

Baptist and Reflector

March 22, 1995

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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LMCO forecast shows biggest increase since 1988

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Southern Baptists gave \$85.5 million to their Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions in 1994, according to projections released by the Foreign Mission Board March 10.

The projected record represents an increase of \$2.6 million, or 3.1 percent, from 1993, the biggest annual jump since 1988. It also represents the closest Southern Baptists have drawn to the offering goal since they last met it in 1981 with \$50.8 million.

"We praise God and are grateful to Southern Baptists for the significant increase," said FMB President Jerry Rankin. "This affirms the priority of Southern Baptists to reach our world for Christ.

"Surpassing \$85 million will allow us to continue to make advances overseas," he added.

Still, the forecast indicates the offering will close out about a half million dollars below the goal, a source of some disappointment, Rankin said. If the forecast is accurate and the board follows the pattern of previous years, it will trim capital expenditures overseas by the amount of the shortfall, said Carl Johnson, vice presi-

dent for finance at the FMB.

Southern Baptists actually close the book on the 1994 offering May 31. The March projection is based partly on information from the largest state conventions.

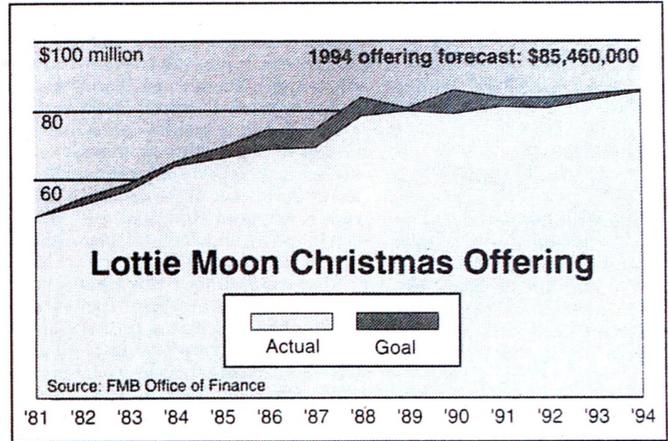
Tennessee Baptists have given \$5,811,530 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering thus far, according to figures released by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Accounting Department.

Leaders at the Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood Commission, Southern Baptist organizations that promoted the offering in Southern Baptist churches, were pleased at the forecast.

"We knew when we set the goal it was an ambitious one, but certainly not beyond the reach of Southern Baptists," said Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director. "I'm really pleased. It's great."

Brotherhood President James D. Williams said he rejoiced in the response of South-

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering



(BP) GRAPHIC By David Williard

THE GRAPH shows a pattern of increase for the Southern Baptist Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions and indicates that this year's forecast is the closest the offering has come to its annual goal since 1981.

ern Baptists. "Never before have we had greater opportunity to share the Gospel than now. I'm confident we can count on our people to give sacrificially."

About \$83.5 million of the 1994 offering will go to the board's overseas operating budget, which provides missionary support. About \$2 million will provide for capital needs overseas, such as equipment, autos, and housing.

The 1995 offering goal will be \$100 million, requiring a 17 percent increase based on this year's forecast.

Rankin noted a record number (545) of missionaries was appointed last year. "It's essential to increase missions support significantly if we're to continue appointing the record number of missionaries ... to seize unprecedented opportunities of harvest overseas," Rankin said. □

Billy Graham kicks off largest-ever global crusade

Associated Baptist Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Evangelist Billy Graham kicked off what organizers call the largest outreach in church history March 14, aimed at presenting the Gospel message to a billion people.

Preaching to a crowd of 23,000 in the open-air Hiram Bithorn Stadium in San Juan, the 76-year-old Baptist evangelist opened his five-day Global Mission. Graham's words were interpreted into 116 languages for broadcast into 117 countries over a three-day period, March 16-18.

The \$25 million effort employs both technology and groundwork. Eight culturally specific editions were broadcast to 29 time zones over 17

pathways to 30 satellites, for a total of 300 hours of programming. Meanwhile, 500,000 volunteers waited to counsel new converts and 1.5 million Christians were trained in how to share the Gospel.

Among "hot spots" targeted in the outreach were Goma, Zaire, where 30 giant, 45-foot television screens were to be shipped in and erected on hillsides in five camps where more than a million Rwandan refugees were expected to attend mission meetings, and Kobe, Japan, where government leaders allowed organizers to bulldoze an entire city block of earthquake rubble for an open-air meeting in the city where buildings were recently destroyed at most mission sites. □



The Gaza quilt

With the holidays over and time on their hands, the 'Needle Benders' of Neely's Bend Church, Madison, decided to take on a missions project using their sewing skills. The quilt top was hand pieced by Marie Cameron. The finished quilt will be sent to Southern Baptist missionaries Harriet and Paul Lawrence in Gaza to be used as an outreach tool to draw ladies into their homes in hopes of encouraging friendships and sharing the Gospel of Christ. From left, are Lou Reece, Gloria Dorris, Dorris Mays, Clara Bozarth, Jean Mays, and Judy Wilkerson.

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Study group chairman clarifies WMU status

By Herb Hollinger
For Baptist Press

SHREVEPORT, La. — The recommendations of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in the "Covenant for a New Century" should not change the working relationship the SBC has with Woman's Missionary Union, according to the chairman of the study group which designed the proposal.

Mark Brister, chairman of a special Program and Structure Study Committee appointed by the Executive Committee, told Baptist Press the study committee has received overwhelmingly favorable feedback from Southern Baptists. However, questions and misstatements he has read in some state Baptist newspapers about the impact of the group's report suggest the need for clarification about the future role of WMU in the SBC.

Questions about the role WMU will have in the Lottie Moon Christmas and Annie Armstrong Easter offerings have been raised, Brister said. Also, why the WMU's "program" statement is not included in the proposed SBC organizational structure has been

raised, said Brister, pastor of Broadmoor Church in Shreveport.

"Quite simply, the WMU requested to remain an auxiliary," Brister said. "We honored their request."

The "Covenant for a New Century" was approved by the SBC Executive Committee in its February meeting and messengers to the annual meeting of the SBC in Atlanta in June will be asked to approve the changes in the SBC recommended in the document. Basically, the 19 agencies of the SBC will be reduced to 12, with the biggest change in merging the Home Mission Board, the Radio and Television Commission, and the Brotherhood Commission into a new North American Mission Board. A majority vote by messengers to two consecutive SBC annual meetings will be needed to enact the recommended changes.

In the proposal, "ministry statements" would replace "program statements" for SBC agencies. WMU's status as an auxiliary caused it not to be assigned a ministry statement.

Brister said the promotion of the two offerings, "while historic," was not included in the

original program statement for WMU in 1966 or any succeeding statement approved by the SBC.

"While WMU has done a superlative job in promoting these mission offerings, the initiation of the offerings was influenced by the vision of the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board, as well as Woman's Missionary Union," Brister said, noting both the FMB and HMB provide thousands of dollars to aid in promoting the two offerings.

"Given the historical non-binding nature of WMU program statements, it is reasonable to confirm the responsibility for these vital offerings to agencies whose accountability to the SBC is binding," Brister said.

"It is also logical to anticipate continuation of the vital role of WMU in assisting the two mission boards in promoting the offering."

The seven-member study group, Brister said, agreed churches, associations, and state conventions would continue to use the services of WMU in providing missions education as they have for decades. "This has not changed," Brister said. □

Volunteers needed for SBC-related evangelistic effort

ATLANTA — With Crossover Atlanta three months away, organizers are praying for 1,000 out-of-town volunteers and 1,000 people to make professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

Crossover is the evangelism emphasis preceding the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Last year in Orlando, Fla., 811 people made professions of faith during Crossover Orlando.

Volunteers are needed to help with block parties, street evangelism, and door-to-door witnessing, said Don Smith, associate director of evangelism for the Baptist Convention of Georgia.

A training session will be held for volunteers June 16, the day before the one-day Crossover Atlanta thrust June 17.

To be part of the Crossover Atlanta effort, call (404) 936-5233. □

Zambia immigration officer ignores ruling favorable to mission

By Craig Bird
For Baptist Press

LUSAKA, Zambia — Six more Southern Baptist missionary couples assigned to Zambia are looking at alternate ministry assignments after the country's chief immigration officer ignored a judge's directive to extend Baptist missionaries' work permits.

Four of the couples may become illegal immigrants at the end of March, when their work permits expire, unless the Baptist Convention of Zambia and the Baptist mission (organization of missionaries) resolve a two-year-old dispute over who must approve missionary work permit requests.

That will be discussed again March 24 in a meeting between leaders of the mis-

sion and state convention. If the issue is not resolved then, both sides will examine future options.

Unless the trend is reversed, the Southern Baptist mission force in the country, which numbered 45 in 1994, will shrink to six couples within a year.

"We certainly need everyone's prayers for the March 24 meeting," said missionary Bonita Wilson, acting administrator for the mission. "We need a miracle to work this out."

A Zambian judge ordered the two sides to meet without governmental interference and work out what he called an internal church matter that never should have been brought to court. At the same time he ordered the chief immigration officer to give longer extensions on work permits instead of the 30-60 days the officer

had been issuing. But the chief immigration officer refused to comply.

So by March 31 Ed and Linda Miller, Jim and Thelma Cooke, Dwayne and Betty Mitchell, and Mike and Lindy Howard, all from Texas, will become illegal immigrants if they remain in the country with no solution to the problem.

The immigration officer also has circulated a notice to its officers that John and Amelia Garrison of Alabama, who are in the United States hoping to return, will not be allowed to enter the country.

Tennessee native Gloria Turman of Brownsville, who along with husband, Joe, are missionaries in Zambia are not presently affected by the latest developments in the two-year-old dispute. The Turmans are on furlough in Birmingham, Ala. □

15th annual festival features largest ever faculty, programming

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The 15th annual Dramatic Arts Festival will feature its largest faculty and programming ever, according to Eleanor Yarborough.

The festival also has the largest number of pre-registrants in its history, added Yarborough, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Recreation Department, sponsor of the weekend event to be held March 31-April 1 at First Church, Hendersonville.

