

Baptist and Reflector

March 29, 1995

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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Bryan says restructure plan 'ignores' WMU

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

GATLINBURG — In annual session here March 24-26, Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union responded enthusiastically to challenges from program speakers and Katharine Bryan, their executive director.

Nearly 1,600 Baptist women heard a bevy of missions messages, attended workshops, visited a missions fair, participated in a prayer practicum, and responded positively.

Theme of the missions get-together was a simple one, "On Mission."

Bryan, who had earlier shared concerns about the re-

cent restructure of SBC entities recommended by the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, addressed some of the same concerns during her annual report on Saturday.

The restructure recommendation, which will be presented to SBC messengers in Atlanta in two months, strips WMU of its traditional role of directing the major missions offerings for home and foreign missions.

Bryan urged the women to "keep informed," take risks, share facts and concerns with pastors, directors of missions, and other leaders, and "become a messenger of WMU to the Atlanta meeting."

She said she was distressed there was no mention of prayer in the recommendation, though the offerings' responsibility would be shifted to newly formatted mission boards.

Bryan also expressed concern that "the restructure recommendation was made in secrecy, without any of the affected agency heads involved. She said that the proposal has "overwhelming implications for Woman's Missionary Union."

The SBC Executive Committee recommendation (document), which was approved last month, would restructure the current structure of Foreign and Home Mission boards, Radio/TV Commission,

Brotherhood Commission, Baptist Foundation, and would either eliminate or redirect programs of the Historical Commission, Education, and Stewardship Commission.

The recommendation, which must be approved in two consecutive SBC votes in annual meetings (June 1995 and 1996), gave to the mission boards the responsibility for the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong missions offerings.

Both offerings were originated and developed by WMU which has effectively promoted them. Income for missions has enabled missionaries to have funds for needs not covered by budget income.

Bryan also was concerned that there seemed to be "an expressed need in fast forwarding the document." And, she said, the document ignored WMU's giving leadership.

"Instead of affirmation," she said, "one of the programs we do best was reassigned."

Bryan was applauded when she said, "I do not believe God is through with this organization nor is he through with using women leaders for his purpose and tasks."

"Leadership comes from involvement, not from election by the Southern Baptist Convention."

The state WMU leader urged members to contact the SBC restructure committee members and the six Tennessee Baptists on the SBC Executive Committee.

— See Bryan says, page 2



AT THE ANNUAL SESSION last weekend in Gatlinburg, Woman's Missionary Union met with the theme 'On Mission...' Officers were elected in a Saturday business session. Ruth McNabb was re-elected president. James Porch, TBC executive director, center, led the elected leaders in a prayer of dedication.

Something new: partnership news section begins this issue

Notice anything new, something different? Look inside.

This week's issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* has a special section committed to news of Partnership Missions. The section will appear on a regular basis, probably monthly.

The paper is working in conjunction with the Partnership Missions Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

News, features, and some photos will be provided by Terry Sharp, department director, and Leanne Robbins, staff secretary.

The TBC has reaffirmed a

15-year partnership with the Baptist Convention of Michigan, and Jan. 1 began partnerships with Poland and the four western provinces of Canada.

Some volunteers already have worked with the three partnerships this year, and more are volunteering as projects are developed.

Sharp and Wm. Fletcher Allen, *Baptist and Reflector* editor, are enthusiastic about the partnerships and sharing the

news in a specialized way through the newsjournal.

"We see volunteers using the paper as the best source for learning about needs, projects, and sharing their experiences with other Tennessee Baptists," they agreed.

What else is new?

In other Partnership Missions news, the newsjournal staff is working with Sharp to enlist sponsors to underwrite subscriptions with air mail postage for pastors and leaders

in Poland and Canada. "This will help our partners to become more knowledgeable about Tennessee Baptists and the partnerships, and in a timely manner," Allen said.

Is there more?

This is also a good time for churches to learn about the special offer for use of the paper's back page as the church regular newsletter.

Several have joined the plan recently.

Want to know more about both ideas? Contact the *Baptist and Reflector* office in Brentwood, (615) 371-2003. That's all you have to do. □



Bryan says restructure plan 'ignores' WMU

— Continued from page 1

The WMU executive Director said her greatest concern is that the committee of seven's report ignored WMU by failing to acknowledge the work of those millions of women who have taught missions, who have led this denomination to give more than \$1 billion through the missions offerings and who have modeled servanthood in thousands of Southern Baptist churches.

"The document fails to recognize the potential of this auxiliary to the SBC in accomplishing our mission tasks."

Bryan said there is concern about "the expressed need to put a 14 million-plus member denomination on 'fast forward' for the plan of restructuring to be approved as soon as possible without any changes in the document."

She asked why there was a "proposed narrowing of the number of persons who will have decision making responsibilities."

In her annual report, Bryan also affirmed WMU leadership across the state in elected and volunteer leadership roles, commending women who spent time with children, youth, and in all leadership posts.

She noted that these women "know the needs to be met, and meet them ... pray for missionaries daily ... stay the course of missions in our churches ... become the voice for and the conscience of missions."

Closing her remarks, Bryan said that "all of WMU leader-



SEVERAL MEMBERS of First Church, LaFollette, attended the annual Woman's Missionary Union meeting in Gatlinburg. From left, Nancy Wofford, Lila Farmer, Russ Dunham, Betty Dunham, Missy Taylor, and Nelsie Wooden. Russ Dunham, businessman, is a member of the TBC Executive Board. — Photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen

ship for two and a half years has worked in developing the framework for new organizational structure to go into effect this October." She noted that more people would be on missions. She said WMU has never been afraid of change, and, "Throughout our history we have taken major risks."

Cynthia Clawson, music artist from San Antonio, and winner of several Dove awards, was soloist and guest music leader. Karen Calhoun, was guest pianist. She is minister of counseling at Trinity Church, San Antonio.

Mildred McWhorter of Georgia, retired home missionary in Houston for 34 years was keynote speaker.

She told the listeners, in an experience and anecdote-filled message of 60 minutes, to "go on mission where you are."

"Be a good leader for children. Study, grow. God is on mission, and he gives you what you need to do what he asks you to do."

McWhorter said she didn't hear "thank you" many times in Houston, "but I have seen it in action. Once I was told, 'If those people in Georgia hadn't

sent you, I guess I wouldn't have heard about Jesus.'

"The Holy Spirit will follow up our actions if we follow his leadership and commands."

Conferences were scheduled on stress, helps for parenting, understanding conflict, learning to listen, missions involvement, making changes, ministering outside the comfort zone, parenting parents, growing spiritually, witnessing along the way, and missions at home.

Most of the conferences were repeated so that participants could attend several. The missions fair Saturday afternoon was manned by home and foreign missionaries serv-

ing in ministry in Tennessee as they shared about their work.

The Saturday morning session was devoted to Bryan's report, election of officers, and other business matters.

Ruth McNabb of Elizabethton was re-elected president.

On Sunday morning, the theme of "On Mission, Commit and Stand" was the focus. Eileen Fralix, missionary to Yemen, and Beverly Ham-mack, veteran home missionary, were leaders.

During the entire meeting, volunteer and career missionaries shared vignettes of their call to missions and the work God gave them to do. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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KATHARINE BRYAN, WMU executive director, gives her annual report.



CARROL KELLY, WMU associate, left, talks with Candy Phillips, Nashville, conference leader; and Linda Knott, Nashville, director of Woodcock Center.



REBEKAH SUMRALL, left, Nashville Association and former home missionary to several states, shares her experiences with an interested WMU member during the Missions Fair.

Judson hosts evangelism meeting

For Baptist and Reflector
BRENTWOOD — The State Evangelism Conference meets at Judson Church nearby on April 3-4.

Sessions begin Monday at 2 p. m. with Richard Harris, Frank Hawkins, D.L. Lowrie, and Ken Hemphill scheduled to speak.

Judson Church is at 4900 Franklin Rd. (Hwy. 31), south of Nashville near Brentwood.

The church can be reached by turning west on Harding Place from I-65, and then going south on Franklin Rd. The church is near Overton High School, and on the same side of the street.

Emergency phones at Judson church are, (615) 831-1589 or 831-1765. □

Wilson era ends March 31 at TBF; Childs takes over

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Earl H. Wilson, 67, will step down March 31 as president of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, a post he has held since 1983.



WILSON

The Foundation's assets under management have grown from about \$12 million in 1983 to more than \$61 million.

Since 1983 more than \$26 million from funds under management have been distributed to Baptist and other Christian causes, including about \$3 million to the Cooperative Program.

Wilson, when he announced his retirement last May, said

that he gives God the glory and credit for the Foundation's growth. "I have enjoyed my work and I have been most honored to serve Tennessee Baptists, our churches, and institutions," Wilson said.

He has been pastor of several Tennessee Baptist churches, including City View in Knoxville, where he served 18 years before joining the TBF. Wilson and his wife, Bobbie, will retire to Knoxville.

Childs joined the TBF staff in 1993 as vice president for estate planning.

The Mobile, Ala., native has 10 years of pastoral experience plus 18 years expertise in business, financial planning, and foundation work.

He came to the TBF from the Northwest Baptist Foundation in Portland, Ore., where he was executive director for four years. He also has been on the staff of the Baptist Foundation of Alabama.

Childs and his wife, Elizabeth have three children. □



CHILDS

'Win All' a worthy strategy, Lewis says

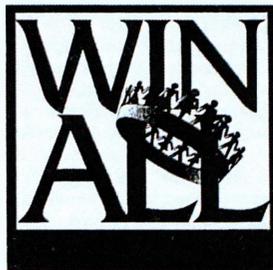
Baptist Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — It's going to take all to win all, Home Mission Board President Larry L. Lewis told those attending a missionary commissioning service March 18.

More than 2,000 Southern Baptists attended the service at First Church, Columbia, S.C., for 57 missionaries commissioned for work in 20 states. The service was held during the annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union of South Carolina.

Embracing the "Win All" theme from this year's Season of Home Missions, Lewis reminded that Christ issued the Great Commission — not a recommendation or suggestion — to every believer. "This is the task of every Christian: to be on mission for the Lord."

Referring to Southern Baptist missionaries, Lewis noted the denomination's strategy for world evangelism is based



on cooperation. "You and I are investing in the only place I know where we can have eternal dividends," he said. "If we put the pictures of our missionaries on the wall, we'd have more than 9,000 of them."

But Southern Baptists must not overlook their own responsibility for sharing Christ with an unsaved and under-churched nation, he added. "Our assignment is to the uttermost parts of the earth, but also let us remember our Judea — the United States."

HMB researchers estimate

the number of lost Americans could be as high as 183 million, Lewis said.

"Are you aware that the United States of America is perhaps the third largest unsaved nation in the world?" he said, listing China, India, and perhaps Indonesia as having more lost residents. "The mission field is here."

The number of churches in America has not kept pace with the country's population in the past 30 years, Lewis said, adding a map of America in his office pinpointing 20,000 locations where new churches are needed.

"Every time I walk in the door, I'm reminded again that ours is an under-churched nation," he said.

But while Southern Baptists' evangelism strategy must be global and national, it must also be individual, Lewis reiterated.

"Our mandate is all-inclusive. Anywhere there's a lost person, that's a mission field," he said. □

Foreign Mission Board leaders support restructuring proposal

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Although Foreign Mission Board trustees have not had an opportunity to respond to changes recommended by a Southern Baptist Convention study committee, board administrators have voiced strong support for proposals that affect the mission board directly.

Trustees are expected to study the report of the SBC Program and Structure Study Committee and take action at their next board meeting April 26-28 in Huntsville, Ala.

"Approximately every 40 years the SBC has come to the point of evaluating its programs and recommending significant changes," said FMB President Jerry Rankin. "Certainly it has been appropriate for this to be done as we rush toward the 21st century in the midst of a rapidly changing culture and unprecedented opportunities for being on mission with God."

The SBC Program and Structure Committee has recommended a broad overhaul of the convention.

The report was adopted by the SBC Executive Committee in February. To take effect, it must be approved by a majority of messengers at two successive SBC annual meetings — presumably in 1995 and 1996.

The most obvious recommendation affecting the Foreign Mission Board is a name change — to International Mission Board. Rankin and others affirm the proposal.

"'Foreign' has become somewhat of a patronizing and condescending term for relating to people groups and other nationalities," Rankin said.

The most important change, however, is the creation of a new Great Commission Council. It would seek closer cooperation and networking between the new International Mission Board and the proposed North American Mission Board, a new entity combining the current Home Mission Board, Radio and Television Commission, and Brotherhood Commission.

Mark Brister, a Louisiana pastor who chaired the committee making the report, counters rumors that the Great

Commission Council would act as an administrative body with budgeting functions over the two mission boards.

"The (restructuring plan) does not suggest that the Great Commission Council would make a joint funding request" for the two mission boards, Brister said. "The Great Commission Council will help to facilitate communication and avoid reduplication between the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board. Each mission board would make its own budget request."

The most controversial recommendation affecting foreign missions involves promotion of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which funds almost half the FMB's overseas work.

"Although the FMB is delegated the responsibility of promoting the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering under the proposed changes, it does not imply a change in our partnership with the Woman's Missionary Union as an auxiliary to the convention," Rankin said.

