

# Baptist and Reflector

May 31, 1995

VOL. 161 ■ NO. 22

STATEWIDE EDITION

■ this  
week's  
news

global —

■ FMB leaders note importance of World Missions Conferences. — Page 3

national —

■ HMB plans dedication of new facility in June. — Page 3

■ Major League pitcher recounts how faith in God helped family during son's illness. — Page 3

■ Experts share best ways to reach children, preschoolers. — Page 3

state —

■ Tennessee BSU students share message of Christ in New York. — Page 6

■ Chinese student accepts Christ while attending Tennessee Baptist academy. — Page 6.

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

\*900-00410-0127  
\*HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
\*901 COMMERCIAL SUITE 400  
NASHVILLE  
TN 37203

## TBC conference leaders agree

# Baby boomers, busters want authenticity

*Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Baby Boomers and Baby Busters are looking for authenticity and quality, said speakers at two "Reaching Baby Boomers and Baby Busters" conferences in Tennessee.

About 171 people attended the two meetings held in late May at First Church, Concord,

Knoxville, and the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

"If we can get something authentic to folks, they'll believe it," said Dan Francis, pastor of First Church, Nashville.

"That's the mystery of the Gospel. We've got to get that word to boomers and busters," he said.

Baby Boomers are those born between 1946-64 while

busters were born between 1965-83, Francis said.

He noted there are an estimated 76 million baby boomers and about 66 million baby busters today.

People — two-thirds of whom are boomers and busters — don't join First Church, Orlando, because of its size or location or because SBC President Jim Henry is pastor, said

Jimmy Knott, associate pastor of the church.

They join because it provides the following — worship that's celebrational; leadership that's transformational, vulnerable and participatory; a community of fellowship that's relational; service that's meaningful; commitment that's reasonable; outreach evangelism that's largely nonconfrontational; and quality, Knott said.

Both Knott and Francis described ways their respective churches are reaching the baby boomers/busters audience.

Francis noted First Church began a "contemporary" service which uses different types of creative worship.

"We didn't change our traditional service. We set up another opportunity," Francis said.

To encourage meaningful service, First, Orlando, has instituted ministry teams rather than committees and assigned deacons work in such areas as young married adults, prayer ministry, and decision counseling, he said.

Wayne Jones, associate executive pastor at First Church, Franklin, observed that if boomers and busters are to be assimilated into the church it will have to be through small — See Baby, page 2



JIMMY KNOTT, center, associate pastor of First Church, Orlando, was welcomed to the Baptist Center by, from left, Jere Phillips, TBC Missions Department director; Otis Hinton, pastor of Temple Church, Paris; Emerson Wiles, pastor of First Church, Fayetteville; and Artie Rivers, pastor of Mt. Harmon Church, Savannah. Knott was a speaker for the 'Reaching Baby Boomers and Baby Busters' conference. Other speakers at the Brentwood meeting were Phillips, Dan Francis, Harold Bryson, Wayne Jones, and Bill Taylor.

## Kenya missionaries shot, robbed

By Craig Bird  
For Baptist Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Jo Scales, a Southern Baptist missionary in Kenya for 25 years, was seriously wounded May 21 by gunmen who sprayed the vehicle she was driving with automatic weapons to force the car to stop.

The men did not aim at the tires but shot through the doors and windows. Several bullets were deflected by the doors and others punctured the roof and windows on trajectories that indicated they passed within inches of Scales and her husband, Louie.

Her right leg was shattered by one of the bullets and, according to doctors, she will probably require a bone graft to bridge a one-inch gap in the femur presently held in place by a metal plate. She also was wounded in the left leg and right hand.

"I'd say she's in stable but still serious



J. SCALES



L. SCALES

condition," said Sam Turner, administrator of the Baptist Mission in Kenya. "She's fully alert but there's still a real danger of infection, blood clots, and other complications."

After being robbed Scales, in a state of shock, drove approximately 40 miles to Nairobi Hospital.

Missionaries who saw the car marveled at near misses — describing how some bullets were deflected by seemingly tooth-thin sheet metal and how other bullets had traveled on a trajectory that seemed to be en route to the Scaleses in the head or chest.

"They both are alive," one woman said simply, "by the breath of God." □

## Senate delays lottery bill until next year

*Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — A Senate bill which would amend the state constitution to allow for a lottery apparently will not be acted on this year, according to TBC Public Affairs Consultant Bill Bates of Jackson.

SB004, sponsored by Sen. Steve Cohen of Memphis, was "rolled over" until 1996, Bates said.

