

Baptist and Reflector

March 1, 1995

VOL. 161 ■ NO. 9

STATEWIDE EDITION

■ *this week's news*

national —

- SBC leaders oppose Foster nomination. — Page 2
- SBC president seeks nominations. — Page 2
- Baylor University names new president. — Page 4

state —

- State lottery vote delayed. — Page 3
- Russian family seeks freedom. — Page 6
- East Tennessee association helps poor — Page 7

SBC committee adopts restructuring plan FMB, HMB given new names, some agencies eliminated

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Calling it a "Covenant for a New Century," the committee assigned to study the program and structure of the Southern Baptist Convention presented a plan Feb. 20 that will redefine how Southern Baptists operate.

The proposed plan, adopted by the SBC Executive Committee during its Feb. 20-22 meeting, will trim the number of SBC entities from 19 to 12. The plan must be approved by messengers at both the 1995 and 1996 SBC annual meetings in Atlanta and New Orleans, respectively.

The recommendation was discussed briefly. One board member, Blaine Barber, a Petoskey, Mich., pastor, said he felt the committee needed more time to examine the plan before voting. The board re-

ceived the report on Monday evening, Feb. 20, and had only one day for review. An attempt to delay the matter until the committee's September meeting failed. The recommendation was approved 64-3.

The study committee was formed in the fall of 1993. Executive Committee Chairman Fred Wolfe acted on a referral from the 1993 SBC annual meeting. A motion was made by C.B. Hogue, now retired California Baptist State Convention executive director, asking the SBC president to appoint a seven-member study committee to "study the program statements of SBC agencies and institutions, and evaluate existing structures which are required to effectively implement such programs."

In presenting the unanimous report from the seven-member committee, chairman Mark Brister of Shreveport,

La., said the committee looked closely at the question, "Why do we have a Southern Baptist Convention?"

Their answer, after "hundreds" of hours of work, resulted in the following mission statement for the SBC: "The Southern Baptist Convention exists to facilitate, extend, and enlarge the Great Commission ministries of Southern Baptist churches, under the Lordship of Christ, upon the authority of Holy Scripture, and by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit."

Out of that statement emerged five basic ministries, Brister said. Those ministries and corresponding entities are:

World Missions Ministries — International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, and a Great Commission Council, comprised of representatives from both boards as a coordinating body

Church Enrichment Ministries — Sunday School Board

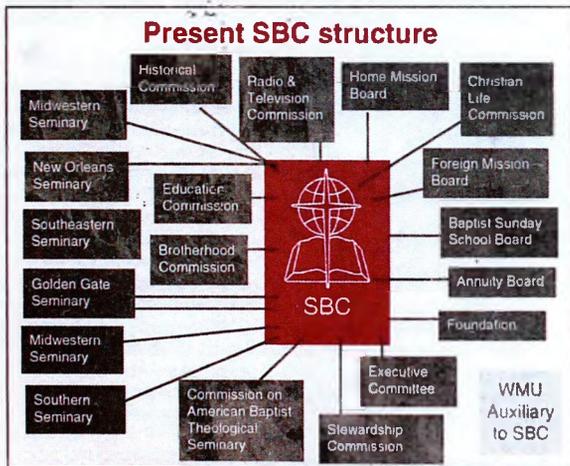
Christian Ethics and Religious Liberty Ministries — Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission

Theological Education Ministries — Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Facilitating Ministries — Annuity Board, Executive Committee

The changes have caused the elimination or merger of some agencies and name changes for two others. Some of the agencies eliminated have been in Southern Baptist life for 80 years or more.

— See SBC, page 2



Viewpoints, interpretation:

A new look proposed to prepare for new day

Those who heard firsthand the Program and Structure Study Committee report Feb. 20 may have felt as if an earthquake tremor had shaken the structure of the Southern Baptist Convention.

When the fallout began to settle, observers admitted some restructuring was overdue. But C.B. Hogue, retired California executive director who made the motion for the study last June, responded, "I didn't expect anything as far reaching as this."

He was speaking of Executive Committee action which reshaped the SBC organizational chart from 19 entities down to 12.

"I didn't know the full extent of the outcome," Hogue said. "I simply felt we needed a thorough study of how we do our work."

"I am surprised at the extent in some ways — and some are sweeping. Obviously some changes needed to be made. I can see the influence of laity throughout in the report. In

the long view, I can see that some people can be hurt and I am sorry about that."

Of those entities most affected by the restructuring, Lynn May Jr., executive director of the Historical Commission (which would be eliminated), was most outspoken.

He decried the "secrecy" of the committee and expressed concern for the ongoing task of the commission. He said he could not support "a recommendation for dismantling the Historical Commission."

Understandably the element of surprise caused some Baptists to call for time to study the proposed restructuring, just as the committee did.

All six Tennessee Baptist members of the Executive Committee applauded and approved the action. Bob Sorrell, Memphis, was a member of the study committee and affirmed the many hours of prayer, study, and discussion.

He believes the proposal can initiate "a most strategic — See A new look, page 3

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 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400
NASHVILLE TN 37203

SBC committee adopts restructuring plan ...

— Continued from page 1

Those to be eliminated, all currently headquartered at the SBC building in Nashville, are the Education Commission (1915), Stewardship Commission (1960), Historical Commission (1951), Southern Baptist Foundation (1947), and the Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary (1913). Some of those agencies' duties will be absorbed by other entities. The ABTS Commission, which relates to American Baptist College, a school for the training of African-American ministerial students, recently recommended on its own to disband, giving control of the institution to the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.

Agencies combined

Three agencies — Home Mission Board, Atlanta; Brotherhood Commission, Memphis; and Radio-Television Commission, Fort Worth, Texas — will merge to form one agency, the North American Mission Board. The new board will be housed in the new building under construction for the Home Mission Board in Atlanta. It will consist of three major divisions: North American Evangelization, Mission Technologies and Communications, and Mission Volunteers and Education. The new agency will be led by a president with the three divisions headed by a vice president/chief operating

officer. Its major assignment is reaching North America for Christ, "using every appropriate means of evangelization and church planting."

Receiving name changes are the Foreign Mission Board and the Christian Life Commission. The FMB will become the International Mission Board and will continue to be housed in Richmond, Va. The board's focus will continue to be on missions advance outside North America, the committee said. The name was changed because the word "foreign" can have negative connotations, committee members said.

While the CLC will be known as the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, with offices in Nashville and Washington, its assignment is virtually unchanged.

New assignments

Receiving new assignments as the result of eliminating some agencies will be the Baptist Sunday School Board (ministries to men and women, stewardship education, and capital fund raising), the SBC Executive Committee (duties of the Southern Baptist Foundation and Cooperative Program promotion), and the six Baptist seminaries (operation of the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives).

The Annuity Board remains in place with basically the same assignment as before.

Woman's Missionary Union

will remain as an auxiliary to the SBC at their choice, according to Brister. The committee, however, assigned the responsibility for promotion of Southern Baptists' two missions offerings — Lottie Moon (Christmas) and Annie Armstrong (Easter) to the International Mission Board and North American Mission Board, respectively. Previously, WMU has had the responsibility for promoting the missions offerings. The two boards also would have primary responsibility for missions education.

During a press conference Feb. 21 Brister emphasized the two mission boards would be free to work with any entity including WMU in promoting the offerings. In another press conference both Jerry Rankin, FMB president, and Larry Lewis, HMB president, praised WMU for their support in the past and said they anticipate no changes in their relationships.

WMU Executive Director Dellana O'Brien said WMU would "feel threatened" by having program assignments "stripped from us" were it not for "two good friends in the Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board. We have no concern immediately," she said.

In a written report, presented in *SBC Life*, a publication of the SBC Executive Committee, and distributed after Brister spoke and a video presentation, the committee noted, "We believe that our focus should no longer be on program assignments, but on ministry assignments. ...

"The goal is the fulfillment of ministry — not the accomplishment of mere programs.

"Thus, the structures of the Southern Baptist Convention should minister to the churches and facilitate the mission and ministries of those churches. The structures should emerge out of the mission — never should the mission be conformed to structures."

While these actions were designed to streamline the work of the convention and make it more efficient and cost-saving, the committee could not give a

dollar figure on how much would eventually be saved through the changes.

Implementation of the plan will begin when and if the report is adopted by messengers to the 1995 meeting in Atlanta. The committee plans to have the new ministries in place by June 14, 1999. The process will be slow, committee members said, noting legal processes must take place. The Executive Committee has the assignment of overseeing implementation of the new structure.

The committee's proposal is the most massive restructuring of the SBC in almost 80 years.

Serving on the committee in addition to Brister were: R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Ronnie W. Floyd, pastor, First Church, Springdale, Ark.; Bill Hall, financial strategist, San Clemente, Calif.; W. Gregory Horton, businessman, Simpsonville, S.C.; Bob Sorrell, associate pastor, Bellevue Church, Cordova; and Rex Terry, attorney, Fort Smith, Ark.

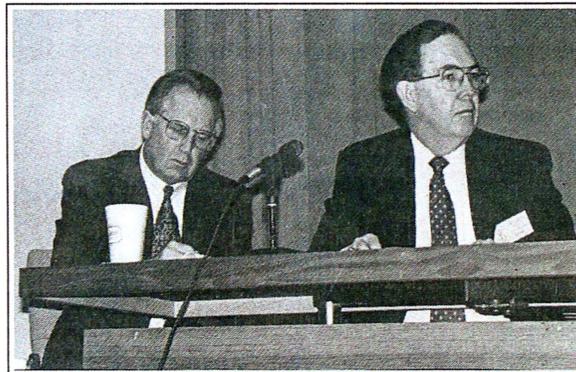
In other business Executive Committee members:

- Adopted the 1995-96 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget of \$141,629,127, a 3.7 percent increase over the current budget. The budget sets a record and provides each agency with varying increases.

- Named David Wood, Washington, D.C.; Gene Takaki, Haleiwa, Hawaii; Dan Barkdull, Laurel, Md.; Tommy Donham, Albuquerque, N.M.; and Robert Moon, Lander, Wyo., to fill vacancies on the 1994-95 SBC Committee on Nominations.