"We're already heavily involved with the Lottie Moon offering promotion

through an inter-agency task group, and the WMU will continue to carry a primary role as a valued partner in missions education, mobilization of prayer support, and promotion of the missions offering," he added.

Contrary to what some others have said, Rankin said he believes the study committee's report offers unprecedented opportunities for WMU.

"I would see this as the greatest opportunity in years for WMU," Rankin said. The refocus on missions is compatible with the new objectives of WMU to be women on mission. Their auxiliary status has not changed. They're absolute free to do whatever they determine to do. I hope it's to support the mission boards of the convention in mission education, prayer support, and offering promotion as they have always done."

Rankin said WMU represents "a significant constituency" in the SBC and that it is "regrettable" anyone would interpret the report "as having any intent to ignore or alienate the WMU as an auxiliary." □ — Louis Moore

SWBTS dean resigns, joins Truett faculty

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Bruce Corley, dean of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's school of theology, announced March 21 his resignation to join the faculty of Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary as professor of Christian Scriptures, beginning in June.

Corley, dean since 1990 and a faculty member for 19 years, announced his decision at a regular faculty meeting

of the school of theology. He emphasized the move was not "reactionary" though rumors and speculation about his role have run rampant since the March 1994 firing of Russell H. Dilday as president. Corley said he was "going in view of a call to Baylor. If it were reactionary, I would have made the move much earlier," he stated.

Corley said he has been affirmed by SWBTS President Ken Hemphill and other officers of the seminary. □

Coalition, Justice to work against judge's RFRA ruling

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The coalition supporting the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (which includes the SBC Christian Life Commission and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs) and the U.S. Department of Justice plan to work to make a federal judge's ruling against RFRA only a momentary setback.

District Court Judge Lucius Bunton ruled March 13 Congress violated the U.S. Consti-

tution in enacting RFRA "by intruding on the power and duty of the judiciary." RFRA "unconstitutionally change (es) the burden of proof as established" in the Supreme Court's Employment Division v. Smith opinion.

The Department of Justice will join in an appeal of the decision to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, a White House spokesman said. The RFRA coalition will file a friend-of-the-court brief on appeal, members said.

In Smith, the court ruled

government no longer has to demonstrate a "compelling interest" before restricting religious freedom. RFRA, which was signed into law by President Bill Clinton in November 1993, reversed the effects of Smith and restored the previous legal standard. It requires any government body to demonstrate that a policy serves a "compelling interest" and is the "least restrictive means" in fulfilling the government's interest before limiting the free exercise of religion. □

■ 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. □

Missions support

We have completed a projected estimate of the receipts for the 1994 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. Although the books will not be closed until May 31, it appears we will receive well over \$85 million. We are most grateful to Southern Baptists for this support. The 3 percent increase over last year's totals will enable us to continue to make significant advances in reaching our world for Christ.

I thank the Southern Baptists of Tennessee for their generous giving which reflects a high priority commitment to missions. I also encourage you to begin anticipating the 1995 offering in which we hope to receive \$100 million.

We are very thankful for the outstanding efforts of the Woman's Missionary Union and the Brotherhood Commission in promoting the offering. Their partnership with us has generated this overwhelming response in missions support, coming within a breath of reaching the goal of \$86 million.

I also encourage Tennessee Baptists to give generous support to the current home missions emphasis so that the \$50 million Annie Armstrong Offering will be met this year. Through that offering, advances can be made in the continuing efforts to evangelize our own country.

*Jerry Rankin, president
Foreign Mission Board, SBC
Richmond, Va. 23230*

Keeping up with wrongs

Taking a stand against Dr. Henry Foster, the nominee for Surgeon General, is a highly visible link in a long chain of judgments on individuals, pronounced by boards and commissions of the Baptist conventions.

For these "judges" to seek out and present to us as much background as possible on persons who will be in influential positions is a thing to be desired. For them to pass judgment and set themselves up to make decisions for all us "lesser" Christians is another and not so desirable. Every one of us must be responsible for our own choice. Every one of us must fear God who alone knows the human heart.

We don't pay much attention to I Corinthians 13:5 "love doesn't keep a record of wrongs that others do" (CEV) — "thinketh no evil" (KJV).

We don't have much patience when we wait for God to act, even if we profess to believe his declaration: "Vengeance is mine, I will repay."

All that time we spend keeping up with wrongs and setting agenda, would be much better spent "loving our neighbors as ourselves."

*Robert H. Stone
Lebanon 37088*

Doesn't approve

I have tried to be non-controversial in all the "program of control" that has been foisted on the Southern Baptist Conven-

tion in recent years. I have decided that by being silent I give tacit approval to what has occurred. I do not approve. My idea of Southern Baptist faith and practice does not include leaders who go behind closed doors and methodically plan, then come out and say "You believe like I say or you are wrong."

The most recent pronouncement is obviously an effort to control and consolidate power; I cannot sit by silently. Reduce the number of people and programs to be controlled and it simplifies the task. That is logical.

The treatment of the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings is so blatantly a control mechanism that there is no other way to explain it.

The WMU started this special offering for Foreign Missions with about \$3,000 that came from egg money and sale of vegetables and handwork from ladies who handled very little money. Through education, promotion, prayer, and collection the Lottie Moon Offering is now approaching \$100 million and every penny of it has gone for missions. With this amount of money available, the group just can't stand to not be in control. Whatever happened to "If it ain't broke, don't fix it?"

I have been an active Baptist for 64 years and am very saddened by what is happening to us.

*Frances Dial
Cookeville 38501*

Genuine revival

Bluegrass Church is experiencing heart-felt, genuine revival. During the last several months, there has been a noticeable increase in enthusiasm, joy, and love among our people.

Our church has been praying for spiritual renewal. Henry Blackaby said, "A common spiritual warfare faced by Christians is to try to do God's work in man's ways."

We committed ourselves to prayer, Bible study, discipleship, missions, evangelism, worship, and preaching. Each week we seek to "rekindle the flame" as we move toward the 25th anniversary of our church.

In the midst of our personal and corporate renewal as a church, God showed us where he was working. God used the messages of Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Church, Hixson, and the singing of Mike Bundon, minister of music, Beaver Dam Church, Knoxville, to speak to our hearts and needs.

There were hundreds of rededications, over 25 additions to the church, most were professions of faith. Many people made commitments to Christ after the revival services in the foyer. It was the greatest attendance at a revival in the history of the church. Large crowds stayed long after the benediction fellowshiping. "To God be the glory, (for the) great things He hath done."

*Leonard Markham, pastor
Bluegrass Church
Hendersonville 37075*

■ an occasional word

By Lonnie Wilkey,
associate editor

The real stars

Well, April is just around the corner and it looks like we won't have Major League baseball at the beginning of the season, or at least Major League baseball as we have known it.

Does anyone care?

Who needs the "stars" who play baseball as a business instead of the game that it is anyway?

This summer, I'll be watching Daniel and Joanna Wilkey. They, along with countless numbers of kids, will be playing ball for the fun of it.

Baseball is a game for all ages. It was meant to be fun — for those who play it and those who watch it.

As Little League and Dixie Youth seasons approach, let me remind everyone to keep the game in perspective.

Does it really matter when the ball rolls past the 5-year-old who's looking up at airplanes instead of watching the ball or that 7-year-old who runs to the wrong base, caught up in the excitement of actually hitting a baseball?

And, is it really the end of the world when a 9-year-old strikes out with the bases loaded instead of getting that game-winning hit? No, because despite all the moms and dads, aunts and uncles, and "wannabe" Casey Stengels, it's just a game. And, these words are being written by someone who is as competitive as the next guy and has been known to lose his cool in the heat of a game. Writing this column serves as a reminder to myself.

Back to the Major Leaguers, I believe that part of the reason they are on strike is that somewhere along the way society in general lost its perspective.

And, it's not all fault of the players and owners. Fans should share some of the blame. After all, we are the ones who have placed so much emphasis on winning and losing at all levels, from Little League to college to the pros. By this emphasis we helped make baseball, or sports in general, the business that it is. We're getting what we deserve.

So, this summer, forget about Greg Maddox, Barry Bonds, Ken Griffey Jr., and all the others. Go watch the kids. They're the real stars. □



WILKEY

McElhannon, Vinson join Courtney as SS lesson writers

Two Mississippi natives join the ranks of Sunday School lesson writers with this issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*. They will write lessons for the April-June quarter, joining Brian Courtney, pastor of First Church, Sneedville who will continue as a writer of the Convention Uniform Series.

Courtney holds a B.A. degree from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and the M.Div. degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

The Loudon native also has served as pastor of Reed Springs Church, Philadelphia, where he was ordained into the ministry in 1982.

Courtney has served on the Tennessee Baptist Convention Historical Committee and the Committee on Arrangements. He is a former moderator of Holston Valley Association.

He and his wife, Julia, have two children.

The new writers are Thomas M. (Tommy) Vinson, pastor of Leawood Church, Memphis; and Charles (Chuck) McElhannon, pastor of Valley View Church, Nashville.

Vinson replaces Ray Fullilove as writer of Bible Book Series lessons, and McElhannon will write Life and Work Lessons relieving Elizabeth Howard.

The lessons for Sunday, April 2, are printed in this issue.

Vinson is a native of Tupelo. He and his wife Rose have two sons and a daughter, all of whom are married, and three grandchildren.

He served four years as an Air Traffic Controller, and is a graduate of the Air Traffic Control Academy. Vinson is a graduate of Blue Mountain (Miss.) College and Luther Rice Theological Seminary. He has an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Florida Bible College.

In Mississippi, Vinson was a pastor for 23 years. He came to Leawood in 1991. He served in the Mississippi Baptist Convention as chairman of the Order of Business Committee, a member of the Executive Com-



COURTNEY



McELHANNON



VINSON

Practicing partnership promotes missions

It is usually easy to talk about Partnership Missions because it is so quickly adapted to the way Tennessee Baptists live out their Christianity.

In this issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, there is a four-page section all about the three partnerships in which the Tennessee Baptist Convention is involved. It will be a regular part of the partnerships, appearing at least once a month.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Readers are encouraged to read these special editions. On these official pages, readers will be able to find news items, photos, facts about the partnerships, feature stories, and updated listings of partnership needs. The Partnership Missions Department, headed by Terry Sharp will assist with the project.

Partnership Missions not only enables laity to obey the Great Commission of Matthew 28, it has opened the door for fulfilling personal desire to do hands-on missions. Partnership Missions also allows participants to experience other cultures, and to go places which normally would be off limits.

The thousands of Tennessee Baptists who have volunteered have come home as superb ambassadors for missions. They tell the Good News in action, and they tell the good news of missions as a logical result of their willingness to follow Christ. They are bold, committed.

These volunteers are ordinary people whose interest in missions led them to develop a new lifestyle, one of commitment and concern.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention is involved with three official missions partnerships: Poland, Canada, and Michigan. The first two partnerships began January 1, and the Michigan partnership is more than 15 years old. Tennesseans are involved unofficially in other missions partnerships as well.

Partnership Missions is a support arm of Home and Foreign missions. Goals were set by Southern Baptist leaders years ago for the number of volunteers needed. Tennessee Baptists responded in such numbers and diligence that this kind of mission work is no longer a new experience. No, it has not grown old, nor cold, and the excitement of hands-on volunteer missions work is explosive.

Read the special section. Become acquainted with Baptists in Poland, Canada, and Michigan. Pray for God's guidance. Look at the needs. Determine through Christian discernment where God can use personal Spiritual gifts to push forward in the churches.

We can all encourage men and women who are gifted. Occasionally people who cannot go can help others to get involved, and then help them financially. The formula is simple: pray, give, go.

Several Tennessee Baptist churches have budget items which are used for Partnership Missions. Each personal effort, each affirmation, each one who does something difficult — is a blessing to Partnership Missions.

For these three partnerships, much prayer is needed. God already has richly blessed those who have volunteered or who have indicated a desire to do so.

Partnership Missions can work reciprocally, with mutual blessings for all. □

Lay renewal contributes power to church growth

Lay Renewal Weekends have proven worthy in the spiritual growth of many Tennessee Baptist churches. And it is quite likely that such experiences have strengthened and empowered the lives of church members in the daily grind.

Not to be feared as competition for revivals, renewals often reach unreachable places and people. Renewal changes lives.

However, the weekend in itself to some members could be little more than 42 hours of good times and happiness.

The contribution of a Lay Renewal Weekend comes as the church continues the renewal journey long after the weekend. Bridges are built, forgiveness comes, and trust is the salve that heals.

It involves prayer, work, willingness to throw away masks, and a desire to become the person or church God intends.

The journey begins only after the church prays and trusts in God to "create clean hearts and renew steadfast spirits."

Call the TBC Brotherhood for help. □

one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Stones and rocks

I was 12 years old before I developed a liking for rocks. That's not so strange, because until then, the only rocks and stones I knew about were on the pages of books.

Eastern South Carolina is not known for its vast storehouse of rocks.

Oh, I suppose I really did see a few little pebbles and some small stones, and some petrified wood — but rocks and stones were in short supply.

