

Baptist and Reflector

February 22, 1995

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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AIDS offers ministry challenges, lessons, Tennesseans learn

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

HARRIMAN — When chaplains Al Carden and Dick Denson visited their first AIDS patient, they couldn't make themselves touch the person, both admitted during an AIDS Awareness Conference here Feb. 13.

Fear is just one of the emotions which must be confronted by those wishing to minister to AIDS/HIV patients, they both agreed.

Carden, of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Jackson, and Denson, director of pastoral care, Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee, Knoxville, spoke to about 30 ministers and laypeople gathered at the Big Emory Baptist Association Office. The meeting was one of two such conferences held this year by the Tennessee Baptist Convention Discipleship Training Department.

Why is AIDS such a difficult subject? asked Denson. The disease reminds him of the stigma once endemic to cancer or the emotions he experienced while visiting leprosy victims in Vietnam during his service there as a chaplain, he said.

AIDS has a social stigma for the Christian that hepatitis or tuberculosis, other deadly contagious diseases, don't have, he noted. AIDS "is a disease that divides," said Denson. "It exposes our weaknesses, prejudices, fears. It confronts us as ministers to go into uncharted places."

Denson said when he couldn't shake the hand of the soldier with AIDS who had come to him for help, he communicated something that "we don't want to communicate." The best thing to do is to be aware you might react that way and to acknowledge your reaction, said Denson.

Carden said AIDS patients realize some church members are holding them at arm's length.

He told of one AIDS patient he got to know through regularly attending an HIV support

group who asked him to attend his funeral. The man said he didn't ask for himself but for the others who would be attending. The compassion Carden felt for the man was "a real milestone for me because he's gay. I think to minister to homosexuals with AIDS or HIV there's got to be a spirit of forgiveness before they will hear what you've got to say," he said.

Carden got to know another patient who was a former minister who had acquired the disease through heterosexual activity. The man had such low self-esteem he didn't want Carden to

AIDS

thank him for getting the chaplain involved in the support group. Despite the man's religious training, he asked Carden before his death if any forgiveness existed for him? Another victim told Carden he was glad when he was diagnosed with cancer — it was a more acceptable disease to report to others. The grief of these people is very real, Carden said.

Through the support group, Carden reported he developed relationships, which are the key to his ministry to AIDS victims.

AIDS/HIV patients have many needs, added Carden. In addition to the impact of the disease on relationships with family members and friends, the patients have other concerns. Most people who have tested positive for the HIV virus, the initial stage of the disease, will hide the information in order to retain employment and thus health insurance, said Carden.

When he or she can no longer work, the person with AIDS/HIV can apply for Supplemental Social Security. But one must wait two months to receive the first supplement, and that supplement will be about \$500 a month or less in Mississippi, reported Carden. They also may receive SS disability disbursements if they have participated in the SS program.

And although that person gets Medicaid, it is limited to 12 doctor visits annually, 30 days of — See AIDS, page 7

'95 no different, lottery issue rises again in Senate

Baptist and Reflector

The issue of a state lottery in Tennessee just won't go away.

Last year state senators thwarted an effort to have the word "lottery" removed from the state constitution, opening the state up for all forms of gambling.

In the first session of the new legislature, a bill was introduced and passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee that calls for a Constitutional Convention that would address several issues including the lottery.

The Judiciary Committee voted 7-1 on Feb. 14 to send the bill to the Senate Calendar Committee, which will schedule it for a vote by the full Senate.

Voting in favor were senators Curtis Person and Steve Cohen of Memphis; Keith Jordan, Franklin; Rusty Crowe, Johnson City; Bud Gilbert, Knoxville; Joe Haynes, Nashville; and Anna Belle O'Brien, Crossville. Thelma Harper of Nashville was absent and did not vote. The lone dissenting vote was cast by David Fowler of Chattanooga.

Another bill introduced by Cohen, a leading advocate of the lottery, was postponed by the committee for 12 weeks.

"The lottery issue is being stirred up again," said TBC public affairs consultant Bill Bates of Jackson.

"Some people will never quit until the lottery is legal in the state," he observed.

Bates urged Tennessee Baptists to continue to let their state senators and representatives know their feelings against gambling.

If eventually approved by both the state senate and house of representatives, state voters would decide whether or not to have a Constitutional Convention on Aug. 1, 1996.

If approved by voters, delegates would be elected, and a Constitutional Convention would be held July 8, 1997. □ — Lonnie Wilkey

New Officers of Directors of Missions



Elected officers of Tennessee Directors of Missions during their annual meeting at the Baptist Center Feb. 6-7 were, from left, Joe Naylor, Dyer Association, president; Joe Mayberry, William Carey Association, vice president; Richard Skidmore, Weakley County Association, secretary-treasurer; and David Myers, Hamilton County, host of pre-convention fellowship.

FMB appoints missionaries; adopts principles

By Robert O'Brien
For Baptist Press

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees sent a "valentine" to the world Feb. 14 as they appointed 44 new missionaries, including several native Tennesseans, to join more than 4,000 others taking the love of Jesus Christ to millions of people around the world.

They also approved seven basic principles to undergird the board's missions program during their Feb. 13-15 meeting on the campus of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here. The appointment service was the first held on an SBC seminary campus. During the appointment service and seminary chapel services at least 51 people responded to invitations to commit to missions.

FMB President Jerry Rankin challenged those appointed in the Valentine's Day service to make known the "mystery" of Jesus Christ on their far-flung mission fields.

Among those appointed with Tennessee ties were Charles and Michelle Cheatham, Jason and Elizabeth Graves, Christopher and Melody Julian, and David and Deborah Mills.

The Cheathams were appointed representatives of Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization. They will live in south Asia, where they will use their skills in the development of CSI-related projects.

Cheatham, a native of Memphis, has been a family practitioner in Bolivar. He and his wife are members of First Church there. He considers Germantown his hometown and First Church, Bolivar, his home church. His wife, the former Michelle Dennis, was born in California but considers Memphis her hometown and First Church, Bolivar, her home church. In addition to his medical school background, Cheatham attended the Jack-

son extension of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Graves also were appointed as CSI representatives to east Asia. He is a Kentucky native while his wife, the former Elizabeth Powell, considers Auburntown her home town and First Church, Murfreesboro, her home church.

The Julians were appointed to serve in north Brazil where he will promote religious education and together be involved in outreach ministries.

Both Julian and his wife, the former Melody Allen, consider Memphis their hometown and Briarwood Church their home church. Mrs. Julian's father, Wayne Allen, is pastor of Briarwood. Julian is a graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary while his wife is a Union University graduate.

The Millses will serve as missionaries in the Middle East and North Africa area.

They both consider Kingsport their home town and Indian Springs Church their home church.

A former Tennessee Baptist pastor, Larry Hughes and his wife, Laura, also were appointed to serve in the Netherlands. An Alabama native Hughes is a former pastor of Friendship Church, Culleoka, and New Hope Church, Columbia.

During the trustees' business session they unanimously adopted seven principles after some revision from the floor:

(1) Our basic commitment is obedience to the lordship of Jesus Christ and God's infallible Word.

(2) Our basic belief is that Jesus Christ is God's only provision for salvation and that people without personal faith in him are lost and will spend eternity in Hell.

(3) Our basic means of understanding and fulfilling God's mission is prayer.

(4) Our basic purpose is to provide all people an opportunity to hear, understand, and respond to the Gospel in their own cultural context.



THE CHEATHAMS



THE GRAVESES



THE JULIANS



THE MILLSSES

(5) Our basic task is evangelism through proclamation, discipling, equipping, and ministry that results in indigenous Baptist churches.

(6) Our basic strategy is to send and support gifted, God-called missionaries, who, with mutual respect, accountability, and cooperation, carry out the Great Commission in an incarnational witness.

(7) Our basic role is to lead and facilitate the international missionary involvement of Southern Baptists in partnership with overseas Baptists and other Christians who are fulfilling the Great Commission.

Responding to a motion from the floor after the approval of the principles, trustees voted unanimously that they be given the opportunity to sign the principles to signify their full agreement with them.

Trustees also pondered, without any action, whether missionaries and top-level

FMB staff should be asked to sign the document.