- Approved charter changes for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

- Affirmed Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in a resolution. The committee pledged to pray for the seminary and pledged "its full, enthusiastic support for (Southwestern), its president, and its commitment to maintain itself as a genuinely evangelical seminary no matter what the cost." □



BOB SORRELL, left, associate pastor of Bellevue Church, Cordova, and **Bob Hall**, a layman from San Clemente, Calif., listen during a press conference held by the Program Structure and Study Committee Feb. 21 for Baptist state paper editors. The committee answered questions about the most extensive restructuring of the convention in its 150-year-old history.

SBC leaders oppose Foster nomination

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Announcing "vigorous opposition" to the nomination of Henry Foster as surgeon general, Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said he "did not come to this decision lightly or without deep regret."

Flanked in a Feb. 22 news conference by SBC President Jim Henry and Executive Committee President Morris Chap-

man, Land extolled Foster as a man with "obvious talent and personal fortitude" who conquered the "formidable barrier of racial prejudice" in America.

Land does not agree with Foster's "prescription for addressing the problems which face our nation," noting "any doctor who is willing to deny the Hippocratic Oath and extinguish human life, rather than protect it, is an individual whose moral vision for America is fatally flawed." □

SBC president seeks nominations

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry has set a mid-March deadline for accepting recommendations for nominations to SBC committees on resolutions, tellers, committees, and credentials. He encourages individuals in Southern Baptist churches to "be a part of this opportunity for direct input in the appointive

process."

Special forms for the recommendation process may be secured by writing: Dr. Jim Henry, SBC President, First Baptist Church, 3701 L.B. McLeod Road, Orlando, Fla. 32805.

When requesting forms, write "form" on the outside of the envelope to facilitate handling, said Wayne Johnson, assistant pastor/media. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
- Subscribe to the *Baptist and Reflector* for one year and receive 51 copies. Family or individual subscription — \$7.50, clubs of 10 or more subscriptions — \$7.25, church (more than 50 percent of families) — \$6.50. Send check/money order to address listed below.
- To contribute a news item, call or write Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen; or either Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor; or Connie Davis, assistant editor.
- To advertise — Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor or editor.
- For billing and subscription list questions — Betty Williams, bookkeeper
- For information about trial subscription plan for church or association edition — Lonnie Wilkey, Connie Davis, or Susie Edwards, administrative secretary
- For information about local church edition — The Editor, or Mary Nimmo, church pages coordinator
- For production answers — Donna M. 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 Walkins, 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

A new look proposed to prepare for new day

— Continued from page 1
and concentrated effort to reach our nation and the world for Christ."

During Monday night's premiere presentation of the committee's recommendation and again on Tuesday night when it was presented for discussion, the gallery audience paid rapt attention.

The study and resulting report was one of Southern Baptists' best-kept secrets. Committee chairman Brister affirmed that Fred Wolfe, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, and SBC president Jim Henry, met with the committee in January for a preview of the final report.

Several open press conferences were held Tuesday as the committee met with representatives of state Baptist papers, state convention executives, and several agencies.

A conference was scheduled for secular news media personnel, but none attended.

In another news conference, James Williams, Brotherhood; Jack Johnson, Radio/TV; Larry Lewis, HMB; Dellanna O'Brien, WMU; Jerry Rankin, FMB; Steve Carleton, Education; Ron Chandler, Stewardship, fielded questions from state paper staff members.

Lynn May, Historical Commission, submitted his written statement.

O'Brien pointed out that WMU had never benefited from the two major missions

offerings even though WMU started them and had promoted them from inception.

"We have considered ourselves full partners in the missions team along with the mission boards and Brotherhood Commission and anticipate that cooperative relationship in the future," she said.

Carleton expressed a deep concern that "the 51 Southern Baptist-related colleges have no place in the national ministry strategies of the new Southern Baptist Convention."

He also stressed that, "While they may no longer feel a part of the national structure, they can all take comfort because of their place in the hearts of the people called Southern Baptists who founded them and continue to support them."

Lewis said he has some questions about the committee's recommendations, but commended the members "for their hard work and the sense of mission with which they went about their task...I look forward to understanding better the details and ramifications of the recommendations."

Jimmy Draper, Sunday School Board president, said he applauds the committee's "attempt to structure the SBC for the challenges of the 21st century." He said he favors the report and believes the board can do what the report asks.

Williams, Johnson, Chandler, and Rankin agreed some

of the changes were unexpected, but stand ready to give full cooperation. Rankin and Johnson said the report offers some exciting options.

Williams said he was "completely surprised by the recommendation to dissolve the Brotherhood Commission as an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention." He added that he was gratified that significant emphasis was placed on volunteerism and missions education.

Both Williams and Johnson said they look forward to working with Lewis and the HMB.

When he addressed the Executive Committee on the opening night of the three-day meeting, Henry said, "No birth or change comes without pain in becoming what God wants

to be.

"We must continue seeking excellence. It is time for action. Our biggest jump must start with one step."

He said problems come when "we place our security [organization] in one thing. We must be willing to change. Refusal to change will lead to death."

Henry also said the SBC must continue building "our family." He said "we sometimes have less understanding with each other than with others. We must practice understanding. Talking and listening to each other will build understanding."

When the Executive Committee voted on the recommendations, questions were allowed from the gallery.

When the vote was taken,

one Executive Committee member asked that the matter be tabled until September to allow more time for discussion. Ronnie Floyd, study committee member, urged that the motion be defeated, reasoning too much time would be lost as it was discussed at large.

The motion was defeated easily as was a motion calling for a secret ballot. — Wm. Fletcher Allen

Vote on lottery unlikely til April

The Tennessee state Senate, by 27-6, delayed at least until April 10 a vote calling for a constitutional convention on a lottery and other gambling measures.

Bill Bates, the Tennessee Baptist Convention's legislative and public affairs representative, said it is unlikely a vote on a constitutional convention that would allow gambling could come before the April date.

He also said that other measures dealing with gambling could be introduced.

The state constitution of 1834 is hard to amend. It could be done through a constitutional convention, the shorter route of two years, or by a direct vote by two consecutive legislatures — which takes about four years.

Both are difficult, but not impossible, says Bates, saying he will keep Baptists aware.



EDWARD R. FUTRELL, right, pastor of Southside Church, Johnson City, congratulates James and Sue Denny. The church commissioned the Dennys Feb. 19 in multiple housing ministry, Johnson City, a pioneer tentmaker work. James Denny was ordained by the church. The speaker was Wm. Fletcher Allen.

Tennessee Executive Board members support reorganizational plan

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — All of Tennessee's six members of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Board favor the massive restructuring plan adopted by the committee at its Feb. 20-22 meeting here.

The Program and Structure Study Committee presented the first major overhaul of the convention since around 1955 with the Branch Report and the most extensive since 1913 when the Efficiency Committee issued its report. The SBC is observing its 150th anniversary this year.

Following are statements from the six members including one (Bob Sorrell) who served on the Program and Restructuring Study Committee.

"With the overwhelming approval of the Executive Committee of the proposal, 'Covenant for a New Century,' by the Program and Structure Study Committee, Southern Baptists launched the process for what I believe could be a most strategic and concentrated effort to reach our nation and the world for Christ.

"Our committee's work, for almost two years, has been dedicated to the focus presented in the Mission Statement. Our work has not been simply a reorganization but a refocus upon the

ministries which we believe God has given to the great family of Southern Baptist churches. The whole plan is designed to assist and extend the church, and I believe that is evident as the details of the proposal are examined. ...

"I am excited about the whole proposal, and particularly about the North American Mission Board and its linkage with the International Mission Board, which would be accomplished by the Great Commission Council. ...

"I certainly hope the growing appreciation for the study committee's work that I witnessed in Nashville will be evidenced throughout the convention, culminating in June of this year.

R.L. "Bob" Sorrell, associate pastor
Bellevue Church, Cordova

"The report stresses that the SBC is to serve the churches to help them in their missions work. Reducing the number of organizations from 19 to 12 streamlines the organization and makes it more efficient and cost effective. I believe that most Southern Baptists who read the report will enthusiastically support it."

Douglas Dutton, layman
Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville

"I am pleased and excited about the 'Covenant for a New Century.' I am

convinced it's approval and implementation will enable us to be more prepared to carry out the Great Commission in the next century."

Hollie Miller, pastor
Sevier Heights Church, Knoxville

"I believe these kinds of changes in the structure of the SBC are long overdue. I am excited about the focus this new plan will bring to Southern Baptist work around the world. The Program and Structure Study Committee performed an excellent and exhaustive work.

"I know some of these changes result in the termination of some agencies which bring sadness to us all. Yet, I am firmly convinced that in the days ahead this new structure will enable our Kingdom efforts to be far more streamlined and effective."

David Atchison, layman
Grace Community Church, Nashville

"Re-engineering is a buzz word in the minds of business people today. Southern Baptists are involved in the greatest business there could be. The Executive Committee's recommendation represents many hours of prayer and was researched by very capable Southern Baptists. The last time we examined ourselves was 50 years ago. With these consolidations I believe

this will move us and make us more efficient in the use of our mission money, personnel, and calling. I believe it is a great plan."

John Wallace, layman
First Church, Morristown

"Two years ago at the SBC in Houston, the convention was asked to name a committee to look at the structure of our convention to see if there was a more efficient and cost effective way to carry out the Great Commission.

"So a committee was named that consisted of seven of possibly the keenest minds of our convention. These men brought us a recommendation after two years of prayerful study. I must admit this recommendation overwhelmed me, as it did many Southern Baptists. But after looking at their proposals, I'm thoroughly convinced that their insight in streamlining our institutions will help us stretch our dollars and more effectively minister in the 21st century.

"Yes, change is hard, but the hard things are what benefit us most. Most of the time, the easy is insignificant.

"So, I support wholeheartedly the recommendation of this committee and hopefully Southern Baptists will, as well.

Doug Westmoreland, pastor
Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville

■ 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. □

Thanks for support

On April 30, or shortly thereafter, Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Atwood, director of missions of Loudon County Association — and my parents-in-law, will begin retirement. This milestone comes after almost 50 years serving the Lord, the last 12 of which have been in beautiful Tennessee.

As a pastor and father-in-law, Rev. Atwood has been a model to me in the early years of my ministry. He has excelled and exemplified the ideal in leading his association as they have touched the world with Christ's love.