We studied in school about eons past when the Atlantic Ocean lapped the midlands, right where I lived. There were sea shells down there, when we dug deep enough in the right places. But rocks and stones were few.

I fell in love with the Blue Ridge Mountains and foothills the very first time I saw them.

It's been hard on my pockets, picking up colorful, odd-shaped, personable pieces of stone. Betty and I choose a small stone or rock from every new place we visit. We have been active in reshaping the face of the earth.

A dollar-sized stone from the Grand Canyon, a pebble from the stream in the Valley of Elah where David slew Goliath, a hefty piece from Kauai's northern slope, and many more.

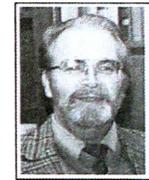
Last August, I found a rough, inch-long rock on the grounds of the infamous Auschwitz. I chose it for a reminder. All the others tell stories of beauty and peace, life and earth's face, just as pieces in my Native American artifact collection.

But this one whispers to me of the brutish nature of man without God — the evil machinations of Nazism that almost totally destroyed Judaism.

It also reminds me of hope that springs eternal in the hearts of the weary, battered, dispirited.

The stones were there when all the fury of Satan fell on the captive people. And, like hope, they were there when the survivors were rescued.

That little piece of stone is a faithful reminder that wars and death, evil and inhumanity cannot triumph forever. Like field flowers blooming on the plains of death, the stones promise hope and victory. □



ALLEN

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

Start with a smile

Businessman to his Pastor: "I have an ethical problem. A man came into my business and made a large purchase. He paid me cash and hurried out with it. When I counted the money, I found he gave me \$20 too much." Pastor: "I'm sure you'll pray about it and do the right thing." Businessman: "Do you really think I should divide with my partner?"

Take this truth

How do you handle ethical problems? One of the great blights on Christianity is many times (far too many) non-church people have keener ethical insights than we who bear the name "Christian." This ought not to be!

Memorize this Scripture

"Provide things honest in the sight of all men" (Romans 12:17)

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to do the right thing even if I could do the wrong thing, knowing no one would ever find out. □

The focus of the family

In today's life style it is increasingly important that we be securely related and tethered to a significant group from which we get perception, purpose, power, and the product of our lives.

As important as the church, the school, the government is in all our lives, we must take note that the family was instituted by God before any of these other institutions.

Home is the place where most of us come to understand and perceive the meaning of life. There is an old saying that "outlook determines outcome."

The family plays a large part in influencing our outlook on life. Kids raised in a negative, pessimistic home grow up with a tendency to have that kind of outlook.

People with a negative outlook generally act as though life is going to be a bad experience, and they get what they look for.

Since these attitudes are more caught than taught, the way a family perceives situations will most likely rub off on family members.

No one gets anywhere without some kind of direction. The family should be the source of

families matter
By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

purpose.

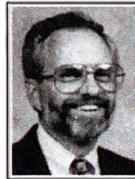
This can be done best by giving encouragement and affirmation for the imaginative investigation of potential that each person has in life, especially life in Christ where we believe "all things are possible through him."

There are homes where parents tell their children that they can't do things because they might fail, or they might make a mistake. Home should be the place where potential is promoted.

The world will attempt to siphon or drain power and energy from people to meet its needs.

The family should be a resource of abundant energy that is nurtured in the caring, concerned, constructive environment of support.

The home should be an island of refreshment and recuperation in a world waging war on the value of man. It should be the place where a family member can go to get wounds healed and then to regain the strength to enter the



BARKLEY

life is shaped and completed. And, finally, home should be a place where the final product of life is shaped and completed.

As the launching pad for the rest of life, home is the source of the shape that our lives will take.

It is within the warm, nurturing care of the home that the major part of one's personality or temperament is formed.

The Bible teaches us to "train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

I do not think it is any accident that God created the family unit before any of the other institutions of our society.

If the home is not secure, then none of the other institutions can long exist. □

Dr. Barkley may be contacted at the 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. Dr. Barkley and the Baptist and Reflector encourage readers to write or call him with problems for discussion.

Tennessean Reggie Thomas makes news 'out West'

By Keith Currey
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Reggie Thomas is one of Union University's most successful and notable alumni, according to one view.

On the other hand, his success story as he follows the mandate of the Great Commission, is not well known at all.

Growing up in nearby Huntingdon, it wasn't unusual for him to enroll at Union University here in Jackson.

But — for him to wind up in Albuquerque, N. M., by way of Mill Valley, Calif., and Fort Worth, Texas — is another story.

Christ's mandate in Matthew 28: 19-20, commonly called the Great Commission, can be heralded as the force behind Thomas' pursuit of God's will. Yes, "Go ye..."

At Union University, Thomas was a popular student. He graduated in 1985, and it was noted in the yearbook that he was named a "Campus Favorite" by fellow students.

He also served as president of the Student Government Association. He was a member of West Jackson Church while a student. He was a religion major at the Baptist university.

After one year at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary at Mill Valley, Calif., he transferred to Southwestern Seminary where he gained his theological degree.

He met his wife Jeannine at Golden Gate, and they have a daughter, Amanda Kelsey.

Christ's Great Commission

calls for all Christians to share the Gospel with people of every race and culture on earth.

Reggie Thomas does this every day in the cultural melting pot of Central New Mexico.

Thomas is director of missions for Central Baptist Association, and directs and supports the ministries of 72 churches around Albuquerque.

That position for the Tennessean has made him unique.

According to the Home Mission Board's *Associational Missions Division*, Thomas is the first African-American director of missions in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Serving as DOM for the Central Association is an exciting opportunity," he explains.

"This mission field is challenging and ready for the Gospel to be preached, taught, and ministered."

The association is home to an ethnically diverse population, which includes Hispanics, Native Americans, Asians, and Russian immigrants. While there are endless opportunities to minister to these groups, there also are unique challenges as well.

"We work with religious leaders in the ethnic communities to cast a vision for ministering to the people," Thomas said. "We assess the needs of the community and meet those needs through organizing a new congregation or establishing a Christian social ministry."

The association's efforts have been successful thus far, generating churches or missions in virtually every population segment of the Albuquerque area, one of the fastest growing communities in the United States.

quereque area, one of the fastest growing communities in the United States.

The association continues to look toward the future, however, as the climbing population of 600,000 is plagued with increasing social ills.

Poverty, gang violence, unemployment, and health problems rank among the most urgent needs to be addressed by Thomas and the association.

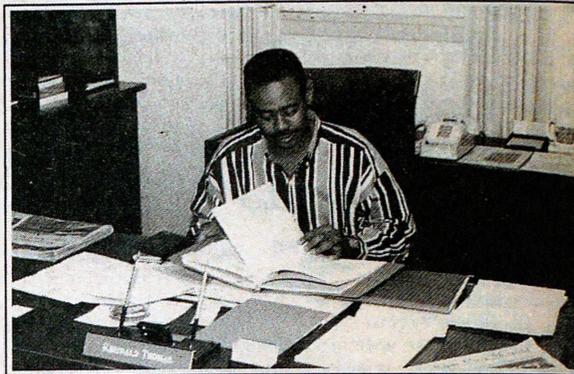
Of course, the churches still actively spread the Gospel at the same time. The association sponsors numerous Christian social ministries designed to improve community life and provide opportunities for evangelism, including health clinics, soup kitchens, and clothes closets.

On a more personal level, Thomas supports gang prevention projects in inner-city neighborhoods. Gang violence is increasing, so the association's neighborhood center provides youth with alternatives to crime and violence.

"Our goal is to touch young people's lives and redirect their negative energy through Bible studies and activities," he said. "Above all we provide mentors to model how good values make good citizens."

The association also tries to steer youth away from gangs by establishing a career enhancement program at the center. A part-time staffer will contact area businesses and locate job opportunities for young people.

After training them in basic interview skills and work ethics, the center will refer youth to part-time jobs.



UNION UNIVERSITY graduate Reggie Thomas is director of missions for Central Baptist Association in New Mexico. The association's 72 churches include Albuquerque, one of the fastest growing communities in the nation.

Another example of Thomas' vision for Central Association's inner-city ministries includes counseling and Bible studies for military families at nearby Kirtland Air Force Base. Church members perform outreach to the area's 66 mobile home communities, where as much as 96 percent of the population is unchurched.

"That's the most exciting part of my ministry, working close to the local church in reaching our entire community for Christ," Thomas said.

While he was a student at Southwestern he was pastor of New Generation Church in Tyler, Texas. During his three-year ministry, church membership grew from 10 to 170 and 100 people were baptized.

In 1990, Thomas became a consultant with the Church Extension Department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He served there four

years starting and developing new churches, beginning 120 new works in all.

"My love and heart is for missions," he said. "That is where my strength is. God has ordained and called me to equip these churches to do his work."

"We work in a progressive area, but what happens here is a reminder that society as a whole is changing. The church can't go on doing business as usual because the old models for evangelism and church growth often don't work in this changing world. We must remember that God is always moving. The heart of missions is finding out where God is and making the necessary adjustments to stay in step with him." □ — Wm. Fletcher Allen contributed to this story. The story first appeared in the Union University alumni magazine, the *Unionite*. Used by permission.

Union students, faculty provide fourth Habitat home in Jackson

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — In 1991 Union University students and faculty worked with Habitat for Humanity for the first time

to construct a home for a needy family.

In subsequent years, the partnership has continued to flourish, and Union students are completing fund-raising projects for their recently-dedi-

cated fourth home.

The nation's first college to construct a Habitat for Humanity home, Union raises money each year to supplement a grant from the Tennessee Housing Development Agency. Several projects raise funds to meet costs on the \$25,000-\$27,000 homes. One of those fund-raising projects is the Union University Players' annual dinner theater which is expected to meet up to half of the home's remaining \$3,300 goal.

This year's dinner theater, held March 27, featured the Players' spring production, "Time After Time."

"This has become a great opportunity for people to come for an evening of fun while benefiting a great cause," said Bill Kisner, Union's director of student ministries.

Through Union's construction and fund-raising efforts, Betty Rice, a single mother of two, was able to move her family into a new home just before Christmas.

"I don't know how to thank you. We never could have done this without you," Rice told a group of Union stu-

dents, faculty, and staff who gathered recently for the home's dedication.

The Rices will rent the home for the first year, contributing 20 percent or less of their gross income. If the family makes the scheduled payments for one year, they will take over the home's low interest mortgage.

While helping provide for individuals in need, students benefit from the experience as well, according to Kisner.

"Habitat for Humanity gives students a chance to use their energies and willingness to work in a tangible way," Kisner said. "They can look at the house and see what they've accomplished, knowing they've made a difference in the life of a family."

The Habitat program also provides the family receiving the home "a positive look at young people as they work alongside the students," Kisner continued. "With so much negative news about young people going around today, the Habitat project shows there are students who help people not out of pity, but out of a desire to lend a hand," he added. □



BETTY RICE, second from left, and daughter, Queca, and son, Randy, were beneficiaries of Union University's fourth Habitat for Humanity Home. With them at the recent dedication were, from left on back row, Bill Kisner, Union student ministries director, BSU President Adam Simpson, and Terri Kozlowitz, assistant student ministries director.



Partnership Missions NEWSLETTER

Featuring news from Tennessee Baptists' three partnership ventures —
Canada, Poland, Michigan

From the director

Last month we introduced *The Macedonian Call*, the official newsletter of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Partnership Missions Department. It appeared in the *Green Light*, published by the TBC Public Relations Office. Because of the response of our readers, we are now making it available regularly in the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Each issue will contain project and prayer requests from Poland, Michigan, and Canada. You will read testimonies from volunteers, and see how our volunteer missions work is making a real difference. Plus, learn about the churches and their cultures, struggles, and challenges. Plan to use this newsletter in your church prayer ministry, and missions organizations.

It's my hope that *The Macedonian Call* will be an important link between partnership missions and you!

In Christ,

Terry Sharp, director



SHARP

Study shows relationship between partnership missions work and the Cooperative Program

It has been thought through the years that churches going on partnership missions would become stronger supporters of the Cooperative Program. Many who have gone to the mission field and seen the effective use of the Cooperative Program and other mission funds have remarked about how much they are going to encourage their churches to give more now that they have seen it for themselves. Do they? We have thought that they did but now we know.

A study was done recently of all the churches going on partnership missions from South Carolina from 1989 to 1992. Their Cooperative Program gifts in 1989 were compared with their gifts in 1992. In addition the increased amount was compared with the average South Carolina Baptist church. The churches which developed alternative giving patterns other than strictly undesignated Cooperative Program gifts during that period were not included in the study to discover the real growth. The study revealed:

- All churches' giving increased 2.77 percent
- Partnership churches' giving increased

16.16 percent

Obviously, the churches going on partnership missions were probably already inclined to grow in mission support before going on the missions trip. Also, in some cases only one or two persons actually went from a partnership church to a mission field while others sent large numbers.

All things considered, it is still very apparent that church involvement in partnership missions has a major impact on mission support. Partnership churches increased 5.8 times as much as the average South Carolina Baptist church in Cooperative Program support during the 1989-92 time frame.