"Successful ministries consistently demonstrate a readiness to assess and strengthen their effectiveness."

"For a decade and a half, we have not only inspired countless adults and youth in leadership positions to keep raising their standards, we have also helped them acquire the skills to match their highest aspirations," Yarborough said.

The 1995 festival will feature Nan and Dennis Allen as music worship leaders. The Brentwood residents are both freelance writers, primarily in the areas of choral music and drama. In addition to their writing Nan is a studio singer and Dennis is a producer for recorded projects. They are active members of Judson Church, Nashville.

A new addition to this year's

program will be a performance session on mime and interpretative movement, Yarborough noted.

An adult symposium and youth mini-camp will be held from 3-5 p.m. on March 31 prior to the festival which begins at 7 p.m. Additional registration is required for these two options.

In addition to performance opportunities during the festival, numerous conferences will be held in all areas of clowning, drama, puppetry, mime and interpretative movement, and recreation.

Pre-registration is not required for attendance. Registration will be accepted at the

door. For more information on cost and schedules, call (615) 371-2033. □



DENNIS & NAN ALLEN

New church starts overseas provide evidence God is at work

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The spirit of God is moving in the world and Southern Baptist foreign missionaries report remarkable progress in starting churches, discipling believers, and training leaders in 1994.

Overseas Baptists affiliated with Foreign Mission Board missionaries started 2,162 new churches, continuing a surge of church starts that has more than doubled the number of overseas congregations since 1987.

Membership in those churches pressed close to the four million mark, Discipleship Training enrollment almost doubled, and enrollment in residential Bible schools and seminaries increased 18.6 percent.

In fact, developments in several countries represented encouraging progress toward the FMB effort to give everyone in the world an opportunity to respond to the Gospel.

"The number of new churches being started is the most accurate reflection of effectiveness in being on mission with God," said FMB President Jerry Rankin. "Each place a new congregation of believers is organized, a nucleus of witness and ministry is established that continues to extend the Gospel be-

yond the work of the missionary and national evangelists.

"A growing, reproducing network of local churches, bearing witness to the saving grace of Jesus Christ within a culture and local language, represents the greatest potential for giving everyone in the world an opportunity to hear, understand, and respond to the Gospel," Rankin said.

Southern Baptists support about 4,100 missionaries in 132 countries (with work in 25 others) through contributions to the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

The solid 7.1 percent increase in church starts continued a level of growth evident in 1993, when overseas Baptists broke the 2,000 new church mark for the first time.

After almost 40 years of 3 to 4 percent annual growth, Southern Baptists have moved into the range of 7 percent. The goal is 10 percent annual growth by A.D. 2000, said Jim Slack, the FMB's evangelism and church growth analyst. By comparison, 878 new churches were organized in 1987.

Membership in affiliated churches grew 4.9 percent to 3,918,915 during 1994. Enrollment in Bible-teaching ministries grew 6.3 percent to

2,371,215. Enthusiasm for those gains, however, is tempered by the fact that church membership grew by only 182,966.

But baptisms increased by 15 percent in 1994 as Southern Baptist missionaries reported 302,132 baptisms — the first time annual baptisms have ever topped 300,000.

"Even though record growth was established in both these areas, when compared to baptisms, we can see the long-standing 'back door' problem still exists in most churches," Slack said. "Gains would be phenomenal if the 'back door' problem could be minimized."

Toward that end, Southern Baptist missionaries in two Spanish South American countries have concluded two years of research on attrition in Baptist churches, Slack said. Their studies show many church members know what they should do as Christians but don't follow through. Strategies to help them live out their faith have been implemented in those countries, and the research is being expanded to other Southern Baptist fields.

One indicator of progress toward closing the "back door" is a dramatic increase in discipleship enrollment from 49,214 in 1993 to 95,407 in 1994. Al-

though that new figure benefited in part from improved reporting procedures, it still reflects encouraging growth, Slack said.

Other important overseas statistics show the number of new missions exceeded 25,000 for the second year in a row with 25,646, a 1.3 percent increase over 1994. Leadership development reached a new high as the number of seminaries and Bible schools increased 11.5 percent to 252 and enrollment grew 18.6 percent to 17,282. However, enrollment in Theological Education by Extension centers actually declined 1.6 percent to 15,563.

Avery Willis, FMB senior vice president for overseas operations, noted Southern Baptists are in the middle of a "decade of destiny." The reports show "we're in the middle of a decade of unprecedented growth," he said.

Willis noted more churches have been started overseas in the last seven years than in the FMB's first 143 years. "God has prepared our harvest, and we're trying to keep up with him," Willis said.

"The last five years of this century will answer the question of whether Southern Baptists will take the Gospel to all peoples as God has been preparing us to do," Willis added. □

NOBTS trustees approve search committee selection process

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — The nominee hasn't been selected but trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary have decided they will meet in a special two-day meeting to consider the search committee's selection for the seminary's eighth president.

Trustees adopted the selection procedure offered by the 11-member search committee during the board's regular spring meeting March 13-16 at the New Orleans campus.

Morris L. Anderson, pastor of First Church, Pigeon

Forge, and chairman of the search committee, said the committee would no longer "solicit" recommendations for a successor to Landrum P. Leavell II after March 15. Leavell retired Dec. 31, 1994, but is staying on as interim president until a successor is elected.

Anderson, who also is vice chairman of the trustee board, said there are 22 candidates for the position. Although not "soliciting" more recommendations, Anderson said that does not prohibit the committee from considering recommendations they might receive after

March 15.

The Tennessee pastor dispelled rumors the committee was "down to two men." Anderson did not identify the two. The search committee said it will not divulge the names of candidates under consideration.

Anderson told Baptist Press he hoped the committee would have a candidate before the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 20-22 in Atlanta.

Trustees adopted a four-point selection procedure:

(1) Review all names submitted for consideration.

(2) Develop a short list of candidates.

(3) Prayerfully select the candidate to be presented to the full board.

(4) Call a special two-day session of the full board to consider the candidate.

The search committee agreed to give the full board at least two weeks' notice of the special meeting.

The committee already has met a number of times, according to Edward D. Johnson, trustee chairman.

Although not adopted by the trustees, the search committee presented its 10-point criteria

"for the potential candidate."

Among the criteria is the person must be "a man of godly, impeccable integrity — first and foremost"; be a "strong conservative," have pastoral experience and administrative skills, be visionary and innovative and be a "fund-raiser able to sell the cause of theological education." The criteria also noted a terminal (doctorate) degree was "very desirable but not a determining factor."

One trustee asked if any of the criteria were negotiable.

Anderson said "some not, others maybe," but did not elaborate. □

New Orleans Seminary trustees raise fees, salaries; honor Leavell

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Student fees will increase but so will faculty salaries for next year in action by trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary at their spring meeting March 13-15.

Landrum Leavell II, president of the seminary for 20 years when he retired Dec. 31, was given special recognition by the trustees. He is serving as interim president until a successor is chosen.

The student fee cost is projected at \$750 a semester (up from \$650), which is still 20 percent below three of the six SBC seminaries for the traditional seminary degree pro-

gram, said L. Clay Corvin, vice president for business affairs at the seminary. The seminary's doctor of ministry degree fee will increase from \$675 to \$900 per semester.

Corvin said that "one of the fundamental issues dealt with in our revenue projection was a need to provide a significant compensation increase for our faculty and staff."

Faculty and staff salaries will increase 3.5 percent next year.

Corvin said the new \$9.2 million budget adopted by trustees for 1995-96 (a 10.7 percent increase over the current budget) allocates 81 percent of the overall increase to salaries. □

Mexican Baptist youth embrace 'True Love Waits'

Baptist Press

MEXICO CITY — Along with Wal-Mart and Whataburger, "True Love Waits" has hit Mexico City.

Young people from Mexico City's Anastasis Baptist Church — energized by a study of the "Experiencing God" discipleship course — heard about the "True Love Waits" sexual abstinence program and got involved.

The "Experiencing God" study made such a big impact on their lives they began asking: "What's next?" said Larry Gay, who leads the youth along with his wife, Susan. The Gays are Southern Baptist missionaries in Mexico City.



Many signed pledges to wait until marriage before becoming sexually active.

Gay noted that since taking the "Experiencing God" course the youth have committed themselves to spreading the "True Love Waits" message beyond their church to other Mexican youth.

To do that, they've pledged to design and publish Spanish-language materials for the 1,200 churches in the National Baptist Convention of Mexico. By July they hope to get at least 2,000 young people to sign commitment cards promising not to have sex outside of marriage. They also will promote the program at the Mexican Baptist national youth congress. □

■ about letters to the editor

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

Who is the speaker?

Richard Land, head of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, spoke out recently opposing the appointment of Dr. Foster as Surgeon General. Jim Henry, current president of the convention, did so the next day. I have

not seen the complete text of their statements, but regardless of any disclaimers they may have made, the public received the impression that these gentlemen presume to speak for Southern Baptists in general.

I can assure you that no one speaks for all Southern Baptists. They did not speak for me and, I feel confident they did not speak for a lot of like-minded Southern Baptists. Bill Moyers made this clear in his commentary on NBC evening news Feb. 23. He pointed out that not all Baptists are like Jesse Helms, Newt Gingrich, and Pat Robertson.

Land stated that his opposition to Foster's appointment was not based solely on the abortion issue but it is clear that this is the principal basis for his and Henry's opposition to Foster. It is true that a majority of the messengers attending the convention's annual meeting in San Antonio voted in opposition to abortion except to save the life of the mother. The majority stonewalled efforts to make exceptions for cases of rape and incest, and the majority of the messengers also voted to do away with the historic Baptist belief in the priesthood of the believer.

That belief says, in essence, that every Christian believer speaks for himself to God and to the world. I believe it is still true in spite of pronouncements from self-appointed spokesmen for Southern Baptists and the action of messengers who attended and voted at the San Antonio meeting.