The Atwoods have been unwavering supporters during our 17 years as foreign missionaries, and have given their children and grandchildren to the Lord in sacrificial ways beyond the experience of most. Although we are unable to be with them during this important time of accomplishment and transition, we do wish to join with many Tennessee Baptists in expressing our deep love and appreciation for two of God's best.

"God bless you, Mom and Dad Atwood! May retirement days be filled with His grace and goodness!"

Al and Karen Atwood Hodges and family
Mission Baptiste, SBC an Senegal
B.P. 8417 YOFF
Dakar, Senegal

Rebuild trust

We are SBC FMB representatives in an Asian country. We have followed with dismay the continuing disintegration of trust and cooperation that continues to afflict our national as well as state conventions. On the other hand, we applaud the decisions of Texas and Virginia Baptists, in their effort to rebuild cooperation by redefining the Cooperative Program. We believe their new giving plans are more equitable for and inclusive of all Baptists along the whole political and

theological spectrum found among equally committed Southern Baptists.

Specifically, we are grieved at the decision at the SBC convention last June to refuse to accept money channeled through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. To do so at a time when budgets on the field are being limited is sad. Have Southern Baptists changed from defining cooperation as voluntary to something that is only done in complete conformity? Beyond that, we are grieved about the grossly inaccurate characterization of CBF's theological beliefs.

A double standard has been evident in giving and especially in recent months with the emergence of two conservative fellowships in Texas and Virginia. These fellowships have stated their intention to move seriously toward forming a "competing" convention in each of these states. We have yet to hear these leaders, who so seriously decry CBF's competition, speak out against the formation of the two new groups. Again, these groups have a right to form. But where is the consistency and justice in such a double standard?

Ultimately, all of us as Southern Baptists must rise above this incrimination of others.

■ **Baptist beliefs**
By *Herschel H. Hobbs*,
Baptist theologian

Temptation

"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone." — James 1:13 (KJV)

To say, "The devil made me do it" is a "cop out." To say that God made you do it is even worse. For God tempts no one to sin. My former teacher, W. Hersey Davis, defined sin as "an illegitimate expression of a legitimate desire." For instance, sex is a legitimate desire to be used as God wills. "Illegitimate expression" is to use it according to the devil's will, such as extramarital sex.

James 1:14 says, "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away (out of a place of safety) by his own (legitimate) desires and enticed" or "baited on a hook." James uses fishing language. Satan knows which bait will catch you. In God's will you are like a fish safe under the creek bank. But Satan keeps throwing bait at you until you strike and are caught on Satan's hook. You think in striking you have your dinner, but you have become his dinner. Satan promises so much but gives so little or nothing (James 1:15).

God's mission to this lost world requires the full commitment of each of us. Therefore, we encourage everyone to give much more sacrificially to the furthering of the Lord's kingdom whether it be through traditional SBC channels or through CBF channels. May the Lord help us all to rebuild this mutual trust and cooperation.

S. Kent and Erika Parks
SBC FMB Representatives in Asia

Now hear this

From the time when as a teenager I first became involved in an evangelical ministry to teenagers (Young Life), I have been aware that there were sincere, faithful Christian people whose history, experiences, theology, and ethics were not identical to mine I continue to be fascinated, inspired, challenged at times by Christians outside the Baptist family of faith. It is from people who are different than me that I am able to learn. Cross fertilization of ideas is essential to healthy Christianity. Inbreeding and isolationism can create a dysfunctional family of faith.

Southern Baptists are big enough that, in many ways, we sometimes don't seem to need other Christians. If a program or a project is desired or deemed worthwhile, we build it ourselves. I contend we do need the wisdom of Christians who practice their faith in different ways than we do and that they need us.

I would like to hear from Southern Baptists who are interested in this task of working

across denominational boundaries in order that we can learn from and benefit from one another. Your particular interest may be as local as the neighborhood churches sponsoring the Easter sunrise service or it may be broader and more far-reaching. Please write and let me know of your concern.

Please send me a brief note or letter with your name, address, the name of the Baptist church where you are a member, and the type of ecumenical activity in which you have been involved or in which you are interested.

Marion Aldridge
Greenlawn Baptist Church
6612 Garners Ferry Rd
Columbia, S.C. 29209

Mailing good news

After I signed up for the "Here's Hope" witnessing program in our church, I became ill and the doctor put me on antibiotics for two weeks.

I wanted to work out some way to help in "Here's Hope." I'm 86 years old and don't drive any more. My pastor, David Ray, made several suggestions in the church newsletter.

When he mentioned tracts, I thought "that's it." I can mail out tracts and place them in so many places. I had some, but I ordered some more. I'm on my second book of stamps and I've enjoyed every minute of it.

I have been blessed so much and if I can help lead one soul to Christ, it will be worth it all.

Velma Bowman
Parrons, 38363

Baylor names president

For Baptist and Reflector

WACO, Texas — The Baylor University Board of Regents has elected Robert B. Sloan, dean, George W. Truett Theological Seminary, to serve as the next president of the university. Sloan succeeds current Baylor president Herbert H. Reynolds, who earlier announced his retirement effective May 31, when he becomes Baylor Chancellor.

Regents rejected Thomas Corts, president, Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., when his nomination fell short of a required majority.

Sloan also is professor of religion and George W. Truett professor of evangelism at the seminary. He will assume presidency of the 12,000-student school on June 1.

Sloan also has taught at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. □

Tragedy strikes convention family

Tragedy hit the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board family as spouses of two TBC employees died within the same week.

On Feb. 20 Jim Hayner, 55, husband of Carole Hayner, secretary in the executive office, died after a sudden illness. Services for Hayner were Feb. 23 at Judson Church, Nashville. He is also survived by two sons.

On Feb. 22 Ruth Ruble, 63, wife of TBC Sunday School Department Director Greer Ruble, died in a Knoxville hospital after becoming ill while traveling in East Tennessee with her husband. They have two children.

A memorial service was held Feb. 25 at Judson Church, Nashville. Interment was held Feb. 26 at the cemetery of Shellsford Church, McMinnville. □

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests



March

- 1 — Pray for the Billy Graham campaign that will be televised by satellite March 16-18 in Poland and for the second church started in Wroclaw with Miroslaw Patalon as pastor.
- 2 — Pray for the start of a Native Indian congregation in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and for Greg McKenzie who will give leadership to that work.
- 3 — Pray for Jim and Melissa Bullis as they minister to many handicapped people at Ridgecrest Church in Hamilton, Ontario, and for the Bullis' health as they near retirement.
- 4 — Pray for the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists' staff meeting this month for all office and field staff.
- 5 — Pray for the new counseling ministry in Macomb Association in Michigan and these churches without a pastor — Beaconsfield, Gracemont, Dequindre Road
- 6 — Pray for new work starts in Sterling Heights and Chateau Macomb Mobile Home Park in Macomb Association.
- 7 — Pray for Here's Hope revivals in the churches.

Sweeping changes suggested for Baptists

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

A simple motion by a messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June 1993 has resulted in action that could result in the greatest re-organizational upheaval in the convention's history.

The first steps in major restructuring were taken by the SBC's Executive Committee February 21.

The committee approved by a 64-3 vote measures that could eventually reshape the identity of Southern Baptists.

C.B. Hogue, then executive director of the California Baptist Convention, made a motion at the SBC meeting in 1993 that the SBC president appoint a seven-member committee "to study the program statements of SBC agencies and institutions, and evaluate existing structures which are required to effectively implement such programs."

Study and evaluate are key words. The seven-member committee presented to the Executive Committee on February 20 its report, with recommendations for restructuring.

The next evening, barely 24 hours after the presentation, the Executive Committee discussed the report for 32 minutes and gave overwhelming approval.

If approved by a simple majority of convention messengers at the June 20-22 session in Atlanta, the report will be presented for final approval at the June 1996 session in New Orleans. The SBC overhauling process would begin in earnest if that vote is positive.

A tremendous amount of explaining and interpretation must be done, beginning now. If messengers are to vote with intelligence and understanding, knowing all the implications of change, the intervening time must be spent in examining the report for easy consumption.

The Program and Structure Study Committee, headed by Mark Brister, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Shreveport, Louisiana, was named by Fred Wolfe, Executive Committee chairman, after the motion was referred. The seven-man team was unanimous in its recommendation. The report was enthusiastically received by Wolfe, SBC President Jim Henry, and Executive Committee President Morris Chapman.

A major portion of the committee's report recommends vast changes in personnel and program statements of the 19 SBC entities, and whittles that number down to 12. Both numbers include the six seminaries. Some boards and agencies would be combined under new umbrellas, and some would be eliminated. Others would be reassigned.

The committee's report is worthy of thorough scrutiny. On the surface it has a refreshing smell of change. It seems to embody some needed downsizing.

A report so challenging and impacting deserves study in a positive attitude. However, while streamlining can be innovative and constructive, and used to eliminate unwieldy bureaucracy, the sturdy old steam engine will always be needed as a dependable delivery system. *Don't throw out the baby with the bath water.*

The study committee also developed a mission statement, calling the report a "Covenant for a New Century."

The definitive statement in the preamble to the 1845 Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention says the meeting in Augusta was "for the purpose of carrying into effect the benevolent intentions of our constituents, by organizing a plan for eliciting, combining, and

directing the energies of the whole denomination in one sacred effort for the propagation of the Gospel." Then messengers quickly developed an all-encompassing missions statement to serve "the Redeemer's kingdom."

Before June there is time for calm study and discussion. Any idea meriting consideration should not fear open discussion, suggestions, and examination.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention is ahead of the committee, having begun a restructuring process that involves everyone, promising to produce a more sensitive and efficient organization. In Tennessee, WMU is affirmed, and is alive and healthy.

So we are not afraid of change. Southern Baptist heritage is doctrinally sound, sturdy, and Bible-based. While present structures can be honed, the basic foundation is solid.

The study committee no doubt worked hard to produce a commendable report. It is important that the Executive Committee realize that state conventions and associations carry the load in Cooperative Program giving. To be supportive, they must be substantial partners in such decisions and restructuring.

In upcoming issues, Tennessee Baptists are urged to express their views. That is the Baptist way, and results in better understanding and cooperation.