One of the best ways to enlist additional Cooperative Program support is to send as many people as possible on these partnership missions trips to Canada, Poland, and Michigan or even to one of our future partnership mission fields. □ — Information on the South Carolina study was provided by Dan A. Ray, director of Cooperative Program and Resource Development for the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Partnership churches have need for various items

Items listed below are needed in Canada and Michigan.

Books — The Canadian Baptist Seminary is in need of books for their library. Maybe your church, Sunday School class, RAs, GAs, women's or men's groups would like to purchase a book. This would be a wonderful mission action project for your church. Each donated book will include a

special bookplate with your name. For a listing and prices of books, contact the TBC Partnership Missions Department at (615) 371-2064.

Vehicles — Used vehicles in good condition are needed for use by missionaries in Michigan. Contact the Partnership Missions Department if you have a car or van you can donate to the Baptist State Con-

vention of Michigan.

Used Choir Robes — Jasper Place Baptist Church in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, is in need of 30-40 choir robes. Jasper Place is a good church and has an active choir, but no robes. They would prefer the robes to be dusty rose, cream (beige), or light blue in color, if possible. Contact the Partnership Missions Department. □

Perception of Poland

By Bennie Creel
Director of Missions
Sweetwater Association

After a recent visit to Poland with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, I came away with a very positive perception of the people of this nation.

Having suffered under the great atrocities at Auschwitz, and living under Communism for a long period of time, these folks still struggle to live their lives with dignity and pride.

This perception carried over to the Baptist churches of Poland as well. Almost without exception, every encounter



CREEL

we had with the Christians there showed them hard at work using various kinds of entities in attempting to reach their people for Christ.

I will long remember this healthy pride that has brought this nation through their struggles. □

Former TBC partnership allows pastor to truly experience God at work

By John Parrott Jr.
Pastor, East Rogersville Church

The location was a small community called Lomas Coloradas. The San Pedro Baptist Church sponsored a mission located there. San Pedro was like a suburb to the city of Concepcion, Chile, a city of more than one million people.

My wife and I were involved in our first partnership missions experience outside the United States. We were volunteers and part of the evangelistic team that traveled to Concepcion in late 1993.

The San Pedro Church and the Lomas Coloradas mission were our assignment for eight days of daily witnessing and evangelistic services in the evenings. The first four days were spent in Lomas Coloradas working along side our missionaries and the nationals. We

were in many homes, children's homes, and schools, and it was with great joy and anticipation of God's harvest that I preached each evening at the mission.

Although we had seen people accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior in homes no one had responded in the public invitations given the first three evenings at the mission. I became discouraged. Had I misunderstood my Lord's call to this task? My wife and I prayed with our missionary for the final service at the mission. Prayer brought encouragement to my heart that we would see victory in the final services at the mission that evening.

That evening, at the moment I was to get up to preach, something happened in that little mission that would change my life and ministry. **The lights went out!** Satan whispered to my heart and reminded me

what I would do at home if there were no lights in the church. The people would be sent home. Discouragement overcame me. I was devastated. Satan was letting me know that this was an impossible situation for having an evangelistic service.

As I sat in the darkness ready to admit defeat I did not realize that someone had left the mission and had returned with two simple candles. The pastor of the mission had said that I must have the opportunity to preach the Gospel.

The two candles were lit and placed on the pulpit stand, and I preached. The missionary was by my side translating. I re-

membered the words of I John 4:4b, "greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world" (KJV). The invitation was given, and I heard the shuffling of feet and saw movement in the darkness. There was a young couple who came out of the darkness into the light of the two candles. Then others came to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

That evening I wept for joy at the victories God had given. A young man gave a word of personal testimony. He said that he had come every evening with a desire to give his life to Christ but was so ashamed of his sins. He didn't want anyone to see him come publicly. This night God had made a way for him to overcome that feeling as he came in the darkness to accept Christ.

It is simply amazing what our Lord can do if we are will-



PARROTT

Partnership projects offer Tennessee Baptists opportunities to serve

Michigan

Project: Summer missionaries
Location: Central/Lendale Assoc.
Date: June 5-Aug. 11
Type: VBS, BYBC, Mission VBS
Needed: 2 females
Housing available

Project: Summer missionaries
Location: Dix Avenue Church, Lincoln Park
Date: June 5-Aug. 11
Type: VBS, BYBC, survey, visits
Needed: 2 students
Housing available

Project: Summer missionaries
Location: Woodland Assoc.
Date: June 5-Aug. 11
Type: VBS, BYBC, survey, revivals, youth program
Needed: 2 males
Housing available

Project: Summer missionaries
Location: Northland Assoc.
Date: June 5-Aug. 11
Type: VBS, BYBC, survey, visits
Needed: 3 teams (6 students)
Housing available

Project: Summer missionaries
Location: Huron Assoc.
Date: June 5-Aug. 11
Type: VBS, BYBC, survey, visits
Needed: 2 females
Housing available

Project: Summer missionaries
Location: Oakland Assoc.
Date: June 5-Aug. 11
Type: VBS, BYBC, visits, survey
Needed: 2 females
Housing available

Project: Student team
Location: Good Samaritan
Date: July 21-31
Type: work with migrant farm laborers in BBC, CCM, and evangelism — Spanish helpful but not required.
Needed: 6 students

Project: Staff for camp
Location: Bambi Lake Baptist Camp
Date: June 20-Aug. 20
Type: General maintenance; house-keeping, kitchen, grounds
Needed: 2 (prefer husband and wife team)

Project: Lifeguard
Location: Bambi Lake Baptist Camp
Date: June 19-Aug. 12
Type: Lifeguard for waterfront activities, also other tasks during camp sessions
Needed: 2
Project: EMT, LPN, or RN

Location: Bambi Lake Camp
Date: June 26-Aug. 12
Type: Health officer for children/ youth camps
Needed: 1

The following are construction projects:

Location: Portage, FBC
Date: June 10-14
Type: Insulation, some drywall — install insulation (walls only), begin hanging drywall
Needed: 4-8
Date: June 19-23
Type: Rough carpentry-frame interior partitions (6500 sq. ft. educational addition), would also like assistance with evangelism and VBS
Needed: 5-9 (construction number only)
Date: June 26-July 7
Type: Bricklaying for educational addition
Needed: 10-12
Date: Aug. 14-18
Type: Interior painting — painting interior walls and ceilings — 22,000 ft. of drywall
Needed: 10-15
Date: Aug. 28-Sept. 1
Type: Finish carpentry — interior trim, door trim, doors (hang and finish), hang pre-built cabinets, build and install shelves
Needed: 8-12

Project: Leaders
The Macomb Association has four churches that either are now or soon will be in need of a pastor. Three of these works are established churches and one is a new work start. If you are interested or know someone who may be interested in assisting these churches please contact us.

Canada

Project: FPIVS95609, Construction — new roof on church auditorium
Location: Royal Heights Church, Vancouver, BC
Date: Spring 1995
Needed: 3-5

Project: FPIVS95656, VBS, BYBC
Location: First Church, Williams, BC
Date: July 17-21

Project: FPIVS95647, Roofing — remove clay tiles from roof, replace underlying rolled roofing, replace clay tile
Location: Cambrian Heights Church, Calgary, Alberta
Date: Summer 1995

Project: FPIVS95645A, Construction of fellowship center
Location: Fairview, Alberta
Date: Summer 1995

Project: FPIVS95636, BYBC
Location: Prince George, BC
Date: Aug. 14-18

Project: FPIVS95611, Music outreach camp for children and youth
Location: Toronto Church, Vancouver, BC
Date: July

or August, 1995
Needed: 2-4

Project: Construction — new rural church building, 90 percent complete; need assistance installing 6500 sq. ft. of T-Bar ceiling tiles, install and caulk 1300 ft. of rubber cove baseboard around walls; finish carpentry, hang doors, some finish painting.
Location: Mapes Church, Vanderhoof, BC
Date: April 24-May 8
Needed: 4 men
Other: would like for team to secure money for materials. Estimated cost is \$3,500.

Long Term Assignments

Project: ESL Teacher
Length: 1-6 months
Location: Gladstone Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC
Type: Teach ESL classes and work in ministry center of church

Project: Auxiliary Staff
Length: 6 months-1 year
Location: Gladstone Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC
Type: Serve as auxiliary staff at ministry center (running the thrift store, ministering to those who come to center). Will be working with center director.

Project: Program Leadership
Length: 1 year
Location: Discovery Baptist Church, Regina, Saskatchewan
Type: Develop leadership and program for a children and youth ministry.

Project: Restart Congregation
Length: 1-2 years
Location: Brandon, Manitoba
Type: Needs pastor to restart a declining congregation
Needed: Prefer pastor/wife team

Poland

Project: Workshops
Date: Sept. 1-9; Experiencing God — Warsaw
Date: Nov. 3-11; Special youth workers workshop — Warsaw. A person is needed to teach a workshop designed for pastors and lay leaders who want to reach out to difficult youth (drug culture, etc).
Date: Nov. 9-19; Ministry Workshop — Warsaw, Bialystok, Malbork. Workshop in three churches training leaders in practical ministry among the poor.

Project: English teacher
Location: Chelm (Southeast Poland)
Date: June 1, 1995—June 1, 1996
Type: Establish English language program in local church as an outreach to the city of Chelm.
Needed: 1-2 persons
Housing provided

Project: English teacher
Location: NW Poland
Date: June 20, 1995—July 1, 1996
Type: Teach English for believers and as an evangelistic outreach
Needed: 1-2 persons
Housing provided

Project: Construction
Date: April 14-30; Baptist Seminary in Warsaw — team to landscape the seminary grounds
Date: May 1-15; Baptist Seminary in Warsaw — crew needed to complete seminary chapel, especially the roof (iron sheeting)
Date: May 19-June 2; Baptist Seminary in Warsaw — construct parking lot and sidewalk system at seminary linking the five buildings
Date: Sept. 15-20; Krakow — renovate a house to be used as a church

Project: Children's Camps
Date: June 30-July 15 (Northern Poland), 5-10 volunteers are needed to minister to children through music, crafts, games, and basic English lessons.
Date: July 14-29 (Northern Poland), 5-10 volunteers are needed to participate in a camp through music, crafts, games, and basic English lessons.
Date: July 14-31 (Chociwel, Northwest Poland), 8-10 volunteers are needed to lead a children's day camp in conjunction with a local church using crafts, games, music, simple English lessons, and stories.
Date: July 28-Aug. 12, (Northern Poland) 5-10 volunteers are needed to participate in a camp through music, crafts, games, and basic English lessons.

Project: Basketball/Evangelism Camp
Date: July 28-Aug. 7 (Gdansk), organize and direct an evangelistic basketball clinic.

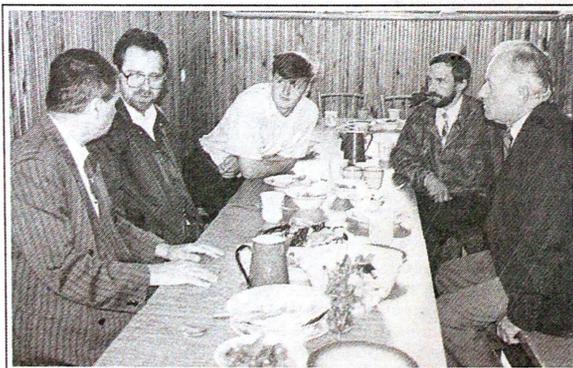
Project: Youth Camps
Date: June 16-July 1 (Northern Poland), 10-12 volunteers are needed to organize camp for teenagers from across Poland. Group would use sport skills, basketball, English lessons, evangelism, and testimonies.
Date: June 30-July 15 (Chociwel, Northern Poland), 8-10 volunteers are needed to lead youth through English lessons, music, drama, games, crafts, and testimonies.
Date: June 30-July 15 (Northern Poland), 10-12 volunteers are needed to organize camp for teenagers from all across Poland. Group would use music, games, English lessons, evangelism.

Project: English Courses/Evangelism
Location: Local church based English courses as an evangelistic outreach with revival services in the evening.
Date: June 16-26 — Hajnowka
Date: June 30-July 10 — Gorzow Wielkopolski

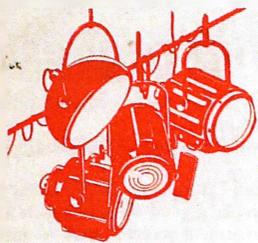
Project: Tent Revivals
Teams are needed for citywide tent crusades in various cities in Poland. Each group would include drama and music in the evening and do street/door to door witnessing during the day. 10-15 volunteers are needed for each team.
Date: June 30-July 10
Date: July 7-17
Date: July 14-24
Date: July 21-31
Date: July 28-Aug. 7
Date: Aug. 4-14

Project: Children's Ministry Teams and Tent Revivals
Each children's ministry team will use puppets, crafts, and children's material as an outreach during the tent meetings. Contacts made during the day. 5 volunteers are needed on each team.
Date: June 30-July 10
Date: July 7-17
Date: July 14-21
Date: July 21-31
Date: July 28-Aug. 7
Date: Aug. 4-14

Project: Health Care Team
Date: May 31-June 10
We need the following medical personnel for our first medical team to Poland. If you are interested in participating in this project please contact our office: 2 physicians, 2 dentists, 4 nurses, 2 dental assistants, 2 pharmacists, 1 ophthalmologist/optometrist.
We also need eye glasses to take with us on this trip. If you have glasses you would like to donate please send them to our office.



TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION Partnership Missions Director Terry Sharp, second from left, visited with Polish Baptist leaders late in 1994 to begin planning for the new Tennessee Baptist/Poland partnership which officially began Jan. 1 of this year. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen



Spotlight on Poland

Highlights

Area: Slightly smaller than New Mexico
 Population: 39,651,700
 Ethnic Groups: Chiefly Polish
 Language: Polish
 Religions: Roman Catholic (95 percent, but only 75 percent practicing), Uniate, Russian Orthodox, Protestant, others
 Capital and largest city: Warsaw, population of more than 1.7 million
 Major Cities: Lodz, Cracow, Wroclaw, Poznan, Gdansk, Katowice, Szczecin
 Climate: Temperate. During the summer the average temperature is 66 degrees. The coldest weather is in January and February. The temperature during these months ranges from 0 to -22 degrees. Huge snow falls can be found in the Polish mountains.
 Travel information: A passport is necessary to visit Poland. One can stay up to 90 days in Poland without a visa.



Churches

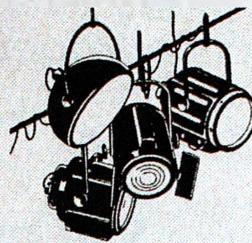
There are approximately 3,500 members in 59 churches located in nine regions.

- 32 percent have less than 25 members
- 27 percent have between 26-50 members
- 25 percent have 51-100 members
- 7 percent have 101-150 members
- 2 percent have 140-200 members
- 7 percent have more than 200 members

Projects

Projects will range from two weeks to four months and are available in the following areas:

- Evangelism: revivals, witnessing, music, drama, sports
- Medical: general medical, dental, children's clinics
- Education: English teachers, medical lectures, religion professors, train pastors /laypersons, music
- Construction: church, emergency repair, remodeling
- Other: discipleship, leadership conference, church planting, women's work, men's work, age group ministries



Spotlight on Canada

Highlights

Area: Second largest country in world; 89 percent of the land is unsettled; consists of 10 provinces and two territories; divided into six regions — Atlantic (Maritimes), Central, Canadian Shield, Prairies, Northern, Cordilleran; over 50 percent of the population lives in the Central region
 Population: 27,916,700
 Ethnic Groups: British, French, native Indians, Eskimo, other Europeans and Asians
 Religions: Roman Catholic (46 percent), Protestant (41 percent), Eastern Orthodox, Jewish, other small groups
 Climate: Varies from coast to coast. During the summer, temperatures average around 75 degrees. However, in the prairies, the temperature can climb into the 90s. In northern Canada, summer temperatures stay at 65 degrees during the day, but often drop near freezing at night. Winter temperatures range from 0 degrees to 10 degrees through the Rockies. Temperatures can drop to -40 degrees. On the southern coast of British Columbia, however, the temperatures usually are above freezing. The snowfall is consistently heavy throughout Canada.
 Time Zones: Canada straddles six time zones. We will be affected by the following: Pacific Standard Time: Most of British Columbia; Mountain Standard Time: Alberta, northeastern British Columbia, Saskatchewan; Central Standard Time, Manitoba
 Travel information: To enter Canada, U.S. citizens must show proof of citizenship. A valid passport is suggested, however, not required. If you don't have a passport, a birth certificate or voter registration card along with a picture ID will suffice.



The Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists

The convention celebrated its 10th anniversary in 1994. There are approximately 110 churches with 7,440 members. There are 46 ethnic congregations. Most churches have less than 100 members though there are 15 with more than 100 members and four have more than 200 members. The largest church in Canada is the Chinese Church in Vancouver. The baptism ratio in Canada is one baptism for every 17.46 church members.

Projects

Same type projects as listed for Poland, except medical needs

Robbins eager to assist volunteers

My name is Leanne Robbins. I began working in the Partnership Missions Department in November. I am excited about what is happening through volunteer missions across our state.



ROBBINS

There are so many ways you as a volunteer can go and be a

part of a team sharing the gifts and talents God has given you. I know my trip to Venezuela in 1990 was a life-changing experience for me. You are never the same after returning from one of these trips.

I challenge you to be a part of our partnerships. If you cannot travel, please become one of our prayer partners.

I look forward to working with you in the days ahead.

In him,
 Leanne Robbins



Volunteer viewpoint

We had a team of four to work with MKs at the yearly mission meeting in Calgary, Feb. 17-20. We provided the children with Bible study and related activities during the week. It was a wonderful experience to be with the missionaries and to see first hand how our mission dollars are utilized. Having been involved in missions for 27 years, I achieved a dream of being a 'volunteer missionary.'

Ann Ferrell
 First Church, Smyrna

Michigan, Poland, attract 17 volunteers early

Less than three months into the partnerships with Poland and Canada, 17 Tennessee Baptists already have served in roles ranging from evangelism to seminary teaching in Canada and Poland.

Fifteen volunteers have worked on four projects in Canada while two Tennesseans have been to Poland on partnership projects. Numerous opportunities exist in the months ahead. See page 8 for a listing of projects in Poland, Canada, and Michigan. □

Tennessee Baptists encouraged to pray for partnership requests

Poland

Howard Gallimore who is establishing a new library at the Polish Seminary in Radosc.

The Eastern European missionaries as they meet in Warsaw, May 4-8.

Pray that a pastor can be found to serve the Second Baptist Church in Warsaw, Poland, while missionary Mark Edworthy is on furlough for one year.

Canada

Pray for our convention leadership as they work through the changes that will be mandated by the SBC Structure and Program Committee report.

Pray that our churches keep a world missions vision in focus and strengthen their support for it through our Cooperative Program.

Pray for the Here's Hope revivals this spring. Several teams from Tennessee will be preaching and singing.

Pray for Jeff Christopherson and his family as they move from North Battleford, Saskatchewan, to Calgary, April 1, to plant a new church. This work is sponsored by the Bow Valley Baptist Church, Cochrane.

Pray for Wayne and Anita Woodward, seminary students, as they plant a new deaf church in Calgary, also sponsored by Bow Valley.

Michigan

Give Praise for the completion of the three BWBYW Retreats, where 507 women participated for fellowship and missions information. Women brought to the retreat the following items which will be used in state migrant ministries: 78 blankets, 249 pounds of rice, 240 pounds of beans, 384 packages of tissue,



and 455 pairs of socks. The women also gave \$1,650.88 to the Joyce Mitchell Acteens Scholarship.

Pray for the 37th annual meeting of Michigan Woman's Missionary Union, April 21-22, at Warren Woods Baptist Church, Warren. The speakers will be Mary Helen Dixon, WMU, SBC; Nomic Derani, Mission Service Corps, working with Muslim women, Dearborn, Mich.; and Glenda White, missionary to Korea.

Pray for Ann Wilson, president, Michigan Woman's Missionary Union, as she presides at her first annual meeting.

Continue to pray for the churches who will give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering that we might reach our goal of \$100,000.

Pray for the following requests from Central Association in Michigan:

For Victor Bettenhausen and the new work in Ionia as they seek to find a building to begin worship services. They are planning to begin the first of April.

For Island City Baptist Church in their search for a pastor. The pastor will need to be bivocational because of the size of the church.

For Harmony Baptist Church as they begin a food and clothing distribution center out of their church

building and seek to minister to many families in real need. Chuck Turner is pastor.

Pray for the following requests from Lendale Baptist Association:

For Bethel Baptist Church as they search for a pastor. The church is in a good area to reach a real need. The church needs a pastor with a mission heart. Pray that God will send a pastor to lead this mission in the community.

For Clifford Kelley and family as they move to Jonesville to begin a new church. This is a step of faith for Hillsdale Baptist Church, the sponsoring church, and the Kelleys, but God will honor faith. The Kelleys are in need of a house and a job. Pray the association can find funds to help them until these can be located.

General Prayer Requests

The many Here's Hope revival teams who will be traveling to Canada this month.

Leanne Robbins, administrative secretary for the TBC Partnership Missions Department as she works daily with volunteers and missionaries.

Bobbie Dunn, wife of Dr. Dewey Dunn, partnership medical volunteers, who is undergoing chemotherapy at this time.

The new believers that Tennessee Baptist volunteers have led to the Lord. Pray for their growth.

Cameron Byler and Charles Guthrey as they work with the hundreds of volunteers who will build the first Southern Baptist English language church in the Maritimes of Canada.

Thank God for the many wonderful volunteers who are now or will be serving in Michigan, Poland, and Canada.

Thank God for the *Baptist and Reflector*, a friend to partnership missions. Pray for the editor, Fletcher Allen and his staff.

Will You Be a Partnership Missions Prayer Partner for Canada, Poland, and Michigan?

Will you commit to pray daily for our partnerships with Poland, Canada, and Michigan? As a prayer partner you will receive monthly prayer requests and a quarterly newsletter just for prayer partners.

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please complete the form below and return it to the Partnership Missions Department, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024, or FAX it to (615) 371-2014.

Prayer Partner

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____

CHURCH _____

ASSOCIATION _____

Polish Baptist women's leader sends thanks for prayers, cards, calls, and good wishes

Dear Terry and Tennessee Baptists,

I am writing you from the home of Jan and Michael Gott, where I am continuing to recover from my surgery. Everything is going well.

Because the phone calls, cards, prayers, and good wishes were so meaningful to me, I wanted to say thanks. Many have prayed for me and God has been with me in so many ways.

I want to give God all the glory. I have often prayed for good health so that I can serve him with strength and all my energies. My husband and children need me, too!

It is amazing how God has made it possible for me to come to America for the medical care and how God brought into my life Jan and Michael Gott and then, Dr. Houston and Dr. Walker. My husband and I could never have arranged this, but God did. I praise his name!

One of the great blessings is American friends like you. We are a family of faith and we are one in Christ. You have proven that this is so wonderfully true.

I welcome you to come to Poland and serve Christ with us. Welcome! We need you and your influence in Poland.

Please continue to pray for me that I can soon return to my family and my work among the Baptist women of Poland.

Thank you again. You have my love.
In Christ,

Ewa Gutkowska

(Note: Ewa Gutkowska is the wife of Ryszard Gutowski, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Poland. She recently had surgery at East Texas Medical Center in Tyler, Texas.)

Kingsport Baptist gives new life to old books

By Becky Whitlock
Kingsport Times-News

KINGSPORT — Thirty years ago, English author John Hunter published 12 books that encouraged Christians to live a Christ-like life.

Though his writings had influenced others, Jan McMurray had not heard of Hunter until, while cleaning off a bookshelf, noticed a book she had not seen before, *Finding God's Best*, written by Hunter and published by Broadman Press in 1974.

"I began reading through a little bit of it to find out if it was something I should keep," said McMurray, a member of West Colonial Hills Church, Kingsport. "I was fascinated by the writing style of the writer. It had a depth of message, but he was able to express it so simply that you could understand it."

McMurray called a friend, Ron Owens, associate director of the prayer and spiritual awakening office of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and asked him if he had heard of Hunter.

Not only had Owens heard of Hunter, he and his wife, Patricia, had traveled Europe with Hunter and his wife several years ago.

The Owenses as well as Henry Blackaby, director of the prayer and spiritual awakening office, had been greatly influenced by Hunter's writings, McMurray discovered.

Owens told McMurray Hunter was "a

wonderful man, so godly." She learned McMurray was still living in England at the age of 85. She obtained his address from Owen and wrote him, telling him how his book had inspired her.

Hunter's wife, Ruth, replied to her letter.

Hunter had suffered a stroke in February 1994 making it impossible for him to travel and speak. All 12 of his books were now out of print, and he was beginning to wonder if all his efforts were coming to an end, McMurray discovered.

"His wife wrote me back and told me the timeliness of my letter could not have been better," McMurray said. "When I had written, it was such an encouragement to him," she said.

McMurray obtained the titles of his other books and began the process of locating them through a rare book dealer. Though she does not yet have a complete set, she is well on her way.

The overarching theme of the books is the life one leads needs to back up the message one is giving, McMurray said.

McMurray quoted Hunter, in his book, *Limiting God*, as saying "the greatest need in the church of God today is that those who profess and call themselves Christians, should have a life which backs up the message."

Through reading the books she began

to get a feel for who the man is.

"After I read them, I felt I needed to meet this man because I didn't think his books needed to be out of print," she said.

McMurray went to England late last year and spent three days with the Hunters. "It was wonderful. The Lord put our hearts together. Our hearts and minds are so similar," she said.

McMurray returned to Tennessee with the rights to republish Hunter's books. Broadman Press had returned rights for publishing the books to Hunter who in turn gave those rights to McMurray.

McMurray formed a publishing company, Fresh Springs Inc., and is reprinting the books along with a study guide which can be used by churches. She currently is teaching the first book *Finding God's Best* which was republished as *Finding What's Missing* at her church. She is getting positive response from the first book. "It's been real good to see what the Lord is doing at this time when people are ready to hear," she said.

She hopes to have the second book, *Limiting God*, out in April.

