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Evangelism meeting avoids ice and draws 850

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — For the first time in 40 years the State Evangelism Conference wasn't scheduled in January to avoid weather complications. Tennesseans traveled unhindered by snow and ice to Judson Church here for sessions April 3-4. The largest crowds — about 900 — gathered at evening sessions, which included Layman's Night (see page 8).

Jerry King, director of Tennessee Baptist Convention's Evangelism Department, reported another change concerning the conference will be made next year. The TBC will begin rotating its location from Nashville, where it's been held for 40 years, to sites across the state. Next year's conference will be April 1-2 at First Church, Jackson.

Lowrie returns

D.L. Lowrie, pastor, First Church, Lubbock, who was executive director of the TBC from 1989-92, spoke four times during the conference.

Lowrie referred to reports of revival in Texas and Illinois and said it is spreading, adding it touched his church

when some university students returned from a mission experience in Idaho. One measure was that at an evening prayer service held once a month, three times as many people participated, he reported.

One thing that prevents revival is "lukewarm" devotion to God like that reported in Revelation 3, said Lowrie, which breaks fellowship just as the more "ugly sins." Christians may not have quit praying or reading the Bible daily but they may have become satisfied with things the way they are, he added.

"He (God) is never content with the way things are — not in your life or in your church," Lowrie said. He went on to suggest Baptists have conformed to their communities rather than transforming them.

And as is directed in Revelation 3, he said, Christians must repent. "Revival can begin for your church here at this conference. It is possible to be a successful pastor and be out of fellowship with Jesus because I've been there and you've been there. You know that," said Lowrie, adding, "I'm not here at this conference just

to preach. I want us to experience Jesus."

He also said concealed sin prevents revival, although it's a "natural" act of humans, he added.

"When you conceal sin, you cannot prosper. Concealed sin affects God's blessings not only on yourself, but those associated with you," Lowrie said. But there's a solution to those concealed sins, he said. "If concealed sin prevents revival, confessed sin moves us toward revival," he said.

He asked those attending how their church activities measured up to those chronicled in Acts 2. The passage has more to do with passion than glossolalia, he said. Leaders should consider style vs. substance of worship in churches.

Christians also should consider the substance of their witnessing. Many Christians talk about Jesus or faith like a salesman talks about a used car, said Lowrie.

Churches promote, program. — See Evangelism, page 8



D.L. LOWRIE, former TBC executive director who spoke at the evangelism conference, is greeted by Willie Freeman, left, pastor, Greater Missionary Mission, Clarksville; J. Harold Stephens, center, retired pastor from Shelbyville; and Milt Knox, pastor, First Church, Dayton.

'Christy' gets two more tries on CBS

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — "Whatever Happened to Christy?"

Answer: The highly acclaimed series gets two more tries on network TV.

"Christy," based on the late Catherine Marshall's best seller, will air — temporarily — in the "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman" time slot April 15, the night before Easter, and April 22 (8 p.m. Eastern and 7 p.m. Central time).

"The whole decision whether 'Christy' comes back will rest on those two nights," said Ken Wales, executive producer of the program about Christy Huddleston, a young teacher who passed up the comforts of city life to make a difference in the lives of Appalachia's children. "This is the best test case not only for 'Christy,' but for family programs like it," Wales said.

"Christy" made its debut last Easter in impressive fashion: It drew 40 million viewers and topped "60 Minutes" and all other CBS shows in the ratings. Five episodes subsequently were aired, along with one last Thanksgiving, but CBS' commitment to giving the show a chance for success has been called into question.

The "Whatever Happened to Christy?"

question was posed to CBS in a full-page ad in *USA Today* March 29.

"Christy" has delivered a message of hope and inspiration to tens of millions of viewers across America, according to the ad paid for by the Christy Fan Club. "It produced strong ratings for CBS and its reviews were excellent. ... Along with nominations for Emmy Awards and Golden Globes, the first few episodes won more than a dozen national awards for outstanding dramatic television. Hundreds of thousands of phone calls, cards, and letters were received by CBS giving thanks for a series that entire families could enjoy watching together," the ad noted.

Also, the video of the "Christy" premier has sold more than 250,000 copies.

With this final try for network TV, "Christy" fans are sounding a call to action by writing or calling CBS: 51 West 52nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10019, phone (212) 975-4321, or 7800 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036, phone (213) 852-2345.

Wales voiced hope "Christy" can find a place on network TV — but only with "the continued support of our millions of 'Christy' fans." □

Golden State missions offering surpasses goal

For *Baptist and Reflector*

The Golden State Missions Offering has surpassed the 1994 goal of \$1,050,000 with total offering receipts through April 3 of \$1,062,465.92. The amount exceeds the offering at the same time last year by more than \$50,000.

Eleanor Hodge, a member of First Church, Tullahoma, who chaired the Golden State Missions Offering Promotion Committee, said she is thrilled. "I am pleased Tennessee Baptists care about state missions. They have shown they care by praying and giving," she said.

Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Katharine Bryan said Tennessee Baptists "are to be commended for responding to the needs across our state.

"Surely as we continue to pray and look toward the Week of Prayer for State Missions and the 1995 Golden State Missions Offering, we will respond enthusiastically to even more challenges before us," she said. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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In full-page ad

SBTS trustee chairman counters editor's criticism

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has purchased a full-page ad in Kentucky Baptists' *Western Recorder* for an open-letter response by trustee chairman, Rick White, to an editorial by the newsjournal's editor, Marv Knox.

Knox's March 28 editorial, "Could Jesus Teach Social Work at Southern Seminary?" took aim at President R. Albert Mohler's March 20 dismissal of Diana R. Garland as dean of the 117-student Carver School of Church Social Work.

Controversy erupted after Mohler dismissed Garland for stepping outside administrative processes by releasing a four-page document criticizing his refusal to approve a nominee, David Sherwood, who had been recommended by faculty and student committees to teach social work at the seminary. Sherwood is director of the social work program at Gordon College, Wenham, Mass., and editor of the journal, *Social Work and Christianity*.

In refusing to recommend Sherwood to the trustees, Mohler cited Sherwood's stance allowing for the role of women as pastors.

Trustee chairman White, pastor of First Church, Franklin, wrote in his response to Knox's editorial: "He (Mohler)

does believe that the New Testament pattern of local church leadership is for men to serve as the senior pastor and that is a position shared by the overwhelming majority of trustees and, we believe, Southern Baptists. We believe that new faculty members being hired should share that view held by the overwhelming majority of the denomination that supports the seminary. ... It is not only the President's right but his obligation to determine the appropriateness of persons to be elected to Southern Seminary's faculty. I have no doubt seminary trustees will join me in affirming his position on this issue."

White reminded "that the overwhelming percentage of Southern Baptist churches are not calling women to the role of senior pastor. Less than one-tenth of one percent of SBC churches have women serving as pastors. We must not mislead students about opportunities that may be available upon seminary graduation."

Concerning accreditation, Knox wrote: "By implementing his own litmus test for faculty election, Mohler violates the basic operational integrity of the seminary. This is a major concern to all accrediting agencies."

Knox cited four requirements for faculty nomination that a seminary administrator, David Dockery, vice president for academic administration, said reflect a

strong consensus among trustees: (1) affirming women in ministry and their giftedness but restricting the role of women in the church from the office of senior pastor; (2), affirming the exclusiveness of salvation in Jesus Christ alone; (3) being clear that the Bible teaches that all homosexual behavior is sinful; and (4) acknowledging that the sanctity of life is pro-life and against abortion except in the most extreme circumstances.

Such criteria, Knox wrote, "are not part of any official seminary principles or policies. Implementation of unofficial criteria for faculty election violates due process and the moral guidelines of the institution. Accrediting agencies aren't so concerned about the specific criteria for election as they are the fair implementation of the election process."

Citing Knox's suggestion that Southern may face problems with its accrediting agencies, White wrote: "We will all work to maintain the accreditation of the Carver School. However, if the decision comes down to compromising the seminary's doctrinal integrity in order to receive the 'stamp of approval' of a secular agency (the Council on Social Work Education), Southern Baptists can rest assured that Dr. Mohler and the trustees will place first priority on protecting the seminary's theological commitments." □ — Art Toalston

Gambling promoter recounts 'worst mistake'

By Joseph Napolitan
For Baptist Press

Editor's Note: The following first-person article was written by Joseph Napolitan, who worked as a political consultant to help bring casino gambling to Atlantic City. The article appeared in a publication of Citizens Against Casino Gambling, a group organized to oppose the introduction of gambling into Springfield, Mass.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — In 1976, I was one of the people instrumental in bringing casino gambling to Atlantic City. This was the worst mistake I have ever made in 38 years of running political campaigns in the United States and more than 20 other countries on five continents.

I was retained by Resorts International Inc. to conduct research and design strategy for a referendum to permit casino gambling. A similar referendum which would have permitted casino gambling statewide had been defeated in 1974. Our research revealed that in 1976 New Jersey voters again would reject casino gambling.

Therefore, I recommended to Resorts International that the wording of the referendum be changed to allow casino gambling only in Atlantic City, not statewide. We believed that by isolating casino gambling to Atlantic City there was a much better chance of winning voter approval.

The company agreed to the change and asked me to man-

age the referendum campaign. Because I was involved with several other political campaigns I did not have time to manage this one on a full-time basis. I arranged for a political consultant from San Francisco to move to Atlantic City and manage the campaign. I was retained to design strategy and conduct research.

We quickly determined that our most important task was to convince voters in New Jersey that casino gambling would be good for them and good for Atlantic City.

No one really knew what the economic or social impact of casino gambling in Atlantic City would be on the city and its citizens. We assumed that casinos would create thousands of new jobs, revitalize the city, restore its economic strength, and make Atlantic City a better place to live. Casino promoters made promises and claims about the benefits casino gambling would bring to Atlantic City.

I did not deliberately set out to mislead the voters of New Jersey or Atlantic City. I really believed the claims we were making. I sincerely thought casino gambling would be the boon Atlantic City so badly needed. I believed my own propaganda ... until events proved me wrong.

We won the election and opened the doors. What a disaster. Atlantic City started with one casino; now there are 11. Within three years after the casinos came, the crime rate in Atlantic City tripled. It

went from 50th in the nation in per capita crime to first.

Forty percent of local restaurants closed. The number of homeless people increased by 2,000 percent. Property values dropped. There was violence: Almost 200 homes of persons who refused to sell their property to the casino were burned to the ground in arson-related fires — 50 in a single month.

More people went on welfare. Shelters were jammed. An unseemly number of teenagers became gambling addicts. Prostitution was rampant.

