

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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Tornadoes strike Tennessee Baptist churches

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

ETHRIDGE — At least three Tennessee Baptist churches were in the path of a series of destructive tornadoes that ripped through the central portion of the state late last week, leaving in their wake at least three deaths, numerous injuries, and property damage that could reach into the millions of dollars.

Two churches — Park Grove, Ethridge, in Lawrence County Association, and Liberty Hill Church in Giles County Association — were hard hit. Another Lawrence County Church — Deerfield — had some shingles blown off the roof and several trees uprooted.

Pastor Lawrence Harris of Park Grove and his wife, Onzell, were at the church when a tornado struck around mid-day on May 18. Mrs. Harris saw the tornado coming and the couple was able to run to a basement Sunday School room before it hit.

As they prayed fervently, what seemed like an eternity



MEMBERS OF Park Grove Church, Ethridge, assess the damage done by tornadoes last week in Lawrence County. In addition to the steeple on the ground, the roof was badly damaged and bricks were torn off the rear wall of the church. Trees also were uprooted on the church property.

in fact lasted roughly 30 seconds, Harris said. After leaving the basement they discovered the steeple torn off the roof and a drive-through area blown away in addition to bricks ripped off one wall and other damage. In a preliminary

report an insurance adjuster termed what he saw "major damage," said the pastor, whose car also was demolished.

After the storm hit, Harris and others went to the aid of a couple who lived near the

church, whose house was flattened. They are now recovering from those injuries, Harris said.

Despite having no electricity and the sanctuary closed off, the Park Grove congregation — See Tornadoes, page 2

Until meeting with WMU

FMB puts trademark application on hold

Compiled from news reports

RICHMOND — Putting on hold an application to trademark the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin said May 18 the matter first will be discussed with leaders of Woman's Missionary Union.

The Southern Baptist mission agency's application for a trademark was called into question by Virginia WMU's executive board May 13. The FMB trademark application with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office was initiated in July 1994, and beginning May 26, was to begin a 30-day public review period.

The application to trademark the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which raises more than \$80 million annually for FMB work "was a responsible business decision" first suggested by legal counsel in 1990, Rankin said in a May 18 statement released to news media, "and there was no intention of offending or neglecting the Woman's Missionary Union. We are deeply sorrowed and regret that we have offended the WMU, which fills such a strategic role as a partner in missions ed-

ucation and promotion."

Rankin said he and WMU's national executive director, Dellanna O'Brien, have talked at length by telephone and will meet in person as soon as schedules permit.

"Both Dr. O'Brien and I have overseas travel commitments over the next few weeks," Rankin said, "but I consider this a matter of utmost importance and we will do all that we can to meet at the earliest opportunity."

Rankin reiterated his intention to maintain FMB-WMU ties, stating, "We are excited about what the future holds for both the WMU and the Foreign Mission Board as we work together to lead Southern Baptists to be on mission with God."

O'Brien issued a statement May 18, responding, "We are pleased with this action. When a Christian brother asks for forgiveness, you give it. The details will have to be worked out later. This is the first step toward a fuller understanding of this unfortunate incident.

"To WMU, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is not just an offering, but a sym-

bol of the commitment of WMU to the sharing of the Gospel around the world," O'Brien continued.

"To remove that representation from us is like removing something of our heart. We are grateful for the acknowledgments and understanding of Dr. Rankin to the depth of feeling about this issue in the hearts of WMU members." WMU began the offering for Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board causes the same year WMU was organized, in 1888, renaming it after missionary Lottie Moon in 1918.

The FMB's 10-month-long silence over its trademark application has fueled suspicions raised by the restructure proposal, said Earlene Jessee, executive director of Virginia WMU. In February the SBC Executive Committee approved a report of the Program and Structure Study Committee that among other things assigned primary responsibility for the promotion of the Lottie Moon offering to the FMB.

"When the FMB is telling WMU that they are still partners in mission, why did they not inform them of this important action?" she asked.

— See FMB, page 2

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FMB puts trademark ...

— Continued from page 1

Rankin said there was nothing secretive about the application, but "it didn't occur to us at that time to discuss it with anyone else after our earlier contact with WMU in 1990." At that time the FMB shared with WMU a legal opinion issued by the SBC's attorney, James Guenther of Nashville. He said in the minds of most donors, the names Lottie Moon Offering and Foreign Mission Board are synonymous.

In a statement May 16, Rankin said, "There is no effort on the part of the Foreign Mission Board to seize 'ownership' of the Lottie Moon name. We have simply sought to register the name of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, not the name Lottie Moon. "It's really unfortunate for some to interpret this as an attempt to

betray WMU or that it has anything to do with discussion in the Southern Baptist Convention over WMU's role in promoting the offering. That simply is not true."

Rankin noted the application for trademark status was intended to protect the name from unauthorized use. Some Southern Baptist churches have raised money for the Lottie Moon offering but sent receipts to entities other than the FMB, such as the rival Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, he said.

"A church has the right to send funds anywhere it wants ... but funds for the Lottie Moon offering are legally for the Foreign Mission Board," he said. □ — This article was compiled from Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press news reports.

Tennessee volunteers prepare 86,000 meals in Louisiana

For Baptist and Reflector

KENNER, La. — Tennessee Baptist disaster relief volunteers have prepared 86,000 meals for flood victims in Louisiana since May 13, said Cameron Byler, TBC Brotherhood Director.

Byler returned from the site May 18 and then returned May 22 to replace Curt Fowler of Knoxville as on-site coordinator.

On Sunday, May 21, volunteers prepared 17,000 meals, Byler said.

Meals are being prepared at the units which are set up at Williams Boulevard Church in Kenner. The food is then transported by Red

Cross Emergency Response Vehicles, Byler said.

Things are beginning to get back to normal there, he said. The water is down and people are getting back to work, he reported.

Byler said the feeding effort will be winding down this week and should conclude by Thursday, May 25. An official decision probably will not be made until May 24, he said.

About 35-40 volunteers are now on site. Byler is appreciative of all the volunteers.

"We've had a great response from across the state with volunteers. They have done a super job," he said. □

Tornadoes strike Tennessee Baptist churches ...

— Continued from page 1

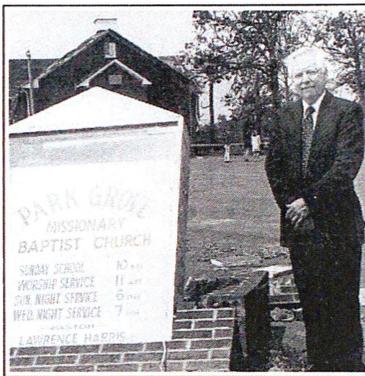
met for worship on Sunday, May 21, thanks to the efforts of church members and others, including Lawrence County Association Director of Missions J.C. Carpenter who worked hard for two days cutting wood and covering the roof of the church. Even children pitched in, picking up limbs and branches, Harris said. About a dozen churches called offering help and use of their facilities, he added.

Harris brought a message of hope and a reminder of God's love to the congregation, which had members who had loved ones killed in the storm and others who lost their homes. "Many times we look at things like what has happened here and ask questions like 'Why?' and 'How come?'" Harris observed.

"Let us not question God in his power and his taking care of us," he urged.

"God is love," Harris continued. "That has not changed one bit. ... He cares for his people."

As a final challenge to the approximately 125 people who attended the service held in the fellowship hall, Harris



PASTOR LAWRENCE HARRIS stands beside the church side at Park Grove that was toppled by a tornado May 18.

noted there is work to do. "At this church the bricks won't lay out there for weeks and months. The church is going to move ahead," he promised.

Long-time member M.L. Putman, who

lives within sight of the church was philosophical about what happened. "When forces of nature erupt, this is what happens. We can't blame God for it," he said. "His goodness outweighs any disaster that has happened," Putman added.

Giles County Director of Missions Carl Bond said that Liberty Hill which is the northwest part of the county near Lawrence County had approximately 15 huge oak trees on its property which were uprooted. In addition, he said, the church also lost its steeple and had some structural damage.

Bond, Liberty Hill Pastor Jerry Robbins, church members, and others from the association worked on Saturday clearing trees so services could be held on Sunday. The association also provided sandwiches which were taken to members in the community who lost their homes.

Bond also reported a number of church members in the association had homes demolished or badly damaged.

Phone calls to surrounding associations did not reveal any other churches had been directly hit by the tornadoes. □

Training set for Cross Over volunteers

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Training sessions for Cross Over Atlanta volunteers will be Friday, June 16. Most Cross Over activities will take place June 17.

Cross Over is the evangelistic thrust before the Southern

Baptist Convention annual meeting. Volunteers will help local churches conduct a myriad of evangelistic events.

To register to participate in Cross Over Atlanta, call the Georgia Baptist Convention evangelism department at (404) 936-5233. □

HMB to get new address, phone number

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The Home Mission Board is scheduled to move into its new office building Memorial Day weekend.

The board will closed Thursday evening, May 25, and reopen Tuesday, May 30.

The agency's new address will be 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, Ga., 30202-4174.

The board's main telephone

number will be (404) 410-6000 until Sept. 1. Afterwards the area code for Alpharetta will change from 404 to 770.

Telephone numbers for individuals and departments also change and may be obtained from the switchboard operator.

Toll-free numbers for the HMB prayer line (800) 554-PRAY; volunteer information (800) HMB-VOLS; and customer service (800) 634-2462, will not change. □

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests May



- 26 — Pray for traveling safety for the Baptist Student Union team, led by Maurice and Glynda Hays and Dane Anthony, who will return today after serving since May 20 at the Canadian Seminary.
- 27 — Pray for the spiritual growth of Polish Baptists.
- 28 — Pray for summer missionaries Brian Currie and Eric Thompson who will serve in Poland and Stacy Wilds and Scott Elledge who will serve in Oakland Association in Michigan.
- 29 — Pray for the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists as preparation is made for their annual convention in July.
- 30 — Pray for persons to organize an "Experiencing God" workshop for leaders in Poland.
- 31 — Pray for the 20 Tennesseans that will be traveling today and for the preparation of the many teams that will serve this summer in our partnership countries.