"How God wants to distribute the books is up to him. It will be done in the way that God gets the glory. That's what I want to happen," she said.

For information on how to obtain the books, call McMurray at (615) 288-5307. □ — Whitlock is Weekender editor of the *Kingsport Times-News*. Associate Editor Lonnie Wilkey contributed to article which is reprinted with permission.



McMURRAY

Interfaith witness workshop on occult set for Knoxville

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A Conference of the Occult sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Home Mission Board will be held April 21-22 at Wallace Memorial Church in Knoxville for individuals interested in becoming interfaith witness associates.

The occult involves dozens of different practices including astrology, Satanism, and witchcraft.

The purpose of the study is to provide accurate, up-to-date information about the occult.

The schedule is 2-9 p.m. on April 21 with dinner provided and 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on April 22 with lunch provided.

The registration fee is \$15, made payable to Interfaith Witness Department, HMB. Send check to Susan Babb, TBC Missions Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024.

For more information about the meeting, call (615) 371-2031. □

Knoxville church honors 80-year-old musician

For Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Cyrus "Cy" Smith will celebrate his 81st birthday on April 12.

Don't look for Smith, however, to be sitting on a church pew come Sunday morning. Chances are he will be doing

what he has for more than 70 years — singing in church choirs or possibly playing the trumpet.

Smith was honored recently by First Church, Concord, in Knoxville, for his 70 years of choral service.

Minister of Music David Hy-

ers has known Smith since he and his wife, Alma, started attending First Church 20 years ago.

"I had never heard of anyone belonging to an adult choir for 70 years," Hyers said. "I think you'll find few if any in the country who have been in a choir for that many years," Hyers added.

Hyers presented Smith a plaque that read, "A man who loves music and loves his Lord."

Smith began playing the trumpet at age 10 and began to sing with the adult choir at Thorn Grove Church in Knoxville where his father, H.H. Smith, was choir director.

During the next few years Smith played the trumpet in the Carter High School and University of Tennessee bands.

Yet, singing is his favorite form of musical expression. "Without singing my life would have been dull. I was making music since I was here," Smith said.

After serving in the Air Force during World War II, Smith returned to Knoxville and married Alma Coward in 1945. They joined McCalla Avenue Church in Knoxville where he served in various roles, including deacon and Sunday School teacher for 14-

year-old boys. In addition to singing in that church's choir for 30 years, Smith sang in a men's quartet and a mixed quartet, organized and directed a youth quartet, and sang with the Knoxville Barber Shop Chorus and Quartet.

In 1974 the Smiths moved to west Knoxville and joined First Church, Concord where he has continued to sing for the past 20-plus years.

Smith no longer sings barbershop, but he chose his favorite hymns to sing with the choir at the Sunday evening celebration held in his honor — "He Lives," "How Great Thou Art," and "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus."

Smith's wife noted her husband "isn't one who likes to be out front even though he appreciated receiving the plaque. He feels that it was part of his service to the Lord to sing in choirs."

Hyers noted Smith's "sweet spirit and love for singing and serving the Lord have touched many lives during his ministry."

"We wish Cy many more years of doing what he loves to do — singing in the Lord's choir." □ — Adapted from an article written by Laura E. Garrard, an editorial intern for the *Faragut Press-Enterprise*.

Ross to lead youth conference at HCBA

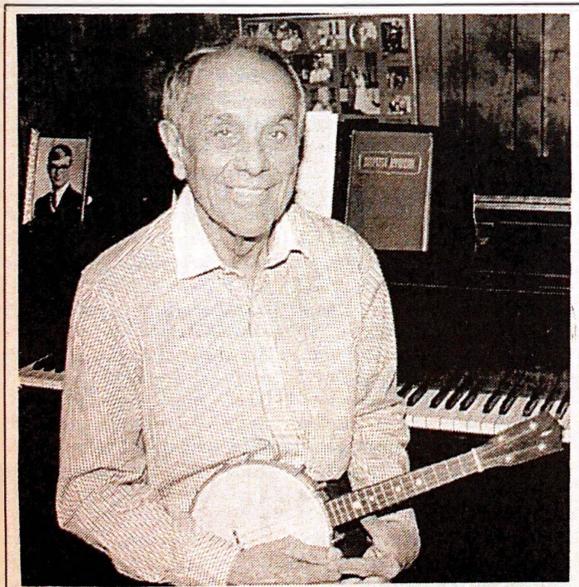
"A Day with Dr. Richard A. Ross" is offered April 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to pastors and youth workers by Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour.

Ross, a key figure in the widely-acclaimed "True Love Waits" program sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board, will speak. "True Love Waits" is a sexual abstinence until marriage youth program that has gained national recognition.

Sessions will deal with "Youth Ministry Lead Teams," "Youth Group Discipline," "Youth Ministry at the End of the Millennium," and a "True Love Waits" status report.

Ross is a growth consultant in the pastor-staff leadership department of the BSSB.

Persons interested in attending the conference may enroll by sending the \$10 registration fee (includes lunch) to HCBA, 202 Smothers Road, Seymour, Tenn., 37865-5056. For more information, call the academy at (615) 573-8321. □



CY SMITH, 80-years-old, recently was honored by First Church, Concord, for 17 years of service as a member of a church choir. — Photo by Laura E. Garrard

The Southern Baptist contribution to American life and religion

By R.G. Puckett
For Baptist Press

Editor's Note: This is the 10th article in a 12-part series in "The Spirit of Southern Baptists, 1845-1995," produced by the SBC Historical Commission.

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist mission to the world rolls on the twin tracks of education and information. No knowledgeable person questions the zeal of Southern Baptists for missions, which includes evangelism and benevolences, but all of these things are dependent upon Baptists being educated and informed to effectively translate their passion and commitment to missions into action.

Luther Rice is correctly called the "father of world missions" among Baptists in America. Stirred to action by prayer, by 1812 Adoniram and Ann Judson, along with Rice, were bound for the Orient to implement their calling and commitment.

Through reading the Bible while on the ship en route to the mission station, the Judsons and Rice accepted the Baptist position on believer's baptism by immersion. Judson announced his plans to be scripturally baptized and Rice soon came to the same conclusion. In September 1812, Rice preached his famous sermon on believer's baptism.

These decisions cost the missionaries their sponsorship by the Congregationalists, and Rice returned to America to solicit prayer and financial support among the Baptists for the Judsons. By 1814, Rice and others formed "The General Missionary Convention of the Baptist Denomina-

tion in the United States of America for Foreign Missions," calling it the Triennial Convention for short.

Within 10 years, Rice provided the model for undergirding Baptist missions: an organization, a publication, and an educational institution.

Between the formation of the Triennial Convention in 1814 and the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845, many states used the "Rice model" to get Baptists mobilized for more effective world missions.

Jesse
Mer-

cer used the system effectively in Georgia; Richard Furman in South Carolina; Robert B. Sample in Virginia; and Thomas Meredith and Samuel Wait in North Carolina.

By the time the SBC was formed in 1845 there were nine state conventions: South Carolina, formed in 1821; Georgia, 1822; Alabama and Virginia, 1823; North Carolina, 1830; Missouri, 1834; Maryland and Mississippi, 1836; and Kentucky, 1837. The significance of these state conventions is not only that they encouraged and promoted missions — in the state, in the nation, and throughout the world — but they also fostered ministries in education, publication, and benevolences.

Paralleling the formation of the state conventions was the birth of state

Baptist papers: *The Christian Index* in Georgia, formerly the *Columbian Star*, founded by Luther Rice, 1822; the *Western Recorder* of Kentucky, 1826; the *Religious Herald* of Virginia, 1828; the *Biblical Recorder* of North Carolina, 1833; and the *Alabama Baptist* and the *Tennessee Baptist and Reflector*, 1835. Other state conventions and their official journals would follow the formation of the SBC in 1845.

Equally significant was the establishment of educational institutions: Furman University in South Carolina, 1826; Georgetown Col-

There are three key words in the Baptist contributions to American life and religion: missions, education, and benevolences. While it is assumed these first and foremost benefited Baptists, the larger picture includes all of American society.

The benevolent institutions — hospitals, children's homes, and retirement centers — have impacted the general culture in a manner equal to any dimension of American life. The system of state Baptist papers involves the largest circulation and the most comprehensive coverage of any religious group in the United States.

Of non-Roman Catholic educational institutions, the Southern Baptist system of colleges, universities, and

seminaries exceeds any other religious group and thus has influenced society in every way.

Jesus instructed his followers to "disciple" individuals and to teach others what he has taught them. The disciples were to give cups of cold water, food, clothing, and comfort to those who were sick, hungry, in prison, or lonely and isolated.

Millions of Southern Baptists have done precisely that and the United States of America will never again be the same because of their efforts. □ — Puckett is editor of the North Carolina *Biblical Recorder*. To receive free guidelines and to purchase resources to help celebrate the SBC's 150th anniversary, write the Historical Commission, SBC, at 901 Commerce Street, #400, Nashville, Tenn., 37203, or call 1 (800) 966-BAPT.

The Spirit of Southern Baptists 1845-1995

lege in Kentucky, 1829; Mississippi College, 1830; Mercer University in Georgia, 1833; Wake Forest University in North Carolina, 1834; Samford University (formerly Howard College) in Alabama, 1836; University of Richmond (preceded by the Richmond seminary in 1832), in Virginia, 1840; William Jewell College in Missouri, 1843; and Baylor University in Texas, 1845.

Today, there are 69 colleges/universities, four Bible schools, and eight academies operated within the state conventions. The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was established in Greenville, S.C. (now located in Louisville, Ky.). The SBC now operates six theological seminaries, two of which (New Orleans and Southeastern) have established college-level studies.

Evangelism goals set for 1999-2000

Baptist Press

SAN JUAN, P.R. — Requesting a new level of cooperation among state Baptist convention departments, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board evangelism leadership outlined goals for its Bold Mission Thrust emphasis during 1999 and 2000.

"Just think what we could do if we could all dream the same dream for a calculated period of time," said Thad Hamilton, HMB director of personal evangelism.

Noting that "consent and cooperation are two different things," Hamilton said teamwork between state evangelism, church starting, and ministry leadership is vital to reaching the goals.

"Unless Jesus comes back, we're going to try to reach America for Jesus in a coordinated thrust," Hamilton said. "I don't believe we have ever fully explored and implemented a plan of cooperation whereby we can marshal all our people and all of our

resources to reach people for Christ during a period of time."

The Southern Baptist Convention's Bold Mission Thrust goals assign emphases to different agencies and departments. The next evangelism department emphasis will occur in 1999-2000, Hamilton said.

That emphasis will be characterized by four goals, he said:

■ To take the Gospel to every home in America by the year 2000.

■ To have effective harvest events. Such events could be simultaneous revivals or other activities, he said.

■ To involve as many volunteers as possible in effective evangelism. While volunteers have been used for evangelism in other countries, they are not used as effectively in America, Hamilton said.

■ To start churches through the evangelistic efforts and reach as many unreached people as possible. □

At Southern Seminary

Mohler removes Garland as social work dean

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — At the request of President R. Albert Mohler Jr., Diana Garland was removed March 20 as dean of the Carver School of Social Work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

A seminary spokesman said March 21 Mohler requested Garland's resignation the morning of March 20 and Garland verbally agreed to resign. Garland's office, however, said March 21 the dean had not resigned. In either case, the seminary spokesman said, Garland no longer is dean of the social work school.

The reason for the resignation request, according to Mohler, was Garland's unwillingness to resolve policy and personnel issues within the appropriate administrative structures of the seminary. As a result of Garland's actions, "the requisite trust level required between a president and a dean are not present," he said.

Garland, in a four-page public statement March 20, had taken issue with criteria

Mohler holds for faculty restrictions that she charged are "absolutely restrictive."

Garland joined Southern Seminary's faculty in 1983 and was appointed dean in 1993. Although she has been removed as dean, she remains Gheens Professor of Christian Family Ministry. Her husband, David, teaches New Testament at the seminary.

The firing was precipitated by Mohler's stated unwillingness to present to trustees a proposed candidate for the social work faculty, based on the candidate's views on women serving in the pastorate.

The candidate at issue, according to Garland, was David Sherwood, director of the social work program at Gordon College, Wenham, Mass. Sherwood's written answers to a set of questions concerning the seminary's doctrinal Abstract of Principles and contemporary social issues provided to Mohler March 13, prompted Mohler to tell Garland the next day he would not recommend Sherwood for the post, she said.

During several days of conversation with Garland, Mohler proposed that she discuss the issue with the board of trustees at its April meeting. To discuss this and other issues related to the Carver school, Mohler also proposed a study committee be formed to present a report next year. Instead, Garland prepared a four-page document outlining her views and calling on Mohler to present those views to the trustees. Among those views was that "the future of the Carver School of Church Social Work is in serious jeopardy." Garland also objected to the study committee because it would preclude hiring new faculty until August 1996.

The document was distributed in written form to students and news media prior to Garland's March 20 meeting with Mohler.

