

# Baptist and Reflector

May 10, 1995

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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week's  
news**

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## Henry makes his nominations

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Appointments to the Southern Baptist Convention's Committee on Committees have been announced by SBC President Jim Henry.

Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., announced the Committee on Committees May 5. The SBC bylaws require the president to announce the appointment of the Committee on Committees, along with the Resolutions Committee, "at least 45 days in advance of the meeting."

The credentials and tellers committees must be made public 30 days before the annual meeting, according to the SBC bylaws.

The Committee on Committees has 70 members, two from each of the 35 state or regional conventions qualified for representation on SBC entities. The committee announced by Henry has 43 members from church- and denomination-related positions and 23 members who are not church or denominational staff members.

SBC Bylaw 21 says the Committee on Committees "shall nominate all special committees authorized during the sessions of the convention not otherwise provided for." The usual responsibility of the committee is to nominate members of the Committee on Nominations, which, in turn, nominates trustees to serve on the 19 national entities of the SBC.

Henry named Mark Corts, pastor of Calvary Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., as the committee chairman.

Other Committee on Com-

mittees members are:

ALABAMA — Dale Wallace, layperson, First Church, Trussville; Charles Freeman, minister, Hillwood Church, Huntsville.

ALASKA — Joe Draper, layperson, First Church, Kotzebue; Bob Buster, minister, First Church, Eagle River.

ARIZONA — Jerry Benson, layperson, First Church, Chandler; Barry Norwood, minister, First Southern Church, Prescott.

ARKANSAS — Barry King, minister, Grand Avenue Church, Hot Springs; David Uth, minister, Immanuel Church, El Dorado.

CALIFORNIA — Kent Dacus, layperson, Magnolia Avenue Church, Riverside; Randy McWhorter, minister, First Church, Fountain Valley.

COLORADO — Carl Rider, minister, Mississippi Avenue Church, Aurora; Ed Gatlin, minister, First Church, Westminster.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA — Ed Williams, minister, First Church, Wheaton, Md.; Mark Houvenagle, minister, Clinton Church, Clinton, Md.

FLORIDA — George Thomasson, minister, Northwood Church, West Palm Beach; Gary Crawford, minister, Westside Church, Gainesville.

GEORGIA — Don Bouldin, minister, Briarlake Church, Decatur; Mike Fountain, layperson, Second Church, Columbus.

HAWAII — David Martin, minister, Kailua Church, Kailua; Deanna Aoki, layperson, Pali View Church, Kaneohe.

ILLINOIS — Bill Pauls,

layperson, First Church, Marion; Roger Marshall, minister, First Church, Effingham.

INDIANA — Charles Culp, layperson, Calvary Church, Seymour; Steve Faith, minister, Ross Church, Gary.

KANSAS-NEBRASKA — Dean Dennington, layperson, Emmanuel Church, Overland Park, Kan.; Don Lacy, minister, Calvary Valley Center Church, Valley Center, Kan.

KENTUCKY — Keith Walker, layperson, Carlisle Avenue Church, Louisville; Kevin McCallon, minister, First Church, Paducah.

LOUISIANA — Joe Kite, layperson, Parkview Church, Alexandria; Joe Perry, minister, First Church, Bossier City.

MARYLAND-DELAWARE — Dennis Ball, minister, First Church, Laurel, Md.; Pete Holt, layperson, Faith Church, Glen Burnie, Md.

MICHIGAN — Jerry Bailey, minister, Gorham Church, Jackson; Betty Babb, layperson, Merriman Road Church, Garden City.

MISSISSIPPI — Randy Turner, minister, First Church, Laurel; Bernie Ebberts, layperson, First Church, Brookhaven.

MISSOURI — Robert Barnes, layperson, Plaza Heights Church, Blue Springs; Jim Hardwicke, minister, Frederick Boulevard Church, St. Joseph.

NEVADA — Frank Lewis, minister, Green Valley Church, Henderson; Nancy Owen, layperson, South Reno Church, Reno.

NEW ENGLAND — David Platt, minister, First Church, — See Henry, page 2

## ATS to visit Southern seminary

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Association of Theological Schools (ATS), accrediting agency for seminaries in the United States and Canada, has contacted Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to arrange a "focused site visit" to examine concerns raised by members of the seminary's Faculty Committee.

Seminary representatives said they anticipate a visit will take place in the fall and will focus on the institution's faculty hiring process.

In announcing the ATS contact, seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. expressed confidence that the seminary's hiring process is well within ATS standards.

The ATS contact comes following the dismissal March 20 of Diana R. Garland as dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work. She had made public a dispute with Mohler over the hiring of a social work professor who, in a query by Mohler, revealed he could acknowledge women as pastors. Mohler refused to give his approval to the recommendation.

At the recent meeting of the seminary's trustees, the board affirmed Mohler in the dispute and approved additional hiring guidelines, including criteria opposed to women as pastors. The board also approved an addition to the faculty manual dealing with faculty behavior in times of conflict.

Faculty members believe the new hiring process unfairly penalizes teachers who were hired at the seminary under different rules. For example, a professor who currently does not have tenure, but was hired with the expectation of gaining tenure would now have to be re-examined. □ — Associated Baptist Press contributed to this story

## Lottery bill delayed; beer put down

The Tennessee Senate last week delayed a vote on a proposed lottery. The bill will be brought to the floor for a vote on May 23. The proposal lacked enough votes for passage.

Votes by House and Senate approved a bill which gives counties with zoning laws the right to prohibit beer sales within 300 feet of a residence. An amendment exempting the new Nashville arena was defeated, giving the decision back to Metro Council. □

## Churches' giving still up

For Baptist and Reflector

April Cooperative Program through Tennessee Baptist churches totaled \$1,850,247.

But according to James Porch, TBC executive director/treasurer, the amount enabled the year-to-date total to remain above last year at the same time.

"While the monthly amount was below April's budget needs," said Porch, "the YTD total of \$13,203,369 is above last year's by \$276,589, or 2.16 percent."

Porch commended Tennessee Baptist churches for good stewardship. "Tennessee Baptists continue to maintain their discipline, cooperation, and commitment to world missions through the Cooperative Program," he said.

The six-months total puts the annual budget of \$26,184,634 within range. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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## Henry makes his ...

— Continued from page 1  
Sudbury, Mass.; Randy Reno, minister, Christ Church, Hopedale, Mass.

**NEW MEXICO** — Melody Marrow, layperson, Taylor Ranch Church, Albuquerque; Mack McCarthick, minister, Hillcrest Church, Lovington.

**NEW YORK** — Bob Cope, layperson, Christ Community Church, Waldwick, N.J.; Charles Long, minister, Somerset Hills Church, Basking Ridge, N.J.

**NORTH CAROLINA** — Mark Cortis, chairman; Dot Seagraves, layperson, Carmel Church, Charlotte.

**NORTHWEST** — Jerry Kanzler, layperson, Emmanuel Church, Pullman, Wash.; Keith Evans, minister, Central Church, Monmouth, Ore.

**OHIO** — Bob Hatcher, minister, First Church, Mt. Orab; Sam Koom, layperson, Jersey Church, Pataskala.

**OKLAHOMA** — Russell Duck, minister, First Church, Woodward; Sam Hammons, minister, Quail Springs Church, Oklahoma City.

**PENNSYLVANIA - S. JERSEY** — Jim Walker, minister, First Church, Williamsport, Pa.; Steve Shelton, minister, Buxmont Church, Hatboro, Pa.

**SOUTH CAROLINA** — Ron Davis, minister, North Side Church, Greenwood; Don Brock, layperson, Gateway Church, Irmo.

**TENNESSEE** — Dean Haun, minister, Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage; Jerry Childs, layperson, First Church Concord, Knoxville.

**TEXAS** — Gary Miller, minister, Sagamore Hill Church, Fort Worth; Don Wilson, layperson, Green Acres Church, Tyler.

**UTAH - IDAHO** — Ed Chaney, minister, Southeast Church, Salt Lake City; Warren Osborne, minister, First Church, West Valley City, Utah.

**VIRGINIA** — Albert Peveral Jr, minister, Jackson Memorial Church, Chesapeake; Becky Bolinsky, layperson, First Church, Roanoke.

**WEST VIRGINIA** — Jim Boley, layperson, Good Shepherd Church, Scott Depot; Delbert Walker, minister, White Sulphur Springs Church, White Sulphur.

**WYOMING** — Jim Hutto, minister, Jackson Hole Church, Jackson; Wayne Spencer, minister, College Heights Church, Casper. □

## Henry names other leaders, Tennesseans

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Members of the following committees for the June 20-22 Atlanta meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention have been named by SBC President Jim Henry and include the following chairman and Tennessee committee members.

**Resolutions Committee** — Charles Carter, pastor, Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham, Ala, chair.

**Credentials Committee** — Phil Roberts, director of the Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department, Atlanta, chair; Robert Gamble, layperson, Columbia; Doug White, pastor, First Church, Mount Olive South, Knoxville, members.

**Tellers Committee** — Bob Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, chair; Bob Stitts, pastor, Bayside Church, Harrison, member. □

## Nominees for entities include Tennesseans

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Nominees to serve on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and the boards, agencies, commissions, committees, and seminaries have been selected by the 1995 Committee on Nominations.

They will serve if elected by messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 20-22 at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. The final report will be printed in the SBC Bulletin, First Day, Part II.

Included in this listing are only Tennessee nominees.

**Executive Committee** — Hollie Miller, Knoxville, nominated for a second term.

**Foreign Mission Board** — Richard D. Sisk, Memphis, nominated for a second term.

**Home Mission Board** — Edward R. Futrell, Johnson City, nominated for a second term.

**Sunday School Board** — J. Don Hill, automobile dealer and member of Calvary Church, Kingsport, replacing Judy Beeler, Knoxville, who resigned. (Note: This nominee will not be elected if the Sunday School Board's proposed charter amendment to change the state eligibility number for receiving an additional member from 250,000 to 500,000 in Baptist population and another additional trustee for each additional 500,000 members is approved by the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention.)

**Southwestern Seminary** — Robert C. Burch, Knoxville, nominated for a second term.

**Southeastern Seminary** — Jimmy D. Hedrick, pastor of New Hope Church, Seneca, Kan., replacing Adrian P. Rogers, Cordova, who declined to serve a second term.

**Southern Baptist Foundation** — John D. Wallace, Morristown, representing the Executive Committee, replacing a member ineligible for reelection; and L. Marshall Albritton, Nashville, at-large member being renominated for a second term.

**Christian Life Commission** — Ben Wilkes, pastor, Second Church, Union City, replacing James A. "Jackie" Kay, Bartlett, who declined to serve

a second term.

