

LIBRARY
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

Baptist and Reflector

March 8, 1995

VOL. 161 ■ NO. 10

STATEWIDE EDITION

■ **this week's news**

global —

■ Polish Baptist women's leader recovering from surgery in Texas. — Page 2

national —

■ State historians and Brotherhood Commission trustees respond to SBC action. — Page 3

■ Christian Life Commission national seminar looks at cultural ills. — Page 3

state —

■ Gambling addiction hurts Memphis family. — Page 4

■ Baptists share church building with Catholics in Columbia. — Page 6

■ State handball festivals attract more than 1,200 participants. — Page 7

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

Texans headline evangelism conference

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — A trio of Texans, including D.L. Lowrie, former executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, are among the speakers at the annual State Evangelism Conference April 3-4 at Judson Church, Nashville.

Joining Lowrie, now pastor of First Church, Lubbock, from Texas are Ken Hemphill, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church, Dallas.

Other principle speakers include Mike Collins, new executive director of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan; Rob Finley, president of Tennessee Baptist vocational evangelists; Richard Harris, director of the mass evangelism department of the Home Mission Board;

Frank Hawkins, TBC presi-

dent and pastor, First Church, Kingsport; John Kramp, discipleship and family development division, Sunday School Board; Robert Shelton, president of the Canadian Baptist Convention and pastor of Garden Park Church, Winnipeg; and Ken Weathersby, state director, black church extension, Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Sessions begin Monday, April 3 at 2 p.m. Speakers during that time are Harris, Hawkins, Lowrie, and Hemphill.

The evening session begins at 6:45 and will feature messages by Lowrie and Graham. The Tennessee Baptist Chorale, directed by Julian Suggs, director of the TBC Church Music Department,

also will be featured. On Tuesday, April 4, the program begins at 9:30 a.m. Lowrie, Finley, Collins, and Graham will speak. The program resumes at 2 p.m. with messages by Lowrie, Shelton, and Weathersby. The evening session is Laymen's Night. In addition to messages by Kramp and Graham, personal witnessing testimonies will be given by three Murfreesboro laymen — Harold Smith, New Vision Church; Jesse Smith, Mt. Herman Church; and Jeff Stevenson, Westwood Church. That session also features a drama



COLLINS



GRAHAM



HAWKINS



HEMPHILL



LOWRIE

presentation by Matt and Darlene Tullos of Hermitage. Music evangelist Jim McNeil of St. Louis, Mo., and The McNeils will present special music throughout the meeting. A nursery is provided during the sessions only for babies and children up to 5 years old. The nursery opens 15 minutes before each session and closes 15 minutes after the meetings. The Tennessee Fellowship of Vocational Evangelists will have a special meeting of preaching and singing preceding the conference and it is open for anyone interested in attending. □

TBC leaders respond to SBC 'Covenant for a New Century'

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Four Tennessee Baptist leaders, including James L. Porch, TBC executive director, have responded to a restructuring action of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

Of the committee's strong recommendation for vast restructuring of SBC entities, Porch expressed concern for "the implication, impact, and the process for change in SBC life."

The committee's recommendation will have to be approved at SBC annual sessions this June and again in 1996 before

any changes could be implemented.

The recommendation calls for downsizing SBC structure from 19 entities to 12, eliminating some agencies, transferring responsibilities of some, and combining others. (See *Baptist and Reflector*, March 1.)

The Foreign Mission Board would be called the International Mission Board. The Home Mission Board would be combined with the Radio and TV and Brotherhood commissions to form the North American Mission Board. Eliminated as separate entities would be the Education, Stewardship, and Historical commissions and the Southern Baptist Foundation.

Porch said that change itself and changes in SBC structure are not main issues. He explained that the Executive Board ministries of the TBC "are in the process of changes that will enable us to respond more effectively to the needs of our churches."

He added that the proposed changes "do affect and effect Tennessee Baptist life. Initially the question of how these changes effect and/or empower the Executive Committee, SBC, must be addressed concerning the future role of that body."

Porch noted the report missed an opportunity for the Executive Committee to — See TBC leaders respond, page 2

SBC CP receipts up nearly 20 percent

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for February increased nearly 20 percent over that month a year ago, said Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

For February 1995, receipts totaled \$12,437,257, a 19.30 percent increase over February 1994's total of \$10,425,108.

After five months of the SBC fiscal year (October-February), \$60,878,340 has been given to the CP, 3.10 percent

over the same period the previous year (\$59,047,066).

Those encouraging figures, Chapman said, also brought CP receipts 7.01 percent over the year-to-date requirement of the SBC program allocation budget. The monthly budget requirement is \$11,378,310.

Designated gifts also were up, 4.63 percent for February, \$36,727,593, compared to a year ago of \$35,103,734. For the year-to-date, designated gifts are 1.03 percent ahead of that period in the previous year: \$63,866,420 compared to \$63,217,513. □

Tennessee Baptists continue strong pattern of CP giving

Tennessee Baptists gave \$2,319,416 to the Cooperative Program in February.

The amount was \$137,363 over monthly budget needs and \$137,964 over the amount given in February 1994.

After four months of the current fiscal year, total CP receipts are \$8,645,026, an increase of \$696,658 or 8.76 percent over the same period last year.

Giving is \$83,185 or -0.95 percent under budget needs for the year.

"We have been on or above the monthly budget needs every month except November," said TBC Executive Director James Porch.

"After four months we are at 99 percent of the budget.

"I am very thankful for the response of our Tennessee Baptist churches across the state," he said. □

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

Polish Baptist women's leader gets new lease on life

By Orville Scott
For Baptist Press

TYLER, Texas — A 30-year journey of pain and life-threatening medical problems has been transformed into a new lease on life for a Baptist leader from Poland by Texas Baptist volunteers and doctors here.

An appendectomy when she was 15 began an incredible string of 24 operations for Ewa Gutkowski, who, nevertheless, went on to become president of Baptist Women's work in Poland.

Also, despite her almost constant health problems, she and her husband, Richard, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Poland, adopted three children.

But eventually, due to accumulated scar tissue and an intestinal fistula (leak), her health had regressed to the point that she couldn't live more than two years without complex surgery.

Polish doctors confessed they lacked the equipment to correct her problems.

Then last fall, her condition came to the attention of two highly regarded Tyler, Texas,

physicians: Sam Houston, a surgeon, and Kerfoot Walker, Smith County public health supervisor. Walker, a member of Tyler's Green Acres Church, has done medical missions in countries across the world.

The doctors were serving in Poland in conjunction with the Michael Gott Evangelistic Association of Jacksonville, Texas, which has ministered in Poland for about 15 years. Houston was confident Gutkowski's life could be saved through the laser technology and skills of surgeons at East Texas Medical Center. He and Walker volunteered their time and talents for the mercy mission.

Gott and his wife, Jan, arranged to fly the Baptist Women's president from Poland to east Texas where she would live in their home in Jacksonville while recuperating from surgery.

Texas Baptist churches and individuals, along with the benevolence department at East Texas Medical Center, helped defray the costs of the highly expensive procedure.

In a five-hour operation Jan. 30, Houston and other surgeons at the medical center



EWA GUTKOWSKI, president of Baptist Women's work in Poland, expresses appreciation for her life-saving surgery to doctors Sam Houston, left, and Kerfoot Walker at East Texas Medical Center, Tyler, Texas. — Photo by Orville Scott

removed a massive buildup of scar tissue, along with Ewa's gall bladder, and repaired the leak in her intestines.

Within a few days, she was able to "go home" to the Gott residence in Jacksonville where she is recuperating and regaining strength.

As she looks forward to returning to her family and Christian leadership responsibilities in Poland, Ewa searches for the words to adequately

express her gratitude "to God and her new friends" who joined hearts and hands in a mission of love and mercy.

"I hope to be useful in the women's work in our churches in Poland," she said. "I believe it is God's plan for my life. I'm so happy."

The Tennessee Baptist Convention began a new three-year partnership with the Baptist Union of Poland in January of this year. □

TBC leaders respond to SBC covenant ...

— Continued from page 1

affirm the state conventions and Woman's Missionary Union. Possibly this will be addressed in a later meeting."

Three other TBC leaders responded to the Executive Committee's recommendation, including Katharine Bryan, WMU executive director; Cameron Byler, Brotherhood Department director; and Jere Phillips, Missions Department director. These three areas are among those which could be impacted by the action.

Bryan said that Tennessee WMU leadership "has not had opportunity to discuss the action ... therefore it is premature for me to speak on behalf of our WMU Executive Board which is comprised of elected membership from every association."

She said the group meets later this month and there will be time then for dialogue.

Bryan said that as a member of a Southern Baptist church and as a part of Woman's Missionary Union leadership, she does have observations and concerns.

She said, "The perceived need for secrecy in the development of a document which has such broad implications and ramifications seems ill conceived in a time when there is a call for broad-based empowerment, ownership in decision-making, and involvement of the customer."

Phillips said he had not had adequate time to digest the en-

tire report and consider all its implications. He said he preferred not to make a statement at this time.

Byler, who is scheduled to retire this spring, said that change is always painful, "but we grow from good changes."

"As I look at the proposed new structure of the SBC, I see many positive things in regard to Brotherhood."

"We still will be about mission education and mission ministries. Putting all the volunteers under one program will be helpful."

"As sad as it is to see some of our agencies merged into new entities, it seems that Brotherhood may benefit financially and this will help fulfill its mission more effectively. The men's ministries, disaster relief, and mission education will forge ahead."

Byler said he sees little negative effect on state work. He said much has to be worked out in reorganizing, "but I see a bright future ahead for Brotherhood across the SBC."

Porch said he is concerned about "downsizing that would result in significant reduction of individual Baptists who will be involved in the decision-making process in the future."

"Anytime you reduce the number of commissions and boards," he said, "you reduce the number of people involved in making decisions."

"Southern Baptists currently have an excellent opportunity to engage in dialogue over

this issue that will greatly condition our future. I commend the Baptist and Reflector for providing this forum for Tennessee Baptists."

Porch explained that Tennessee is a mission field, "even though we are not included on the list of states that would receive future financial assistance through the North American Mission Board."

"At the present time, approximately one of every 12 dollars that Tennessee Baptists send through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Offering (for home missions), is returned to the state for mission work."

