

# Baptist and Reflector

May 17, 1995

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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

## Questions SBC restructure plans

### Executive Board employs new Brotherhood director

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
*Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — The Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention received a sound financial report, elected a Brotherhood director, and heard reports from seven standing committees here last Wednesday (May 10).

It was one of the shortest meetings in recent years. Nevertheless, President Paul Moody, pastor from Erin, led the Board through several important actions.

The Board expressed concerns relating to the SBC restructuring plan endorsed by the SBC Executive Committee in February.

A letter with eight major points of concern is being sent to Mark Brister, Louisiana pastor who heads the Program and Structure Study Committee which concocted the plan.

A resolution of affirmation for Woman's

Missionary Union also will be sent to Brister, along with a request that WMU maintain its task of missions education with Southern Baptist churches.

In budgetary matters, the Budget and Program Committee of the Board made three recommendations, all quickly approved: to maintain the current percentage of CP receipts to SBC (37.5) and TBC (62.5), that no increase be given to the institutions for 1995-96, and that Belmont University, Carson-Newman College, and Union University study the feasibility of a statewide endowment campaign to begin next year. This means the colleges could solicit Tennessee Baptist churches for endowment funds, among others.

The TBC Board unanimously elected Tim Bearden of the SBC Brotherhood Commission staff in Memphis as TBC Brotherhood Department director at a salary of \$45,000 plus benefits. Cameron Byler retires from that post next month,

but will be retained as TBC's Disaster Relief coordinator by contract.

The Board heard a six months Cooperative Program budget report from James Porch, executive director/treasurer. Porch noted the 1994-95 budget through April shows a slight gain over last year, with total CP gifts standing at \$13,203,369, some \$111,000 above budget (0.8 percent).

He reported that this "looks as if we will finish the budget year in October slightly above budget."

Last year at this time, CP gifts were \$863,487 below budget needs.

Board members approved a \$1,200,000 goal for the Golden State Missions Offering. That's an increase of \$150,000.

Mission lot and building fund, and the site fund for new churches (missions) will receive \$150,000 each. Almost 40 concerns will benefit from the state missions offering.

— See Executive Board, page 2

## TBC leaders take close look through CP paradigm

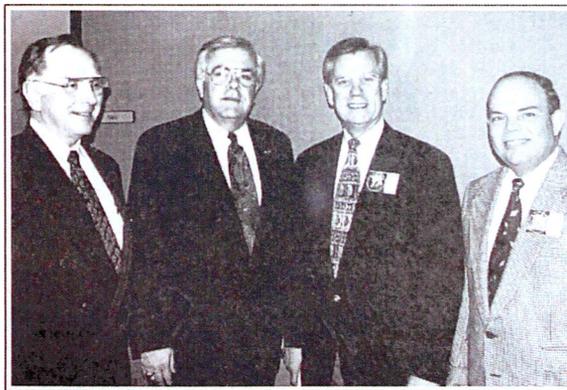
*Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — **Paradigm:** an outstandingly clear or typical example or archetype. In today's busy world of reason and study, a plan by any other name might not "smell as sweet."

Led by Archer Thorpe, director of the TBC's Cooperative Program and Stewardship Department, a Cooperative Program Paradigm was studied at the Baptist Center May 8-9. It was the second such effort by a Baptist state convention, Thorpe said, noting Florida has conducted a similar event.

Participants in the two-day intensive study included directors of missions, Executive Board members, and Baptist Center directors and associates.

Theme for the plenary sessions and break-out groups was "Change your world through the Cooperative Program." Faculty included Harold Bennett, president emeritus, SBC Executive Committee; Ernest Kelley, executive vice president, Home Mission Board; Jerry Rankin, president, Foreign Mission Board; Mark Short, executive director, Louisiana Baptist Convention; and James Porch, executive director, TBC.



**MISSIONS FOCUS** was evident during the Cooperative Program Paradigm discussions. From left are four of the paradigm leaders, Ernest Kelley, James Porch, Jerry Rankin, and Archer Thorpe.

Thorpe said he was pleased with the group discussions, and is eager to accumulate the many suggestions, observations, and ideas put forth in the three group sessions.

Thorpe said the purpose of the planned CP Paradigm was to sharpen TBC promotion of missions and financial support of mission ministries through the Cooperative Program.

Each speaker stressed missions and ministry opportunities in areas of the world through foreign, home, and state missions. Each underscored the need for increased giving through the Cooperative

program, and explored areas where needs for lost persons exceed financial support for mission and ministry.

Dialogue groups addressed 16 questions about the Cooperative Program, including personal impact, barriers to mission support, improving promotion and CP recognition, project giving, inclusion of all churches, partnership missions, developing stronger TBC-churches ties, choosing the best delivery system, and determining who has chief responsibility for CP education and promotion.

Bennett discussed global missions and giving. Porch ad-

ressed Tennessee's outlook, while Kelley and Rankin talked about home and foreign mission efforts.

Bill Wilson, Convention Ministries Division director, facilitated an audience dialogue with Kelley and Rankin. Several questions pointed to the necessity of widespread revival to foreshadow missions and ministry advances.

Both men responded also to queries about the proposed restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention (which will be voted on at the SBC's June annual meeting).

Rankin said his primary concern is whether Baptists will be faithful to missions giving. He said it is "refreshing to see a move to streamlining." As to the impact on Woman's Missionary Union, he said no one is prohibiting them from promoting the offering and the board needs its help. He suggested everyone should "cease being concerned about who's in control and who's getting the credit. The secret for WMU is commitment to missions, not the Southern Baptist Convention," said Rankin.

Kelley said changes may be needed, but that "as barnacles are removed from the ships, be sure the ships aren't removed along with the barnacles." □ — Wm. Fletcher Allen

# Executive Board employs new Brotherhood ...

— Continued from page 1

Discussion on the SBC restructuring plan centered around a motion from Nashville pastor Bill Sherman regarding a resolution "to restore WMU to its original purpose of missions education and promotion."

Joey Rosas, a Memphis pastor, expressed concern that seven other issues brought to the attention of the Board by Porch also be addressed.

Paris pastor Lynn King suggested adopting a resolution dealing specifically with WMU, in addition to the other points. This was approved by the Board.

The resolution approved notes the Executive Board acted to affirm WMU and "resolved to request" the special committee of the SBC Executive Committee in their report to the SBC in June "to restore the Woman's Missionary Union to their original purpose of missions education."

The eight issues affirmed by the Executive Board dealt with concerns related to the "Covenant for a New Century" as they relate to the ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. They are:

(1) The loss of \$405,000 of funding for our state mission program. Currently, the money is channeled through the Home Mission Board to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Actually, 12 states would lose a total of \$5,825,856 of state mission support (figures provided by HMB).

(2) A redirection of the emphasis on mission support and mission education away from the WMU. Specifically, this refers to the promotion of both Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon emphases.



**NEW TBC BROTHERHOOD** Director Tim Bearden addresses the Executive Board while his wife, Janet, looks on. The Georgia native has been on the staff of the SBC Brotherhood Commission since 1987 and currently is director of the Youth/Challengers department.

(3) A de-emphasis on liberal arts education as preparation for ministerial training. Currently, our three Tennessee Baptist secondary institutions have over 350 students in ministerial training.

(4) A substantial reduction of Tennessee Baptists in the decision making process as SBC commissions and boards are downsized.

(5) The omission of the stated role of state conventions in the voluntary mission and ministry program, especially foreign missions. Currently, Tennessee is involved in partnerships with Canada, Poland, and Michigan.

(6) A lack of clarity of the role of the

state convention in relation to the Baptist Sunday School Board with respect to Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Church Music, Church Administration. What impact will changes have upon Code 29 and Code 30 funds, and will there be a continued joint effort in program support?

(7) A confusion of the role of the Executive Committee with regards to the funds currently held in trust by the Southern Baptist Foundation. Has the issue of conflict of interest been researched?

(8) A lack of understanding concerning the role of the state historical societies in relationship to the future of the historical collection of Southern Baptist archival material.

"Each of the eight items represent areas of concern and topics of current discussion by many Baptists in the Volunteer State," Porch wrote to Brister.

"Board members expressed a very strong desire that these matters be discussed prior to the SBC meeting in Atlanta. As many of the items relate to other state conventions, possibly they should be addressed in your presentation to the SBC annual meeting," Porch wrote.

In other actions, the Board approved a request from Belmont University to begin a graduate program in Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy and a recommendation from the Committee on Boards that James Lindsay of Doe River Church, Elizabethton, be named to replace Danny West on the board of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. West, whose term was to expire in 1997, resigned recently to accept a staff position with TBCH. □

## Brister committee turns down WMU request to amend proposal

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A request by Woman's Missionary Union to amend the proposal to restructure the Southern Baptist Convention has been turned down by the Program and Structure Study Committee, which drafted the proposal set for an initial vote at the SBC in Atlanta in June.

An April 11 letter by WMU Executive Director Dellanna

O'Brien to PSSC chairman Mark Brister requested an insertion of WMU's program statement in the restructuring proposal.