Charles J. Barton
Oak Ridge 37830

Personal safety

Each time I see a photograph like the one on page 12 of the March 1 edition, World Changers return to Tennessee, and photographs of Baptists involved in National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions construction projects, I am struck by severe mixed emotions.

I am thankful to God for placing a willingness-to-work heart in each volunteer worker.

Many adults pictured on the construction sites appear to be violating the Occupational Safety and Health Act requirements established in 1970, for worker protection.

And almost all of the youth pictured appear to be working in violation of not only the OSHA but Child Labor Law restrictions.

It is obvious that danger to the workers' "life and limb" is the same whether the work is for pay or gratis. My telephone conversations with U.S. and Tennessee OSHA, and with U.S. and Tennessee Department of Labor, Wage and Hour seem to confirm that all such existing regulations are intended to assure the safety of volunteer youth and adults and for those gainfully employed.

Without trying to list the negative aspects of this denominational "turning our backs to reality and the law of the land" on these projects, could we not voluntarily demonstrate our willingness to accept Paul's description of government in Romans 13... "the powers that be are ordained by God..."? Based upon the difficulty that government

has trying to get voluntary compliance of management and labor with mandated employee safety requirements, our voluntary compliance might be an example to the nation/world of even greater magnitude than that of volunteering to perform the work free.

Harold F. Polston
Nashville 37214

Teachers in China

The Brotherhood Commission, through its partnership with the Foreign Mission Board, is recruiting 150 teachers to serve in an English immersion program July 2-Aug. 13 in China. This is the largest number of teachers requested for the project since its inception six years ago.

If interested, call (901) 272-2461 or 1 (800) 280-1891 for more information.

Tim Yarbrough
Brotherhood Commission
Memphis 38104

Call to action

Gambling legislation is again before the state legislature. There are many bills coming from many different angles. Their primary target is still to

try and change our State Constitution. We must not sleep!

First, we must rise up and pray. For the next four weeks, make this an item for prayer meeting.

Second, we must rise up and call our state senators and representatives.

Third, we must rise up and say that gambling hurts people government should protect, hurts families by siphoning off needed income, hurts confidence in government whose business it becomes to propagate the false hope of winning, hurts business by giving unfair advantage to industry-aligned establishments, hurts the economy by spending millions of our tax dollars on a get-rich-quick scheme which redistributes rather than creates capital, hurts initiative by undermining the ethic of hard work and fiscal responsibility, hurts our future when the government looks to chicanery to produce revenue instead of the same effort being used to look to our state's natural beauty and attractiveness, her natural resources, and the vision and determination of her people.

David Carr
Christian Life Director
Holston Association
Greenville 37744

Union presidential search committee named

JACKSON — A nine-member presidential search committee has been named to find a successor to Hyran E. Barefoot who will retire June 30, 1996 as president of Union University.

Carla Sanderson, dean of the School of Nursing will represent the faculty while Robert Simpson, assistant vice president for business affairs is the staff representative.

Trustees on the presidential search committee are:

John Drinnon, Germantown Church, Germantown; Jane Alderson, West Jackson Church, Jackson; Gary Coltharp, First Church, Jackson; Elzie Danley, Malesus Church, Jackson; John McRee, First Church, Memphis; Tom Moore, First Church, Dresden; and Max Walker, First Church, Selmer. □

Improvements suggested for SBC annual meetings

There are some long-range improvements possible for the annual sessions:

1. Consideration should be given as to the worthwhileness of Wednesday afternoon work sessions (the free afternoon of the convention) to analyze the merits of immediate or delayed actions of upcoming issues so each decision can be based on facts instead of propaganda.

2. We must struggle to see that the *Baptist Faith and Message* statement shall remain a statement of faith expressed in general terms rather than an enforceable creed which is narrow, coercive and overly legalistic.

Illustration: It is unwise to try to make a football team play on a tennis court. It is not a matter of right or wrong, but of wisdom or lack of it.

3. Maintain highest possible ethical standards knowing that the whole world is observing and evaluating our Christian witness because of the size and influence of Southern Baptists.

4. Move election day to the last day of the convention if

messengers persist in going home as soon as the results of the presidential election have been announced.

5. Debate the wisdom, or lack of it, of having candidates "run" for the presidency on the grounds that when one is elected he/she can be destined to start his/her tenure with organized opposition already set in place. The office should seek the man or woman and not the person the office.

6. Stress the fact consciously and consistently that love and prayer will produce better and more lasting results than political actions, reactions, and manipulations.

7. Recognize the voting of a convention may not be in harmony with the will of the masses of Baptists and churches (with sometimes less than two percent of the people of the members voting in annual convention sessions).

Special surveys should be provided when there are doubts on this score to make

■ a historical view

By James L. Sullivan, retired BSSB president

sure that convention decisions are in harmony with majority denominational opinions.

8. All agencies of the convention should be requested to foster evangelism, stewardship, and missions to the limit of their abilities where they are in harmony with their program statements, even though the major responsibilities for implementing and correlating these functions are fixed with specific agencies.

These are inseparable responsibilities of everyone. All energies of our entire denomination should be unleashed to advance them by never-ending educational and promotional programs stressing their necessity in a New Testament-like church of today. — Sullivan wrote this series of articles for his church newsletter a few years ago. Future articles in this series will be printed on an ongoing basis.

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests

March

- 22 — Pray for the Baptist Union of Poland as they plan a worship service for their home missionaries.
- 23 — Thank the Lord for the successful surgery of Ewa Gutkowska, wife of Ryszard Gutkowska, executive secretary-treasurer, Baptist Union of Poland.
- 24 — Randy Galloway, FMB fraternal representative to Canada, working with students in metro Toronto, Ontario, requests prayer for volunteer semester missionaries to work with Baptist Student Ministries in Toronto.
- 25 — Pray for "Here's Hope" revivals taking place all over Canada and for preachers and music leaders from Tennessee who are helping with these.
- 26 — Praise God for filling all the Tennessee "Here's Hope" revival requests.
- 27 — Pray for two churches in Macomb Association that need to build.
- 28 — Pray for Joe Ryckman, new director of missions for Greater Detroit Association.

TENNESSEE BAPTIST PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS



CANADA • MICHIGAN • POLAND

Flawed thinking uses greed to push lottery

There's a song about the blessings of spring and summer, coaxing listeners to recall "those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer." Those adjectives many times are applicable to the absurdities that happen in politics. Lazy, hazy, crazy.

Legislators are busy trying to contrive a believable story that Tennessee really needs a lottery. After all, most of our neighbors have lotteries. And, since Tennessee doesn't have a state income tax, why don't we just erase the state constitutional ban on lotteries. Would not that solve all money problems now and forever? Lazy, hazy, crazy thinking.

What is wrong here? Why do legislators so desperately want a lottery? There are efforts underway to change the state constitution, seen as an easy way to legalize a lottery. It does look like lazy, hazy, crazy thinking.

Are Tennesseans different? Probably not. A new survey published about five weeks ago reveals that gambling is a craze, a frenzy that has gripped America like a steel trap of relentless greed.

Casino gambling revenue, now totalling \$16.5 billion, has doubled in less than 10 years. In Tennessee at present, a state-sponsored lottery is a primary goal for some legislators. And just what is the driving force behind lottery schemes? Two ideas lead the way: money (greed) and ready accessibility. Lotteries and/or casinos fuel the insatiable but wrong idea of getting something for nothing.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

It is said that millions of dollars can be produced without adding to the tax "burden." On the surface, it would appear that a lottery and casinos would instantly and forever pour millions and millions of dollars into the state coffers.

Pardon this opinion, but this kind of thinking is flawed. State legislatures should not be looking for such shallow ways to finance state government. Governments that depend on gambling income for sustenance are not worthy of support by its citizens.

The very dollars that "help" state income are dollars that destabilize countless people and abort their dreams. Here's some sound advice: don't build the Tennessee state budget on failed dreams and cheap dollars. Who really is getting rich? Not state government, not individual citizens — but the lottery industry.

The gambling forces are not doing this because they are good and caring citizens. Somebody always loses in a lottery, and in every kind of betting — millions and millions of somebodies. Many of those somebodies eventually become pitiful and forgotten nobodies.

Howard Shaffer, a researcher on gambling, Harvard University, says, "Gambling is going through the technological transition that cocaine went through when it was converted to crack."

And it is still highly dangerous. Larry Daughtrey, writing in the March 19 *Tennessean*, said, "Tennessee

is planning a wide variety of activities next year to mark its 200th birthday. The best observance would be to celebrate the durability of our constitution, not open it up for meddling to satisfy the political whims of the hour."

Tennessee does not need a lottery nor any tampering with the Constitution. □

'Progress' wins again

It is likely that Baptists and other Christian groups, including members of Nashville's First Church, were not surprised at last week's ruling by State Attorney General Charles Burson.

Nashville's new arena is being constructed near First Church downtown, with only 85 feet separating the two buildings at the closest points. The state law prohibits alcohol sales within 100 feet of churches and schools.

Burson's ruling was correct in that another state law allows the four largest cities in Tennessee to serve alcohol in their convention centers.

The problem, it seems, is not in the ruling, nor the proximity, nor the still-to-be-settled sale of beer at the arena.

The problem is that alcohol plays such a strong role in American life. It is a "known" fact that everything goes better with alcohol. Isn't that what the breweries tell us? What will be done?

Fifteen feet makes no difference. Christians must *always* be strong in the Lord, and have courage to change a world wallowing in poverty of the soul. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Plowboy's Bible

Bible translations have flooded the market for several years, and we hardly pause to think before we choose one.

But there was a time when the Bible was not available to ordinary folks. And, as late as the early 16th century it was illegal to publish the Bible in English.

That is when one of Christendom's great heroes stepped into the gap.

Last year was the 500th anniversary of William Tyndale's birth in 1496.

He pioneered English Bible translations from the original languages, and did a fine job of it.

For his reward, he was hounded and harassed over and over again. He fled his native England for Europe. He was constantly on the move, touting the necessity of the Bible in the native tongue, espousing justification by faith alone.