Based on what he characterized as a preemption of official administrative structures including the release of "private and privileged information," Mohler asked for Garland's resignation. □

■ the people

■ **Eric Mason**, a teacher at Union University, Jackson, has been awarded a \$36,000 Pew Younger Fellowship to pursue doctoral studies in New Testament. Mason is a graduate of Union University and Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala. The award was one of 11 presented.

■ **Louise Brantley**, who has served in the nursery of Springfield Church, Springfield, for over 20 years was honored by the congregation March 26.

■ the leaders

■ Immanuel Church, Lawrenceburg, has called **George**

Jordan to retire at Jefferson City

JEFFERSON CITY — Moncrief (Monty) Jordan announced March 12 that he will retire Aug. 15 as pastor of First Church, Jefferson City, after nine years.

Jordan said he and his wife, Diane, are fulfilling a long-standing plan to retire early.

He came to Jefferson City after serving several years as pastor of Signal Mountain Church, Chattanooga. Jordan served on the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board.

The Jordans plan to answer "a genuine sense of calling to some areas of ministry and mission work which we cannot do as a full-time pastor and wife." They are planning to minister in the Washington, D.C., area for several months, but will continue to live in Talbott near Jefferson City. □

Patric "Pat" Fife of Central Church, Altavista, Va., as pastor, effective March 1. Fife, who has served as a pastor in Tennessee, is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

■ **Darrel Whaley**, pastor, Bradley's Creek Church, Milton, for five years, has been called as pastor of First Church, Walter Hill. **William D. Fox** has been interim pastor of the church.

■ **Bill Powell** has been called as interim pastor, Bluff City Church, Bluff City.

■ Nolensville Church, Nolensville, has called **Graydon K. Robinson** of Lebanon as minister of music and youth, effective April 1.

■ Lascassas Church, Lascassas, has called **Gabriel Moore**, a student at Tennessee State Technological University, Cookeville, as summer youth director.

■ **Steve Whipple**, minister with youth, First Church, LaGrange, Ga., has been called as minister with youth of Brainerd Church, Chattanooga, effective April 23. Whipple, a native of Cleveland, is a graduate of Belmont College, Nashville, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **John Kevin Boyd** has been called as minister of music and youth of Hillhurst Church, Nashville, effective March 15. The position is a new one.

■ **Greg Crane**, minister of music, First Church, Columbia, for nine years, has been called as minister of music, First Church, Collierville.

■ **Armona Church**, Alcoa, has called **Bobby Bridges** as pastor, effective April 2. **J.C. Reed** has served as in-

terim pastor.

■ First Church, Donelson, ordained **Bill Knott**, who leads pastoral care for Woodmen Valley Chapel, Colorado Springs, Colo.

■ Salem Springs Church, Murfreesboro, has called **Bob Woodham** as pastor.

■ Silverdale Church, Chattanooga, has called **Tony Walliser** as associate pastor/minister of education, effective April 2. Walliser is a graduate of Criswell Bible College, Dallas, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He has served as a pastor and associate pastor/minister of education. The church also has named **Chuck Tanner**, minister of youth/education as associate pastor/minister of students and singles.

■ the churches

■ **White's Creek Church**, Rockwood, has completed its new building, including a sanctuary and educational wing on three acres. A highway widening project forced relocation. The current site is about five miles south of Rockwood. Dedication ceremonies were March 19, with Tom McBride speaking.

■ **Hickory Hills Church**, Mount Juliet, will hold Youth Sunday April 2. **Kenny Clayton**, a student at Donelson Christian Academy, and students from Cumberland University, Lebanon, will lead services.

■ **West View Missionary Church**, Kingsport, will hold revival April 22-26. **Don Womack**, evangelist from Memphis, will lead it.

■ **Welcome Valley Church**, Benton, dedicated its new



LEADERS OF Hermitage Springs Mission, Hermitage Springs, pose at its new site. They include, from left, **Ken McMillen**, director of missions, Riverside Association; **Rick Smith**, pastor, Hermitage Springs Mission; and **Doug Plumlee**, pastor, First Church, Celina, the sponsoring church. The congregation, which observed its third anniversary Feb. 5, hopes to move soon from a storefront to the site of this sign which is located on three acres outside the community. The land was bought by the Tennessee Baptist Convention through the Golden State Missions Offering and by First Church, Celina.

church building March 5.

■ A Midnight Cry Revival about the second coming of Christ will be held April 9-12 at **Fairview Church**, Paris. **Buck Morton** and **Ivan Parker** will lead it.

■ **Ridgeway Church**, Memphis, will host a training seminar for aerobic instructors and enthusiasts led by **AerobiRhythms Christian Aerobic Resource** April 28-29. The athletic organization also will hold a Fitness Walking Clinic at the church April 28. Call **Carla Rafferty**, assistant director, activities, at (901) 761-1113 for information.

■ **Bethel Church**, Henderson, will hold revival April 16-19. **Floyd Lammersfeld**, evangelist, and **Bryan Powers** will lead it.

■ **Oak Hill Missionary Church**, Leoma, will hold revival April 9-12. **Hiram A. Lemay** of Winchester will speak.

■ A Super Spring Seminar will be held April 26 for women by **First Church**,

Mount Juliet. **Barbara Lee Johnson** will speak. Call (615) 449-4406 or 754-2525 for information.

■ **Southside Church**, Lebanon, is holding revival March 26-30. **Dean Haun**, pastor, Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage, and **Michael Lalonde** are leading it.

■ 'Here's Hope' revivals

■ **Cedar Fork Church**, Philadelphia, is holding revival March 26-31. **Derek McCosh**, pastor, Watson's Chapel Church, Madisonville, and **Lee Chorn**, pastor, Oak Grove Church, will lead it.

■ The March 12-15 revival of **Center Grove Church**, Tullahoma, which focused on youth, resulted in two people making professions of faith, one joining the church, and several rededications. It was led by **Alan Roggli**, pastor, First Church, Winchester.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

'Here's Hope - Share Jesus Now' emphasis

By **Don Wilson Jr.**, pastor
Kensington Church, Memphis

During March we will wrap up our 60-day witnessing effort, but I am praying this new commitment to sharing our faith will continue for the rest of our lives.

One very simple way to tell others about Jesus is to use tracts. We have installed our tract racks by the entrance to the fellowship hall, and we want you to use them. Although most of them are evangelistic in nature, we do have several of these pamphlets relating to sickness and death.

As we continue to consistently sow and cultivate the seeds of the Gospel, the Lord will give us a bountiful harvest. □

What church members expect of each other

By **David George**, pastor
Immanuel Church, Nashville

Several have asked for the list of expectations I shared in the sermon on "We Are the Body of Christ."

1. You will try not to hurt me, but if you do you will seek to heal and restore. We will offer each other a safe place.

2. You will take me seriously —

know my name, consider me important, give me some time, be present with me.

3. You will communicate with me — speak to me and listen to me.

4. You will be honest with me. Tell the truth about yourself and honestly tell how you perceive me.

5. You will be responsible — for your own feelings, words, actions. You will not neglect the essentials of relationship, nor blame others, nor dump your garbage on others.

6. You will share your strengths with me.

7. You will let me share my strengths with you.

8. You will join me and let me join you in the great common tasks of life.

9. You will worship God and not idols. You will put God first, and keep your values and priorities right. You will tend to ultimate concerns.

10. You will teach me what you know about God and about life. To use a term from Wayne Oates, we have a teaching/learning covenant.

These can be summed up in the words of one of our members, Ben Curtis, about a group of church people: "I only ask of them that they be religiously serious and decently human." Another way of saying it is in the two great biblical commandments: Love God and love neighbor.

Where do we find such religious seriousness and decent humanity? With Jesus Christ and those who follow him. □

Haywood volunteers conclude fifth mission trip to Philippines

For Baptist and Reflector

BROWNSVILLE — Ten mission volunteers from Haywood Association here have returned after serving with 14 churches in the Eastern Pangasinan Baptist Association in the Philippines.

Three team members worked with Filipino Baptists to construct a church in a rural area where no church of any kind existed. Even the construction team was involved in the nightly crusades, which drew hundreds of people during the 16-day mission experi-

ence. At two locations each evening the "Jesus" film was shown with a worship service conducted by local churches between reels of the film.

Individuals and churches helped each of the volunteers to be able to make the trip. Additionally, New Hope Church, Dyer, contributed funds for the building materials to build the church at Castuno, according to Haywood Association Director of Missions Charles Pratt.

The team roofed the concrete block structure before their departure. The Filipinos will complete the work in the

days ahead. They held worship services in the church, however, on the last Sunday the volunteers were there.

Individuals and churches also donated money to buy a truck load of New Testaments, which were used in followup visits to give to the new Christians. The Bibles were printed in three different languages. In addition, about 5,000 salvation tracts were printed and donated by an individual to use in witnessing.

"I have served in several foreign countries, but I have never been a part of anything

as exciting as working with the Filipino people," said Pratt, who has served on five mission trips to the Philippines.

Ken Culver, pastor of Calvary Church, Brownsville, said he was "genuinely blessed by the openness of the Filipino people to the Gospel and the strong faith of the believers."

Randy Crews, pastor of First Church, Rutherford, shared Culver's sentiments. He added, "I was struck by the openness by which we were received into the school systems to share the Gospel of Christ, since we can-

not do that in America."

Among the missionaries who assisted the volunteers was Tennessee native Sam Stallings of Bolivar, who is administrator for the Baptist missionaries there.

Layman Allen Watts of Brownsville Church was on his first mission trip. "Never has there been an experience in my Christian life that has changed my entire life such as this mission trip. I have broadened my perspective of what God can do due to what I witnessed him doing with so little in the Philippines." □

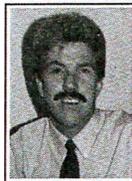
Tennesseans to address Michigan youth

Two Tennessee ministers will lead the Michigan Youth Evangelism Conference March 31-April 1 and April 7-8.

Dean Haun, pastor of Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage, will speak at the two-session conferences. Tommy Clawson, music evangelist and minister of music at Woodbine Church, Nashville, will be the worship leader.

The conference will be held two consecutive weekends dividing the state into northern and southern conferences.

Haun, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, has served churches in Texas, Florida, and Tennessee and has preached in numerous revival meetings across the eastern and southern United States. He is slated to speak at the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference in November in Chattanooga.



CLAWSON



HAUN

Clawson has served as minister of music and youth of several churches in Texas and has served as the music celebration leader for the Youth Celebrations sponsored by the Disciplelife Youth Section of the Baptist Sunday School Board. He also has led in revivals, conferences, and concerts across the U.S. □

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PASTOR SEARCH: Walnut Hills Church, Bells, is accepting resumes for pastor for rural West Tennessee church with great potential near Bells. Send resumes to Larry Griffin, Rt. 1, Box 70, Bells, Tenn., 38006.

Attention Church Education Staff Full and Part-time

Plan to attend the TBREA Spring Retreat, May 4-6 at Fall Creek Falls State Park. First sessions begins at 6:30 p.m. CST.

Cost is \$25 per person. Mail retreat fee to Dennis Lyle, TBREA treasurer, 5364 Anchorage Court, Nashville, Tenn., 37220, no later than April 15.

Make your own reservations at Falls Creek Inn (615) 881-3241. Meals are extra. Dress is casual.

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One Of God's Gifts To His Church

Perhaps you have received a gift for Christmas that you have stored on the back of your closet shelf to remain unused. The Father who only gives perfect gifts to His children has given to His church the gift of men He has specifically equipped for reviving the church and evangelizing the lost! Come and learn the importance of not allowing these gifts to remain unused as the Fellowship Of Tennessee Evangelists present their annual conference prior to the State Evangelism Conference.

Monday, April 3, 1995
9:45 AM to Noon
Judson Baptist Church
Nashville

Messages focused on the call, the character, and the commission of the evangelist will be presented by **Skip Youngcourt**, New Johnsonville evangelist for five years; **Benny Jackson**, Memphis evangelist for 21 years; and **Tonnie Cash**, Johnson City evangelist for 23 years. The program will be directed by Memphis revivalist **Rob Finley**, current president of the fellowship, and the music will be coordinated by McEwen music evangelists **Duane and Mary Alice Jeffrey**.

And He gave some, apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists ...
Ephesians 4: 11

A love offering to be shared by all of the state evangelists will be collected at the meeting.

Life and Work Series for April 2 Focal Passage: Romans 10:5-15, 17

The way of salvation

By Chuck McElhannon

What if you were a citizen of a country whose laws stated that anyone who broke any law, no matter how large or small, would be punished by death? What if no one in that country had ever been able to observe all the laws perfectly, and what if all the citizens were living under a "death watch"? What if you were doomed to failure? Would you want to live there? Can you see that there would be no hope; no sense of freedom; no joy or purpose in living? Can you see that you would be in desperate need of salvation? That's the condition of those who live according to the law, and who seek their salvation in the keeping of the law.

Law vs. faith — vv. 5-8

Paul asserts that achieving salvation by observing the law is humanly impossible. He then offers two examples. 1. Can anyone go up to heaven to bring Christ down to earth (v. 6)? 2. Can anyone go down into hell and bring Christ up from the dead (v. 7)? Of course not! It's impossible. Yet, what is impossible for man is possible for God, and that's where God's grace and man's faith can make all the difference! God has already done for us what we could not do for ourselves. He has made salvation available to us through Jesus Christ, his Son. Paul reminds us that righteousness before God and its resulting salvation occurs when "The Word is in ... your mouth and in your heart" (v. 8). That Word is Jesus (John 1:1).