Today, Atlantic City is two separate, distinct, and unequal cities. One is the city tourists see: glittering hotels on the boardwalk offering fancy entertainment, inexpensive meals to keep customers from leaving the casino to eat, and every convenience for those who can pay the price. But just a few blocks away is the real Atlantic City, the Atlantic City of those who live there: seedy, dirty, and dangerous.

Springfield (Mass.) is a proud industrial city that, like many others, is going through a difficult period. But anyone who thinks our economic problems can be solved by bringing casino gambling to Springfield is closing his or her eyes to reality. I made a mistake in Atlantic City. Now I know how casino gambling can destroy the heart and soul of a city.

That's why I am so strongly opposed to casino gambling in Springfield. □

America is crying for spiritual revival: Blackaby

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Students of spiritual revival are more interested in ways to accomplish it today than learning about such incidents in the past, says Henry Blackaby, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board director for prayer and spiritual awakening.

"There's an urgent cry for the practical outpouring of the presence of God in our day," said Blackaby, who will host two national conferences this spring on that topic for Southern Baptist pastors and lay leadership — April 24-28 at Ridgecrest, N.C., and May 1-5 at Glorieta, N.M.

This is the 15th annual meeting on prayer and spiritual awakening, and Blackaby says the attitudes of those attending have changed, resulting in a shift of the conferences' theme from telling of the historic revivals to asking "Is there any hope for revival today and if so what do we need to do?"

Both meetings at the respective Baptist Sunday School Board conference center locations will include discussion opportunities for different groups.

For registration information and fee costs, call (404) 899-7779. □

Land, Lewis remove name from document

By Martin King
For Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Two Southern Baptist Convention leaders have removed their signatures from the controversial document "Evangelicals and Catholics Together" (ECT).

The announcement came April 6 in a joint statement issued by Richard D. Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission and Larry L. Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board.

In the statement, Lewis and Land affirm "efforts which consolidate the influence of evangelicals and Catholics in addressing moral issues . . . We are not personally rejecting the intent of the document, nor are we agreeing with unjust criticism of it."

However, the statement continues, "we believe it is in the best interest of our agencies that we eliminate the persistent perception that our agencies have endorsed ECT. It appears that the only way to do so is to remove our names from that document."

ECT was issued last year by an unofficial group of 40 evangelical and Catholic leaders to foster greater cooperation on moral and social concerns. However, the accord and its signers have drawn persistent criticism, primarily questioning details of theologi-

cal issues briefly addressed in ECT. Critics have called for signers to remove their names from the document and to distance their respective churches, agencies, or ministries from it.

"A significant number of Southern Baptists have been offended by the misperception that our respective agencies have endorsed the document," Land and Lewis said in the statement. "No matter how many times we explain that we signed ECT as individuals, not on behalf of our agencies or the Southern Baptist Convention, many do not understand. Confusion resulting from this continuing misperception has the potential to impact negatively the mission and ministries of our agencies."

Asked if pressure from critics forced them to remove their names, both men told Baptist Press they have endured more pressure on other issues. "The difference is that ECT embroiled the Home Mission Board even though the board was not involved," Lewis said. "I would have stood my ground forever if

it was simply a matter of someone pressuring me to do something I felt was wrong."

"It simply appeared to be impossible to dispel the confusion," Land told Baptist Press. "Dr. Lewis and I concluded this week that we were not going to be able to clarify for many Southern Baptists the distinction between our personal opinions and those of our agencies."

Much of the criticism of ECT came from Hispanic Southern Baptist leaders who said Catholic church officials would use it to thwart mission efforts among Catholics. Rudy Hernandez, president of the national Conference of Southern Baptist Hispanic Ministers, praised the decision to withdraw.

"This is very good news," Hernandez told Baptist Press. "I commend them for doing this, and am grateful for their wisdom in removing their names from that document and express the deepest gratitude on behalf of Hispanic Southern Baptists."

Despite the controversy, Land said he did not regret signing ECT, and he might even be open to working on a similar document in the future. "However, I would want to enunciate more clearly differences between evangelicals and Catholics so there would be no possibility of misunderstanding." □



LAND



LEWIS

Pre-registration open for SBC Missions Day Camp

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Special activities are planned again this year for children of parents attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta as the SBC Missions Day Camp.

Sponsored by the Children/Royal Ambassador department of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, SBC Missions Day Camp is for boys and girls who will have completed grades one through six by June of this year.

In addition to the regular missions education emphasis, the day camp will include field trips to various locations, including the Home Mission Board. Missionary speakers and convention tours will be added features.

Parents are asked to pre-register again this year, according to Tim Seanor, SBC Missions Day Camp coordinator. Registration will be open to the first 250 children. Cost of the day camp ranges from \$17 to \$62 per child. Parents should secure a registration packet by writing SBC Missions Day Camp, Brotherhood Commission, SBC, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn., 38104 or call (901) 272-2461. No telephone reservations will be accepted. □

SBC Cooperative Program March receipts down slightly, up for year

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for March were down .35 percent compared to that month last year, but the year's receipts are 2.48 percent above that same period a year ago, said Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

For March 1995, receipts totaled \$12,798,612, which is \$45,213 less than last March.

The fiscal year to date, October through March, totaled \$73,676,952, a \$1,786,000 or 2.48 percent increase over the previous year's period.

Designated gifts were up for March 1995 at \$18,128,922, which is a \$980,402 or 5.72 percent increase, as well as

2.03 percent for the fiscal 1995 year to date over 1994: \$81,995,342 compared to \$80,366,033.

The March 1995 figure also surpassed by 12.48 percent the SBC budget requirement for the month of \$11,378,310. For the year-to-date SBC program allocation budget, gifts for the six months totaled \$73,676,952 compared to \$68,269,865 for

the previous year, or a 7.92 percent increase.

The SBC Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions, and fellowships for distribution according to the 1994-95 program allocation budget as well as restricted funds received from state conventions which identify them as Cooperative Program.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the SBC. Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, world hunger, and other special gifts. □

State Senate passes parental consent on abortion bill; House to consider

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Senate approved a bill April 3 that would require both parents' permission before a pregnant teenager could get an abortion.

Senate Bill 1340 was approved by a 29-3 vote, said Tennessee Baptist Convention Public Affairs Consultant Bill Bates of Jackson.

Under the bill, sponsored by Sen. Tommy Burks, D-Monterey, teenagers must have the consent of both parents or permission from a Juvenile Court judge before receiving a legal abortion.

The *Nashville Banner* reported April 4 that passage of the bill marks the first time the legislature has acted on this issue in six years.

The bill revives a 1989 abortion consent law that was

deemed unconstitutional and never carried out in the state, the *Banner* reported.

That decision was handed down before a key Minnesota Supreme Court case changed the precedent, but there was never an appeal of the Tennessee law.

The Senate bill, if approved by the House, would replace the old law, Bates said.

Several groups oppose the legislation, including the American Civil Liberties Union, Planned Parenthood of Tennessee, the American Medical Association, and others, the paper reported.

The bill must be approved by the House of Representatives before it becomes law, Bates said.

"This is a good bill. Parents ought to be involved in the abortion decision," he added. □

Gospel sweeps Mozambique as refugees return home

By Mark Kelly
For Baptist Press

MAPUTO, Mozambique — In the past decade, hundreds of thousands of Mozambicans fled a civil war that ravaged their homeland. In refugee camps just across the border, Southern Baptist missionaries gave them food and clothing and shared good news of God's love.

Now, as the country settles back into stability, many Mozambicans have returned home to be reunited with long-lost family and friends. They bring with them news of a God whose love can be seen in the words and deeds of his people.

The hungry, half-naked Mozambicans, who poured into the refugee camps in Zimbabwe, needed good news, said Zimbabwe missionary Ed Moses of Orlando, Fla., who coordinated Southern Baptist ministries in three such camps for four years.

Fleeing from raging civil war, they endured great hardship to reach the camps, where they faced deprivation, despair, and deadly epidemic.

Moses and his relief crews were determined to show the refugees they cared for them as people, so they developed a "five-pronged" approach to meet physical and spiritual needs.

The missionaries supplemented meager refugee diets with fruit and vegetables, helping them plant and cultivate 6,000 family vegetable gardens and 7,000 fruit trees.

Over two years, they distributed 87 tons of salt, a welcome addition to the otherwise bland grits and cornmeal staples of their diets. Clothing donated by Baptists in Zimbabwe and the United States replaced the rags that hung from their backs.

And in each camp where they ministered, Moses and his crews organized a church to

help refugees understand why others cared enough to meet these needs.

Going home was the hope that sustained many of the refugees.

"We kept saying to them, 'Don't give up hope. You will go home one day,'" Moses said.

"We told them, 'You came here lost without Christ and through the terrible effects of a horrific war, you became children of God. Soon you will go back, and you must tell your people what God has done for you.'"

The refugees took Moses at his word. As they have gone home to the provinces along Mozambique's border with Zimbabwe, members of those three churches have started no fewer than 17 congregations in their hometowns.

The same thing has happened in southern Mozambique, where refugees have returned from camps in Swaziland. □

■ 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. □

Restoring building

Soon it will be 200 years since Little Flat Creek Church was organized, Aug. 19, 1797. It is the oldest, continuous church in Knox County and one of the oldest in the state.

Our church has committed to the rebuilding of our building with its original logs. This structure will serve as a permanent

reminder of our heritage in this community, and will be listed on the National Historic Registry.

We have set up a non-profit organization separate from the church. Tax deductible contributions will go directly to this special endeavor.

Work has already begun, and we expect to have all the old logs moved to our church site by June 30. With community help and use of borrowed equipment and a lot of hard work, we can do it. Contributions can be sent to: Little Flat Creek 1797 Fund, Little Flat Creek Baptist Church, 9132 Emory Road, Corryton, 37721. You may call the church at (615) 688-7950 for more information.

Judith A. Watson, secretary
Little Flat Creek Church
Corryton, 37721

Not good stewards

I'm referring to the March 15 article regarding the demise of the Education Commission. Since I am a graduate of a community college and have two daughters who graduated from Carson-Newman College, I'm clearly not anti-educational. My concern is with teachers in Christian colleges who under the guise of challenging young people's faith, teach them, with the authority or our backing, that God's Word cannot be taken for what it says. This sows seeds of unbelief and doubt. Many people would rather send their children to a secular college or university because they understand clearly that people who teach this kind of baloney are unbelievers.