He was regularly betrayed by friends, sought by enemies, badgered by police, but translate he did. For his faithfulness to the Word, the authorities sentenced him in 1536 (at age 42) to be strangled and burned as a heretic.

It had always been his heart cry to put the Bible into the hands and hearts of all people. He was a staunch reformer. As a tutor, he saw the Bible ignorance of people.

He was convinced that "it was impossible to establish the lay people in any truth, except (unless) the Scripture were plainly laid before their eyes in their mother tongue."

He was responsible for the "plowboy's Bible," making it possible for plain people to read God's Word in their own tongue. He must have been a favorite of Cam Townsend, along with Wycliffe. The message was so clear that even the plowboys could read it.

To the consternation of the ecclesiastical establishment, the plowboys learned such great words as *congregation* and *repent*. They struck at the heart! And to Tyndale we owe the hearty phrases such as "salt of the earth" and "fight the good fight," the pithy and strong message of the Lord.

He was obedient to the vision of Erasmus, for a Bible for "the man on the farm." □



ALLEN

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Policeman to an elderly man sitting on a park bench: "What's wrong?" Man: "I'm 75 years old, have a charming, vivacious younger wife who is very much in love with me." Policeman: "What's the problem?" Man: "I can't remember where I live."

Take this thought

Often the real problem is not the one that seems to be the problem. If we knew all the facts about the other person, we would be far more sympathetic. Dale Carnegie said, "If I were you, I would probably do what you did."

Memorize this Scripture

"With his mouth, the godless man destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered" (Proverbs 11:9 NASV).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to keep my problems in perspective. May I be intellectually honest; if I am true to myself, I can never be false to any other person. □

The solution for depression

This is the third in a series of articles addressing the subject of depression. We are considering Elijah's experience on Mt. Horeb as recorded in I Kings 19.

We have dealt with the source of depression and the symptoms of depression. Let's consider the *solution* for depression. When unrealistic expectations have caused us to be worried, weary, worthless, and on the war-path, what can we do about it?

I can point out from Elijah's experience that we need to take care of ourselves, do something *constructive* with our time, *commune* with God, and *commit* to His care.

First, Elijah's experience suggests to us the need to take care of our everyday needs. The angel told Elijah to get up and eat. Often the depressed person has to be reminded to take care of daily hygiene or nutritional needs.

Most of us are aware of how much better we feel after a nice bath or a good meal. It may sound strange to tell someone who is in bed frequently that they need rest, but when we lie in bed and worry, we aren't resting. The depressed person needs to be

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

encouraged to reframe their unrealistic expectations and worry so that they can emotionally rest.

Second, it is appropriate for depressed persons to get involved in some type of constructive activity. The angel told Elijah that he had a long journey to make. That in itself would be depressing to many.

The important thing about constructive activity is that it is perceived as important and constructive to the individual.

Different strokes for different folks, implies that this will not be the same for every person.

For some it may be a crafts project. Others may want to make a visit to a person in need. This part of the cure is individually different for each person.

The third part of the solution for Elijah involved communion with God. We tend to look for God in the spectacular (fire, wind, lightning) when he is most often present in the "still small voice" in our quiet

times with him. Even when the heavens appear to have become brass, I encourage depressed persons to make a habit of spending time each day alone with him.

The final part of Elijah's cure consisted in committing himself to God's care. Elijah's view of the situation was dismal and defeated. No one would help or stand with him.

God encouraged Elijah to believe that he still had 7,000 who were willing to take a stand.

It is encouraging to depressed and defeated Christians to have the assurance that our God is going to win in the end. We all want to be on the winning team, and we are.

I pray that this short and simplistic approach to depression will help you the next time the demon of depression attacks you. □

Dr. Barkley may be contacted at his office or at Baptist hospital campus: The Counseling Center, 6385 Stage Rd. Suite 1, Bartlett 38134; or Union University, BMH Campus, 999 Monroe, Memphis 38104.



BARKLEY

TBC staffer/missionary revisits childhood home in Colombia

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — When Estriberto Britton got the invitation to speak at the 150th anniversary celebration of the beginning of Baptist work in Colombia, he was honored, but he also was excited for a personal reason — the celebration was being held on the small island where he was born and spent his childhood. He hadn't visited it in 15 years.

Britton, who is a Southern Baptist home missionary currently based at the Tennessee Baptist Convention offices, said his trip back home to San Andres, Colombia, in January reminded him of one particular event in his childhood.

He became ill and the island of just 5,000 people had only one doctor. When his mother thought he was going to die, she told God if he would save her son she would give him to God.

His mother was true to her commitment, raising him to have a Christian faith, but he rejected it, said Britton.

Britton had another unusual experience while growing up. Although he lived in Colombia, he spoke English because San Andres was a British colony

before it became Colombian, he explained. His heritage also explains his English surname.

When Britton's family moved to Panama when he was seven years old, he learned Spanish. Being bilingual has been an advantage for him, and is one of the reasons he was invited to address the Colombian Baptist Convention's celebration. Although the meeting required planning for bilingual programs, the site was a natural choice. A British resident started the first Baptist church in Colombia there in 1844.

Britton has spoken in both languages translating for himself before. He does it as pastor of the Hispanic Baptist Mission of Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory. It's challenging, he said, but the main problem is the length of messages. He was glad when after a few sessions the coordinators of the meeting decided he should speak solely in Spanish because the majority of the audience understood it.

The conventioners celebrated by holding a four-day event which included evangelistic meetings in a coliseum. Britton brought the messages during the outreach meetings and was the keynote speaker to the convention which was well attended by Colombian Baptists, he noted. More than half of the country's 108 churches were represented by 304 messengers, reported Britton.

During his visit he was reminded of the investment of North American Baptists in the country. The country's first Baptist church building, which still stands, was built in Mobile, Ala., dismantled, transported, and rebuilt in San Andres, explained Britton. The site is an impressive one, he added. It is the highest point of the island.

His favorite part of the visit was catching up on friendships and Baptist work in his home, because Britton did respond to God's "claim" on his life, as he put it.

It wasn't until he had left Panama at the age of 20 to

study medicine in Cali, Colombia, that he had a "struggle" with God. "I had been running away from the Lord because I knew he had a plan for my life because he had saved my life as a child," said Britton. When the struggle was over, he recalled, God had won, and he entered the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Cali. Britton noted it was started by Southern Baptist missionaries.

While there, Britton met his wife, Isabel, who is from Peru. The couple stayed in Colombia after graduation to lead several churches until 1979 when they left to allow him to study in the United States.

His ministry during the past 15 years in the U.S. has led him back to Latin America many times and at least 20 times to Colombia, said Britton. On one tour he and his family worked for nine weeks in the country leading family life conferences. At other times he has led evangelistic crusades and marriage enrichment seminars.

Britton's personal investment in Colombia brought revenues during his recent trip.

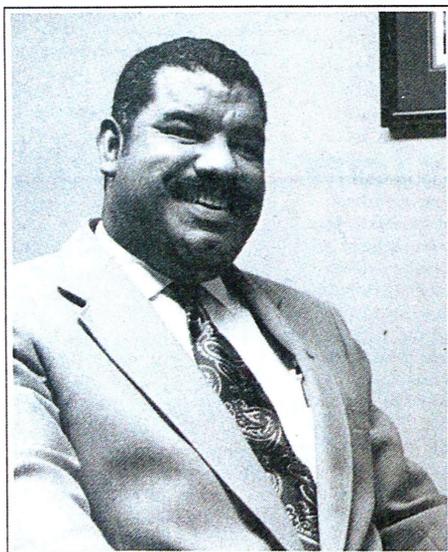
Segura and about eight other boys came to a meeting of San Fernando Church, Cali, where Britton was the pastor.

Britton asked them what they wanted and they said they just wanted to study the Bible. He decided they needed some individual attention so he told them to come back to meet with him, said Britton.

Segura was the only one of the group who showed real interest. He not only continued to meet with Britton, but he would come to his house and the two would spend two to three hours each day discussing spiritual matters, explained Britton. As months passed, Segura matured more as a Christian than people "who were in the church for 10 years," he said.

As he looks back on how God worked in Segura's life, Britton said, "It boggles my mind. It humbles me that God can do something like that."

After Britton left the country, Segura was called as pastor of San Fernando Church, another measure of God's involvement in their lives, suggested Britton.



ESTRIBERTO BRITTON

'Perhaps if I hadn't left he (God) wouldn't have opened the door for Harold.'

— Estriberto Britton, Southern Baptist home missionary with the Tennessee Baptist Convention

He got to hear a personal report from missionary Howard Atkinson, who started a Bible study in his living room in Bogota three years ago, said Britton. Now that group numbers 300 and may be the fastest growing congregation in the country, said Britton.

But Britton's best experience was visiting with Harold Segura, who while they were together was asked by the board of the International Baptist Theological Seminary to be president.

Segura was a long-haired "street kid" who had flunked the 8th grade four times when Britton first met him, he said.

"Perhaps if I hadn't left he (God) wouldn't have opened the door for Harold."

And Britton will return to Colombia March 31 to attend the installation ceremony of Segura as president of the International Baptist Theological Seminary.

It won't just be a time of celebration. Britton also will lead a family life conference at San Fernando Church and a seminar for the students at the seminary. But he wouldn't miss the opportunity to enjoy the revenues of his investment once more. □

Belmont student acts in 'Christy' TV series

NASHVILLE — When David Lambert heard last year the TV series "Christy" would be taped near his home in Friendsville and the producers were seeking actors, he filled out one of the applications which were widely distributed across the area, but wasn't interested enough to go to any of the auditions.

So he was surprised when he was chosen as an actor. In fact, he is the only person he knows of in the local cast who didn't have to audition, he said.

Lambert played Orter Ball

O'Teale, a student in a church-sponsored school set during the early part of the century in the Appalachian area of Tennessee. The show is based on the true experiences of a teacher in the school told in the book, *Christy*.

Lambert's character was a member of a family who had several major roles in the series. One of his sisters didn't speak though she attended the school and another sister had an eye infection which was treated because of the intervention of Christy and the doctor in the community.