In other business, trustees passed actions to safeguard against conflict of interest by trustees, staff, and their relatives and to outline wording to be used in reporting termination or resignation of missionaries who depart under less-than-satisfactory conditions.

The conflict of interest policy declares that the board "shall refrain from conducting business with any business enterprise in which a trustee, employee, or relative of either (spouses, parents, children, siblings, and in-laws) has direct or substantial interest."

Missionaries who are terminated or resign for severe problems related to performance or lifestyle will have the following notation in their records: "failure to perform duties in keeping with the expectations for missionaries" or "failure to maintain a lifestyle in keeping with the expectations for missionaries." □

Zambia judge orders parties to settle differences

Baptist Press

LUSAKA, Zambia — A judge has ordered Southern Baptist missionaries and Zambian Baptist leaders to resolve their two-year-old dispute over missionary work permits on their own. The dispute, which was scheduled for trial in mid-November and has been postponed several times, is an internal church matter and should never have been brought to court, the judge told representatives of the two sides in a February hearing in his chambers.

After hearing statements from missionary and convention leaders and asking several questions, the judge ordered the parties to try again to resolve their dispute amicably. He also directed that temporary work permits be issued until a final resolution is reached, according to

missionary Bonita Wilson, acting administrator of the Southern Baptist mission organization in Zambia.

The case concerns the refusal of Zambian immigration officials to renew work permits or issue new ones to Southern Baptist missionaries in the African country without the approval of the Baptist Convention of Zambia.

The convention's executive committee asked for the authority to approve all work permit renewals for missionaries, although the Southern Baptist mission organization is an older and legally separate entity. The government immigration office agreed. The mission organization protested the decision and filed a lawsuit after other appeals failed. Missionary families whose permits have expired can remain for now, Wilson said. □

Drummond recovers from cancer surgery

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Lewis A. Drummond, former president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, was reported resting well following surgery Feb. 14 at Duke Medical Center in Durham, N.C., to remove a malignant tumor in his colon.

Drummond is the Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism and Church Growth at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School. □



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Overseas baptisms top 300,000 for the first time

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Baptisms related to Southern Baptist foreign mission work worldwide totaled 302,132 in 1994 — the first time annual baptisms have ever topped 300,000.

The total also marks a tripling of the annual harvest since 1980, the first year baptisms surpassed 100,000 in churches related to Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries. Baptisms topped 200,000 for the first time in 1987.

Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin put the milestone into evangelistic perspective:

"It probably represents well over one million professions of faith. Only a portion (of new converts) follow through

immediately in baptism. We don't report professions of faith or try to compile them officially, but it indicates the level of evangelism being done and the level of response."

The 1994 baptism total is the fourth record year in a row, and shows a 15 percent increase over 1993's count.

It also represents actual growth compared to the previous year, without substantial additions from countries newly added to the count, according to FMB evangelism and church growth consultant Jim Slack, who compiled the 1994 statistical report.

"We are well past any 'clean-up' growth that we talked about in the past," Slack said. "1993 was mixed because we still had some former Soviet areas that were reporting for the first

time and getting into the count. But this time it's strictly what has been produced on the ground. When your baptisms are not just churches reporting that never before have, this is new growth, and very strong."

Yet perhaps most significant of all, a still-small but steadily growing number of conversions and baptisms occurring in places and peoples once considered entirely off-limits to the Christian Gospel.

The Cooperative Services International arm of the FMB which quietly ministers among the peoples of "World A." — the unevangelized world locked from "traditional" missions behind political, religious, and cultural barriers — reported 3,809 baptisms.

That total may seem tiny, but it's a

500 percent jump over the 1993 total. And it includes the first known baptisms recorded in modern times among several people groups.

The traditional "big seven" countries where Baptists are strong — Brazil, Nigeria, Kenya, South Korea, the Philippines, India, and Mexico — appear once again in the top 25 list of countries for baptisms, led by Brazil with 69,373; Nigeria, 38,340; Kenya, 20,042; and South Korea with 17,810.

But some new faces also appear. Ukraine finished sixth with 9,798, followed closely by Russia with 9,759.

A "partner country" — where mission realities dictate that the country can't even be named in print — reported 6,199 baptisms, nearly breaking into the top ten. □

Southern Seminary professor withdraws as commentary writer

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Carey Newman, assistant professor of New Testament at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., has informed Broadman & Holman Publishers of his decision to withdraw from a writing assignment for the *New American Commentary*.

He is the second commentary writer to resign this year. Earlier, Stephen Wyrick of Belton, Texas, and the publishing company mutually agreed to withdraw his Joshua volume manuscript.

David Dockery, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the school of theology at Southern Seminary, has agreed to replace Newman as author of the New Testament volume on Ephesians at the request of the commentary's New Testament editors. Dockery is former general editor of the commentary.

Newman, who agreed in 1990 to write the volume for release in 1996, notified Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr.; Ray Clendenen, general editor of the commentary; and Dockery, who is associate editor for New

Testament of the commentary, of his decision on Feb. 10.

In withdrawing from the assignment, Newman cited "ever-growing politicizing of the series" and his belief that "issues other than consensus building and conversing with other evangelicals have come to the fore."

"Since 1992 I have monitored closely the way in which the series fits into the larger, SBC context and the way in which the series is perceived both in and outside SBC circles," Newman wrote.

He maintained his theology has not changed since the ear-

lier agreement and he told Baptist Press the decision regarding Wyrick's manuscript was not directly related to his decision.

Charles Wilson, vice president for trade publishing at the Sunday School Board, expressed regret at Newman's resignation.

"We cannot control perception, but the reality is that the purpose of the NAC has not changed," he said.

Wilson noted that "some inaccurate news coverage about the Joshua volume may have created the perception of politicizing of the series. Despite

claims to the contrary, our decision had nothing to do with politics, interpretation of historical dates, or discussions of other critical issues. The manuscript was not consistent with the Chicago Statement on Inerrancy and was not written for the agreed-upon target audience," Wilson said.

Draper said, "Dr. Newman's concerns, though not founded on fact, are real to him, and we must accept his decision. We will continue to work within the guidelines we all accepted for the *New American Commentary*, and I am confident God will bless our efforts." □

Southwestern to appeal probation

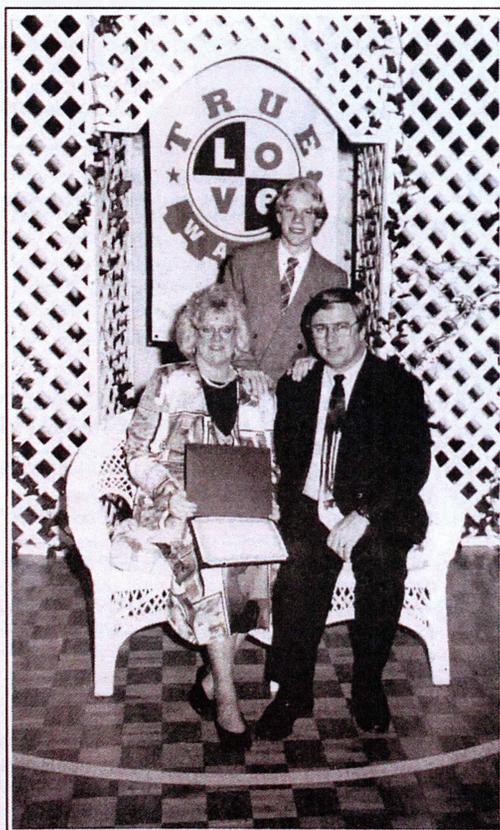
Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will appeal the probation ruling issued earlier this month by the Association of Theological Schools, according to President Ken Hemphill.

"It is in the best interest of Southwestern to participate in the appeals process to present our case," Hemphill said Feb. 14. "As we have stated, probation was too strong a decision based on the facts of our case."

The Commission on Accrediting, an arm of ATS, has placed the seminary on a two-year probation, citing concerns about presidential evaluation and trustee accountability to constituencies, academic freedom, and faculty tenure and promotion. Probation does not mean a loss of accreditation, according to Hemphill and Daniel O. Aleshire, associate director of the commission.