The proposal, according to WMU, transfers two historical WMU assignments to other agencies: the promotion of the national mission offerings and missions education.

Brister said the WMU request is a "misunderstanding and misperception of the PSSC

report as it relates to the WMU" and can be "clarified simply." In a teleconference call April 25, members of the PSSC voted unanimously to "stand by our report," he said.

Brister said the "facts are that the FMB and HMB have had access and allocation of the mission offerings for years. Assigning the two mission boards primary responsibility for promoting the two mission offerings was done long before

the PSSC report. In an April 25 letter to O'Brien, Brister wrote: "While we have profound appreciation for the WMU's initial promotion of these offerings and friendship supporting the offerings over these many years, the greater cause is the cause of Christ. ..." Brister noted the committee felt more people could be reached for Christ if the SBC maximized its efficiency of operations. □

## TBC's Jere Phillips selected to lead West Virginia Baptists

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A Tennessee Baptist Convention staff member has been named executive director of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists.

Jere Phillips, director of the TBC Missions Department since 1989, will assume his new position, effective June 1.

Phillips noted he has "enjoyed my tenure with the TBC. This is my home and missions is my heartbeat."

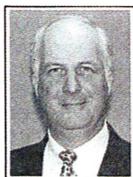
A native of Kentucky,

Phillips was reared in Dyersburg. He was baptized and later licensed and ordained into the ministry at First Church, Dyersburg.

He is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and holds the master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Phillips has served as pastor of churches in Tennessee (Fulton Church, Fulton), Louisiana, and Florida. He also was a professor at Trinity College, Dunedin, Fla. Prior to joining the TBC staff he was associate pastor at Germantown Church, Germantown.

Phillips and his wife, Glenda, have two teenage daughters. □



PHILLIPS

## Daily Partnership Prayer Requests May



- 18 — Pray for Allen Schmidt, executive director of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists as he and his staff lead in Canada.
- 19 — Pray for the Pastors Conference, Warsaw/Rodosc, Poland, May 23-26.
- 20 — Pray for missionary Mark Edworthy and his family as they serve in Poland.
- 21 — Pray for the laypersons who serve in 22 Polish churches.
- 22 — Pray for Efrain Maya, a member of Victory Baptist Church, Portage, Mich., who has crippling arthritis.
- 23 — Pray for the new students of the Baptist seminary in Poland.
- 24 — Pray for John McCarty, new pastor in Holland, Mich.
- 25 — Pray for Terry Sharp, director of the TBC Partnership Missions Department, as he works with everyone involved in our partnerships.

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
- Subscribe to the *Baptist and Reflector* for one year and receive 51 copies. Family or individual subscription — \$7.50, clubs of 10 or more subscriptions — \$7.25, church (more than 50 percent of families) — \$6.50. Send check/money order to address listed below.
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## Hailing heritage and history

# Sand Ridge celebrates with 15 million Baptists

LEXINGTON — Several months ago Pastor George Henley and the Sand Ridge Church congregation began plans for celebrating a birthday.

It was not the birthday of the church — but the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Evidently Sand Ridge, Beech River Association, was one of the few Tennessee Baptist churches to mark the occasion.

Church members got busy putting together an historical replica of what it was like in Augusta, Ga., during those trail-blazing days of May 8-10, 1845. During those days some 300 Baptists decided to separate from the Triennial Convention for a new beginning.

The fledgling Southern Baptist Convention was the result, complete with a constitution that pledged to spread the Gospel, and some basic guidelines with missions and evangelism as the objectives.

Sand Ridge picked May 7 as the day of remembering. The men built a large brush arbor for the house of worship, with timbers cut from Earl Anderson's farm. The church brushed up on history, and looked at Baptist heritage.

During the celebration May 7, youth shared information about the SBC's heritage, and Wm. Fletcher Allen, *Baptist and Reflector* editor, traced SBC history.

Henley and several other men grew luxuriant beards for the celebration. Many church members dressed in 1845 clothing style, even children. Men donned period apparel or wore overalls. Long dresses and bonnets were displayed by church women. History was celebrated with style and appreciation.

The Sesquicentennial Committee included Earl Anderson, Eddie Foley, Greg Eads, Merelyn Eads, Jeff Gilliam, Ann Marie Gilliam, Janie Hopper, David Rhodes, Barbara Pratt. □

## SBC beginnings restaged at Augusta

Baptist Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Dramatic presentations, historical interpretations, sermons, and a declaration of repentance were among highlights of a May 8-10 celebration in Augusta, Ga., of the 150th anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Sponsored by the SBC Historical Commission and the Southern Baptist Historical Society, it drew nearly 900 people to a special worship evening May 9 and more than 300 registered for the full three days of activities. The actual date of the birth of the SBC was May 8, 1845 at First Church when it was located in downtown Augusta.

The Tuesday evening was a showcase of Southern Baptists' top officials bringing greetings and remembrances, including James T. Draper Jr., Baptist Sunday School Board president; Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee

president; Bob White, Georgia Baptist Convention executive director; and Jim Henry, SBC president.

A "Declaration of Repentance" was read by the congregation and led by Slayden Yarbrough, chairman of the Historical Commission board of trustees who was elected May 8 as interim executive director of the commission.

The declaration spoke of the issue of "slavery and the defense of the right to own slaves" as a contributing factor in the founding of the convention in 1845. The declaration pledged "ourselves to repentance in order to commit ourselves to be agents of Christ's reconciling peace and to combat publicly the sins of racism and exclusion in our communities." In conclusion, the declaration said, "It

is our fervent hope and prayer that by acknowledging and repenting of the sins of our past we will be freed to live in justice and peace in the present."

Girls in Action and Royal Ambassador youth collected an offering of about \$900 from the congregation, which was forwarded to the Home Mission Board for African American mission work.

Although much of the celebration was held at the current FBC, the final session on May 10 was held on the site of the actual founding of the SBC. □



▼ LADIES OF the church by the authentic brush arbor.



◀ DAVID AND LISA COFFMAN with Lindsey and Kellye, and cousin Alicia, left.



PASTOR AND MRS. GEORGE HENLEY set the pace for stylish dress.



FAMILIES GATHER after worship and celebration, left.



CHRIS AND EMILY BRATTON, with Hunter and Camilla in circa 1845 regalia.

## ■ 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. □

### Supports Brotherhood

Although the Program and Structure Study Committee report contains some good suggestions and provides an excellent basis for dialogue, I believe we are acting too quickly if we embrace it in its entirety.

I especially am troubled by the proposal to combine the Brotherhood Commission with the Home Mission Board as a part of the proposed North American Mission Board.

The Brotherhood Commission is doing an outstanding job of missions education and ministry. My church is benefiting more than ever before. Our RAs are stronger, our men are supporting volunteer missions strongly, and each year more people are involved in World Changers. These programs as well as others, including Disaster Relief, benefit thousands of churches and make an enormous impact of God's kingdom. Why fix something that's not broken?

The PSSC says the merger will increase efficiency and reduce costs. But the commission will receive less than \$1 million in CP funds in 1995-96. The budget just adopted by the trustees is \$6.1 million, with only \$960,000 projected from the CP. This is 16 percent of the budget. The PSSC has not given definitive figures on projected cost savings.

Space is extremely limited in the new HMB quarters in Atlanta. Larry Lewis has said the Brotherhood would have to be housed in warehouse space — leaving no warehouse space for Brotherhood or HMB.

The Brotherhood Commission has been a tremendous ambassador for Southern Baptists, is doing great work, has paid for its buildings, is raising most of its money. I cannot support the recommendation to move and jeopardize Brotherhood, a most effective ministry.

*Sidney R. Young, pastor  
Raleigh Church  
Memphis 38128*

### Question posed

Regarding the proposed restructuring of the SBC ... What if the Foreign and Home Mission boards, though having been effective in missionary placement and support, had their responsibilities reassigned to the seminaries? The missionaries are seminary trained and this would streamline the process.

...What if the Sunday School Board, though having been effective in developing and producing literature, had their responsibilities reassigned also to the seminaries? Intelligent men employed by the seminaries could write and produce literature making it less expensive.

...What if the seminaries, though having been effective in teaching and training thousands of ministers, had their responsibilities reassigned to the Executive Board? This Board could recommend various seminaries that are Bible based but not necessarily Southern Baptist.

...What if Woman's Missionary Union, though having been effective for over 100 years in missions education and promotion of missions giving, had their responsibilities reassigned to the Home and Foreign Mission boards and Brotherhood? These agencies recognize the needs.

Obviously these changes are not proposed, with the exception of the last one. The tasks of WMU that has been vital in the lives of women and the denomination for over a century have simply been reassigned to other agencies.

What if concerted prayer for Home and Foreign Missions were so unimportant that it was not assigned to anyone? Women will continue to give and pray. There are a few good things that cannot be reassigned or taken away from a child of God — regardless of the gender.