**Historical Commission** — Harry C. Grothjahn Jr., Maryville, nominated for a second term.

**Stewardship Commission** (30 members) — Allen W. Watson, Dickson, nominated for a second term.

Entities without Tennessee nominees include Annuity Board, Southern Seminary, New Orleans Seminary, Midwestern Seminary, American Baptist Seminary, Education Commission, Brotherhood Commission, Radio and Television Commission, Committee on Order of Business, Denominational Calendar Committee, Baptist World Alliance, and North American Baptist Fellowship. □

## Knoxville woman wins award for preaching at Southern Seminary

Associated Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A week after trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary decided to hire only professors who believe that only males are called to preach, women swept the top three awards in the seminary's annual preaching competition.

One of the three is Dixie Petrey of Knoxville, who gained third place.

The top two awards went to Kimberly Baker, Lincolnton, N. C., and Mary Beth McCloy, Philippi, W. Va.

The winners, selected by an all-male committee, were announced April 27. This was one week after trustees affirmed President Al Mohler's belief that prospective faculty members must interpret the Bible to prohibit women from serving as pastors. Trustees also adopted a more general statement outlining their own belief in the prohibition against female pastors.

While women have won the Clyde T. Francisco Preaching Awards before, this is the first time women have won the top three awards.

Recipients of the preaching award were selected by a panel of six students and two faculty members, all male. The initial field of 28 entries was narrowed to three finalists based on a review of written manuscripts which did not identify the author by name or gender. Only after the three finalists were selected did the judges hear audio tapes of the sermons to determine first, second, and third places.

The awards were established in memory of Clyde Francisco, Old Testament professor at Southern from 1947 to 1981. Each award carries a prize of \$200, and the top two winners preached their sermons in seminary chapel services — May 2 and May 4.

Supporters of equal ministry opportunities for women and men said they were heartened by the outcome of these awards. □

## Baptists respond to Oklahoma crisis

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Baptists from around the world have responded to the needs of the Oklahoma City bombing victims by providing more than \$260,000 in relief funds.

The relief fund was set up by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma to help with funeral expenses, hospital costs or related expenses in the wake of the April 19 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

Charles Graves, president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, and William G. Tanner, executive director/treasurer, said they were taken aback at the amount given.

By May 5, donations totalled \$263,530.08. The relief fund committee met May 3 to deal with some assistance requests and to decide how the money will be disbursed. □

# What to do about terrorism, participants?

Physical terrorism is an abomination that has become reality. No longer can it be pushed behind the curtains.

The purveyors of physical terrorism want to create havoc that can be seen, and probably, somewhere and at some time, would like for themselves to be prominently seen everywhere.

There are, however, terrorists all around us, disguised as good people.

It seems likely that mental, moral, and spiritual terrorism are prevalent today and reflects the lifestyle of our nation.

What happened in Oklahoma City reflects a lifestyle of people who believe in causes so strongly that they justify their actions. They believe the end justifies the means.

Terrorism that strikes out against a person, a group, a commercial enterprise, or a religious group is arrogant and irresponsible and cowardly.

Terrorism, as it is generally understood goes to any extreme, promotes any method or tactic, sacrifices truth and integrity to achieve a selfish end.

Terrorism is not limited, however, to the groups that are violent. Terrorists seem to be willing to ignore the innocent, punishing them along with the "so-called" enemy.

Terrorists may see themselves in a far more generous light than do bystanders

or victims. There seems to be some sort of "hero" or martyr syndrome.

Every citizen of America should stand up and accept accountability among all of us. The bombing of a federal office building in Oklahoma City, with its murder of more than 150 people is far more vicious and heinous than ordinary crimes.

The rank display of hatred and disdain for innocent lives is anything but heroic. Americans, especially Baptists, should be grateful they have bonafide heroes on which to rely.

Among them we can count men and women from the past and present — like Herschel Hobbs, Baker James Cauthen, James L. Sullivan, Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, Bill Wallace, George Truett,

and a host of others who did not consider the cost when they stood up for Christ.

The scary situation with hate groups and para-military groups spouting a continuous stream of hate America venom is indicative of moral rottenness.

Politically correct solutions will not suffice. Submission to threats and doom-sayers will not protect us.

Each person should be aware of terrorists among us: in politics, religion, on the job, in the marketplace, in news media, among the "heroes" in literature and the Hollywood scene, among fanatics involved with self-centered cults, and in often unsuspected guises.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, the Bible says. This is good advice. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ one word more  
By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

## More than building

Said Pastor Kevin Quinn, "This is a well-made building and we are proud of it. It is a vital part of our heritage.

"But," he added, "the real strength of the real church is what counts. And that real church is all the people."

We were worshiping and celebrating with Union Academy Church last September. The occasion was the 150th anniversary of the birth of the church.

Someone observed that it was indeed God's own miracle that the church could be the people, and the church could be 150 years old, and yet there was not a single member approaching that age.

More than a building! Yes, the churches are more than buildings.

On May 7, I participated in a rich tribute to Baptist heritage and the godly people who had stepped out with courage to form the Southern Baptist Convention 150 years ago.

The church (people, mind you) of Sand Ridge, Lexington, built a brush arbor for the occasion.

It was good to stand with them and talk about the concepts and doctrines which led that small group. They broke away from the Triennial Convention in 1845, May 10, to begin a new work.

The new work, birthed and fostered by the Holy Spirit, was founded on soul liberty, priesthood of the believer, worship of the only God, the steadfast truth of his Word, and salvation by personal surrender to Jesus Christ.

We talked about how Southern Baptist work has flourished while we follow those distinctives.

When we waver, the work suffers. We recounted the relentless struggle of Baptist forefathers, and expressed appreciation for the hard-earned title of "those troublesome Baptists."

We remembered how those leaders of the past were almost always out in front, leading in building on those Baptist distinctives.

Thank you, Baptists of 1845. You built a trustworthy foundation, and stamped that label on all your Spirit-ed works and prayers. ■



ALLEN

## On being aware of SBC heritage

This very week, Southern Baptists in various ways are remembering and celebrating 150 years of Southern Baptist Convention history.

Although the sesquicentennial will get the "full" treatment when the SBC meets in June, the SBC Historical Commission and Historical Society honor history and heritage this week.

Meeting in Augusta, Ga., where it all began in 1845, the society and commission celebrates on the very scene this week. The original discussions, actions, and reactions are being relived.

The Historical Commission has made available to all state Baptist papers a se-

ries of articles about the history of the SBC. The *Baptist and Reflector* has used all of them and the final article, written by the editor, will appear prior to the June SBC annual meeting.

Southern Baptists have produced some real heroes, giants among people, during these 150 years.

Most of the Augusta sessions this week are being held at First Church, the same site (but a new building) where the SBC began.

Important? Yes, the beginning of the Southern Baptist Convention merits a spot at the top of religious history — in the United States and in the world. □

## Dealing with death in family

The recent death of my mother-in-law has led me to reconsider the issue of death as it relates to the family.

My oldest daughter is 21; this is the first close relative that she has lost. I have been part of this family for 27 years and have done funerals for all deaths since.

I became aware of three things as we went through the grieving process, the impending loss, and the loss itself.

The presence of family and friends is absolutely essential. The preparation of the children to experience the death cannot be overlooked. The process of grieving must be understood and accepted.

Family that has not visited in years become close allies in the face of the crisis. My mother-in-law was diagnosed with cancer and died only 19 days later.

The family was still in shock most of the way through the process. It is important at this time to put old grievances aside and circle the wagons to withstand the ferocious attack of grief and loss.

It is also important that we not presume to know what the other person is feeling or experiencing. Through the years I have known many peo-

### ■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

ple who meant well when they told the grieving relative, "I know how you feel, I lost my mother to cancer." We can never really know how the other person feels because each of our relationships is uniquely different.

Everyone feels his grief work is special and this must be acknowledged and affirmed.

The presence of family and friends is needed much more than the platitudes. As a young preacher I used to worry that I would be able to say the "right" thing.

Years later I know now there is no "right word." But there is also no wrong presence of someone who truly cares.

The children must be prepared to face the experience of the death of a loved one. This is best done by simply talking to the child about his concerns.

Let the child guide the direction of the conversation; then answer his inquiries and statements. One general mistake that adults make here is giving more information than

is requested or understood.

It is similar to the boy who asked his mother where he came from. She had dreaded that question for years but gave him her best "birds and bees" talk.

After her long detailed explanation he simply replied, "I just wondered. Billy said he came from Nashville."

The process of grief is perplexing. Many models have been developed to explain the "stages" of grief. I discovered a new model recently that depicts grief as a ball of knotted emotions (anger, depression, doubt, despair, etc).

I like this model because I have not found grief that follows anyone's stage theory since these emotions come and go in random order with little or no discernable pattern in most of our experiences.

My father-in-law stated it well when he would reply to people who asked how he was doing by saying, "We laugh a little and cry a lot, then we laugh a lot and cry a little."

Each of us has a unique pattern and this must be acknowledged and affirmed. □



BARKLEY

### ■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

#### Start with a Smile

Joe: "When are you going to pay me what you owe me. I have sent you a bill for six months!" Bill: "Listen, I owe money to so many people I can't pay up. Every month I put all my bills in a hat and draw out five to pay." Joe: "When are you going to draw mine out?" Bill: "I don't know but if you don't leave me alone, I won't put yours in."

#### Take this truth

Are you overextended? In money, time, or any other way? Relax and take a good look at yourself. Don't try to impress others. Be yourself!

#### Memorize this Scripture

"Ponder the paths of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established" (Proverbs 4:26)

#### Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to care about what people think of me but not too much. Let me realize someone who attempts to set my agenda is not a true friend. □

## ■ 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. □

### Handling diversity

In the history of theological thought and reflection, godly men like Aquinas, Melancthon, and Calvin have sought to understand the teaching of Scripture in an accurate, systematic way. But one should never place any theological system over the Holy Scriptures or in a position of equality with them. This is the value of Dr. Herschel Hobbs argument. Scripture rules.

However, there is nothing wrong with embracing a position if one is convinced, after prayerful study and reflection, that position accurately represents the teaching of the Holy Scripture. Dr. Hobbs may not realize it, but his position is really a modified version of the teaching which was systematically developed by James Arminius, a 16th-century Dutch theologian. Arminius, a first-rate Biblical scholar, developed his theology as a compassionate alternative to what he perceived to be a harsh, rigid, and arid Calvinism. Over time, his theology has been refined until it has come to us, especially through John Wesley, in a number of forms, one of which is being maintained by Dr. Hobbs.

Dr. Hobbs believes that he has the teaching of Christ and the apostles, so does Dr. Mohler. Dr. Hobbs is an Arminian who believes in eternal security. Dr. Mohler is a Calvinist. Dr. Hobbs' position reflects the theology of Arminius, Wesley, Fletcher, Finney, Moody, Torrey and Sunday. Dr. Mohler's view reflects that of Calvin, Whitefield, Spurgeon, Fuller, Carey, Boyce, and Broadus.