The fears of Paul have been realized, II Corinthians 11:3 "...Lest by any means as the ser-

pent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity, that is in Christ." We have failed to teach our children and their generation the truth Paul taught in Colossians 2:7, "Keep your roots deep in him, build your lives on him, and become ever stronger in your faith, as you were taught." Therefore, we are reaping what we sowed. It is not as Dr. Barefoot said, "Has virtually cut out any concern for undergraduate college education." As God's people we have not been good stewards of God's truth.

Edith Corbin
Morristown, 37814

Families and teachers have a deep responsibility to teach undiluted biblical truths. We should always be careful to support those who do. Tennessee is blessed with three strong colleges. — Editor

Loyal to WMU

Thanks to Jerry Rankin, Foreign Mission Board president, for his letter in the March 29 issue. He thanked Tennessee Baptists, especially Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood for their offerings to Lottie Moon.

I have been a member of Woman's Missionary Union since I was three years old in some way. I am now 85. I came up through the ranks; only two organizations I was not a member of, Brotherhood and Baptist Career Women (since I am a housewife). The RAs were sponsored by WMU at one time until Brotherhood took them over. I was the leader in our local

church of Royal Ambassadors so I guess you can say I was a member.

I learned most of all I know about Baptists and missions in WMU, our role in the church and missions around the world. I believe in missions, prayer for our missionaries, prayer for the lost, and prayer for the saved that help all over the world.

I know WMU deserves a voice in everything Southern Baptists do and in changes, especially when it concerns programs WMU started and keep doing. Thank you.

Fay C. Sliger
Niota, 37826

Thanks for caring

Several years ago our son, Andrew, bought a plaque. It says, "Lord, help me to accept the things I may not understand." Since his death these words have become our prayer. We don't understand why he died so young — with such potential for the future. But in the midst of our pain and confusion, God again and again shows us his love. He sustains, encourages, and provides for our needs.

We've returned to the work God has called us to do in Panama. Bittersweet memories remain; the pain isn't eased quickly. But many colleagues and friends have encouraged and enriched us. A simple "thanks" isn't sufficient to express our gratitude.

We cannot forget the response of fellow missionaries in the hours after this tragedy. How can we forget our Panamanian Baptist friends, who showed concern in so many ways? How can we forget the prayers of Southern Baptists?

We appreciate every memorial gift and expression of concern.

You have helped us face this crisis. Through it all God is teaching us more about himself and the reliability of his Word. We find comfort in Isaiah 40:31 — "They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

Glenn and Pauline Nicholson
FMB Missionaries, Panama

Andrew, 14, died in January in Panama after being attacked by killer bees. — Editor

Downsizing boat

In *SBC Life*, Mark Brister, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee's Program and Structure Study Committee, recently compared the current SBC organization to the Titanic. He and the committee then proposed downsizing and streamlining the SBC.

Well, I agree, now that the current SBC leadership has successfully thrown half the crew and passengers overboard, we don't need a boat as large as the Titanic.

Robert Uhl Lawson
Minister of Music
Raleigh Church
Memphis, 38128

A greater exercise

On Sunday, April 2, many Tennesseans were cheering for the Tennessee Lady Vols as they competed in the NCAA Womens Basketball Tournament. They had worked very hard and this was the last competition for the coveted honor of being No. One.

On this same day in the Senior Assembly at First Church, Maryville, another competition was taking place. The young people who had been practicing for many months gave us a demonstration of what they had been learning in competing with each other in a Sword (Bible) Drill. Later, they will compete with other churches and other teams and hopefully they also will win.

The wonderful thing about this competition is that whether they win or lose at the tournament, the skills they are learning will be with them the rest of their lives.

These things they are learning, memory work, the books of the Bible, where to find key verses, and all the other activities of the Sword Drill, will help them to listen to what they are reading and their relationship with the Father will be enhanced.

There is nothing wrong with basketball; however, I would rather see them play on another day. This is good physical exercise but the exercise of the Spirit at work is a far greater thing.

Dorothy Blake
Alcoa, 37701

Suggestions for improving Southern Baptist life

It matters not which group or groups hold the ascendancy in the convention at any given time, there are certain factors which need to be understood and implemented to improve our overall situation over the long haul. Some suggestions might improve Southern Baptist life.

1. Rediscover the art of legitimate debate in which the affirmative is presented first and then the negative. This is an art we seem to have lost. Too many decisions are made upon hearing the negative first, or after the negative has so distorted truth that people then have difficulty understanding it. Only by this method can correct answers be discovered and future problems forestalled.

2. Indoctrinate our people on Baptist polity so they can see the principles which issue from Bible revelation along with sound principles of parliamentary law.

3. It should be decreed that:

(1) If or when there is a conflict between Baptist polity and parliamentary law, the former shall prevail.



SULLIVAN

■ a historical view

By James L. Sullivan, retired BSSB president

(2) Diversity is to be accepted as inevitable if we are to retain individual religious freedoms and our treasured church autonomy.

(3) Any appearances of a "carrot and stick" system of rewards for cooperation and punishment for ones who follow other conscientious convictions should be studiously condemned by the entire body regardless of who is in the majority at the time.

(4) A committee on motions is needed by the convention to parallel the convention's committee on resolutions in nature and function. Convention motions call for actions while resolutions state positions. Therefore, they should be screened carefully in advance to encourage clarity, avoid duplicity, and examine the legality of actions called for in those proposed motions.

(1) A statement should be issued declaring that busing of committed voters for convention presidential or other elections is to be abhorred regardless of who does it. It tends to exaggerate provincialisms and, therefore, tends to increase our diversity which could get beyond control.

(2) All appearances of a "winner take all" syndrome should be studiously avoided by everyone. A lack of adequate representation from over the nation is an inevitable result unless all Baptists have opportunity for vocal representation on boards and agencies.

Resurrection Day awakens the spirit, mind

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

From the heart of the Lord God comes one of two most extraordinary days on his own calendar. This year it happens on Sunday, April 16. Are we ready?

It's black Friday, but Sunday is just ahead!

Down long corridors of time comes Resurrection Day, with steady phalanxes of standard bearers lining the way.

When there is a weariness of the day or pain of night, Resurrection Day comes. When the stalwart cringe before the loathsome idolatry of routine, Resurrection Day reassures us.

What has power beyond the grave? Resurrection Day!

What heals calamity, disperses gloom, and causes chaos and darkness to take flight? Resurrection Day.

Who has complete authority over time, but no time to waste? The Master of Resurrection Day!

Who dresses the heavens with eons-old starlight and has the habit of resting with tired friends in a quiet, isolated place? Who "manufactured" all the rocks of now and eternity, and rolled away the stone that sealed the sacrificed Savior in a black tomb of despair?

Darkness gives us no choice. Wherever we turn in darkness there is another trail into more darkness. Light offers the choices, and Christ Jesus is the Light.

He gives us light. Genesis tells us that the Creator spoke, "Let there be light," and there was light. And he gives

light again, always in the present, the Light of Life.

But first the darkness.

They played a fugue, but I would not sing; death ruled the earth, but not my King!

Blood poured down his saddened face, and I am rescued by his grace!

They danced around him, taunted love; God answered loudly from above.

"It is finished," was his cry to all the restless passing by;

Friends took him down, with tender care, put him away beyond the stare

Of curious crowds whom he loved still, and buried him on Calvary's hill.

And those who came with hearts of fear rejoiced to find he was not there!

Across the years, it is the same; He lit the spark that turned to flame.

That old, old story of Resurrection Day is a story of light.

John 1 tells us Christ was already involved in all that ever was, is, and will be, because, "He was in the beginning with God." As if these facts needed to be underscored and amplified, in verses four and five, John writes the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness; and the darkness did not comprehend it."

After Resurrection Day morn, Jesus explained the Scriptures to two disciples who walked on the Emmaus road. And

in Luke again, he "opened their (disciples) minds to understand the Scriptures" and called them witnesses.

We see the smile on the angel's face as he sat upon the rock near the tomb of Christ and announced, "He is not here." No, he is alive and in our hearts.

So it is Resurrection Day this Sunday, and what will we do? Of course we celebrate Easter with our church body. We present ourselves again to the Lord as living sacrifices.

There will be lessons, discussions, hymns and anthems, prayers, and sermons about the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. There also will be some mundane things said and done.

What can we do to make it a different day, a day to remember? What can we do, some things tangible, that he would want us to do?

- Defend truth.
- Affirm a lonely person.
- Weep with a bereaved friend.
- Get down on your knees and play with a little child.
- Call Mother or Dad to thank them for always giving love and support.
- Put your arm around a rebel and love them into God's arms.
- Be gentle to the broken-hearted.
- Touch someone who is hurting.
- Keep in your heart the flight of butterflies, the glint of dew and frost, the marvelous love of the Risen Lord — and share them.

In remembrance of him. ☐

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Rebuke or lesson?

Kids begin early trying to reach perfection, with eager parents pushing them on.

It is well-chronicled that the greatest problems volunteer coaches have is how to handle over-zealous parents.

They may scream at officials, second-guess the coaches, and inform everyone present of their child's extraordinary talents. They may also embarrass the child.

We need to look around us. Watch the six-year-old center

fielder chasing the butterfly. Is he mine? Look at the goalie waving to mother in the stands as the ball skips into the net. Is she yours?

And the kid on the bench who volunteered to sit there, yours or mine?

The little ones (or big ones) may play with a knot in the stomach, or an aching heart. They may not want to fulfill the dreams of the parents. They just might want to chase butterflies, or be sociable on the bench, cheering for the rest of the team.

They learn lessons the adults never caught. We might need to stop a while and look behind the scenes.

I saw the coach teach a priceless lesson the other day. He was dealing with several very young tennis pupils.

We heard the disturbance in the neighboring court. One 10-year-old evidently had lost a point when he failed to follow a game rule.

The coach patiently explained to him that if he were not ready for the serve, he would have to make sure to make that known before trying to play the ball.

He had not done that. He had hit the ball into the net, and then said, "I wasn't ready." He was determined to replay the point, but the coach said he had lost it because he did not play by the rule.

He quit. The game went on with other players. Later, the coach sat down with him and explained. "In the real game, you can't go back and replay the point. You were wrong, and you must learn that now."

The real game? I like that coach. We all need to forget trying to replay the point after breaking the rule. Next time, I will move past mistakes. That is a good lesson in life. ☐



ALLEN

■ just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile:

Jane: "Where is that maid you were bragging about several weeks ago? Did she quit?"

June: "No, I fired her." Jane: "What was the matter? I thought you said she was the best worker you ever had." Jane: "She was, but she was a thief. She kept stealing my Holiday Inn towels."