"We expect a great majority of our gifts to be used outside the state," he said, "but the Great Commission still includes Tennessee. We hope to continue our long tradition of good working relationships with the Home Mission Board, but with these changes, we would lose significant financial assistance."

Porch added, "Had the committee given SBC agency heads and executive directors of state conventions opportunity to dialogue concerning the report prior to its presentation, it could have merited from our perspective and experience."

He expressed a need for prayer and dialogue as "we seek the Holy Spirit's direction."

Bryan, citing that approximately half of the membership of SBC churches are women and that the increase in bap-

tisms and church growth for several years has been language and Afro-American congregations, in her opinion, "these groups would have had representation on the committee. To ignore these and their capable leadership is extremely significant."

She said WMU had never been fearful of change, and that she "deeply respects the auxiliary status," comparing it to a "help meet and working alongside" status which has never expected assignments from the SBC, but which has given "overwhelming support to the convention" and helped secure and/or save other entities such as the Foreign and Home Mission boards.

Bryan expressed concern that a focus on prayer was not mentioned along with the assignment of mission offerings to the mission boards.

"The offerings have become the lifeline of our mission work because of sacrificial giving of women resulting from intense prayer focus," she said.

She added that offering promotion without prayer undergirding "becomes fund raising." She pointed out years of accountability WMU has had with the offerings.

Bryan is concerned, she said, with long term ramifications. She encouraged Tennessee Baptists to talk with each other, with heads of agencies, to become informed, and pray for God's guidance. □ — Wm. Fletcher Allen

- 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 Watkins, and Laurann Whetham
- **Office** — Baptist and Reflector, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027
Mailing address — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
Phone — (615) 371-2003.
FAX — (615) 371-2080
- **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
- **Address changes** — Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- **Postmaster** — Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780)
- **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for Christmas week.



Printed on
recycled paper

State historians oppose Historical Commission's end

By Art Toalston
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A plea to retain the Southern Baptist Historical Commission has been issued by 15 state Baptist historical directors and historians, including three from Tennessee, who described the agency as "the collective memory of the Southern Baptist Convention."

The commission, founded in 1951, would be dissolved under a proposed reorganization of the SBC, approved by the SBC Executive Committee Feb. 20-22 in Nashville.

Under the proposal, which must be approved by messengers at two consecutive SBC annual meetings, the Historical Commission would be dissolved and its duties assigned to a council of presidents of the six SBC seminaries and its educational duties would be assigned to the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The commission's executive director, Lynn E. May Jr., was the only SBC official to go on record as opposing the change affecting his agency.

The group of state Baptist historians who issued the protest of the proposed dissolution of the Historical Commission is distinct from the 750-member Southern Baptist Historical Society, which has not yet announced any stance on the issue.

The statement issued March 1 noted, "Any restructuring of

historical work within the SBC should be done to enhance and strengthen Southern Baptists' understanding of our heritage. The recommendation of the Program and Structure Study Committee does neither."

The historians disagreed with the study committee's assessment that the Historical Commission's duties are "best and most effectively assigned to the theological seminaries, which employ specialists in church history and professional library staff."

"We respectfully disagree," the historians wrote. "Under the arrangement historical concerns will not have the priority that they should. Dividing these duties among six institutions will lead to duplication of effort and unclear understanding of responsibilities — problems that the study committee was designed to eliminate. ...

"We believe that the Historical Commission is the single most effective and efficient means for Southern Baptists to continue to preserve, interpret, and communicate our heritage," the historians wrote. "Our past experiences, our history, affect not only who we are as Southern Baptists today but also who we will be in the future."

The study committee's chairman, Mark Brister of Shreveport, La., said the committee "would agree with these state Baptist historians on the preservation of denominational

history. However, do we need a separate commission in order to do this? The committee's report noted the importance of preserving "our denominational history and heritage." The committee concluded, "We are convinced that these important services can and should be provided by other Convention agencies."

The state Baptist historians' statement was drafted by Alan

J. Lefever, director of the Texas Baptist Historical Collection and archivist at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The document included the signatures of Sue Lynn McGuire, Carson-Newman College; Ernest Head, Belmont University; and Steve Baker, Union University.

Lefever said he believes "history will no longer have a platform" without the Histori-

cal Commission's status as an SBC agency. "It's like we're dismantling it and scattering it to the winds. Unless an effort is made to keep up with our history and heritage, then I think it's going to be lost."

The proposed dissolution of the commission is ironic, Lefever added, in that it comes in the year of the Southern Baptist Convention's sesquicentennial celebration. □

Brotherhood trustees respond to SBC proposal

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — The Brotherhood Commission's trustee executive committee, meeting via conference call Feb. 27, reviewed the "Covenant for a New Century" proposal to restructure Southern Baptist agencies, and affirmed the work of the commission's staff.

The restructuring proposal includes a call for the eventual move of the Brotherhood Commission's functions to Atlanta as part of a new North American Mission Board. The new board also would include responsibilities currently assigned to the Home Mission Board and the Radio and Television Commission.

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee approved the restructuring during its Feb. 20-22 meeting in Nashville, thus placing the

proposal before messengers to the June 20-22 SBC annual meeting in Atlanta. A majority of messengers to two consecutive SBC annual meetings must approve the changes.

"With the formation of the transition team, we are not presuming anything about the will of the Southern Baptist Convention," said James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president. "We are simply taking a proactive step to be prepared to respond to whatever we are called upon to do. We want to be ready to lead a transition process with dignity and direction, and move into our new, expanded role empowered by God's Spirit."

According to trustee chairman Donley Brown, the consensus of the board is to accept the recommendations in the "Covenant for a New Cen-

ture" proposal and "proceed with an orderly transition," based on the will of the SBC.

"We do have questions about the impact of these recommendations on the laity in the local churches and about the potential loss of the entrepreneurial spirit of the Brotherhood Commission," added Brown, a layman from Jefferson City, Mo. "We're also concerned about the staff and their families. But we commend Dr. Williams for the positive leadership he is giving."

The Brotherhood transition team will be chaired by Michael S. Day, the agency's executive vice president. He will be joined by two other executive staff members — Douglas Beggs and Jack Childs — two trustees, two state convention Brotherhood leaders, and two staff members to be approved later. □

'Experiencing God' coursebook sells one millionth copy

Baptist Press

PEWAUKEE, Wis. — Located about 1.5 miles north of Interstate 94 at the intersection of Highways G and SS, First Church, Pewaukee, has inadvertently placed itself on the map and in the history books — at least at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Pastor Jeff McBeth's recent orders of 12 copies of *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God* resulted in the church of 120 members being identified Feb. 23 by the BSSB as the purchaser of the one millionth copy of the LIFE coursebook.

"I am excited about this milestone in the history of the study of *Experiencing God*," said Roy Edgemon, director of the BSSB's discipleship and family development division, adding he is grateful for what the Lord is doing with the study all over the world. □

Uphold truth in culture war, CLC seminar speakers say

By Tom Strode
For Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Christians must uphold the concept of absolute truth in order to win the war for a declining culture, speakers said at the 28th annual Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission seminar.

Because of the decline of Christianity as the predominant world view in America and the rest of Western civilization, the culture and even the church have failed to cling to the truth, speakers said. As a result, battles are fought in such arenas as the mind, the home, the inner city, and the media and over such issues as homosexuality and the sanctity of human life, they said.

The seminar was held Feb. 27-March 1 at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here. It was the first CLC seminar held on an SBC seminary campus.

The 1995 seminar, titled "The War of the Worlds: the Struggle for the Nation's Soul," addressed the battle between Christianity and other world views.

Charles Colson and other speakers described the gravity of the struggle and the church's responsibility.

After describing "signs of the times" which portrayed society's rejection of the Christian world view, the founder and chairman of Prison Fellowship said, "America's problems go much deeper than

the distribution of condoms to teenagers and the appointment of (Henry) Foster as surgeon general. These events I have cited are all little skirmishes of a major war being waged not only for the heart and soul of America but for Western culture as well."

Referring to national surveys, Colson said a 1991 poll showed 67 percent of Americans rejected absolute truth. Three years later, the same poll revealed 72 percent rejected truth. The same surveys among evangelical Christians showed 52 percent in 1991 did not hold to absolute truth while 62 percent in 1994 did not hold to it, Colson said.

"We are losing the battle for truth in our churches' pews faster" than in the realms of the "cultural elites," he said.

According to the Christian world view, Colson said, "There is truth. It is knowable. God has spoken. We place a higher premium on truth than on tolerance."

"We are in a struggle to the death for the soul" of this culture," said CLC Executive Director Richard Land.

In the midst of this great challenge, the church too often "is papering the attic while the basement is on fire," said Timothy George, dean of the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.

The culture war provides "an exciting time in the body of Christ," said SBC President Jim Henry, pastor of First

Church, Orlando, Fla. "Don't hold the fort; turn it loose," he said.

"The way to win the culture war," said Southeastern Seminary President Paige Patterson, "is to out-love, out-pray, out-forgive, out-study, and out-work your opponents."

The United States has lost its identity with the rejection of biblical values, said Steve Lemke of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, noting, "We no longer know who we are or what we believe as a culture."

A movement of God also will be necessary to win the battle for inner cities, said Gary Frost, the SBC's second vice president. Until racism "is biblically and publicly dealt with amongst believers, there is no hope of a sweeping revival of the magnitude that is necessary to save our cities," said Frost, an African American and Ohio pastor.

R. Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., said the "homosexualization" of culture has occurred while the church slept. "The church has hardly responded to the homosexuality issue with a certain sound. If the church of Jesus Christ is not now the most powerful countercultural force in the midst of society, we are not true to the Gospel and we are not true to our Lord."

In addition to 14 plenary sessions the seminar also included eight workshops addressing various social issues. □

Widow's suit claims addiction to gambling led to suicide

By Brian Smith
For Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Can casinos be held responsible for the actions of compulsive gamblers whose addictions they feed? At least one person thinks so, and she has filed a \$50 million lawsuit against the Splash casino of Tunica, Miss.

Debra Kimbrow, 37, filed the suit Dec. 8, one year to the day after her husband Eric, 43, committed suicide. He had rung up debts to Splash totaling more than \$100,000 over a two-year period.

A second reported gambling-related suicide occurred Feb. 1 in Collinsville, Ill. "Kate," a 40-year-old mother of two, shot herself in the head after losing her family's life savings on two St. Louis-area riverboat casinos.