"All of us should express our thanks and appreciation to those senators who stood against the forces that would bring gambling to the state of Tennessee," Bates said.

Bates encouraged Tennessee Baptists to continue to let their legislators know how they feel against gambling because the pro-gambling forces are making themselves heard. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
- **Subscribe to the Baptist and Reflector for one year** and receive 51 copies. Family or individual subscription — \$7.50, clubs of 10 or more subscriptions — \$7.25, church (more than 50 percent of families) — \$6.50. Send check/money order to address listed below.
- **To contribute a news item**, call or write Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen; or either Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor; or Connie Davis, assistant editor.
- **To advertise** — Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor or editor.
- **For billing and subscription list questions** — Betty Williams, bookkeeper
- **For information about trial subscription plan** for church or association edition — Editor Allen, Lonnie Wilkey, Connie Davis, or Susie Edwards, administrative secretary
- **For information about local church edition** — The Editor, or Mary Nimmo, church pages coordinator
- **For production answers** — Donna M. Wagers, news and production assistant
- **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- **Board of directors:** Dean Haun, chairman; Gary Gerhardt, vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Christine Bess, Russ Dunham, David George, Frank Hawkins, Diane Jordan, Pat Landrum, Joe Littlefield, Paul Moody, Bill Northcott, Charles Parker, Richard Patton, Mike Thrower, Conyer Walker, Gary Watkins, and Laurann Whetham
- **Office** — Baptist and Reflector, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027  
Mailing address — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024  
Phone — (615) 371-2003.  
FAX — (615) 371-2080
- **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
- **Address changes** — Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- **Postmaster** — Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780)
- **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for Christmas week.



Printed on recycled paper

## Christian Life Commission consultation yields proposed stance on racism

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — In a meeting participants described as "historic," African American and white Southern Baptist leaders discussed ways for the Southern Baptist Convention to deal with the racism of its past and present.

A "Racial Reconciliation Consultation," May 22 in Nashville yielded a resolution it is hoped will "startle the nation and begin our healing" as one of the participants said in his introductory remarks.

The consultation grew out of conversations between CLC Executive Director Richard Land and Gary Frost regard-

ing the 150th anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention, to be celebrated June 20-22 in Atlanta. Land and Frost, pastor of Rising Star Church, Youngstown, Ohio, and second vice president of the SBC, agreed Southern Baptists cannot go to Atlanta without addressing the issue of racism.

"I have had concern for some time that we needed to speak to this issue during the sesquicentennial celebration," Land said. "We could not celebrate our past with a clear conscience until we had dealt with this issue."

The consultation produced a resolution unanimously approved by the 14 participants.

The resolution acknowledges the significant role slavery played in the formation of the SBC. It notes racism continues to harm the body of Christ and Southern Baptists, stating, "... we repent both of conscious and unconscious racism and apologize to all African Americans for our condoning and perpetuating individual and systemic racism in our lifetime." It further asks "forgiveness from our African American brothers and sisters." The linking of present-day racism with the historic evil of slavery was clearly defined in the document, something not done in previous statements on the matter. □

## Book of Reports now on SBCNet

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The 1995 SBC Book of Reports, 263 pages in book form, is available to subscribers of SBCNet in the Library Section, General Ministry B Forum, SBC 95, according to Ernest Mosley, executive vice president of the SBC Executive Committee.

Having the book available on SBCNet will give Southern Baptists a chance to scan the book a month prior to the annual SBC meeting in June, Mosley said.

For information about SBCNet, call 1 (800) 325-7749. □

## Baby boomers, busters want authenticity ...

— Continued from page 1  
groups. "The best organization Southern Baptists have ever found, developed, critiqued — all the words you want to use — is the Sunday School.

"If you ask how First, Franklin, reaches Baby Boomers and Baby Busters, I'm going to say through Bible study," Jones said, acknowledging they do it in a variety of ways.

Jones challenged conference participants to think "through how you're going to reach boomers and busters and what prices are you willing to pay in order to do that."

Bill Taylor, director of the Bible teaching/reaching division of the Baptist Sunday School Board, echoed similar thoughts.

"Don't throw out Sunday School prematurely. We can still be innovative with small groups," said Taylor, who spoke at the Brentwood conference only.

He noted that in working with boomers and busters "you have to give them choices. We cannot be frightened or intimidated. We must be open to change," he said.

Mississippi College Professor Harold Bryson suggested 10 techniques for preaching to Baby Boomers and Baby Busters.

(1) Base message on truth from the Bible.

(2) Trust the personality of the person giving the message to shape the message.

(3) Have only one idea and stay with it.