Take this truth:

Some people think rules apply to others but not to themselves. A pastor led a church to adopt a strict purchase order system. One day at the Book Store, he told the manager he forgot to get an "order number." She said, "Sorry, preacher, we have our instructions. You made the rules. Now, you've got to obey them too."

Rememberize this Scripture:

"Behold thou hast instructed many ... But now it is come upon thee, and thou faintest" (Job 4:3, 5).

Pray this prayer:

Lord, help me to realize no one is above the law — even those who legislate it. ☐

The three A's of living with adult children

I was asked to address the issue of coping with the stress of having adult children re-

main at home after they have gone to work and are essentially on their own in the world. I think that I first need to deal with this term "adult children." My understanding of the term adolescence is the transition period between the dependency of childhood and the independence of adulthood. The Bible says that one of the evidences of adulthood is that "a man leaves his father and mother and cleaves to his wife in the building of a home." My contention is that a child has not emerged from the transition of adolescence until he or she is capable of standing on his or her own emotionally, socially, financially, etc. I exclude from this understanding the child stays in the home because the family has some physical or financial need which the child contributes toward meeting.

I tend to see a child who can not afford either financially or emotionally to leave his or her father and mother as still being in transition pe-

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

riod of adolescence. He or she should be treated accordingly. Parents of adolescent children struggle with the decision of how much of the reign to control and how much of it to give to the child. This has to be an individual decision. I mean this even for children in the same family. Some children can handle certain responsibilities and choices before other children in the same family. I would suggest three guiding principles: Acceptance, Affirmation, and Accountability.

Every one of us needs acceptance. The child living at home and struggling with the attempt to become an adult may need even more acceptance because of the failures which often occur when one attempts new tasks that he or she may not accomplish the first try. These children need to be accepted for who they are; not on the basis of what they do. It is possible to accept a child without accepting his or her behavior. I re-

member my father telling me that I would always be his son, and he would love me accordingly no matter what I did. That was a safety net that encouraged me in many efforts.

Adolescence is a time of searching for identity. Affirmation is essential. "Who am I?" is the central question.

The child needs to be affirmed for who he or she is and not continually reminded of his or her failures.

Accountability is the final principle. Parents have the right as well as the responsibility to hold the adolescent accountable for his behavior, finances, employment, and the list is long. They may never be able to move out on their own if the parent does not make them pay rent and utilities. (The money can be held in trust if the family doesn't need it.) The parents also have the right to expect and enforce certain behaviors (in the area of sexual activity and alcohol consumption, for instance) as long as the child is still under their roof. ☐



BARKLEY

Fifty years of full-time evangelism has blessed Don Womack

Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Don Womack of Memphis has been a full-time evangelist for the past 50 years, but his work is better termed "a faith evangelist," he explained.

Womack, who has traveled to churches in every state in the United States, often in his motor home, has an energetic step and view of life.

He doesn't like the word discouragement, he explained. Disappointments are natural in life, and he's had his share. Womack has never had the steady income of an employee or even church staff worker but instead relies on invitations to speak. He said the key is not to let disappointments lead to discouragement. "If I went with the discouragements, I'd have been out of it (evangelism) a long, long time ago," he said.

Womack noted God has

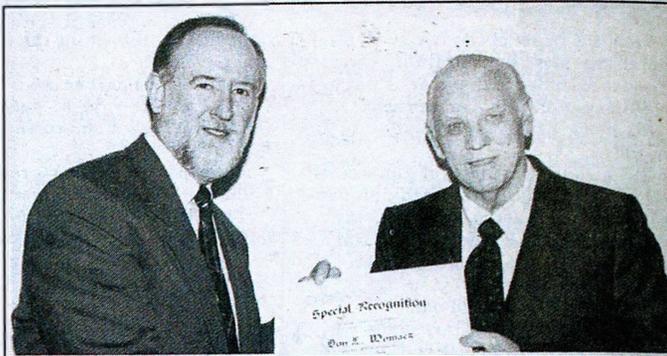
done his part to support him and his family, including his wife, Lorene, and daughter, Donna. The stress on the evangelist is great, he noted. He has been encouraged through the years by the fact that he has never had to cancel an engagement because of illness and has never missed a service because of his health. When one is happy, he said, "you can do it because you're in the center of God's will."

He traces his contentment back to his "call" from God, which he said "was so clear and so intense that I've never had any desire to be a pastor — to do anything else." But he hasn't been lazy. He has a doctor's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a master's from Memphis State University.

During his career Womack has watched interest among Southern Baptists in evangelism rise and fall in cycles. As

an officer, at one time president, of the Southern Baptist Evangelist's Association for 18 years, Womack recalled that in 1964 the association only knew of 25 or 30 full-time evangelists. To promote evangelism, the association hosted meetings which eventually were attended by 5-6,000 Baptist leaders. As a result, pastors invited more evangelists to churches and baptisms rose. Soon over 400 Southern Baptist evangelists were working across the nation, and baptisms increased.

This has changed during the convention controversy, which began in the 1970s and has monopolized the attention of many pastors, he added. In-



RECEIVING RECOGNITION for his 50 years as a full-time evangelist is Don Womack, right, of Memphis from Rob Finley, president of Fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists. The presentation was made April 3 at the annual meeting of the evangelists' association.

itations are down and many who might feel God calling him or her into full-time evangelism can't do it financially, Womack said. But the cyclical nature of interest in evangelism means interest will increase. As a result soon more

people will be confronted with the Gospel, he added.

If his views are considered prognostications from an "old war horse," he said, he doesn't mind. It might be appropriate, he added, but he has no plans to retire. □ — Connie Davis



Carson-Newman professor honored

Visiting Chinese dignitaries from Yantai University presented a special award March 23 to Education Division Dean Ronald Midkiff. Midkiff was named an honorary professor at Yantai. He was honored for his efforts in the formation of a teaching exchange using C-N professors, local public school teachers, and professors from Yantai.

In Benin City

Trimble team sees 2,273 decisions

For Baptist and Reflector

TRIMBLE — Members of First Church here are enthusiastic after returning from an evangelistic missions trip to Benin City, Nigeria, in West Africa.

Trimble Pastor Chris Campbell led the effort. It was his second trip to Benin City. He went to Nigeria in 1994 on an evangelistic effort.

Two volunteers from First Church, Trimble, accompanied their pastor earlier this year — Mike Ladd, chairman of deacons and Matt Stafford. The three men led 310 evangelistic crusades throughout the area. They spoke in 11 vil-

lages, 13 Nigerian Baptist churches, three government schools, three factories, and one prison. The trip resulted in 2,273 decisions.

The team also distributed more than 1,000 New Testaments to the English-speaking people in Benin City, and more than 5,000 Gospel tracts. They also donated funds to build a church in one of the many villages in which they preached. The church will be a part of the Nigerian Baptist Convention. A highlight for the volunteers was the groundbreaking for the new church.

Campbell is committed to return to Benin City in 1996 to build another church. □

Group ministers in Venezuela

Seventeen volunteers, led by Rogersville pastor Ronell Owensby, recently spent 13 days in Venezuela, working in construction and evangelism.

The team was divided into two groups to work with several missionaries including Forrest Bohlen, Bill Rowland, and David Edmonds. They helped construct an auditorium at First Church, Rubio, and build Sunday School rooms at First Church, Urena.

"There was great joy in witnessing the decision of at least 16 who claimed Christ as Savior and many whose hearts were touched by the Gospel," according to volunteer Walter Dunn.

Despite the fact the temperature soared over 100 degrees at the Urena site and the work was very hard, "the joy which the Lord gave made the days most rewarding," Dunn added.

Team members included Dunn, Owensby, Bill Arms, Bill Brown, Glenda Davis, Jack Davis, Josephine Dickerson, Void Hansard, Rod Horton, Kasler Hughes, Wade Moyers, Lynn Parker, Paul Rains, Juan Roldan, James Shackelford, Lynn Stewart, and Sarah Stewart.

Two Venezuelan young ladies, Ana Pena and her sister, Norelis, of Valera, also worked with the Tennessee volunteers. □

Tennesseans attend NLCT

Twenty members of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union recently attended two National Leadership Consultant Training events offered by the national WMU in Birmingham. They were among 450 women nationwide who attended the training which prepared them to lead conferences related to WMU's new curriculum, slated for publication in October 1995. Tennessee Baptist women at the meeting included, from left, front row, Carrol Kelly, Brentwood; Janice Davidson, Atoka; Kathy Davis, Harriman; Katharine Bryan, Brentwood; second row, Bettye Summers, Camden; Ruth McNabb, Elizabethton; Cindy Ketron, Kingsport; Kay Quintero, Smithville; Pam Ensley, Cleveland; Vickie Anderson, Brentwood; third row, Kathy Sharp, Smyrna; Amanda Day, Brentwood; Susan Johnsey, Lebanon; Carol Martin, Signal Mountain; Elizabeth Childs, Antioch; Carol Richardson, Cordova; Judy Cummings, Ripley; Candy Phillips, Brentwood; Carol Pharris, Lebanon; and Jerry Chevalier, Knoxville.



TBC, BSSB release statistics for 1994

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The annual report of Southern Baptist Convention statistics usually includes numbers from 10 ministry areas, accompanied by information on gains and losses from the previous year.

Not so for 1994.

Dramatic changes in the reporting process, separate reporting of churches and missions and changes in data collection and verification made the 1994 figures statistically noncomparable with the numbers of previous years, according to Cliff Tharp, supervisor of the strategic information unit at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Even the name has changed from Uniform Church Letter to Annual Church Profile (ACP).

"We have completely re-engineered the process," Tharp said.

For 1994, the SBC statistics include only totals for the year. Tallying increases or decreases from 1993 figures would be misleading he emphasized. Church totals for 1994 include:

- churches — 39,910
- baptisms — 378,463
- total church membership — 15,619,912
- ongoing Sunday School enrollment — 8,263,558
- Discipleship Training enrollment/participation — 2,223,955
- Ongoing Music Ministry enrollment/participation — 1,841,583
- Ongoing Woman's Missionary Union enrollment — 1,104,706
- Brotherhood enrollment/participation — 646,028
- total tithes, offerings and special gifts — \$5,572,451,828
- mission expenditures — \$815,640,533

While the number of Southern Baptist churches, 39,910, represents an increase of 1,169 from the 1993 total of 38,741, Tharp strongly advised against any such comparisons. He said the 1994 increase in number of churches includes both new churches and many existing churches that simply have not been counted before. Also, in past years, the statistics for churches and any missions they sponsored were counted together. For 1994, churches and missions reported separately.

