus. How ironic! Jesus dies to reconcile people to God and the people laugh. Christian, does it hurt yet?

Crucifixion

The scourging was a horrible sight. Public shame was unbearable. But crucifixion is another experience. The Romans borrowed crucifixion from the Persians. It was reserved only for Roman subjects such as insurrectionists and other criminals. Jesus was accused by the Jewish leaders of insurrection which led to his crucifixion.

First Jesus, stripped naked, was laid on the cross. To render him helpless, his arms and legs were jerked out of joint. Then spikes were driven into his hands and feet. To prevent the nails from tearing Jesus perhaps rested on a little peg inserted in the groin area. Then the cross was lifted and dropped into a hole.

Jesus lasted approximately six hours on that Friday. He was fortunate. Many victims of crucifixion lasted up to two weeks. But during those six hours he suffered intense physical problems. Every nerve and tendon became a throbbing pain. Exposed to the elements with no defense, hunger, thirst, fatigue, and muscle cramps took their toll. His lips became parched and cracked. His mouth and throat became dry. His tongue was swollen. Every breath was difficult. And he died, probably, by suffocation. Christian, does it hurt yet? □ — Brian Courtney is pastor of First Church, Sneedville.

Convention Uniform Series
for Feb. 19
Focal Passage
Matthew 27:27-44

God's judgment on Judah's leaders

By Ray Fullilove

It may be merely a small motto upon our coins, but it should mean volumes to our spiritual heritage. It simply says, "In God We Trust." Unfortunately, it is minted only on our coins and not engraven on our hearts. The history of Judah had a great spiritual heritage. Josiah had a reverence for God, a respect for his law, and the result of God's blessing. Jehoiakim only had to follow his father's footsteps. The stage had already been set. Jehoiakim had a moral pattern from the past, a rich potential for the present, and a great reward from God for the future. But, in every case, this present leader of Judah rejected the way of God and was left to the wrath of God. The message of Jeremiah was the message of judgment and wrath on Judah and her leaders.

It was hard — ch. 22:13-17

The pronouncement of God was accurate. God held back any good words toward the unrighteous leader to his people. The word of God was given with special instructions (vv. 1-5). There was the rule of righteousness (v. 3a), the respect for every person (v. 3b), the reverence for the needy (v. 3c), and the reward for ruling in righteousness (v. 4). The word of God was with absolute indignation (vv. 5-12). There would be desolation (v. 5), disgrace (vv. 8-

Bible Book Series for Feb. 19
Focal Passage: Jeremiah 22:13-17,
23:1,10-15

9), and death (vv. 11-12). Then God's word was with abrasive indictment (vv. 13-17). There was the warning of abuse (v. 13), arrogance (v. 14), and apostasy (vv. 15-17). Given the law of God, and even the love of God, Judah's leader chose the wrath of God. Again God's command is direct, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). God's judgment is hard.

It was harsh — ch. 23:1-4

The word of God was given by Jeremiah to Judah's prophets and priests. God's messengers have a responsibility to preach and to lead according to the Holy Scriptures. When there is no proclamation of accountability to God, there will result a watering down of the words of God. The pastors and prophets chose to compromise the principles of God. God's judgment was harsh (vv. 1-4). They would face the judgment of God personally (v. 2), loose their people under their leadership (v. 3), and their position as pastors and shepherds would be taken away (v. 4). God's judgment to his prophets was harsh.

It was humiliating — vv. 1-15

The judgment of God to his prophets can only be underlined as humiliating. When God calls his servants for the battle of faith, he expects them to remain in the faith to battle. Regardless of the cost, the consequences, or conflict, there are great rewards for faithfulness. To refuse is to wear the badge of a traitor. The results will be disaster (v. 12), dishonor (vv. 14-15), disrespect (vv. 16-17), and the definite demonstration of God's wrath (vv. 18-20).