Pastors' Conference to emphasize Jesus as 'High and Lifted Up'

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — "High and Lifted Up" is more than a theme — it underscores a desperate need across the land, said James Merritt, president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, which will meet June 18-19 in the Georgia Dome.

Each of the conference's five sessions will focus on a different aspect of the theme which is drawn from Isaiah 6:1 and from Jesus' words in John 12:32 — lifting up Jesus in revelation, salvation, proclamation, exaltation, and coronation. The conference will include speakers continuously popular at the event such as former SBC presidents Adrian Rogers, Cordova; James T. Draper Jr., Nashville; and Jerry Vines, Jacksonville, Fla.

Another notable on the program will be Charles Colson, Prison Fellowship founder and former Watergate figure, scheduled for 8:20 p.m. Monday, June 19. Rogers, pastor of

Bellevue Church, will speak at 7:45 p.m., June 19; Draper, Baptist Sunday School Board president, 3:45 p.m., June 18; and Vines, co-pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, 7:40 p.m., June 18.

Among first-time speakers will be Danny Akin, dean of students, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.; Robert Reccord, pastor, First Church, Norfolk, Va.; Ken Whitten, senior pastor, Idlewild Church, Tampa, Fla.; and Fred Luter Jr., pastor, Franklin Avenue Church, New Orleans, La.

Other speakers include Paige Patterson, president, Southeastern Seminary; evangelist Junior Hill of Hartselle, Ala.; apologetics specialist Ravi Zacharias of Atlanta; Bible conference leader and author John Phillips of Memphis; and authors and pastors John MacArthur of Sun Valley, Calif., and Gene Getz of Plano, Texas.

Special recognition times have been scheduled June 19

to honor Roy Fish, 30-year evangelism professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological



SMITH

Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas (10 a.m.) and longtime Tennessee evangelist J. Harold Smith of Newport (3:40 p.m.).

Also, the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission will make a special presentation at 7:30 p.m., June 18, about a Promise Keepers pastors' conference to be held in 1996 in Atlanta.

Featured musicians will be Point of Grace, a contemporary Christian group of four women who started singing together while students at Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark.; the Gold City Quartet; Bo Parker; and Terry and Barbi Franklin. Music director for the conference will be Richard K. Forbis of First Church, Snellville, Ga. □

WMU meeting features commissioning service

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union's June 18-19 annual meeting will include testimonies from home and foreign missionaries, addresses by Anne Graham Lotz and Jimmy R. Allen, and a Home Mission Board commissioning service.

All sessions of the annual WMU gathering will be held in the Georgia World Congress Center Ballroom. The meeting opens at 2:20 p.m., Sunday, June 18, and closes with the Monday evening session. The theme for the meeting is "A Place For You in God's World."

Lotz, a popular speaker from Raleigh, N.C. will be featured in the Sunday evening session. She is one of Billy and Ruth Graham's five children and founder of AnGeL Ministries.

Allen, former president of the SBC Radio and Televi-

sion Commission, will speak Monday afternoon as part of the kick-off for WMU's 1996 social issue effort, Project Help: AIDS. Allen has become an advocate of AIDS ministry in recent years due to his own family's struggle with the HIV virus, encompassing battles with the disease by his daughter-in-law, two grandsons, and a son.

Larry L. Lewis, HMB president, will bring the message during the commissioning service at 6:50 p.m., June 19. The program also will feature testimonies from the new missionaries.

The Monday morning session will feature an address by Dellanna O'Brien, national WMU executive director and a testimony on "What WMU Has Meant to Me" by Anise McDaniel of Clinton, Miss.

McDaniel is 102 years old and is the mother of retired foreign missionary Major McDaniel. □

SBC committee issues call for resolutions

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Resolutions Committee for the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention has issued a call for preliminary copies of any resolutions messengers intend to introduce during the June 20-22 annual meeting in Atlanta.

Committee chairman Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham, Ala., noted messengers still must formally introduce their proposed resolutions during the convention's business sessions.

But the committee welcomes preview copies, Carter said, adding, "We will circulate them among the committee members in anticipation of our meeting in Atlanta."

During the convention, the Resolutions Committee will recommend specific resolutions for adoption to messengers at the SBC in the Georgia Dome.

Preliminary copies of proposed resolutions may be mailed to Convention Relations, SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce Street, Nashville, Tenn., 37203, or faxed to (615) 742-8919. □

Camden church 'dedicates' building ahead of schedule

Compiled from *The Camden Chronicle*

CAMDEN — First Church here already had planned to dedicate its new Family Life Center on Sunday, May 7.

Yet, nearly 200 Texas students and their sponsors learned firsthand of the facility a week earlier.

A group of band and choral students from Granbury, Texas, were on their way home April 30 from the Nashville Music Festival when they took an unscheduled stop in Camden.

The five charter buses were at the Benton exit on I-40 when several students began getting sick, possibly from fumes collecting inside the bus they were riding.

The students were taken to Valley Regional Hospital where 26 of them were treated for probable exposure to carbon

monoxide poisoning.

Different businesses in the city responded to the group's plight and provided food on both Sunday evening and on Monday. Hospital officials knew of First Church's new Family Life Center and contacted member Robert Horton Jr., who made arrangements for the young people to be given sleeping quarters at the center.

On Monday morning (May 1) women from First Church (Nola Nunnery, Janelle Burke, Bettie Summers, MaeBelle Crites, Reba Bolton, and Wileva Mullins) helped serve food and provide recreational activities in the center's gymnasium.

David Talmage, a band director from Granbury, expressed appreciation for the people in Benton County.

"It was a frightening feeling for all of us

to encounter this crisis on the way home. It could have been a lot more serious than it was and we were all extremely upset.

"But, thanks to the people in Benton County who came to the rescue, the people of the community, and First Baptist Church, we were put at ease and taken care of. We can never thank you enough," he said.

Susan Beasley, secretary at First Church, said she was thankful for the Family Life Center. "The center experienced its first crisis Sunday night and it provided shelter for all of these young people and their sponsors."

Larry Brant, minister of music and youth at First Church, said the center already has proven its worth.

Though the official dedication was on May 5, "I believe that God dedicated it last night (April 30)," he said. □

BWA president sees tragedy, hope during visit to Rwanda

Baptist Press

KIGALI, Rwanda — In the first visit to Rwanda by a leader of the Baptist World Alliance since the start of civil war a year ago among rival Tutsis and Hutus, BWA President Knud Wumpelmann of Denmark reported Baptists in Rwanda as saying: "We are not discouraged. There is hope. We have many needs, but we trust the Lord."

With the reports of continuing death and rape in Rwanda, Wumpelmann met pastors who are living out their trust in the Lord during his May 1-8 visit.

"I was especially happy to meet one pastor I had known,"

he said. "Though retired, he took over the responsibility for a church when his successor fled to Zaire..."

"The 67-year-old pastor is a Hutu but decided to stay in spite of the constant danger of being killed, and he and his wife are now taking care of six orphans from their family."

With so many of the pastors and leaders of the French-speaking Union of Baptist Churches in Rwanda out of the country, new leaders have been chosen by those who are in Rwanda — a situation that calls for prayer and much understanding, he said.

Wumpelmann met with Samweli Rugabage, the new

general secretary of the union. Rugabage told Wumpelmann the union guarantees all pastors who return to Rwanda a church to serve. However, in the light of continuing reports of vengeance killings of religious leaders, it is a very difficult situation, Wumpelmann reported.

As best they know, Rugabage said there are approximately 31,000 Baptists in the union in 10 districts. He reported the union office in Butare is badly damaged and in need of repair. Their eight cars have disappeared and their 13 primary schools, handicraft school, two secondary schools, three health

centers, and clinic have either been destroyed, damaged, and/or robbed. Their bank account is almost empty.

The Rwandan Baptist leaders were especially thankful for the three Southern Baptist missionaries who had come back and were helping especially with the women and children — Stan and Marlene Lee and Martha Colwell.

As Rwandan Baptists look ahead to their ministry they hope to re-establish the union office, develop evangelism, restart their educational and health programs, and get transportation for pastors and evangelists, Wumpelmann reported. □

■ 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. □

HMB changes okay

As one of our Tennessee representatives on the Home Missions Board for the past six years, I have read with interest the many letters concerning the proposed restructuring of the SBC. The major changes proposed concern the work of Home Missions. The proposal for combining the Brotherhood and Radio and Television Commissions with the Home Mission Board has tremendous possibilities to help reach North America for our Lord. Consider the possibilities of a concerted effort to blanket a certain section of North America with Radio and Television advertisements and follow up with thousands of volunteer witnesses from the Brotherhood and church planters from the HMB. The results could be tremendous.

While there are many details to be worked out by the directors of the combined agencies, I feel these are matters of implementation and should not present insurmountable problems to dedicated men of God. I feel that Old Line States such as Tennessee should have no fear concerning these changes. I see no change in the working relationship that we now have with the national WMU. We all recognize and appreciate the fine work of our WMU in missions education and in promotion of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

While I do not speak to changes other than those con-

cerning Home Missions, I am strongly in favor of these and I will support the recommended changes when they come up next month in Atlanta.

Edward R. Futrell, pastor
Southside Church
Johnson City 37604

Has concerns

I write with my concerns regarding the restructuring recommendations for the SBC. I have tried to read everything in the *Baptist and Reflector* and the *SBC Life* about the "Covenant for a New Century," especially the concerns of WMU regarding the offerings and mission education because I am involved in my church's Baptist Women's group.

Everything I have read states that Jerry Rankin and Larry Lewis have affirmed the board's relationship to WMU and that they want continued support and will continue to support WMU. I even read in *SBC Life* that both boards will continue to provide funding to WMU for expenses incurred in promotion and funding of the national missionary offerings.

Letters in our state paper and everything I hear from our state WMU leaders continue to be negative and even give out misinformation. I am afraid this is more harmful to our WMU than anything I read in this recommendation.

It concerned me when I read an article in the *SBC Life* which quoted from Mark Bristle to Baptist Press on March 10 to try to clear up some of these misstatements. I wondered why this wasn't carried in our paper?