"Other SBC agencies have encouraged Southwestern to take advantage of the appeals process," Hemphill said, noting ATS soon will be informed officially of the seminary's decision to appeal. □



'True Love Waits' still going strong

"True Love Waits," the national sexual abstinence until marriage program initiated by the Baptist Sunday School Board is still going strong after almost two years. Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, where the program began held a ring ceremony Feb. 11 for 28 youth, who recently signed commitment cards, and their families. The rings serve as a reminder to youth of their commitment. The church now has more than 100 young people who have made commitments. The Tulip Grove ceremony was taped by a film crew from the British Broadcasting Company for use in a special documentary on the program, and a film crew from France. At left, Joy and Richard Dodge display their son Jeff's certificate, while below, Terry and Linda Scholes place a ring on son Joshua's hand as his sister Emily observes. — Photos by Les Power



■ about letters to the editor

- Make it concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length.
- Name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Include address and phone number.
- Avoid personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone.
- Send original copy. Form letters and "open" letters will not be published.
- Only one letter in a three-months period per writer will be published.
- If letter does not conform, it will be returned.
- Opinions and ideas expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the *Baptist and Reflector* and its staff. □

Miss Mary

In "Meditation 17," John Donne wrote, "Any man's death diminishes me..." Not only I, but every Tennessee Baptist, every Southern Baptist, every Christian was diminished at the death of Miss Mary Hutson of Knoxville on Jan. 4. I got to know Miss Mary when we served together on the Board of Trustees for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. She was one of the most gentle, faithful, Christians I've ever known. One of the highlights of attending a board meeting was being in Miss Mary's presence and hearing her wise counsel.

One summer when I attended a workshop at UT-Knoxville, I worshiped with Miss Mary at her beloved First Baptist Church. She graciously took me on a tour of the city, and on another afternoon we visited a former board member. Those hours we spent together are etched deeply in my memory.

Miss Mary was a faithful Christian, a faithful Baptist, and a faithful friend who will certainly be missed.

Kenneth Newman
Oakfield 38362

Depression days

We are headed to another Depression that took place in 1929. So if churches do not do what is in II Chronicles 7:20, we are too headed toward another incoming Depression.

Carl W. Hunter
Johnson City 37601

China opportunity

There's an opportunity of a lifetime that I must share. It is the privilege of serving this summer in China teaching English for six weeks. I have been a volunteer teacher through Cooperative Services International (CSI), FMB for the past four summers in communist China. As a teacher, not a tourist, I (and you) have the chance to develop relationships that can result in opportunities of sharing your faith and in strengthening the Chinese Christian community.

No, I don't speak Chinese. They speak English; you're there to help them improve. I'm not an English teacher; I'm a mathematics teacher. If you've taught a Sunday School class, VBS, GAs, RAs, or Acteens, then you can teach English in China.

CSI is seeking 150 teachers in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Foreign Mission Board and China has its doors open to all of them. What a lost opportunity if we Christians don't take the challenge to be his witnesses in China. The chance may not be there in the future. Because of the great joy I have experienced there, I wish the same blessing on you. I will gladly answer any questions you have from a volunteer's viewpoint. (517) 835-1536.

The official office is Volunteers in Missions, FMB, Bob McEachern, (800) 999-3113, or their recruitment helper, the Brotherhood Commission (800) 280-1891, Debbie Pippin. Do it soon!

Ann Wilson
Midland, Mich. 48642

Study the Word

I agree with Eugene Hall's letter, (*Baptist and Reflector*) Jan. 18.

The Scriptures should be studied in our Training Union.

Sociologists can study the problem but we Christians need to study the solutions and apply them from God's Holy Word.

Also, where are the beautiful, biblical, pictures that once adorned the covers of our literature?

I would like to see again, John, "baptizing in the River Jordan," the "Woman at the Well" or the "disciples with Jesus at supper." These too "make a statement."

Are we ashamed of our Lord's heritage?

People are starving for the Holy Word of God which gives light.

Thelma Sudberry
Shelbyville 37160

Senior citizens

Many Christian senior citizens who are able bodied are not aware of the wonderful opportunity for service in retirement homes and nursing homes. Be-

cause the pay is minimal, it is difficult to get competent help.

The rewards of helping to care for the elderly are very great. One can find these jobs with any health-care company. It is my prayer that many more Christians will seek out such employment, to the glory of God.

Robert L. Woodward
Spring City 37381

Goal achieved

I appreciate *Baptist and Reflector* and the information it makes available to Tennessee Baptists. I have a word of encouragement to my fellow pastors and Tennessee Baptists. We have completed our Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missionaries campaign, and I didn't think much about it until I shared the results with several friends in local churches. They were encouraged, and explained how they felt we had done an exceptional job. I'm pleased God stirred the hearts of our congregation. Here is the evidence:

Union Church near Wartburg, completed it's Lottie Moon emphasis in December and we were excited that the members had contributed over 300 percent more than ever. Union is a well established church (149 years old) and has strongly supported the efforts of the Big Emory Baptist Association.

When I challenged the WMU to set a "substantial" goal for this year's offering, the director was hesitant because the church had not strongly promoted this offering in the past.

The goal was set, and the church tripled it as God began to stir our hearts for missions. There was no secret formula, or program used, we simply re-

freshed the memories of our congregation about missions, and the need for our support. Children's sermons were dedicated to explaining who Lottie Moon was, her work, and the Great Commission. The church responded wonderfully. Although we are a small congregation, our gift will surely benefit the kingdom work of Southern Baptists! We must never take for granted that our congregations know and understand the need for missions and a Great Commission lifestyle.

We are constantly growing, the body is adding new members who were not raised as Southern Baptists, many of them need to be educated, and every Southern Baptist surely loves, and will not grow weary hearing about our great heritage and the work we do through the Cooperative Program!

I believe good promotion, education, and leadership by example, were the keys to our success this year. I am confident that similar results will be realized for other missions offerings in the future. We must give to grow. God is great!

Mark A. Caldwell Sr., pastor
Union Church
Wartburg 37887

Publication delayed

I would like to notify TBC churches and pastors that the March issue of the *Green Light*, published by the TBC Public Relations Office will be approximately one week late.

In addition to the flu bug hitting twice during the production process the press also broke down, requiring an ordered part. Thanks for your patience.

Barbara Owen, TBC
Brentwood 37024

■ an occasional word
By Lonnie Wilkey,
associate editor

Simple as ABC

My wife Joyce and I were beginning to wonder if Joanna, now 9, would ever learn her multiplication tables while she was in the third grade last year. Finally, a few gray hairs later and halfway through the fourth grade, she does.

Now, along comes Daniel and his ABCs.

Not that the five-year-old kindergarten scholar doesn't know them. He can recite them in order with the best of them.

But asking him to name a letter when you point it out to him is a different matter.

"A" suddenly became "E," "K" became "L," and so on.

The few hairs left on my head are becoming even grayer. And Joyce, who has more patience than anyone I've ever known, also has become frustrated.

Daniel, however, has the solution.

One night during our family prayer time Daniel, in all sincerity, asked God to help him learn his ABCs and for "Mama to have patience while he learned."

At the tender age of 5, he knew to do something that many mature adults fail to do — turn to God when you're in trouble.

Slowly, but surely, Daniel is recognizing his letters better and Mama's patience has improved as well. Good ole Dad just stays out of the way.

I've thought of Daniel's experience as it relates to Christianity. Today we have a good number of people who know the "ABCs" of Christianity. They know all the right things — the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, they go to church regularly, and so on.

But do they put to practice what they know? Do they witness? Do they volunteer to take on assignments in the church? Do they give regularly?

As Daniel found out, it's not enough to say his ABCs, he had to recognize them. For Christians, it's not enough to know and say what's right, you have to live it through your actions.

I'm proud that Daniel has learned already that you have to turn to God. I hope he never forgets it. It's a lesson all Christians need to remember. After all, God is the "Alpha and the Omega," or in Daniel's case, the "A" and the "Z." □



WILKEY

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests

TENNESSEE BAPTIST PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS



February

- 22 — Pray for the growth of small churches in Poland with membership of 50 or less and for pastors and their vision of mission and evangelism.
- 23 — PRAISE! The Baptist church in Elblag will celebrate its 150th anniversary June 4-25.
- 24 — PRAISE! Evangelism is being done using English courses in Elblag and Czeslochowa.
- 25 — Pray for the first Summer Youth Celebration in Quebec, Canada later this year.
- 26 — Pray for Elsa Lopez, pastor's wife at Good Samaritan Church, Lawrence, Mich. She has developed back problems and must quit her job which will cause financial problems for the family.
- 27 — Roberto Mancillas, pastor of Calvary Church, Adrian, Mich., requests prayer for a new radio ministry.
- 28 — Pray for the continued and complete recovery of Reda Smith, offset press operator, from gall bladder surgery, and the wife of T. Frank Smith, director of the church development division at the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

Annie Armstrong, missions, \$3.25 million

Annie Armstrong was a tireless worker for missions, she believed in missions, and made prayer a priority in her life. Remember the offering named for her?