The judgment to Judah's leaders was certain and conclusive. However, through all this turmoil, tribulation, and trials, God had a few people who would remain faithful and true. His word to these was deliverance, delight, and doxology (ch. 23:5-6). God's word to all who stand tall, true, and triumphantly is glorious. We have a Saviour who is with us constantly; a King who is over us consistently; and a Lord who is in us comforting us. "He shall be called the Lord our righteous" (v.6). His name is Jesus. O, what a Saviour!! □ — Ray Fullilove is pastor of Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis.

Colleagues, Panama Baptists support family during tragedy

Baptist Press

CORONADO, Panama — They held hands and prayed.

That's how friends and family spent much of the night Jan. 28 in the home of Southern Baptists Glenn and Pauline Nicholson.

They were awaiting word on the Nicholson's 14-year-old son, Andrew, who earlier in the day had been driven over a cliff in Panama's Chame Mountains by a swarm of killer bees. His body was discovered the next morning. A later autopsy revealed he died of the stings rather than the 100-foot fall.

The tragedy drew everyone closer, including missionaries from another denomination who provided practical help such as preparing sandwiches during the ordeal.

Missionaries helped the family with funeral logistics and along with Panamanian Baptists gave personal gifts of money for travel and other expenses related to their journey to Arkansas where their son was buried. □

Baptist World Aid meets refugee needs

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Baptist World Aid, the relief and development ministry of the Baptist World Alliance, has sent \$5,000 to Russia to help feed

and care for thousands of refugees from Chechnya.

A report to BWAid from Dave Foster and Gary Cox of Euroevangelism, a United Kingdom-based mission agency, says there are more than 300,000 Chechnya refugees who fled the fighting between their own and Russia's military forces. But current news reports say there are now more than 400,000 refugees. Thousands of people already have been killed in the fighting, according to Paul Montacute, BWAid director. "The situation is tragic and we are appealing for further funds to help," he said. □

Book's claims labeled 'outrageous, false'

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — A book alleging modern versions of the Bible are a part of a New Age conspiracy are "both outrageous and false," said the Home Mission Board's associate director of world religions.

Written by G.A. Riplinger, *New Age Bible Versions* denounces translations such as the *New International Version*, *New American Standard*, *New King James*, *Phillips*, *Good News*, and *Revised Standard*.

In the introduction of the self-published book, Riplinger claims her research uncovered an alliance between the newer versions of the Bible and the "chief conspirators in the New Age movement's push for one world order."

Bill Gordon of the HMB staff said he has reviewed the

Church rejoices over 'water leak' notice

By Sarah Zimmerman
For Baptist Press

ORANGEBURG, S.C. — Last summer the Department of Public Utilities assumed New Hope Church had a water leak. What else would explain the significant increase in water usage and the lush green area near the church building?

The church received a routine notice to check for a possible leak. When Pastor Todd Brady showed the notice to the church, members applauded. They knew the building didn't have a leak; they were baptizing more people.

While the church lawn was brown from an unusually dry summer, Brady said the spot where the 500-gallon baptistry drained looked like the Garden of Eden.

The six-year-old church with 200 members is an example of a church that does

not let surroundings determine its evangelistic zeal.

New Hope is in Orangeburg County, one of South Carolina's largest in square miles and one of the state's least populated. Yet the



church baptized 34 people last year.

Revival began, Brady said, with a study of the Old Testament book of Hosea in which God repeatedly calls people to a right relationship with him. As church members took the lessons personally, "We ended up praying for an hour or so and had special called meetings for prayer and worship on Saturday nights."

"On Wednesday nights we started at 7 p.m. and prayed until 8:30 or so. We never finished the book of Hosea,"

Brady said, adding that "people here are literally experiencing God."

Church members began to pray for non-Christians by name, Brady said. To undergird their participation in

"Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now," the church created an intercessory prayer team of 31 people.

Each team member was assigned a specific day of each month to pray for Christians who are witnessing and lost people who will hear the Gospel.

"Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now" is the Southern Baptist effort for Christians to share Christ 60 times in 60 days. At New Hope, "people who have never shared their faith are leading people to the Lord," Brady said. Thirty-five church members committed to make a total of 1,200 witnessing contacts during the evangelism effort. □

book and noted the author used faulty logic and research as well as "character assassination of godly Christian men who are well-known, conservative scholars." □

Marshall takes job at Kansas seminary

Associated Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Molly Marshall, the profes-

sor who left Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., after being accused by the school's president of aberrant theology, has accepted a position with Central Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Marshall will be visiting professor of theology, worship, and spiritual formation for the 1995-96 school year, beginning Aug. 1. "My intent will be to make a long-term commitment as a tenured professor," she said.

The seminary is affiliated with the 1.5 million-member American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. For more than 50 years, the seminary served both Northern and Southern Baptists, before the Southern Baptist Convention pulled out of a joint-governance agreement in 1958 to begin its own school — Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in near-by Kansas City, Mo. □

WMU initiates new toll-free number

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Woman's Missionary Union customers can now call a toll-free number to place an order, check on an existing order, inquire about an invoice, or just ask a question.

The new number, 1 (800) WMU-7301, came on line in January.

The number is for customer

service in order to make it easier for customers to call, said Karen Flowers, publishing services director for WMU.

General staff members cannot be contacted via the number, Flowers said.

Along with the new 800 number, WMU also has a new customer service mailing address: WMU Customer Service, P.O. Box 830711, Birmingham, Ala., 35283-0711.

Customers may also fax orders to Birmingham. The fax number is (205) 995-4840.

Customers placing an order must provide payment at the time of the request. □

Baptist Books Stores cite bests for 1994

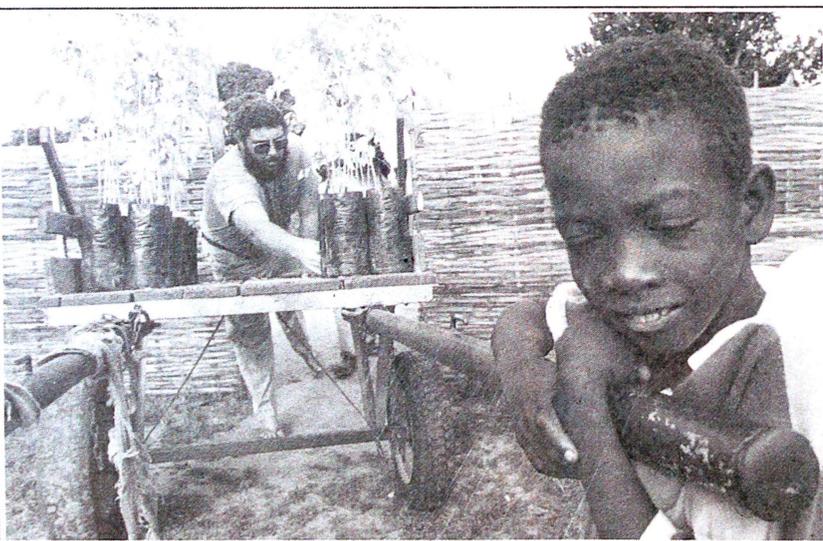
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Like other consumers, users of Christian products vote for their favorite items by taking them home.

Baptist Book Stores and Lifeway Christian Stores have announced the most popular products among their customers for 1994.

Among books, *Experiencing God*, pupil edition, was the most often purchased with 187,000 copies bought.

In other categories, persons selected most often: Bibles — *Experiencing God Study Bible*, 3,447 copies since its release in August 1994; music — the *Baptist Hymnal*, 51,580 copies; gifts — T-shirts, 47,082; and church supplies — disposable communion cups, 5,719,000. □



Working together in Gambia

Labor-saving devices are usually termed 'white man's things' in rural Gambia. But a cart is gladly accepted. This young village boy pulls while Southern Baptist missionary Chris Austin pushes a load of young trees to a nearby field. They will be planted as part of a 'living hedge' that will not only protect the crops but also provide firewood. — Photo by Charles Ledford