Are we mature enough to avoid caricaturing one another and instead graciously handle diversity

within our common cause of the Gospel?

Michael Moore  
Parsons 38363

### Women in missions

I am shocked and deeply concerned about the "Covenant for a New Century" and how it will affect Woman's Missionary Union. What about the rich and long history of Woman's Missionary Union supporting our missionaries through prayer and our mission offerings? What about the many volunteer hours on the mission fields at home and abroad?

The changes, which are easy to see, are based on such concepts as "control," "centralization," "power," "authority," "accountability," and "command."

It is also clear to see the stripping of leadership from women. But, God calls women to serve him as well as men. Jesus elevated the station of women 2,000 years ago — just look at the number of women who have been and still are missionaries around the world! Where would our missions effort be today if it had not been for Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, and countless other women who were and are missionaries?

Woman's Missionary Union, seemed to be left out under the present organization as an auxiliary to promote missions.

Lucille Campbell  
Knoxville 37918

### He's puzzled

I am puzzled and perplexed with the letter by our state president. What was he writing about? I have scanned the Baptist horizon and have not detected even a small cloud that autonomy is being threatened. There is a cloud on cooperation, but it is not at all in the direction Dr. Hawkins is looking. It has become so insignificant that I hesitate to mention it. The "cooperation cloud" comes from a group that could destroy the Cooperative Program by trying to lead our churches to another plan of mission giving. The "other" organization has a small mission force made up mainly of non-cooperative missionaries that were once Southern Baptists.

Raising storm flags when there is no storm in the "Baptist universe" is serious business. Our Southern Baptist Convention meetings are open. Many speak and all messengers who desire to, can vote.

The only real concern I have for Southern Baptists is our lack of devotion, faithfulness, and dedication to our Lord.

Clay Frazier  
Morristown 37814

### Thanks, WMU!

I want to thank Randy Latch for his good tribute to Woman's Missionary Union. I am so thankful for what WMU has accomplished and with God's guidance will continue to accomplish.

I am so proud to have been a member for more than 50 years.

Henrietta Isbell  
Woodland Mills 37271

### Doesn't like plan

Several of us here do not fear

change but we do not agree with the reorganization plan for the SBC called "Covenant for a New Century" and the overwhelming consequences for WMU.

It challenges the existence of this organization which has thrived for over a century.

Mildred Dowdy  
Ripley 38063

### Don't lose vision

As WMU director of Central Baptist Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, my heart is heavy with concern and hurt for the future of Woman's Missionary Union.

For over 40 years I have remembered being taught to "let my little light shine" for Jesus. Through the years I have been blessed by wonderful Christian women who have shown me how to be involved in missions.

How it hurts to be ignored by a group who seem to feel that God put them in charge of the Southern Baptist world!

I have led all age levels of WMU to pray, learn, give, and do missions, but I fear for the future of our missionaries if this task is passed off to an unprepared group. I believe most pastors would agree that little missions education would have been accomplished without Woman's Missionary Union.

Why is there such fear of an auxiliary that freely gives missions money to the Southern Baptist Convention and asks for nothing in return? Are we losing our vision of Matthew 28:19-20? As a grandmother, I will continue to feel the responsibility of teaching our young ones to follow God's calling.

I challenge each messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention to realize this is a time for boldness. Woman's Missionary Union is not an organization that God is finished with.

Sandy Bolton  
Knoxville 37918

### Calvinist view

How reassuring that one of our SBC leaders, Albert Mohler, defends his Calvinistic (sovereignty of God) views. Ironically, Baptists with Arminian (sovereignty of man) views have no problem with one of the five points of Calvinism: the perseverance of the saints, but deny the other four: unconditional election, total inability of man, limited atonement, and irresistible grace.

The inconsistency is believing that God's sovereignty is strong enough to keep one saved, but not strong enough to save him to begin with. Man controls his own "decision" (good Baptist term) or election (good Bible term), with God becoming sovereign after that point.

The belief system of our SBC ancestors had a strong view of the sovereignty of God and inability of man versus today's belief system of the sovereignty of God and inability of God. Could this be the influence of a humanistic society?

Dr. Hobbs implies that Calvinists do not adhere to John 3:16 that "whosoever believeth may be saved." Careful study shows that Calvinists believe it all begins with God (John 6:37, 44; 13:18;

15:16,19; 17:2,9,24) and only God can save anybody, anywhere, anytime. This is why Calvinists believe strongly in missions.

Although Dr. Hobbs correctly says we should look to Jesus rather than Calvin or Boyce; why not also study the strength of our Baptist ancestors? Men such as Manly, Johnson, Howell, Fuller, Wayland, Rice, Dagg, Mell, Broadus, Kerfoot, Gambrell, Carroll, etc. — SBC presidents, SBC seminary and college professors and teachers. And their ancestors: Bunyan, Backus, Carey, Spurgeon, etc. We may find that these men would today be called that "C" word:

Prestint McReynolds  
Knoxville 37922

### Supports WMU

We cannot remain silent about the new structure that's been proposed by the program and Structure Study Committee of the SBC Executive Committee to delete the promotion of missions from Woman's Missionary Union, the focus of WMU ("the mission arm" of the local church) for many years.

We are opposed to seven men (nominated by Executive Committee officers) making this decision for thousands of Southern Baptists. In 1888, Lottie Moon, our first missionary to China, upon hearing of the organization for women back in American, requested that they take an offering to provide for two missionaries to be sent to China.

Not only did they gather enough funds for two missionaries, but enough for three! This was the beginning of foreign missions by women, not men.

It was reported by the *Baptist and Reflector* that at the end of 1994 over \$85 million had been received for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Woman's Missionary Union of the local church promoted the offering.

In Burlison, our small church gives 20 percent (\$20,000) of our budget (\$148,000) to the Cooperative Program, and part of this may have been used to defray the expenses of the Study Committee which overlooked the purpose of Woman's Missionary Union.

Was God's will sought? Did this

committee petition all State Executive Directors for advice and prayer support? Did you bathe this matter in prayer for several months before coming to this decision?

We plan to be in Atlanta in June at the Convention.

Howard and Theodosia Clift  
Covington 3801

### Better days?

Like many others, I am saddened by the most recent developments at my once "beloved" Southern Baptist Theological Seminary that nurtured me in the faith for 10 years. A recent issue of *The Christian Century* (April 12, 1995, pgs. 390-403) included a debate between Thomas Oden and Lewis Mudge on "heresy."

At one point, Mudge, dean of the faculty at San Francisco Theological Seminary, makes a statement regarding heresy that Southern Baptists have forgotten.

He states: "So if we are going to discuss the concept of heresy, we realize that one of the greatest heresies, in the sense of theologically defending conduct unworthy of the Gospel, has been to sacrifice human beings (impugn their motives, silent them, torture them, kill them) in the name of allegedly higher principles (purity of doctrine, integrity of the community, reasons of state).

"In short, the way that we have handled alleged doctrinal deviance has often been heretical itself. Heated rhetoric against one's opponents can itself be destructive enough to produce a *status confessionis*, a situation which questions the integrity of our faith confession in the light of the theological justification we give ourselves for our behavior" (pg. 395).

Indeed, a lost and dying world looks at some Southern Baptists, questions the integrity of our faith, and turns a deaf ear to the message. And we think we are on the road to "better days!"

Charlie W. Boggan, pastor  
First Church  
Newport 37821

## Baby busters/boomers meeting set

Two "Reaching Baby Boomers and Baby Busters" conferences will take place this month.

The first conference is set for May 15 at First Church, Concord, Knoxville. The second is slated for May 22 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

Both conferences are scheduled from 1:30-8 p.m., local time. Cost of the conference is \$20 and includes materials, break, dinner, and a complimentary copy of *Out of Their Faces and Into Their Shoes* by John Kramp.

Speakers include Harold Bryson, Nashville, Jimmy Knott, Orlando, Fla., Dan Francis, Nashville, and Wayne Jones, Franklin.

For more information, call (615) 371-2055. □



KNOTT



BRYSON



JONES



FRANCIS



# Partnership Missions NEWSLETTER

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

## From the director

One of my favorite verses is John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Can you imagine what your life would be like today if someone had not shared this Good News with you? Yet there are millions who have never heard this Good News!

I shall never forget Marilea, a 15-year-old Brazilian, that I met in a fishing village called Logoa da Conceicao. It was 1988 and a group of volunteers were with us holding an evangelistic meeting. Marilea was one of six precious souls who asked Jesus into their hearts that warm summer night.

Later she shared her journey to Christ with us as we loaded the equipment into the car. Nature had convinced her that there must be a God.

Stars in the skies, the bright colors of the flowering trees that dotted the beautiful landscape, along with other things, told her there must be a God who loved her enough to create them.

But how could she find out about God? She went first to

her parents, but they were unable to tell her anything and directed her to a priest in the nearest village. A long trek and even longer conversation proved fruitless. Though the clergyman told her many things, she left feeling confused and unfulfilled in her quest for God.

Not long after that, Marilea saw a sign in a local shop advertising our upcoming crusade. Hope welled in her heart, and she resolved to attend. That very night as the volunteers shared their testimonies and sang, she heard how God loved her so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to die for her sins so that she might have eternal life.

"My heart heard, and my mind understood," was her simple explanation of joy. Then she hugged each volunteer and said, "Thank you for coming and telling me about Jesus."

There are Marileas in Poland, Canada, and Michigan waiting for someone to come tell them the Good News of John 3:16. Would you allow God to use you this summer?

In Christ,

*Terry*

Terry W. Sharp, director  
TBC Partnership Missions



SHARP



## Spotlight on Michigan

For years, the state of Michigan had a slogan, "Say Yes to Michigan." For more than 30 years it has been a main road — first to the early explorers opening up the heartland of Michigan. Then, it became the road of dreams, dreams for hundreds of thousands of European immigrants. And in the middle decades of this century, it has been the highway of hope for thousands more from America's south and Appalachian regions.

Michigan ... a magnet for the multitudes, a winter, water wonderland ... an industrial giant ... a vacation land.

Michigan is home to more than 9,000,000 people — two peninsulas surrounded by four great lakes. It is many things. It is a mission field!

Total population: 9,300,000  
White: 7,756,000  
Black: 1,292,000  
Hispanic: 252,000  
Asian: 105,000  
Native American: 56,000



### Historical Highlights of Southern Baptists in Michigan

Nov. 5, 1951 — The Motor Cities Association organized with six churches and 800 members.

Oct. 31, 1957 — The Baptist State Convention of Michigan became eligible to be represented on the boards, committees, and commissions of the Southern Baptist Convention as total church membership exceeded 25,000.