*Carolyn Outland  
Murfreesboro 37129*

### About literature

I am concerned about the reassigning of mission responsibilities from Woman's Missionary Union to other SBC entities by the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in the proposed "Covenant for a New Century." This action taken by the Executive Committee is the equivalent of stripping our Sunday School organization of Bible teaching responsibilities and church music of worship leadership. Missions education and the promotion of missions offerings are the two primary reasons Woman's Missionary Union exists. To reassign these responsibilities will indeed diminish, even destroy,

the organization whose sole purpose is to serve missions.

It has been the adult women in our churches who have successfully provided missions education and promoted mission offerings through the years. If the Brotherhood accepts the proposed assignment of missions education, and WMU loses its reason for being, are there enough men in our churches willing to accept these strategic responsibilities? The most recently (1993) published statistics from the Annual Church Profile (Uniform Church Letter) report in 37,770 Southern Baptist churches, only 13,048 churches have Baptist Men organizations. How will missions be expressed in the 24,722 churches with no Baptist Men organizations?

Will Brotherhood design and produce age-level missions magazines to provide mission study content for weekly meetings of preschoolers and girls and monthly meetings of women? Will Baptist Men provide leadership for these organizations? Will they plan and conduct the church-wide emphasis on foreign and home missions through the bi-annual mission studies? Will Baptist Men work with pastors to plan and carry out church observances and program for daily prayer experiences for our weeks of prayer? Before the vote is taken in Atlanta, it would behoove us to know exactly who will perform these missions education tasks when they no longer belong to Woman's Missionary Union.

If Baptist Men and Baptist Women do not agree with this reassignment of missions tasks and believe WMU should continue as the organization responsible for the promotion of missions offerings and missions education of preschoolers, girls, and

women, then say so by our vote in Atlanta. We must pray fervently and exercise discernment as we hear and read the responses to this proposal. The future of Southern Baptist missions depends on it.

*Judy Trivette  
Knoxville 37918*

### Get a new report

Baptist Press reported in September 1980 a meeting where Paul Pressler said in part, "We are going for having knowledgeable, Bible-centered, Christ-honoring trustees of all our institutions, who are not going to sit there like a bunch of dummies and rubber stamp everything that's presented to them, but are going to inquire this is being done..."

The 64-3 vote of the SBC Executive Committee on the Program and Structure Committee report with little time to study it — is the biggest rubber stamp action I have seen. It is unthinkable that a report of this magnitude would be passed almost without discussion — in one day. I thank the *Baptist and Reflector* for printing the entire report.

I am opposed to eliminating the Brotherhood Commission and commend its trustees for refusing to embrace the plan. The elimination of Brotherhood and exclusion of WMU will ensure that missions education will be a thing of the past. Missions education is a focused ministry of Brotherhood and WMU and will become secondary under the new plan.

I am opposed to the elimination of the Historical Commission, which is a resource we cannot afford to lose. Lynn May is to be commended for speaking out against the report.

The Sunday School Board for several years has been in the

process of downsizing programs that do not bring in money. Assigning more programs that do not bring in money will mean the death of that program. Remember the difference in program and ministry. A program is an organized way of doing ministry.

*Tom Brown  
Murfreesboro 37130*

### Missing the mark

I was shocked and appalled when I read the story of the "sky diving" preacher on the back cover of the *Reflector*. Many years ago I began to notice that more and more pastors were stooping to these kinds of gimmicks. Those who will encourage folks to attend a "show" ought to be reminded of what Paul said to the Corinthians, because it still applies to us! II Corinthians 4:2 says "but we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the words of God deceitfully; but by the manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

The more significant question here, is "what did they come out to see?" Was it Christ or a sky-diver? Those who went for the entertainment value of the "show", were they back in church the next Sunday? Should we use such measures to attract a crowd and leave with them the impression that the Gospel is not good enough in itself; it must be dressed up for them. Such an attitude is astonishing and causes me great despair.

I realize there are those who will say "win them at any price." My question is, show it to me in the Bible.

*Jim West, pastor  
First Church  
Petros 37845*

## FMB trustee leader points out 'misperceptions'

When people are emotionally involved in a situation, they often find it difficult to look at things objectively. A recent example involves some WMU leadership with respect to changes proposed by the SBC Executive Committee's Program and Structure Study Committee, regarding the Foreign Mission Board (FMB). Despite the rhetoric, the proposed recommendations imply little change in the way the FMB has worked with WMU, nor does it diminish the role WMU organizations will have in promoting future missions offerings.

Although other issues are involved, it seems the greatest concern is the perception that the missions offerings are being taken away from the WMU. But the FMB and HMB have always had total access and allocation of these offerings. These offerings come directly from the churches, through state convention offices, and to the mission boards. They then are dispersed to our missionaries without being handled by the WMU. Strategy and planning for promoting this offering have been directed by an inter-

agency task force in which the FMB has had a leadership role. A host of people are not aware that the FMB provided \$400,000 directly to WMU to promote last year's offering through SBC churches! Underwriting the cost of promoting the Annie



**BLANCHARD**

Armstrong and Lottie Moon missions offerings is already the annual responsibility of the HMB and FMB. Well over 30 percent of recent SBC churches do not have a WMU (adult women) to promote the offering in their congregations. These factors indicate that the FMB needs the primary responsibility for this offering if the FMB is to generate the kind of convention-wide support needed to sustain our growing missionary program which comprises 46 percent of the FMB's budget. This does not diminish the need for WMU to continue in its auxiliary status as a promoter of missions causes in partnership with both of the

Mission Boards!

I hope that our WMU leadership will clarify misperceptions circulating about this matter, and affirm their exclusive commitment to the missions program of the SBC. In my eight years in our present pastorate I have never been in an adversarial role with WMU leadership in our church. I thank God for WMU and have taken them with me to FMB meetings. Furthermore, God has used these dear women to lead our church to quadruple our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. My wife is the president of our BYW, and my mother is a WMU director in the church where she is a member. I am the product of a missionary home, as well as a trustee of the FMB. So I speak as one who is very much a part of the "system," but I also want to challenge us all to pursue and articulate the truth based upon objective information.

*Bill Blanchard, pastor  
First Church, Sody-Daisy  
First vice-chairman  
Foreign Mission Board  
trustees*

# Striving for relevancy, holding down costs

In the best of times and the worst of times, Baptists of Tennessee have been able to rely on their own newsjournal for 160 years.

The people and the paper have endured the perils of economy, ignorance, mail service, and controversy.

Sticking together, we have prevailed.

Perhaps our greatest challenges have come from a poor economy. This is a by-product of wartimes and national or regional economical disturbances.

Some were caused by war, some by financial depressions, and maybe some just happened.

Combine these uncontrollable events with a lack of denominational loyalty and a shrinking interest in reading, and you have a formidable reason for declining numbers of readers.

As with any newspaper, *The Baptist*, began by Nashville pastor R. B. C. Howell in 1835, has not met with universal approval. From the outset Tennessee Baptists heartily approved of the paper as a means of sharing news of interest and education.

But like today's Tennessee Baptists, some felt free to do without the paper. Nonetheless, the staffs have continued to try to offer the best newspaper possible to its readers and potential readers.

Now, where does this lead us?

First, readers can be assured that the *Baptist and Reflector* is not planning a subscription rate increase in this calendar year. The paper must be fiscally re-

sponsible yet economical.

Though production costs (newsprint) and postage rates have increased dramatically during the past 10 months, we promise our readers to hold current subscription rates as low as possible.

The staff believes the *Baptist and Reflector* is maintaining a high level of customer satisfaction overall. However, the staff also realizes the paper is always on approval. We do not object.

How can the quality be maintained and readership enhanced without subscription increases?

The first step already has been taken. The editorial staff constantly keeps surveillance of trends and methods of attracting more readers.

We are processing ideas for incorporating even more local news and features — although this has long been a very high priority.

During the last half of 1995, the paper's 160th anniversary, announcements will be made about innovations and plans for new features.

We realize that Tennessee Baptists are different, with different needs and ideas about what they read.

Our goal is to gain reader interest, so that Baptists of this time period will have an understanding of our heritage and a keen interest in the challenging opportunities around us.

Tennessee Baptist churches can help by putting the *Baptist and Reflector* into the homes of the thousands of today's

non-readers.

1. The staff realizes there is great competition of the time of adults. We will strive to be highly competitive for a fair share of that time.

2. Denominational loyalty is ebbing, according to experts. However, if the denomination is reaching needs and gaining support of people who are eager to serve, the paper can help rebuild that loyalty. That will be a positive step in Christian stewardship.

3. The cycle of responsible leadership must be clearly defined. Non-readers evidently lack interest. It is questionable whether that lack is the fault of the paper, the churches, pastors, or other leadership.

Regardless of "who's to blame," each must learn to rely on each other. The paper must constantly strive for quality in every phase of production. Churches must insure that members get the official news regularly and honestly through the paper. Tennessee Baptist leaders must support the paper and the churches in hands-on involvement.

Yes, we can maintain and improve integrity and a professional status. Yes, we can be innovative in reaching the needs of Baptist families. Yes, we can respond to challenges as they come.

We are optimistic that all these steps can be taken, without immediate rate increases, as the churches decide to keep members informed through the only official newsjournal, the *Baptist and Reflector*, the people's advocate. □

## ■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
editor

### Making your list

Are you ever overwhelmed with lists?