Speak up, express yourself. All Baptists have a right to the process. Good ideas can bear examination. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Death be not proud; faith is the victory

In 1609, English poet John Donne began a long series of verses called Holy Sonnets. He wrote about death. Four lines, when paraphrased, read thus:

"Death be not proud, though some have called thee mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so; for, those whom thou thinkest thou dost overthrow, die not, poor death, nor yet canst thou kill me."

Fifteen years later, Donne wrote the classic "A Sermon Upon Emergent Occasions." He again addressed death. Part of that masterpiece is familiar to many:

"Any man's death diminishes me, be-

cause I am involved in all Mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

Death visited twice in the TBC Executive Board staff family last week.

We join with many others in prayer and in giving sympathetic love to Carole Hayner, executive office, in the loss of her husband Jim; and to Greer Ruble, Sunday School department director, in the loss of his wife Ruth.

As Donne wrote, death has no reason to be proud — *they did not die*. And certainly their upward move diminishes us. □

Decision-making often difficult process for many people

Many times we know we have a decision to make, but we procrastinate because we do not like to make decisions. At times this will not cost us much, but sometimes it could be catastrophic.

For example, for only one day, I delayed a decision to re-finance our house. We lost nearly \$10,000 because I was not able to make the decision.

Pilots are required to go through a rigorous pre-flight checkup before each flight no matter how many times they have flown, even in the same airplane. I try to teach my clients the importance of going through a certain routine in making decisions.

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor

METER is defined as a verb to mean to measure or assess something. The word can be an acronym to help remind us of a good decision-making process.

We first must be willing to MEET the challenge. To begin the process, I first must be willing to accept the confrontation. To do otherwise leads to procrastination and denial. It is not as important when deciding which shirt or skirt to wear or which cereal to eat for breakfast, but could be disastrous when trying to decide on a vocation or mate

for life.

ESTIMATE the alternatives. Failing to do our best here limits the eventual choices. We sometimes over-

look the obvious. Anxiety and stress have a way of blinding us. It requires real effort to look at all the choices.

TEST the alternatives. Each alternative has its own set of rewards or consequences. To make an informed decision, we must be aware of as many of these as possible. The most reliable way to test alternatives is by the Word of God. Many costly mistakes have been avoided as we check the operator's manual for life.

EXPRESS commitment.

This is the watershed of the process, where we either "putt or get off the green." Some fear this because of the uncertainty of the outcome. This risk factor has caused many to balk and lose an opportunity.



BARKLEY

The final step in the decision-making process is RESPOND to the decision. Some people are able to make the cognitive decision, but can't effectively follow through on the action.

The follow through is as important in decision-making as in golf or baseball.

Now, METER your choices. Meet the challenge, estimate and test the alternatives. Express your commitment. And respond to your choice. □

Of kindred spirits

Many years ago, about 100 years to be more precise, editors of Baptist state papers banded together as a fledgling organization.

We credit E.E. Folk, who became editor of the *Baptist and Reflector* in 1889, with the original idea. Sometime around 1892 to 1895, Folk began work on bringing the idea to reality. Others responded.

Bill Junker, retired from the Home Mission Board, is writing a history of that reality, the Southern Baptist Press Association. He was commissioned by the SBPA, which by the way, is alive and well, with almost 40 member Baptist papers, kindred spirits.

We met in Asheville, N. C., in mid-February for the annual meeting. The mountain city area is an appropriate place for such a group, since it was the sometime home of two great American writers, Carl Sandburg and Thomas Wolfe.

Such a setting is good for fellowship, study, "home improvement," and association business.

Contrary to some speculation, the editors group does not discuss politics at the meetings, except obliquely.

We asked Jack Brymer, former editor of the *Florida Baptist Witness*, to lead us on a spiritual pilgrimage. In three sessions, he developed a powerful theme involving our calling, our profession, our ministry. And he did it well.

The most compelling thought I gained was simple but profound: If my cause is not worth dying for, I probably won't make a difference.

I thought about that, and questioned my personal status. Have I scoffed at someone who was doing something which I should be doing? Have I been tied too much to common things when Christ calls me to the uncommon? Is my cause worth dying for? Is yours? The answers are important.

Martin and Mabel England, retired American Baptist missionaries, when learning of the starvation of thousands in a small African country, sold their home and gave the money for hunger relief.

I call that uncommon, and definitely Christlike. Even in their retirement, they found something worth dying for.

Kindred spirits can uphold each other. We know Christianity cannot serve humanity if it is diluted, watered down. Be pure, strong in the Lord! □

Russian family seeks freedom from persecution in republic

JOHNSON CITY — The Timofeevs have found a home in East Tennessee — and religious freedom.

The family, Stanislav "Stass," Galina, Max, 12, and Oleg, 7, are natives of Kazakhstan, one of the Asian republics of the former Soviet Union. But they are glad to be in the United States. Several years ago they realized they must leave their home to escape religious and ethnic persecution.

A previous generation of their families may have experienced similar persecution when they were deported by the Soviet government from their homes in Russia to Kazakhstan to rule and settle the area. The difference now is that democracy has allowed Kazakhs — the natives — to re-emerge as leaders although they share with Russians an equal share of the population at 40 percent. And feelings against Russians, although most weren't officials or given privileges by the government, are now free to be expressed.

Stanislav Timofeev thought the changes introduced by Gorbachev to propose democracy were good. "We have an expression," said Timofeev. "Gorbachev released the genie from the bottle. But I respect him for this."

Yet Timofeev didn't realize the resulting nationalism in Kazakhstan would hurt his family, he said.

The problems for the Timofeevs began in 1986 when the country started flexing its democratic muscles. Residents rioted in the capital city of Almaty — the Timofeevs home — in reaction to the naming of a little-known Russian as Com-

unist Party chief. The international media reported about a thousand people were wounded when riot police dispersed the crowd. But Timofeev tells another aspect of the story. He said the rioters were mostly Kazakhs, who were terrorizing, beating, and killing Russians.

"Some of my friends (Russians) were killed," said Timofeev. Everyone who was Russian feared for his or her life, he added. One of the threats Timofeev heard was that the riot was just a rehearsal for a future uprising by Kazakhs.

Other republics had outbreaks of violence against Russians and began "kicking Russians out of their republics," said Timofeev. This occurred in the Baltic Republics and Uzbekistan, he said.

Then the Timofeevs were persecuted. Their apartment was searched by policemen. They said they were looking for "something against the government," said Timofeev. They confiscated five Bibles.

Timofeev explained the Bibles were precious because they are very rare in Kazakhstan. Bibles only can be attained "hand to hand," he said. They are never sold in stores.

Galina was the next to be affected. A violinist who currently plays with the Johnson City symphony orchestra, Galina was fired from her position as a public school music teacher because she invited students to perform at the Russian Baptist church. When the Timofeevs left, the church was the only Baptist congregation for Russians in the city of one million, said Timofeev.

Galina Timofeev explained she simply offered her stu-

dents the chance to perform, and they played at a Christmas program of the church of their own free will.

School officials were dumbfounded she would invite children to the Baptist church, said Stass. This kind of philosophy, he explained, is a holdover from the days when religion was considered an "opiate for the people." Thus, teachers were forbidden to be religious. For example, Stass' mother was a "believer," he said, but she never went to church because she was a school teacher.

Then the couple's sons were impacted by the nationalism and anti-Baptist sentiment, they reported.

Max was beaten by some Kazakh boys and then he was expelled from his school, which was college preparatory because he had high academic standing.

Max said he was told by school officials, "You're a Baptist and you're not supposed to go to schools like this and you have to go to a normal school."

The officials made the comments verbally, but never in written form so the family had no recourse but to move Max to the school which was recommended, one which was not college preparatory, said Stass.

"After a while I start to think, what must be in the future? Then I tried to find any place to live ... probably in Russia," he continued.

"Every day 20 families (Russian) flee from the city in any direction," said Timofeev.

They heard from Russian friends who migrated to the Russian republic whose families were forced to live in one-room apartments and carry

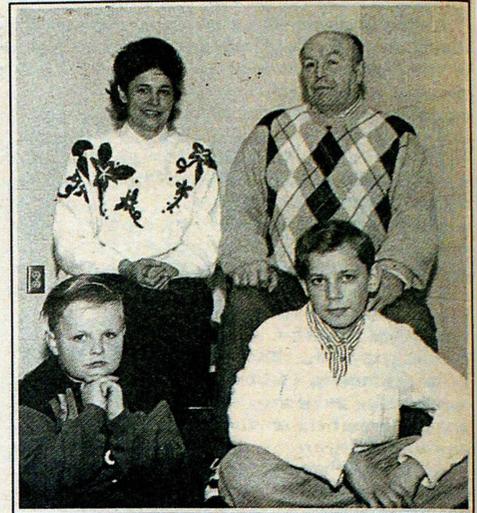
water a mile because they moved. Others were living in villages with refugees from Azerbaijan, he added.

Timofeev felt he must make a decision despite the fact he had many Kazakh friends. "It doesn't matter what the color of the skin. ... People are people," he said. But he felt he must consider his family.

After waiting for a visa to the United States for a year, Stass Timofeev and Max arrived in the U.S. in April 1993. A friend suggested he contact a professor at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City. The professor offered Timofeev a job translating some materials into German.

At the university he met Jim Miller, another professor, who invited Stass and Max to visit Southwestern Church with him.

Church members welcomed the father and son, helping them continue English studies begun in Kazakhstan, find employment and housing, and by providing for the family to be reunited, which Galina accomplished only by selling everything they owned except what she and Oleg could carry on the trip. The Timofeevs have



become active members of the church, reported Ann Lacey, a member.

The family is amazed at the opportunities in the U.S., said Stass. He has bought a car which takes the salary from "two lives" to buy in Kazakhstan. Galina is teaching violin lessons and the boys are enjoying school.

Now the family faces another struggle. Although they have applied for asylum in the U.S., they have been denied asylee status by the U.S. Immigration Service. They have reapplied and are being helped by a group of about 30 Baptists from area churches led by Roger Brown of Grace Fellowship Church, Johnson City, and Mark Eades, Central Church, Johnson City. Others helping them are their immigration attorney, H. Fred Ford of Nashville, and U.S. Congressman James H. Quillen.

"We hope they can stay," said Lacey. □ — Connie Davis

Teens can ministry through Christian Corresponders project

By James Humphreys Jr.
For Baptist and Reflector

Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to become Christian Corresponders, a project being promoted through the National Fellowship of Baptist Educators.