In an "Eye on America" segment of the CBS Evening News aired Jan. 31, Kimbrow's widow claimed his suicide resulted from despondency over his gambling problem, which included losing the cash he had in his wallet the day he died.

"When he lost that last \$40, I think he went home and killed himself because he had nothing left," she said.

Debra Kimbrow, a member of Hickory Ridge Church, Memphis, said she believes the casino knew her husband had a gambling problem and should have done something about it.

Her attorney, James Brookman of Memphis, said "it doesn't take a rocket scientist" to see that Splash should have known Kimbrow was unable to control his gambling habit. "Being overextended on your credit limits and writing bad checks and not being able to get any more money from your credit card is not something you'd have to be a psychologist to figure out."

In the month prior to his death, Kimbrow bounced three checks to Splash, one of nine casinos in the Tunica area. In the CBS News report, Debra

Kimbrow displayed more than \$3,000 worth of checks written to Splash.

Records show Kimbrow often withdrew \$400 at a time from casino ATM machines, received hundreds of dollars in advances against his MasterCard and obtained at least \$10,000 in personal loans in the months before he died.

His wife said letters from Splash's credit department demanding payment for about \$1,000 worth of checks that had been returned for insufficient funds concluded with words of thanks: "We appreciate your patronage."

"They want him back even after he writes them bad checks," she said. "They want more — their greed is insatiable."

Chuck Quarles, pastor of Hickory Ridge Church, said the Kimbrows' two

but Kate held them off. She previously had worked at a finance company locating people with bad credit.

When Steve began to go through the family financial records, he found \$830 in the savings account he had thought contained \$8,000. A \$5,000 tax refund was gone. Checking account records indicated multiple withdrawals of \$150 and \$220, in addition to savings account withdrawals of \$1,200.

He also discovered Kate had pawned her wedding rings.

I had no idea what was going on," said Steve, who asked that his last name not be used in order to protect their children. They had been married 16 years and had a son, 11, and a daughter, 9.

This kind of gambling problem is not an isolated incident, whether in Missis-

sippi or Missouri, said Quarles. "I know of people who have lost their businesses. I know of broken marriages and broken lives that have resulted from an obsession with gambling."

In Jackson, Miss., an elementary school teacher resigned in December after admitting she had embezzled \$1,800 for gambling from an Adopt-A-School fund she was in charge of.

Can casinos, which stay in business only because people lose money to them, be held responsible for a compulsive gambler's action?

Arnie Wexler, former director of the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, told the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* the Kimbrow case will be a "hot potato." If Splash loses, the

gambling industry would have to use its knowledge of gambling behavior to police customers.

"Casinos can distinguish compulsive gamblers," Wexler said. "Compulsive gamblers are their best customers."

Bernie Burkholder, president and CEO of Treasure Bay Resort and Casino in Biloxi, Miss., told CBS News he believed the Kimbrow case has merit. "A casino has a duty to the public and to the customers to identify a compulsive gambler like Eric Kimbrow."

Others aren't so sure, including Paul Jones, executive director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Jones said he did not know all the details of the Kimbrow case, but it didn't seem to be creating much of a stir within Mississippi regulatory circles. "Nobody in the state gaming commission is acting like this is a serious thing."

Jones noted there isn't "much in the way of precedent" as far as lawsuits holding someone else accountable for one's actions. He pointed out that department stores often continue to extend credit to customers who have bounced account payment checks.

But if the courts rule in favor of Kimbrow, he predicted, the ruling will "send cold chills down the backs of all the casinos, because suddenly they're going to be responsible for all their clients."

Quarles said Kimbrow's suicide demonstrates the unpublicized dangers of the gambling industry. "When a patron walks into a casino, they may not realize that the stakes are always higher than they bargained for. They're gambling with more than a few casino tokens — they may well be gambling with their lives. We must remember when we are entranced by the thrill of a wager that the thrill can kill."

Debra Kimbrow knows that only too well. "I hope and pray that no one will ever have to go through what I've gone through," she told CBS. □

'It doesn't take a rocket scientist' to see that Splash should have known Kimbrow was unable to control his gambling habit.

— James Brookman, Memphis attorney

children, ages 5 and 7, were devastated. "I wish I could find words to describe the trauma the death has caused the family."

The trauma of suicide also is being experienced by Kate's family in Illinois.

According to the Feb. 19 *Kansas City Star*, her husband, Steve, was called at work and told by police to return home, where Kate's suicide note was taped to the front door. The note was found by Madison County Sheriff's officers who were there to evict the family.

The mortgage was 17 months behind, a result of Kate's gambling addiction. She had handled the family's finances.

A bank process server tried 10 times to contact Steve about the mortgage,

Gambling costs catastrophic, says economist

By Ken Camp
For Baptist Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Gambling's social costs, if introduced throughout the United States, would equal one Hurricane Andrew or two great Midwest floods every year, according to economist Earl Grinols.

Grinols, who served as research economist for the Department of the Treasury and senior economist for the Council of Economic Advisors in the Reagan administration, was featured speaker at a legislator/constituents breakfast held during the annual statewide conference of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission. More than 50 Texas lawmakers attended the breakfast at First Church, Austin.

Gambling costs at least \$100 to \$300 per adult each year in an area where gambling has been prevalent for three to five years, said Grinols, professor of economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. These social costs include regulation, lost productivity, and direct crime costs such as apprehension, adjudication, and incarceration.

Citing estimates by the American Insurance Institute, Grinols said 40 percent of all white collar crime has its roots in gambling, and \$1.3

billion annually in insurance fraud is due directly to gambling.

"That works out to a little bit more than \$10 per working person in the country each year," he said.

States considering expanding forms of legalized gambling can learn from those states where gambling has been prevalent for an extended time, Grinols said. For example, Nevada has the nation's highest rate of suicides, dropouts, child deaths by abuse, and deaths per vehicle mile driven.

While most casinos are taxed at only the 20 percent rate, if they were fully taxed at the maximum rate of 40 percent of gross revenues, casino gambling still would cost \$2.25 to \$4.75 in social costs for every dollar raised, Grinols said.

Gambling can bring economic development only through the "beggar thy neighbor" practice of sucking money out of other regions if there is a nearby population base from which to draw, Grinols said.

Noting the presence of major casinos in other states, he said it is "virtually certain" that legalization of casinos in Texas would not result in economic expansion or creation of jobs for the state. □

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests

March

- 8 — Pray for the vote of Parliament concerning a law that will affect the Baptist Union of Poland.
- 9 — PRAISE! The Baptist church in Chociwel (northwestern Poland) has called Ryszard Pioroko as pastor.
- 10 — Pray for Robert and Leslie, two Native Indian leaders at Redboine Baptist Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, as they work in the church's children's ministry.
- 11 — Mike McElroy, pastor of Redboine Church, Winnipeg, requests prayer for David who says he would like to become a Christian but is afraid of how his friends will react.
- 12 — Pray for a new deaf work starting this month in Calgary and for a new mission church in northwest Calgary that will begin in April.
- 13 — Two PRAXIS teams are needed to start a new work in Novi, Mich., this summer, and for a goal of starting 25 new churches in five years.
- 14 — Pray for a church starter with experience for a new work in Novi, Mich.

TENNESSEE BAPTIST PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS



CANADA • MICHIGAN • POLAND

Gambling, lottery forces still pushing agenda

No doubt many fine, capable legislators in the Tennessee General Assembly do good work with high ideals. But when gambling is the issue, particularly a lottery, ordinary citizens have difficulty understanding what's happening.

One thing is certain. Legislators who want a lottery and/or any kind of gambling are determined to keep trying. They are active "in season and out of season," very tenacious.

Lottery and gambling issues are not dead. Maneuvering, planning, arm twisting and backscratching, continue in hallways and behind closed doors.

Rather than addressing whether a lottery is healthy for the people and the government of Tennessee, the usual ploy of some lawmakers is to cajole the public with the idea that "Tennessee needs the money" and "the people have a right to gamble." It is overt and probably covert.

These arguments are only part of the question. Gambling proponents keep plugging jaded ideas, though, and portray opponents as being negative.

Proponents, overlooking the pernicious efforts of wealthy gambling interests, ignore the folly of gambling.

Neither do they seem able to warn of the dangers of gambling, the extraordinary odds against winning, or even to admit that dangers exist. Nothing is said about money that will have to be spent to repair human degradation and its fallout. The public is not reminded that

gambling interests rake in billions of dollars, and a pittance goes to state tax coffers.

While citizens against gambling and lotteries struggle to fund their campaign costs, the gambling industry always seems to have ready money.

So let us not be lulled by the apparent lack of significant activity on the lottery issue. The silence is itself a warning signal. Each gambling scheme paves the way for another. They operate on the losses of the gamblers.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

The *Baptist and Reflector* is against a state lottery and casinos, against horse race gambling, and against any form of gambling where the value of human life and dignity is assaulted.

We believe this is a spiritual issue more than a financial issue. We believe this to be a biblically-sound position. *We believe gambling is a time bomb, and is extremely harmful to family life.* (Related stories on page 4).

Thus believing, it is easy to say to

Tennessee Baptists: contact your state legislators, especially your senators. If a lottery does not build the family, if a lottery or any gambling does not promote the respect, dignity, and wellbeing of all citizens — it is not worthy of support.

Government cannot dictate morals, nor should it try. But government should be responsible; legislators should not try to fool citizens into believing that gambling money will solve education's funding problems — or any other problems.

The problems foisted on the populace by gambling are far, far more damaging than helpful.

Tennessee needs a lottery as much as it needs thousands and thousands of citizens who become habitual gamblers depending on help from the very government that would give them a lottery.

Legislators should not promote a lottery as a way to develop income (which is tainted). So we should be watchful. The General Assembly still has several weeks of sessions. Let your legislators know how you feel about a lottery. □

Committee report now open for examination

The Covenant for a New Century, recommended by the SBC Executive Committee, is now open for discussion and examination by all Southern Baptists.

It has been reported by state Baptist papers, and responses have been made.

Perhaps the Executive Committee will provide explanations which the special study committee did not give.

Among other items of concern, Baptists have expressed interest in the role of WMU, how Baptist history will be preserved and protected, an accurate estimate on money saved by downsizing, how state conventions fit into the plans, and to what extent state convention executives were involved in direct discussions.