I agree with our state WMU leaders that we should pray for God's leadership in these changes and to go to the convention and vote our conscience, but let's get out correct information and not start hysteria in the WMU that we may regret later.

Judy Hughes
Dayton 37321

Good news

Well, it happened again. What, you might ask? At Northside Baptist Church in Columbia, we had another full-time evangelist, Phil Glisson, for revival. Souls were saved, letters were moved, commitments to Christ renewed. One said, "It was the best revival I've been in over twenty-five years."

In 1975 our family moved from a Kentucky pastorate to Tennessee. At the Tennessee Baptist Convention that year we met some Tennessee Baptist evangelists. They were friendly, kind, sincere, and committed to Christ. Since 1976 in the churches I have

pastored in Tennessee I have tried to encourage having full-time evangelists. For 19 years full-time evangelists always have blessed the congregations I have pastored. In revival we've always had souls saved, (some church members saved) and many commitments to Jesus Christ.

I want to encourage Tennessee Baptists to give our full-time evangelists opportunity to be in revivals in your churches.

If you have never had one in your church, pastor, meet some of them. Get to know them. They have always blessed in churches where I served.

John H. Rushing, pastor
Northside Church
Columbia 38401

Concerned individual

I am concerned and appalled that any executive committee would be appointed to change the structure of any existing committee or agency, without first seeking participation and dialogue from that committee or agency for input of knowledge, information and expertise gained from hands-on experience from their work place!

If the SBC Executive Committee truly had wanted changes good for the "whole body" of the SBC, it would have met openly and would have gladly gotten input from the people to be involved in a covenant restructure.

Our SBC is being side-swiped by a group of power hungry individuals who tell us what God wants us to do. The Baptist church covenant was established on priesthood of the believer and autonomy of the churches, not on a dictatorship.

Millions of praying, mission-minded WMU women of the century have been guilty of first seeking God's will in their lives. They are guilty of only being involved in those things that have uplifted God's Kingdom, and seek to fulfill the Great Commission.

I pray without ceasing that the men of the committee will let the Holy Spirit turn their lives into servanthood and not dictatorship. I do not "go" by what is said, I "go" by words written down in a final document.

Juanice Willingham
Concord Assn. WMU Dir.
Smyrna 37167

What about magazine?

Thank you and your staff for the integrity, accountability, and Christian character you display in our *Baptist and Reflector*.

As a follower of Christ, a tither, and a member of a Southern Baptist church,

which gives over 20 percent of its annual budget to our Cooperative Program. My concern is with a sleek "news" magazine, called *SBC Life*.

Why is it necessary to circulate *SBC Life* when we already have fine state papers that give us newsworthy information from the local level, associations, and the global level of our missions? I called *SBC Life* and specifically asked who were the sources for the articles in print. I was told the *SBC Life* does not use any Baptist Press, Associated Baptist Press, or any other quality news agencies. The person with whom I spoke stated he alone was the editor and writer for the majority of the selections! Whose *SBC Life* is it?

Without purchasing a subscription, our ministers have received this publication for some time. I called and requested information regarding how much of our Cooperative Program funds has gone into this Executive Committee project. When I spoke with "the editor," I was informed that a fraction or percentage was from our tithes, while most came from "subscribers." How can this be when it is mailed to those without a subscription?

Whose *SBC Life* is it? A committee's? It is irresponsible for any person or organization to use tithes, God's money, to promote its personal agenda.

Rebecca G. Hunter
Springfield 37172

What is the question?

State papers are filled with opinions and concerns for the "Covenant for a New Century." Some are commending the "Covenant." Others are concerned or shocked.

Concern seems to be based more on history than the future, more on insecurity than faith, and more on a feeling of having to defend something than surrendering it to God and letting him have control. We must not forget in I Kings 8:10 when the priests backed out, "the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord." God is sovereign. He can maintain, redirect, or cancel any ministry.

The question is not "What will happen to this or that entity?" The question is, "Is God in it?" No institution, agency, or person is indispensable to God. He is Lord of all! He uses whom he chooses. He chooses those usable for his purpose of spreading the Gospel.

Jesus taught that he who would be greatest would be the servant of all. God owes none of us any position. God will use people willing to serve wherever it fits in his kingdom. I am excited about all possibilities of service to our Lord Jesus in this plan. Before we can be

open to a new plan, we must be open to God. As we humble ourselves before him, we say with Isaiah, Lord, "Here am I, send me."

Glenn Rogers, pastor
Tri-Cities Church
Gray 37615

Defends trio

The comments by Mr. Maples on April 26 concerning Dr. Al Mohler, John Calvin, and Boyce to me were treasonous, fraudulent, and illogical. Maple's fallacious opinion regarding the inerrancy of John Calvin was an utter distortion of truth; Calvinists have never thought that.

The reference to Boyce as an "apostle" was shifty, contrived, and pharisaic. Boyce was a genuine man of God but never claimed succession. His misleading assumption that Dr. Mohler does not prefer Christ to Calvin is absolutely duplicitous and devoid of truth. Dr. Mohler has never made those implications. Maples is out in left field and unsound when he ambiguously states that Baptists are moving closer to moribund Mormonism.

We are the only denomination to swing back the pendulum of liberalism. Before one speaks on behalf of the courageous truth-bearing voices of the WMU, one should at least know what the truth really is.

D. L. Thompson, pastor
First Church
Carthage 37030

Step backward

The Republicanization of America has brutalized us all. Alabama uses chain gangs. Tennessee has announced that it will be practicing double-celling for prisoners again. That practice and other plans that have not been made public by the Tennessee Department of Corrections could very well put this state back under the supervision of a Special Master, appointed as was the last one, Pat McManus, by a federal district court.

Pell Grants have been taken away from prisoners. Criminal sentencing has become harsher and harsher. Prisoners under sentence of death are increasingly having their rights to appeal eroded and denied by legislative and judicial action.

And the public continues to cry out for blood and for blood and for blood.

O. M. Smaw
Nashville 37212

**Share the good news!
Give through the Cooperative Program.**

Friends among friends: Baptist associations

It is appropriate to recognize Baptist associations in this Sesquicentennial year for Southern Baptists.

May 22-28 is the official Baptist Associations Week, and celebrations are in order.

Robert A. Baker, Southern Baptist historian, says that Baptists in America from the beginning "desired the larger fellowship and united strength for Christian tasks that could come only through joining hands."

We are that much like our English Baptist forerunners.

In 1707 Baptists in the Philadelphia area organized the first Baptist association in the colonies. Messengers were sent from nearby churches.

The second association is much nearer to Tennessee, formed in Charleston, S. C. in 1751. Those two seemed to spark a burst of associations patterned after these pioneers. Early on, the associations provided a larger fellowship as a priority, and allowed time for counsel concerning common problems facing the churches. They had no authority over the affiliated churches, and that is true today.

Holston Association is one of the oldest, founded in 1786. Next year, Holston is planning a year-long observance of the 210th anniversary.

Tennessee Baptist churches are linked with 67 associations. Those associations include 2,905 churches and more than 1 million people.

Those churches gave almost \$26 million through the Cooperative Program and another \$13.8 million in designated funds in 1994.

The 67 associations, whose territories are defined by geography in most cases, operate according to a Baptist standard, the principle of cooperation.

The associations, the churches, are where the daily "doings" occur, the happenings, the events, the struggles, and the meshing of combined efforts of working, witnessing, ministering, sharing, caring — all in the name of Jesus Christ.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

The textbook definition is "a self-governing fellowship of autonomous churches sharing a common faith and active on mission in their setting."

But the Baptist association is more than that. The churches making up an association are independent and autonomous churches that voluntarily associate to do certain things together.

The fellowship of churches, associations, and convention, involves openness, shared life, koinonia. The sum of these is a family and network of giving and receiving. This fellowship is grounded in harmony of faith and practice. Associations are doctrinally based fellowships.

The associations are active on mission in their setting. The uniqueness of the setting gives each association a special responsibility to be on mission.

The associations are formed by the churches, and are accountable to the

churches through the messengers. The association is self-governing.

We salute the 67 Tennessee Baptist associations, their dedicated directors of missions, and entire support staff.

From the mountains to the Mississippi, Baptist associations are walking the Jericho Road helping as they go.

The directors of missions have a larger congregation than the local church pastor, but the work is similar in many ways. Walking alongside hurting or happy people, working daily with excited or depressed churches, the directors' strength depends on the steady influence of the Holy Spirit and the fellowship provided by the churches.

The work of the associations is important to the vitality of the the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The relationship is not "them and us," it is a combined "us." The principle of cooperation is the bedrock of Baptist life: churches, associations, convention, all working with the cooperative spirit which has complied with the Great Commission. The principle of cooperation takes precedent in getting things done, lifting up and caring for neighbors.

William Tanner talked about neighbor-helping: "The Lord lifted the question out of the usual realm of speculation and set it down on the most dangerous twenty miles of mountain terrain in Israel; the Jericho Road."

That is the answer. And so we join the Master on that road, with Baptist associations at the front. □

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

End of construction

Signs of life are all around us. I mean life as a continuation of God's creation, and not simply evidence of something being alive.

The seasons in Tennessee are marked plainly with the handiwork of God.

Spring, summer, fall, winter — all have their trademarks that speak of God's faithfulness and infinite imagination.

Struggling against the seasonal eccentricities is futile. It



ALLEN

doesn't take long to learn that God's laws don't bend to the quirks of man, nor to the likes and dislikes we might have.

And — moreover, God is not finished with his creation, I think.

All Tennesseans are quite familiar with the constant highway construction from one end of the state to the other.

If you travel at all, you will probably encounter traffic delays, stoppages, perhaps a detour, and many one lane sections of the major roads.

We are warned to slow down, observe the speed limit. To be alert, and to be patient because the work is being done for needed improvements.

All those signs are necessary. They are appreciated — after we get over our little tantrums.

But the sign we appreciate more than any is the sign that simply says, "End construction." Wow, what a relief, what a joy to be able to resume speed and to pursue our journey.

End construction.