Though she was strong-willed when working for a cause, she practiced self-denial in the process. Her stamina and strength enabled Woman's Missionary Union to make great strides in organization, growth in numbers of involved women, and home missions.

It is no small wonder that she was responsible for naming the annual Foreign Missions Offering in honor of China missionary Lottie Moon.

She has been aptly called "dreamer in action."

Her Christian character was so strong that the annual Offering for Home Missions was named for her five years before her death in 1939.

Woman's Missionary Union, the Home Mission Board, and the Brotherhood Commission now spearhead the special week.

This year, Southern Baptists observe the Week of Prayer for Home Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering March 5-12. The national goal is \$50 million.

Tennessee Baptists have set their goal at \$3,250,000.

Scripture verses undergirding the praying and giving emphases are Romans 3:23 and I Corinthians 9:22-23.

The theme for the week is a terse but overpowering imperative, "Win All."

It is appropriate to study statements by leaders of the three SBC organizations involved specifically with missions on the home front.

Dellanna O'Brien, Executive Director, Woman's Missionary Union: "The best ways you can support home missionaries are through prayer and through gifts to the Annie Armstrong Offering. Join your home missionaries and Southern Baptists alike in this year's challenge to 'Win All' for Christ. It is my prayer that our efforts will be multiplied as new Christians join the Kingdom."

Larry Lewis, president, Home Mission Board: "Whether you are called to go, give, or pray, ask that God will make the very most of your dedication to increase his Kingdom. Pray that every effort of each Southern Baptist will be magnified to glorify God and 'Win All.'"

James Williams, president, Brotherhood Commission: "Commit to faithful prayer on behalf of home missionaries. Help your church to meet this year's highest goal ever. Become personally involved in direct mission action. We can 'Win All' if millions of individuals make themselves available to him."

Of the \$50 million 1995 offering, \$34.5 million will be used for support of missionaries and field missions of the Home Mission Board.

The offering is slated for a variety of worthy projects, such as training for pastors and laity in Continuing Witnessing

Training, student missions orientation, volunteer coordinators, expenses of new works in apartment communities, training for pastors in starting and growing churches in strategic places, support for directors of special missions projects — and hundreds of other needs.

The HMB now has almost 5,000 missions personnel involved in several categories and divisions of work. They serve in all 50 states, the Caribbean area, American Samoa, Guam, and Canada.

There are 340 Mission Service Corps volunteers; about 1,700 language church extension division workers, and 1,179 in the new church extension divisions.

Others are in associational missions, black church extension, church and community ministries, special ministries, evangelism, and several other areas.

The HMB operating cost in 1994 was \$91.2 million. It is easy to see that the \$50 million missions offering is needed to meet the many needs for which the HMB is responsible.

Every Tennessee Baptist must be committed to helping the local church in prayer and giving for home missions. March 5-12 should be a memorable week as hearts unite to undergird ministries among people in our own nation. □



ANNIE ARMSTRONG

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Dear Pooh, help!

Our children may have been in the last generation which some have called, "The Generation when Children Were Still Children."

Today as I talk with our daughters, all four married, with children, I am wary. When there is a lull in conversation, they may try to tell me about something they did as teenagers, as yet unconfessed.

I don't believe that ignorance is a blessing — but I usually stop them and say, "I don't want to know about it now. I prefer innocence!"

They understand. Betty and I know they were not

angels. But we know, and they know, that their children are facing a faster-paced world that steals innocence long before the kids go off to school.

Ah, when children were still children! Pooh Bear walked into my life again the other day. He really hasn't been far away. But now the newest granddaughter, three months old, has a "genuine" Pooh Bear book.

From the book, I learned that one winter day Pooh and Piglet went hunting, and nearly caught a Woozle.

Piglet joined Pooh, whom he spotted walking aimlessly about, following a set of tracks in the snow.

Piglet thought they could be Woozle tracks, and Pooh tended to agree. They continued tracking, and discovered that a second set of tracks, and yes, a third set were now in front of them. Excitement mounted.

They did not know just what a Woozle was, but the adventure erased any fear or wisdom in the matter.

When they realized a fourth animal was in front of them, they paused to think about it. Piglet remembered it was time to eat. Pooh had a brilliant idea; he placed his foot in one of the Woozle tracks. Yes, it was *his* track, and he knew they had followed themselves! What next?

Pooh Bear said he was Foolish and Deluded, a Bear of No Brain at All. He was right, but at least he knew it. *Parents, churches, friends must steer kids away from Woozles, to follow the tracks of Christ. □*

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Family problem solving continued

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley

Last week we started thinking about problem solving as it relates to the family. I explained how I

use the phrase "Communicate Definite Goals And Select a Target" to help frame the process. We looked at the importance of communication, defining the problem in terms of relationship, and goal setting. This week I would like for us to consider how we should view alternatives, select a solution, and take responsibility.

Once we have determined the direction and destination we wish to travel, we must then make a decision about the route that we will take to get there. More than likely there will be several alternative choices. Part of the problem solving process is to attempt to choose the best of the alternatives that one is able to perceive. As a family unit the decision needs to be made from all the possible alternatives that can be surfaced in a family discussion. In this part of the process, it is important to view as many alternatives as possible so that the best one can be chosen in the next step. If this step is not complete, the

best alternative might not be on the list that we will choose from in the next step.

Brainstorming is a good method to use in this step. When brainstorming is used all the possible alternatives that are thought of by any family member are listed without any judgment or criticism. This will free members to throw out ideas without the fear of being shot down before they have an opportunity to think their idea through. The only bad idea in this part of the process is the one that a family member is afraid to suggest for fear of appearing foolish or being put down. Sometimes the most foolish idea is a catalyst to get the family going in the right direction.

After the uncensored list has been completed and everyone has given every possible

alternative that they can think of, we are ready to enter the next stage of the process by selecting the solution. Some alternatives may be too hard. We may find that some alternatives will take too long. Other alternatives may involve activities and tasks that certain family members find distasteful. Sometimes the solution is the best of the good. At other times it is only the least damaging or distasteful of the bad. The emphasis here is on the family making the decision as a whole unit with mother and father guiding the process.

The final step in the process is to take responsibility for the decision. There is a real tendency in our day to avoid this. We want to blame someone else or something else for our problems or predicament in life. I had poor potty training or I was raised in a dysfunctional family; therefore, I am not responsible for my own choices. Teaching a family to go through this process can go a long way toward eliminating this "scapegoating" in our lives. □



BARKLEY

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

Start with a smile

Zeke: I bet you can't quote the Lord's Prayer.

Zach: I certainly can.

Zeke: OK, say it.

Zach: Now, I lay me...

Zeke: You win. I didn't think you knew it.

Take this truth

How much do you know about the Bible? Too many are familiar with only two or three verses. They are good, but far more exists in the Bible for us to learn. William Lyon Phelps said he believed in college education, but he had rather have thorough knowledge of the Bible without education than have a college education and be ignorant of the Bible.

Memorize this Scripture

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful" (II Timothy 3:16 NIV).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to delight in your Word and to meditate on it and practice it daily. □

AIDS offers ministry challenges, lessons ...

— Continued from page 1
hospitalization a year, and five prescriptions monthly, which is far less than a patient needs, said Carden.

Anyone can help an AIDS/HIV patient by offering a listening ear, said Carden, but a counselor must protect the confidentiality of the relationship, he warned. If any information which has been shared by the patient becomes a topic of conversation or a sermon illustration, the counselor is apt to be sued, said Carden, because the anonymity of a person diagnosed with AIDS/HIV is protected under law.