Most of us probably make lists from time to time. Some of us, more than likely, have reached the category of specialists in lists. We are elite, eligible for that great LIST award. (Let It Stay There).

When the busiest times come, even my list looks busy.

I am addicted to listing. I make lists of things to do, people to call, places to visit, books to read, thoughts to share, words to learn.

Next thing on the agenda, of course, is a list of lists.

My list of "to do" seems limitless.

I was thinking about that recently, while I paused between lists. I was listing things that should go on the "do not" list.

Does Christ have a "to do" list? Did he have one when the Word was made flesh, to dwell among us?

Would it have said, for instance, chide Peter, chase the Pharisees, mourn with the widow, run with the children, calm the surging waves, touch the untouchable, offer living water, bread of life, an uncrooked way?

I think not.

But I have also pondered whether my lists can become more like what he would have had.

I suppose priority is the word to choose. On my "to do" list, I often underline or "star" the top "to do." But that doesn't mean I will get to it any faster. Reality is that I need to make my list reflect Christ.

He said: Follow me. Feed my sheep. Love one another. You are the salt of the earth, the light of the world. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Do not judge or you will be judged. Your sins are forgiven. Go, and sin no more. Take courage, don't be afraid. With God all things are possible. Go and make disciples of all nations ...

Well, it is best that I not allow my lists to take control of my life. Some items may not be worthy of listing.

Christ's "to do" list, I'm sure, includes you — and me. □



ALLEN

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

## Components of addiction

### ■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor

It will be beneficial to study the area of addictions. This is the first of four articles discussing the topic.

When discussing addictions, we usually first think of drugs and alcohol. There are many substances (such as food) and activities (like work, sex, and gambling) and even relationships to which people can become addicted.

There are at least five components to this addictive activity: compulsion to do the activity, loss of control, concentration on the substance or activity, consequences of the addictive activity, and the contradiction of denial.

The first component of addiction is the compulsion to use the substance or participate in the activity.

A compulsion is an uncontrollable urge. For some reason, usually unknown to the abuser, the substance or activity has a tug or pull on their lives.

This usually involves some pleasurable sensation. Most addictions are fun at first. Adrian Rogers says the Devil doesn't use bait. The Bible is

honest about this when it says that there is pleasure in sin for a season (Hebrews 11:25).

The second component is the loss of control. Some substances are physically addicting while other substances and activities are psychologically addicting.

The person feels he must have these things or he will not be able to go on living. The person is no longer in control — the addiction is.

Paul said in Romans 6:16, "Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?"

Another component of the addictive process is concentration or preoccupation with the substance or activity.

The addicted person thinks of little else when awake and even dreams of the substance or activity. His total compul-

sion with the substance or activity begins to push everything out of his life, such as family, work, school, etc.

The addicted person will also continue to use the substance or participate in the activity even in the face of adverse consequences.

The rational person feels he should be able to see the problem or trouble.

The final component is the contradiction of denial. It appears that the person would be able to see the difficulty he is experiencing because of the substance or activity, but he cannot. A good analogy is "the elephant in the house."

This is a way to describe the problem of living with an alcoholic family member, the broken furniture, messes to be cleaned up and all the problems.

Yet the family never talks about the "problem." It is like living with an elephant in the house, but no one is willing to talk about it. □



BARKLEY

## ■ just for today

By Fred Wood  
pastor emeritus  
Eudora Church, Memphis

### Start with a Smile

Preacher #1: "How's your work coming?" Preacher #2: "Terrible." Preacher #1: "What's the problem?" Preacher #2: "The weather here. In winter, it's so beautiful, heaven doesn't interest the people. In summer, it's so hot, hell doesn't scare them."

### Take this thought:

What motivates you? Nothing wrong with using fear as a motivator as long as we do not depend on it entirely or forever. Nothing wrong with using rewards as a motive with the same condition. Try love!

### Memorize this Scripture

"Love never fails" (I Corinthians 13:8 NAB).

### Pray this Prayer

Lord, help me to constantly re-evaluate my motive for serving you. May I not settle permanently for anything less than the supreme reason in your sight. Love is its own reward in service. □

# ■ Tennessee features

## Couples with state ties to serve on foreign mission fields

For Baptist and Reflector

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Five couples with strong Tennessee ties recently were appointed as missionaries or Cooperative Services International representatives by trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

David and Sharon Bollenbacher were appointed representatives to east Asia where they will use their skills in development of CSI-related projects in developing nations. CSI is a Southern Baptist aid organization.

A native of Alabama, Mrs. Bollenbacher is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Howell of Hermitage. She considers Hermitage her hometown and Hermitage Hills Church her home church. She and her husband are graduates of University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The couple has three children.

Jeff and Kathy Deasy were appointed as missionaries to north Brazil where they will teach music at the North Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary and be involved in outreach ministries.

Deasy is a native of Kentucky but considers Parkway Church, Goodlettsville, as influential to his Christian growth. He is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville,



**BOLLENBACHERS**



**DEASYS**



**HOLLINGSWORTHS**



**RAYS**

and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Mrs. Deasy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Callahan of New Johnsonville. She considers Trace Creek Church there her home church and cites Parkway Church as influential to her Christian growth.

She is a graduate of Belmont and expects to receive the master of church music degree from Southern Seminary in May. They have two children.

Maurice and Nancy Hollingsworth were appointed as missionaries to Taiwan where he will teach at Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary and together will be involved in outreach ministries. Born and reared in Memphis, Hollings-

worth is the son of Irene Hollingsworth of that city. He considers Broadmoor Church, Memphis, his home church. He holds degrees from Memphis State University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Mrs. Hollingsworth is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Blass of Jackson. She considers West Jackson Church her home church. She is a graduate of Union and expects to receive the master of education in teaching degree from the University of Texas, Arlington, in May. They have two children.

Michael and Linda Ray will serve as missionaries in Ukraine, where he will promote religious education and

together be involved in outreach ministries.

Since 1992 Ray has been minister of education and administration at First Church, Martin.

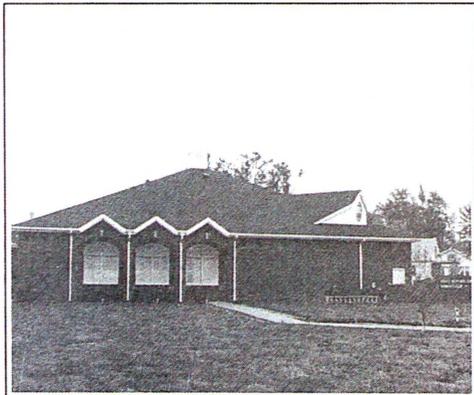
David and Jana Wilkins were appointed as missionary associates to Cyprus where he will work as administrator and business manager for the Middle East and North Africa mission and together be involved in outreach ministries.

Born in Memphis, he is the son of Catherine Wilkins of Nashville. He was reared in Memphis, but considers Nashville his hometown. Mrs. Wilkins, a native of Mississippi, also considers Nashville her hometown. They are members of First Church there. He is a



**WILKINSES**

graduate of Mississippi State University, Starkville, and both hold degrees from Vanderbilt University, Nashville. They have one son. □



### Facility dedicated

First Church, Hohenwald, dedicated its new worship center and preschool area April 23 on 'Celebration Sunday.' The 12,000-foot facility was built at a cost of about \$950,000, with the help of volunteer labor from Carpenters for Christ. The building is appraised at \$1.2 million. During the dedicatory message, Pastor Tim Miller reminded the congregation, 'This is the house that prayer built.' He emphasized the building is not the end, but is just 'a part of the journey.' Participating in the service were, below, from left, David Bell, chairman, building committee; Bud Malone, chairman, long-range planning committee; Miller; and Jeff Beech, minister of music.



## Memphis fire damages church building, but not members' spirits

Special to Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Insurance companies will call it an act of God. So do the folks at Poplar Avenue Church here.

Late on Saturday night, April 29, a bolt of lightning struck the northernmost peak of the church and set fire to the roof of the sanctuary.

"My disposition changed overnight," Pastor Ray Fullilove told members the next morning. "I got fired up."

The fire left the roof vulnerable to collapse. Smoke from smoldering insulation, water from fire hoses, and falling debris did more damage inside, according to the pastor.

In order to have services at the church that Sunday, Fullilove and others covered pews with tarps, boarded up the doors, and set chairs in the fellowship area. That morning, church members turned their

attention to God.

As the odor of burned wood and fiber hung like incense in the air, Poplar Avenue's annual homecoming day service proceeded without a hitch.

"This is the church down here," Music Minister Bob Estes said as he looked at his fellow church members. "The building is over there."

Fullilove said he won't know how long the sanctuary will be shut until he talks to insurance adjusters, roofers, and others.

Not to worry, said former pastor Gerald Martin. "If lightning has taken the whole building, it would not have affected this church spiritually," he said.

"The joy God has given us is right here in our hearts," Martin affirmed. □ — Adapted from a story written by David Waters for *The Commercial Appeal* in Memphis.