Readers, it is your turn. □

one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Losing your head

The name of Chawnga Pudate is familiar to millions of people, especially to those who have had anything to do with worldwide Bible distribution.

I've heard of him too.

He died almost two years ago. But he left a legacy of spreading the written word to many, many people who otherwise might never have heard the name of Jesus Christ.

In his testimony he always said that two words possessed

him — after he heard John 3:16 from a missionary.

The two words? Everlasting life!

He was the last member



ALLEN of the first generation of Christians among India's Hmars.

The two possessive words changed his life. His ancestors handed down a teaching that to enter Paradise, a person must behead his enemy and celebrate that event. Headhunters, the Hmars were in constant danger of losing their heads before they could take someone's head.

When he knew Christ as the only way to salvation, he was saved. His life was changed, as were lives of many of his family and friends.

It is said that Chawnga Pudate traveled by foot or canoe an average of 4,000 miles each year to tell the Gospel story to his people. He saw 90 percent of his tribe of 150,000 come to Christ. Though he was persecuted physically and spiritually, he carried on.

The heritage of evangelism lives today through the lives of his son Rochunga Pudate and other family members.

Rochunga provides strong leadership for Bibles for the World, a simple plan to put the Bible in the hands of every person on earth. How? All volunteers and staff members use addresses in telephone books to send Bibles everywhere.

He says his people have changed from "head hunters to heart hunters." That is quite a transformation. But yet he yearns for a continuing witness to his people.

Tribal children give concerts around the world. They want everyone to know that God "turned my wailing into dancing." Psalm 30:1. ☺

just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

The bully was known to have a list of boys he could whip. A tough athlete confronted him and said, "You can't whip me." Replied the bully, "Well then, I'll have to take you off my list."

Take this thought

Some things we can do and some we cannot do! A mark of wisdom is to realize when we have set unrealistic goals for ourselves. God doesn't expect us to do that which we can't.

Memorize this verse

"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding" (Proverbs 3:13).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to distinguish carefully between what I can do and what I simply cannot do. Help me to be honest in evaluating your will and my capabilities. □

Finding depression's source

There seems to be much interest in the topic of depression, looking at it from a Christian or biblical perspective.

We will discuss depression in a series of three articles.

I will address the source (cause) of depression first. In subsequent articles we will deal with the symptoms (condition) and solution (cure) for depression. We will address general depression and not the depression that results from chemical imbalance.

Who can be expected to experience depression? It is true that some of Christianity's spiritual giants battled depression. Men like David, C.H. Spurgeon, John and Charles Wesley, and others have had bouts with the blues.

Some of America's greatest leaders like Lincoln suffered from depression. Take the example of the great prophet Elijah as described in 1 Kings 19. God's champion is cringing in a cave because he is weary, worried, withdrawn, and depressed.

I have come to realize that much of our depression comes from delusional thinking that

families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor

is unrealistic in its expectation in essentially three areas. Depression usually follows unrealistic expectation of self, others, and even of God.

Going back to our example of Elijah, we can see his unrealistic expectations of self. He had just experienced one of the greatest victories of his ministry in the defeat of more than 450 prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel in what today is northern Israel.

Now he runs from one person, Queen Jezebel, who has threatened his life.

Probably all of us have felt down on ourselves at times. We may have unrealistic expectations as we try to handle the Jezebels of our lives, such as solving all the problems, making enough money, getting the best promotions, making our spouse happy, and so forth. Much depression starts here.

Elijah probably had unrealistic expectations of others. Surely Jezebel will recognize his power and influence with God and leave him alone now. After his countrymen have seen what happened on Mount Carmel, surely they will believe and follow his leadership.

Most people seem to have programmed into their inner beings the belief that life ought to be "fair" or make sense. Unrealistic expectations of others often leads to depression.

Then there is the unrealistic expectation of God. I do not in any way limit God. He by definition is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent with no limits. This does not mean that he will always do it our way.

It is easy to get depressed when we have done what we consider our best for him in the expectation that he will be obligated to do what we have asked or expected.

The next question is "How do I recognize depression in myself or my loved ones?" We will look at that next week. □



BARKLEY

Baptists, Catholics work together in Columbia

By Marie Helm
For Baptist and Reflector

When the majority of members of First Church, Columbia, voted to relocate their place of worship by building new facilities outside the city limits, several members of the congregation felt the need to keep a traditional Southern Baptist church in the downtown area.

In 1988, a group of these members began to give a portion of their tithes and offerings to a fund in order to secure a place of worship in the downtown area. The group received a charter in the name of Downtown Baptist Ministry.

Not only did this group give to obtain suitable property, but the new treasurer, William Minatra, was instructed to give eight percent of the collected offerings to the Cooperative Program and two percent to associational missions.

The steering committee learned that facilities of St. Catherine de Siena Catholic Church might be for sale. The church was located in a choice location for continuing the Baptist ministry. The Catholic congregation already had purchased property and planned to build in the near future.

The offer to purchase St. Catherine Catholic Church was accepted by Bishop Edward W. Kmeic in March of 1993. In anticipation of a sale date of Dec. 31, the Catholic congregation agreed to share their facilities with the Down-

town Baptist Ministry.

Fellow Christians then began to understand the meaning of tolerance, compassion, and love for each other. This began an ecumenical existence between Baptists and Catholics in the community. Much credit can be given to Father Bob Roeser of the Catholic congregation and J. William Harbin, pastor of Downtown Baptist Ministry, which soon changed its name to West End Church.

The Catholics continued to worship at their regular morning hours. And when the Baptists began meeting in the church during March of 1993 they used the building at alternate times. In January 1994, when West End became the official owner of the property, the two congregations switched meeting times.

And when construction of St. Catherine fell behind schedule members continued to worship with West End until October. Just as they had charged us nothing for worshipping in their building during 1993, we did the same for them in 1994. Our deacons were prepared to continue the arrangement until the end of the year, if necessary.

In January of last year we began the remodeling process. Since the church had been built for a Catholic worship service, it had to be remodeled to suit the needs of a Baptist congregation. Because the two congregations were still meeting in the same facility, every effort was made to

lessen the inconvenience.

Father Roeser had now become Father Bob to Baptists and Catholics alike. If a problem arose, his favorite remark was "Just let the Lord handle it." He says, "I have a hard time understanding why Christians can't work together. We see things differently, but we certainly respect these differences. Our differences were overshadowed by the sincerity of what we needed to do. We have a great relationship. We are all one big family, striving for the same thing."

The West End congregation agreed with our chairman of deacons, Allan Kerley, when he said, "These last several months have been some of the happiest of my life." Kerley added, "This has been not only good for the two churches, but people in our town have seen we can work together."

Cecil Johns, chairman of the property committee, has become a very close friend of Father Bob and admits he never imagined he would be a friend of a Catholic priest. He smiled as he said, "I never thought it could happen to me."

Bobbie Bagget, steering committee, commented, "This has been such a learning experience."

"We are a group of people with a common goal," said Kenneth Knox, deacon. "The Catholic Church needed to sell and we needed a place to meet. The Lord has been in control." Knox said, "Father Bob's secretary, Frankie Pilkinton, is a super person. She has served

as secretary for both groups much of the time." (By the way, Pilkinton belongs to the Church of Christ.)

A service of the combined congregations was held in December in the sanctuary of St. Catherine — which was completed and dedicated Oct. 14. A ladies ensemble from West End sang, "In Dulci Jubilo" in Latin. Readings were led by Father Bob and Pastor Harbin with the homily by Bishop James D. Niedergeses. The two congregations exchanged gifts, to be placed in their sanctuaries.

Bishop Niedergeses said to the Baptist and Catholic congregations, "You have fulfilled a characteristic of true discipleship which Jesus tells us must identify his disciples, 'By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another.'"

Niedergeses added, "The divisions among Christians and their downgrading one another is a devastating world scandal ... There must be sincere and respectful dialogue among us for better mutual understanding and respect. This is not an option; it is a serious obligation."

He noted that a common characteristic of Baptists and Catholics is "our reverence and respect for the divinely inspired Word of God as it has come to us in the Bible."

The dedication of West End Church's new building will be April 23. □ — Marie Helm is a member of West End Church.

Franks gets additional assignment

For Baptist and Reflector

Cindy Franks, program associate responsible for preschool and children's work in the Discipleship

Training Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, began an additional assignment March 1. She will be responsible for Church Weekday Education which was formerly assigned to the Sunday School Department.

Franks will lead the Preschool Extravaganza for workers and teachers, which has been rescheduled from July to later in the summer. She also will lead the Church Weekday Education Director's Retreat Oct. 13-14 at the Baptist Center. □



FRANKS

Memphis seniors walk miles for missions

By Bill Sorrell
For Baptist and Reflector

During 1994, the recreation ministry of Audubon Park Church, Memphis, sponsored a walking challenge for senior adults. The theme was Mission Miles: Walking Through Tennessee for HIS Glory, Memphis-to-Bristol. Walkers were encouraged to walk 500 miles across Tennessee.

A \$100 donation to state missions was to be given to the walker who finished the 500 miles first. To chart the progress of walkers, a map of Tennessee and pins were used to display each participant's distance.

The winner was Ransom Valentine. Ransom walked 3,146 miles. That is about the distance from Miami to San Francisco. Had Valentine walked west from Memphis he would have come within 500 miles of the Alaska state line. What makes it unique is that Valentine is 79 years old. Second place finisher was Lawrence Henson who walked 2,217 miles. Henson is 82.

Others walking at least 1,000 miles were Mable Valentine — 1,084; Alma Gray — 1,058; Betty Cummings — 1,055; and Ruth Wells — 1,027. Nine of the 19 participants finished the 500-mile course. Each person in the program was awarded a T-shirt.

A \$100 donation was made to the All-Nations Camp sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention to provide five scholarships to ethnic children at the camp July 17-22 at Camp Linden. □ — Bill Sorrell is minister of youth/recreation, at Audubon Park Church.

WMU sets Missions Get-Together

For Baptist and Reflector

The annual Tennessee Mission Get-Together sponsored by Tennessee Woman's Mission Union is scheduled for March 24-26 at the Gatlinburg Convention Center. The theme is "... On Mission."

Cynthia Clawson, Beverly Hammack and Mildred McWhorter are the program personalities. Clawson of San Antonio, Texas, is a musician and recording artist who has won a Grammy Award and numerous Dove Awards.