The fact is, you can be religious, you can read the Bible, you can attend Sunday School, you can take the Lord's Supper, you can do all these things, and still not be saved. It is your personal relationship to Jesus Christ that makes all the difference. It is Jesus living in your heart and being spoken from your mouth that matters. Simply put, the law leads to death and faith leads to life.

Simple salvation — vv. 9-13

Most people tend to make the issue of salvation more complicated than it really is. God didn't set out to confuse us. Salvation is very simple. We don't have a trial period. We simply have to do two things. 1. Confess that Jesus is Lord. 2. Believe that God raised Jesus from the dead.

The confession is the natural result of true faith at work in the heart. Matthew 12:34 says, "For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks." Belief and confession are companions. They are the weights upon which the scales of salvation are balanced.

Paul's understanding of God's New Testament salvation is based on two Old Testament passages: Isaiah 28:16, "Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed" (NASB); and Joel 2:32, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." In other words, God's salvation is universally available.

Share the message — vv. 14-15, 17

The world says a beautiful person is someone who has clear skin, healthy hair, toned muscles, and straight teeth. God reminds us that man may look at the outward appearance, but he looks at the heart for beauty (I Samuel 16:7). Paul suggests that God may also look to the feet. Determine today to be a beautiful person and speak the message of salvation to one who needs Jesus. People cannot believe in someone they haven't heard about, and they won't hear unless someone is willing to tell them. Accept God's challenge to share the good news! □ — Chuck McElhannon is pastor of Valley View Church, Nashville.

Building up the body

By Brian Courtney

I Corinthians 12 with its emphasis on "the gifts of the Spirit" has more potential to encourage and strengthen the church than any other chapter in the Bible. However, most Baptist churches are nervous and uncomfortable with any discussion about the "gifts of the Spirit." This may be due to several reasons. One reason could be that some churches have suffered division over the spiritual gifts. The reasons could go on. But why should we be so nervous about spiritual gifts when the Scriptures affirm them?

The nature and purpose of spiritual gifts — vv. 4-7

The Greek word translated "gifts" is *charismata*. *Charismata* are the various ways God's grace becomes a reality in the life of believers. The "gifts" proceed from the same Spirit who acts within a structure that can be described as trinitarian. This structure can be seen in verses 4-6; "... the same Spirit ... the same Lord ... the same God." What Paul seems to be stressing is the way the variety of gifts flow from the Father, Son, and Spirit. Such a structure provides a basis for Paul's later writing. Since the Trinity is one with each member having a different function, the body is one with a variety of gifts (vv. 8-11). Since the Trinity is one with different members, the body is one with different members (vv. 12-26). The purpose of the gifts is "for the common good" (v. 7). In other words, the gifts are given to build up the church.

Several implications emerge from this discussion. First, every Christian has a gift (v. 7). Each believer is given a gift by God's grace, and no believer is left out. Second, all Christians do not have the same gift (v. 4-6). Each believer is given a different gift by God's grace to insure a healthy church body. Third, gifts are given to build the church (v. 7).

These implications speak to a variety of problems. There is a tendency to rank spiritual gifts as to their importance. The gifts of clergy are more important than the gifts of the laity. Some clergy are more gifted than other clergy. Some

laypersons are more gifted than other laypersons. Consequently, those with spectacular gifts are tempted to pride and those with seemingly less important gifts are tempted to covet or demean themselves. Gifts are for building the church not our individual lives!

The varieties of spiritual gifts — vv. 8-11

Paul lists several gifts given by the Spirit. However, some observations about these gifts may be

made. First, this list is not exhaustive. Paul gives other lists in I Corinthians 12:28-30, Romans 12:6-8, and Ephesians 4:11. Second, this list is not mandatory. These gifts may not be present at the same time or place. Third, this list is not closed. The Spirit can fashion new gifts for special occasions and needs as they arise in the church (v. 11).

While the other observations are negative, a positive observation can be made at this point. The use of the phrase "same Spirit" throughout this section stresses unity and points back to verse 7. Here is a descriptive word on the gifts. They are given to promote unity in the church. This rebukes those who feel their gift is most important. It encourages those who feel inferior. Gifts are for unity not division!

Analogy of the human body — vv. 12-26

Paul uses the analogy of the human body to illustrate the unity of the church. The main point is this: every church is one body composed of many members who have been given various gifts by the same Spirit (vv. 12-13). Several implications emerge from this analogy. First, each Christian is a necessary member of the church (vv. 14-16). Second, each Christian needs the help of every other Christian in the church (vv. 17-21). Third, every Christian should respect the gifts of other Christians (vv. 22-25). And fourth, every Christian should care for other Christians (vv. 25-26). The Lord Jesus Christ's church is one body with many members who have various gifts! Christians need each other! Enough of divisions! □ — Brian Courtney is pastor of First Church, Sneedville.

God's message of salvation

By Thomas Vinson

The pilot's anxious voice broke the silence on the intercom. "I have good news and bad news. The good news is that because of a tail wind we are making excellent time. The bad news is that we are lost." What an accurate description of the people to whom these verses were addressed. To use a different metaphor, they were doing an admirable job of sweeping the deck, but the ship was sinking.

One of Paul's purposes in writing Romans was testamentary in nature. The Holy Spirit led him to leave a clear record of exactly what he believed about how sinful people are made right with a holy God. Romans 10:1-21 is a classic definitive passage concerning that subject. He distills in these few verses the essence of the Gospel. No wonder this is the "chapter of choice" of the most effective personal witnesses I have ever known.

Paul gives us the bad news first. In vv. 1-5 we see an **Exposure of Error**. Here Paul tells us how not to be saved. He gets no particular delight in pointing out the failure of Israel. Reminiscent of 9:1-3, the apostle speaks with a broken heart. The emphasis on God's sovereign election of Israel in Romans 9 might lead us to expect the preacher to be cold, calculated, and compassionless. Not so! Paul astutely holds in tension the two realities of God's sovereignty with

Bible Book Series for April 2 Focal Passage: Romans 10:1-21

man's responsibility.

The error uncovered here was that of misdirected zeal. Paul had an experiential understanding of this particular vice (Galatians 1:14). Zeal alone is not an accurate barometer of truth. Paul earlier had suggested that someone could offer up their body to be burned, but with the wrong motive (I Corinthians 13:3). Paul's zeal had led him to endure the rigorous requirements to become a Pharisee, and had even expressed itself in the persecution of the church (Philippians 3:4-6).

In addition to misdirected zeal, there was the flaw of misspent energy. They were working hard to "establish their own righteousness." The phrase "not submitting to the righteousness of God" (v. 3) indicates the rebellion involved in this sin. Instead of submitting to God's righteousness which comes through faith, they were substituting their own fervent effort at keeping the law. This was done even though Jesus Christ had "ended" (v. 4) the law method of seeking to attain righteousness. He did this by fulfilling all the just demands of the law in his incarnation. For one to try to be saved by keeping the law is a denial of the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In verses 6-13 Paul gives us an

Exposition of Truth. Here he tells the good news of how to be saved. It's truth about a **supernatural Christ** (vv. 6-8). Law says we must do something to get Christ down, or we must labor to bring Christ up from the grave. The Gospel says this has already been done. How? Supernaturally through the incarnation and subsequent resurrection. The law says "do and live." The Gospel says "live and do." It is also truth about a sovereign Christ (vv. 9-10). To confess Jesus as Lord essentially meant two things. He is God! He is boss! For the Gentile to confess Jesus as Lord meant Caesar wasn't Lord. For the Jew to confess Jesus as Lord meant an acknowledgement of his deity. He then presents a saving Christ (v. 13). Based on the doctrine of election taught in chapter 9, some might wonder about this "whosoever." Our responsibility is to share our faith in the power of the Holy Spirit and leave the results up to God.

In verses 14-21 Paul sets forth an **Expression of Faith**. A challenge to those who sit in comfortable pews while half of the world has no knowledge of God's Son. To us Paul says, "join me." How can they hear without a preacher? □ — Thomas Vinson is pastor of Leawood Church, Memphis.

Dilday named interim dean at Truett

Baptist Press

WACO, Texas — Baylor University President Herbert H. Reynolds named Russell H. Dilday as interim dean of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary, subject to board of regents approval March 24. The appointment was effective March 17.

Truett's former dean, Robert B. Sloan, recently was elected Baylor president, succeeding Reynolds, effective June 1.

Dilday, former president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, is distinguished professor of homiletics at Truett Seminary and special assistant to Reynolds. □



DILDAY

cal Seminary trustees, during their March 13-14 meeting, approved two new degree programs — master of divinity in counseling and doctor of philosophy.

Seminary President Paige Patterson advised trustees of his desire for every student to have the opportunity to participate in a mission trip to a Third World nation before their graduation.

"The lack of such opportunities has been one of the sad factors in seminary life," Patterson said. "We believe such an on-the-job training offering would make our graduates better prepared for the ministry God has for them."

Patterson also announced the addition of David Beck to the faculty as assistant professor of New Testament. □

Education key against preventing cult inroads

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Rather than reaching people for Christ, Southern Baptists will lose members to other religions if members are not taught sound doctrine, interfaith witness leaders said during a March

18-21 workshop.

"The problem is, people are undisciplined," said Phil Roberts, director of the Home Mission Board interfaith witness department. Christians who understand basic tenets of their beliefs will be able to identify errors in other beliefs, he said.

Mike Ruptak, a Tigard, Ore., pastor, said he became interested in interfaith witness when Mormons tried to convert his daughter. "I realized a lot of folks wanted my kids more than the church did sometimes," he said.

Ruptak is among more than 600 volunteers nationwide trained as interfaith witness associates to lead conferences on what people of other religions believe and how to witness to them.

For information on scheduling an associate to lead a conference, call the TBC Missions Department at (615) 371-2031. □

SBC network tops 4,000 subscribers

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The number of people joining SBCNet, the Southern Baptist data

communications network, has made a fourth substantial increase in subscribers in 18 months, with the addition for more than 1,000 users from Nov. 9, 1994 through March 10, 1995.

The increase has come with the addition of on-line services, including the most recent, a music and worship library, which provides a variety of resources for church musicians.

The network, which now has more than 4,000 subscribers, has numerous services including supplemental teaching helps for adult and youth Sunday School lessons, prayer requests, missions education information, clip art, and more. □

Religious educators inaugurate new time for annual meeting

Baptist Press

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — For its 40th annual meeting, the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association tried something different — holding its annual meeting in February instead of its previous traditional time prior to the annu-

al meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

The February meeting here drew 300 participants, about the same attendance last year in Orlando, Fla., said Michael Harton, 1994-95 SBREA president.

There were more attendees from local churches, he noted, adding that it will "probably take a couple of years to know" if the scheduling change will result in an ongoing increase.

The theme of the meeting was "The Patriots Call: Revisiting the Past to Redeem the Future."

Carolyn Jenkins of Alexandria, Va., and former minister to students at First Church, Nashville, will be SBREA president for the coming year.

Three people received the association's distinguished leadership awards — Mavis Allen, former Baptist Sunday School Board staffer; Lucien Coleman, retired professor of adult education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and Bob Edd Shotwell, a veteran of more than 40 years of staff ministry who recently retired as minister of education and administration at Hyde Park Church, Austin, Texas. □

Southeastern trustees approve two degrees

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Southeastern Baptist Theologi-

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Sunday School directors vital to effective program, Taylor says

By Chip Alford
For Baptist Press

EULESS, Texas — The role of the Sunday School director "has been pushed aside for way too long" in many Southern Baptist churches, Bill Taylor believes.

"We've got to lift it up, because I believe we're getting ready to experience a revolution in Bible study around the world. The Sunday School director is one of the most important positions on the church staff," Taylor told church leaders attending the recent National Sunday School Directors Seminar at First Church, Eules. Taylor is director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Bible teaching-reaching division.

In his leadership role at the BSSB, Taylor said he wants to lift up a "standard of excellence" in Christian education.

"In his business world, we keep raising the standards, but in the church we are seeing a different picture. We keep backing up and lowering the standards," he said.

He urged the 140 conferees who attended to help the Sunday School Board "restore the ministry of education and get

about teaching the Word of God."

Sunday School directors attending the conference were told their roles in Christian education involve more than ordering and distributing Sunday School literature.

Judi Hayes, editor of *The Sunday School Leader* magazine, told directors they should: (1) lead in establishing Sunday School organizations for reaching and teaching; (2) direct an ongoing emphasis on worker enlistment; (3) involve all workers in providing effective Bible study; (4) guide all workers in becoming effective witnesses; (5) develop or strengthen the outreach-evangelism program; (6) determine training needs of workers; (7) develop a comprehensive training plan; (8) direct a Sunday School workers meeting, in addition to several other suggestions.

Jim Walter, associate professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, underscored the directors' importance, noting that only one in 10 Southern Baptist churches have a minister of education. He encouraged them to "keep the Bible central" in their teaching. □