I have come to learn that almost nothing in my life is complete. The sign that I really need is one that warns people about my incompleteness. Perhaps the sign should say, "Warning, saint under construction. Proceed at your own risk." Isn't that funny?

A few nights ago, we marveled at a spectacular view of God's space. He had placed a full moon, rising from the horizon, accompanied by an unusual view of a silver point called Saturn. A wisp of a cloud ribboned them together across millions of miles.

I am glad that God is not finished with space — or me. ☺

All addictions have a cycle

■ families matter
By Paul Barkley, counselor

Last week we considered the components of addiction; now we turn to the cycle of addiction.

There is a predictable pattern that the process follows and knowing that can help us deal with family members who might be having a problem in this area.

The cycle usually begins with crisis/discomfort. Addiction is typically a reaction avoidance or an attempt to deal with some unpleasantness by "getting away from it" for a while. It is more like running from our problems rather than facing them realistically and dealing with them.

After crisis/discomfort comes concern/depression. The crisis or discomfort produces concern in the form of either anxiety or depression. The person despairs over the problem which he is not sure how to face or handle.

This concern/depression is normally followed by a craving/desire. This craving is for some sort of relief from the anxiety or depression and the desire is commonly for some type of substance or activity

that will make the anxiety or depression go away.

The craving/desire leads to a compulsive/drive attitude. Compulsive behavior is usually recognized by the person as unreasonable and non-productive, but he feels that he "has to do something even if it is wrong."

This compulsive/drive feeling yields a sense of comfort/deliverance. The person senses that the pain of dealing with the crisis or discomfort is quelled for a while. The relief is counterfeit since the problem is not actually dealt with.

The sense of comfort/deliverance gives way to consequence/disaster. Most addictive substances and activities have disastrous consequences. It may be the loss of family, job, health, etc.

It may even be added crisis/discomfort which adds another layer to the destroying cycle.

As I described last week, the apostle Paul reminds us in

Romans 6:16 that we become a slave to whatever we give ourselves to in obedience. In

Galatians 6:7-8 he states emphatically, "God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will reap. For one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life."

To deal with the issue of addiction, some intervention must interrupt this devastating cycle.

Often some type of professional help is required. Few people are capable of dealing with this type of problem alone.

I know God is our constant companion and help, but most people need flesh and blood support during these cycles.

I suggest that churches use some of the 12-step helps available from the Life-Way Press section of our Baptist Sunday School Board in the formation of self-help groups in churches. This would be the best way to live out the call of Christ to minister to the needs of others. □

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

Start with a Smile:

Wife (disappointed with the meal she had prepared: "That was the worst meal I've ever fixed in my life.") Husband (seeking to encourage): "Oh no, dear, it definitely was not!"



WOOD

Take this Truth:

Sometimes when we try to help, we make things worse.

Memorize this Scripture:

"The tongue ... is an unruly evil ... Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing" (James 3:8-10)

Pray this Prayer:

Lord, help me weigh carefully every word I speak. May I remember words do not always sound the way I intend.

Murfreesboro church team works in Brazil

By Steve Butler
For Baptist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — A missions trip to Brazil more than a year in the making survived many obstacles to become what four members of Southeast Church here describe as the trip of a lifetime.

Earline Thigpen, Joyce Adams, Carol Breece, and Gary Lancaster recently joined 64 other volunteers from Mississippi in Ponta Pora located in southern Brazil near the Paraguay border.

After 38 hours en route, followed by a seven-hour bus ride, the group arrived at the host church to find a number of people welcoming them with

banners, hugs, and help. The Brazilians had waited over three hours beyond the missionaries' expected arrival time.

The workers found the people warm and loving but the land in the region much different than expected. Instead of the Amazon-like geography of popular image, they saw open, rolling land much like the great plains of the United States. A notable difference, however, was some termite mounds which could be over six feet tall.

They also found a spiritual hunger. Results from the six days on site yielded 1,050 professions of faith. Missionary doctors and dentists on the trip

saw over 1,000 patients. They filled over 1,800 prescriptions for people, whose average wage is about \$100 per month.

Additionally, the team completed two churches from concrete slabs in five days and dedicated them. They distributed 1,000 Bibles, handed out thousands of salvation tracts, and made plans to follow through with the new Christians.

Beyond just numbers are experiences such as the one older Christian lady who asked missionaries to come to her home and witness to eight of her adult children. All

eight made spiritual commitments.

Two school teachers dismissed class and brought their students to hear the missionaries. Several children tried to skip school and come to the services.

One woman wanted to follow Christ but could not openly because of threats from her husband. Unskilled, she had no way to support her child and herself if he left the family.

While there is Christian presence in the area in the form of the Catholic church, the team nonetheless encountered resistance from spiritists and the belief that some objects have power.

The North Americans experienced physical danger. A bus carrying workers had two tires blow out — at the same time on the same side — on a road with no shoulder. But the driver was able to control the vehicle.

Obstacles to the trip beyond concerns of financing, time, and juggling work schedules began over a year ago when plans for a team from Southeast to go to another part of Brazil, accessible only by small plane, fell

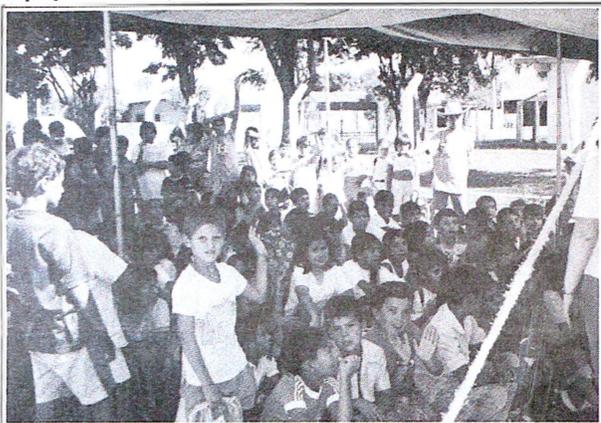
through.

Difficulties continued to the last minute. Gary Lancaster received a visa 40 minutes prior to his departure. A lawyer in Miami had worked with the Brazilian Embassy there to get approval and put the visa on a connecting plane. Although Lancaster had no assurance he would get the visa, he prepared in faith. His and other team members' faith was more than amply rewarded, they felt.

Thigpen was impressed by the welcome the team got despite the local Baptists' long wait. Adams felt privileged to lead South Americans in song twice and was thankful that local pastors and others are there to carry on the Christian work. A church completed there only last year already is building an addition, she reported.

For Breece, the degree of eager receptiveness to the Christian message put this country to shame, and she remarked that Southern hospitality "extends a lot further south than we realize."

Lancaster's dominant impression was that "God can still work miracles through unskilled and untrained people like me. I had never presented the plan of salvation to anyone before this trip. But I felt led to share and give and received far more in return." □



BRAZILIAN CHILDREN participate in a Vacation Bible School led by North Americans including Tennesseans.



CAROL BREECE, right, poses with interpreter, left, from Brazil, and woman who has just made a spiritual commitment to God.

Cookeville church shares 'True Love Waits' in Brazil

For Baptist and Reflector

COOKEVILLE — A team of nine Southern Baptist youth and students from First Church, Cookeville, shared the message of Christ and that "True Love Waits" in Brazil recently.

Working with missionaries Craige and Ellen Steele in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, team members worked in schools, private and public, a Baptist camp, in churches, and in two associational rallies. They gave testimonies, sang, and Stone spoke about the "True Love Waits" program, which promotes commitment to sexual abstinence outside of marriage.

Looking at how God led in every phase of this missions project is a blessing, said Bill Stone, youth and student minister.

Last year the youth and parents of First Church, Cookeville, were mailed a letter explaining the "True Love Waits" program and how they could become involved. During the months of February and March, youth were exposed to Bible studies, Christian teaching videos, and special speakers to help them make an informed commitment to sexual purity.

During Youth Week and on Youth Sunday, the young people shared testimonies and their commitments to sexual purity. The Steeles were present in the service. At the close of the service, Steele issued a challenge to First Church to send a team of youth and students to bring the message of True Love Waits to Brazil.

Several deacons spoke to this challenge and the church began to pray for God's guidance, Stone reported. An official request came from the Foreign Mission Board in November 1994.

Youth and students who made a commitment by faith to go were Jay Donaldson, a student at Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville; Laura Haggard, a student at Cookeville High School; Meredith Crabtree, a student at TTU; Sissy Crabtree, a student at Livingston Academy; Heath Suiter, a student presently working; Ryon Suiter, a student at Cookeville High School; Lane and Carolyn Steele, a couple married less than one year; and Stone.

The team met together for nine weeks to pray and prepare for this project. First Church voted to receive a love offering during February to fund the ef-

fort. Over \$16,000 was received; all expenses were met; and \$900 was left over which went into the church's Volunteer Mission Fund.

"God abundantly blessed," Stone noted. The study, *Experiencing God*, had a direct influence on the church "seeing God at work," which led members to adjust their schedules to join him in his work, he added.

"We felt the power of prayer and the love of our church family.

"We know first-hand that God is touching and changing lives. The True Love Waits message is reaching hun-



WORKERS IN BRAZIL included, from left, first row, Carolyn Steel, Sissy Crabtree, Jay Donaldson, Laura Haggard, missionary Ellen Steel; back row, Meredith Crabtree, Lane Steel, Ryon Suiter, Heath Suiter, and Bill Stone.

dreds of thousands of people around the world. We are so thankful to have had the opportunity to minister in Brazil, and we pray that we will be 'salt' and 'light' here in our community," Stone concluded. □

Hermitage pastor, wife, work in the Ukraine

Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — "It changed my life," said Dean Haun after returning from his first missions trip.

Haun, pastor, Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage, in greater Nashville, and his wife, Pam, joined seven other Baptists to work in the Ukraine April 17-29. The effort was coordinated by Bill Henard, a Birmingham, Ala., pastor from Knoxville. The team worked with Baptist missionaries in Kiev, Ukraine, who are associated with an independent missions organization.

The Americans witnessed 1,250 people make professions of faith during their visit to army camps, the Afghanistan War Veterans Hospital, Chernobyl Hospital, public schools, and two Baptist churches, reported Haun.