In another area, the BSSB in past years counted churches differently than they were counted by associations and state conventions. The measure for the BSSB was whether the church had turned in a UCL while associations and state conventions counted churches based on their definition of a church in "friendly cooperation," Tharp said.

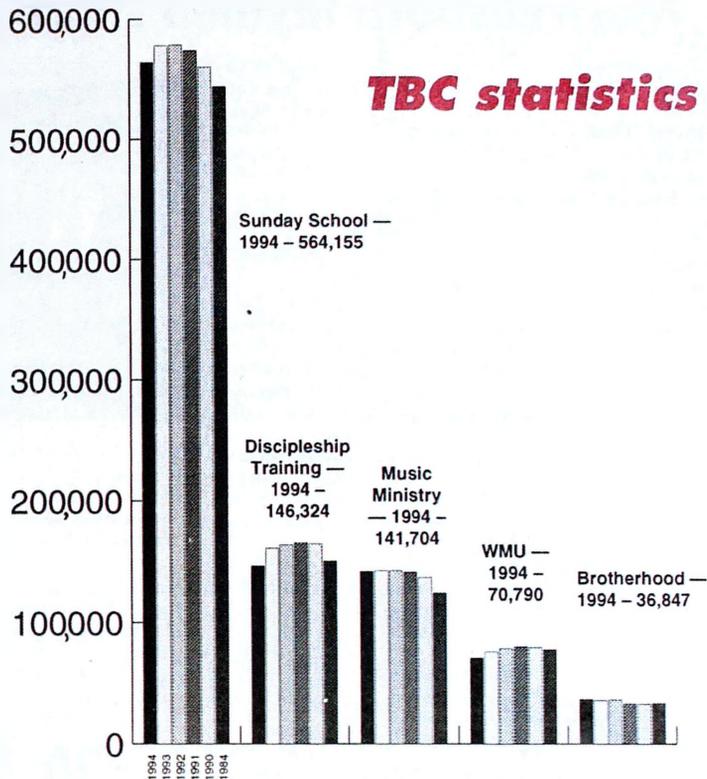
As a confusing result, an association, state convention, and the BSSB often would have different statistical totals.

Tharp recalled a meeting he attended in a state convention several years ago where he was the third speaker in one session. Each speaker had used a different set of statistics in making a presentation.

"We spent all our time dealing with discrepancies in the statistics rather than helping churches," he said.

Beginning with 1994, associations and state conventions are tallying the totals, usually electronically (92 percent of associations for 1994) and forwarding them to the BSSB.

"As part of a new partnership, we have agreed with the states that our statistics will be the same as theirs," Tharp said. Major responsibility for checking and verifying church statistics is being done at the associational and state levels which are closer to and more knowledgeable about individual churches.



Compiled by TBC from Uniform Church Letters now called Annual Church Profiles. Graph shows statistics of five TBC ministries for 1984, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, and 1994. Other areas measured from 1994 include Churches — 2,905, Total Church Membership — 1,105,186, Baptisms — 23,866, Total Receipts — \$400,921,308, and Mission Expenditures — \$55,464,496.

"An important result of the changes will be more accurate totals that help churches, associations, state conventions, and the SBC have a more valid measure of growth or decreases," he said.

In another area, throughout the year

when changes or corrections are discovered in statistics, they will be made immediately rather than waiting until the next year. However, Tharp said for historical and comparison purposes, statistics will continue to be announced annually as a "historical snapshot." □

Elizabethton Church delays church building to build home for man

By Joe Ledford
Johnson City Press

ELIZABETHTON — Tommy Chappell's church family decided he's dragged himself and his wheelchair up a flight of stairs to his apartment more than enough, so they're building him a house.

The congregation at Unaka Church, Elizabethton, began work on the house March 25. They're trusting God to send the money, and hoping people in the community will volunteer to help.

Chappell, who will be 40 next month, has been paralyzed for five years. About dawn on a November day, he was kicking snow off a tree stand during deer hunting season. His foot slipped on ice and he fell onto a pile of rocks below. The fall cut his spinal cord and broke three-fourths of his ribs.

"I did a lot of praying," Chappell said. "I just felt the Lord was right there with me. It was 27 degrees, but I didn't even get cold. I'll never forget what the Lord did for me. He kept me alive." Chappell lay there for 11 hours before friends found him. He hasn't walked since.

Chappell's home is an apartment upstairs over Stoney Creek Salvage Store. Because he has little income, he can't afford to move to a ground-level house. To get upstairs, Chappell sits on the bottom step and pushes himself up to the next level, picks his legs up and put them where he was sitting and repeats the process until he climbs the 14 steps. Then he uses a rope to pull his wheelchair up. He reverses the procedure to go down.

Harold McNabb, Chappell's pastor, came home from visit-

ing Chappell one evening with the terrible realization that Chappell could not get out if the building burned. "The Lord spoke to me about starting him a house," said McNabb. "On Sunday, I told our prayer group and discovered some of them had been thinking along the same lines. We just started praying and talking about it."

The church had plans in place to build a fellowship building, but they put that construction on hold and decided to build a house for Chappell on a lot the church owns across Tennessee Highway 91 from the church building.

With no funds available, the church members decided to start the project and wait on God to provide the money.

A trust fund was established at Citizens Bank for contributions, and the first work began Saturday, as Chappell watched. Volunteers

already are coming forward to help. General Shale Products Corporation donated cinder blocks for the foundation. The grade work was provided. "We're looking next for someone to pour the footers," McNabb said.

The house will have wide hallways to accommodate Chappell's wheelchair. Cabinets and other fixtures will be constructed to allow him easy access.

Chappell will be allowed to live in the house rent free for as long as he wants. He will be responsible for insurance, utility bills, and general maintenance, and repair. If he moves out, the house will be used as a short-term emergency shelter for victims of fires or for stu-

dents or missionaries who need living quarters.

Glenda Buckles, a church trustee, said a record of contributions will be kept. If the house is ever sold, the proceeds will be returned to contributors or donated to a charity. The church will not go in debt

"We just started praying and talking about it."

— Harold McNabb, pastor

to finish the house, but will depend solely on volunteer labor and contributions.

"Stoney Creek is so great a place to live," Chappell said. "I don't want to live any place else." □ — Ledford writes for the Elizabethton bureau of the Johnson City Press. Reprinted with permission.

At State Evangelism Conference

Murfreesboro laymen share joys of personal witnessing

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — During Layman's Night at the State Evangelism Conference April 4, TBC Evangelism Director Jerry King made an important observation.

"If we're to win our state for Christ, personal witnessing is how it will be done," he told those at the conference meeting at Judson Church here.

Three laymen from Concord Association shared how a personal witnessing program has equipped them to better share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

All three men are products of Evangelism Explosion, a program which was begun more than 30 years ago by Presbyterian minister James Kennedy of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Evangelism Explosion, or EE as it is commonly referred, and its Southern Baptist Home Mission Board counterpart, Continuous Witness Training (CWT), are just two of several witnessing training approaches used by Southern Baptists.

Jesse Smith of Mt. Herman Church, Murfreesboro, related how he had always wanted to share his salvation ex-

perience with others but was afraid to do it. "I wondered how you could share (the salvation experience). There's only one way — with God's Holy Spirit," he affirmed.

Smith said that during his witnessing visits, both as a trainee and later as a trainer, he has seen "things happen that only God can do."

One of his personal highlights was the opportunity of sharing the Gospel with his grown daughter. "God used what I knew to reach her. She accepted Christ that night. It is one of the greatest moments of my life besides my own salvation," he said.



THREE CONCORD ASSOCIATION laymen shared what personal witnessing through Evangelism Explosion training has meant to them. From left are, Jeff Stevenson, Westwood Church, Murfreesboro; Jesse Smith, Mt. Hermon Church, Murfreesboro; and Harold Smith, New Vision Church, Murfreesboro.

Harold Smith, a layman from New Vision Church, Murfreesboro, noted EE training required a lot of memorization.

"If a 72-year-old man can learn the memory work, anyone can," he affirmed.

Noting that people are constantly having to learn new things, from com-

puters to operating VCRs, he observed it shouldn't be that difficult "to learn a few memory verses and go out and win people to the Lord."

Jeff Stevenson, a member of Murfreesboro's Westwood Church, said he was grateful to his church and association for their emphasis on soul-winning.

He noted that in his days as a factory worker he had numerous opportunities to share his faith, but passed them by.

As a Christian, "I was content to worship on Sunday" and not share Christ, Stevenson said.

Evangelism Explosion snatched Stevenson from his "comfort zone," he admitted.

Since making the commitment to personal witnessing, Stevenson said his "prayer life and relationship with God has grown stronger."

Visitation efforts have not always produced immediate results, Stevenson admitted. "But seeds were planted."

Stevenson feels strongly that personal witnessing through EE is "the best thing I've ever done."

"It has made me bolder in sharing my faith in Jesus," he said. □

Evangelism meeting avoids ice and draws ...

— Continued from page 1

organize, and orchestrate, but "you can't generate with personality, performance, and skill what the Spirit of God can do," he said, noting the Holy Spirit will express itself differently in different situations. All members are ministers and no generation — neither boomers nor busters — can be excused, he added.

Partnership representatives

Robert Shelton, president of the Canadian Baptist Convention, and Mike Collins, executive director, Baptist State Convention of Michigan, addressed the conference. Tennessee Baptists have partnerships with Baptists in this country, state, and with Poland.

Shelton, who is a pastor in Winnepeg, Manitoba, brought greetings from the 110 Baptist congregations in the country. He noted one pastor in Canada serves a church isolated from other churches by about 100 miles.

"Don't ever take for granted what goes on in these meetings," he said.

Shelton, who is from Illinois and has served 11 years in Canada, said he was not involved in the convention controversy, but "when people or churches or denominations lose sight of their missions ... they run the risk of losing sight of what God has called them to do."

The passion for evangelism, said Shelton, "flows out of a

love relationship with Jesus Christ." Actually, any work Christians do should be simply joining God's work. Since Jesus said he did nothing on his own initiative, "we ought to learn from that," he continued. This concept also protects the Christian from burnout, he said.

Collins, who has been executive director of Michigan Baptist work since January, thanked Tennessee Baptists for 15 years of work there but added that Michigan Baptists, who make up only 0.4 percent of the population, still need help.

Referring to Gideon's story in Judges 6, Collins commented on what Gideon sought when he put out a fleece and asked for a sign from God — not confirmation for a desire but simply if God was with him.

Instead of getting caught up in a state convention or denomination, church leaders should "come back to their personal relationship with God, then God will lead us," he said.