Dec. 16, 1979 — South Hill Church in Milford was constituted as the 2,000th Southern Baptist church in the North Central States area.

Nov. 12, 1980 — The Michigan-Tennessee partnership was adopted with Michigan having 189 churches.

Today, Michigan has 14 associations, 257 churches, 49 chapels, and about 40 Bible fellowships.

Michigan Baptists have four priorities — sharing, strengthening existing churches, starting new churches, and support of missions.

## Partnership Reflections

By Billy Whitt  
Baptist State Con. of Michigan

Looking back over the last 15 years of our partnership, I remember that thousands of Tennessee volunteers have heard the Michigan call and come to assist us. Souls have been saved, churches strengthened, churches planted, buildings erected, and many ministries performed in the work of our blessed Lord. We have had a net gain of 70 churches during the partnership. I am confident that someone from Tennessee has been involved in all these new churches.



WHITT

There is another dimension that has blessed and enriched my life tremendously. I think about the leaders from Tennessee that I have had the privilege to work with so closely: Executive Directors Tom Madden, D.L. Lowrie, and James Porch; Directors of Convention Ministries Carroll Owen and Bill Wilson; Missions Directors L.R. Baumgartner and Jere Phillips; and Partnership Directors Clarence Stewart, Jarvis Hearn, and Terry Sharp, along with all the directors of missions and state staff members.

How do you say "thank you" for your blessings to my life personally and to the kindness expressed in Michigan?

The present look is gratifying as we move into a new relationship. Many projects have been requested from Michigan churches and once again Tennessee churches are meeting these requests. I express deep appreciation for the greater emphasis Tennessee Baptists are giving to the Michigan partnership as well as Canada and Poland.

Looking to the future, we see the need of Christ in 6 million lost people in Michigan and the need to strengthen our churches and start many new congregations. We need to move to places where there are no Southern Baptists. I pray that our partnership in the days ahead will be even greater than the past. □

## Ways the Michigan/Tennessee Partnership has affected us

In the summer of 1990, a youth mission group from First Church, Dyersburg, led by Jim Johnsonius, came to our church in Michigan to lead us in Vacation Bible School. This group did a wonderful job and we had such a wonderful week ministering together. The group agreed to come and work with us again in the summer of 1991. By that summer, Johnsonius and his wife had accepted the call as missionaries to Argentina. The youth mission group came that summer and did another

wonderful job!

Friendships were formed during that time that remain today. In fact, in March of this year, I was invited by Raymond Boston, pastor of First Church, Dyersburg, and Nancy Duncan, WMU director, to come and speak at their church as part of their home missions emphasis.

In 1993 Jim Johnsonius died in an automobile accident while serving as a missionary in Argentina. God has used his commitment to missions beyond our area

of ministry in Michigan.

We hope and pray that in the summer of 1996, we can go with one of the Tennessee mission teams to Poland and serve there.

We are thankful for how God has used the Michigan/Tennessee Partnership to affect our lives and the ministry of our church in Michigan.

Pastor Joe and Ellen Shaler  
Victory Church  
Kalamazoo

### Let us hear from you

If you have a testimony about one of our partnerships to Michigan, Poland, or Canada, let us know about it. Send them to: Terry Sharp, TBC Partnership Missions Director, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. □

### Paris reader gives thanks for 'The Macedonian Call'

Tears came to my eyes and a prayer of praise and thanksgiving burst from my heart when I saw listed in the *Baptist and Reflector* prayer requests for all of our partnerships. I have

been praying for this for years and asked several times if it would be possible to know how God is at work in Michigan as well as our other partnerships.

Thank you for mak-

ing "The Macedonian Call" available to all who would see and hear. My prayer will be "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

I thank God for you

and will keep you in my prayers!

Emily Daniel Cox  
Prayer Ministries  
Director  
First Church, Paris

## Michigan Projects

### Summer Missionaries/ Student Teams

**Date: June 5-Aug. 11**  
Location: Central/Lendale Association

Project: Summer missionaries to lead VBS, BYBC, Mission VBS  
Team Needed: 2 females

**Date: June 5-Aug. 11**  
Location: Dix Avenue Church, Lincoln Park

Project: Summer missionaries to lead VBS, BYBC, survey, visitation  
Team Needed: 2 students

**Date: June 5-Aug. 11**  
Location: Huron Association

Project: Summer missionaries to lead VBS, BYBC, survey, visitation  
Team Needed: 2 females

**Date: June 5-Aug. 11**  
Location: Northland Association  
Project: Summer missionaries to lead in VBS, BYBC, survey, visitation

Team Needed: 3 teams (6 students)

**Date: June 5-Aug. 11**  
Location: Oakland Association  
Project: Summer missionaries to lead VBS, BYBC, visitation, survey

Teams Needed: 2 females

**Date: June 5-Aug. 11**  
Location: Woodland Association  
Project: Summer missionaries to lead VBS, BYBC, survey, revivals, youth program

Team Needed: 2 males  
**Date: June 6-Aug. 12**  
Location: Macomb Association  
Project: Summer missionaries to serve in variety of ministries in different churches. Would like to have someone with music and creative art evangelism skills

Team Needed: 2 females  
**Date: June 6-Aug. 12**  
Location: Macomb Association  
Project: Summer missionaries to do sport clinics, preferably basketball, also lead in Bible study and door-to-door evangelism

Team Needed: 2  
**Date: June 19-Aug. 12**  
Location: Bambi Lake Camp  
Project: Lifeguard for waterfront activities, also other tasks during camp sessions

Team Needed: 2  
**Date: June 20-Aug. 20**  
Location: Bambi Lake Camp  
Project: Staff for camp: general maintenance; housekeeping, kitchen, grounds

Team Needed: 2 (prefer husband/wife team)  
**Date: June 26-Aug. 12**  
Location: Bambi Lake Camp  
Project: Health officer for children/youth camps

Team Needed: 1  
**Date: July 21-31**  
Location: Good Samaritan, Lawrence  
Project: Student team: work with

migrant farm laborers in BBC, CCM and evangelism, Spanish helpful but not required.  
Team Needed: 6 students

### Vacation Bible School/ Backyard Bible Club

**Date: Summer '95**  
Location: Kalamazoo (Victory Church)

Project: Team to lead VBS for children (team needs to provide materials)

**Date: June 25-30**  
Location: Luna Pier Area

Project: Team to lead VBS, BYBC and do survey work.  
These activities will help to cultivate a new mission work.

**Leadership Training**  
**Date: August '95**  
Location: Marquette (First Church)

Project: Training of leaders for church programs, S.S., Deacon, secretary, student work.

### Vehicles

Huron Association needs a car/van for transportation of seminary students from seminary to Michigan to assist in new work churches.

Filipino pastor in Macomb Association has started new congregation and needs vehicle for travel.

### Construction

**Date: Spring/Summer '95**  
Location: Frankfort (Crystal Lake Church)

Project: New church construction, concrete block layers, framing crews, finishing crew (team needs to bring personal hand tools)

**Date: Spring/Summer '95**  
Location: Burton (Harmony Church)

Project: Construction of wood, frame educational building; need electrical, heat/air, drywall, siding, finish work, and landscaping

**Date: Summer '95**  
Location: Croswell (Croswell Church - Spanish)

Project: remodeling, repairs  
**Date: Summer '95**  
Location: Rapid River  
Project: small mission church in need of a building (church needs financial assistance for this project)

**Date: Summer '95**  
Location: Munising (Superior Church)

Project: add nursery/restroom off foyer, lengthen existing ramp and add siding to build-

ing (team needs to provide tools and materials).

**Date: Open**

Location: Gaylord  
Project: replace interior walls with sheetrock, insulate ceiling and walls - replace carpet - install fiberglass steeple, replace ceiling with drywall, re-wire and install light fixtures.

**Date: Open**

Location: Pontiac (Columbia Ave. Church)  
Project: remove wood eaves and replace with aluminum eaves.

**Date: Open**

Location: Newberry (Tahquamenon Church)

Project: Paint outside of church building

**Date: Open**

Location: Kalamazoo (Trinity Church)

Project: Construction - add handicap bathroom on main floor. Need to replumb.

**Date: Open**

Location: St. Joseph (Niles Ave. Church)

Project: remodel inside entrance of church and ceiling with drywall. Also interested in sports camp for children/youth.

**Date: July or August**

Location: Adrian (Trinity Church)  
Project: rebuild planters attached to sanctuary; also interested in VBS.

**Date: Open**

Location: Walled Lake (Commerce Pines Church)

Project: new roof, remodel bathrooms, also interested in VBS/BYBC (has money for supplies on hand).

### Project: Construction

**Date: June 10-14**

Location: Portage, First Church  
Insulation, some drywall - install insulation (walls only) begin hanging drywall  
Team Needed: 4-8

**Date: June 19-23**

Rough Carpentry - frame interior partitions (6500 sq. ft. educational addition), would also like assistance with Evangelism and VBS

Team Needed: 5-9 (construction number only)

**Date: June 26 - July 7**

Bricklaying for educational addition

Team Needed: 10-12

**Date: Aug. 14-18**

Interior Painting - paint interior walls and ceilings - 22,000 ft. of drywall

Team Needed: 10-15

**Date: Aug. 28 - Sept. 1**

Finish Carpentry - interior trim, doors trim, doors (hand & finish), hang pre-built cabinets, build and install shelves.

Team Needed: 8-12

**Date: Summer/Fall**

Location: Warren (Dequindre Church)

Project: re-roof Educational Building (ranch style one story building 40 x 80)

## Canada Projects

### Additional Team Members Needed:

**Date: July 31-Aug. 4**

Location: Calgary, Alberta (Arabic Christian Fellowship Church)  
Project: Youth Camp: team will lead youth from church in all ministry areas.

Additional Team Needed: 4 (especially need musicians, instrumentalists)

Please contact Rev. Tommy Stephens, Meadow View Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg (615)762-6686.

### Construction

**Date: Week of July 10**

Location: Prince Edward Island  
Project: Construction of new church. The Brotherhood Department is working to build a new church on Prince Edward Island.

This is the only week without a team for the summer. If you are interested in going this week or being part of a team another week please contact the Partnership office or Cameron Byler (371-2026).

**Date: Spring '95**

Project #: FPIVS95609

Location: Vancouver (Royal Heights Church)

Project: Construction - new roof on church auditorium

Team Needed: 3-5

**Date: Spring '95**

Project #: FPI11995659

Location: Vanderhoof (Maples Church)

Project: Install 6500 sq. ft. of "T" Bar ceiling tiles, install and caulk 1300 ft. of rubber above baseboard; finish carpentry, door hanging, finish painting.