The team also distributed 11,300 Bibles and tracts, mostly in an open air market. Haun said when people discovered what the Americans had, all one could see was a sea of hands. After receiving a Bible, people wouldn't put it in their coat, but would begin reading it, he added.

While in the market, a resident asked what everyone was smiling about, said Haun. The group of smiling Americans and Ukrainian Christians was unusual, he explained. Very few Ukrainians can be found smiling, said Haun.

"Life is so hard over there. It's such a struggle," he said. An average resident makes \$20 a month. School teachers make \$10. Ninety percent of the 4.5 million people in the city must use public transportation because they can't afford a car, he noted.

They need God and are receptive, Haun said.

In two public schools, which were for students from grades 4-11, team members spoke to about 1,100 children and youth in 36 classrooms and saw 650 make professions of faith, including some teachers. The team gave Bibles to students



DEAN HAUN, right, poses with some Ukrainian children during his missions work there.

and teachers. And they answered questions about America. One principal thanked them by holding a tea party in their honor.

At the army camps, although it was a holiday weekend because of Easter, about 300 soldiers attended Easter services led by the team and 130 made professions of faith, said Haun.

During another Easter service at the hospital for veterans of the Afghanistan War, a woman ran from the room during the invitation. After the service team members sought her out and found her visibly

upset. When asked what was wrong, she explained during the war she was the commander of a Russian gun unit. The unit fired on helpless villages sometimes 24 hours a day and killed many people, she said. She didn't think God could forgive her, explained Haun.

They helped her understand that he would.

Haun was especially influenced by the 200 patients he saw at the Chernobyl Hospital located just 56 miles from the reactor which is still leaking radiation, he said. About 100,000 people died because of the accident and thousands more are sick. He saw children at the hospital who were born with birth defects as a result of radiation exposure, Haun said.

The team was supported by Baptist members of Grace Church and Harkov Church in Kiev. The members provided music at services, noted Haun.

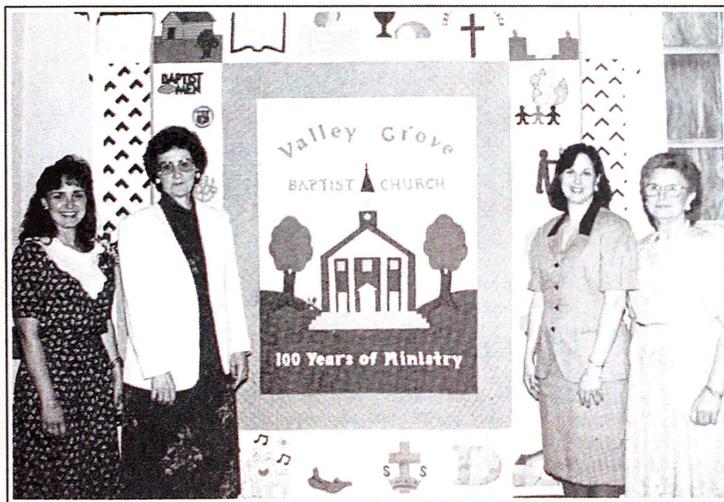
and did other work which paid off. A showing of the "Jesus" film at one church drew about 200 people, said Haun, and resulted in many spiritual decisions.

Another reason for the large crowds is the lack of entertainment in the Ukraine, said Haun, where films aren't available and recreational activities aren't possible in such poverty. The opportunities to spread the Gospel are great, he said.

Two years ago Grace Church had 250 attend its Easter morning service. The Americans saw 1,500 gather on Easter Sunday. All team members helped their fellow Ukrainian Baptists teach the unexpected numbers of children and youth — almost 1,000. To attend the worship service, people stood during the entire service because of limited space, Haun added.

Only the Christians in the Ukraine have hope in such a hopeless situation, said Haun, but they have more than hope. They have the abundant life promised to all Christians although "they still didn't have anything" if measured by material standards.

"I am more convinced after being over there that he (God) is the only answer for the world," said Haun. □



Valley Grove Church, Chapman Highway, Knoxville, observes centennial

Decatur church holds celebration services

For Baptist and Reflector

DECATUR — The week of April 23 was an historical week for the congregation of First Church, Decatur, according to Pastor Jerry Plaster.

That was the time the church broke "tradition."

Instead of having the typical week of spring revival, "we had a week of celebration in which we learned how to celebrate Jesus in all his goodness," Plaster said.

The church had a different speaker each night during the week.

"It is amazing what God can do when we turn everything over to him. New life has come into our church and our worship times have stepped up to a higher level," Plaster observed.

In these days of turmoil, people need a place to go and celebrate something good, he added. "The church should be that place. Sundays are for people to go to church and thank God for all of his blessings. And as we thank God for his blessings, we should celebrate Jesus for making it possible to experience the blessing from God," he said.

During the week several members rededicated their lives, the pastor noted. One young man, Jonathan Henry, a junior in high school, surrendered to preach, he added. □

During May and several weeks following Valley Grove Church, Chapman Highway, Knoxville, celebrated its centennial anniversary. Walter Taylor, director of missions, Knox County Association, spoke during the May 14 morning worship service. In photo to right he presents Harry Mynatt, pastor, with a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. In photo above, the Centennial Quilt Committee stands beside a quilt which was worked on by about 125 people. Committee members are, from left, Melanie Clark, Joanne Simpson, Susan Maples, and Darlene Reagan. Another centennial activity was the commissioning of a hymn by Mary McDonald, a composer/publisher based in Knoxville. "Call Forth With Songs of Joy" premiered May 14. The church also is publishing a history book and will place a time capsule to be opened in 2045. Richard Reagan, chairman of deacons and chairman of the centennial committee, led the activities.



Southern Baptist women: behind the scenes or ahead of the pack

By Sarah Frances Anders
For Baptist Press

Editor's Note: This is the 11th article in a 12-part series in "The Spirit of Southern Baptists, 1845-1995," produced by the SBC Historical Commission.

NASHVILLE — During this 150th anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention, Southern Baptists will celebrate the history of a great denomination spanning three major technological periods. Emerging during the agrarian pre-Civil War era, our Baptist forebears were rooted in the land. They — women and men alike — were frontier folk liberated religiously by the revivalism of the earlier Great Awakening period. Since the denomination's formation in 1845, women have shared in the surge for religious liberty, the call to preach and public expression of faith.

Though not often social activists such as the Quaker preacher and suffragist Lucretia Mott, the Methodist evangelist Maggie Van Cott or Ellen Harmon White of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Baptist women had been avid supporters of the Sunday School movement, the missionary enterprise, and church planting in newly settled areas.

During the Reconstruction Period, a new conservatism began to limit women's church roles to less visible and vocal expressions of faith than during the earlier frontier period, even though women had consistently constituted 55 to 60 percent of church congregations.

A half-century or more would pass before rebuilding and industrialization in the late 19th century would begin to lessen the cords of a kind of rural conservatism that bound women to helping the field hands, nurturing large families, and being subordinate in worship and church leadership.

Southern Baptists would be well into their second century and anticipating a high-tech, metropolitan lifestyle before women would begin to demonstrate fuller use of their gifts and educational achievements in church life. Many talented women of Baptist faith would advance in professions, big business, and political arenas in the mid 20th century before they would participate on major church committees, serve on denominational boards, and be ordained for professional ministries.

Very early in Southern Baptist life, strong colleges for women were established across the South. A number of academies and colleges would follow Judson (1838) and Mary Hardin-Baylor (1845) founded on principles that would

encourage literacy and leadership among Baptist women for professional, community, and denominational roles.

Today such women's institutions of higher learning have declined in favor of coeducational schools, but women students today more than equal men in undergraduate education and are represented significantly in their graduate programs. Women professors at the college and seminary levels serve as valuable mentors for both men and women students as they prepare to serve in secular

church planting, and letter writing that encouraged women's mission efforts and the phenomenal Christmas offering for foreign missions which has supplied hundreds of millions of mission dollars over the past century.

The gifted, devout Lottie Moon wrote, "What women want who come to China is free opportunity to do the largest possible work What women have a right to demand is perfect equality." The societies often dubbed as "women's work" grew and flourished into what Southern Baptists now consider a major enterprise.

pastor.

Surveys and personal interviews have revealed that many trained and ordained Southern Baptist women have accepted roles in other support ministries such as music, education, or youth work. Yet, clergywomen represent only a small fraction of women church staff members. Some Southern Baptist clergywomen have gone to Methodist, Presbyterian, and other denominations to follow their call to pastoral ministry.

One of the most rapidly growing professions for Southern Baptist women has been chaplaincy which requires licensing or ordination. About 300 women ordained by local Southern Baptist churches serve as chaplains for the

The Spirit of Southern Baptists 1845-1995

and church-related vocations.

Women represent almost 40 percent of college faculties and about 10 percent of seminary professors. One-third of college and one-fourth of seminary administrative support staff are women. Southern Baptist women serve on academic boards, but do not equal the 38 percent of women trustees on the national level. Unfortunately, the contribution of women to Baptists higher education is still mainly in the classroom, not in higher levels of decision-making.

Baptist women had been involved in missions at home and abroad over a half-century before Southern Baptists women held their first convention-level women's meetings designed to further the organization of women's missionary societies.

These women supported local and foreign missions with the same fervor that the "female cent" and "female missionary" societies of the early 1800s had shown. Sometimes, as in 1868, women with "egg and quilt" pennies could accomplish far more than dreams. In that year, Lucinda Williams laid the foundation for a Baptist church through her persistence in establishing a missionary society and a Sunday School in the Texas town to which she and her husband migrated. By 1873, her work produced a church building that became the initial site for First Church, Dallas.

Prior to the formation of Woman's Missionary Union in 1888, Southern Baptist women had been foreign missionaries. The single Moon sisters (Orianne to Jerusalem, Edmonia and Lottie to China) followed in the creative pattern of the missionary wives. It was Lottie Moon's work in evangelism,

Many women such as Annie Armstrong, Marie Mathis, Alma Hunt, Kathleen M. Mallory, Carolyn Weatherford, and Marjorie McCullough have made Woman's Missionary Union strong. Thousands of women such as Wana Ann Fort, Faye Pearson, Martha Franks, and Rebekah Naylor have followed in the wake of Moon.