The activity is aimed at establishing a pen pal relationship between Chinese students enrolled in high school English classes and Christian students of about the same age in America.

This will afford many of the American students an opportunity to share their faith. Organizers of the project feel it can make a significant impact on the lives of Chinese young people who have grown up in a society that is officially athiest. Also it can promote spiritual growth and concern on the part of Southern Baptist young people as they participate.

Currently the National Fellowship of Baptist Educators (NFBE), sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, is seeking 100,000 Christian young people who will promise to answer at least one letter if they receive one written in English by a Chinese student.

After the first exchange of letters, it will be up to the two students involved to decide whether to continue the correspondence.

Requests for corresponders have come from teachers of English in China. They expect to promote the initial correspondence during their class letter-writing units. Similar opportunities might develop in Russia, Europe, Latin America, or wherever English is being taught in school.

Before the letters begin arriving from overseas, the NFBE will send some guideline leaflets to the youth or

adult contact person in each church to be given to the corresponders. The leaflets will include guidelines for making appropriate responses.

Names of youth interested should be sent to John Carter, national coordinator, NFBE, 2561 Rocky Ridge Road, Birmingham, Ala., 35243. For further information, sign-up sheets, etc., contact Carter at the above address (205) 822-



TENNESSEE ACTEENS from Eastview Church, Huntingdon, who will be Christian Corresponders are, from left, Bridget Rainey, Andrea Perry, Crystal Tucker, and Becky Pendergras. They are led by Patsy Crockett, right, Acteens director.

4106) or Debbie Pippin, Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis Tenn., 38104, (901) 272-2461. □

Hale Community Ministries helps poor

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

ELIZABETHTON —

The couple had been turned down for public housing in Elizabethton. Although they both had a terminal illness, were homeless and destitute, they couldn't be accepted because they weren't married. But they didn't even have enough money to buy a marriage license. And no other agency could help them, they were told.

Then an official at the housing authority remembered Hale Community Ministries and asked if it could help.

Soon a check was written for \$31.50 and the couple was meeting with Art Webb, pastoral counselor, Watauga Association, to plan their wedding.

This couple is one of some 200 families the ministry helps each month, said Becky Brumitt, director, Hale Community Ministries.

Begun almost two years ago by Watauga Association, the ministry has discovered great need in the association and little available help for those needs.

"We're the only agency of any kind in these two counties that does a regular food distribution to families," noted Bob Polk, director of missions, Watauga Association.

Watauga Baptists were surprised to discover this fact, but are responding in many ways to help.

The operation is based at the former Hale Memorial Chapel of First Church, Elizabethton, a small building among small homes snugly perched on the rolling hills of the city. Among the homes are the city's version of government-subsidized housing — rectangular brick duplexes clustered in two locations just blocks from the center.

The location was perfect for such a ministry, explained Polk, and the association found the building was unused. That was the first of many events which have led Watauga Baptists to believe the ministry is blessed by God.

The center is the location for many activities. One day a month is designated as clothes distribution day. Those who need clothes arrive, explained Brumitt, and by the end of the day the center has given out about 500 articles of clothing.

This is made possible by the work of many volunteers, noted Brumitt. The same is true for the monthly food distribution. Volunteers accompany Brumitt on trips to Second Harvest Food Bank, the non-profit agency which is the distribution center for free allocations from the United States Department of Agriculture. Youth groups pack food boxes on Wednesday nights. Some coordinate the distribution from two sites — the center in Elizabethton and Roan Creek Church, Mountain City.



DELIVERING CANNED GOODS to the center collected for Project Help: Hunger, the national Woman's Missionary Union project, are, from left, Martha Smith, Ivan Elliott, and Frances Childers of Grace Church, Elizabethton. Becky Brumitt, right, director of the Hale Community Ministries Center, receives the food.

Others provide spiritual counseling.

On Monday afternoons volunteers arrive to lead Big A Clubs at the two housing projects which draw from 40-50 children. About eight teenagers even attend although the activities are geared to children.

The center really gets busy in the summer. Brumitt was able to expand activities last summer for children because of help she received from summer missionaries. Through those activities she learned about the level of poverty in the neighborhood for the first time, she said.

When the center sponsored a camping trip for children, only two of the 26 had ever been camping before. And she was shocked when she found a child brought a curtain for a blanket and many didn't have coats. She also learned that hunger is real. The children ate all the food although she thought she had prepared for 50.

Brumitt said her experiences as director of the ministry are shared by the volunteers.

When you see someone "crying because you've given her food," you are blessed, said Brumitt.

Volunteers like Joyce Kidd, coordinator of the Johnson County food distribution, agrees. Kidd, a member of Nelson Chapel Church, Mountain City, has seen volunteers gain a better view of life because of their involvement.

Since the center opened, the work has multiplied, reported Brumitt. The center has expanded its hours to be open four days a week.

Some 40 volunteers work monthly, most serving several hours. In addition, church members provide food, clothing, and funds. Gifts to the center are used to buy food and provide for emergency needs of people. In addition, Watauga Baptists have funded the center



ONE OF TWO BIG A CLUBS led by Hale Community Ministries play a game outside last summer.



BECKY BRUMITT, right, director of the ministry, counsels a client, Frances Salyer, while assisting her with the application process of the ministry.

through their gifts to the association. The center's budget includes \$13,000 from the association and funds from the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Home Mission Board's hunger funds.

The response by Watauga Baptists has been great, agreed Brumitt and Polk. "We only have to ask for something in our newsletter," said Brumitt.

Polk also gives a lot of credit for the ministry to Brumitt, who credits God. She was the director of a private non-profit health care corporation for eight



FOOD USED TO SUPPORT about 200 families each month surrounds Becky Brumitt, director of the Watauga Association ministry.

counties when she lost her job. She explained God not only removed the hurt and anger she felt, but he answered her prayer that he let her "work with Godly people."

Those people, the volunteers, "are making a commitment to join God here and serve him," said Brumitt. □

SPECIAL REPORT



EARL H. WILSON
President-Treasurer

I am pleased to report that God continues to bless the Foundation's work and ministries. The past year 1993-94 was the third best year in the Foundation's 56-year history.

New funds totalling over seven million dollars were added to funds under management. Income earned and distributed also reached a record high of \$3,847,957.98, of which \$300,000 was paid to the Cooperative Program.

Since 1982 assets under management have increased from 11 million to over 61 million dollars. To God be the glory!! At present, the Foundation administers over 1,250 accounts. Some are large — some are small, but each account is important to the Foundation's work and ministry.

Through your Will, or by establishing a Trust, you can make a living and lasting investment in the Lord's work until Jesus returns.

I thank God for the blessings bestowed upon the Foundation and for the opportunity I have had to serve Him and Tennessee Baptists.

Earl H. Wilson

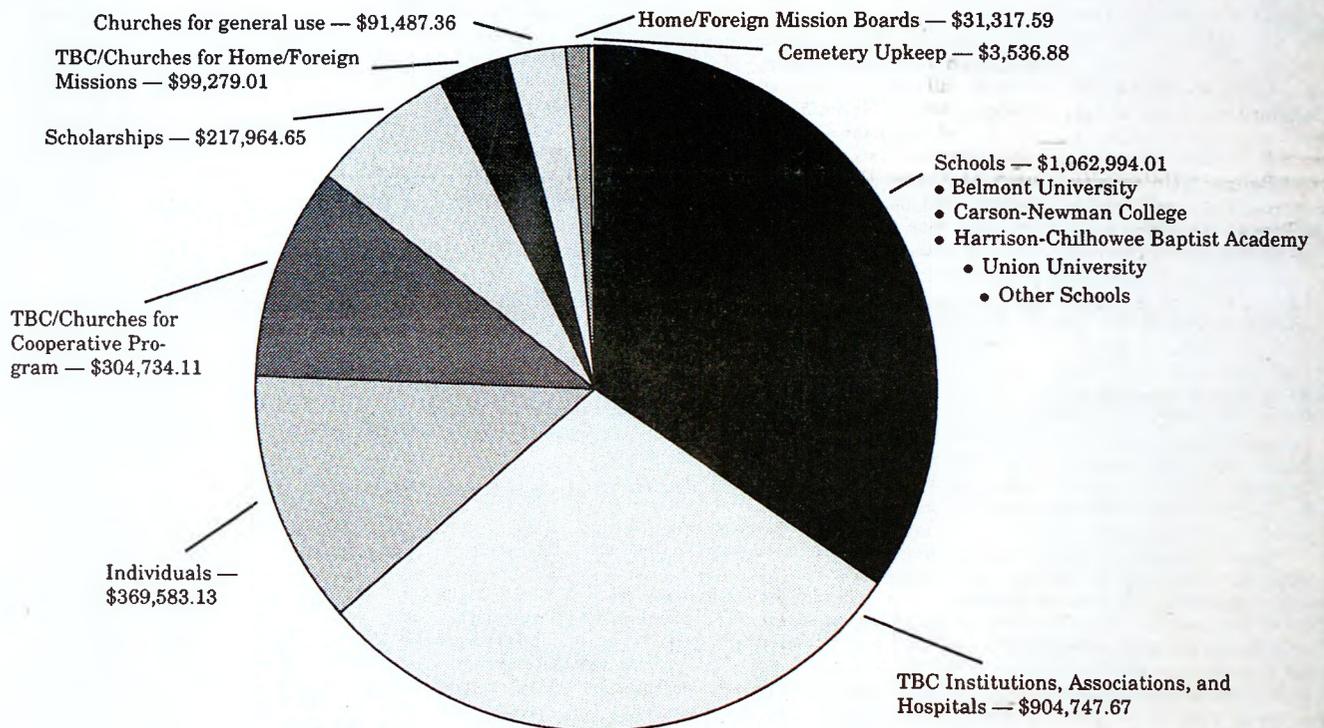
Tennessee Baptist Foundation

(the financial institution of the Tennessee Baptist Convention)

Income Paid to Baptist Causes*

Nov. 1, 1993 – Oct. 31, 1994 —

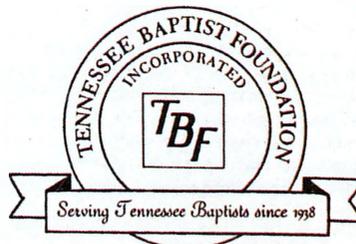
\$3,847,957.98



* Income earned and distributed, awaiting disbursement per trust agreements:
\$762,313.57

We welcome an opportunity to serve you and to share the Foundation's services with those who are interested in remembering the Lord's work and Tennessee Baptist institutions, of their choice, in their Wills.