Out-of-state speakers

Ken Hemphill, new president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, spoke once, Richard Harris of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga., spoke once, and Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church, Dallas, Texas, addressed the crowd three times, making the final message of the conference.

Hemphill used the battle of Israel against the Amalekites to illustrate the battle facing the Christian following salvation.

Bitterness held against a deacon or fellow pastor or someone in the convention is an enemy of the Christian, he said. Another enemy may be methods, marketing, models, politics, and power which "may well suddenly rob the church of its supernatural birthright," he said.

The denomination needs healing and a "fresh touch of the spirit of God," he continued. To accomplish that, Christians must confess, be consistent in a spiritual walk with God, put on the whole armor of God, and stand with the whole army of God.

Church leaders must emphasize the Bible and God over adopting church innovations and repentance over fear that they might offend boomers or busters, he said. Hemphill also suggested a reliance on other Baptists through the denomination and its agencies.

Texas pastor Jack Graham, in Monday's closing message, told conference participants, "If we're going to influence our generation with the Gospel, we must be triumphant together."

The secret of that, Graham said, is spiritual unity. Graham said he was not talking about conformity. "We don't have to walk in lock step. The unity Jesus spoke of is not from the outside, but from

within," Graham said.

Within unity there will be diversity, Graham observed. "On the minor points we can disagree. We don't have to worship alike, our church polity does not have to be the same. But on the essentials of the faith, we have to be one," the Texan stressed.

He said the secret of unity is in the sharing of a common gift — eternal life, a common goal — sharing the message of Jesus Christ, and a common glory. "When we pray, worship, and witness together, it is glorious," Graham said.

Richard Harris told the crowd of his experiences with the revival which spread from Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, to SWBTS to the Illinois evangelism conference, where he decided to give his time on the program to John Avant, a pastor in Brownwood who was instrumental in spreading the revival among pastors in his area. God may be telling us he will send revival if we will do it his way, said Harris.

Tennessee speakers

Frank Hawkins, TBC president who is pastor of First Church, Kingsport, spoke on the number one priority of the Christian church — evangelism.

Evangelism is an outgrowth of relationships, which require forgiveness, he said.

From Matthew 18, Hawkins defined three truths about forgiveness. Some people handle and experience relationships in

non-forgiving ways. Forgiveness is an expectation for church people, but they may experience the expectation and miss the reality. And forgiveness does not bypass guilt, it increases it.

"Have you ever forgiven someone over 490 times?" asked Hawkins, referring to the biblical instruction to forgive 70 times 7 times. He added that attitude rather than mathematics is God's expectation.

Ken Weathersby, state black church extension workers, noted the U.S. is the third largest lost nation behind China and India and 2.5 million or one-half of Tennessee's population are not Christians. He also noted 96 percent of people living in multi-family housing is not Christian.

He warned Christians against apathy, which leads to worry, which leads to anxiety, then depression, then oppression, to fear. People wonder why God is not using them, said Weathersby. They lack trust in God because they are oppressed or afraid.

God is seeking people, especially men, he said, and he is looking for those who won't see the city or people in the city as the enemy.

Others speakers were Rob Finley of Memphis, president, Fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists, and John Kramp, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. □ — Lonnie Wilkey contributed to this story.

■ the people

■ **Laney Colbard** and **Philip Harden** were ordained as deacons by Cumberland Homesteads Church, Crossville, April 2.

■ **Demory Church, LaFollette**, will ordain **Charles "Bud" Hatmaker** and **Louis Overbey** as deacons April 15.

■ the leaders

■ **Tom Campbell**, pastor of Demory Church, LaFollette, has been called as pastor of Walnut Grove Church, Lodiburg, Ky.

■ **Avondale Church, Humboldt**, has called **Danny King** as minister of music and **Trevis Hendrix** as youth director.

■ **Don Holland** is serving as music minister at Emmanuel Church, Humboldt.

■ **Michael Murray** has been called as full-time minister of youth and recreation of First Church, Dyersburg.

■ **Glynda Hall**, Baptist Student Union director, Dyersburg State Community College, Dyersburg, for six years has resigned effective Feb. 28 to pursue university study.

■ the churches

■ **First Church, Collierville**, will host **Jerry Rankin**, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., on Easter, April 16, who will speak at all three morning worship services. Rankin is a former church staff worker, Bible instructor, missionary to New York, Vermont, Philippines, Indonesia, India, Thailand, and Singapore.

■ **First Church, Murfreesboro**, will host a Successful Single Living Conference April 28-30. **Chris Elkins**, minister with single adults, Park Cities Church, Dallas, Texas,

and **Brent Bourgeois**, a musician, will lead it. Those wishing more information should contact **Susie Reeder**, minister to single adults, at (615) 893-2514.

■ **Oak Street Church, Maryville**, will have revival April 22-26. **Argile Smith**, professor of preaching at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Seminary, will speak and **Mark Herron** of Grandview Church, Maryville, will lead the music.

■ **Valley Grove Church, Chapman Highway, Knoxville**, has begun celebrating its centennial anniversary. On Feb. 19 U.S. Rep. **John Duncan Jr.**, spoke during the morning worship service and on April 2 State Rep. **Ben Atchley** spoke. Special services during May will include May 7 — **Gay Harris**, former pastor; May 14 — **Walter Taylor**, director of missions, Knox County Association; May 21 — **Claude Thomas**, former associate pastor; and May 28 — **Harry Myratt**, current pastor. On July 9 **W. C. Garland**, former pastor, will speak.

■ **Hickory Hills Church, Mount Juliet**, will hold revival April 16-19. **David Wheeler**, director of evangelism, Indiana Baptist Convention, and a native of Nashville, will speak. **John Lemonis** of Nashville will lead the music.

■ **East Commerce Church, Lewisburg**, will hold revival April 30 — May 3. **Phil Glisson**, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

■ **Northside Church, Columbia**, will hold revival May 7-10. **Phil Glisson**, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

■ The revival of **Locust Grove Church, Washburn**, will begin April 17 and be led by **Charles Widener**.

■ The May 7-12 revival of **Oakland Church, Rutledge**, will be led by **Gary Vandergriff** of Maynardville.

■ **Fairview Church, Luttrell**, will hold revival April 19-23. **Bill Carroll** of Adriel and **Jimmy Davidson** will lead it.

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

■ **Kingston Pike Church, Lenoir City**, held revival March 19-25. **Ronnie Owens** spoke. As a result of the services nine people made professions of faith, several made other decisions, and one joined the church.

■ **Unity Church, Allardt**, will begin revival April 24. **Bill Hazlewood**, director of missions, Cumberland Gap Association, will lead it.

■ **Broadmoor Church, Nashville**, will hold revival April 16-19. **Jerry Rae** of Alabama and **Bill Lyle** will lead the services.

■ **Cumberland Homesteads Church, Crossville**, dedicated its new stained glass windows on April 2. On Easter, April 16, it will host a sunrise service at the amphitheater in Cumberland Mountain State Park.

■ 'Here's Hope' revivals

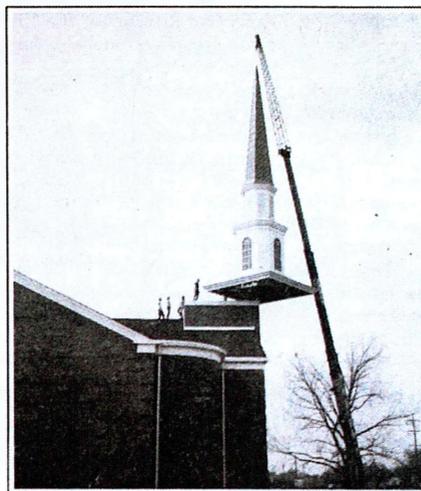
■ **Jerry King**, TBC Evangelism director, will lead the April 23-26 revival at **Allons Church, Allons**.

■ **Round Mountain Church, Jamestown**, will hold its revival April 17-21. **Jeff Brown** of Etter will lead it.

■ **Ray Maynard**, director of missions, Union Association, will speak during the April 26-29 revival of **Memorial Church, Livingston**.

■ state events

■ The **Tennessee Baptist Historical Society** will hold its annual meeting May 19-20 at First Church, Murfreesboro. The theme will be "Landmarkism — It's Past Influence ... It's Present Resurrection," featuring **Harold Smith**, retired



THE STEEPLE OF UNA CHURCH, NASHVILLE, is installed March 17 on the church's new sanctuary. The congregation moved into the \$1.4 million addition, which already is half paid for, Oct. 23, 1994.

employee of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Other sessions will be "Responding to the Attempt to Dismantle the Southern Baptist Historical Commission," "Teaching Church History/Baptist History in the Local Church," "Researching and Writing Your Church's History," and "Creatively Celebrating Your Church's History." For more information, one may contact **Charles Nored** at (615) 893-5035.

■ The **East Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference** will be April 27 at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, 9 a.m. — 12:30 p.m. in the Thomas Recital Hall. **Joe Stacker**, pastor, Belmont Heights Church, Nashville, will speak on the subject, "The Pastor as Leader of the Contemporary Church." **Paul Baxter** of First Church, LaGrange, Ga., also will speak. Lunch will be provided by the school.

■ the associations

■ The **Middle Tennessee Multihousing Conference** will be April 25, 9 a.m. to noon and repeated 7-9 p.m. at the Nashville Baptist Association office. **Becky Sumrall**, church and community ministries director, Nashville Baptist Association, and **Kevin Bacon**, minister of

multihousing, First Church, Atlanta, will lead it. The conference is hosted by **Nashville Baptist Association** and the **Tennessee Baptist Convention**. For more information, contact the association at (615) 259-3034.

■ **Riverside Association** is hosting the Baptist Doctrine study "Partners With God," April 17-18 at First Church, Jamestown, and First Church, Livingston. **Ray Gilder** and **Larry Kirk** of the TBC Missions Department will lead the studies.

■ the work

■ A team from **First Church, Trimble**, worked in Nigeria. **Chris Campbell**, pastor, **Matt Stafford**, and **Mike Ladd** spoke in schools, prisons, churches, and villages. As a result about 2,400 spiritual decisions were made by people.

■ **Archie King**, retired Tennessee Baptist Convention Brotherhood director, will work in five countries in Africa beginning April 27. **King** and his wife, **Mary**, will serve in the Republic of Niger, Guinea, Mali, Ivory Coast and Liberia leading missionaries from these countries and from Chad and Sierra Leone during their annual meetings.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Real heroes

By **Pete Mullins**, pastor
East Athens Church, Athens

You can tell a great deal about a person, or even a nation, by noticing the heroes they admire. Once again, we have had another "sports hero" who has gone public with the news that he has AIDS. The fact is, he, just like the other so called heroes, have contracted the disease because they have chosen to

live a wicked lifestyle of either homosexuality or plain old adultery or drug use. Real heroes are those who suffer for righteousness sake! These so called heroes are suffering because they have chosen to live a lifestyle of sin and rebellion toward God. I resent the media portraying them as heroes when they are the farthest thing from it!