Hammack is director, missions ministries division, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga. She has been a missionary in New Orleans; WMU youth secretary for the Kansas Baptist Convention; Christian Social Ministries director in Jacksonville, Fla., for the HMB; and in various positions at the HMB office. Hammack is a graduate of Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo.; Oklahoma Baptist University,



CLAWSON



HAMMACK



MCWHORTER

Shawnee; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and Tulane University, New Orleans, La.

Mildred McWhorter, a special assigned missionary for the HMB who retired after 34 years of ministry, 28 of which were with Baptist centers in Houston, Texas, also will speak. She was a public school teacher in Gwinnett County, Ga., and worked as a home missionary at the Baptist Center, Port Arthur, Texas; and in Houston at the Baptist Center, Gano Center, Joy Fellowship Center, and Mason Drive Center. McWhorter is a graduate of Berry College, Mount Berry, Ga.; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

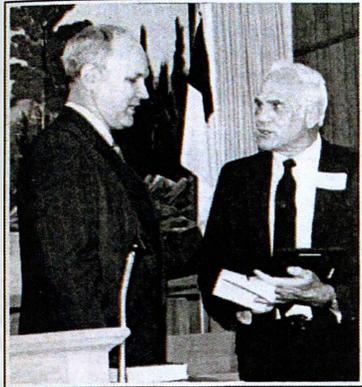
The meeting begins at 2:30 p.m. on Friday and ends around noon on Sunday. Besides main sessions, participants may attend a missions fair featuring foreign and home missionaries serving in Tennessee and conferences. They include the following — Witnessing in Your Work Place, Where Do I Go from Here?, Putting on the Full Armour, Relationships — The Facts of Life, Conflict: Creative and Constructive, Parenting Parents, Stress: The Good and the Bad, Making Change Your Friend, and Introducing Women on Mission.

Housing information and other information is available from Tennessee WMU, (615) 371-2038. □

Cross Bridges Church celebrates 100th anniversary

For Baptist and Reflector

COLUMBIA — Cross Bridges Church here celebrated "100 Years of Faith" Feb. 19.



ROBERT GAMBLE, director of missions for Maury County Association, presents a plaque on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to **Allen McCanless**, at the centennial celebration of Cross Bridges Church.

The day's festivities included greetings from several former pastors — Porter Johns Jr., Palmer Sorrow, Gilly Andrews, and James Mullins.

Allen McCanless, chairman of deacons at Cross Bridges, reflected that "the church has had trials and tribulations, but we've all banded together. We won the victory," he said.

During the morning service, Robert Gamble, director of missions for Maury County Association, presented a plaque to the church on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society.

Members were given a history of the church compiled by Pam Phillips. They also had the opportunity to browse through two rooms

filled with historical photos and memorabilia.

The church was organized under the leadership of J.E. Hight in 1895. In February of that year G.M. Frierson deeded to the church one acre of land off what is now South Cross Bridges Road. According to the history "a nice building was erected for \$1,000. Over the years growth necessitated the addition of several new rooms.

In 1957 church members purchased the old Cross Bridges School property, consisting of 3.7 acres and the building, from the Maury County Board of Education.

Construction has occurred since moving to the present location. A pastorium has been built and several new rooms have been added to the church, the front of the building was changed, thermal windows installed, and a baptistry has been added.

Early in the history of the church, Homecoming, includ-



HELPING CELEBRATE the 100th anniversary of Cross Bridges Church were, from left, **Allen McCanless**, chairman of deacons, **Pam Phillips**, who compiled a history of the Maury County Church, and **Pastor Donald Pruitt**.

ing dinner on the ground, became a yearly event. Homecoming is still held at Cross Bridges on the second Sunday in July.

The church has had 30 pas-

tors in its 100-year history, beginning with G.W. Sherman who is listed as the church's first pastor. Current pastor Donald Pruitt has been at Cross Bridges since 1988. □

More than 1,200 participate in state handbell festivals



MEMBERS OF THE adult handbell choir at Haywood Hills Church, Nashville, practice a number before the beginning of the regional handbell festival held Feb. 24-25 at First Church, Hendersonville. From left are **Chuck Goon**, **K.O. Knox**, and **Mike Westveer**.



YOUTH PARTICIPANTS at the handbell festival at First Church, Hendersonville, included **Laura Lovelace**, left, and **Laura Patty** of First Church, Murfreesboro.

More than 1,200 handbell ringers participated in four state regional festivals during the last two weekends in February.

There were 91 choirs involved in festivals held at First Church, Sevierville; Audubon Park Church, Memphis; Red Bank Church, Chattanooga; and First Church, Hendersonville.

The festivals were designed to give handbell choirs an opportunity to work in mass ringing with expert clinicians and also to give individual choirs an opportunity to ring for adjudication. Tennessee is the leading state in the SBC in handbell festival participation, according to **Julian Suggs**, TBC Church Music Department director. □



RON ALLEY, at microphone, addresses participants at the state handbell festival held at First Church, Hendersonville. **Alley** is a contract consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Church Music Department, sponsor of the handbell festivals. Tennessee is the leading state in handbell festival participation in the Southern Baptist Convention. — Photos by **Lonnie Wilkey**

Crew chiefs needed for World Changers projects in Tennessee

For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Crew chiefs are needed to lead 80 crews in World Changers projects in Clinton, Jackson, and Memphis this summer. More than 1,000 youth and leaders are currently registered to attend the projects.

When they arrive on site, World Changers are divided into crews of 10-12. Each one is led by an experienced crew chief to repair and renovate substandard homes. World Changers is a ministry of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention Brotherhood Department will host a Crew Chief School at Camp Carson in Newport April 28-29. To participate, a \$10 registration fee is required. The cost of lodging and meals is provided for those who attend.

"It'll be hands-on training in roofing, flooring, and sheetrocking," said **Cameron Byler**, Tennessee Baptist Brotherhood director.

Those attending the training should bring hand tools and a pillow. Other linens will be furnished. For more information or to request a crew chief application, contact: **Curt Fowler**, 5513 Palmetto Road, Knoxville, Tenn., 37921, (615) 588-6047, or the TBC Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024, (615) 371-2026. □

Lyle Schaller featured at Baptist Center conference

Renowned author and church growth specialist Lyle Schaller will be featured during a church growth conference Monday, April 17, from 1:30-5:30 p.m. at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. The conference is sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department.

Schaller is the author of numerous books including *Create Your Own Future, 21 Bridges to the 21st Century, The Small Membership Church: Scenarios for Tomorrow, The New Urban Frontier, Innovations in Ministry, Strategies for Change*, and many more.

Billed as "A Conversation with Lyle Schaller," the conference will address these topics: "Five Big Changes in Doing Ministry in Tennessee between 1965 and 1995," "How Has Television Changed People's Expectation of Church?," "What Does Generational Theory Tell You about Doing Ministry in Today's World?," and "What is the Wave of the Future: Small Groups or Expanded Programs?"

Due to limited space and the desire for discussion, attendance is limited to the first 150 to register. Registration fee is \$35 and the deadline is March 31. For more information or to get a registration form, call the TBC Missions Department at (615) 371-2031. □

L.L. Since 1899
Renovation
SAMS
Pews
1-800-537-4723
Waco, Texas
INC.

SEE THE GREAT PASSION PLAY in Eureka Springs, Ark! \$31 package for Groups now includes the Best (\$13) tickets, plus lodging & meals! Where One Call Does It All: KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT, (501) 253-8418.

SBC leaders acted unlike Baptists, Moyers says

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Southern Baptist Convention leaders who announced their opposition to U.S. surgeon general nominee Henry Foster acted more like political partisans than Baptists, commentator Bill Moyers said on "NBC Nightly News" Feb. 23.

Such a response from Moyers, a frequent critic of Southern Baptists in recent years, should have been expected and signifies the announcement hit its target," said a SBC Christ-

ian Life Commission spokesman.

Moyers' comments, which are a regular feature of NBC's weeknight news program, came one day after CLC Executive Director Richard Land announced the agency's opposition to Foster. SBC President Jim Henry also expressed his opposition in the same news conference held in Nashville.

In explaining the CLC's position, Land cited Foster's performance of abortions, support of condom distribution, and association with Planned Parent-

hood Federation of America. Henry pointed to the SBC's pro-life resolutions during the last 15 years in his statements.

"The free exercise of conscience is the heart" of Baptist faith, Moyers said. "No one can speak for all Baptists. But in the last decade, the Southern Baptist Convention was captured by a political posse allied with the Republican Party. Their hierarchy wants to impose conformity on the churches."

James A. Smith, the CLC's director of government rela-

tions, said, "I would not expect the liberal media elite to share the mainstream values that most Southern Baptists do, and therefore I am not surprised that Bill Moyers would disagree with our decision to oppose the Foster nomination."

Land and Henry did not attempt to speak for all Southern Baptists, Smith said. "Any objective review of the press conference would demonstrate that," he said. □

Pollard inadvertently listed as speaker

Baptist Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Frank Pollard will not be among the speakers at a conference being organized by a Tampa pastor as an alternative to the Pastors' Conference preceding the June 20-22 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

Don Letzring told Baptist Press Feb. 27 he missed a message left on his answering machine informing him Pollard had a scheduling conflict and could not attend the June 18-19 "Preaching and Worship

Conference" at Atlanta's Wieuca Road Church.

Pollard, former president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, has a summer teaching assignment at the Mill Valley, Calif., school.

The list of speakers previously announced otherwise has not changed, Letzring said. □

Classified

FOR SALE: Like new, 1-year-old large Imperial commercial grade freezer (21 cubic feet); ideal for active church kitchen; cost is negotiable; call (615) 885-0788 or 366-1115.

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

SEEKING: Minister of Youth/Education, full-time, FBC, Dover, Tenn. Inquire at (615) 232-5496 or 232-5633.

SEARCHING: Range Hills Baptist Church, 2741 Frayser Blvd., Memphis, Tenn., 38127, (901) 357-5560, is in search of a permanent part-time Minister of Music. Mail resume to Attn: Fred Jones.

WHY PAY MORE FOR LIFE INSURANCE?

VERY LOW NON-SMOKER MONTHLY COST:	Age	\$125,000	\$250,000
	50	18.13	30.04
	60	27.93	49.62
	70	63.75	121.26

Please call Roy Napier (Knoxville, TN)
Toll Free 1-800-274-0776 • 9-9 Mon.-Sat.