Second only to going and sending money has been the contribution of women and WMU to missions education in the local church for children/youth and in special training schools adjunct to seminaries for women volunteers. The literature of WMU has given a prophetic voice to major social issues, women's church leadership, and race relations. Woman's Missionary Union has inspired women from all walks of life.

In the 1940s and 1950s, women comprised from one-third to 40 percent of the professional support staff in Southern Baptist churches. Their training and non-ordained job titles were mainly in music, education and children/youth positions while Southern Baptist men, returning from war and moving back into church staff roles, had job titles that included the word "minister" and usually involved ordination.

Studies have indicated that women in church staff positions, regardless of title, have often had lower salaries but longer tenure in their service. Most of them have had equal or better education than their male colleagues.

Three decades have passed since Addie Davis became the first woman ordained for ministry by a Southern Baptist church, but the only pulpit open to her was outside Baptist life. Approximately 60 Southern Baptist clergywomen are active pastors now. At least 100 women carry the title of associate

military, penal/correctional institutions, hospitals, or nursing/retirement centers. While the ordination of women remains a controversial issue within the denomination, over 1,100 confirmed clergywomen represent scarcely 2 percent of the total Southern Baptist clergy.

The local church has always depended on the loyal, selfless work of women with a diversity of gifts. In most churches, these comprise a considerable majority of the teachers, youth leaders, communion committees, choir members, meal planners and servers, greeters, or benevolence and social ministry groups. However, few women ushers take up the offering, serve on finance, building and personnel committees, become deacons and/or chair pastor search committees.

For a generation, women have served beyond the local church in state and national convention positions either as support staff or on volunteer committees of the SBC. In most areas, they remain in the background with respect to heading agencies (except WMU), state conventions, and major policy-determining positions.

In this anniversary year, a celebration of the lives and ministries of Southern Baptist women is justified. What the future holds for Southern Baptists may well depend on the completely and equally shared talents of women and men in the local church, state and national convention life. □

— Anders is professor emeritus of sociology at Louisiana College in Pineville. To receive free guidelines and to purchase resources to help celebrate the SBC's 150th anniversary, write the Historical Commission, SBC, at 901 Commerce Street, #400, Nashville, Tenn., 37203, or call 1 (800) 966-BAPT.

Historical Commission trustees oppose restructuring; elect interim director

By Herb Hollinger
For Baptist Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission voted to oppose the proposed restructuring of the denomination, which would eliminate the agency, and elected an Oklahoma history professor as interim executive

director.

The 30-member commission held its annual meeting May 8 in conjunction with a May 8-10 celebration of the Southern Baptist Convention's birth 150 years ago here.

But the possibility of dismantling the 44-year-old agency was not celebrated by the commissioners. A two-page

"response" to the Program and Structure Study Committee's recommendation, "Covenant for a New Century," said "we are not in agreement with the proposal "and oppose the recommendation to dissolve this agency. The proposal will require approval from two consecutive annual meetings of the SBC.

Commissioners also elected Oklahoma Baptist University religion professor Slayden Yarbrough as interim executive director to succeed Lynn E. May, who retires Aug. 1.

Yarbrough, chairman of the commission's board of trustees, will be on a leave of absence from the Shawnee-based school until the fall of 1996.

He will receive an undisclosed salary plus expenses and a special housing allowance.

In other action, the commissioners approved a 10 percent salary increase as well as a lump sum 5 percent bonus for staff as well as a retirement gift of \$16,800 for May, \$700 for each of his 24 years of service with the agency. □

TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the schools

■ **Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City**, honored the following staff members. Kitty R. Coffey, dean of applied human sciences, distinguished faculty award; Greg Hoover, assistant professor of sociology, Lane Bryant Award for community service; on retirement, Paul D. Brewer, professor of philosophy and religion, 37 years, Howard Chitwood, professor of mathematics, 38 years, J. Donald Mitchell, director of church relations and the Norton Institute, 21 years, and George Anah Self, associate professor and information services librarian, 26 years.

■ **Three Carson-Newman College** faculty members have been awarded Mellon Fellowships to support research to be conducted with C-N students. They are Sandra Ballard, Andrew Hazucha, and Ernest Lee.

■ **Clifford L. Eubanks** has resigned as dean of the School of Business and the Jack C. Massey Graduate School of Business, **Belmont University, Nashville**. He will continue as professor of management.

■ the churches

■ **Fellowship Church, Al-**



RECOGNIZED AT THE MAY 10 Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board meeting were staff members reaching tenure levels. They include, from left, first row, Connie Davis, 10 years; Katharine Bryan, 10 years; Jearl Ann Johnson, 15 years; Cindy Franks, 10 years; second row, Susie Edwards, 10 years; Jere Phillips, five years; Chris Gerbman, five years; and Rodney Wilson, 10 years.

lons, will hold Old Fashioned Day July 30 during morning services to draw former members. A meal will follow.

■ **First Church, Oakdale**, will hold an Old Fashioned Homecoming June 25. Activities will include a luncheon and music program all done in old fashioned dress.

■ **Walnut Grove Church, Ripley**, will celebrate its 125th anniversary May 28.

■ **First Church, Smyrna**, held a revival which resulted in 100 people making spiritual decisions, 60 of which were professions of faith. Frank Harber, an evangelist, and Steve Poe led the services.



BREAKING GROUND FOR A NEW BUILDING on April 2 are leaders of New Blackwell Church, Rutledge. Participating are, from left, Ray Meyers; Gary Satterfield, pastor; Kenneth Turley; Shields Greenlee; Terry Greenlee, music director; V.K. Woods; Leon Kidwell; and David Tydings, director of missions, Grainger Association.

■ the leaders

■ **Tim Walker** is serving as pastor of Dalewood Church, Nashville. He is the former pastor of First Church, Henrietta, Okla. Walker is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **Jo Wallace**, pianist for 45 years at Marshall Hill Church, Niota, was honored for her service.

■ **Harmony Church, Whiteville**, has called **Grover Westover** of Bowling Green, Ky., as pastor. He is a native of Jackson and a graduate of Boyce Bible School in Louisville, Ky.

■ **Michael Higdon**, minister of music/youth, Poplar Corner Church, Brownsville, has resigned effective April 16 to do bivocational work. He will direct the Haywood Association Summer Camp.

■ **John Nanney**, pastor, Stanton Church, Stanton, for six years has resigned to serve as interim pastor, Lakeside Church, Baker, Mont.

■ **Tasso Church, Cleveland**, has called **David McNabb** as pastor.

■ **Stuart Park Church, Cleveland**, has called **B.J. and Linda Tipton** as minister of music and pianist respectively. They began serving March 19.



TWO MEMBERS OF THE MID-TENNESSEE Baptist Missionary Fellowship, Ruth Dyson, left, of Nashville, and Mrs. George Harris of Tullahoma, pause during the semi-annual meeting April 1 at Two Rivers Church, Nashville. Twenty-seven attended. The next meeting will be Sept. 7-9 at Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly near Aurora, Ky., reported Sarah Cather, secretary, of Lebanon.

■ **Lovelace Church, Fall Branch**, has called **Sidney Argo** as pastor.

■ **Greg Salyer** has been called as minister of youth of River Bend Church, Bristol.

■ **Ninth Street Church, Erwin**, has called **Nathan Dunman** as minister of youth.

■ **Southwestern Church, Johnson City**, has called **Johnny Jones** as pastor.

■ **Adams Chapel, Dresden**, has called **John Clark**, pastor, Corinth Church, Sharon, as pastor.

■ **Omega Church, Unicoi**, has called **Terry How-**

ell as pastor.

■ **Mount Horeb, Ethridge**, has called **Cecil Gilliland** as pastor.

■ **Macedonia Church, Lawrenceburg**, has called **Danny Huckaba** as pastor.

■ **Kyle Cockrum**, a staff member of Belleview Church, Westlake, La., has been called as minister of youth and recreation, Cherokee Church, Memphis, effective May 21.

■ **Howard Kitter**, pastor, Fellowship Church, Mount Juliet, has been called as pastor of First Church, Bethel Springs, effective May 8.



HONORED FOR 50 YEARS of perfect Sunday School attendance on his 85th birthday is R. Lloyd Rich, second from left, of First Church, Bean Station, on March 26. He stands with, from left, Raymond Long, pastor, and family members Keith Rich, Gail Rich, and Jennifer Rich. Others in attendance were Bill Jarnagin, age 100, Helen Bishop, 93, and Mrs. Wachtell, 78.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

User friendly or New Testament model church

By Gary E. Baker, pastor
First Church, Sweetwater

John MacArthur, in his book *Ashamed of the Gospel*, says that the "early Christians turned the world upside down." (Acts 7:6). And in our generation the world is turning the church

upside down. We have been told by marketing experts that the secret to growth is being "user friendly." That means make church a fun place and do all you can to meet people's "felt needs."

The antithesis of the "user friendly" church is the New Testament church like the one in Jerusalem. This church was not user friendly, especially if one asked Ananias and Sapphira.

The New Testament model church

was a church that allowed and appreciated powerful preaching; they shared with each other; they would not tolerate sin in the camp; they enjoyed spiritual unity; they grew in knowledge of God's Word. The result of this was the blessings of God on them.

Today you and I are faced with the choice of what kind of church we want — a user friendly one or a New Testament one. I opt for the New Testament model. I hope you will also. □

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.

an occasional word

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor

Writer analyzes current movies

'Gordy' proves to be wholesome family fare

By Phil Boatwright
For Baptist Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Is there an audience for family movies? Producer Sybil Robinson has put much on the line to develop and present "Gordy," a true family film. Here is a filmmaker who has heard the moral outrage and has attempted to do something about it.

"Gordy" is a cute family comedy about a wise little pig who leaves for the big city in search of his loved ones. While on his quest, he is befriended by a talented singing group, and becomes a hero for saving a drowning boy, then is made the head of a corporation. You have to see it to believe it.