(Advertisement)



For information concerning writing a Christian Will or establishing a Trust, write or call:

TENNESSEE BAPTIST FOUNDATION
Earl H. Wilson, President-Treasurer
P.O. Box 728

Brentwood, Tennessee 37024-0728

(615) 371-2029

1-800-552-4644

FAX: (615) 371-2049

■ the people

■ **Evelyn Gibbs**, organist/music assistant and editorial/public relations secretary at Brainerd Church, Chattanooga, retired Dec. 31 after 44 years. She continues to serve as church organist.

■ the leaders

■ **Nancy Huang**, a student at Belmont University, Nashville, and member of the international ministry of Brook Hollow Church, Nashville, is serving as choir director, pianist, interpreter, and leader of the Chinese congregation of Woodmont Church, Nashville. She is a graduate of a seminary in Taiwan and Nashville State Technological Institute, Nashville. An American citizen, Huang works at a Nashville bank.



HUANG

■ **James W. Owen Sr.**, pastor for eight years at Lyle Lane Church, Nashville, retired Feb. 28. Owen is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served churches

as pastor in Memphis, Lewisburg, Alexandria, and Nashville, and in Kentucky and Louisiana. Owen has served on the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board and as an officer of the Middle Tennessee Pastor's Conference. He will continue to live in Nashville and be available for supply and interim work.

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

■ East Commerce Church, Lewisburg, has called **Cory N. Schantz** of Nashville, as minister of music and youth. He has been a member of The Living Word Singers of Toms River, N.J., and minister of music, First Church, Cushing, Okla. Schantz is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **Bill Rice**, interim pastor, Antioch Church, Humboldt, was thanked for one year of service Feb. 26. A dinner was held and he received a gift. The church has called **Stephen A. Carr**, pastor, Walnut Hill Church, Bells, as pastor, effective March 5. He has served as pastor at three other churches. Carr is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and has been moderator and vice moderator of Crockett County Association.

■ **Shane O'Guin**, minister of music and youth, First Church, Troy, has resigned.

■ **Gary E. Lynn**, minister of youth and education, First Church, Kingston, for three years, has resigned to return to teaching. He will teach sixth grade in the Morgan County school system.

■ **Robert "Jody" Gamble**, director of missions, Maury Association, has been called interim pastor of First Church, Columbia. He was pastor of Pleasant Heights Church, Columbia, 1975-79.

■ **Houston Northcutt**, pastor, Cottonwood Grove Church, Tiptonville, has been honored on his 25th anniversary as its pastor.

■ **Ken Russom** has been called as pastor of New Home Church, Martin.

■ the churches

■ **Valley Grove Church, Knoxville**, began observance of its centennial anniversary Feb. 19 with U.S. Representative John Duncan Jr., as guest speaker. During May activities will feature a commissioned choir anthem written by Mary McDonald, paintings of the three sanctuaries by member David Gilbert, and a quilt depicting church activities across its history.

■ The new facilities of First



STEPHEN WU (left) of Kingsport, pauses with a student during the International Student Ministry Conference and **Scott Payne**, right, BSU director, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City. Wu, a chemist for Eastman Chemical Co., taught a Bible study at the conference, which drew 120 students to Henry Horton State Park, Chapel Hill, Jan. 27-29. It was sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Church, Saint Joseph, are nearing completion.

■ **Fairview Church, Obion**, will celebrate its centennial anniversary April 30 at 2 p.m. Bill George, director of missions, Beulah Association, will speak.

■ **First Church, Livingston**, will hold its spring revival March 19-24. Ken Carter of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga., will speak and Jim Graves, minister of music/youth, Pleasant View Church, Clarksville, will lead the music.

■ **William E. Hull**, provost, Samford University, Birmingham, will speak at the May 12-

15 revival of **First Church, Knoxville**. Leading the music will be Robert Sneed, instructor at Truett-McConnell College and Toccoa Falls College, Toccoa, Ga.

■ the associations

■ **Riverside Association** will hold an Evangelism Conference March 2, beginning at 6:45 p.m., at First Church, Livingston. Harold Hunter, a Nashville-based evangelist, will speak along with John and Terry Sims who own businesses in Sparta. The Four Glories of Sevierville will sing.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Who wins in gambling?

By Thomas Vinson, pastor
Leawood Church, Memphis

When a vacationing family drove by a dog racing track the little boy asked what it was. The father explained, "It's a place where people go to race dogs." After a long pause the six-year-old said, "I bet the dogs always win." Yes, the dogs do usually win and humans usually lose.

With the proliferation of gambling institutions nearby many professing Christians are re-evaluating their convictions with regard to gambling. Is it really wrong to gamble? To me the more appropriate question would be, "Is it right for the Christian to encourage greed, materialism, and discontentment?" (Luke 12:15; Hebrews 13:5; I Timothy 6:10). "Is it right for the Christian to discourage honest labor?" (Proverbs 28:19, 13:11). Gambling certainly encourages a "get rich quick" thinking which is fraught with all kinds of dangers (Proverbs 28:30). Reckless investment of God-given resources are to be avoided (Matthew 25:14-30).

Many soothe their conscience by saying it is just entertainment. The same

could be said for most forms of questionable practices that Christians face. Is it worth losing your testimony over? Would you think less of your pastor if you saw him at Tunica participating in gambling? Probably so! And rightly so!

Even if you do enough psychological gymnastics to convince yourself that it is okay, remember that Paul said, "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are expedient. All things are lawful, but not all things edify," I Corinthians 10:23.

How could gambling ever be the expedient, edifying thing for a serious, Spirit-filled (Galatians 5:22-23) Christian to do? Just asking. Think about it.

I wanted you to know beyond a shadow of a doubt what your pastor thinks about the gambling industry and gambling practices. If you sat where I sit and hear what I hear about the hurt gambling causes families, I think you would be prone to take another look at it.

I want to go where the Jesus in me wants to go. So far He hasn't given evidence that He wants to go to Tunica.

Yes, the dogs win and the Christian loses. He loses his testimony which is his most precious possession. Serious Christians don't ask, "How close can I walk to sin without crossing the line,

but rather, they are concerned with establishing safeguards that protect the integrity of their witness at all cost. □

Love is more than a word

By Stephen Smith, interim youth director
Beverly Hills Church, Memphis

"Love is patient; love is kind. It does not envy; it does not boast; it is not proud. It is not rude; it is not self-seeking; it is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs.. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" I Corinthians 13:4-7.

When most of us think of love, we have these mushy, warm thoughts and often mistake simple emotions for love. Love is greater than that. As you read these verses, you can see God's guidelines for love and they far exceed what any emotion can do. Someone once defined love as a verb rather than a noun. Love is serving rather than being served and giving rather than getting.

Sometimes love does hurt for our good. For example, when you disobey your parents, if they love you they discipline you and that discipline hurts for a short time. But your parents never

stop loving you, do they?

God's love is like that, but much greater. In fact, He even says that he disciplines those he loves (Hebrews 12:6). The correction the Lord gives is for us because he does love us.

Does this church love you? Yes, it does. Do I love you? Yes, I do. Does God love you? He most certainly does. We do not always tell you that we love you, but we always show you that we love you. Those actions are more powerful than mere words.

The next time you think you love someone or someone loves (or doesn't love) you, compare his or her actions to these verses above. Do those actions match these verses?

What about you and your "love"? Is your love described by these verses? If not, it probably isn't love. After all, love is more than a word; love is a verb. □

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.

CBF council approves \$10 million budget, new mission statement

By Herb Hollinger
For Baptist Press

WESTLAKE, Texas — The coordinating council of the Co-operative Baptist Fellowship approved a \$10 million budget for fiscal year 1995-96 and the group's first comprehensive mission statement.

The budget and mission statement for the organization of moderate Baptists will be presented to the group's annual meeting July 20-22 in Fort Worth, Texas.

After three years of rapid financial increase, the new budget reflects an apparent stabilizing of the CBF's growth. The recommended \$10,062,252 budget applies to a new fiscal year adopted by CBF, July 1 to June 30. Prior years had been calendar years. The CBF's

transitional six-month budget is \$5.6 million. The budget compares to the group's \$10,955,212 in contributions received from 1,337 churches and individuals in 1994. The CBF received \$10,944,328 from 1,210 churches and individuals in 1993. The slight increase of \$10,884 or .1 percent, is a sharp reduction from the 50 and 60 percent increases in 1993 and 1992.

The council approved a missions statement. Listed in the four-page document as statements of commitments the group shares are: soul freedom, Bible freedom, church freedom, and religious freedom.

In his report to the council,

CBF coordinator Cecil Sherman called the 1994 small total increase "deceiving" because the CBF part of the budget gained "19.72 percent over last year (1993)." The CBF benefited by the SBC mid-1994 decision not to accept funds channeled through the CBF causing a larger part of the receipts to be used in the CBF budget.

"This year, 1995, will define where we stand in the affections of the churches," Sherman told the council. In his assessment of the CBF, he not-

ed, "We are not a denomination. We are not a protest movement, either. We are something different, other." Sherman and other CBF leaders often have denied CBF is a denomination, though SBC critics charge otherwise.

Of the 1,377 churches that gave to CBF in 1994, 62 were from Tennessee, Sherman said. North Carolina (287), Virginia (243), and Texas (194) had the most churches contributing to CBF. □

Classified

RESUMES: FBC, Bells, will accept resumes for pastor until March 31. Send to: FBC, Bells, Box 206, Bells, Tenn., 38006.

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.