Also, I don't think we need to look to drug-using, sexually-perverted rock musicians as heroes or role models. Nor do we need to look to sports figures who are already way overpaid for playing a

child's game in the first place!

Let me tell you who I think the real heroes are. I think of men like Abraham, Joseph, Job, David, Samuel, and Moses. I think of godly women like Esther and Ruth. I think of those great New Testament saints like Paul, Peter, Dorcas, Barnabas, and so many others. These were those who suffered, but they suffered not because they chose a sinful lifestyle, but because they chose to live for the Lord. Christian, let them be your heroes!

We also need modern day role mod-

els. In Psalm 37 we find these guidelines — a good man will trust in the Lord, will delight himself in the Lord, will commit his life to the Lord, and receives his contentment from the Lord. □

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

Leadership strategies workshop planned in Chattanooga

For Baptist and Reflector

A "Leadership Strategies for a Fast-Forward World" workshop is planned for April 25 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Hamilton County Association office in Chattanooga.

The workshop is sponsored by the association and the Church-Ministers Relations Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Leading the workshop will be Robert D. Dale, assistant

executive director of the Virginia Baptist General Board and director of the Center for Creative Church Leadership Development.

Dale is the author of 15 professional books, including *Pastoral Leadership, Ministers as Leaders, To Dream Again, Keeping the Dream*



DALE

Alive, and Leading Edge. He also has written 200 articles and scripts.

Dale will address these topics: "Why Contemporary Ministers Must Think and Act Strategically — or Get Left Behind," "Reading the New Testament as a Book of Strategy: the Gospels and Acts," "Reading the New Testament as a Book of Strategy: the Pastorals and Revelation," and "Making Myself a Better Strategist."

Dale will attempt to answer

two basic questions: When I have more ministry opportunities and demands than resources, what do I do? and What can I learn from the New Testament and the early church to help me minister more strategically in a changing world?

The workshop is open at no cost to any Baptist minister, said Aubrey Hay of the TBC Church-Ministers Relations Department. For more information, call (615) 371-2010. □

Tennessee Campers on Mission to combine rally, work project

For Baptist and Reflector

Tennessee Campers on Mission will hold its spring rally in conjunction with a work project at Shelby County Association's Camp Cordova, according to COM president Bill Smith.

The work projects will be held April 24-May 7. The rally will be held May 5-7, said Smith, director of missions for Western District Association.

He noted several jobs are needed to be done at the camp. Campers can come any time during that period, he said. Water and electrical hookups are available at the camp.

Work project coordinators are Floyd Choates of Greenbri-

er and Travis Tanner of Parsons. For more information about the work projects, call Tanner at (901) 847-6897; Choates at (615) 643-4373; or Bill Brown, camp manager, at (901) 754-7028.

Tennessee Campers on Mission is affiliated with the Missions Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the special ministries division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Tennessee Campers on Mission provides Christian campers a time for fellowship to-

gether and an outlet for missions work, Smith said.

For Tennessee Campers on Missions who cannot attend the spring rally or work project near Memphis, another opportunity is available, Smith said.

Georgia Campers on Mission is holding its spring rally April 28-30 at Shipp's Yogi Bear Jellistone Park in Chattanooga, Smith said.

To register for the Georgia rally, contact Shipp's campground at 1 (800) 222-4551 and let them know you are with COM and the spring rally, Smith said. □

Adult Homes still accepting resumes

The Search Committee seeking a successor to Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes President-Treasurer J. L. Ford is accepting nominations through April 20.

Ford is retiring from Adult Homes Dec. 31.

Nominations should be sent to Adult Homes, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024, according to Art Mason, chairman of the Search Committee. Nominees also are asked to send a resume to the TBAH office. □

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PIONEER MISSION: Is looking for a bivocational minister of music and youth. Send resumes to: Jerry W. Davis, Box 49, Forsyth, Mont., 59327.

FOR SALE: Church pews, seating for 190-230; various lengths; excellent condition; upholstered in rich burgundy fabric; padded seats and backs; pews are in Hendersonville. For more information, call Kevin Wilkerson at (615) 824-3855 or evenings at 298-5451.

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.

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

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**Life and Work Series
for April 16
Focal Passages:
Mark 15:45 - 16:7**

He is risen!

By Chuck McElhannon

"We have nothing to fear except fear itself." When there is no enemy, there is no fear. When there is no fear, there is peace and hope. The greatest words of hope and assurance ever uttered are perhaps the words of the angel in Mark 16:6. "He has risen! The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the Christian's greatest hope and assurance.

The burial (vv. 42 - 47)

"Joseph of Arimathea ... a man who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God ..." (v. 43). Joseph was on the lookout for the Messiah. He interpreted events in the light of the kingdom of God. When believers can look at what happens around them in an eternal light, then God can speak. When the opportunity came, Joseph was ready, even though he had remained a secret follower of Jesus up to this point.

"He gathered up courage ..." (v. 43). Joseph put his reputation and his social standing as a member of the Sanhedrin at risk in order to speak up before the governor concerning the body of Jesus. There comes a time for all of us when we must step out of the shadows of anonymity and proudly declare our allegiance to Jesus Christ.

"And Pilate wondered if he was dead ..." (v. 44). The Roman execution was designed for extended suffering. Pilate didn't want Jesus to be removed if he had only fainted. The centurion who guarded the cross was able to verify Joseph's account of the death of Jesus. Our world today is filled with people who wonder if Jesus is alive. Christians everywhere are being called on to come forward and verify the claims. Yes, Jesus Christ is alive!

"And Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James ..." These women served Jesus when he was in Galilee (v. 41); were present at the crucifixion (v. 40); were present at the burial (v. 47); and were present at the announcement on Easter morning (ch. 16:1). Their loyalty to Jesus is in stark contrast to the male disciples who scattered and went into hiding. In this respect, Mary Magdalene appears to be a better role model that does Peter, who denied Jesus on three occasions.

The resurrection — ch. 16:1-7

"And when the Sabbath was over ..." (v. 1). The Bible teaches that God set aside a day for worship and rest. As soon as this day of rest was complete, the women made plans for service. Baptists observe Sunday as the Lord's Day. This is our Sabbath. But what about when the Sabbath is over? Do we look for practical ways to serve others?

"Who will roll away the stone for us?" (v. 3). The women were faced with a problem. However, it did not prevent them from attending to Jesus' body. Their devotion was greater than the problem at hand. With God, there are no problems!

"Do not be alarmed" (v. 6). Before the angel could deliver his message, he had to calm their fears. This message is reminiscent of the angels' opening words to the shepherds in Luke 2:10, "Do not be afraid." God was at work in the birth of Jesus, and in his resurrection. There is no need for fear!

"Go, tell ..." (v. 7). The mission of the women has now been changed by God. They came to anoint a dead body. God sent them out with a message about a living Lord! They had been given a new purpose, a new hope, and a new reason for living. Easter always brings newness to those who believe.

"... and Peter ..." (v. 7). Peter had to be restored so God could use him in the next stage of his ministry. Failing God at some point in life doesn't mean that God gives up on us. He is ready to offer a second chance. Let's make sure we share that hope with others. □ — Chuck McElhannon is pastor of Valley View Church, Nashville

Being a resurrection people

By Brian Courtney

What do you think of when you hear the word; "Easter"? Do you think of cantatas, hymns, and choral anthems? Do you think of praising, rejoicing, and thanksgiving to God? Do you think of sermons and Bible studies on Christ's resurrection? Do you think of family, dinner, and conversations after Sunday morning worship? Do you think of what Christ's resurrection means for you?

Witness to the resurrection — Luke 24:1-11

Luke gives multiple witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus. First the presence of Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and other women (v. 10) provides a human witness. The fact that there are more than two persons present underscores the Old Testament principle of two or more witnesses for confirming an event (Deuteronomy 19:15). Second, the absence of the stone and the empty tomb provides, what could be called, a fact witness. While the empty tomb proves only that Jesus' body was gone, it strengthens and heightens the testimony of the witnesses (vv. 22-24). Third, the presence of the two men or messengers provides a supernatural or divine witness. Both the Old and New Testaments demonstrate that God sends messengers to deliver divine messages to humans (Genesis 19; Matthew 1).

But witnesses alone do not evoke faith. The women "were perplexed" about the empty tomb (v. 4). Faith comes in the angel's question, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" These words establish truth of the Gospel: Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. But the messengers' words, "Remember how he told you..." (vv. 6-7) serve to strengthen the faith and witness of the women. All things had happened just as Jesus said, the women remembered what they heard!

Often many complain that Easter services are sameness: same texts, hymns, solos, etc. Easter has almost become rut and rote. The time will come when the congregation will

remember and that will make all the difference. But one cannot remember what one has never heard. So, let the church proclaim in new and old ways! But let the church proclaim and celebrate Christ's resurrection.

Relevance of the resurrection — I Corinthians 15:12-17

How does Christ's resurrection affect Christians? What can a historical event that happened over 1900 years ago have to do with 20th century people? Paul provides an answer to such questions.

Verse 12 suggests that some in Corinth were denying the future resurrection of Christians. This may mean a denial of any kind of life after death. More likely, however, these people claimed to believe that Jesus was raised from the dead and that Jesus had raised believers from a life of sin to a new life. What they denied was a future resurrection of the body.

Paul seeks to correct their belief by forcing the Corinthians to face the logical outcome of their denial of the resurrection of Christians. First, he states that denying a future resurrection is denying Christ's resurrection (v. 13). The two stand or fall together. Second, he identifies three terrible consequences that would follow if Christ is not raised from the dead: (1) Christian preaching and faith would be empty and false (vv. 14-15); (2) Christians would still be in their sins; and (3) those who had lived and died believing in Christ would perish (vv. 18-19).

Encouragement of the resurrection — vv. 56-58

Paul's concluding remarks in verse 58 are most instructive. The use of the word "Therefore..." means that based on what has been written the following should result. What should be a result of the resurrection? A firm faith, working for the Lord, and knowing that this work is not in vain are the results. May these verses encourage every Christian this Easter as we are reminded: "He is not here, but has risen!" □ — Brian Courtney is pastor of First Church, Sneedville.