This is one film I hope the religious community will support. As a Christian film reviewer, I continually subject myself to the product of an industry that rebels against biblical principles.

Many in the church have steadfastly stated, "We shouldn't go to movies." For those who think the answer is abstinence from film-going, the truth is we are affected by this medium whether we attend or not. And here is an opportunity to send a message and stand alongside a Christian film producer and a film shunning objectionable material — and one that may lead to other pictures uplifting the spirit of man. If "Gordy" does well at the box office, studios will be assured that there is a marketplace for family entertainment.

"Gordy" is rated "G" and features country singers Doug Stone and Kristy Young and Tom Lester, who played Eb in "Green Acres."

Is "Gordy" the best film I ever saw? No. But it may be one of the most important. It stands virtually alone on the entertainment page these days

as a film that respects the family.

Other recent films:

"A Little Princess." The newest version of Frances Hodson Burnett's classic fairy tale outshines all other entries. The Dickens-like story teaches compassion and reinforces the need to believe in things hoped for, yet not seen. The movie is rated "G." It contains a couple of scary scenes that may upset the very little ones if Mom or Dad aren't there to reassure.

"Circle of Friends." This romance movie is rated "PG." It contains adult themes as young Irish Catholics struggle with emotions and desire. There are five or six profanities, some drinking, two sexual situations, but no nudity. In spite of various offenses, this

lovely film, with positive lessons. At one point, the question is asked, "Do you believe in God and Jesus?" The affirmative answer is rare from today's cinema. A dear price is paid for breaking God's commands and, although the heroine "gives in" after discovering she is in love, she repents — well, kinda. It is great storytelling with few objectionable scenes.

"A Goofy Movie." This Disney full-length cartoon is rated "G." I found nothing objectionable. Goofy takes his teenage son camping. Some positive lessons about parents and children relating are found in the film. It teaches that lying quickly gets out of hand. This movie will be enjoyed mostly by the very young. □

Brevity of life

Two events have happened in recent days which have reminded me without a doubt how precious life is — and that it can be swept away in an instant.

One story had a happy ending; the other did not.

The first involved myself and my daughter Joanna. I was taking her to the doctor for a possible strep infection when all of a sudden, a car made a left-hand turn in front of me. There was nothing I could do because it happened so fast. As our cars collided, sending metal everywhere,

my arm went out instantly to protect Joanna. Fortunately, we both had on seatbelts and we escaped serious injury. The driver of the other car suffered more extensive injuries, but is recovering. We all were extremely blessed. Both cars were totaled in the accident.

The other incident involved two local high school students on an outing in one of our state parks. They entered an area that was off limits and before they knew it, they slipped on some rocks and were swept down a huge waterfall, killing one and seriously injuring the other.

Two events, two different endings. I know the Lord spared me and Joanna of serious injury. I shudder when I think of what could have happened. I grieve for the girl killed and her friend and both of their families. They will have a hard time dealing with their loss.

Both incidences are reminders that life, in just a matter of seconds, can go from fun to tragedy, even death.

It also serves as a reminder that we need to be ready when death comes. If something had happened to Joanna and me, my wife and son would have had comfort in knowing we were both in heaven with our Lord. Many people don't have that comfort when loved ones die.

As Christians we need to do our part in helping to win souls for Jesus Christ, so they will be ready when death comes. We need to forget the petty things that sometimes distract us in church and get down to the business God has called us to do. □



WILKEY

Seeking Minister

Growing SBC in upstate S.C. seeking full-time minister of music/youth. Send resume to Minister of Music/Youth Search Committee, New Hope Baptist Church, 509 S. Main St., Mauldin, S.C. 29662.

Classified

POSITION OPEN FOR ASSOCIATE MINISTER/YOUTH AND EDUCATION: Growing West Knoxville church seeking a full-time Associate Minister to coordinate and maintain a youth and education ministry. If interested, please send resume to: Associate Minister Search Committee, Ball Camp Church, 2412 Ball Camp-Byington Road, Knoxville, Tenn., 37931.

FOR SALE: 1983 Ward Bus. International Harvester chassis and diesel engine. Air brakes, automatic transmission and A/C. Fellowship Baptist Church, Millington, (901) 835-2143.

Church Retreats

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IT'S TIME TO THINK "CAMP" !



For one week each summer, TBCH children, staff, and volunteers from across the state get together for a wonderful time of fun, fellowship, and recreation. It's our 1995 Board of Trustees "Camp of Champions", four spirit-filled days from August 7-11 at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly in Talladega, Alabama.

Our Board leads the effort to insure that every child is given the opportunity to enjoy summer camp while gaining spiritual enrichment in the company of nurturing, caring Christian leaders. Last year during camp, twenty-three of our children asked Jesus into their hearts; nine renewed their commitment to Him, and three felt the call of God to Christian ministry.

Prayerfully consider your role—either individually or as with a church group—to make it possible for a TBCH child to attend Camp. Call our toll-free number for all the details.



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Life and Work Series for May 28

Focal Passages:
Acts 19:8-10, 19-20,
23-27

How to change our world

By Chuck McElhannon

Jesus challenged his followers to be the light of the world, dispelling darkness, illuminating the truth, and spotlighting the love of God.

Through our words — vv. 8-10

Paul entered into the local synagogue and attempted to reach the Jewish population first through discourse, conversation, and teaching. And the results are predictable: initial attention, some positive response, growing opposition, then open hostility. Paul had faced hostile Jewish reaction in chapter 14:19, when he was stoned in Lystra by Jews who had come from Antioch and Iconium. Yet, Paul was not to be dissuaded. Neither did he want to engage in personal confrontation with the Jewish leaders. Paul was attacking belief systems and ideas, not persons. He simply changed venues.

He was not about to abandon his purpose, even though there were obstacles to overcome. God was bringing good out of bad. Upon leaving the synagogue and moving to the school of Tyrannus, Paul was able to reach a much larger audience, and "all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord" (v. 10). If Christians are doing what should be done and saying what should be said, there will always be opposition, and opportunity for changing the world!

Through our actions — vv. 19-20

The burning of scrolls on sorcery and magic was a magnificent testimony to the power of the Word of God. These new believers, convinced of the superiority of God's truth, were making a public statement of faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They had seen with their own eyes the power of God's Word over superstition and magic, and when God's Word prevails, it has a positive influence on the conduct of those who embrace it. In order for God's Word to prevail, its power must be displayed. It must be preached and taught and lived out in the lives and actions of Christians.

Through our continuing influence — vv. 23-27

This was not the first time that God's activity was being challenged or opposed for economic reasons. Jesus had delivered a demon-possessed man in the region of Gerasenes, which should have been a joyous occasion, but because a herd of valuable swine was lost in the process, the people entreated Jesus to depart (Mark 5:1-17). People will put up with all kinds of religious teaching, true and untrue, until it begins to affect their pocketbook. The spreading influence of new believers in Ephesus was beginning to be reflected in the sales of shrines to the goddess Artemis. Demetrius knew that he could stir up contention if he could charge the new Christians with undermining not only their economic prosperity, but also their religious devotion to Artemis. Religion and money make for a highly combustible combination!

Christians today have a responsibility to challenge the evils in society. Remember, we do not have to engage in personal attacks on individuals in order to be effective. Our fight is against ungodly ideas, beliefs, and activities. We can be effective in this struggle as we change our world with our words, our actions, and our continuing Christian influence. □ — Chuck McElhannon is pastor of Valley View Church, Nashville.

Expressing love to all

By Brian Courtney

It is Sunday morning. You have been sick over the weekend and do not feel like attending church. As a substitute you turn on the television to participate in a worship service and are utterly amazed at what you see for the next few hours. You witness various forms of worship from "traditional" to "charismatic." You witness various preaching styles emphasizing various messages. You ask yourself, "Who is right?" or "What is real Christianity?" You are not alone. This is one of the most practical Christian problems of the present time.

Paul has the same problem with the Corinthian church. The church at Corinth is hardly 15 years old, yet there are competing groups organizing around different approaches to the practice of the Christian faith. I Corinthians 13:1-3 provides information on three of these groups. First, there is the "speaking tongues" (v. 1) or the emotional group. These people like the kind of experience that they can feel all over their body. Second, there is the "prophetic powers" (v. 2) or the knowledge group. These people like to discuss the "mysteries" of the Christian faith. Third, there is the "give away all" (v. 3) or the active group. These people believe that Christianity is something you do. Then and now there is a wide variety of beliefs and practices from which to choose.

Notice how Paul answers these various groups. To the emotion group he says, "If I speak ... but have not love, ..." (v. 1). To the knowledge group he says, "And if I have prophetic powers ..., but have not love, ..." (v. 2). To the active group he says, "If I give away, ... but have not love, ..." (v. 3). Notice the one key word in each of these verses. It is the word "love." It comes from the Greek word *agape* which stands for that special kind of affection God has shown to humans in his Son, Jesus Christ. It stands for that love which one gives to another

whether or not that person deserves it. It is gift love, unconditional love, redemptive love, and complete love. It is the kind of love that is "patient and kind ..." (v. 4-8a).

What is Paul's point? It does not matter to Paul which group one is in. What matters is that one loves those in the other groups. *Agape* brings together emotions, knowledge, and activity.

Agape takes seriously that God has given individuals many gifts. The problem in Corinth and today is a division of what God has joined together. Many make much of one gift and too little of the other gifts. Paul uses "love" as a corrective to the competitive group spirit stemming from the spiritual gifts. Paul's point is well taken: Real Christianity portrays itself in love not division. Love holds together emotions, knowledge, and activity. Every group has its gift(s), but every group loves the other groups. In this way the "body" remains healthy (see I Corinthians 12).

And this love is not some vague idea. This love was active in Israel for hundreds of years, and then in the fullness of time became flesh and dwelt among human beings. As someone points out, it is Jesus that sat for Paul's portrait of love in I Corinthians 13. In fact, one can interchange the word "love" with Jesus and nothing is altered or violates the text. Christians are not left with a vague idea of love, but have a living example.