Jackson National Life, Lansing, MI. Rated A (Excellent) by A.M. Best. Yearly Renewable Term to age 100 - Preferred, form #B0903. Above premiums are first year only. Premiums increase annually to age 100. Preferred. Female rates illustrated above. Please call for other ages and Male rates.

CHURCH STEEPLES

- BAPTISTRIES
- WALLCROSSES
- BAPTISTRY WATER HEATERS

COLONIAL CONTEMPORARY AND MODERN DESIGNS
ERECTION AVAILABLE

WRITE OR CALL FOR LITERATURE OR PROPOSALS

TOLL FREE 1-800-241-3152
IN N.C. 1-800-523-9058

Providing Church Products for 25 Years

140 STEEPLES & BAPTISTRIES
4871 HARVEY RD. • BOX 1053
JAMESTOWN, NC 27282

Steeple & Baptistries

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

Call or write for our free catalog

1-800-523-9058
P.O. Box 1053
Jamestown, NC 27282

FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED

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

SOLID OAK PEWS —
PEW UPHOLSTERY / REFINISHING
BAPTISTRIES STEEPLES
EDUCATIONAL FURNITURE
1-800-523-9058

Call for Free BROCHURE

BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE
1-800-261-0678

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



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

Super Spring Seminar
Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m. — 4 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet; Cost \$20 (includes lunch)
featuring
Barbara Lee Johnson
Conference Speaker, Teacher, Author
Johnson is the author of *Call It All Joy* and *Pathways to Prayer*. She served as chairwoman for the Central Florida Billy Graham Crusade and is a featured speaker for Moody Bible Institute Women's Seminars across America.

The conference is open to men and women. For more information and a free brochure, please call (615) 754-2525 or 449-4406 or write:
Women's Ministry, P.O. Box 226, Mt. Juliet, Tenn., 37122
(Mt. Juliet is just east of Nashville on I-40.)

BANKBUSTER FINANCING
Need \$250,000 to \$5,000,000?
STARTING BELOW PRIME

We are financing 5 to 12 churches every month with bonds.
CALL OR WRITE TODAY for a FREE professional analysis and a written proposal to meet your financial needs.

Andy F. Hardy 1-800-245-9448

Security Church Finance, Inc.
3305 Hobbs Road, Nashville, TN 37215

This is Joe Youthworker.....
My kids hate me!

These are Joe's unhappy kids.....

This is Joe with a GREAT idea!...
I can take my kids to the GOOD STUF Conference!

These are Joe's HAPPY kids at the GOOD STUF Conference...
We Love You Joe!

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 •

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

■ the people

- **Richard Goad** was ordained as a deacon by Cherokee Church, Memphis.
- **Ed Brown, Larry Capley, Tommy Coats, and Larry Creason** were ordained Feb. 5 by Grassland Heights Church, Franklin, as deacons.
- **Bear Creek Church, Parsons**, ordained **Max Bawcum, Keith Conder, and Joe Wood** as deacons Feb. 12.
- **Brian Bolling, Doug Buchanan, and Richard Morrell** were ordained as deacons Feb. 19 by First Church, Bluff City.
- **Ralph Harwell** was ordained as a deacon by Wales Church, Pulaski, Jan. 29.
- **Ida Spencer**, a member of the service staff of Parkway Village Church, Memphis, observed her 28th anniversary of service Feb. 9. Additionally the church promoted **Louise Walker** to the position of church administrator.

■ the leaders

- **John Chandler**, minister of music, First Church, Old Hickory, observed his sixth anniversary Feb. 15.
- **Don Wilson Jr.**, will celebrate his 15th anniversary as pastor, Kensington Church, Memphis, on April 1.
- **Two Rivers Church, Nashville**, has called **Phil Hoyt** as minister of children. Another staff member, **Buddy Holland**, minister of recreation for eight years, has accepted a similar position with Green Acres Church, Tyler, Texas.
- **William McDaniel**, a student at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, has been called as pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Clinton. **H.P. Barrington**, the former pastor, retired but will serve as assistant pastor.
- **Wanda Slack** has ob-

served her third anniversary as minister of preschool and children, North Etowah Church, Etowah.

- **Monte Vista Church, Maryville**, has called **Don Garner**, professor of religion, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, as interim pastor, effective Jan. 22.
- **Nell Rose Ware**, director of weekday ministries, First Church, Cleveland, was honored Feb. 12 on her retirement after 19 years of ministry.

■ **Jerry Boswell**, pastor, Union Grove Church, Beech Bluff, retired Feb. 12 due to his health.

■ **First Church, Perryville**, in Parsons, has called **Thomas J. Bivens** as pastor.

■ **Billy Patterson** has been called as minister of singles, First Church, Franklin.

■ **Jim Harvey** of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, has been called as interim pastor of Inglewood Church, Nashville.

■ **W.C. Garland** of Knoxville is serving as interim director of evangelism and church growth for the Alaska Baptist Convention. He is a former pastor in Knoxville and is retired from the Hawaii Baptist Convention.

■ **Ken Sparkman** has observed his 23rd year as director of missions, Gibson County Association, and 32nd year as a director of missions in Tennessee. **Kathleen Sparkman**, his wife, has served Gibson County Association as secretary-bookkeeper for 22 years.

■ the churches

■ **Brownsville Church, Brownsville**, will hold a "Here's Hope: Share Jesus Now" Revival March 26-29. Roger Willmore will speak and Ron Alley of Nashville will lead music.

■ A March 19-23 revival

will be held by **Indian Springs Church, Kingsport**.

■ **Wales Church, Pulaski**, will hold revival March 12-15. Charles Ingram, pastor of the church, will speak and J.O. Scoggin will lead the music.

■ **Cumberland Home-steads Church, Crossville**, will hold a "Here's Hope Revival" March 9-12. Carroll Owen, retired employee of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Joe Morgan of Cookeville will lead it.

■ **Jews for Jesus**, an international evangelistic agency, will present "Christ in the Passover," at **Brook Hollow Church, Nashville**, March 24 at 7 p.m. Efraim Goldstein, who will lead the presentation, will answer the question, what does the Jewish passover and its seder feast have in common with Jesus' last supper? Using a visual display of traditional passover accouterments, ancient and modern Jewish customs will be discussed and described with an emphasis on the redemption provided by Christ.

■ **Grace Church, Springfield**, will hold revival March 19-23. Don Hodges of Panama City, Fla., will speak.

■ **Holly Grove Church, Bells**, will hold its spring revival, March 26-29. Jerry Drace will speak and John Kimberly Jr., minister of music/associate to the pastor, Holly Grove Church, will lead the music.

■ **Joel Snider**, pastor, Crieveewood Church, Nashville, will speak at the March 12-15 revival of **Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville**.

■ **First Church, Jasper**, will hold revival March 26-29. Don Paris, pastor, Avondale Church, Chattanooga, will speak.

■ **Pine Grove Church, Wildersville**, held a revival which resulted in three people making professions of faith and many others making rededication decisions. Evangelist Floyd "Lammie" Lam-mersfeld of Gleason spoke.

■ The April 12-15 revival of **Ramah Church, Watertown**, will be led by Jimmy Ellis.

■ **Henry Linginfelter** will speak during the March 19-22 revival at **Immanuel Church, Lebanon**.

■ **Hillcrest Church, Lebanon**, will hold a spring revival March 12-15. Terry Wilkerson of Goodlettsville, will speak.

■ **First Church, Martin**, will hold a "Here's Hope - Share Jesus Now" Evangelistic Crusade March 26-29. Dean Doster of the Home Mission Board and Chris Rice will lead it.

■ **Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage**, will hold revival for five Sundays, March 5 - April 2.

■ The Royal Ambassadors of **Central Church, Johnson City**, were featured in the February, 1995, issue of *Crusader*, the monthly magazine for grades 4-6. The RAs raised \$419 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions by holding a bike-athon.

■ the associations

■ A Spring Festival of Marriage will be sponsored by **Shiloh Association** May 12-13 at Pickwick Inn. Jimmy Hester of the Baptist Sunday School Board, and his wife will lead the conference.

■ **Nashville Association** is holding a Successful Single Living Seminar March 17-18 led by Clyde Beeson, associate pastor for family ministries, North Phoenix (Ariz.) Church, and a Senior Adult Spring Rally April 6 featuring James L. Sullivan, retired president, Baptist Sunday School Board.

■ **Cumberland Plateau Association** will hold its annual Association Evangelism Conference March 14. A training session will be led by Bill Selecman, minister of evangelism, Central Church, Crossville, and a service led by Bob Norman, pastor, Clearview Church, Franklin.



PASTOR OF BURT CHURCH, Woodbury, Gary Anderson Jr., is thanked by then Gov. Ned McWhorter for serving as chaplain of the day for the Tennessee House of Representatives recently. Anderson is also a member of the National Guard.

■ the schools

■ **Belmont University, Nashville**, will hold the Middle Tennessee Ministers Conference March 16 beginning at 10:30 a.m. Carey Casey, pastor, Lawndale Community church, which is located in the inner city of Chicago, will speak. The congregation, which is 80 percent black and 20 percent white, has had as many as 40 out of its 300 members attending college. Lunch will be provided.

■ the work

■ **Indian Springs Church, Kingsport**, will sponsor a mission tour June 16-24 to West Branch, Mich., to support the Michigan/Tennessee Baptist Partnership.

■ Church members of **Cumberland Plateau Association** gave 1,684 cans and \$626.63 to the Project Help: Hunger, a national project of Woman's Missionary Union.

■ **Mountain View Church, Crossville**, has begun a building fund for the Faith Mission in Sonaguera, Honduras. The goal is \$8,000.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

What is Lent?

By John D. Laida, interim pastor Springfield Church, Springfield

Most people know something of the season we call Advent. It is that 40-day penitential season of preparation prior to the celebration of our Lord's birth. But what do we know of the penitential season in the church year called Lent?

Like Advent, Lent is a six-week peri-

od of spiritual discipline, but prior to Easter Day, rather than Christmas. It traditionally begins with Ash Wednesday, which is 40 days (less Sundays) prior to Easter. The ceremony itself still consists of a blessing or prayer over the ashes, traditionally made by burning the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. These ashes are then imposed on the forehead of worshippers, accompanied with a spoken reminder. It is a time of remembering one's human mortality and reaffirming

our faithfulness to God.