# Team from Carson-Newman returns to Haiti

For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — Although much has changed since a Carson-Newman College team first visited the besieged island nation of Haiti in 1993, they found more has stayed the same. Even though Jean Bertrand-Aristide has returned to power and the nation has become a deeper political issue in the United States, the majority of Haitian people still live in poverty and disease, requiring help to lift them from their position.

Sponsored by businessman Ken Seaton of Sevierville, a group of nine students and seven faculty spent 10 days in Haiti, working at hospitals, churches, and orphanages, experiencing the squalor and economic gloom of the country even upon their arrival at the airport in Port-au-Prince. They were part of a larger force of 143 Carson-Newman students and staff who participated in spring break missions work. Team member Jeremy Elliott of Limestone recalls, "The Haitians at the airport were hanging all over us, all wanting, needing, asking, begging. When we managed to get to the guest house, I found that my wallet was 15 dollars lighter."

Ken Morton, associate professor of chemistry and a participant in the '93 trip, explains one sees people who "are dying in Mother Teresa's hospitals and

orphanages. They're just skin and bones, like a skeleton with the skin pulled tight over it. You can't be around that real long and not be affected by it."

Morton continues, "We were limited in being able to talk to other people who already knew our language, but we found out pretty quick you can do a lot non-verbally, show love and care and concern quite well. A lot of people there need that."

The C-N group ministered by providing food and medicine; holding children dying of AIDS, tuberculosis, and other serious illnesses; cutting fingernails and toenails of sick and destitute men and women; rubbing lotion on the dry skin of the infirm.

Faculty member James Collins says, "These are people who are next to so many problems: dangers, starvation, disease. We found a commonality with them, but juxtaposed against the most horrible difference I've ever seen."

All the group members relate a life-changing event in their trip. They realized how difficult solutions for Haiti will be and how far Haiti must go before it is self-sufficient and the people can live in peace.

Morton notes there are more missionaries per capita in Haiti than in any other country in the Western hemisphere and it's the poorest country in the hemisphere. "It's going to be a long time before Haiti's a nice place to live,

probably generations," says Morton.

Besides these similarities, the group also noticed changes. "Just the presence of the humvees and the U. S. troops made it different; they were camped out at the airport and everywhere. Some of the garbage had been picked up since the embargo, and people were telling us it was safer there than it was two years ago," says Morton.

Campus minister Jim Wilson observes, "There are those who are not pleased politically, and there are divergent factions, but the last time I was there, some of the people we worked with wouldn't even discuss politics. The people seem to feel freedom now."

Student Heather Byars of Franklin noticed this as well. "I could only think of how little hope they must have. I was wrong. I was overwhelmed by the pure joy I saw on the Haitians' faces. I will remember that for the rest of my life," she adds.

"I have fear that I will forget," says faculty member Carolyn Blevins. "I

don't want to forget because I think that should make a difference in how I live."

Student Ronel Saintvil of Hollywood, Fla., agrees, "I don't take advantage of things I did before I went. For instance, I've become much more aware of what I eat and what I throw away."

After returning to the U.S., the participants meet each week to discuss their feelings, wanting to be certain they don't forget their experiences. They explain how difficult it is at times to relate

to friends and family members who have no way of comprehending their experience.

"The hardest part of the trip

took place in coming back," says student Rob Whitener of Dalton, Ga.

"We're hoping to be able to continue these programs at Carson-Newman," concludes Morton. "It's a life-changing experience that comes at a time when people are choosing the direction for their life. It makes you always wonder; you can never be quite comfortable in a sense. You always have to be asking, 'What does God want from me now?'" □

I could only think of how little hope they must have. I was wrong.

— Heather Byars, student from Franklin

## Tennessee seniors from Fairview join World Changers in Savannah, Ga.

By Susan Watt  
For Baptist and Reflector

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Senior adults from First Church, Fairview, joined more than 120 senior adults in the historic city of Savannah, Ga., to participate in a national World Changers work project, April 22-29.

World Changers, a ministry of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, stresses "hands-on" missions involvement through youth, collegiate, and senior adult projects. Participants renovate and repair homes for the elderly, disabled, and residents in low-income areas.

Senior adults from nine states arrived April 22 to participate in a week of work, fellowship, and worship. They were divided into various work crews and given names such as "Cool Caulkers," "Hammer Heads," and "Goofus Roofers." Work crews were led by individuals with construction experience. Work on 11 sites began Monday and included painting, repairing floors and porches, hanging sheet rock, and building cabinets.

"I've never had anything like this in my life," said Savannah resident Dorothy Mills, 70. "I feel like I'm in a dream. I won't ever forget it." A World Changers crew repaired her front porch, replaced the floor and hung sheetrock in her bathroom, and painted, laid linoleum, and added cabinets in her kitchen.

Meeting senior adults from other churches and helping others were said by many to be the best aspects of the week. Other participants said they enjoyed doing jobs they didn't think they could do.

"I was questioning what the work would be," said Nancy Ellis of First Church, Fairview. "I was not sure if I could handle it, but I can."

"There's something everybody can do," said Mary Bennett of Neptune Church in Neptune Beach, Fla. "When you do World Changers, you're doing missions, instead of just giving and praying."

World Changers is a cooperative effort between the Brotherhood Commission, Savannah Baptist Association, local churches, and the city of Savannah.

"The city of Savannah has had a great relationship with World Changers," said Mike Barros, director of housing for the city. "These senior adults are doing an excellent job."

To be involved in Senior Adult World Changers, participants paid \$235, which covered lodging, meals, and registration materials. They also completed *Setting A Course*, a missions trip preparation workbook.

Other World Changers projects scheduled for 1995 include a collegiate project June 4-10 in Charleston, S.C., and two junior high projects July 17-22 in Savannah, and Jackson. Senior high projects for youth grades 9-12 are scheduled for June 10-17 in Effingham, Ill., Montgomery, Ala., Orlando, Fla., and Greater Pittsburgh, Pa.; June 24 - July 1 in Lane Deer, Mont., Mobile, Ala., Bishopville, S.C., and Danville, Va.; July 8-15 in New Braunfels, Texas, Vicksburg, Miss., Savannah, Ga., and Clinton; July 15-22 in Houston, Texas, and Clinton; and July 29 - Aug. 5 in Shreveport, La., West Memphis, Ark., Pikeville, Ky., and Cherokee County, N.C. □



### First, Camden, dedicates building

Leading the dedication ceremony of the family life center of First Church, Camden, are, from left, Paul Veazey, Union University, interim pastor; Buck Morton, former pastor; George Hill, director of missions, Carroll-Benton Association; Robert Sanders, pastor 1949-63; Ray Jones, former pastor who is director of missions, Big Hatchie Association; and Larry Bryant, minister of music/youth.

### Disaster relief team travels to Louisiana

Baptist and Reflector

KENNER, La. — Tennessee Baptists have responded to the needs of flood victims in Louisiana. Heavy rains hit portions of Louisiana and Texas last week causing major problems for local residents.

A team of about 25 volunteers, led by TBC Brotherhood Director Cameron Byler, left May 12 for Kenner, La.

They set up a feeding unit at Williams Boulevard Church, Byler reported.

On Saturday, May 13, the team fed 1,750 people and another 1,350 on Sunday evening, May 14, Byler said.

Byler said they expected to serve another 2,000 meals on Monday, May 15.

At press time May 15, Byler did not know how long the team would be in Louisiana. □

# Ethicist, SBC president join effort to squelch perennial false rumors

By Ken Camp  
For Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS — They're back, like ragweed in the summer.

Perennial rumors linking Proctor & Gamble to Satanism and alleging that Madalyn Murray O'Hair has petitioned the Federal Communications Committee to take religious programming off the airwaves are false. Always have been. Still are.

Perpetuators of these kinds of rumors provide "perfect nourishment for those who live by fear instead of faith," according to Phil Strickland, director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"There are too many people feeding at the trough of rumor and conspiracy fantasies," Strickland said. "And feeding on conspiracy fantasies can have horrible consequences, as we have witnessed in Okla-

homa City," he continued.

Proctor & Gamble recently issued an informational packet noting the return of a "completely ridiculous and false story" that the company's president appeared on a talk show to discuss his organization's ties to Satanism.

The informational packet from Proctor & Gamble includes letters from Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry, evangelist Jerry Falwell, a representative of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, and other religious leaders noting that the rumor is untrue and urging everyone to ignore those who spread the lies.

"If there are those in the Christian community who continue to bring this matter up, they should be given a deaf ear," Henry said.

The rumor originally surfaced in 1981-82, came back in

1984-85, and sprung to life once again in 1990. Now, Proctor & Gamble reports, it's back.

"None of this is true. The president of P&G has never appeared on any talk show to discuss Satanism," according to the cover letter by Elaine Matthews, resource manager for Proctor & Gamble. "We have successfully filed lawsuits over the years against a number of people who were intentionally spreading this lie, and will do so again if necessary," she continued.

Another recurring falsehood that takes on new life periodically concerns RM 2493 which has been linked with O'Hair in a series of bogus petitions that have circulated for at least 20 years.