**Convention Uniform Series
for April 16
Focal Passage
Luke 24:1-11; I Corinthians
15:12-17, 56-58**

Triumph of the risen Lord

By Thomas Vinson

The first book of the Bible ends in the phrase, "in a coffin in Egypt." The first real estate was purchased for a burial ground. Death is that uninvited guest who steals into our homes unexpectedly to claim both the young and the old. It is natural then for us to desire some knowledge of the life beyond the grave. We crave to know with certainty the answer to Job's question, "if a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). Luke 24 answers that question with an emphatic "yes."

Discovery of the empty tomb — vv. 1-12

These women approached the tomb fully expecting to anoint a corpse. Their single mission was to do as much honor and dignity to the dead body of Christ as friends could do. The presence of spices and embalming tools were silent witnesses to their admission of defeat. The good days have ended. They must now deal with unrealized expectations. Jesus had tried to prepare them for this day on several occasions (9:31; 18:31-34). They had heard the words but had not comprehended their significance. What a surprise! The tomb was empty.

How did this happen? Was the body kidnapped by his enemies? The obvious question then would be why? The corpse of Jesus would

**Bible Book Series for April 16
Focal Passage: Luke 24:1-6a, 38-40,
44-52**

have silenced forever the early Christian movement. Was it stolen by his friends? Then we must face the question how? The tomb was guarded by soldiers. The disciples were all filled with fear. The graveclothes were intact. The cumulative evidence rules out this possibility.

Dispelling of their empty hearts — vv. 36-43

The inclusion of the Emmaus disciples gives us a window into the way the disciples were thinking in the aftermath of the crucifixion (vv. 13-35). Their hopes had been shattered. Disappointment and sorrow filled their lives. The first thing Jesus tried to do was to calm their fear (v. 36). To combat their perception that he was a ghost he invited them to touch him. They observed him eat the fish and became convinced that this was not some mystical trickery, but that this was Jesus Christ.

Disclosure to their empty minds — vv. 44-49

Jesus proceeded to open their minds so they could understand the Scriptures (v. 45). He was careful to point out that everything that had happened in recent days was all in

accord with a predetermined plan which God was unfolding before their eyes. Luke, a Gentile, is observant of the fact that this message is to be preached to "all nations" (v. 47). He will develop this theme further in the Acts. Repentance and remission of sins is a universal need, therefore requires universal exposure. This cannot possibly be accomplished in the power of man, but is dependent upon the power of God's Spirit (v. 49).

Departure from this earthly ministry — vv. 50-53

The ascension accomplished three things. First, it consummated his first coming. What a fitting ending to such a glorious life. Should Jesus have stayed in the grave it would have been like a symphony ending on a sour note. Secondly, it precipitated his Spirit's coming. Jesus said, "if I go not away, the Spirit will not come" (John 16:7). Lastly, it anticipated his second coming. This Easter celebrate his finished work on the cross, appropriate his Spirit's power, and anticipate his return. □ — Thomas Vinson is pastor of Leawood Church, Memphis.

Memorial honors slain CSI couple

Baptist Press

KHABAROVSK, Russia — Baptists in this far-eastern Russia city honored slain Southern Baptists Chu Hon and Kei Wol Yi during a memorial service at Khabarovsk Korean Church April 2.

The couple, who worked through Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization, was found dead in their apartment by local police March 28. Police reported Yi had sustained several blows to his head and his wife had been strangled.

CSI administrators from Hong Kong met with local authorities to arrange for the immediate repatriation of their bodies and meet with the police to discuss the murder investigation.

The Yis, who participated in a medical exchange program through CSI, were from Virginia Beach, Va. □

Mississippi church chosen for ABC Easter broadcast

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — The ABC television network has announced it will broadcast the Easter Sunday worship service April 16 at First Church here as part of its expanded coverage of religion

in America.

Some of the country's most powerful large-market stations plan to broadcast the service, including stations in Los Angeles, Denver, and Chicago. Check local listings.

Jack Johnson, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, said ABC approached the SBC agency about supplying a videotape of a live Easter service at First Church. The Jackson church was chosen because of their excellent television facilities and Frank Pollard, the church's pastor, who is featured on the radio and television versions of "The Baptist Hour," produced and distributed internationally by the RTVC.

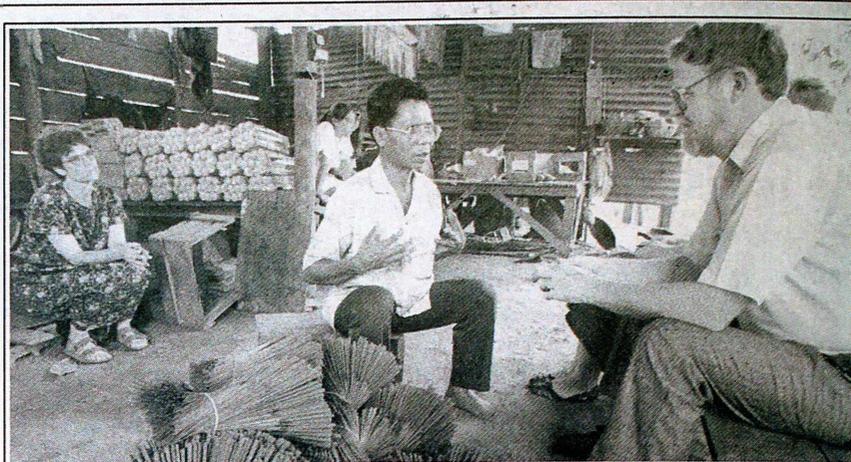
Pollard said he is pleased a secular U.S. television network has awakened to the importance of religion in everyday American life. □

SEBTS suffers setback in rezoning request

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's request to rezone a parcel of the school's land was rebuffed March 21 by the Wake Forest town commission.

Ignoring the recommendation of the town's planning board and siding with area merchants opposed to the school's plans, town commissioners voted 4-1 to deny Southeastern's request to re-



FMB marks milestones in missionary personnel

Missionaries Steve and Sue Kavli of Alvin, Texas, shown here visiting in a Thai home, are among a record number of Foreign Mission Board missionaries now under assignment. In this photo, the Kavlis visit with Buaphaa Munmani, center, who became a Christian through the witness of Baptist Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand. The board's total missionary force, now numbering about 4,100, topped the 4,000-mark for the first time in 1994. Also in 1994, the board sent out a record 545 mission workers, surpassing its previous record the year before of 498. — Photo by Don Rutledge

zone 63 undeveloped acres for business and commercial use.

The property, located a mile from the school's campus, is under contract to an Atlanta development company whose offer to purchase the land in January was accepted by Southeastern trustees with a contingency that the property be rezoned.

The land currently is classified as "rural holding," which means any use of the land would require the city to rezone the land for the particular use.

Saying the request did not match the town's land use plan, commissioner Joseph Cooke made the motion to deny.

A Southeastern spokesman said school officials were disappointed and will continue to pursue the matter with the prospective buyer. □

'Mind of Christ' study coming to BSSB

Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE — Developing a mind like Christ's is an intricate journey in discovering how Jesus thought.

T.W. Hunt, a Sunday School Board retiree and well-known prayer leader in Southern Baptist circles, will lead the conference, "The Mind of Christ," a 13-week LIFE course, at the BSSB, April 17-19.

The study starts at 7 p.m., April 17, and concludes at noon on April 19.

Registration fee is \$67. For information, contact the BSSB's Church Program Training Center at (615) 251-2294. □

Disbanded church earmarks \$1.2 million for theology school

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA — A disbanded Atlanta congregation has earmarked about \$1.2 million from a recent property sale for a proposed theology school at Mercer University.

Emory Church completed a sale of its property in early March to neighboring Emory University for \$1.5 million. Eighty percent of the proceeds are designated for a new theology school at Mercer, the Georgia Christian Index reported March 16.

Supporters hope the Mercer University School of Theology will open in the fall of 1996 on the Baptist university's Atlanta campus. The school would join the list of theological education alternatives cropping up in response to growing conservatism at seminaries owned by the Southern Baptist Convention. □

School voucher bill resurfaces in Senate

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A bill offered in the U.S. Senate to set up test projects for a "school choice" voucher plan is likely to renew a debate over tax funding of private schools, observers in Washington say.

Two senators announced March 24 that they plan to introduce a bill designed to test school voucher systems. The Low Income School Choice Demonstration Act, co-sponsored by Sens. Joseph Lieber-

man, D.-Conn., and Dan Coats, R.-Ind., would spend approximately \$30 million a year for three years to create 10 to 20 school-choice test projects for low-income children.

Contrary to critics who allege vouchers would lower the educational quality of public schools by robbing them of funding, the senators claim choice plans would stimulate quality by introducing competition into the educational system. But aside from the impact on public schools, some groups contend there are constitutional problems associated with public dollars supporting religious schools. The bill would allow any school, public or private, to benefit from the voucher plan. □

Baptist convention gets grant to promote abstinence in schools

Baptist Press

BALTIMORE — With a financial boost of almost \$100,000, the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware will promote sexual abstinence in public schools through a "True Love Waits" campaign.

The \$99,750 grant comes from the Baltimore-based Abell Foundation, a group which seeks "solutions to ... social and economic problems." Because of concern over teenage and unwed pregnancies in the Baltimore area, the foundation awarded the grant to the convention.

"This is a major miracle," said Peggy Kessinger, a Mission Service Corps volunteer in single adult ministry at the convention. □

Tennessee Baptist Carolyn Tomlin goes from writing student to instructor

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — When Tennessee Baptist Carolyn Tomlin attended her first Writers Workshop at the Baptist Sunday School Board seven years ago, she was an inexperienced, unpublished, aspiring writer.

Today, she's the author of more than 1,200 articles in 115 publications, including 35 Southern Baptist products. "Attending the Writers Workshop changed my life," said Tomlin, a kindergarten teacher and pastor's wife at Wards Grove Church, Jackson. "It gave me the background to put ideas to work. I am so excited about writing now."

Meeting editors like Charlie Warren from *Home Life* magazine inspired Tomlin to develop her skills and pursue a part-time writing ca-

reer. She now churns out close to 200 articles a year, often getting story ideas on long walks or while driving to work.

"I'm always looking for new markets because I love to write," she said. "I get to talk with such interesting people and travel to interesting places."

Now, Tomlin will soon be a faculty member at the Writers Workshop, scheduled July 17-20 at the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Program Training Center in Nashville.

The workshop is designed for anyone interested in sharpening basic writing skills or learning more about writing opportunities with the BSSB.

For registration information, call the Church Program Training Center at (615) 251-2294. □