**Date: Spring '95**

Project #: FPIVS95640

Location: Surrey (Gateway Church)

Project: finish carpenters to remodel Sunday School facilities.

**Date: Summer '95**

Project #: FPIVS95645A

Location: Fairview, Alberta

Project: Construction of fellowship center

**Date: Summer '95**

Project #: FPIVS95647

Location: Calgary (Cambrian Heights Church)

Project: Roofing - remove clay tiles from roof, replace underlayment rolled roofing, replace clay tile.

**Date: June 7-14**

Project #: FPI11995658

Location: Headingley

Project: Building/finishing repair; roofing and concrete ramp.

Team Needed: 5-15

**Date: Open**

Project #: FPIVS95622

Location: Cochrane (Bow Valley Church)

Project: build counters, overhead cabinets and furnishing for preschool/children's classrooms.

**Date: Open**

Project #: FPIVS95627

Location: Prince Albert, Sask (Little Red Reserve)

Project: Purchase or build a mobile home to serve as a worship center in the reserve area.

### Vacation Bible School/Backyard Bible Club

**Date: July 17-21**

Project #: FPIVS95656

Location: First Church, Williams  
Project: need team to lead VBS at church and BYBC in community.

**Date: Aug. 14-18**

Project #: FPIVS95636

Location: Prince George  
Project: need team to lead BYBC and work with people in the community.

### Music Camp

**Date: July or Aug. '95**

Project #: FPIVS95611

Location: Vancouver (Towers Church)

Project: Music outreach camp - for children and youth  
Team Needed: 2-4

### Used Choir Robes Needed

Jasper Place Church, Edmonton, Alberta needs 30 - 40 choir robes. Jasper Place has an active choir but no robes. They would prefer the robes to be dusty rose, cream (beige) or light blue in color if possible. Contact the Partnership office if your church can assist with this request.

### Long Term Assignments

**Project: ESL Teacher**

Length of Assignment: 1-6 months  
Location: Gladstone Church, Vancouver

Type of Assignment: teach ESL classes and work in ministry center of church

**Project: Auxiliary Staff**

Length of Assignment: 6 months - 1 year  
Location: Gladstone Church, Vancouver

Type of Assignment: serve as auxiliary staff at ministry center (running the thrift store - ministering to those who come to center); will be working with center director.

**Project: Program Leadership**

Length of Assignment: 1 year  
Location: Discovery Church, Regina, Saskatchewan

Type of Assignment: develop leadership and program for a children and youth ministry.



**Project: Restart Congregation**

Length of Assignment: 1-2 years  
Location: Brandon, Manitoba

Type of Assignment: needs pastor to restart a declining congregation.

Team needed: would prefer pastor/wife team

## Projects in Poland



### Construction

**Date: May 1-15 or summer**  
 Location: Chociwel  
 Team Needed: 6-10  
 Project: Install new ceiling and remodel in small local church

**Date: May 1-15 or summer**  
 Project #: PM11995408  
 Location: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw  
 Team Needed: 8-10 men  
 Project: Assist in completing the chapel, especially the roof (iron sheeting)

**Date: May 19-June 2**  
 Project #: PM11995403  
 Location: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw  
 Team Needed: 6-8 men  
 Project: Construct a parking lot and sidewalk system

**Date: June 1-11**  
 Location: Swietajno  
 Team Needed: 5-10  
 Project: Complete wood cabin at Children's Camp. Need skilled carpenter, electrician and plumber. Materials will need to be purchased in Poland.

**Date: July 14-25**  
 Location: Warsaw (Baptist Union Building)  
 Team Needed: 10 men  
 Project: Renovate building; light carpentry and painting. Paint can be purchased in Warsaw.

**Date: July 15-30**  
 Location: Szczytno  
 Team Needed: 5-10  
 Project: Renovation of historic Baptist church building. Basic carpentry work and painting. Evangelistic services in the evening. Team will need hand tools, paint brushes, etc.

### "Experiencing God" Workshop

**Date: Sept. 1-9**  
 Project #: PM11995433  
 Location: Warsaw  
 Team Needed: 1-2  
 Project: "Experiencing God" workshop for leaders. This material has recently been translated into Polish.

### Social Work

**Date: Nov. 9-19**  
 Project #: PM11995440  
 Locations: Warsaw-Bialystok-Malbork  
 Team Needed: 1-2  
 Project: Social work workshops in three churches training church leaders in practical ministry among the poor.

**Date: Sept. 1-11**  
 Location: Rudka  
 Team Needed: 2-3  
 Project: Work among alcoholics; dealing with their problems. This will also serve as evangelistic outreach.

### Youth Workers

**Date: Nov. 3-11**  
 Project #: PM11995439  
 Location: Warsaw  
 Team Needed: 1  
 Project: Workshop designed for pastors and laypersons reaching out to difficult youth (drug culture)

### Evangelism/English Classes/Teachers

**Date: June 17-26**  
 Project #: PM11995416  
 Location: Hajnowka  
 Team Needed: 8-10  
 Project: Teach basic English course at a local church as an evangelistic outreach to the city.

**Date: June 30-July 30**  
 Project #: PM11995417  
 Location: Koszalin  
 Team Needed: 1-2  
 Project: English teacher - teach English course as an outreach for a local church.

**Date: July 1-10**  
 Project #: PM11995445  
 Location: Torun  
 Team Needed: 4-6 men  
 Project: Construction team to build a rustic campsite for future youth camps.

**Date: July 3-17**  
 Location: Konin  
 Team Needed: 3-4  
 Project: Organize and direct English course in a local church as an evangelistic outreach. Evangelistic services in the evening. Team will need to provide teaching materials.

**Date: July 7-24**  
 Location: Gdansk  
 Team Needed: 5-10  
 Project: Organize English workshops as an outreach for a church planted in Gdansk. Team could use Scripture, games, songs, to teach conversational English.

**Date: July 14-23**  
 Project #: PM11995447  
 Location: Cieszyn  
 Team Needed: 6-8  
 Project: Evangelistic English Course - will serve as an outreach for a Baptist Mission.

**Date: July 7-24**  
 Location: Gdansk  
 Team Needed: 5-10  
 Project: Organize series of English workshops as an outreach for a church planter. Group can use Scripture, games, songs, etc., to teach conversational English. Team will need to provide teaching materials.

**Date: July 15-30**  
 Project #: PM11995404  
 Location: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw  
 Team Needed: 6-7  
 Project: English language camps - groups would be involved in two-week English language camp for youth/students (ages 16-24). This would be an education/evangelism project.

**Date: July 16-31**  
 Location: Ostroda  
 Team Needed: 10-15  
 Project: Organize and direct an English language course as an outreach for local church. Conduct evangelistic services second week. Team will need to provide teaching materials.

**Date: July 31 - Aug. 30**  
 Project #: PM11995432  
 Location: Chociwel  
 Team Needed: 2-4

Project: Lead summer English course as an outreach for local church.

**Date: Aug. 1-30**  
 Project #: PM11995432  
 Location: Chociwel  
 Team Needed: 2-4  
 Project: English teachers lead summer English course as an outreach for local church (will need to provide materials).

**Date: Aug. 11-28**  
 Project #: PM11995450  
 Location: Koszalin  
 Team Needed: 5-10  
 Project: Evangelistic English Language Course - English course will serve as an outreach for the community.

**Date: Aug. 15-30**  
 Location: Zyrardow  
 Team Needed: 5-6  
 Project: Organize and direct an English course in a local church as an evangelistic outreach. Evangelistic services in the evening. Team will need to provide teaching materials.

**Date: Oct. 2 - Nov. 27**  
 Location: Szczecinek  
 Team Needed: 2  
 Project: Teaching English as an evangelistic outreach for the church. Ministry predominantly among youth.

**Date: Nov. 13-19**  
 Location: Gorzow Wielkopolski  
 Team Needed: 1-2  
 Project: Bible training weekend for local church: Bible lectures on the topics of Christian life and the blessing of service.

### Evangelism/Camps

**Date: June 16 - July 1**  
 Project #: PM11995415  
 Location: Camp Center in Northern Poland  
 Team Needed: 10-12  
 Project: Youth Camp - lead youth camp for teenagers from across Poland. Group could use sport skills: basketball, etc., and English lessons. Team would need to provide materials.

**Date: June 30 - July 15**  
 Project #: PM11995420  
 Location: Camp Center in Northern Poland  
 Team Needed: 5-10  
 Project: Assist in Children's Camp using music, crafts, games, and basic English lessons. Team will need to provide materials for games and crafts.

**Date: June 30-July 15**  
 Location: Camp Center in Northern Poland  
 Team Needed: 10-12  
 Project: Assist in Youth Camp for teenagers from across Poland using music, games, and basic English.

**Date: June 30 - July 15**  
 Project #: PM11995421  
 Location: Chociwel  
 Team Needed: 8-10  
 Project: Assist in youth camp using English lessons, games, crafts, music, drama, and testimonies. Team will need to provide materials.

**Date: July 1-15**  
 Location: Ostroda

Team Needed: 8  
 Project: Plan and direct a children's camp for about 50 children. Camp would include Bible stories, games, crafts, music, and conversational English classes. Team will need to provide materials.

**Date: July 14-31**  
 Project #: PM11995424  
 Location: Chociwel  
 Team Needed: 8-10  
 Project: Lead a children's day camp in conjunction with a local church using crafts, games, music, and simple English lessons and stories. Team will need to provide materials.

**Date: July 14-29**  
 Project #: PM11995427  
 Location: Camp Center in Northern Poland  
 Team Needed: 5-10  
 Project: Assist in children's camp through music, crafts, games, and basic English lessons.

**Date: July 28 - Aug. 12**  
 Project #: PM11995430  
 Location: Camp Center in Northern Poland  
 Team Needed: 5-10  
 Project: Lead in children's camp through music, crafts, games, and basic English lessons. Team will need to provide materials.

**Date: July 29 - Aug. 7**  
 Project #: PM11995431  
 Location: Gdansk  
 Team Needed: 8-10  
 Project: Organize and direct evangelistic basketball camp/clinic. Team would need to provide balls, uniforms, training equipment.

**Date: July 30 - Aug. 12**  
 Location: Szczecinek  
 Team Needed: 4  
 Project: Children's Camp - will include crafts, games, Bible stories, and conversational English. Team will need to provide materials.

**Date: Aug. 1-16**  
 Location: Ostroda  
 Team Needed: 8  
 Project: Plan and direct youth camp for 50 teenagers. Camp would include Bible studies, games, crafts, music, and conversational English.

**Date: Aug. 2-16**  
 Location: Ostroda  
 Team Needed: 8  
 Project: Plan and direct a youth camp for about 50 teenagers. Camp will include Bible studies, games, crafts, music, and conversational English classes. Team will need to provide materials.