Christians who continue to spread rumors without checking their veracity are "irresponsible," Strickland said. □

## SBC Cooperative Program gifts increase for month, year-to-date

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program gifts continued to surpass previous marks for last year even though an accounting change made at the halfway mark in the fiscal year clarified the distinction made between CP and designated gifts, according to Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

For the month of April 1995, gifts increased a hefty 16.46 percent over April of last year: \$12,653,924 compared to \$10,865,870.

In accordance with an accounting change April 1 directed by the Executive Committee in its February meeting, all gifts are now either Coopera-

tive Program — those without any restrictions, while the rest — with any restriction — are designated. Even with the change, there was an increase in all April figures and the SBC fiscal year, at seven months, was up 4.32 percent over the previous year.

For the 1994-95 budget year to date, CP receipts stood at \$86,330,877, compared to 1993-94's \$82,756,762, or an increase of \$3,574,115. And the 1994-95 total was an increase of 8.39 percent over the required budget figure. More than \$11.3 million is required each month for the SBC Program Allocation budget.

Designated gifts of \$10,559,299 also were up — 5.43 percent — for April, compared to last year. □

## Nashville pastor considers mayoral post

Associated Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A prominent Nashville Baptist pastor who is campaigning against allowing beer sales in the city's new arena may now run for mayor.

"Some people have asked me if I would think about it, and I told them I would," Bill Sherman, pastor of Woodmont Church, told the *Nashville Business Journal*.

Sherman, whose weekly sermons have been broadcast on local television for 24 years, has been an outspoken oppo-

nent of the plan to sell beer in the arena under construction. Incumbent Mayor Phil Breddesen hopes to attract a professional hockey team to the city but says a ban on beer sales could nix the effort. Present law prohibits beer sales within 100 feet of a church building. First Church, Nashville, is 85 feet from the arena.

"I would like to see us have a city in which character values would be more important than a big 20,000-seat building and a pro team," Sherman said. The filing deadline for candidates is May 18. □

## SWBTS trustees elect Lea

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Tommy Lea, longtime professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, was unanimously elected dean of the school of theology May 3 by the seminary's board of trustees. He will assume his new role June 1.

In recommending Lea to the trustees, President Ken Hemphill noted discussions with both faculty and trustees revealed their strong

approval of Lea as the new "stackpole" dean at Southwestern. Lea, who has taught at the seminary 16 years received both his master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern.

In other actions, trustees approved a 1995-96 balanced budget of \$22,904,304, which reflected a decrease of \$574,060 from the 1994-95 fiscal year. Included in that budget is a \$135 per semester increase in the student matriculation fee. □

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Project Help is an annual ministry project sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union.

## ■ the leaders

■ **Calvary Church, Elizabethton**, has called **Ben W. Hansard** as minister of education and youth. He is a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **Kevin Shrum** has been called as pastor of Inglewood Church, Nashville, effective June 11. Shrum holds a doctorate from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He has served churches in Kentucky and Missouri.

■ **William E. Owens**, pastor, Ridgedale Church, Chattanooga, was honored April 30 for 15 years of service there. He received gifts and recognitions at both services and at an afternoon reception.

■ **George Wadlington**, minister of music, South Harriman Church, Harriman, for the past 15 years, was honored May 6-7. His ministry spans 47 years.

■ **Dan Nolan** has been called as minister of music, Sand Ridge Church, Lexington, effective April 19.

■ **James F. Gentry Jr.**,

pastor, Lewis Lane Church, Owensboro, Ky., has been called as pastor of Springfield Church, Springfield, effective June 11.

■ **John T. Brown**, has retired as chief of chaplains, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Fort Howard, Md., and will live in Olive Branch, Miss. Before becoming a chaplain Brown served as pastor of churches in Fayette, Harde-man County, Shelby County, and Carroll-Benton associations and in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He will be available for supply and interim work and can be contacted at (601) 895-1992.

■ **Bryan Moore** of Kingsport has been called as pastor of Clintwood Church, Clintwood, Va.

## ■ 'Here's Hope' revivals

■ **Bloomington and Orebank churches of Kingsport** held a "Here's Hope" revival. Joe W. Byrd, pastor of Bloomington, and David Frazier, pastor of Orebank, alternated as speakers.

■ **Hillcrest Church,**

**Clarksville**, held a "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You" Revival April 16-20. Evangelist Henry Linginfelter of Alcoa spoke and Dick Barrett of Bremen, Ga., lead the music. Eighteen people made professions of faith and eight joined the church. A record number of people participated.

## ■ deaths

■ **Claude York Stewart**, 82, principal emeritus of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour, died April 22 after suffering a heart attack in his home. He retired from the academy in 1977 after working there 40 years as teacher, dean of men, principal, and interim president. He was a member of First Church, Seymour. Memorials may be sent to the Claude York Stewart Scholarship Endowment Fund at the academy.

■ **Florence Conner Hearn** died recently in Fayette, Ga. A memorial service was held April 29 at Immanuel Church, Nashville, where she was a member with her husband, the late C. Aubrey Hearn. Hearn was an author and trainer in early



**TEAM MEMBERS FROM Parkview Church, Jackson**, pose in front of a home they helped rebuild for victims of the floods in Albany, Ga., last July. This work was a followup visit by the church which worked after the flood doing clean up. During this year's visit April 17-21 the team worked with Baptists from Mallory Association in Georgia on three homes.

childhood education. She led conferences at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist conference centers. In Tennessee she started one of the first Baptist kindergarten programs.

## ■ the churches

■ **Leatherwood Church, Waynesboro**, will celebrate its 125th anniversary June 4. Activities will include a luncheon and music program during the afternoon. Revival will be June 5-9. Frank Samuels, pastor, First Church, Waynesboro, will speak.

■ **Brown Springs Church, Mosheim**, will celebrate its 124th anniversary May 28. Niles Kitzmiller, a former pastor, will speak and a luncheon will follow.

■ **First Church, Millington**, will hold a Preschool/Children's Choir Leader Conference June 24. Nan Grantham, music associate, First Church, Bossier City, La., will lead it. She is an author, teacher, and Baptist consultant. For more information, call (901) 872-2264.

■ **Gum Springs Church, Walling**, will hold revival May 28-31. Benny Jackson will speak. Marc Pyburn, minister

of worship, Gum Springs, will lead the music.

■ **First Church, Goodlettsville**, recently set two church records. It had 671 in Sunday School and 1,056 in morning worship services.

## ■ the schools

■ **Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.**, will host the Southern Christian Writers Workshop June 9-10. Charlie Warren, editor of *Home Life*, and former associate editor, *Baptist and Reflector*, will speak. For more information, call Joanne Sloan at (205) 333-8603.

■ **Richard Fallis**, chair of the English department of Syracuse University in New York will be dean of the School of Humanities/education, **Belmont University, Nashville**, effective July 1.



**FALLIS**

He is a native of Nashville and a graduate of Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C., and Princeton University, Princeton, N.C.



**LEADERS OF THE NEW GATEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, ATOKA**, pose on April 9 when the congregation was constituted into a church. They include, from left, Daryl Walker, Ira Perkins, retired director of mission, Big Hatchie Association; William Northcott, pastor, First Church, Covington, which was the sponsoring church; S. Ray Jones, director of missions, Big Hatchie; Brent Martin, youth minister, Gateway; Martha Tanner, associational mission development director; Jere Phillips, TBC missions director; and Louise Vandergrift. Other leaders were Jack and Gina Conner and Joe Rinehart. The property was provided through the Golden State Missions Offering, an interest free loan from the TBC, and gifts from the association's churches. Baptist Builders for Christ helped build the first building.

# Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

## What is constant?

By Charlie Bryan, pastor Central Church, Alcoa

Life is full of ups and downs, highs and lows, joys and sorrows! Being a pastor does not exempt me from these experiences of life. In fact, it actually allows me to experience more of these ups and downs than most of you because I am called into so many of your life situations. And I thank you for en-

trusting me enough to walk with you in your joys and sorrows.

I did not realize that there would be weeks like this past one when I accepted God's call into his service. I did not know I would get to experience such a high of sharing in the progress of growth and excitement that we experienced on Easter Sunday (and really for the past eight months). Nor did I think that I would be sharing in the ultimate sorrow of helping parents grieve the death of their son (and four other fami-

lies before these who have lost children to death). I'm not complaining, just considering my own grief and feelings because I am still thankful God called me into his service.

As we experience the ups and downs of life, I have found one constant in all of them — God! God is there for us as we go through the pains of life as well as he is leading us in the good times of life. May we entrust our lives to him at all times so that he can provide us with all our needs. □

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

# Church secretaries key players in ministering during crises

By Chip Alford  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — When it comes to handling crises, church secretaries often are on the "front line."

They either have to deal with the problem themselves or find the appropriate minister or church leader for help.

"Your role in ministry in your church is very important. ... You often are the first to hear about a crisis," Neil Knierim, a consultant in the Baptist Sunday School Board's pastor-staff leadership department, told a large crowd of church secretaries attending his seminar, "Ministering in Times of Crisis." The seminar was part of the 1995 National Conference for Southern Baptist Secretaries held in late April at the BSSB in Nashville.