Another consideration for ministers is the possibility of contagion when visiting patients. Carden said he avoids wearing gloves but he tries to be aware of warnings on hospital doors and checks with nurses when he has questions. He doesn't touch a patient if

he has a cut on his hand and he washes his hands after each visit, he said.

Carden suggested people isolate what they don't understand. He paralleled AIDS to the bubonic plague which killed 50 percent of the population of Europe in the 1300s. Christians of the time said it was the punishment of God too, he noted.

Johnnie Hall, director of the TBC Discipleship Training Department, agreed with Carden that AIDS/HIV isn't God's judgment on our country, he told the participants.

What God does expect, said Hall, is for Christians to minister to and do that based on good information instead of fear. "God gives us what we need," he

added.
Another speaker, Amy Figg, chaplain at Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee, reported on her experiences serv-

ing on an HIV care team at the hospital.

Although she has moved beyond anxiety, she continues to experience strong emotions as she cares for AIDS/HIV patients, she said.

The disease is emotion-charged because it delineates people along moral lines, explained Figg, and because it causes people to ponder mortality and sexuality, both of which are threatening.

As all these soul-shaking concerns are being considered by those affected by AIDS/HIV, said Figg, some ques-

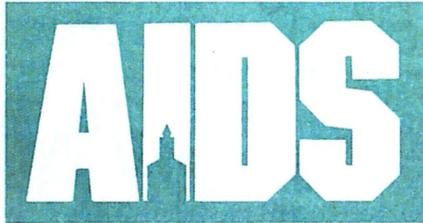


VISITING DURING THE AIDS AWARENESS CONFERENCE are, from left, Dick Denson, director of pastoral care, Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee, Knoxville; Jim McAfee, pastor, Mount Olivet Church, Mount Juliet; and Gleason McKamey, pastor, Pine Ridge Church, Harriman.

tions may be asked which can result in a journey to faith.

When people ask questions beginning with why, she said, it's a sign of a crisis of faith.

"AIDS has touched or will touch someone you know," she concluded. □



AIDS/HIV from the medical, physical viewpoint: MD

HARRIMAN — "Dan Quayle's comment about Murphy Brown doesn't seem so wrong now," said Kent Latham, referring to the vice-president's criticism of the TV sitcom character who had a child out of wedlock at an AIDS Awareness Conference Feb. 13 here.

Latham, a physician at the Baptist Hospital of Roane County, Rockwood, said the only solution to AIDS/HIV is "basically modifying and changing the lifestyles of America."

An internist, Latham noted he has treated patients with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which precedes the syndrome, during his current practice and while he served at the Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee, Knoxville.

Giving some background, he reported nine to 11 million people in the world and one million in the United States are currently infected with the disease. AIDS/HIV is the number one cause of premature death among males, the fifth leading cause of death among women, and the second leading cause among children ages 1-4, he noted. During the next decade, 5.5 million children will be orphaned by the disease.

It is a real dilemma for the health care worker, continued Latham. One in 500 will contract the disease. "If you were a surgeon, would you operate on someone who has AIDS?" he asked the group.

The number of heterosexuals diagnosed with the disease is increasing, said Latham. In 1991, 44,823 heterosexuals tested positive for AIDS/HIV, 24 percent of which were traced to IV drug use and 21 percent to prenatal exposure to children.

These figures are available, said Latham, because health care workers don't have to acquire consent to test a patient for AIDS/HIV currently, "but the laws are developing to have to get consent," he added.

People should be aware tests for the disease aren't infallible, he reported. If someone gets a positive result, they should have another test run which will limit the chances for error, he said.

How can one get AIDS/HIV if not a health care worker? Transmission of the virus requires bodily fluid exchange and physicians are currently trying to identify the many parameters, he said.

Patients in a health care facility should be aware that blood obtained from anyone other than family or friends may be tainted with the virus even though it

has been tested, he said. The cause for concern is that people may have the virus for several months without it being detected by current technology.

Are sporting matches where participants are sweating and involved in bodily contact of concern? he asked. Yes, he said. Should children's toys be cleaned after use? Yes, he continued.

Can mosquitos carry the virus? Even if they can, for practical purposes, people shouldn't worry about that mode of exposure, said Latham. Are rubber gloves complete protection? No, he said, just as condoms aren't. Can the virus live outside the body? Physicians don't think so.

The factors which must be considered when trying to answer such questions, said Latham, are the health statuses of the two people involved, the level of disease in the one infected, the way one is infected, and the number of contacts with the one infected.

When trying to disinfect something, Latham said, a disinfectant like bleach can be used distilled in parts of one to 10 of water, but the most important part of disinfecting is scrubbing, as is true for surgeons.

"It's a devastating disease, by it's true and non-true character," said Latham. □ — Connie Davis

Supplied by the Sexually Transmitted Disease/HIV Program of Tennessee Department of Health

Total Tennessee Cases from 1982 - Oct. 31, 1994

	AIDS Cases		HIV Cases	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Cases	4,319	100.00%	4,124	100.00%
Total Deaths	2,271	52.58%	444	10.77%
Males	3,922	90.81%	3,344	61.09%
Females	397	9.19%	780	18.91%
White	2,819	65.27%	1,793	43.48%
Black	1,455	33.69%	2,295	55.65%
Hispanic/Other	45	1.04%	36	0.87%

Risk Factor	AIDS Cases		HIV Cases	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Adult/Adolescent				
Homosexual	2,784	64.46%	1,928	46.75%
IV Drug Use	492	11.39%	696	16.88%
Both Gay/IV Drug Use	340	7.87%	226	5.48%
Hemophiliac	106	2.45%	17	0.41%
Transfusion	83	1.92%	32	0.78%
Heterosexual	339	7.85%	527	12.78%
Pediatric (Age 13 and older)				
Hemophiliac	11	0.25%	7	0.17%
Parent at risk	27	0.63%	40	0.97%
Transfusion	3	0.07%	0	0.00%
No Identified Risk*				
Open	111	2.57%	651	15.79%
Closed	23	0.53%	0	0.00%

Union students meet needs at Woodcock Baptist Center during break

By Keith Currey
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — While many Union University students spent their final week of winter break packing for the spring semester in Jackson, members of Union's Ministerial Association and Youth, Education, Music, and Missions Association (YEMMA) packed their bags for a completely different destination.

The 12 volunteers, led by

Paul Williams, Union's director of in-service guidance, spent the week working at Woodcock Baptist Center, located near the heart of Nashville's housing projects. The students aided neighborhood residents through a number of ministries, including a clothes closet and food bank, in addition to leading worship and performing community outreach.

"We're doing a lot of work here, but reaching the people is our number one goal," said

Aaron Shoaf, a sophomore from Jackson, Mo.

The primary emphasis of the team's outreach was following up on the fruits of another successful ministry, the Nashville Association Toy Store. Each December, Nashville Baptist churches distribute toys to needy families. Counselors are on hand to meet with families, which this year led to 61 professions of faith in Woodcock's geographic area.

To encourage those who made decisions over the holidays, the team visited 104 households in the area neighboring Woodcock.

"We got some good response from the door-to-door witnessing," said Glenn Riggs, senior from Louisville, Ky., who attends Woodland Church, Jackson, while in school.

"Many people weren't home during the day, but most of the people we did see were receptive to us." In addition to their one-on-one outreach, the students helped with virtually every aspect of the inner-city church's ministry. From entertaining children at the center's daycare facility to serving lunch for needy neighborhood residents, the Union team met the needs and touched the lives of approximately 375 people during the week-long stay.

According to Linda Knott, director of the center, help from student teams and other volunteers is crucial to Woodcock's day-to-day operation.

"Last year, we hosted 25 volunteer teams in all. They help

us maintain our facilities and really serve the needs of the community," Knott said.

Even Woodcock's year-round staff are volunteers who only accept expense money for their efforts. The only paid staff at Woodcock work in the church's daycare facility.

"At least 60 percent of all we do here is dependent upon volunteers," Knott continued.

The team, which hopes to maintain its close relationship with the church, continues to meet in prayer for Woodcock's volunteers, and hopes to return for weekend projects. "I'm burdened to remember those volunteers and do everything I can to help," Riggs said. □



UNION UNIVERSITY students, left to right, Callie Dudley, Green River Church, Waynesboro; Nicole Jones, Poplar Heights Church, Jackson; Krista Adams, Paducah, Ky.; and Aaron Shoaf, Jackson, Mo., sing hymns with neighborhood kids a service at Woodcock Baptist Center in Nashville.