**Date: Aug. 13-26**  
 Location: Swietajno  
 Team Needed: 2-6  
 Project: Children's Camp - lead in camp using music, crafts, games, and basic English lessons. Team will need to provide materials.

**Evangelism**  
**Date: May 1-30**  
 Project #: PM11995409  
 Location: Warsaw  
 Team Needed: 2-3

Project: Evangelistic music group - use music as a Christian witness to counter-culture teenagers.

**Date: July 24 - Aug. 8**  
 Project #: PM11995449  
 Location: Radom  
 Team Needed: 5-10  
 Project: Street evangelism for a week; tent crusade during the second week.

**Date: Aug. 31 - Sept. 30**  
 Project #: PM11995435  
 Location: Bielsko-Biala  
 Team Needed: 2  
 Project: Music worship leaders to assist church in leading in worship. Possible concerts.

**Date: Sept. 22-24**  
 Location: Gorzow Wielkopolski  
 Team Needed: 8-10  
 Project: Evangelistic Concerts - use music as an outreach.

**Date: Oct. 20-22**  
 Location: Gorzow Wielkopolski  
 Team Needed: 1-2  
 Project: Evangelistic Weekend (3 meetings) - lead a local church-based crusade as an evangelistic outreach.

### Evangelism/Tent Revivals

Teams are needed for citywide tent crusades in various cities in Poland. Each group would include drama and music in the evening and do street/door-to-door witnessing during the day. 10-15 volunteers are needed for each team.

**June 30 - July 10**  
 Project #: PM11995422

**July 7-17**  
 Project #: PM11995422A

**July 14-24**  
 Project #: PM11995425

**July 21-31**  
 Project #: PM11995425A

**July 28 - August 7**  
 Project #: PM11995428

**Aug. 4-14**  
 Project: PM11995428A

### Backyard Bible Club

**Date: July 16-25**  
 Project #: PM11995448  
 Location: Malbork  
 Team Needed: 2-5  
 Project: Lead BYBC for non-churched children.

### Children's Ministry Teams - Tent Revivals

These teams will use puppets, crafts and children's materials as an outreach during the tent meetings. Five volunteers are needed on each team.

**June 30 - July 10**  
 Project #: PM11995419

**July 7-17**  
 Project #: PM11995419A

**July 14-21**  
 Project #: PM11995426

**July 21-31**  
 Project #: PM11995426A

**July 28 - Aug. 7**  
 Project #: PM11995429

**Aug. 4-14**  
 Project #: PM11995429A  
 - See Additional, page 8

# ■ The Macedonian Call

## Additional opportunities of service in Poland

### Christian Business Persons

Date: May 14-20  
Location: Warsaw  
Team Needed: 1-2  
Project: Meeting with businessmen and women - Plan and present 3-4 meetings for the business community. Lead 1-2 meetings for Baptists to help them understand their role in the church. Lead 1-2 meetings with unsaved businessmen and women as an evangelistic outreach.

### Computer Needs

Project #: PM11995411  
The Baptist Union of Poland is in need of a computer (486 proces-

sor) and laser printer for their office. If you have one you would like to donate please call the Partnership office. They also need someone to install the computer and do training.

### Long-term Projects

**Assignment: Geriatric Nursing**  
Project #: PM11995441  
Location: Bialystok  
Date: May 1, 1995 - May 1, 1996 (date flexible)  
Type of Assignment: Assist in Polish Baptist nursing home and assist in training caregivers.  
**Assignment: English Teacher**  
Project #: PM11995444  
Location: Chelm (Southeast Poland)

Date: June 1, 1995 - June 1, 1996  
Type of Assignment: Establish English language program in local church as an outreach to the city of Chelm.  
Team Needed: 1-2 persons  
Housing: Provided  
**Assignment: English Teacher**  
Location: Chociwel  
Date: June 20, 1995 - June 20, 1996  
Type of Assignment: Teach English in church-based program for outreach.  
Team Needed: 1-2  
Housing: Provided  
**Assignment: Church Planting**  
Location: Cieszyn  
Date: July 1, 1995 - July 1, 1996

Type of Assignment: Evangelistic work in a medium-sized city with no Baptist church in hopes of starting new church.  
**Assignment: English Teacher**  
Project #: PM11995443  
Location: Chociwel (NW Poland)  
Date of Assignment: June 20, 1995 - July 1, 1996  
Type of Assignment: Teach English for believers and as an evangelistic outreach.  
Team Needed: 1-2 persons  
Housing: Provided  
**Assignment: English Teacher**  
Location: Gorzow Wielkopolski  
Date of Assignment: Sept. 1, 1995 - June 30, 1996  
Type of Assignment: Lead English course for city as an outreach in local Baptist Church.  
Housing: Provided  
**Assignment: English Teacher**  
Location: Gorzow Wielkopolski  
Date of Assignment: Sept. 1, 1995 - June 30, 1996  
Team Needed: 1-2 persons  
Project: Set up English course for the city as an outreach in a local Baptist Church.

### Livingston pastor reports on revival in Canada

We experienced revival! Our music director, Robert Mick, and I followed the Lord's leadership to Armstrong Avenue Baptist Church, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada. Our trip took us some 2,800 miles from Livingston. Much to our surprise we were in a multi-cultural community with people from around the world. Pastor Ron Edwards and his family were very gracious hosts.



GODSEY

God greatly blessed each service with rededications from the whole church family. People wanted to sing praises for as much as an hour before the evening message. Each service was a new adventure and God burdened the hearts of his people to pray, confess, and repent. We had prayer meetings each evening and the power of God worked in the lives of each person.

I came home with a new love for God's work and realized that God can do whatever he wants as long as we are willing to let him have the glory. We praise the Lord for what he allowed us to experience in Canada.

Wayne Godsey  
Memorial Church  
Livingston

## Daily Partnership Prayer Requests

- May
- 11 — Pray for pastor Swirzydziuk from Zielong Gora and Piotr, Poland, who is having health problems.
  - 12 — Pray for Jesse Lopez, son of Jesus and Elsa Lopez, pastor of Good Samaritan Church, Lawrence, Mich., who has been diagnosed with Sarcordosis, a rare disease with no known cure.
  - 13 — Pray for the volunteers who will be traveling to our partnership countries this month.
  - 14 — Pray for the Ethnic Leadership Development Centers in Detroit, Lansing, and Pontiac, Mich.
  - 15 — Pray for the Associational WMU leadership who will participate in leadership training May 19-20 and as they look at the new structure of associational WMU.
  - 16 — Pray for the BSU team that will assist in landscaping the Baptist Seminary grounds in Alberta, Canada, and remodel part of the sanctuary of the Chinese Baptist Church in Edmonton, May 20-26.
  - 17 — Pray for the new Hispanic church in Holland, Mich., which began April 1.

### TENNESSEE BAPTIST PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS



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

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

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

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

ASSOCIATION \_\_\_\_\_

### Medical Projects

Date: July 3-14  
Project #: PM11995446  
Location: Malbork  
Team Needed: 5-10  
Project: Medical examinations  
Date: Fall '95  
Project #: PM11995451  
Location: Malbork  
Team Needed: 1-2  
Project: Medical examinations

### Medical News

The first Tennessee Baptist medical team is going to Poland, May 31 - June 10. We hope to have other medical projects this year. If you are interested in being involved in upcoming medical teams, please contact the Partnership office. We also need used eye glasses in good condition for medical trips. If you have glasses to donate, please send them to the Partnership Missions Office.

## Evangelism campaign to be from Oct. 11-24 in Spain

The Foreign Mission Board has invited Tennessee Baptists to join others on a major nationwide evangelistic campaign in Spain, Oct. 11-24.

This is a God-given opportunity for joining with our kindred spirits in Spain in their effort to share Christ with their entire nation.

Cost of the trip is \$1,975.00, based on leaving Dallas. The price for other cities is available upon request.

In addition to the individual cost, each church is requested to provide \$200.00 to help in the preparation for your assigned church in Spain.

- SPAIN-USA Schedule
- Oct. 11 — Depart USA
  - Oct. 12 — Arrive Madrid
  - Oct. 13 — Orientation at Melia Castilla Hotel
  - Oct. 14 — To Spanish Baptist churches
  - Oct. 15-22 — Evangelistic campaign directed by Spanish Baptists

- Oct. 23 — Victory dinner in Madrid
- Oct. 24 — Return to USA

For more information, please contact: W.H. "Dub" Jackson, (915) 677-2500 or Bill Peacock or Anita Mahoney, Foreign Mission Board, (800) 888-8657. □

## ■ the leaders

■ **Hal Fletcher**, pastor, Shalimar Church, Shalimar, Fla., has been called as pastor of Ridgeway Church, Memphis, effective May 21. He has held other ministerial positions in

Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Fletcher is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton; New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary; and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.

■ **Chris Hess**, minister of youth, Tusculum Hills Church,

Nashville, has been called as minister of youth, Windbrook Church, Columbus, Ga., effective May 31.

■ **Calvary Church**, Alcoa, has called **Charles D. Earl**, retired director of missions, Holston Valley Association, as interim pastor.

## ■ deaths

■ **Bob Carpenter**, 57, former pastor of Lamar Heights Church, Cherry Road Church, and Whitehaven Church in Memphis, died Feb. 24 in Decatur, Ala., of cancer. He was pastor emeritus of Central Church in Decatur. Carpenter also served at a church in Lebanon, was a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, and moderator of Shelby County Baptist Association. He was a native of Memphis and a graduate of Union University, Jackson; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and Luther Rice Theological Seminary, Lithonia, Ga.

■ **James Hatley**, 70, pastor emeritus of Second Church, Memphis, died of a heart attack May 1 while visiting relatives in Dallas, Texas. Hatley was a foreign missionary in Colombia, and he had served churches in Texas and California, where he was pastor of First Church, Beverly Hills. Prior to serving Second Church from 1970-87, he worked in the Church Training Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville from 1964-70. Hatley also was a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board. Memorial gifts may be given to the James Hatley Missions Fund or Love Offering Fund at the church, 4680 Walnut Grove, 38117.



**BEING CONGRATULATED** for 36 years of continuous service as Sunday School superintendent of Public Well Church, Martin, is W.C. 'Billy' Burcham, right, by Barry Capps, pastor.

former president of the Baptist Sunday School Board; Harold J. Purdy; and Bob Norman, pastor, Clearview Church, Franklin; will speak. A meal and music program will follow. Call the church at (615) 298-5562 for reservations and childcare.

## ■ the associations

■ The International Friends Ministry of Nashville Baptist Association will observe its 20th anniversary May 11 beginning with brunch at 9:20 a.m. at Woodmont Church, Nashville. Leaders from 11 churches have ministered to people from 90 countries. Three Americans and two internationals have participated for 20 years. They include Young Hee Cho of Korea; Jay Vora of Singapore; Katherine Bean of Brook Hollow Church, Nashville; Mary Ellen Stevens of Hillsboro Church, Franklin; and Zelpha Thompson of Belmont Heights Church, Nashville.