Lambert, who was cast while he was in high school, worked from October to De-

cember last year two or three days a week. The producers provided tutors for the students, he explained. Lambert, who is now a student at Belmont University here, spoke at the Tennessee Youth Evangelism Conference in Nashville March 10-11 because he was the Tennessee

Youth Speaker's Tournament winner.

Although the show was to continue during the past winter season, it was postponed and will continue next fall with eleven shows which already have been produced, said Lambert.

If the show is renewed and he is asked to continue his character, he will be glad to, said Lambert, and not just for the money. He's not too worried about his college schedule. He was told most of the filming would be done during the summer. If not, he would take a



LAMBERT

Volunteers make Baptist center possible

New facility aids ministry at Montgomery Village

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — As people enter the clothing room at Montgomery Village Baptist Center here, the first thing they see is a sign proclaiming: "This Clothing is Free. God's Salvation is Free."



RICHARD LEWELLING and Kathleen Young sort clothes at Montgomery Village Baptist Center in Knoxville. In January the center provided clothing for more than 200 people.

Signs scattered throughout Montgomery Village's new 6,600-square-foot facility remind the center's visitors of why the center exists in the heart of the south Knoxville housing project.

"Our goal is to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the people here," said Richard Lewelling, the center's director.

Begun in 1987 as an outreach ministry of Knox County Association, Montgomery Village Baptist Center began to expand. In 1988 Lewelling, former minister of education at West Lonsdale Church, Knoxville, became full-time director of the center which is located in a small house in the midst of about 2,000 people who live in the low income government-subsidized housing project.

The ministry soon outgrew its space causing Knox County Baptists to consider building a new facility on the same site.

In 1993 the association voted to begin raising funds. Bobby Turner, a member of West Hills Church, chaired the effort which raised more than \$100,000 by Jan. 1, 1994.

Groundbreaking was set for May 15 of last year, and the work began.

Charlie Guthrey, a member of Central Church, Bearden, served as hands-on project coordinator (see story below), said Walter Taylor, Knox County Association director of missions.

With the help of more than 250 volunteers, the majority from within the association, a two-level, concrete block building with brick veneer was soon constructed. It was dedicated Dec. 11.

The 6,600 square-foot building provides a worship/general purpose room, offices, emergency food pantry, kitchen, counseling/ministry area, a large clothing room, and a work area for processing of clothing and household items.

"We have about five times more space," Lewelling said.

In the old facility only 10 people could get into the clothing room at the same time, Lewelling said. The new facility enables the center to handle larger numbers of people in the clothing room which contains clothes and shoes for all ages. In January the center handled 153 food requests and 200 people who came for clothing.

As work continued on the building funds continued to come in. Only \$20,000 is still owed on the facility which was completed at a cost of \$250,000, including furnishings.

"This would not have been possible without the assistance of approximat-

ly 250 volunteers who faithfully gave their time and energies to complete this project," Taylor said. In addition to Knox County workers there were teams from Bessemer, Ala., Summit, Miss., and about 40 workers from churches in Loudon and McMinn-Meigs associations in Tennessee, Taylor said.

The new facility has made a difference in the center's ability to meet needs, Lewelling said. "We look forward to the difference it will make as time goes on," he added.

In addition to clothing, food, and toiletry items, the center provides Bible studies, activities for children and youth, and classes on topics such as parenting and nutrition for adults.

Lewelling is assisted in the Montgomery Village Baptist Center ministry by another full-time employee, Kathleen Young, Sharlette Lester, a semester missionary from Houston, Texas, and numerous volunteers. Though Young works closely with the clothes and Lester works with children and youth programs, "we all do a little of everything," Lewelling laughed.

Montgomery Village is one of two Baptist centers operated by Knox County Baptists. The other center, Western Heights, is directed by Tom Everett. □

Knoxville volunteer Charlie Guthrey scoffs at word 'retirement'

Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Mention the word "retirement" to 70-year-old Charlie Guthrey and he'll laugh.

Though he supposedly retired several years ago, he's busier than ever. "I don't believe in retirement. I'd rather wear out than rust out," he said.

Guthrey, an architectural engineer, became involved with the Home Mission Board in 1988 as a Missions Service Corps volunteer. His expertise in architectural work and construction made him a natural candidate to help churches throughout the United States with construction projects.

Plus, the work helped him satisfy an "itch" to become a missionary, which is what he wanted to do when he was younger. In the 1950s while living in Maryville Guthrey heard a visiting missionary talk about construction work he was doing in South America. "What he did intrigued me," Guthrie recalled.

He called the Foreign Mission Board but was told they were not making assignments just for builders at the time. Knowing he would have to go to seminary and already being close to the FMB's age requirement, Guthrie decided "it didn't seem to be the

right thing to do."

After retiring though it seemed natural for him to go into mission volunteer service in the area of construction, something he had an interest in ever since he was a boy working for his grandfather who was a contractor. He noted his first job was carrying water to construction workers. His pay was 25 cents a day — 10-hour days at that, he said.

And, he's been busy ever since having helped construct churches in South Dakota, Georgia, Colorado, and Tennessee. He also supervised the construction of the Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans, La. "I usually do two major projects a year for the Home Mission Board," Guthrey said. And that doesn't include other projects he works in his schedule somehow.

One of those projects was for his home association — Knox County. Last summer he agreed to supervise the construction of a new facility for Montgomery Baptist Center in Knoxville (see story above).

The center was using an old home that "was woefully under-sized" and was even a fire hazard, Guthrey said.

Though he was busy on some other projects Guthrey agreed to serve as on-site supervisor. He noted several friends pitched in and helped.

"Charlie was a hands-on project coordinator for the word 'go' until the last finishing details," said Knox County Association Director of Missions Walter Taylor.

"He and Bill Vinson of Community Tectonics consulted with us on the basic ideas of what was needed in the building. Then Mr. Vinson drew the architectural plans and Charlie brought it from paper into reality," Taylor said.

For Guthrey, the center symbolized what his ministry is about — providing people with "tools to do the ministry of spreading the Gospel, the Good News," he said.

While noting the 2,000 residents of Montgomery Village need food and clothing provided by the center, they need "a spiritual relationship more than anything else," he said.

This summer Guthrey will get his first taste of foreign missions. He has agreed to serve as job superintendent for a project in conjunction with Tennessee Baptists' new partnership with the Canadian Southern Baptist Convention.

Teams of volunteers will build a new 8,000 square-foot building for Community Baptist Church, the only Southern Baptist church in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

Guthrey will load his motor home, which will serve as a

combined construction office and living quarters, and head for Prince Edward Island later this summer along with his wife Hazel, who goes along on all his projects.

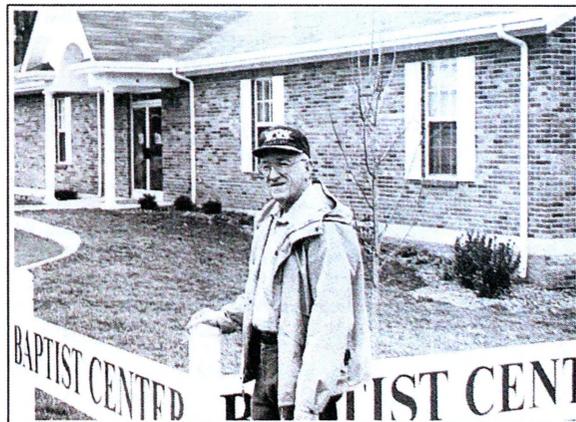
In addition to doing ministry for the Lord, Guthrey gets special satisfaction from the friendships he has made with volunteers over the years.

"I've discovered you meet the finest people in the world on trips such as these," Guthrey said, noting volun-

teers give their own time, money, and talents "to work like horses" to provide "the facilities we've been providing."

Their dedication is uplifting, Guthrey said, noting volunteers he has worked with are people "willing to go the second, third, and fourth miles to do things in the name of the Lord."

As for Guthrey he plans to keep on going. "As long as the Lord gives me health, I need to go," he said. □ — Lonnie Wilkey



CHARLIE GUTHREY stands outside Montgomery Village Baptist Center in Knoxville. Guthrey, a member of Central Church, Bearden, is a retired architectural engineer who currently is a Mission Service Corps volunteer with the Home Mission Board. Guthrey supervised the work at Montgomery Village and has worked on numerous churches in several states.

Clarksvillians complete unfinished work in Chile

By Cecilia Grossmann
For Baptist and Reflector

CURICO, Chile — A mission trip in 1994 during the Tennessee/Chile Partnership did not end there.

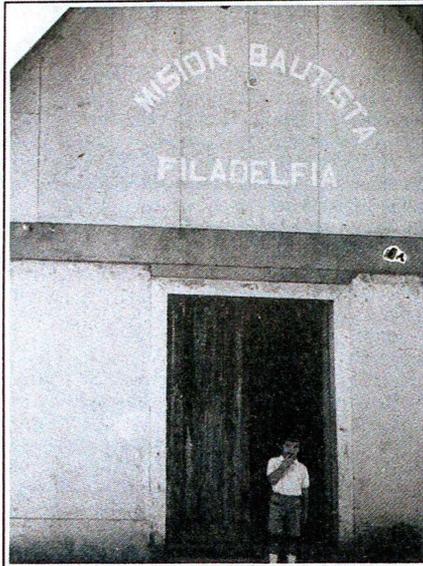
Ralph Conklin, a member of Gracey Avenue Church, Clarksville, volunteered last year in Chile along with his pastor, James Redding, and Billie Smith and Elizabeth Rivera, a member and former member, respectively.

Conklin and Rivera spent 10 days at the Filadelfia Baptist Mission in Curico, about three hours south of Santiago, Chile's capitol. While there they were impressed with the mission's need to finish the construction on the second floor of their church building.

At the same time, there was an unfinished loft in the building that one day would furnish extra educational space for the mission.

When the Tennesseans returned to their church, they shared what the Lord had done during the evangelistic campaign and presented the needs of the Filadelfia mission to their church. Conklin made copies of a picture he had made and circulated it among friends to challenge them to help raise the necessary funds for the construction needs.