(4) Organize material around the one ideal in many organizational materials.

(5) Create images and ideas.

(6) Let people experience the sermon rather than merely passing on information.

(7) Approach audience sometimes with authority; other times without.

(8) Work hard to create interest.

(9) Present the possibility of the power of behavior modification.

(10) Whatever is done, do it with excellence.

Bryson, a former New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary professor, said he does not believe preaching is obsolete. "It's always changing and the worse thing you could ever do is get into a fixed mode of operation in your preaching."

Bryson noted reaching boomers and busters may take different approaches, but it will still use the same basic Word of God.

"We've got the oldest wine available and it's an old, old story. But we need to get some new wineskins so that they (boomers and busters) will taste and see the great things of God," Bryson concluded.

Jere Phillips of the TBC Missions Department reminded conference participants that a technique that works well somewhere else may not work

at their particular church. People in the same age group will be different depending on where they live, he pointed out.

"You need to look at the people where you are and contextualize them. Then customize the principles of ministry and make them special to your situation," Phillips said.

In reaching boomers and busters, Phillips suggested planning ministries that deal with their needs — such as after school care and tutoring for their children. Plan ministries to reach the kids and you'll reach the parents, he said.

"Boomers and busters are looking for activities that will reduce stress in their life," Phillips added.

The two conferences were jointly sponsored by the TBC Brotherhood, Church Music, Discipleship Training, Evangelism, Missions, and Sunday School departments. □ — Connie Davis and Lonnie Wilkey

## Characteristics of Baby Boomers, Baby Busters

### Baby Boomers (Born 1946-1964)

- Desire for personal development and experiences
- Want "fuller" life than their parents
- Quality is important
- Want choices
- Not responsive to guilt motivation
- More risk-taking generation
- Well educated as a whole
- Skeptical of authority
- Have a desire for truth, directness, and candor
- Seek stability
- Spiritually concerned about meaning of life
- Impatient, narcissistic, non-traditional, idealistic
- Lack self-esteem
- Relationally dysfunctional

Sources: Reaching "Baby Boomers" with Sunday School, BTN video tape, BSSB (June 1990), James Fitch, convener; Ron Proctor, minister to single adults, FBC, Euless, Texas

### Baby Busters (Born 1965-1983)

- Desire for job satisfaction, not career conscious
- Less loyalty to employer
- More diverse and highly skilled than preceding generations
- Marriage important but delayed longer
- Materialistic by nature
- Religion seen as antistress mechanism to add balance to life
- Politically motivated in relation to national debt, American competitiveness, and the environment
- Less likely to take leadership role in churches
- Leisure lifestyle claims time and resources
- "Experience," not "acquisition" will be dominant philosophy

Sources: Fortune magazine, Aug. 27, 1990, pp. 42f; Time magazine, Feb. 23, 1987; Introducing ... The Baby Busters!, Dieter Zander, 1992

## HMB slates dedication of new building June 21

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The Home Mission Board will host an open house and dedication ceremony for its new facility in Alpharetta, Ga., on Wednesday, June 21, during the June 20-22 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

"Our trustees and staff are anxious to share this very special moment of the Home Mission Board's 150th anniversary with every Southern Baptist who supports our work and our missionaries," said HMB President Larry Lewis.

From 1 to 5 p.m., participants can take a self-guided tour of the five-story structure. A dedication ceremony is scheduled at 3 p.m.

Purchased in 1991 at a cost of \$1.3 million, the property is located in Alpharetta, an Atlanta suburb 25 miles north of downtown. HMB directors sold the midtown Atlanta site in 1990 for \$14.5 million, and has leased the space until completion of the \$20 million structure.

The 184,000-square-foot facility has many unique features designed to enhance efficiency.

The board was supposed to have moved to its new location over the Memorial Day weekend, but construction delays have postponed the move two weeks.

The Home Mission Board will close its current offices on Thursday evening, June 9, and reopen Monday, June 12, in the new facility at Alpharetta. □

## World Missions Conferences 'bring missions home,' says FMB staffer

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A Southern Baptist missions executive said missionaries who "bring missions home" to believers in local churches through World Missions Conferences are living out a biblical model and reaching people in the pews more effectively than by any other method.

Sam Pittman, executive director of public relations for the Foreign Mission Board, told a two-day meeting of WMC state directors in late April that WMCs "still reach more people than the Southern Baptist Convention (annual meeting) and our associational meetings combined.

"As we look at the whole picture of what Christ is leading us to do as a denomination, and from my point of view as a personal testimony, I do not

know of any other vehicle at this moment that can help us do that more effectively at the least cost, and reach more people at the same time," Pittman said of WMCs.