Crises, Knierim said, come in two categories — immediate and continual — though some can fit in both.

Citing examples of immediate crises, Knierim mentioned premarital pregnancy, the uprooted (moving to a new location), husbands and wives in

conflict, separation and divorce, and suicidal persons. Continual crises can include depressed persons, caring for the terminally ill, the lonely, and widows. Examples of situations which have both immediate and continual needs include financial crises/the unemployed, the abused and their families, the bereaved, and those experiencing spiritual doubt and pain.

On the whole, churches tend to do a better job of responding to immediate crises rather than long-term problems, especially when it comes to death, Knierim said.

"Churches do a great job immediately after a death," he said, but noted they tend to forget to minister after the funeral. "Oftentimes, that is the most difficult time (for the bereaved)," he said.

Knierim told secretaries it is important for them to understand the "ingredients of car-

ing" which he identified as (1) knowledge about people and their needs, (2) self-evaluation (constantly evaluating who you are and your motivation for ministry), (3) patience, (4) courage, (5) honesty, (6) humility, (7) a sense of hope, and (8) trust.

He also discussed three "resources" which need to be used in crisis ministry.

(1) Listening. "There is something very healing and helpful in being able to talk through a problem," Knierim said.

(2) Developing trust.

(3) Praying. "Prayer is a very important tool in helping people in a crisis," he said.

(4) Sharing Scripture. "In times of struggle and difficulty, Scripture brings comfort," he said. Among Scriptures helpful in crises are Philippians 4:13; Psalm 23; Psalm 46:1, Romans



**TWO TENNESSEE BAPTIST** church secretaries were among 750 persons participating in a National Conference for Southern Baptist Secretaries at the Baptist Sunday School Board in late April. Talking with tour leader Ray Minardi were, from left, Kay Taylor, Longview, Texas; Linda Orms, White Oak; and Shirley Cunningham, Estill Springs. — Photo by Jim Veneman

8:38-39, and James 1:3-6. Ministering in times of crises doesn't need to involve anything "elaborate. Just listen and let them know you care," he suggested. □

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# ■ Sunday School lesson commentary

**Life and Work Series  
for May 21  
Focal Passages:  
Acts 17:16-19, 22-23,  
31-34a**

## Making the most of opportunities

By Chuck McElhannon

What impresses you about the people you meet? Do you pay attention to their clothes, the car they drive, or their job? Do you think about their education, their interests, or their talents? Are you impressed by their personality, their children, or their needs? Are you ever moved to consider their spiritual condition? Paul's activities in Acts 17 remind us that he took advantage of every witnessing opportunity that came his way. Do you view everyday encounters as opportunities to share Jesus?

### See the need — v. 16

It did not take long for Paul to sense the tremendous spiritual need among the religious Athenians. The prevalence of idol worship dismayed Paul. The word used with reference to Paul's spirit being stirred is related to the word used of the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas in 15:39. It refers to a high degree of emotional distress. In other words, Paul was deeply troubled by what he witnessed in Athens. In much the same way, Christians today should be so moved by the worldliness of our society and the lack of attention given to God and to Jesus, that we decide we are going to take advantage of any opportunity we may have to witness for Jesus.

### Know the audience — vv. 17-19

Paul first attempted to reach people through contacts in the local synagogue. He began by trying to witness to the Jews, people who understood his Old Testament background. He could use that common ground as a stepping stone to presenting Jesus. After establishing the synagogue as a base of operations, Paul then moved out into the marketplace, where he sought to share Jesus with those from different religious backgrounds.

Our efforts to reach all people in our day must follow the same approach. The easiest people to reach are those who have similar religious, social, or ethnic backgrounds. As much success as Southern Baptists have with homogenous mission work we understand the need to reach all people, however difficult that may be. If we are content to remain within the confines of our church buildings, neighborhoods, or comfort zones, we will never reach the people in the marketplace.

Too often, Christians today are reluctant to discuss their personal faith with anyone who has an opposing world view. We are shy when we should be bold. These people need Jesus.

### Start where they are — vv. 22-23

He began by addressing something important to them, their affinity for things religious. He drew attention to the altar to the unknown god, and skillfully used it as an object lesson. He simply began with what his hearers could relate to.

### Expect mixed results — vv. 32-34

If we share the Gospel often enough, we, too will see mixed results. Some will scoff; some will be interested enough to want to hear more later; and some will accept Jesus Christ. The important thing to remember is that we are not responsible for the response of the hearer. We are expected to obey the prompting of the Holy Spirit when an opportunity comes our way. □ — Chuck McElhannon is pastor of Valley View Church, Nashville.

## Sharing blessings with others

By Brian Courtney

Usually stewardship emphases are unwelcome in most churches. Christians who give on a regular basis find such emphases "...superfluous..." (v. 1). They know to give and they do! Other Christians who refuse to give or do so on an inconsistent basis find such emphases manipulative or high pressured. They know to give but do not for whatever reason!

### The situation — vv. 1-5

In chapter 9, Paul continues the discussion of the offering for the saints in Jerusalem. Just as Paul brags to the Corinthians about the generosity of the Macedonians (8:1-5), now he boasts about the Corinthians to his hosts in Macedonia. The problem is, the Corinthians have not completed the collection (8:10-11). So Paul faces a dilemma. What if he and some Macedonians arrive in Corinth to receive the offering and there is no offering? Paul knows an embarrassing situation could erupt (v. 4).

Paul uses two motives to move the Corinthians to action and avoid embarrassment. First, he reminds them of their "readiness ... and zeal ..." (v. 2) in the matter of the collection "... so that our boasting may not be in vain" (v. 3). Paul uses his boasting as a lever to motivate the Corinthians. Second, Paul "... thought it necessary to urge the brethren to go on before me, ..." (v. 5). Paul sends Titus and two others (8:16-23) to complete the collection not by coercion, but "as a willing gift" (v. 5).

Paul's dilemma is still present. Churches vote budgets, a shortfall occurs, and a pastor pleads for budget recovery. Christians commit to give and fail their commitment. A sense of defeatism pervades the church. Isn't this embarrassing? What is needed is a spiritual maturity that keeps its commitments which gives unity to the church.

## Jesus approaches the cross

By Thomas Vinson

One hit out of three attempts is good in baseball. Peter was not playing baseball. He was playing with the truth which is at the very heart of the Gospel. Three times he speaks in today's focal passage. Once he gets a hit, but the other two times he strikes out. What is good in baseball, is tragic when dealing with truth.

### Peter's confession of Christ — ch. 8:27-30

These disciples had been in summer school with Jesus, and now it was time for the examination. The final has only two questions. First, "Who do men say that I am?" As the Son of Man, Jesus already knew. He was not asking for information. He wanted to lead them to a deeper understanding of his mission. The suggestion that he was John the Baptist or Elijah was flattering, but betrayed a woeful lack of understanding as to his unique person as Son of Man. Not one suggested that they had heard folks speaking of Jesus as the promised Messiah. The second question is never graded on the curve. "Who do you say that I am?" The "you" is emphatic. Here theology moved from mere arm chair discussion to hard nosed dialogue between himself and the twelve. Peter gave a good but incomplete answer. The next segment will indicate that he still did

### Understanding giving — vv. 6-10

Paul wanted the Corinthians to complete the collection and avoid embarrassment, but he also wants to help the Corinthians understand giving. First, Paul reminds them of the harvest principle (v. 6): harvest depends on how much one sows. Some among the Corinthians may have feared their giving would lead to their poverty. Paul's words serve as a corrective: generous giving would lead to enrichment.

Second, Paul reminds the Corinthians that giving comes from a previous decision (v. 7). Giving comes in the life of a person who considers God's work and decides to participate.

Third, Paul reminds them of God's part in giving (v. 8). He states that God has limitless resources. Each one could give because of God's "abundance for every good work." Many give out of various understandings. What is needed is a spiritual maturity that gives from a biblical understanding.

### Results of giving — vv. 11-15

First, Paul points out "You will be enriched ..." (v. 11). Second, their giving would produce "thanksgiving to God," (v. 11). Third, their giving "supplies the wants of the saints" who will give "many thanksgivings to God" (vv. 12-13). Fourth, it would cause the Jerusalem church to see "the surpassing grace of God" (v. 14) in the Corinthians. In effect, Paul says giving affects the giver, God, the recipients, and the church. It's no wonder he closes with a "thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift" (v. 15). What does Paul mean? Many interpretations are possible. One will suffice. Paul is thankful that through Jesus Christ Jews and Gentiles are becoming brothers and sisters. The act of giving is an expression of this.

Giving has many results. What is needed is a spiritual maturity to give for biblical results. □ — Brian Courtney is pastor of First Church, Sneedville.

**Convention Uniform Series  
for May 21  
Focal Passage  
II Corinthians 9:1-8,10-15**

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Focal Passage: Mark 8:27-29, 31-35;  
9:2-7**

not understand the role of Messiah as suffering servant.