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Dr. Gerald L. Stow
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■ the people

■ **Margaret Allison Hopper**, a member of Gallaher Memorial Church, Knoxville, recently had a poem, "The Kingdom Come," published in *Dark Side of the Moon*, a treasury of today's poetry compiled by the National Library of Poetry.

■ **Dottie Young** has completed 38 years as administrative assistant, Calvary Church, Knoxville.

■ **Bill Whaley** was ordained as a deacon by Sim's Chapel Church, Sevierville.

■ **Jimmy Brown** was ordained as a deacon by Middle Valley Church, Hixson.

■ the leaders

■ **West Paris Church**, Paris, has called **Chris Davis** as minister of music, effective Feb. 5. Davis is a student of the University of Tennessee - Martin.

■ **Thomas J. McCoy**, has served as pastor of Thompson Station Church, Thompson

Station, for six years.

■ **Leonard Markham**, has observed his sixth anniversary as pastor of Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville.

■ **James L. Palmer**, has celebrated his 16th anniversary as pastor of Lakeview Church, Old Hickory.

■ **Michael Hall** has been called as minister of music, West End Church, Fayetteville. Hall is a student at Belmont University, Nashville.



HALL

■ **Lookout-Valley Church** of Chattanooga has called **Greg Steele**, a student at the University of Tennessee - Chattanooga, as minister of youth. Steele has served East Ridge Church, Chattanooga, in a similar capacity.

■ **Friendship Church**, Sevierville, has called **Jerry Ogle** as pastor.

■ **Darrall Walker**, pastor, Buffalo Church, Rutledge, resigned, effective Jan. 18.

■ **Kenneth A. Corr**, will be installed as pastor of First Church, Memphis, Feb. 26 during the morning service. A reception will be held for him and his family from 3-5 p.m. Corr is the former pastor in Sugar Land, Texas.

■ **Jack Belcher** has observed his 10th anniversary as pastor of Oral Church, Lenoir City.

■ the churches

■ **Faith Church, Bartlett**, held a winter revival Jan. 29 - Feb. 1 in which 128 made spiritual decisions. Thirty-seven of those decisions were professions of faith or for baptism. Harold Hunter, Nashville-based evangelist, spoke and Jamie Parker of Bellevue Church, Memphis, led the music. The church's Sunday School also met a high attendance goal with 428 present.

■ **Members of Mount Eager Church, Washburn**, are preparing property where future church building will be built.

■ **Members of New Blackwell Church**, have voted to build a new auditorium.

■ **Blue Springs Church, Rutledge**, collected \$4,980 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, meeting its \$4,000 goal.

■ **First Church, Nashville**, is sponsoring an Arabic-speaking worship service which is held in the church's chapel each Sunday at 4 p.m. Allen Bennett, a native of Morocco, is serving as pastor. Those wishing more information should contact the church



BILLIE FRIEL, pastor, First Church, Mount Juliet, receives a plaque from James Draper during the Feb. 6-8 meeting of the Baptist Sunday School Board trustees for his service, which ends in June.

at (615) 664-6000 or Rus Roach, minister of missions, at 664-6021. The church is a Key Church, which is a program encouraging churches to multiply themselves through starting other congregations.

■ **Grace Church, Pleasant View**, held a revival which resulted in eight people making professions of faith and about 50 making rededication commitments. Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld, an evangelist from Gleason, spoke.

■ **First Church, Jasper**, will hold a "Here's Hope Revival" March 26-29. Don Paris, pastor, Avondale Church, Chattanooga, will speak and Jim Ortwein of First Church, Dunlap, will lead the music.

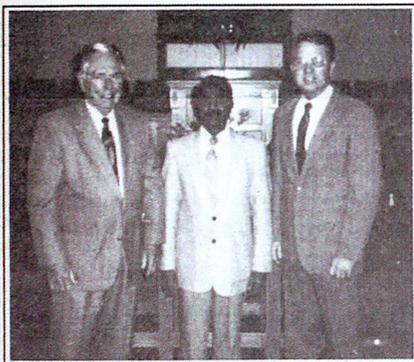
■ **Bear Cove Church, Sparta**, will hold a spring revival March 12-15. Malcolm McDow, professor of evangelism, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and former director of evangelism, Tennessee Baptist Convention, will speak and Wayne Ray, minister of music, Immanuel Church, Leba-

non, will lead the music.

■ the schools

■ **Union University, Jackson**, will host the West Tennessee Pastors Conference and Ministers Wives Fellowship Tuesday, March 7. Fellowship begins at 10 a.m., and the conference at 10:45 a.m., in the Harvey Lecture Hall. W.A. Criswell, chancellor, Criswell College, Dallas, Texas, and senior pastor, First Church, Dallas, will speak on "Meeting the Challenge of Bible Preaching." The wives fellowship will be held in the Coburn Dining Room. A complimentary lunch will be served to all attending.

■ **James Pethel**, associate professor of music and composer in resident, **Carson-Newman College**, Jefferson City, will soon publish the organ/piano duet, "Fantasia on Loben den Herren," better known as "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," which he wrote with Stan Pethel, his nephew, with Warner Brother's Publications.



HANS CHAUDHARY, a native of India, stands with George H. Lockett, left, a deacon who presented the charge, and Larry Wilbanks, pastor, Trenton Street Church, Harriman, during his deacon ordination at the church Jan. 22.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Whose is it?

By Ray Fowler, pastor
Highland Heights Church, Memphis

Honesty and integrity. There is still some honesty and integrity left in this old world. Did you read where Brazil's soccer goalie left his victory medal, family passports, and \$60,000 cash in a taxicab? Indeed, Claudio Taffarel left \$60,000 in a cab in Los Angeles. The taxi driver found the money and other items. Juan Blanco, the cab driver, a big soccer fan, couldn't go to a soccer game because he couldn't afford the tickets.

The driver returned the medal, passports, and money. He was given several gifts: \$1,000 and a hug. The cab driver did the right thing.

I imagine the anxiety when Taffarel, the goalie, discovered that the huge amount of cash was missing. I started thinking after I read this account. You

know, there is a lot of money missing in our church. It is not because anyone has lost the money or misappropriated any funds. It is simply because many Christians have not yet made the commitment to give 10 percent, a tithe of their income. Malachi 3:8 asks, "Will a man rob God?" Will you? How do you? In tithes and offerings.

You see, our stewardship is not measured by what we find and return to a man, but what we do in acknowledging God's ownership of everything we are and have. The cab driver knew the money was not his so he returned it to its rightful owner. Will we be this honest with God's money? □

Can you find Jesus in you?

By Philip M. Young, pastor
Rocky Hill Church, Knoxville

A few weeks ago, Grayson Miller was riding down the road with his par-

ents. Grayson is the 4-year-old son of Craig and Amy Miller who are members of our church. Craig, a medical doctor at the University of Tennessee Medical Center, was talking to Grayson about X Rays of the human body. Grayson was taking it all in but became especially interested in one particular thing — an X Ray of a human heart. He looked up at his dad and asked, "Can you see Jesus in there?"

Grayson's question serves as a sober reminder for many of us. When we stop to examine our lives, do we find Jesus living in us? Do we have the assurance of his powerful promise? "No one has ever seen God; but if we love each other, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us" (I John 4:12, NIV).

What about when others examine our lives on a daily basis? What about when they hear us talk — do they hear kind words and encouraging remarks?

What about when they watch us work — do they see a fair and honest days work? What about the way we treat our family — do they see love and kindness? What about the way we reach out to others — do they see compassion? Do they see Jesus living in us?

Invite someone to Sunday School and worship; develop a new friendship; help someone in need; welcome a new neighbor; visit someone who is sick or lonely. When we care, they can see Jesus in us. □

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

Memphis site selected as pilot

Memphis has been selected as the site for a different kind of World Changers project. During July 1-8, World Changers will pilot a new concept called Mission: Memphis.

World Changers, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, involves youth and adults in renovating and repairing substandard housing.