World Mission Conferences are associational missions awareness events that bring Southern Baptist missionaries into local churches. They are directed by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in cooperation with the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, and Woman's Missionary Union.

**The Tennessee Baptist Brotherhood Department works with Baptist associations in the state for WMCs in Tennessee.**

As a rule, each participating church plays host to two foreign missionaries, two home missionaries, and one state or associational missionary.

According to Pittman, missionaries involved in WMCs today are following the model of what he called the "rotating World Missions Conference" described in III John, when the "brethren" who "went out for the sake of the name (of Christ)" returned with news of the faithfulness of other believers in other churches.

Today, he added, churches become "fellow helpers to the truth" when they receive missionaries and become a "full part and partner of their ministry. This is personalization to the nth degree."

During the meeting special presentations were given for promoting WMCs. Georgia and Alabama Baptist state conventions were honored among "old-line" Southern Baptist states for 1992 and 1993, respectively. They received the Bernard King Awards. □

## Traditional teaching methods not effective with children, experts say

By Terri Lackey  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Teachers who sit kids down in a classroom and instruct them through memorization and mindless drills can expect discipline problems and hyperactivity in their students, two childhood education professionals said.

"There is far too much mindless skill and pseudo learning going on in classrooms today. Children have brains, and they should use them," Jerry Aldridge, coordinator of early childhood programs at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, told a group of children's leaders at a recent conference at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

"We cannot expect today's children to learn through the same means as they did 20 years ago," agreed Jane Healy, author of several books on learning and brain development. The Vail, Colo., resident's most recent books include *Endangered Minds: Why Children Don't Think and What We Can Do*

*About It and How to Have Intelligent and Creative Conversations with Your Kids.*

Children today need more brain stimulation than ever before because they are inundated with media forces that do their thinking for them, according to Healy, who said she believes the short attention spans of children and their inferior language development is due to increased external interference.

"The fast-paced media environment denies them the ability to develop their brains as they should," she said.

Teachers are needed to take up the learning slack and provide participatory classroom experiences, said Aldridge and Healy, who do not discount the parental role in a child's learning.

"Teachers who are having great success with their students are doing things differently," Healy said. "They are keeping children active and allowing their minds to find meaning in what they are doing. They are letting the students construct their own knowledge rather than training them

to just repeat back what they are teaching.

"Little children need to wiggle, touch, act out, and demonstrate with their bodies," she said.

Children learn skills in stages, according to Healy, who said teachers and parents should be aware of "the genetic parameters for the skills and stages of their children."

Aldridge said teachers should look for a child's "particular type of intelligence" in order to use the best teaching methods for him or her.

"The wrong question to ask is, 'How smart is this child?' The right question is, 'How is this child smart?'" said Aldridge, who listed seven types of intelligence identifications. They are word smart, logic smart, music smart, body smart (athletic), picture smart, people smart, and self smart (knows self).

Aldridge said teachers should use a child's particular talent or strong point to help him or her out in weaker areas of classroom development. □

### Teaching Dos and Don'ts

Jerry Aldridge of the University of Alabama listed several dos and don'ts of teaching at a recent seminar for children and preschool workers at the Baptist Sunday School Board. They are:

1. Don't use long periods of work sheets, workbooks, sitting, and listening.
2. Do find out what they know and what they want to know about a topic and construct a lesson where children will ask questions. Allow the children to select their own themes.
3. Don't hurry children from activity to activity.
4. Do give the children longer time to complete projects.
5. Don't use a system of rewards and punishments. "Stars and other things are just techniques of manipulation," he said. □

## Atlanta Braves hurler buoyed by faith during son's bout with leukemia

Baptist Press

NEWAN, Ga. — When Atlanta Braves relief pitcher Steve Bedrosian mentions "the farm," he is not referring to the minor leagues. In fact, it has been a while since the 13-year veteran played at that level.

Instead, he is speaking of the house and acreage in rural Coweta County, southwest of Atlanta, that he and his wife, Tammy, call home. There the otherwise quiet countryside setting is only interrupted, and joyfully so, by the activities of their four sons, Kyle, 9; Cody, 7; Carson, 4; and Cameron, 3. Bedrosian's baseball career

has given him much about which to be proud. He has pitched in the World Series and, in 1987, received the coveted Cy Young Award acknowledging him as the best pitcher in the National League.

Yet, what really brings a sparkle to the dark eyes of Bedrosian is to come home and see his four sons resting comfortably.