### Peter's contention with Christ — vv. 31-35

This confession was immediately followed by the first clear prediction of his coming death. Jesus gradually revealed the encompassing nature of his mission as Messiah. Then he began to teach them the kind of Messiah he would be. He told them he was going to die. This announcement so dazed them that they failed to hear him say he would rise again.

One word describes Simon Peter: "Impetuous!" Here we see him doing what he does best, putting his foot in his mouth. He took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him. Peter had other plans for Jesus. Jesus turned on Peter and rebuked him severely. "Get thee behind me" (v. 33). Here was another satanic attempt to keep him off the cross. Peter, who a few moments before had been the voice of God (v. 29), now became the spokesman for the arch enemy, Satan. Any suggestion that Jesus would turn away from the cross could have but one origin, the Devil himself.

Our Lord took advantage of this situation to teach a larger lesson

about personal cross bearing (vv. 34-35). What does it mean to take up our cross? Simply put, wherever our will and the will of God intersects, that is our cross. We are then faced with a volitional choice to either go on with God, or do our own thing. It is a kind of renunciation of an ego centered life.

### Peter's confusion about Jesus — ch. 9:2-7

Jesus used this incident to spawn discussion about his death. Again, Peter broke in and struck out. He continued to insist that Jesus not go to Jerusalem and die. When they heard Moses and Elijah talking about his death, they thought it necessary again to protest. The father in essence was saying, "Stop imposing your will upon my Son. It is not your place to dictate to him." He was not to listen to the disciples, they were to listen to him (v. 7). Moses and Elijah are important people, but supreme attention is to be paid to the Son of Man. The suggestion that they build three tabernacles reflected a concept of equality between the three. This is my beloved Son "Hear him." □ — Thomas Vinson is pastor of Leawood Church, Memphis.

## Oklahoma City relief fund tops \$260,000

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Baptist across Oklahoma and around the world have responded to the needs of the Oklahoma City bombing victims by providing more than \$263,508 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.

A total of 166 people died in the explosion and an additional 400 people were injured.

Oklahoma Baptist leaders said they were not surprised Oklahoma Baptists responded to people in a crisis situation, but were taken aback at the amount given. □

## Baptist camp, hospital hit hard by storms

Baptist Press

DALLAS — A series of killer storms that swept across Texas May 5-7 claimed at least 17 lives, devastated a Baptist encampment, and flooded the emergency room at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.

A tornado hit High Plains Baptist Assembly in Canyon, Texas, destroying the camp manager's home and the camp dining hall, leveling at least one cabin, and ripping the roofs off several other buildings. No injuries were reported.

More than two dozen patients being treated in the emergency room at Baylor University Medical Center had to be moved to higher ground when rising water began to fill the below-ground facility just before 10 p.m. on May 5. The emergency room remained closed throughout the weekend and was expected to be closed for another three or four days.

A few blocks away, the Texas Baptist River Ministry warehouse filled with water, causing about \$15,000 in damage to supplies. □

## NOBTS seminary housing sustains rainfall damage

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — In a deluge of rain here May 8-9, a number of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's ground-floor Gentilly student apartments, located about a mile and a half from the main campus, took on 13 inches of water.

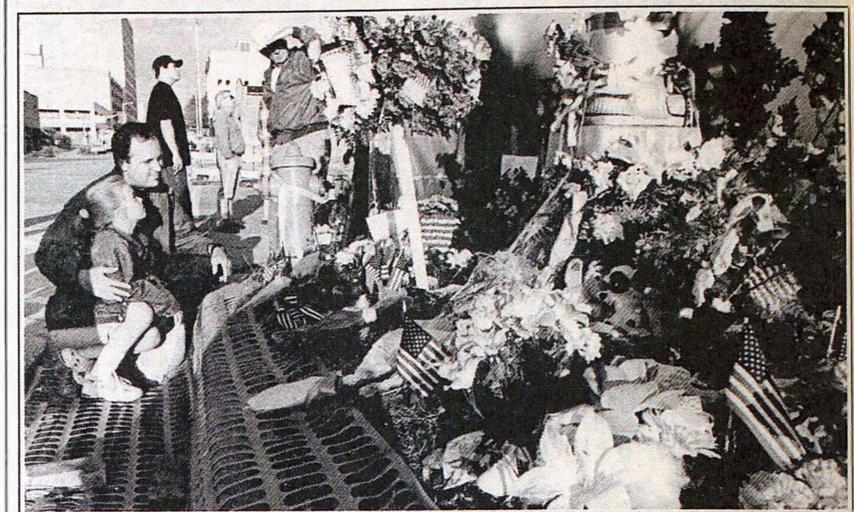
The seminary was closed May 9, with about half of the campus without electricity. □

## Haitian government denies work permits to medical volunteers

Baptist Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — The Haitian ministry of public health has denied work permits for Southern Baptist medical volunteers who planned to lead rural clinics in Haiti May 6-June 3.

The project was the final



## Reflecting at bomb site

Kent Harville kneels with his daughter Allison at a street corner where persons have left flowers, cards, and stuffed animals near the bombed Federal Building in Oklahoma City. Allison asked to visit the site after learning that Mary Ann Fritzler who taught her Sunday School class at Quail Springs Church last year, was among those killed in the bombing. Harville is a technical investigator with the Oklahoma City Police Department who has performed a variety of tasks in the days following the April 19 bombing, including taking aerial photographs of the crime scene and working in a temporary morgue at nearby First United Methodist Church to identify bombing victims. — Photo by Jim Veneman

stage in a Haiti relief program sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Foreign Mission Board.

Earlier phases included food distribution and well repair.

Transitions in Haiti's government since last October played a part in denial of the medical permits, said Mark Rutledge, an FMB missionary in Haiti.

"In the past few months ... the country has gone from a time when no one was responsible for public health to a period of adding new rules and

qualifications," Rutledge wrote in a fax to the volunteers. "Some of the changes contributed to the denial by the (public health) minister." □

## HMB gives Bibles at New Age fair

Baptist Press

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — A folding table with 1,200 paperback Bibles was all the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department had to draw visitors to their booth at a recent Life

Enrichment Expo. It was enough.

Surrounded by advocates of the New Age — all hawking their own path to a higher consciousness, Bill Gordon, associate director of the HMB department, was at ease at the event touted as "the largest body, mind, and spirit expo in the South." During the event Gordon was allowed to share the Gospel alongside self-proclaimed psychics and holistic healers.

For the most part, Gordon said, those coming to the expo were open to taking a Bible. □

# BSSB gives weary counselors resources in Oklahoma City

By Charles Willis  
For Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Ministering for physically and emotionally weary counselors to family and friends of Oklahoma City bombing victims and survivors was provided by the Baptist Sunday School Board during a morning-long session May 3.

Meeting at the Baptist Building auditorium in Oklahoma City, approximately 20 pastors, chaplains, and other church staff people participated in a structured training program, followed by individual counseling as their schedules would allow.

The counseling services of Neil Knierim and Norris Smith of the BSSB's pastor-staff leadership department, and Joe

Richardson, psychologist from Nacogdoches, Texas, were provided by the board "as an expression of our concern," Knierim said.

"Because of the shock and trauma of this event, the grief process will last for a long time to come," he said. "This isn't something that can be fixed with a Band-Aid."

An anchor people can hold to is "God loves and cares for you," he said.

"Somewhere in this tragedy there will be people who don't fit the mold — people who have a strong faith. Others you feel may be strong may be very weak.

"Pray in the early part of your conversation with the bereaved," he suggested, "so they may feel more open."

Smith said dealing with cor-

porate grief may be facilitated through several steps, including:

(1) Planning realistic, authentic healing worship services, using hymns that are well-known.

(2) Engage the whole church in the expression of worship, by inviting people to give testimonies and participate in responsive readings.

(3) For a while, make the sermons shorter and provide some variety to accommodate the short attention spans of grieving people.

(4) Adjust church activities to allow for grieving. Strengthen existing activities and postpone starting anything new. Grieving people need the security of the familiar, Smith said.

(5) Be authentic about your own grief. The minister who

breaks down emotionally in the pulpit should not apologize, Smith said. "This may be your most powerful sermon. The people can identify with you as grieving, too."

(6) Engage deacons and other staff to monitor and minister to special groups, such as children or the elderly.

(7) Engage in the ministry of presence.

(8) Prepare the church to manage their anger and their fear.

(9) Be aware of the need for the healing power of an appropriate touch, remembering that not everyone is comfortable with hugging and touching.

(10) Appropriate and well-timed humor also heals.

Suggesting possible consequences for people in the after-

math of a crisis, Richardson said ministers should be alert to possible increases in divorce rates, as well as increases in spouse and child abuse.

"There will be such increased tension in families because of this massive stressor, abuse will climb even in fine Southern Baptist homes," he said.

Some people, he continued, will have sleep disturbances, fear, flashbacks, nightmares, and, in children, regression to an earlier form of behavior, such as bed-wetting.

"Life isn't ever going to be the same," Richardson warned, and he urged the ministers to "work for the long term."

Resources related to death, dying, and grief were provided free by the BSSB to ministers attending the session. □