Church Buses
New and Used
(We take trade-ins.)
Call Henry Headden
Carpenter Bus Sales
Brentwood, Tenn.
1 (800) 370-6180
1 (615) 371-6180

Call for Free BROCHURE

BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE
1-800-251-0679

FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES
Manufacturers Baptistries Signs
Lights

TOLL FREE
1-800-446-7400

FAX: 804-822-2210 Steeples
P.O. Box 2250 • Danville, VA 24541



Available in 20' to 33' models
(12 to 37 Passenger)

KNOXVILLE TASK FORCE



PROMISE
KEEPERS
MEN OF INTEGRITY

MEGA
WAKE-UP
CALL

Guest Speakers
Include
Franklin Graham
and
Dr. E.V. Hill

April 8, 1995
1:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Thompson-Boling Arena
Knoxville, Tennessee

General Admission \$10
Tickets Available at
Thompson-Boling Arena Ticket Office,
Knox Area Christian Bookstores or
Call To Charge 615/656-4444.

For More Information Call,
Knoxville Promise Keepers
"Info-Line", 615/584-0407

ATLANTA SBC CONVENTION

Hotel Packages with shuttle service
Discount Airfares and car rentals
"FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS" TOURS
ALASKA CRUISE: JULY 19-26
CHINA & HONG KONG ... March
1996
CHRISTIAN TRAVELERS
1-800-972-8952

CHURCH FURNITURE
Finest Construction
Lowest Prices
Free Estimates
Plain or Padded
BAPTISTRIES,
STEEPLES, WINDOWS
"Refinishing, Upholstering,
Cushioning Your
Present Pews!"



Toll Free
1-800-365-2568 P. O. Box 1068
615/359-3075 Lewisburg, TN 37091

A & O CHURCH FURNITURE
4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053
JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282

— PEW —
UPHOLSTERING
1 (800) 523-9058
NC 1 (800) 222-7895
REFINISHING

BELMONT UNIVERSITY
OFFERS FREE
FINANCIAL PLANNING

COURSE: HOW TO MAKE
GOVERNMENT APPROVED
PLANNED GIFTS TO YOUR
CHURCH AND OTHER CAUSES

Two more opportunities on two
Thursdays — March 16 & 30

- increase your income
- reduce taxes on your income
- reduce high estate taxes
- by-pass capital gains taxes
- preserve your estate assets

Class size is limited. Classes meet
from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in Room 104 of
the Massey Business Center on
Wedgewood Avenue. Call now for
more information and reservations.

BELMONT
UNIVERSITY

W. FRED KENDALL JR.
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER
VICE PRESIDENT FOR CHURCH
RELATIONS/PLANNED GIVING
1900 Belmont Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37212-3757

(615) 385-6435

Pews, pulpits,
baptistries,
steeple, chairs, tables,
lighting, stained glass,
folding doors,
carpet

VAN WINKLE
CHURCH FURNISHINGS
& PEW UPHOLSTERY

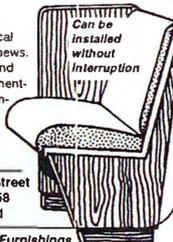
Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627
Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

ADD-A-PAD CUSHION

• Seat Only
• Seat & Back
A very economical
solution to hard pews.
Separate seat and
back are permanent-
ly attached. Comfortable
poly foam cushion in
beautiful Scotch
Guard Nylon.

6030 S. First Street
Milan, TN 38358
1-800-651-8161

Central Church Furnishings



Call toll-free anytime ... 1-800-473-6688
We're built on a strong foundation of over 3800 churches.

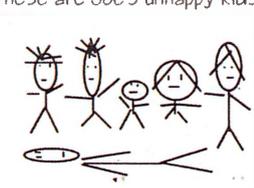
Church Interiors of Nashville
New PEWS REFINISHING UPHOLSTERING
Stained Glass Steeples Baptistries Loose Reversible Cushions
Lighting and Complete Renovations

Free! Estimates
and Interior
Design
Consultation

This is Joe Youthworker...



These are Joe's unhappy kids...



Union University
presents the 1995
Jackson, TN GOOD STUF
Student Conference
Friday May 12th 6pm-Midnight
Andy Stanley • Lanny Donoho •
David Bell & the Good Stuf Band
• pizza • pizza • pizza • pizza •

This is Joe with a GREAT idea...



These are Joe's HAPPY kids at the GOOD STUF Conference...



Any
Questions?

For more information call:

YOUTH MINISTRY RESOURCES • 700 OLD ROSWELL LAKES PKWY • SUITE 150 • ROSWELL, GA 30076
404-993-9177 • FAX 404-594-0014

**Life and Work Series
for March 5
Focal Passage:
Mark 11:8-10, 15-17, 22-25**

True worship

By Elizabeth Howard

Each Sunday morning, people gather to worship God. They gather in large cathedrals, small country churches, storefront buildings, private homes, military bases, health care facilities, prisons. Some services are formal, other informal. Praises ascend to God in many languages and dialects.

Last August, I had the privilege of worshipping with the Mapuche Indians in Temuco, Chile. The service was held in Spanish, English, and the Mapuche language. A Mapuche man said, "When we get to heaven, we'll all speak the same language — Mapuche." We laughed, for the Mapuche language is unintelligible even to most Chileans. Language barriers frustrate us here on earth, but they do not frustrate God. He hears the worship of each of us, even if our worship is silent, even if we cannot speak. Although we worship in many different places, in different ways, in different languages, true worship includes praise, reverence, faith, prayer, and forgiveness.

Praise — vv. 8-10

On the Sunday before Jesus' crucifixion, he rode a donkey toward Jerusalem. The road was crowded with pilgrims on their way to the temple to celebrate the Passover. When they saw Jesus on the donkey, something told them this was a significant person. They spread their cloaks and palm branches on the road and started shouting his praises. They worshiped him, praising him as the Messiah, though it's doubtful they understood what was involved. Not even the disciples understood that.

Reverence — vv. 15-17

The Jewish religious leaders had set up booths in the court of the Gentiles to sell animals and to change coins so the pilgrims could offer the required sacrifices and pay the temple tax. These activities had begun as a service, but had quickly changed to a way to make money. People also used the court as a shortcut to the commercial areas of the city. The hubbub was a distraction to all who came to worship, but particularly so to the Gentiles. Jesus overturned the tables and benches and chastised the ones who had changed a house of prayer to a den of thieves. A house of worship should be a place of reverence, available to peoples of all nations.

Faith — vv. 22-23

Jesus had cursed the fig tree (vv. 12-14), which represents the religious system of the Israelites. As he and his disciples passed it again, Peter called Jesus' attention to the fact that it had withered (vv. 20-21). Jesus responded: "Have faith in God." His comment about mountains might best be interpreted symbolically. If we have faith in God, he will move the obstacles that hinder the accomplishment of his will.

Prayer — vv. 24

Prayer is the first step in moving spiritual mountains. But it is not a magic lamp. We cannot pray selfishly, expecting God to grant our every wish. We should pray in accordance with his will and look up answers which come in a different way from that which we expected.

Forgiveness — v. 25

Another aspect of moving spiritual mountains is forgiveness. We cannot pray effectively when anger is present. Nor can we receive forgiveness from God until we have first made peace with others. All five of the elements — praise, reverence, faith, prayer, and forgiveness — are essential to true worship. They are links in the chain which joins us to God. □ — Elizabeth Howard is a member of Cumberland Homesteads Church, Crossville.

Speaking the truth plainly

By Brian Courtney

Preaching is a difficult task for several reasons. It requires a sense of Holy Spirit leadership, many hours of study and preparation, prayer, meditation, and reflection. It requires a knowledge of a congregation's needs. And the list goes on and on.

But sometimes preaching becomes a difficult task for another reason — eloquence of style and carefully planned arguments. This is not to say these are unimportant. Every preacher should have a good style and organization in a sermon. Every congregation should expect it. However, these can become such an issue that content is forgotten on the part of the preacher and the congregation.

Paul's preaching of the cross — vv. 1-5

Paul's discussion about the cross stemmed from a divisive disruption over leaders in the Corinthian church (I Corinthians 1:10-13). Evidently some of the Corinthians thought Paul did not speak with eloquent wisdom and this lessened his message. But Paul's response was that wisdom would empty the cross of its power (ch. 1:17). In verses 1-5, Paul enlarged on the preaching of the cross by setting forth his method.

First, he proclaimed "the testimony of God" (v. 1). This means what God has done in Christ. Then, Paul focused on "Jesus Christ and him crucified" (v. 2). This means that his entire ministry related to the death of Jesus. Third, he acknowledges his "weakness . . . fear . . . and trembling" which demonstrated "the Spirit and of power" (vv. 3-4). Paul understood such human problems are often the occasions when God displays his power. Finally, the reason Paul preached in this manner was so people's faith would rest in the power of God (v. 5).

Paul's method is a word of warning and encouragement to the church. It warns preachers and congregations that self-promotion, professionalism, and well arranged methods are anemic without the substance of the Gospel. The

truth and power of the Gospel changes lives, not human manipulation or emotional power. This text encourages preachers and congregations to proclaim the Gospel in their human weakness. Then people's faith will rest on the power of God not human personalities. Then people will not say, "What a great preacher!" but they will say, "What a great Savior!"

Paul's preaching aided by the spirit — ch. 2:6-13

**Convention Uniform Series
for March 5
Focal Passage
I Corinthians 2:1-13**

Having just finished explaining his method of avoiding eloquence, Paul does not want to leave the impression that the message of the cross is senseless. So he uses the word "wisdom" (v. 6) to identify with his Corinthian opponents. They loved wisdom and loved to apply it to themselves. But what Paul means by "wisdom" is what God has done in Christ, not the "wisdom of this age." God's wisdom is superior to the wisdom of the age or of the rulers because it is "doomed to pass away." Furthermore, God's wisdom has eternal value and those who choose his wisdom are eternally wise.

But no one can make this choice without the aid of the Spirit (vv. 10-11). Paul's point is that knowing or choosing God's wisdom is an impossibility apart from the Spirit's revelation. Human beings very lostness required the Spirit's work, to "understand the gifts bestowed on us by God" (v. 12). And the message is given in words "taught by the Spirit" who interprets "spiritual truths to those who possess the Spirit" (v. 13). What a great God! He redeems us through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and then gives the Spirit to help us to understand what he has done.

This text reminds those who preach that the Spirit can take plain, clear, forceful, compassionate language and transform lives with it. Preaching is a difficult task for preachers and congregations. The temptation to use eloquent speech and hear eloquent speech is always present. But changed lives come by the message of the cross aided by the Spirit. □ — Brian Courtney is pastor of First Church, Sneedville.