Maxey Myers, a long time friend of Conklin, also became committed to helping meet this need. Both men serve on Gracey Avenue's mission committee. The Lord provided the necessary funds as people at



A CHILD stands in the doorway of Mission Bautista Filadelfia in Curico, Chile. Tennessee Baptist volunteers have helped with the construction of this facility.

the church and others responded with finances and raised about \$2,800.

The two men took their commitment to the project further by going to Curico in early

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

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.

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February to put the money to work. Along with members of the mission and the mother church, they were able to complete the upper story of the building, insulate the ceiling, put in an upstairs window, and install a permanent staircase.

One way the members and friends of the mission in Curico expressed their gratitude to Conklin and Myers was inviting them into their homes for meals.

The Chileans and Tennesseans communicated with each other in a variety of ways. Dave and Cecilia Gross-

mann, Southern Baptist missionaries in Curico, helped with the project and translated for the two men. When the missionaries could not be there, communication continued with the help of Conklin's pocket electronic dictionary and lots of hand signals and laughter.

There were other accomplishments during the week more difficult to measure than finished construction. For example, the Grossmanns had transferred to Curico just a few weeks before the Tennessee team's arrival. Because of the time spent with Conklin and Myers they were able to get better acquainted more rapidly with many of the people at the mission, as well as those of First Baptist, the only other Baptist church in Curico.

Commitment to the needs of this mission still has not ended. The two men returned to Gracey Avenue with the desire to raise additional funds so the mission can have bathroom and kitchen facilities. Over many miles and months, Tennesseans and Chileans have cooperated so a small mission can minister effectively. □

Knox County hosts 'Single Celebration'

"Single Celebration" will be held March 25 at 7 p.m. at the Tennessee Theater in downtown Knoxville.

The interdenominational event is for anyone who is single and would like to meet others. It is hosted by Knox County Association and is sponsored by two local radio stations that will have booths at the event.

The program will consist of music provided by the group Evidence and a speaker — Christian humorist Kenn Kington.

The event is an alternative to meeting singles other than "hanging out in local night spots," according to Debby Garrard, one of the program's organizers. "We want to offer an opportunity to provide this alternative and in so doing, facilitate healthy relationships," she said.

Cost of the event is \$3, payable at the door. □

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■ the people

■ **Mark Hicks** was ordained to the ministry Feb. 12 by First Church, Sweetwater.

■ **Leo Fox and Tim Kernell** were ordained as deacons Feb. 12 by Edgefield Church, Nashville.

■ the leaders

■ Siam Church, Elizabethton, has called **Darren Malcolm** as minister of youth and music, effective Jan. 15. He formerly served as music director for Chinquapin Grove Church, Bluff City.

■ **Willie Lunsford** has been called as interim pastor of Caldwell Springs Church, Elizabethton.

■ Shady Valley Church, Shady Valley, has called **Luke Martin Jr.**, retired pastor from Bristol, Va., as interim pastor.

■ Narrow Valley Church, Rutledge, has called **Jack Hipsher** as pastor. He is the former pastor of Buffalo Church, Rutledge; Valley View Church, Mooresburg; and Southside Church, Rutledge.

■ First Church, Franklin, has called **Billy Patterson** as minister of singles/missions/discipleship and **Alan Pace** as minister of married young adults.

■ **Billy Smith** has been called as volunteer Baptist Student Union director for Roane State Community College, Oak Ridge. Smith works for Boy Scouts of America.

■ **Greg S. Howard** has been called as pastor of South Clinton Church, Clinton.

■ Cloverport Church, Toone, has called **George Clark** as pastor.

■ Northside Church, Clarksville, has called **James Garland** of Palmyra as pastor, effective Feb. 1.

■ **Alvin Gilliland** of Jackson is serving as interim pastor, First Church, Bethel Springs.

■ Memorial Church, Clarksville, has called **Howard Lee**, interim pastor, as pastor.

■ **Greg Steele** has been called as youth director of Lookout Valley Church, Chattanooga.

■ **Steven Douglas** has been called as minister of music and youth of Calvary Church, Brownsville.

■ First Church, Franklin has called **Drew Thigpen** as minister of pastoral care,

effective March 6.

■ **Harold King**, pastor, Lakeview Church, Selmer, has been called as senior associate pastor, First Church, Muscle Shoals, Ala.

■ Park Avenue Church, Nashville, has called **J.D. Davis** to be minister of youth.

■ South Knoxville Church, Knoxville, has called **Gary French** of Louisville, Ky., as pastor.



GRIGGS

■ Hillcrest Church, Lebanon, has called **Grant Griggs II** as minister of youth. He is the second full-time staff member of the church.

■ The pastor of Sunset Village Church, Bristol, **Elbert H. Nichols**, has resigned.

■ **Larry Brooks**, minister of music, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, for 19 years, has been called as minister of music, Colonial Heights Church, Kingsport.

■ **Danny West**, pastor, Litz Manor Church, Kingsport, has been named regional vice president for the northeast sector of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. He will be responsible for four satellite homes, one in Johnson City, the home for status-offenders in Kingsport, the home for unwed mothers in Greeneville, and one for girls in Oakdale.

■ Mountainview Church, Knoxville, has called **Barney Evans** as pastor.

■ the churches

■ **Springfield Church**, Springfield, will hold revival April 2-5. Gene Mims, vice president for the church growth group at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, will speak. Bill Morris will lead the music.

■ **Crossland Avenue Church**, Clarksville, will hold revival March 26 - April 2. Harold G. Carman Jr., from Gallatin will speak.

■ **Gum Springs Church**, Cunningham, is holding a youth revival March 19-25. Brian Parker of Tampa, Fla., will speak.

■ **Little Hope Church**, Clarksville, will hold a March

26-29 revival led by Marshall Gupton, pastor, Una Church, Nashville.

■ **Fort Robinson Church**, Kingsport, has burned a \$322,560 note which represented the debt-free status of its activities building.

■ **Greenvale Church**, Church Hill, has completed a \$20,000 renovation of its facilities.

■ The renovation work at **Puncheon Camp Church**, Washburn, has been completed. The church added classrooms and refurbished other areas of its facility.

■ **Welcome Valley Church**, Benton, dedicated its new building March 5.

■ **Shelbyville Mills Church**, Shelbyville, held revival March 5-8 with evangelist Harold Hunter of Nashville. Fifty-three people made professions of faith and 63 made other decisions.

■ **Central Church**, Chattanooga, will hold a city-wide Easter Egg Hunt April 15 at Camp Jordan in East Ridge and a Marriage Enrichment Seminar April 23-25. Lane Morris will lead the seminar.

■ **First Church**, Bemis, will hold open house and a dedication service for its new facilities on April 2, from 2:30-5 p.m.

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

■ **Toone Church**, Toone, has begun building a new parsonage. Monroe Willis of Dixie Hills Church, Bolivar, is doing the construction. The church also will have a revival and Sunday School Conference led by Cliff Jenkins April 8-9.

■ **Inglewood Church**, Nashville, observed its 71st anniversary March 9.

■ **Harmony Church**, Whiteville, will hold its spring revival March 26-29. Charles Pratt, pastor of Harmony Church and director of missions, Haywood Association, will speak and Bennie Morrison will lead the music.

■ **Ridgeview Church**, Chattanooga, will hold revival April 2-5 with evangelist Terry Wilkerson of Goodlettsville leading.

■ **Stones River Church**, Smyrna, is holding its spring revival March 19-23. W.D. Thomason, pastor, Green Hills Church, Mount Juliet, will speak and Bill Cox, music evangelist, will lead the music.

■ **First Church**, Knox-

ville, held revival March 12-15. William Hull, provost, Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., was the speaker and Robert Sneed of Toccoa, Ga., led the music.

■ 'Here's Hope' revivals

■ **Emmanuel Church**, Crossville, will hold its revival April 9-14. Leonard Markham, pastor of Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville, will speak and Chris Campion will lead the music.

■ **Mount Gilead Church**, Bethel Springs, will hold its revival March 26-31. Pat Kough, retired pastor, Zion Church, Brownsville, and Dean Armour will lead it.

■ **Allen Church**, Brownsville, will hold its revival March 26-30. Jerry Winfield, pastor of Forest Hills Church, Nashville, will speak and Wayne Williams will lead the music.

■ The revival of **Block Springs Church**, Blaine, will be March 26-29. Tommy Holtzclaw, director of missions, Sullivan Association will speak.

■ The revival of **First Church**, Bean Station, will be April 19-23. Ron Stansell, pastor, Oakland Church, Rutledge, will speak.

■ **Polk County Association** will hold a crusade March 26-30 at the Benton School Auditorium. It will be led by Ron Herrod, former pastor, Central Church, Oak Ridge, and Ronnie Phelps, teacher and head football coach, Alcoa High School, and minister of music, Dotson Memorial Church, Maryville.

■ **Dixie Hills Church**, Bolivar, will hold its revival April 2-5. Steve Bain, pastor, East Heights Church, Tupelo, Miss., and Donnie Sipes, minister of music, First Church, Middleton, will lead it.

■ **Parrans Chapel Church**, Bolivar, will hold its revival March 26-29 with different speakers leading services.

■ **Brownsville Church**, Brownsville, will hold its revival March 26-29. Roger Willmore, minister at large, Stephen F. Olford Center for Biblical Preaching in Memphis and representative of Encounter Ministries, Inc., is the evangelist.

■ deaths

■ **Roger Estep** died Jan. 16. He was pastor of Beck Mountain Church, Elizabeth-

ton; Bethel Church, Mountain City; Little Milligan Church, Butler; and Riverview Church, Elizabethton.

■ the associations

■ **Lawrence County Association** will host a Marriage Enrichment Retreat April 21-22 at Camp Linden. Tommy Stevens and Larry Bullard will lead it.

■ **Sevier County Association** will hold its third annual Men and Boys Retreat at Camp Smoky March 31 - April 1.

■ **Big Hatchie Association** is directing the Annie Sue Cliff Voice Computer fund. Cliff is a former missionary who needs a voice-activated computer.