The observance of Lent is not so much marked for us with the giving up of something (a carry over from an early custom of fasting for 40 days) as it is the desire to recommit our lives to the one who gave his for our sins. It is, therefore, wonderfully appropriate that we have planned revival meetings in the course of the Lenten season. May God through his Holy Spirit lead us through a season of repentance up to and through our revival (lenten) season.

As a result, may we be prepared to properly and joyfully celebrate the Easter triumph of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ over our sin and all death! ☐

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.

'True Love Waits' to go 'thru the roof' at Atlanta's Georgia Dome

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Get ready for the second big "True Love Waits" kickoff.

Envision, if you will, a single stack of "True Love Waits" pledge cards stretching from the floor to the roof of the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

Richard Ross and Jimmy Hester can see it. The duo that created "True Love Waits" at the Baptist Sunday School Board expect 250,000 cards at least (all that will fit in the convention center), and the other 100,000 they anticipate collecting will dangle from a

helicopter hovering above the Georgia Dome.

"True Love Waits —Thru the Roof" will be staged in conjunction with Atlanta 96, an international youth ministry conference, Feb. 11-12, 1996. Ross is working with the BSSB "True Love Waits" coordinating team and a committee of international youth executives to plan the campaign.

He said he believes society needs the "one-two punch" of the national event in Washington (last summer) and the Atlanta 96 campaign to drive home the message of abstinence. More than 210,000

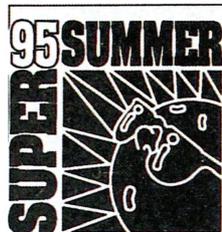
covenant cards were displayed on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. on July 29, 1994.

"Many of us who create national conferences for youth leaders have been meeting for two years," Ross said. "We have all come to the table convinced that God may be on the

verge of initiating a spiritual awakening, with teenagers and young adults at the forefront of that movement."

The Atlanta event is planned with more than 20 other denominations and Christian student organizations.

In April churches can begin ordering "True Love Waits — Thru the Roof" planning kits by dialing 1 (800) 458-2772. The kit contains the instructions a church needs to conduct "True Love Waits" with its youth and tells them how to get the cards to Atlanta. □



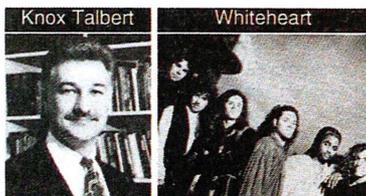
"Join hundreds of teens at the Southeast's fastest growing student conference."

June 19 - 23

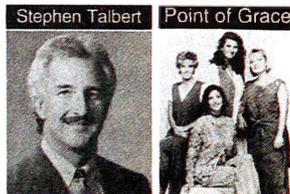
June 26 - 30



July 10 - 14



July 17 - 21



- Concerts
- Beach Trips
- Talent Shows
- Contemporary Worship
- Family Groups
- Leadership Development
- Recreation
- In-Depth Bible Studies
- Quiet Time Training
- Discipleship Training

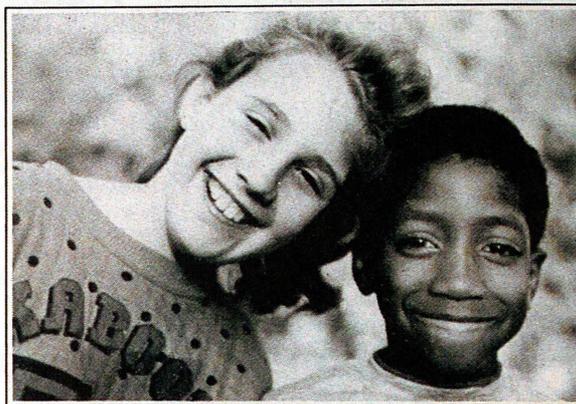
Charleston Southern University

Eighth Annual Student Conference

For registration information call 1-800-401-7675.

"Promoting Academic Excellence in a Christian Environment"

Love thy neighbor . . .



No matter where you live in Tennessee, there's a good chance you're a neighbor to one of our nine Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes locations.

As mission-minded Baptists, we are challenged to reach out to those around us who need Christ and His salvation. Sharing the love of Jesus is at the heart of our ministry while providing a loving, home environment for neglected, abused, or abandoned children.

There are many ways you can become personally involved with a TBCH child. Your Sunday school could "adopt" a cottage or sponsor a holiday party; youth groups might spend a Saturday afternoon hosting a picnic and softball game; and those with green-thumbs could help with landscaping projects.

We serve Tennessee's families through God's love. And as your neighbor, we invite you to join us — we wouldn't want you to miss the blessings!



Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc.

Chattanooga • Clarksville • Franklin • Greeneville • Johnson City
Kingsport • Memphis • Millington • Oakdale

TBCH Central Office
5001 Maryland Way
Brentwood, TN 37027
(615) 371-2000
1-800-624-8591



Dr. Gerald L. Stow
President / Treasurer

**Life and Work Series
for March 12
Focal Passage:
Mark 12:1-12**

Danger of rejecting God's Son

By Elizabeth Howard

Jesus' parable of the vineyard is a response to criticism from the Jewish religious leaders. They questioned Jesus' authority to drive out those who sold animals and changed money in the temple (Mark 11:27-33). Jesus' answer implied that his authority was the same as John's authority to baptize. The religious leaders were caught in their own trap. If they said John's baptism was from heaven, they would have to explain their failure to accept it; if they said it was of men, they were afraid of what John's followers would do. In the parable, God is the landowner, the tenants are the religious leaders, the son is Jesus.

Vineyard of the landowner — v. 1

The parable is based on one in the Old Testament (Isaiah 5:1-7) and also on the experiences of many farmers in Jesus' day. Many were tenants of wealthy landlords who lived elsewhere. Tenants worked the land for only a portion of the income. These economic conditions naturally led to much resentment.

Treatment of the servants — vv. 2-5

The servants sent to collect the owner's portion of the harvest represent the prophets who were often treated in abusive fashion. Each servant is treated more harshly than the preceding one. Even after one is killed, the owner continues to send others. This shows how God loves us, giving us many chances, when we are far from worthy of his love.

Treatment of the son — vv. 6-8

In a last attempt to reach the tenants, the landowner sent his son. The tenants, thinking they might inherit the land, killed the son and cast his body over the wall to be eaten by scavengers. It was possible in that day for occupants to claim a piece of property if it was ownerless. The tenants' reasoning was flawed, but sin blinds people to God's will and his movement in history. Ironically, the only hope for the Jewish religious leaders was not through the murder of the son, but through accepting him as the one he claimed to be.

Retaliation of the landowner — vv. 9-11

The tenants, in their rush to get rid of the son, had failed to consider how the landowner might respond. He would kill the tenants and give others the land. In about forty years, Rome would destroy Jerusalem, and as Christianity grew, it was Gentiles who accepted the Son as the Messiah. The Jews had rejected Jesus as a building stone, but he would be the chief cornerstone of the Christian church. Even today, we see how God turns from nations that reject him to nations where people receive him. Last August I was on a mission trip to Chile. In one week, hundreds of people responded to the Gospel in only a few small churches. How long has it been since such an overwhelming response has occurred in a single area in the United States?

Response of the leaders — v. 12

The Jewish religious leaders ignored Jesus' warning and sought even more eagerly to have him arrested. They would have done so immediately, but for fear of the crowd. They had made their decision. They would have Jesus killed; they would seal their fate. People today no longer face the question of life or death for Jesus, but each one must decide whether to accept him or reject him. The decision we make determines our fate for eternity. □ — Elizabeth Howard is a member of Cumberland Homestead Church, Crossville.

Being faithful under stress

By Brian Courtney

What is a leader? The human mind may conjure up all sorts of answers to this question. It may mean being the best, succeeding where others fail, winning applause from peers, or self-satisfaction. But could being a leader mean service, responsibility, pressures, temptations, and accountability? Today's text is an invitation to examine our ideas of leadership with the Scripture's idea of leadership.

Christian leadership: nature and purpose — v. 1

Paul is still addressing the issue of factionalism and quarreling in the church. It seems that certain church groups were recognizing a particular leader. Some were claiming Cephas, some Apollos. This type of activity was contributing to a divided church. Prior to this chapter, Paul has been demonstrating the foolishness of such activity by focusing on the cross and its implications. Now, he addresses the issue of leadership to help the church move beyond its divisions. His words give instructions to the church in any age.

Two things stand out. First, the nature of Christian leadership is service. Christian leaders are "servants of Christ." Second the purpose of Christian leadership is stewardship "of the mysteries of God." This means Christian leaders have been entrusted with the Gospel and their service is to make it known to unbelievers and encourage believers to live it by word and example. Leaders are the Lord's servants. He is still in charge.

Implications — vv. 2-13

This fundamental insight of Christian leadership could have several implications. Paul chooses three. First, Christian leaders are to be faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ (vv. 2-4). Paul states that those entrusted with the Gospel must be "trustworthy" (v. 2) or faithful. To whom? The Lord Jesus Christ is the answer because we are his servants (v. 1). This is why Paul can say he cares very lit-

tle about the judgments of the Corinthians, human courts, or his own. Why? Because "it is the Lord who judges..." (v. 4).

Christian leadership is concerned with faithfulness to the Gospel. A leader's ultimate devotion must not be to the church, individuals, tradition, or institutions. The Gospel of Christ and faithfulness to him is the ultimate concern.

The second implication is the followers of Christian

leaders are not to judge the leaders (vv. 5-7). However, the New Testament contains passages for prohibiting and commanding judgment (see Matthew 7:12 and II Corinthians 13:5). What does Paul mean? Verse 6 provides the clue, "that none of you may be puffed in favor of one against the other." The groups in the Corinthian church were elevating their leader and refusing the authority and leadership of the other leaders. Paul condemns such judging that refuses a leader because he does not belong in "our camp." Verse 7 implies that from such leaders you may receive "a gift."

What a timely word for congregations, college students, and seminarians! There is no doubt Southern Baptists are divided over leadership in churches or institutions. Beware of judgments that refuse a leader because he/she is not in "our camp." Some of God's best gifts come in unsuspecting packages!