Further, Jesus gives a warning and an invitation to competing groups, "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). What more needs to be said? Real Christianity portrays itself in love. Everything else "will pass away" (vv. 8b-12) but love will "abide" (v. 13). God is not judging by emotions, knowledge, or activity. He is judging by how we love one another. This shall discern who is and is not a disciple. This is real Christianity. □ — Brian Courtney is pastor of First Church, Sneedville.

Convention Uniform Series for May 28 Focal Passage I Corinthians 13

The demands of discipleship

By Thomas Vinson

Jesus Christ did not come just to make converts. He came to make disciples. Major Ian Thomas captured this thought when he said: "God's plan is not just to get man out of earth into heaven when he dies. God's plan is to get God out of heaven into earth in man." Our focal passages this week deal with the "Demands of Discipleship."

These demands are contrary to human greatness

In 9:33-37 we see how these men were. Their former frame of reference taught them that human greatness was achieved by the accumulation of possessions, power, and prominence. Jesus turns their value system upside down. He had just finished speaking about something that should have caused them grief (vv. 30-32). Instead of anguish there occurs an altercation about who should be the greatest in the Kingdom. This is the epitome of inappropriateness and betrays both unbelief and complete misunderstanding of the messianic role of Jesus. Here our Lord uses their weakness to teach them a great lesson. Calling a child from the crowd, Jesus acts out a parable to convey what true greatness really is (vv. 36-37). A child was considered the least significant in both the Jewish as well as the Greco Roman world. To serve a little child is to serve the

Bible Book Series for May 28 Focal Passage: Mark 9:33-37; 10:42-44

most helpless and disenfranchised of society. Jesus is emphasizing that greatness comes in commitment to servanthood.

One chapter later in 10:42-44 we see that the 12 have still not learned this lesson. James and John come asking for special favors in the coming Kingdom. This reveals a purely political conception of the work of Jesus as Messiah (vv. 35-41). Jesus again uses their mistakes to teach them a great lesson. The Kingdom will not operate on the basis of a secular model of power. Spiritual leaders are not CEOs like the Gentiles frame of reference but servants (v. 42).

These demands are contrary to human goodness — ch. 10:17-22

Discipleship is not synonymous with doing! This young man had the ill informed idea that there was something he could "do" to earn eternal life (v. 17). We get the impression that he gave himself wholeheartedly to whatever he did in life. He had attained riches and respectability, but he was still restless in his soul. He serves as a prototype for many today who know how to make a living, but do not know how to make a life.

Jesus exposed two major errors in this young man's thinking. First, he was ignorant of the person of Christ (v. 18). Essentially Jesus said, "It is true that I am good, but I am good because I am God. Don't call me good unless you believe this, for there is only one who is good and that is God." Secondly, he was ignorant of the purpose of the commandments (v. 19). His wooden interpretation of how he had kept these commandments reveal his spiritual naivete.

This became obvious when Jesus said to him, "one thing you lack" and gave him the conditions of "selling everything you have and giving to the poor" (v. 21). For this young man riches and reputation were more important than redemption. The tragedy was not that he had great possessions, but that his possessions had him. He needed God but he would not give up his gold.

Jesus summed it up this way: "what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and lose his own soul?" What is the "one thing" that keeps you from totally selling out for Jesus? □ — Thomas Vinson is pastor of Leawood Church, Memphis.

Zairian Baptists ask for prayer in epidemic

Baptist Press

KIKWIT, Zaire — Baptists in Zaire have requested prayer in the outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus that has struck the villages of Kikwit and Musango in east-central Zaire and killed as many as 100 people.

The headquarters for the Baptist convention related to Southern Baptists is located in Kikwit, a city of 600,000 people 370 miles east of Kinshasha, the capital city.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is monitoring the outbreak and will respond to unmet human needs it discovers, said FMB spokesman Jim Foster.

No Southern Baptist missionaries have been assigned to Zaire since February 1993. Southern Baptist missionaries also are no longer assigned to Rwandan refugee camps located in Zaire. □

FMB names Cox as associate area director in Europe

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — J. Larry Cox of Greenwood, Miss., has been named an associate to the area director in Europe for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

From a base in Wiesbaden, Germany, Cox, 46, will be responsible for missionary work encompassing nations from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean.

He was most recently a strategy coordinator in northern Africa and central Asia for Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid agency.

He and his wife, the former Cheryl Keathley of Memphis, have four children. □

Annuity Board keeps medical rates stable

Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Southern Baptist Annuity Board will not increase rates for its Personal Security, Catastrophic, and Seminarian Comprehensive Medical Plans, according to Joel Mathis, senior vice president of the agency's insurance services division.

The May 10 announcement

marks the third year there has been no rate increase for the three medical programs.

Mathis attributed the continued cost savings to effective management by the Annuity Board and its carrier, Prudential, and to the medical plan's participants who have helped hold down costs by instituting wellness programs, using preferred providers when available, and choosing generic prescription drugs. □

Armenian Baptists arrested following Easter services

Associated Baptist Press

YEREVAN, Armenia — Members of Yerevan Baptist Church in Armenia were arrested and held several hours following Easter services April 23, according to European Baptist Press Service.

Twenty people in military uniforms arrested the Baptists. Among those arrested was Yuri Avanesian, president of the Baptist Union of Armenia. They were released after several hours in military office.

Few details are known, but the crackdown was carried out by the Armenian military and targeted only Protestant churches.

Armenian authorities have promised to investigate the incident. □

Bill introduced to block porn on basic cable television

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A new bill in the U.S. House of Representatives will require cable television operators to offer basic subscription packages which do not include channels offering pornographic material.

The Family Viewing Cable Television Act (H.R. 1540), introduced by Rep. Tony Hall, D-Ohio, will not affect premium or pay-per-view channels, since cable subscribers have the option of not receiving those channels. The legislation targets any cable operator who knowingly transmits depictions of "sexual or excretory activities or organs" in "terms patently offensive as measured by contemporary community standards." The penalties include a maximum prison sentence of two years and fines. "This is a matter of rights — the rights of cable subscribers to keep indecent programming off their television sets and out of reach of their

Oklahoma minister can laugh now about case of mistaken identity

By Bob Mathews
For Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — In the wake of the April 19 bombing of the federal building here, drivers of rental cars with Oklahoma tags were suspect.

Add to that someone who resembles drawings of suspect John Doe 2 and you have the possibility of a gigantic case of mistaken identity.

Jason Kearney, associate pastor of Berry Road Church, Norman, Okla., can give testimony that the nationwide search for John Doe 2 is intense.

Seems he rented a car to drive to North Carolina and make arrangements for a summer mission trip.

Kearney noted an Asheville (N.C.) policeman following him. After a few miles, the officer used his flashing blue lights to pull Kearney over. "I knew I had done nothing against the law," Kearney wrote in his church newsletter.

But when the officer told him to keep his hands where they could be seen, "I figured I

was wrong. He approached the vehicle, hand on his weapon, and told me to reach slowly for my driver's license.

"He then told me I was none other than the John Doe suspect wanted in connection with the bombing.

Kearney said the officer told him his facial features tipped him off, as well as the car's license being traced to a rental company in Oklahoma City.

"It took about 10 minutes for him to get word from headquarters that I was not the guy," Kearney related, noting the officer seemed "very disappointed I was not connected with the crime."

"Afterwards, I thought about how God was going to make this situation into a good one for me. First, now I have a great story to share and laugh about.

"Second, it gave me a chance to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with about 100 people who gathered to see what all the fuss was about.

"I had their complete and total attention for several minutes and took advantage of it," Kearney said. □

children," Hall said in a prepared statement. "If you want cable television, in some places you have to take the sleazy channels along with Mr. Rogers and Big Bird.

"I'm not trying to tell people what they can and can't watch. I'm just trying to give parents the right to make their television safe for family viewing."

The legislation is expected to test whether the regulation of the broadcasting of indecent material, approved by the U.S. Supreme Court, extends to cable television. □

Hemphill inaugurated as SWBTS president

Associated Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Kenneth Hemphill was officially installed as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary May 1 with a promise to keep the world's largest seminary tied to the Bible and in tune with its Southern Baptist constituency.

"I am humbled by the trust you have placed in me," Hemphill told the inauguration audience at Travis Avenue Church in Fort Worth.

With trustees, faculty, friends, and students looking on, trustee chairman Ralph Pulley placed the presidential medallion around Hemphill's

neck. He and his wife Paula then knelt and prayed while close friend and Southern Baptist leader Jimmy Draper delivered the inaugural charge. □

Retired Hong Kong BP editor dies

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Molly Wong, retired editor of the Hong Kong Baptist Press died May 2 after a year-long battle with lung cancer. She was 74. Wong was well-known for her book, *They Changed My China*, an autobiography about her escape from China following the communist takeover. A 1951 graduate of the University of Shanghai, China, Wong was persecuted for her Christian faith prior to her escape from the country it came under communist rule.

Wong was a graduate of Hong Kong Baptist Seminary and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. □

Southern selects distinguished alumni

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has named six graduates as its 1995 Distinguished Alumni.

The honorees are Charles T. Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham, Ala.; Ted Sisk, pastor of Immanuel Church, Lexington,

Ky.; Dan C. Stringer, executive director-treasurer of the Arizona Baptist Convention; John Lee Taylor, pastor of First Church, Gainesville, Ga.; and Arthur L. Walker Jr., retired executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

Jesse V. Bottoms Sr., a former Louisville pastor who died in January, will receive the award posthumously.

The six will be recognized during the seminary's annual Alumni and Friends Luncheon at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta June 21. □

Seminary Extension offers Lay Bible Academy program

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Seminary Extension of the Southern Baptist Convention, a ministry of the six SBC seminaries, has released the Lay Bible Academy study guide and cassette tapes in the final installment of a three-part study of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Lay Bible Academy is a non-credit study program with low-cost, easy to understand study materials for those who want additional knowledge of God's Word. The materials can be used by Sunday School teachers, new Christians, Discipleship Training classes, home Bible studies, and others.

For more information about Lay Bible Academy, call (615) 242-2453. □



COX



HEMPHILL