■ the work

■ The Baptist Men of **Lawrence County Association** will paint a church building in Giles County on April 1. The association also is leading a missions trip to Michigan July 8-14 to support the Michigan/Tennessee Baptist Partnership.

■ **Bobby Kail**, pastor, Crossland Avenue Church, Clarksville, did missions work in Jamaica.

■ Members of **Woman's Missionary Union of Shiloh Association** will work in Michigan Sept. 25-30 to support the Michigan/Tennessee Baptist Partnership.

■ **Sevier County Association** will direct a missions trip to Michigan June 25 - July 1 to support the Michigan/Tennessee Baptist Partnership.

■ The Brotherhood of **Brownsville Church**, Brownsville, ministered at Western State mental health facility.

■ The Brotherhood of **Calvary Church**, Brownsville, finished wiring the new Fayette Association office building.

■ Members of the **Haywood Association's** fifth team to work in the Philippines were Jerry Foster, Bill Presley, David Garland, Allen Watts, Mike Gilbert, Mike Hopper, Terry Brown, Ken Culver, and Charles Pratt, director of missions. They built a church building Feb. 22 - March 9, which was the sixth completed by the association. Funds for materials were provided by New Hope Church, Dyer.

Carson-Newman's Martin enlisted for peace conference in Rwanda

For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — Carson-Newman College missionary-in-residence Earl Martin would have liked to have returned to Africa under better circumstances. As it was, he traveled almost 7,000 miles in

an attempt to alleviate the intense animosity between the warring Hutu and and Tutsi tribes of Rwanda by bringing together Baptist leaders from both sides in February.

Martin was founder of the Southern Baptist Mission in Rwanda and served there from

1977-82. Eliezar Ziharambere, once an associate of Martin and now an African Baptist leader, specifically requested Martin's presence at the week-long meeting sponsored by Baptist World Alliance. The conference drew 18 exiled Baptist leaders of the Hutu tribe.

Tutsi Baptists still in Rwanda wanted to attend but were denied travel documents by the Rwandan government. "That was a disappointment," Martin said. "Nevertheless, we felt that we had a purpose we could accomplish with those who did come, and that pur-

pose was to help them heal."

Martin came away from the meeting feeling positive but also being realistic. "Until we can get the two groups together, effective reconciliation can't really happen. It was a good first step ... the first step in a long journey," he said. □

Religious educators plan spring retreat

BRENTWOOD — Officers of the Tennessee Baptist Religious Education Association met recently at the Baptist Center here to finalize plans for the annual TBREA Spring Retreat set for May 4-6 at Fall Creek Falls State Park in Pikeville.

The retreat begins at 6:30 p.m. on May 4 and is open to all paid church education staff members, both full-time and part-time. Membership dues for the association are \$10 annually.

Program leaders are Margaret Slusher, adult education; Debbie Harned, youth education; and Gayle Haywood, preschool and

children's education.

The conference fee is \$25 per person and should be mailed by April 15 to: Dennis Lyle, TBREA Treasurer, 5364 Anchorage Court, Nashville, Tenn., 37220.

Lodging fees at the Falls Creek Inn are about \$57 per night. Each person is responsible for their own lodging. A block of rooms has been reserved for TBREA and will be held until April 1. Call the inn at (615) 881-3241 to make reservations.

Officers of the association are Roger Hagan, president; Jim O'Dillon, president-elect; Cindy Franks, vice president; and Dennis Lyle, treasurer. □



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Church Music Professor

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is seeking to fill a tenured or tenurable position at the Associate or Full Professor rank in the School of Church Music for Fall 1995. Applicants must demonstrate research and experience in the academic areas of worship, hymnology, and musicology, and in the applied area of voice.

Applicants should have a research doctorate and should be able to affirm the seminary's statement of faith. All candidates must be members of a Baptist congregation and emphasize conservative-evangelical theology. Candidates will have the opportunity to teach in professional and doctoral programs and must have a strong commitment to prepare people for Christian ministry.

Send biographical information to Search Committee Dean, Office of the Vice President for Academic Administration, Box 319, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280. The position will begin in August 1995. Nominations and applications will be accepted until the appointment is made. The seminary reserves the right to pursue the search as long as necessary to find the right person for this important assignment.

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**Life and Work Series
for March 26
Focal Passage:
Mark 13:3-8a, 26-27,
33-37**

Challenged to be vigilant

By Elizabeth Howard

The Jews waited so long for the coming of the Messiah that some grew despondent and hopeless, but he did eventually come. However, only the ones who were still watching for him with faith that the prophecies would be fulfilled (Anna and Simeon) actually recognized him. Since Jesus' life on earth and his ascension to heaven, almost two thousand years have passed; yet even in Paul's day, Christians anticipated Jesus' return. From time to time, someone comes up with a calendar of events and the date of Jesus' arrival, but always the date is wrong. Some people become frustrated at what seems to them a long delay and actually falter in their faith. We must remember that Jesus said no one knows the date or the hour, not the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only God (Mark 13:32). The Christian responsibility is not to try to out-guess God, but to be ready when Jesus does come; for he surely will come. In the meantime, we should be busy in the Lord's work.

False signs — vv. 3-8a

Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives with Peter, James, John, and Andrew. They could look across and see the massive stones, the impressive columns, the splendor of the temple. Jesus had said that the time would come when all the stones would be tumbled down (v. 2). The disciples wanted to know when this would happen and what signs would foretell the event. But Jesus answered by warning them not to be deceived by false teachers. In the New Testament, there are accounts of false messiahs, such as Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8:9-24). In our day, many preach false doctrines which lead people astray. Christians should always be alert to the dangerous power of such charlatans. Jesus also warned that wars, earthquakes, and famines are disasters which happen in human history, but they are not signs that the end is near.

Return of the Son of Man — vv. 26-27

Jesus returned to the question the disciples had asked about the destruction of the temple. He foretold "such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation ... until now" (v. 19). Many scholars think he was talking about the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., but some think he was also talking about the Great Tribulation preceding his return. We may hold to different viewpoints about the order of events in the thousand years or exactly when this period of time is, but when Jesus returns we will know it. He will not come quietly to a stable in Bethlehem, but will be seen by all. He will come in glory and gather his elect from the ends of the earth.

Watch for the return — vv. 33-37

The Christian's responsibility is to be alert and ready. Jesus illustrated his point with a parable. A homeowner goes away and leaves his servants in charge. The doorkeeper is responsible for watching, for he does not know what hour of the day or night the master will return. But we cannot leave the responsibility for watchfulness to someone else; for Jesus ended his warning by including everyone. All of us are doorkeepers, in a sense. When Jesus comes, we should not be spiritually asleep, but alert and involved in Christian service. □ — Elizabeth Howard is a member of Cumberland Homesteads Church, Crossville.

Dealing with conflict

By Brian Courtney

A browsing through any bookstore reveals one fact: several books have been written on dealing with conflict and critical people. A browsing through "leadership" magazines reveals one fact: several articles have been written on dealing with conflict and critical people. A reading of these books and articles reveals one fact: most are written telling the "uncritical" how to deal with the "critical." Perhaps someone needs to write a book or article helping the critics deal with themselves. Too late! Paul has written such a document.

Certain people in Corinth had attacked Paul's right to be called an apostle. They accused him of being cowardly and weak, of using the collection for his own advantage. Paul defends himself in II Corinthians 12:1-18. Then he does an amazing thing. He turns the tables on his critics. In so doing, he provides needed instruction for all critics.

Criticism stems from sin — ch. 12:19-21

Paul claims in verse 19 that he was not answering to the Corinthian critics. Rather, he has "been speaking in Christ" for the Corinthians "upbuilding." The Corinthians are the ones in need of help. Their criticism points to a deeper problem.

How does Paul know this? In verse 20, he lists eight sins in four pairs applicable to the Corinthians. Each pair of sins are the kinds of sins that accompany strife and dissension among people. In verse 21, he lists three aspects of sexual immorality which were practiced and condoned in the church. Criticism arises from a life that practices sin. What a much needed word for critics! What more needs to be said?

Critics examine yourselves — ch. 13:5

Having pointed out that criticism stems from practicing sin, Paul tells the Corinthians to "Examine yourselves ... Test yourselves ..." The Corinthians were judging Paul and pronouncing him guilty of various weaknesses and sins. Now Paul challenges them to focus attention on themselves. Why? "To see whether you are holding to your faith." Paul was hoping that a self-examination

would prove that they were "in the faith" and that Jesus Christ was in them. However, the closing clause of the verse leaves open the possibility that they might fail the test. Something is seriously wrong with a professing Christian who continues to practice the kinds of sin in II Corinthians 12:20-21. What's wrong with them? Jesus is not in them. What a much needed word for critics! Examine yourselves not others!

Critics can become body builders — vv. 6-10

These verses require some explanation. In verses 6 and 7, Paul refers to himself as among the "reprobates." What does he mean? This word literally means to fail to pass the test. He uses it in verse 7 of his failing to pass the test of being a powerful judge in the affairs of the Corinthian church which he would do if necessary (see 13:1-4). But he hopes that their self-examination would prove them to be people of love and faith. If that happened, Paul would "fail the test" in the sense of not having to take the test of his disciplinary power. He would rather be involved in "building up" and not "tearing down" (v. 10). Paul's point is clear: change and build up the church. What a much needed word for critics! □ — Brian Courtney is pastor of First Church, Sneedville.

**Convention Uniform Series
for March 26
Focal Passage
II Corinthians 12:19-21;
13:5-13**

Prophecies against the nations

By Ray Fullilove

God's Word had become absolute to the prophet, Jeremiah. Regardless of the sternness in its sound, the judgment in its pronouncement, or the wrath of God expressed, Jeremiah was faithful to proclaim the exact Word of God. Now God's judgment is presented against the nations. What has been said by God is written for our benefit today. God's work will go on. His Word will remain secure, mercy and grace are sufficient, and available. He is a God of wrath. There are some foundational truths which we should learn concerning his judgment. They have been preserved for our benefit that we may know that, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

Revelation of God's accusations

God speaks against the Gentile nations. The God of the universe is still the sovereign God today. Not only is God sovereign, but is our Saviour. God's love is still real behind all the words of wrath which God proclaimed by his prophet. When God speaks, the clouds cease to move, the earth stops its orbit, the stars sit in somber glow, and the heart of man skips a beat. The Lord Jehovah changes not! The words seem harsh, but when sin is to be addressed, stern warnings are necessary.