The third implication, briefly, is that Christian leaders suffer (vv. 8-13). This is an ironic statement by Paul to shame his critics. The Corinthians were comfortable but Paul and the other disciples were suffering. That is the way of Christian leadership. Where is such suffering today? In high salaries? In fame? In comfortability? Maybe this is why Paul concludes with, "I urge you, then be imitators of me" (v. 16). Maybe Christian leaders and Christians need to repent and renew themselves in an understanding of Jesus and his cross! □ — Brian Courtney is pastor of First Church, Sneedville.

**Convention Uniform Series
for March 12
Focal Passage
I Corinthians 4:1-2, 6-16**

God's indestructible Word

By Ray Fullilove

Jeremiah may have become tired from the task given him, but he never tired from preaching. It was the good news in bad times. Deliverance from destruction. The grace of God in grievous times. God's people had resisted the Word of God, but found it difficult to reject the love of God. In their misery, they craved God's mercy. In their dissatisfaction, they desired the declaration of God which spoke to their heart. Jeremiah, the despondent, but dedicated prophet of God remained faithful to the end. Though there seemed only a remnant, he stood firm to tell of God's redeeming grace. What a sweet word is grace! Though darkness seemed to prevail, the light of God's presence was still predominant.

Thus, Jeremiah came with the hammer to break the stony heart (Jeremiah 23:29), the fire to consume the cold spirit (Jeremiah 5:14), the power to restore life (Ezekiel 37:7), and the only joy which he felt within (Jeremiah 15:16) — the Word of God.

The Word has remained almighty in its source declarative in its truth, and enduring in its influence. It is still good news for the hurting, the grace of God for the despairing, and the hope of glory for the redeemed blood-bought child of God. The Holy Word is indestructible in our hearts, our minds, and our spirit.

**Bible Book Series for March 12
Focal Passage: Jeremiah 36:1-3,
22-24, 27-30**

Because of its proclamation — ch. 36:1-3

God has only one message and it must be delivered by his prophet. One, God gives to us his personal message (v. 2). The Word of God was inspired by God, edifying in its truth, indicting in its power, instructive in its precepts, and illuminating in its principles (II Timothy 3:16). The Word of God comes from God, for our benefit, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Two, God himself the Lord reveals his purpose. Though it may be with a strong hand, it is still given with a merciful spirit (v. 3a). Three, it reveals his proclamation of grace. His grace is still for us if we would believe, and accept it by faith. To be sure, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scripture may have hope" (Romans 15:4).

Because of its penetration — vv. 22-24

God's Word was proclaimed in the exact way God declared it. When Jehoiakim heard the way of God, he rebelled against it, cut it, and cast it into the fire. The fire in the hearth may have warmed his feet, but the law of God burned into his heart. When sin

is at stake, salvation before us, and condemnation is certain, we need to thank God that his Word is penetrating.

Because of its power — vv. 27-30

God's Word is indestructible because of its power. The pen knife of denial may cause many to evade the Word of God. The Jehoiakims of the world may continue to try to eradicate it. But the Word of God remains eternal. It will not pass away. Man may laugh, but God has the last laugh — and God's Word came back (v. 28) in power. The Word of God still stands with the revelation of God to us, with the redemption of God for us, and with the resurrected power of God in us through Jesus Christ, our Living Word (John 20:31).

God's Word is indestructible in its power. God wants to redeem us, give us a place in heaven, and put a little bit of heaven in our hearts. To reject the Holy Scriptures is to condemn yourself. The condemnation of God resulted from Jehoiakim's choice, not God's (v. 30). Let us tremble at the Word, but allow it to delight the heart. □ — Ray Fullilove is pastor of Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis.

Missionary surveys earthquake damage in Colombia region

Baptist Press

ARMENIA, Colombia — Southern Baptist missionary Rick Veazey didn't waste any time seeing how Baptists could help after the worst earthquake since the 1970s recently struck Colombia's coffee zone.



VEAZEY

He knew the difference Baptist relief efforts made during the region's most well known disaster in 1985. That year the volcano Nevado del Ruiz erupted and triggered a mudslide that buried the town of Armero, killing about 24,000 people. Later two Baptist centers and churches resulted from Baptist relief work among Armero survivors.

But during the latest disaster relief officials didn't need Baptist help, Veazey said. Still, Baptists have found ways to minister behind the scenes in the wake of the February earthquake which registered 6.4 on the Richter scale. □

Computerized Gospel presentation available

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Looking for a way to witness to high-tech friends? Try giving them the Eternal Life tract on disk.

The contents of the witnessing booklet are available in the

Home Mission Board library of SBCNet, the Southern Baptist on-line computer system. The file name is "Eternal Life Booklet for Windows."

Computer users must have Windows 3.1 or higher and at least a 386 processor to download the program, said Bill Gordon, HMB associate director of interfaith witness.

Gordon added the Eternal Life tract to the computer library in hopes Christians would copy it to a disk and give the disk to a non-Christian. "Some people who wouldn't look at a tract will run a program on the computer," he said.

The computer version is "word for word, graphic for graphic" like the printed tract, Gordon said. The only difference is that the computer version is in color. □

Nicholsons return to Panama, continue grieving son's death

Baptist Press

CORONADO, Panama — Southern Baptist missionaries Pauline and Glenn Nicholson, whose 14-year-old son, Andrew, died Jan. 28 from killer bee stings in Panama, have returned to their work in Coronado, Panama.

"Continue to pray for us. We're back here with our memories," said Pauline Nicholson in a Feb. 22 phone interview, the day after arriving at the family's home here.

The Nicholsons spent most of February in their home state of Arkansas mourning Andrew's death with family

and friends.

"We still feel our commitment to be here in Panama," said Mrs. Nicholson. "The only temptation we had to stay in the States was that our family is there, and their support was wonderful. We needed that. But we also have our mission family (fellow missionaries) here. And they've given us a great deal of support. It's almost like we have two families." □

Committee seeks recommendations

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Recommendations for president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary will be accepted until March 15, according to the seminary's president search committee.

All recommendations should be sent in writing to Morris L. Anderson, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 98, Pigeon Forge, Tenn., 37868-0098. Anderson is chairman of the search committee.

The new president will succeed Landrum P. Leavell II, who retired Dec. 31, 1994. Leavell, 68, has agreed to remain as interim president until a successor is chosen. He has been NOBTS president since 1975. □

U.S. aid efforts saving children

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. assistance helps save more than four million young lives annually, according to a report is-



South Africans embrace abstinence

Frano Sibisi, left, president of Christians for Truth (CFT) and Kjell Olsen, second from right, deputy general of CFT, talk with Sunday School Board President Jimmy Draper, second from left, and Jimmy Hester, a 'True Love Waits' campaign organizer, about the sexual abstinence program they helped start in South Africa. Since September 1994, about 12,000 South African teens have signed cards pledging sexual abstinence until marriage. The goal is 100,000 pledge cards signed within the year. — Photo by Jim Veneman

sued Feb. 20. Two national anti-hunger research organizations released the report assessing U.S. efforts in helping to prevent child deaths in the developing world.

The report, "Putting Children First," examines the effectiveness of the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Child Survival Programs in 1991.

The report, published by RESULTS Educational Fund and Bread for the World Institute, non-profit organizations with the purpose of ending poverty and hunger, indicates U.S. assistance has contributed to the immunization of 80 percent of the world's

children. The U.S. also has helped expand preventative therapy to combat dehydration to nearly half of all poor families in the developing world.

Between 1988 and 1994, U.S. assistance helped save the lives of 3.5 million Egyptian children from acute respiratory infections. In India, U.S. assistance contributed to the prevention of nearly 70,000 infant deaths a year.

But the report also points out some weak areas. It criticizes USAID for overbearing administrative red tape, hiring expensive consultants, and restrictive "Buy America" rules that raise costs and takes funds from service delivery. □

Mississippi River Ministry growing, facing challenges, leaders agree

By David Winfrey
For Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — While Southern Baptist missions work continues to grow along the Mississippi River, leaders of a seven-state concentrated effort say their greatest challenge continues to be discovering needs and developing ministries.

"If that doesn't happen, this project is dead," said Tom Ratcliff, director of missions for the Missouri Baptist Convention and a member of the Mississippi River Ministry steering committee.

Started in August 1992 the Mississippi River Ministry focuses attention on 143 counties in states along the river. A catalogue of mission projects currently lists 52 programs in the region, much of which is characterized by meager living conditions.

"We've got a Third World country right here in America," said Don Mabry, Louisiana director of missions, referring to the region.

"Poverty is absolutely consuming those neighborhoods. Many of these areas are in danger of all services disappearing."

Ratcliff agreed. "I'm seeing things that are worse than anything I saw on the foreign mission field."

MRM leaders hope to encourage the development of redemptive Christian ministries that both help people and spread the Gospel. "If we can deliver the Gospel into some of these communities it will empower the people to solve social problems," Mabry said.

Leaders are touting "needs assessment surveys" as an effective way to develop the most essential ministries in a community.

MRM coordinator Tommy Goode calls such surveys "spiritual quests." During the surveys, church members visit such local leaders as police and teachers to ask what needs are not be-



ing met. "We're really listening for the Spirit of God to tell us what he wants us to do," Goode said.

"People want to minister. They don't know how or where," he said. "With needs

assessment (surveys), we get the how and where within two days in their hands."

The surveys accomplished three things leaders seek to achieve through Mississippi River Ministry:

- (1) help the laity to see their communities' needs.
- (2) motivate participants to get involved.
- (3) identify potential volunteers and ministry leaders.

"Something happens in that local group that changes the way they look at their community," Goode said.

Jere Phillips, director of missions for the Tennessee Baptist

Convention, said he has encountered two attitudes from people surveyed.

"One segment said, 'Are you serious?' The second was such a glad reception. We had a juvenile court judge break down in tears when two people went to his chambers and said, 'How can we help?'"

The number of helpers through MRM missions projects last year grew, particularly with the help of World Changers, a Brotherhood Commission missions program for home construction and renovation.

About 1,200 volunteers participated in five World Changers programs in the region, said Rusty Griffin, assistant vice president of program services at the Memphis-based agency.

MRM assistant coordinator Andrea Ramage also observed participation is growing.

Information about the Mississippi River Ministry is available from coordinator Tommy Goode at the Arkansas Baptist Convention (501) 376-4791. □