## ■ the schools

■ **Union University**, Jackson, has named Charles A. Fowler of Mississippi State University in Mississippi State vice president for student affairs, filling the position of Maggie Nell Brewer who retires June 30. Fowler, a 1986 graduate of Union, is director of evaluation for an adult education model project at the university. He holds a doctor in education administration from Mississippi State and a master of church music from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. He also is associate pastor, First Church, Ridgeland, Miss.



**FOWLER**

## Without the Mother's Day Offering, Three Out of Ten Children Would Be Left Out in the Cold.

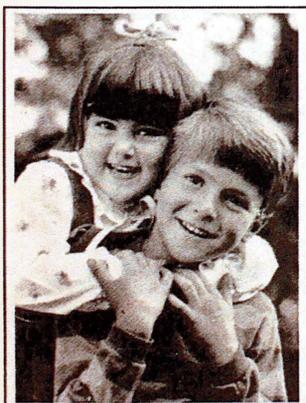


For more than one hundred years, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes has given needy children a warm, loving Christian environment in which to heal, grow, and experience the love of God.

Approximately one-third of our annual operating budget is received through the Mother's Day Offering. As illustrated above, without your support, three out of ten abused, neglected, and abandoned children would not receive the care and love they so deserve through this ministry. We have chosen not to use government funds so we can fulfill our primary purpose of instilling children with Christian faith and values without restriction.

"Continuing the Caring Tradition" is a privilege we share with all Tennessee Baptists who have a heart for children. This Sunday, May 14, is Mother's Day and your opportunity through your local church to make a difference in the lives of hurting children across the state. Together, we can minister to children and families who need the healing touch of Jesus Christ to begin living the abundant life He promises.

### Statewide Goal: \$1,210,000



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## ■ the work

■ **Tusculum Hills Church**, Nashville, sent a 22-member team to the Dominican Republic April 29 - May 2. It led Bible studies for children and services.

## ■ the churches

■ **Woodbine Church**, Nashville, will hold revival services June 4-7. A father and son team will be involved. Tom Clawson of Houston, Texas, will speak and Tommy Clawson, minister of music at the church, will lead the music.

■ **Hillview Church**, Goodlettsville, will dedicate its new sanctuary at 3:30 p.m. May 21.

■ **Belmont Heights Church**, Nashville, will celebrate its 75th anniversary May 20-21. A multi-media production will be viewed at 7 p.m. on May 20. On May 21 during the morning worship service former pastors James L. Sullivan,

# TBC Missions Department announces staff additions/changes

**BRENTWOOD** — The Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department has announced several changes in its staff, according to Jere Phillips, department director.

Joining the Baptist Center staff as associate director for language church extension is Tim Hill, associate director for missionary personnel at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

Hill takes over the post vacated when Terry Sharp assumed the directorship of the TBC Partnership Missions Department. The position has been filled on an interim basis by Estriberto Britton, pastor of the Hispanic Mission of Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory.

The Mississippi native has worked at the Home Mission Board in Atlanta since 1986. He was associate director of the missionary personnel department.

Hill will give overall leadership to language missions in TBC churches. He will assume the post July 1.

Gilder, church and communities ministries director, will shift duties and serve as part-time bivocational ministries director, effective June 1. In addition, he recently was called as pastor of Gath Church, McMinnville.

The Mississippi native served as pastor of Speedway Terrace Church, Memphis, for more than 14 years before joining the TBC staff in 1992.

Gilder will develop and implement strategies for training, encouragement, utilization, and recognition of bivocational ministers, and develop materials that enhance bivocational ministries, along with

other duties, Phillips said.

Shelby Smith joins the TBC staff as part-time church starter strategist for Middle Tennessee. He replaces Paul Woodford who retired in December.

Smith, a member of First Church, Smyrna, currently serves as evangelist equipper for Concord Association. His principle function will be to start churches, missions, and preaching points in the Middle Tennessee area.

Tim Cox, pastor of Brinkley Heights Church, Memphis, joins the TBC as part-time Mississippi River Ministry consultant. Cox also is director of Urban Allies for Shelby County Association.

He will assist churches and associations in developing and implementing volunteer ministry projects impacting persons in West Tennessee. He



**TIM HILL**, front center, will join the TBC Missions Department, effective July 1 as associate director of language church extension. With him and his wife, Prisca, are three other Missions Department staffers, from left, Tim Cox, Shelby Smith, and Ray Gilder. Cox and Smith are new to the staff while Gilder is accepting another position within the department.

## Booklets mailed

**BRENTWOOD** — The 1995-96 TBC Church Plans booklets have been mailed to pastors, interim pastors, and directors of missions.

Churches needing additional booklets for church council members may obtain them from their local association after May 15. ☐

## Church Retreats

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# ■ Sunday School lesson commentary

**Life and Work Series  
for May 14  
Focal Passages:  
Acts 16:22-34**

## Songs in the night

By Chuck McElhannon

America has watched with broken hearts as the tragedy has unfolded in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing. We have witnessed the anguish, the turmoil, and the pain, as innocent people have suffered unthinkable loss. Yet we have also listened as survivors have spoken of the grace of God and the strength that comes through faith in Jesus Christ. An entire nation has been able to witness how Christians can sing out to God even in the darkest of times. Paul and Silas knew something of suffering unjustly. They, too, were given an opportunity to sing praise to God in the midst of personal suffering.

The magistrates in verse 22 exhibit the same tendency to bend to the will of the people that Pilate showed in Mark 15, when he allowed Barabbas to be set free. The magistrates would never have survived the scrutiny of cross examination as we've seen during the O.J. Simpson trial. They would have been picked apart, because: (1) Paul and Silas had committed no crime; (2) They were given no opportunity to offer a defense; and (3) They were Roman citizens, and as such, not subject to flogging.

Paul relates in II Corinthians 11:25 that he was beaten with rods three times during his years in active ministry. This is the only recorded beating we have. The other two are not recorded in the New Testament.

Paul and Silas, cast into prison and placed in stocks, then did the unthinkable: they began to sing hymns of praise to God! Why did they sing? Not because they were expecting immediate deliverance, but because their hearts were filled with praise to God. When Daniel's three friends were thrown into the fiery furnace, they said, "Our God is able to deliver us, but even if he doesn't, we are not going to worship other gods" (Daniel 4:17-18).

Paul and Silas' praise to God had a tremendous influence on the other prisoners. When the earthquake broke the chains and opened the doors, not a single prisoner escaped. No doubt, the thought crossed their minds. Some perhaps, were awaiting execution. This was their one chance to escape either death or a lifetime of bondage. Yet, something about these two men, praying and singing instead of moaning and groaning, caused them to remain. What did they have that the other prisoners didn't? God's promise is that if Christ is lifted up, he will draw all men to him (John 12:32).

The jailer, too, was eternally changed. The man who was prepared to take his own life in verse 27, was on his knees in verse 30 asking how to be saved. Notice the simplicity and the clarity of Paul's reply in verse 31. "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." You don't have to be seminary educated in order to be an effective witness. You don't have to have hundreds of verses committed to memory. All you have to know is that Jesus is the way to salvation!

The jailer believed and was saved! He also showed his new-found faith by his actions. With Jesus in his heart, he now cared enough to minister to the needs of Paul and Silas. He tended to their wounds.

Notice also the influence on the rest of the jailer's household. Even though the hour was late, he shared his joy with his family, and they, too, were saved and baptized. God was able to turn bad into good! □ — Chuck McElhannon is pastor of Valley View Church, Nashville.

## Working for reconciliation

By Brian Courtney

What motivates Christians to ministry or to service? Do Christians minister out of guilt or out of a sense of duty? Do Christians serve out of a desire to impress God or out of fear? The fact of the matter is: the reason or motive for ministry or service is as important as what is done!

Wrong motives often bring disastrous results (Matthew 6:1-18). What, then, are proper motives for Christian ministry?

### Respect for the Lord — vv. 11-13

Once again, Paul defends his ministry to the Corinthians. They were accusing Paul of having no power, or demonstration of the Spirit. The Corinthians wanted demonstrable signs of personality, power, and ecstatic experiences. So do many modern church-goers!

Paul's ministry is motivated by "knowing the fear of the Lord" (v. 11). Here, as elsewhere in the Bible, "the fear of the Lord" is an attitude of respect, reverence, and awe, and not just of being afraid. The statement seems to be prompted by what Paul says about the judgment (v. 10). Paul understands that he would give an account of his life. This causes a deep reverence and awe for Paul to take his ministry seriously. Therefore, he tries to "persuade men" (v. 11).

What is a proper motive for Christian ministry? Impress God? Demonstration of power, personality, and ecstatic experiences? No! Respect for God.

### Love of Christ — vv. 14-15

Having a "fear of the Lord" is not Paul's only motivation for ministry. "... the love of Christ" (v. 14) motivates him as well. Why did Christ's love motivate Paul's ministry? He gives two reasons. First, Jesus "died for all" (v. 15). Christ's death is more than a historical fact. His death is "... for our sins according to the Scriptures" (I Corinthians 15:3). His death touches all people. Second, Paul explains that Christ died that "those who live might live no longer for themselves but for him who

for their sake died and was raised" (v. 15). Christ died so that others might have life. Clearly, Paul makes his point: Christ's death demonstrates his love and this love motivates Paul.

What is a proper motive for Christian ministry? The love of Christ demonstrated on the cross.

### Reconciliation — vv. 16-21

Paul states one other motive for his ministry and ours: "... in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself ... entrusting to us the message of reconciliation" (v. 19). The key word in these verses is "reconciliation." It means to restore a personal relationship that has been broken. In this context, Paul is talking about how God has acted through Christ to bring people back into a relationship of love with him. How is this accomplished? Verse 21 provides the clue. Christ "who knew no sin" was made "sin ... so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

This reconciliation means three things. First, people are no longer to be evaluated from "a human point of view ..." (v. 16). Christians should not evaluate others in terms of race, status, position, or socio-economic class. Rather, evaluation takes place at the spiritual level.

Second, believers are made into "a new creature" for "old things" have "passed away" (v. 17). This means that former behaviors, conduct, and attitudes of a sinful life are removed in a new life with Christ. Further, this means a new person is created not a reform of the old person.

Third, the purpose of being a new person is to help others be reconciled to God (vv. 18-20). Paul uses the image of an "ambassador." This is an official who represents the government in another country. Likewise, Christians are representatives of Christ to others.