**Bible Book Series for March 26
Focal Passage: Jeremiah 46:7-10a;
51:1-9a**

The reaction of the nations was fear (ch. 46:5), frenzy (v. 12), and with the fierceness of God as the King (v. 18) and the Lord of hosts (v. 25). However, regardless of the fearful reaction, God still had a heart for his people in redemption (vv. 27-28). God's compassion fails not and he saves us still. Security is found in his hand (v. 27a), in his haven (v. 27b), and with hope (v. 28). The revelation of God's accusation is with reaction, redemption, and with reality (ch. 47:2-7). The reality of God's Word of judgment will be awesome (vv. 2-3), with humiliation (vv. 4-5), and with absolute certainty (vv. 6-7).

Reasons for God's action

There is always a reason for God's reaction toward sin. His response is judgment because of the seriousness of rebellion. Judgment is necessary because of a lack of faith (ch. 48:7), faithfulness (v. 10), fulfillment (vv. 11-12), foundation (ch. 49:31-32), and respect and commitment to God (ch. 50:5-6). God's Word is our consolation and our comfort if we believe, accept, and continuously and reverently respect and honor it. On the other hand, God's Word can become a fearful final thing. God's invitation to us is

to come to him, through Jesus Christ. Then, God's promises become our way and our refuge in the storm.

Redemption in God's amazing grace

God's Word was carried out with exactness, extreme measure, and the enveloping wrath of destruction. It was performed in faithfulness that God's people would realize that his words are to be respected, obeyed, written in our hearts, and demonstrated in our lives. God still has great prospects for his people (ch. 51:19), and he has devised and has done that which he spoke (v. 60).

We are inspired, as God's people today, to put God first in our heart, to ignite our spirit, to transform our lives, and to share his Word with others. God desires justification by faith, not judgment in fear. May we as God's people say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15b). Our community needs our testimony. Our churches need our dedication. Our nation needs us to direct it back to God. Our nation needs God. Our minds must always be fixed upon grace. □ — Ray Fullilove is pastor of Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis.

California Baptists minister to victims of storm-battered state

Baptist Press

WATSONVILLE, Calif. — While weather watchers rate the severity of California's most recent winter storms, Southern Baptists once again are providing help and hope to thousands affected by the state's latest natural disaster.

Southern Baptist disaster relief stations were set up in two cities as the deadly storms battered California for several days beginning in early March. Extensive flooding — described as the state's worst in more than 100 years — triggered mudslides which swallowed houses in the Southern California community of La Conchita and collapsed bridges in several locations.

Damage estimates to structures and crops are running into the billions of dollars. □

Baptists extend work in United Arab Emirates

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Southern Baptist representatives Del and Ramona Allen will launch

a training ministry in United Arab Emirates this year to strengthen an evangelical presence among many people who have moved there from other countries.

The Allens, from Oklahoma, will be based in Dubai. They will set up a Christian teaching program across the Emirates, which include the states of Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Fujairah, Umm al-Qaiwain, Ras al-Khaimah, and Ajman.

Although the Emirates is situated in the heart of the Muslim Middle East, only about 20 percent of the residents are Arab Muslims. The other 80 percent come from India, Pakistan, Nepal, and surrounding nations. □

Members preach to each other with tracts

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry let members of his congregation preach to each other Feb. 26

To kick off their participa-

tion in "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now," people attending First Church, Orlando, Fla., were given a Gospel tract with their bulletin that morning.

During the sermon, Henry asked people to read the tract to the person sitting next to them. They used the Home Mission Board's tract designed as a road map to lead a person from despair and hopelessness to eternal life with Jesus.

"Our members thought (reading the tract during the sermon) was fabulous," said Bill Mitchell, minister of evangelism and missions. "Most of them said they didn't realize it could be so simple," to present the Gospel. The Florida church adapted the Jan. 9-March 9 convention-wide witnessing effort to fit its schedule. □

Baptists launch training program in Middle East

Baptist Press

LARNACA, Cyprus — An ambitious new program providing Christian training to believers in the Middle East already has more than 300 students and promises to revolutionize church education in the area, Southern Baptist workers say.

Called the International

Institute of Biblical Studies (IIBS), it's not an institute but a new concept in training. Instead of seminary campuses, the program uses a lengthy series of Bible-based materials to begin training new Christians as soon as they have accepted Christ as Savior.

It already functions in 11 Middle Eastern countries, which include some of the world's least-evangelized, hardest-to-reach countries.

A believer who stays in the system ultimately can earn a master of divinity degree, said Southern Baptist representative Mike Edens of Cairo, Egypt. "It's staggering to see what God is doing. We're developing a whole new concept," he said.

Along with scores of new study books, the approach incorporates traditional Southern Baptist programs such as Survival Kit and MasterLife Discipleship Training materials.

Rather than a campus-based approach, the program encourages believers to gather in groups of four to six people for study. Small groups are safer in the volatile Middle Eastern region, where Christians often face intensive persecution, especially converts from Islam. □

Georgia pastor appointed chief SBC parliamentarian

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — A Georgia pastor who is a certified parliamentarian has been appointed chief parliamentarian for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 20-22 in Atlanta, according to SBC President Jim Henry.

Lester L. Cooper Jr., pastor of Valley Hill Church, Riverdale, Ga., was appointed March 2, by Henry, who in January announced a team of six parliamentarians but did not designate a chief.

Cooper has served on the Georgia Baptist Convention executive committee in various roles and has been a parliamentarian for the state convention. He is certified by the American Institute of Parliamentarians and has been active in two parliamentarian organizations in Georgia.

Other parliamentarians are John Sullivan, Jacksonville, Fla.; Sanford W. Peterson, Utica, N.Y.; Jimmy E. Jackson, Huntsville, Ala.; David N. Matlock, Caddo Parish, La.; and Joe H. Reynolds, Houston, Texas. □



THE ALLENS

Quarterback Todd Burnett shuns NFL's call for God's call to SBTS

By Mary Ellen Price
For Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — For Todd Burnett, coming to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary meant leaving the prospect of a professional football career.

Although he chose not to follow that career, Burnett's new goal has him doing a lot more than sitting on the sidelines.

Burnett, the starting quarterback for the University of North Carolina from 1988-92, sensed a call from God to prepare for a ministry in pastoral care and counseling. He came to the Louisville seminary last August, enrolling in the master of divinity/pastoral care and counseling program.

The former UNC starter speaks confidently of his purpose and calling to ministry although the National Football League and the Canadian and World football leagues were luring him. "I know why

I'm here. This is where my heart is. This is where I can make the best contribution."

Burnett was so sure of his calling that invitations from the Atlanta Falcons, San Diego Chargers, Phoenix Cardinals, and New England Patriots, to name a few, could not redirect his inner sense of God's call.

The son of a retired Army chaplain and grandson of a pastor, Burnett was born in Hawaii, but was reared in Alexandria, Va.

Like many teenagers Burnett's high school days were marked by a rebellious period fueled by keeping company with the wrong crowd. A dual focus on faith and football helped put the troublesome days behind him.

Although baptized at age 7, Burnett says he was not converted until his junior year in high school. Meanwhile, he began to take more seriously his football fortunes. "I started to succeed in football to escape the trouble

I was in," he recalls.

As it turned out, Burnett did more than succeed. A stellar high school career attracted interest from about 1,000 schools. He signed with UNC and started playing in the fourth game of his freshman year. He lettered all four years at the Atlantic Coast Conference school.

Going to seminary wasn't a surprise to Burnett's football friends. "My friends knew my faith was important to me."

He looks forward to being a marriage and family counselor. Although his role will be quite different from the limelight of a football quarterback, Burnett says he has never been a particularly public person despite the attention he received playing football. "My family was the team and my focus," he says.

"A football career was alluring. It would have given me financial freedom. However, I'm doing what God wants me to do," the former college star affirms. □

BSSB to reprint 'classics'

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — For Southern Baptists, the old is new again as a series of books by leaders throughout its 150-year history is being reprinted by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Consisting of 12 volumes, "The Library of Christian Classics" will feature hardback books by well-known personalities from Baptist history and contemporary life. The series is being launched as Southern Baptists celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of their denomination in 1845.

Timothy George, general editor of the series and dean of the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., described the books as "some of the greatest classic works that have proven their value over the years and which we think still speak with power and relevance to the life of the church today."

More than 50 books were considered for the series, George said. "We wanted to choose some representative volumes, but the series is by no means comprehensive or exhaustive. ...

"We wanted works that had a proven value — track records, so to speak, as classic books that had really made an impact in their time and their day ...," George said.

Books in the series and their release dates are:

- (1) *Payday Someday* by R.G. Lee, 3-95
- (2) *Why I Believe That the Bible Is Literally True* by W.A. Criswell, 5-95
- (3) *Baptists and Their Doctrines* by B.H. Carroll, 7-95
- (4) *Go Home and Tell* by Bertha Smith, 9-95
- (5) *Baptist Why and Why Not*, edited by J.M. Frost, 11-95
- (6) *The Axioms of Religion* by E.Y. Mullins, 1-96
- (7) *Baptist Confessions, Covenants and Catechisms*, edited by Timothy George, 3-96
- (8) *Bill Wallace of China* by Jesse C. Fletcher, 5-96
- (9) *Treasures from Baptist Heritage* by John A. Broadus, 7-96
- (10) *Selected Writings of A.T. Robertson*, 9-96
- (11) *The Bible Doctrine of Inspiration* by Basil Manly Jr., 11-96
- (12) *Baptist: Why and Why Not Revisited* edited by Timothy George and Richard Land, 1-97 □