The unique feature of Mission: Memphis is that participants will be able to choose from more than 10 different ministry projects coordinated simultaneously with local churches and ministry organizations. □

Classified

NEEDED: Christian childcare center director. Send resume with salary history to Westover Baptist Church, 14 Old Denmark Road, Jackson, Tenn., 38301. Attn: Doris Granthum.

ORGANIST/MUSIC ASSISTANT: Needed at Salem Baptist Church, Knoxville. For more information, call David Whipple Jr. at (615) 922-3490.

Jackson church to host annual state deacon conference

The state deacon conference is scheduled for March 3-4 at Englewood Church, Jackson.

Theme for the weekend meeting is "Praying Deacons."

Registration begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 3, with the program commencing at 6:55 p.m.

Ray Newcomb, pastor of First Church, Millington, and immediate past president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will deliver two messages during the sessions.

In addition, several conferences on various aspects of deacon ministry will be offered.

Also, special conferences are included for spouses of deacons and pastors.

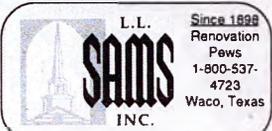
Due to budget restraints, there will be a \$3 per person registration fee. Registration will be accepted at the door.

For more information about the state deacon conference, call the TBC Disci-

pliship Training Department at (615) 371-2053. □

Education/Youth Minister
Full-time Minister of Education and Youth needed. Send resumes to: Abingdon Baptist Church, 361 W. Main St., Abingdon, VA 24210-2633. Please reply by March 10.

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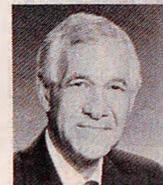
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- Thursday, March 2, 1-3:30 p.m.;
- Thursday, March 16, 1-3:30 p.m. or
- Thursday, March 30, 1-3:30 p.m.



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ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR FOR SINGLE WOMEN
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- to plan for minimal administrative costs and a lighter burden to survivors
- to distribute assets to the family members, friends and organizations you choose
- how federal gift and estate taxes are determined and how to reduce them
- the importance of estate planning documents: the Will; Living/Revocable Trusts; Health Care Representative Appointment; and Durable Power of Attorney

"Careful estate planning is important, regardless of the value of our assets. The issues involved are even more important for women because more of us will be widowed or single at the time of our death and the planning options are different than for married couples."

*Laura Hansen Dean
Women's Seminar Leader*

The morning session will focus on strategies and options specifically for married women; while the afternoon session will present different strategies and options available for widows and other single women. Both seminars will be in Room 103 of the Massey Business Center on Wedgewood Avenue. Call (615) 385-6435 for more information and to make your reservation.



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Life and Work Series for Feb. 26

Focal Passage:
Mark 10:17, 21-25, 28-31

True wealth

By Elizabeth Howard

Millions of people buy lottery tickets, visit casinos, enter sweepstakes, each one trying to get rich. Most of us feel life would be better if we just had more money. We think of what we could buy, how financially secure we would be, how free of day-to-day trouble or worry. Jesus never said it was sinful to be wealthy, nor that only poor people can be saved; but he did say earthly wealth can be a hindrance to accepting the Gospel. He also said we should seek spiritual wealth rather than material goods.

The plight of a young man — vv. 17, 21-22

Jesus was on his last journey to Jerusalem, six months before his death, when a man ran up and fell on his knees before him. Matthew tells us the man was young (Matthew 19:20); Luke tells us he was a ruler (Luke 18:18). The man showed respect for Jesus and concern for his own spiritual health, but he thought there was something he could do to earn eternal life. Jesus quoted to him six of the Ten Commandments, those that have to do with the treatment of others (v. 19). The young man was satisfied with his record in human relationships, but realized something still was lacking.

Jesus had compassion on the young man, as he does on all people. He realized the man was proud of his wealth, that wealth was his god. In order to follow Jesus, he must first get rid of that which hindered his discipleship — money. This does not mean every Christian has to give up all worldly goods, but it does mean each one must give up whatever separates him/her from God. Jesus had judged the case correctly, for the young man's face fell, and he went away sad. He wanted to follow Jesus, but the cost was greater than he was willing to pay.

The burden of wealth — vv. 23-25

Jesus turned from the young man to his disciples. What effect did this incident have on them? Undoubtedly, they were puzzled; for the Jewish belief was that wealth is a gift from God, that it shows God's favor. However, Jesus said it is a serious handicap, not only for the rich who take pride in their wealth and depend on it rather than on God, but also for the poor who yearn for wealth with their whole being, who are willing to gamble all they do have for the chance to gain more. Jesus said it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich man to become a Christian. Of course, it is impossible without God's intervention. But with God, even the wealthiest person can enter the kingdom the same way anyone else does, by repentance and faith in Jesus.

The reward of discipleship — vv. 28-32

As was often the case, it was Peter who voiced the concerns of the disciples. They had left what wealth they had, their livelihoods, to follow Jesus — what was in it for them? Jesus promised them, and all who make sacrifices for the sake of the Gospel, will be rewarded, but for the most part, the rewards are spiritual rather than material. They also include something no one wants — persecutions. Jesus ended the discussion by repeating a paradox: the last shall be first; the least shall be the greatest. True wealth is determined, not by how much money we have or by our positions on earth, but by the spiritual blessings that come from our relationship with Jesus. □ — Elizabeth Howard is a member of Cumberland Homesteads Church, Crossville.

Risen Christ commissions disciples

By Brian Courtney

Much has been written concerning the resurrection. Some have tried to disprove the event by developing theories. For example, one theory states that Jesus merely passed out on the cross and the coolness of the tomb revived him. Some have tried to prove the resurrection to unbelievers. What they fail to recognize is the event does not fall into categories of proof. Either one believes the witness of Scripture or one does not. Proofs prove very little.

How then do we deal with the resurrection? How are we to understand it? The text is enough to bring about faith.

Testimonies to the resurrection — vv. 1-8

Matthew gives multiple testimonies to the resurrection of Jesus. First, the presence of Mary Magdalene and Mary provides a human witness. The fact that there are two present underscores the Old Testament principle of two or more witnesses for confirming an event (see Deuteronomy 19:15). Second, the earthquake provides a cataclysmic witness. The Old Testament records God's revelations to humans were often preceded by earthquakes (see Exodus 19:18; Isaiah 6:4). Third, the angel's presence provides a divine witness. Both the Old and New Testaments demonstrate angels were the bearers of divine messages to humans (see Genesis 19; Matthew 1). That the angel sat upon the stone indicates contempt for human efforts to hinder God's power. What a trio of witnesses!

But these witnesses are strengthened by the angel's message, "He is not here; for he has risen, as he said." These words establish the truth of the Gospel; Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. The angel's invitation "to see the place where he lay" gives faith reason to believe. But belief means mission, "go tell his disciples that he is risen...and he is going... you will see him." The resurrection is not given for debate. It is given as a basis for mission, to be told to all the world.

Testimony of the living Jesus — vv. 9-10

Convention Uniform Series for Feb. 26 Focal Passage Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

While going to tell the disciples, the women meet the risen Jesus. Their response is one of worship. But Jesus is concerned with meeting his disciples in Galilee. What is so important about Galilee? This is where Jesus began his ministry. Now he goes there to begin again. This is the other miracle of Easter. The risen Jesus goes to Galilee to begin again with his disciples a ministry to a world that had crucified him. He goes to begin reconciling the world to God through his death, burial, and resurrection.

Instruction to the disciples — vv. 16-20

Jesus does two things with his final words to the disciples. First he makes two promises. One is that he has all authority. The other is that he would be with them always. Mission needs the power of the risen Jesus. Second, Jesus instructs the disciples to "make disciples." How? By "going," "baptizing," and "teaching." What a comprehensive plan of evangelism!

As Christians are going about daily tasks, they make disciples. For example, Christians may be going to work. Unbelievers are at work. Work is a place to make a disciple. Once people are disciples, they should be baptized or taken into the church. Once in the church, disciples should be taught so their lives will come under the claims of Jesus' teaching. What a simple plan!

What is the text saying?

One thing is the resurrection means mission to an unbelieving world. Matthew takes great pains to show he and the other witnesses believed in Jesus' resurrection through a miraculous event. Their witness has been passed to us. Either we believe or do not believe. If we believe, then our task is to tell others so they may become disciples through belief in the good news of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Disproving or proving means little. The text bears witness to the resurrection. Should we do the same? □ — Brian Courtney is pastor of First Church, Sneedville.