What is a proper motive for Christian ministry? Helping others be reconciled to God! □ — Brian Courtney is pastor of First Church, Sneedville

**Convention Uniform Series  
for May 14  
Focal Passage  
II Corinthians 5:11-21**

## Encountering rejection

By Thomas Vinson

There was solemn silence as the plane taxied out to the runway. Some still doubted the reality of their release. Then it happened. The plane lifted off the runway to spontaneous applause and shouts of joy. They were free! The POWs in Vietnam were going home!

Jesus could empathize with these feelings. He too was going home (ch. 6:1) and like some of the Vietnam veterans, encountered rejection. His words, his wisdom, and his works were spurned. Mark's summary statement was that he "could do no mighty works there ... because of unbelief" (vv. 5-6). Our text introduces two ideas: (1) The rejection of his person (vv. 1-6a); and (2) The rejection of his practices (ch. 7:2-8).

### The rejection of his person — ch. 6:1-6a

Roy Fish labels these verses an example of "paralysis of omnipotence." For all practical purposes the residents of Nazareth tied the hands of God. This passage presents three attitudes which severely limit our ability to see God work.

(1) We tie the hands of God when we are **unimpressed with the person of Christ**. Jesus was just another hometown boy to them. The question, "Is this the carpenter?" (v. 3) translates a word which can refer to the town handyman, who for a

small pittance did repair work no one else wanted to do. The statement, "Isn't this Mary's son" (v. 3) was framed in a derogatory way. A man was never described as his mother's son in Jewish usage. This calculated indignity was perhaps trying to cast a shadow on the unusual nature of his birth. The word translated "offended" (v. 3) carries the idea of being "trapped." To react to the obvious truth of Jesus in unbelief is fatal. They were trapped with the truth.

(2) They tied the hands of God by being **unresponsive to the greatness of his power** (v. 2). These people fully understood that extraordinary power marked the life of Jesus. Recently he had performed a series of miracles in a nearby town (ch. 5). These Nazarenes knew about Jesus, but they did not know him. They could recount his record of miracles to others, but knew nothing of God's miracle working power in their own lives. Like so many of us, they were content to live on second-hand theology. What could our churches be if we would untie the hands of our Lord by the exercise of faith?

(3) Lastly, they tied the hands of God by being **unaware of the**

**gravity of their unbelief**. What an arresting phrase: "He could not" (v. 5). Jesus was "amazed" at their unbelief (v. 6). They may have been amazed at Jesus, but he was also amazed at their capacity for unbelief. McClaren captured the situation when he wrote, "The atmosphere of chill unbelief froze the stream of God's power."

### They rejected his practices — ch. 7:2-8

Rejection continued from the religious leadership. They were offended by the disciples' transgression of the body of tradition which had grown up around the law. Jesus striped away the layers of tradition which had effectively clouded the authentic revelation from God. To Jesus the real question was the ultimate binding authority for life. His usage of the phrases "commandment of God" (vv. 8, 9) and "word of God" (v. 13) lets us know that Jesus regarded the written Scripture as the ultimate binding authority for life. They rejected Jesus, "But as many as received him to them gave he the power to become the sons of God" John 1:11-12. □ — Thomas Vinson is pastor of Leawood Church, Memphis.

**Bible Book Series for May 14  
Focal Passage: Mark 6:1-6a; 7:2-8**

## Former missionary, MK named as FMB health consultants

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — A former missionary and a "missionary kid" have been named consultants in the missionary health department of the Foreign Mission Board.

Kenn Shirley, who served about a decade as an FMB missionary in Ivory Coast, will begin work May 10 as a family ministry consultant for the board's 4,000-plus missionary force.

Travis White, who grew up in Mexico as the son of FMB missionaries Wayne and Winnie White (now retired) will become a medical consultant for missionaries and their families, effective June 21. □



SHIRLEY



WHITE

## Church sues IRS over tax exemption loss

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A New York church which lost its tax-exempt status for warning Christians about voting for Bill Clinton in 1992 has filed suit

against the Internal Revenue Service.

The decision in the case could be precedent-setting, some religious liberty specialists say.

"This case will squarely raise important issues about whether the tax code can trump the First Amendment and free exercise of religion rights," said Michael Whitehead, general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

In 1992 the Church at Pierce Creek, Vestal, N.Y., ran ads asking how Christians could vote for Bill Clinton, citing his views on abortion and other issues.

The IRS investigated the ads for two years and revoked the church's tax exemption in January, noting "the church's advertisements specifically referred to the political candidacy of a particular political candidate in a particular campaign for public office." □

## Supporters, protesters attend SBTS gathering

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A "candlelight witness service" sponsored by a student group at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary April 18 took aim at President R. Albert Mohler Jr., the school's trustees, and "survival of the seminary, as well as the denomination."

Among the speakers: outspoken former SBTS professor Molly Marshall who lamented

the loss of three women in the seminary's theology department; retired professor William Hendricks decried the current status of the seminary; and Carver Alumni and Friends Association president Steve Williams who said the survival of the seminary and the denomination is at issue.

Supporters had hoped for 1,000 in attendance at the evening gathering which attracted a number of news media. Observers, however, said there were more like 200-300 in attendance.

The meeting was held while the board of trustees at the seminary met in executive session in another location.

Most of the speakers were critical of the seminary's direction under Mohler. However, some students were critical of the speakers and the criticism of the seminary.

"When you have a rally in which Dr. Mohler's administration is called a blasphemous, misogynistic administration — and you have students out there applauding ... that's ungodly behavior," said Gregory Thornbury of Winfield, Penn. □

## Missouri historians oppose agency's end

Baptist Press

LIBERTY, Mo. — Missouri Baptist Convention Historical Commission trustees lamented the proposed elimination of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission in a statement ap-

## Church reaches sky-high Sunday School attendance

Baptist Press

WOOD, N.C. — Almost 100 members of Wood Church cheered and clapped as their pastor and youth minister, both students at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, plummeted toward the earth at more than 120 miles per hour Easter Sunday afternoon.

The members breathed a sigh of relief as two brightly colored parachutes snapped open.

Pastor Butch Caner and his brother, Emir, jumped from the plane at 13,500 feet, keeping their end of a bargain concerning a Sunday School goal of 100.

The church, which only three years ago had a Sunday School attendance of

about 20, exceeded its Easter goal of 100 by 69.

The brothers challenged the members to an attendance goal equivalent to the town's population. The rural community of Wood, about 50 miles northeast of Raleigh, has 116 residents. The church last had 100 in Sunday School in 1945.

"We wanted to show our members, our sister churches, and our seminary friends who pastor small, rural churches that anything is possible with God's grace and some Christian grit."

"The people did all the work," Caner's brother noted. The two brothers, who never had skydived, admitted they would have jumped even if the goal had not been met. □

proved at their semi-annual meeting April 12.

The statement reads: "Prior to the 1951 founding of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, preservation and interpretation of Baptist history was haphazard and ineffective."

"Since its founding, the Historical Commission has performed an outstanding job in fulfilling its mission with autonomy and accuracy to the benefit of Southern Baptist

churches. The Missouri Baptist Historical Commission is deeply concerned that the significant achievements of the agency continue. ..."

The commission is one of seven SBC agencies targeted for elimination under the "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring plan to be considered by messengers to the June 20-22 SBC annual meeting in Atlanta. The statement urged messengers to vote to continue the agency. □

## Southern Baptist seminaries plan convention-related meetings

Compiled from Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptists' six seminaries are all planning alumni functions during the annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting June 20-22 in Atlanta.

A list of alumni functions follows:

### Southern Seminary

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will host its annual alumni and friends luncheon June 21 at 1 p.m. in the Georgia World Congress Center, adjacent to the Georgia Dome, site of the annual meeting.

The program includes an address by President R. Albert Mohler, a performance by the Southern Seminary Choir, and presentation of the school's Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Tickets are \$17 each in advance or \$18.50 at the convention. Tickets may be ordered from Alumni Services, Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky., 40280.

For information, call 1 (800) 626-5525.

### Midwestern Seminary

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's annual alumni luncheon will be held June 21 at the Georgia World Congress Center in room 267 on west concourse level two, immediately following the convention's morning session.

Two graduates will be recognized as 1995 Alumni of the Year — T.O. Spicer, a director of missions from Joplin, Mo., and Sam G. Turner, a Southern Baptist missionary to Limuru, Kenya.

Advance tickets may be purchased for \$17 per person from the Office of Institutional Advancement, Midwestern Seminary, 5001 N. Oak St. Trafficway, Kansas City, Mo., 64188. Or, tickets may be obtained for \$20 at the seminary booth in the convention exhibit hall during the SBC meeting.

### Southwestern Seminary

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will host its

National Alumni Luncheon June 21, immediately following the morning session of the SBC annual meeting.

The luncheon will be held in the International Ballroom of the Omni Hotel at CNN Center.

Three Distinguished Alumni Awards will be presented. Recipients are Robert C. Campbell, president emeritus of Buckner Baptist Benevolences in Dallas; David Gomes, founder and pastor emeritus of Hope Church in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and Bob Edd Shotwell, retired minister of education at Hyde Park Church, Austin, Texas.

Advance tickets may be purchased for \$18 each and will be held at the Southwestern booth at the convention. Tickets purchased at the luncheon will cost \$20 each. For more information, call Southwestern's alumni relations office at (817) 923-1921, ext. 7240.

### New Orleans Seminary

New Orleans Baptist Theo-

logical Seminary's annual Alumni & Friends Reunion will be a breakfast meeting on June 21 at 7:30 a.m. at the Hyatt-Regency, Atlanta, 265 Peachtree St. (the convention headquarters hotel).

During the meeting evangelist Junior Hill of Hartselle, Ala., will be given the distinguished alumnus award.

Tickets are on sale now by mail. Tickets ordered before June 1 will cost \$6 each; afterwards, \$10 each. Purchase tickets by writing to the Alumni Office, New Orleans Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126. Tickets ordered after June 1 may be picked up at the convention.

### Southeastern Seminary

Alumni and friends of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary will gather June 21 at the Georgia World Congress Center for their national alumni luncheon.

The luncheon will feature an address by President Paige Patterson and will recognize

the school's distinguished alumni award recipient.

The seminary encourages alumni and friends to bring their children to the luncheon, offering a special child's meal at a reduced cost of \$6. Adult meals are \$12. Reservations for the luncheon can be made by calling the seminary's alumni office at (919) 556-3101, prior to June 9.

### Golden Gate Seminary

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary will host its alumni and friends luncheon June 21 at the Georgia World Congress Center following the SBC morning session.

President William Crews will provide a "state of the seminary" report and address issues of leadership and change.

Tickets are \$14 each and may be purchased in advance from the Office of Alumni Relations, 201 Seminary Drive, Mill Valley, Calif., 94941. For more information, call (415) 388-8080, ext. 296. □