God's promise for a glorious future

By Ray Fullilove

**Bible Book Series for March 5
Focal Passage: Jeremiah 31:27-34;
33:15-17**

What God did for Job, God can do for anyone. The Bible notes, "And the Lord turned the captivity of Job . . ." (Job 42:10) Finally, the tide turns, and the sea becomes smooth. We can see there is hope upon the horizon, light for our darkness, a song for our sorrow, and love for our rebellion. In these chapters, Jeremiah is in prison for his faithfulness, but God does not fail his prophet nor does his great word fail.

God can turn our captivity because God still loves us deeply and will not let us go. God's promise for us is a glorious future because God sees our potential, our possibilities, and our promise. We can say and sing again, "Tis the grandest theme, let the tiding roll, To the guilt heart, to the sinful soul; Look to God in faith, He will make thee whole: Our God is able to deliver thee."

God sees our potential (ch 31:1-3, 27-34)

Hope is the confident expectation of that which is good. We should be filled with hope when we know God's Word declares, "But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Romans 5: 8-9). God's wrath was tempered by mercy. When there was the penalty of sin, there was the power of his grace.

Where there was the sense of his anger, there was the potential of God's amazing grace. God looked at his wayward people and did everything to win them back to him. God proved this for he was with them in the wilderness (v. 2), and determined to win them back by His love (v. 3). When God says, "Yea, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee," it is this love that never fails! When God comes to our rescue and indicates that "I will put my law in their inward parts and write it in their hearts, and will be their God and they shall be my people" (v. 33), God will motivate his people to do their duty.

God sees our possibilities (ch. 32:7-41)

In spite of our rebellion and indolence, God restores and inspires us. Regardless of our reluctance and resistance, God will take the stony heart and make it soft and tender. God sees our possibilities for his glory in our return (vv. 37-38), in our reformation (vv. 39-40), and in our reconciliation (v. 41). God's love for his people is that he may be glorified in their regeneration and their restoration that we should

"show forth the praises of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light."

God gives us power (ch. 33:3, 7-9, 14-17)

When we are raised from the dead, we come to life. Thus, Jesus, our Lord, lays down one fact for his people to hear, "The hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live" (John 5:25). We, as God's people need to hear again the voice of our Lord that we may live again — and know of the reviving presence of the living God in us. God sees our power that, in him we can have confidence (v. 3) and cleansing (vv. 7-9). Then we possess the conquering faithfulness of our Lord (vv. 14-17). "I will perform that thing which I have promised." The redeemed people of God may come back to the place of prominence in a world which needs the revelation of the love of God, perseverance in a world that needs the hope that is in Jesus, power for a world that needs to see Jesus as the only way to heaven. God does promise us a glorious future in Jesus. □ — Ray Fullilove is pastor of Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis.

FMB expands efforts to involve students in foreign missions

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Two Southern Baptists with backgrounds in student work and missions have been tapped to help the Foreign Mission Board expand its efforts to involve students in foreign missions.

Mike Lopez, an administrator in the board's international service department, will head that department's student section. Lopez, 41, earlier worked in student ministries as a missionary in Taiwan with his wife, Ann. They also were home missionaries in Pennsylvania.

Jeff Lewis, a consultant for national student ministry at the Baptist Sunday School Board, has been named student and youth consultant. Lewis, 42, will relate to the mission board's student section, working on contract from a yet to be determined location. He and his wife, Elaine, currently live in Mt. Juliet.

The two men began their new work March 1. □

Southern pays tribute to alumnus Criswell

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary presented W.A. Criswell with the school's highest honor Feb. 7 — the E.Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award.

The Southern Seminary alumnus is senior pastor of First Church, Dallas, where he has spent his last 50 years of ministry. □

Nobles suffers stroke following surgeries

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Former Mississippi College President Lewis Nobles apparently has suffered a stroke while recovering from two surgeries performed at a San Francisco hospital after he allegedly swallowed poison Jan. 26 when FMB agents attempted to arrest him.

Nobles, 69, has been in the intensive care unit of St. Francis Hospital in San Francisco since he fled to a hotel in that city just days before a Jan. 26 pretrial hearing in Jackson. When Nobles failed to show up for the hearing, U.S. District Judge William Barbour declared him a fugitive and issued a bench warrant for his arrest.

He is accused in a multi-count federal indictment of using millions of dollars in donations intended for the Baptist-affiliated school in Clinton to commit mail fraud, wire fraud, income tax evasion and immoral interstate acts. □

ACTS programs set for Nashville channel

Radio & Television Commission

FORT WORTH, Texas — ACTS (American Christian Television System) will be carried on Viacom Cablevision's Channel 43 in Nashville, beginning March 1.

ACTS is the cable television service of the RTVC that reaches into almost 23 million homes. Viacom, which has 137,000 subscribers in the Nashville area, will carry the Faith and Values Channel (on which ACTS programming is shown) Monday through Thursday from 8 p.m. until 9 a.m. and from 8 p.m. Friday until 9 a.m. Monday. □

Attendance remains at zero for fund-raiser

Baptist Press

BILOXI, Miss. — Just like last year, no one came.

"Another, Not Another Banquet" was the theme of the second annual banquet to raise summer ministry funds for Gulf Coast Community College here.

Among those who paid not to attend the event, designed by Baptist Student Union director Tim Thomas, were novelist John Grisham, concert pianist Phillip Fortenberry, and motivational speaker Zig Ziglar. Robin Roberts, sports anchor for ESPN, paid not to be master of ceremonies for the evening.

More than 100 guests paid not to attend the banquet slated to be held Jan. 14 at Vrazel's, a Gulfport restaurant.

But that doesn't mean they don't care. Nearly \$8,000 has been collected by students to date for local and world hunger relief projects.

Last year's non-event gained national newspaper and TV coverage. □

Missionary shot in Guatemala has painful recovery

Baptist Press

QUETZALTENANGO, Guatemala — Southern Baptist missionary Keith Stamps — who "looked death in the face" during an attempted highway robbery Jan. 20 — is on the road to recovery from gunshot wounds.

Stamps underwent a skin graft Feb. 16 to repair a wound in his upper right arm. So far, physicians have removed about 20 of 120 pellets which entered Stamps' body. X-rays show the remaining shot lodged in his right arm, shoulder, thorax, and abdomen. One pellet seems to be wedged behind his heart.

"If the injury (from the shotgun blast) had been any higher or lower, I might have been killed," Stamps said in a phone interview. "I'm extremely grateful for life." □

Editors select Webb as president-elect

Baptist Press

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — William R. Webb, editor of the *Illinois Baptist* newsjournal was named president-elect Feb. 16 of the Southern Baptist Press Association, the trade group of state Baptist newspaper editors.

Webb's election came during the annual meeting of the press association here which marked the group's 100th anniversary.

Toby Druin, associate editor of *Texas' Baptist Standard*, became president after the meeting, succeeding James Waters, editor of the *Northwest Baptist Witness*.

Bob S. Terry, editor of *Missouri's Word and Way*, was elected executive secretary/treasurer, a part-time salaried position recently created by the association. □

Ziglar, Barna join Christian Single board

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Zig Ziglar and George Barna are among 11 professionals who recently joined an editorial advisory board for *Christian Single* magazine, according to the editor of the Southern Baptist pe-

riodical for single adults.

"The board members we have selected will provide counsel on news and feature stories in their field of expertise," said Stephen Felts, editor of the monthly magazine produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Ziglar is a motivational speaker and Barna is president of Barna Research Group Ltd. in Glendale, Calif.

One Tennessean was named to the advisory board — Deborah Tyler, president of Renaissance Ministries, Morristown. She will relate to women's issues. □

Ministers' wives to hear Diana Garland

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The 1995 Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference will focus on ministry to children during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention here.

Diana Garland, dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and author of *Precious in His Sight: Welcoming All Our Children*, will be the featured speaker at the 40th annual luncheon meeting June 20 at noon at the Hyatt Regency (convention hotel), according to Alice Marshall of Louisville, Ky., president of the ministers' wives group.

Tickets ordered by May 20 are \$18 per person. Send a check and self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Anita Snell, 4308 Heaven Trees Rd.,

Jacksonville, Fla. 32207. After May 20 the tickets will cost \$20 per person and may be purchased at the SBC near the messenger registration site through Monday night, June 19. □

Southern Seminary adds to SBCNet

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — SouthernNet, a library of material from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is the latest addition to SBCNet, the Southern Baptist on-line network on CompuServe.

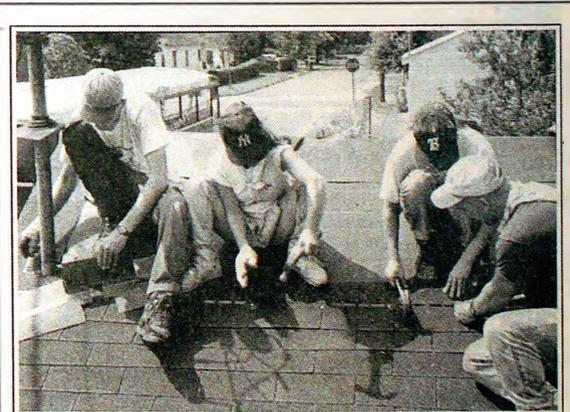
SouthernNet includes texts of campus lectures and addresses, faculty articles, and news and feature stories from the Louisville campus.

SBCNet is available to any computer user with a modem. A free CompuServe kit is available through the Baptist Sunday School Board, including credit for a free month of basic services on CompuServe and a \$25 credit which may be used for up to three months of SBCNet services. □

Wife of former RTVC dies in Fort Worth

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Norma Stevens, 80, wife of former Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission President Paul Stevens died Feb. 15 after an extended illness. She is survived by her husband, three children, and six grandchildren. □



World Changers return to Tennessee

Youth lay shingles on the house they have renovated as part of a World Changers work project. More than 1,000 youth and leaders are currently registered for World Changers projects in Clinton, Jackson, and Memphis this summer. They will be doing similar work on 75 substandard homes across the state. More than 12,000 youth and adults have participated in World Changers since it was begun by the Brotherhood Commission in 1990 in Clinton. "World Changers projects have generated tremendous excitement from area churches and the community," said Mike Pearson, director of missions for Clinton Association.