Jeremiah confronts the false prophets

By Ray Fullilove

The Word of God to the man of God is to be executed by faith, with fervency, and in faithfulness; regardless of whether our appearances seem ridiculous and our acclaimed message radical, one fact is certain; God's will is accurately presented in his Word. If anyone understood this truth, it was Jeremiah, especially when he encountered the false prophets.

Another great prophet of God broke the silence of proclaiming the Gospel to the whole world. He was bold and specific in preaching God's Word. His presentation was clear — "And I brethren when I came to you, came not with the excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God." It was to present Christ — "For I am determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." It was given with conviction — "And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of men's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power." It was for correct faith — "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." (I Corinthians 2:1-5) Thus spoke Paul, the Apostle. God still speaks with a declarative word by his true message to expose

Bible Book Series for Feb. 26 Focal Passage: Jeremiah 28: 5-13, 15-16

the false teachers. What should be our principles as we confront false teachers?

God's Word never fails — vv. 16-24; 27:9-11

When God calls his messenger, the one demand is never to depart from the Word of God. God's Word becomes the messenger's foundation upon which he stands, the fountain of living water which refreshes his spirit, and the fire of God which causes him to speak. God's Word never fails. Jeremiah was confronted by the prophets who played politics, and kept peace at any cost. They rejected and wanted to destroy him (ch. 26:9-15). But Jeremiah feared God more than man and preached the truth of God's Word. Jeremiah was recognized by the people as a true prophet (vv. 16-23), they came to his defense (v. 24), and they heard God's Word from his lips (ch. 27:9-11). God's Word never fails.

God's man never falters — vv. 5-13

God's man must not falter. His message must be heard, believed, and obeyed. Jeremiah stood firmly in the hour when God's Word needed to be heard and heeded. He recognized

Hannah as an enemy of God and confronted this false prophet. The characteristics of a false teacher can be noted as one with a powerful persuasion (vv. 5-6), a pleasing personality (vv. 7-9), and a peaceful proclamation (vv. 10-11). However, the consequence will be a severe penalty from God. Hannah may have pleased men, but he did not please God. God's Word must bring him glory and him alone!

God's will never forsakes — ch. 29:4-14, 21-23, 31-32

God had given a particular command. The people would be under the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, but the result would be blessings from God. God will never forsake his people. What Jeremiah preached, he believed and received blessing (vv. 4-6), peace (v. 7), precaution (vv. 10-11), and the grace and power of God (vv. 12-14). God leaves, however, his provision of penalty for disobedience (vv. 21-23, 31-32). God is able to lead his people along — if we take him at his Word, trust him in our heart, and wait for his revelation. □ — Ray Fullilove is pastor of Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis.

BWA protests Bulgarian persecution

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — In what is another blow to their religious freedom, Baptists in Bulgaria may lose their land and partially constructed church buildings in Sofia because the mayor "has come under pressure" to stop the Baptists.

The Baptist World Alliance has written the president of Bulgaria asking him to intervene in this latest "harassment of our Baptist believers and their building project in Sofia."

The BWA also has alerted U.S. President Bill Clinton and Congressman Newt Gingrich, both Baptists, and Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole to this latest blow to religious freedom for Baptists in Bulgaria and asked them to "seriously plead for full religious freedom for all peoples" with Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev, who was supposed to be in Washington the week of Feb. 13.

BWA Executive Director

Denton Lotz, in a letter to Secretary of State Warren Christopher, asked him to remind the Bulgarian government of its obligations under the United Nations charter and the Helsinki agreements on religious freedom for all. □

Baptists 'solidifying,' says SBC president

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry told Baptist Sunday School Board trustees Feb. 6 that he senses "a solidifying and settling in a good way among Southern Baptists."

"We're moving ahead" is the sense I get from people. It doesn't mean we are out of the woods, but the rank and file appreciates what is taking place," he observed.

Henry urged continued dialogue among Southern Baptists.

"Let's keep talking and praying. Let's keep the door open. I think we can see our best years in front of us." □

Southwestern toll-free number aids recruiting

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — A new toll-free telephone number to give prospective students direct access to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's admissions office is seen by seminary officials as a step toward more aggressive recruiting.

The new number, 1 (800) SWBTS-01, allows prospective students to contact the admissions office free of charge to ask questions, schedule visits to the campus, or check on the status of their applications. It cannot be used for any other seminary office. □

African American to direct HMB chaplaincy area

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Albert W. Holmes was elected director of institutional and business-in-

dustrial chaplaincy by the Home Mission Board executive committee.

HMB trustees also appointed 25 home missionaries, endorsed 24 Southern Baptist chaplains, and authorized new church loan options during its Feb. 7 meeting.

Holmes has worked for the Texas department of criminal justice nine years, most recently in Huntsville, Texas. His new responsibility, effective March 1, will be educating Southern Baptists about ministry opportunities in prison systems. He is the first African American to join the chaplaincy division staff. □

Baptisms independent of church size, location

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Leadership, training, and vision influence a church's baptism rates more than its size or location, Home Mission Board officials said recently.

Churches with high baptism rates are found in all locations, said Steve Whitten, director of the HMB's research department. A church's size and location are factors, but they "need not determine a church's evangelistic effectiveness."

A 1991 study of 1,000 churches found those with a large number of baptisms have several common characteristics: a pastor committed to frequent personal witnessing, witness training for laypeople of all ages, a variety of evangelistic methods, a vision for growth, and a method to identify and visit evangelistic prospects. □

Broadcasters hear Shelby County pastor

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Adrian Rogers emphasized the importance of truth in the broadcaster's life in his keynote address opening the National Religious Broadcasters annual meeting Feb. 11-14 in Nashville.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in Shelby County Association, and a former Southern Baptist Convention president, noted several points about truth:

"It is better to be divided by truth than united in error; it is better to speak truth that hurts and then heals than to speak a lie; it is better to be hated for telling the truth than to be loved for telling a lie; it is better to stand alone with truth than to be wrong with the multitude."

He went on to say the Bible is the precept of truth. □

Summer missions deadline is March 10

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — March 10 is the deadline for volunteer applications to be a Sojourner or student summer missionary with the Home Mission Board.

The Sojourner program is for high school students who have completed their junior or senior year. Sojourners work as volunteers six to 10 weeks in full-time home missions service. Food and housing are provided.

The student summer missions program is for college students who serve 10 weeks in full-time summer missions work. Housing and food are provided for student summer missionaries, who also receive assistance with transportation to and from their assignment and a \$600 stipend.

For more information about these opportunities, call 1 (800) HMB-VOLS. □

Movement afoot to protect parents rights

Baptist Press

— ARLINGTON, Va. — A movement to protect parents' rights to raise their children from government encroachment is working to achieve its aims by amending state constitutions.

The proposed Parental Rights Amendment simply states: "The right of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children shall not be infringed. The legislature shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article."

An organization in Arlington, Va., called "Of the People" is promoting the amendment and has won sponsors in 21 state legislatures.

Greg Erken, executive director of the organization, said the amendment is designed to protect the rights of parents in education, health and family integrity in the face of governmental encroachments on such matters as abortion, condom distribution, public school curriculums, and homework. □

Missouri college taps Burt as president

Baptist Press

HANNIBAL, Mo. — Woodrow Burt has been named the 16th president of Hannibal-LaGrange College here.

Burt, 48, has been interim president of the Missouri Baptist school since the retirement of Paul Brown last June. □

Prayer pilgrimage

Tennessee Baptist Katherine Fortner of Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, in photo to right, and Bradley Bean, a former missionary to Panama, stand before praying together for missions needs in Panama. Fortner and Bean, now a pastor in High Ridge, Mo., were among 17 Southern Baptists who participated in a recent 'prayer pilgrimage' to Central America. The trip was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, where Fortner serves as a trustee. Below, the 'prayer pilgrims' pray for missionaries John Bayer, left, of Clinton, Ark.; Bob Hensley, center, back to camera, of Asheville, N.C.; and Mary Mangrum, right, print blouse, from Nashville. The group's work during the pilgrimage included 'prayer walks,' praying with eyes open while walking through public places and streets. — Photos by Keith Morris