Life has not always been so peaceful for the Bedrosian family. Their lives were upended in 1990 when young Cody became quite ill. Bedrosian, then with the San Francisco Giants, was in Atlanta for the

season opener which had been canceled due to rain. His wife finally reached him with the news that Cody's condition was worsening. Bedrosian returned to the west coast. A biopsy the following day revealed Cody had leukemia.

"I'll never forget that day," Bedrosian said. "We were devastated and certainly grieved for a long time." After the expected period of shock and denial, the couple knew they would need help beyond themselves. "It was so hard to believe at first," Bedrosian confessed, "but we turned to God."

"So many ways the Lord has worked in our lives," Bedrosian

noted. Little did they know an experimental drug study at the leukemia center at the University of Minnesota would play a key role in saving Cody's life. Still, there were difficult days ahead as he continued treatments.

In 1993 Bedrosian became an Atlanta Brave and the family moved to Newnan where they eventually joined First Church.

Late in 1993, a blood test revealed Cody had a relapse. Church members, however, rushed to the Bedrosians side offering care and concern.

An answer to many prayers came when the news came that

two of Cody's brothers were matched as potential bone marrow donors. A successful transplant was completed Dec. 27, 1993.

It has been over a year since the transplant and Cody is active and back in school. His annual checkup showed him in full remission. However, the Bedrosians remember the darkest days and what they learned from them. "You can't do it by yourself," Bedrosian said. "He (God) will give you strength. And don't be proud," he added.

The Bedrosians now find ways to minister to others who are facing crises. □

## ■ 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. □

### Restructuring proposal

After reading Katharine Bryan's article entitled Bryan says restructure plan 'ignores' WMU, with utmost urgency I write this letter as Associational WMU director of New River Association.

We are much concerned over the recent restructuring proposal for the SBC. We feel the Woman's Missionary Union was ignored in the document. It failed to acknowledge the work of those thousands of women who have taught missions, who have led this denomination to give more than \$1 billion through the Lottie Moon Christmas offering and the Annie Armstrong Easter offering, and who have modeled servanthood in thousands of Southern Baptist churches.

The document fails to recognize the potential of the WMU in accomplishing our mission tasks, rather it reassigns missions education and the promotion of the offerings to other entities. We do not feel like this would be the proper thing to do.

Thank you for letting me share our associational WMU's thoughts with you, and it is with fervent prayer, and care.

Rose Krahn, director  
WMU New River Assn.  
Helenwood 37755

### Doing the work

As WMU director in my church, I have been concerned

about WMU's tasks in regard to the "Covenant for a New Century" report of the Program and Structure Study Committee in the special edition of *SBC Life* March, 1995.

The report states that "in the spirit of this covenant we must create and maintain structure that serves the accomplishment of our shared mission to the greatest standard of faithfulness and our most careful stewardship." One ministry of the proposed North American Mission Board would be to develop missions organizations, services, and materials. WMU already does this, and without using SBC funds! WMU gets its money from subscriptions, manuals, and other printed materials. How is starting new organizations and printing new materials "most careful stewardship?"

Another task assigned to the two proposed missions boards is to be responsible for the annual Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings. WMU has also done this for years, and without SBC funds. How will starting anew on this task and using more money from SBC be "most careful stewardship?"

WMU's tasks have been to support our missionaries, through prayer, personal giving, encouraging others to give, and educating and encouraging youngsters to become missionaries. Why not let WMU continue to do what it does well, and that would be "most careful stewardship." Let WMU assist in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our world!

Kathy Lyle  
Memphis 38119

### Sacrifice required

As I read negative remarks concerning the proposed changes in the Southern Baptist Convention by the Program and Structure Committee, I am reminded of Matthew 11:16-19. It appears that Jesus used as an illustration little children playing funeral in streets around the market place, as a portrayal of those who would find fault with the preaching and teaching of John the Baptist and Christ. Are we Southern Baptists mimicking children in fear of not getting to play the game by our rules?

I haven't heard much in the debate about giving God glory for what he has done and is doing through churches of this convention. Are we more concerned about receiving glory ourselves by retaining some present position in the SBC? I am willing to listen to the proposed changes and support them if they will enable Southern Baptists to get more ministry for Missions dollars.

We must be careful that our Sacred Cows don't become Trojan Horses that destroy us from within. If necessary, our Sacred Cows may have to be sacrificed a little for the good of the whole.

I believe everyone should stop the rhetoric, step back, and take a deep breath of fresh perspective, and prayerfully ask ourselves this question: "Would I be willing to sacrifice a little that Christ may be better served through the SBC?"

Ronald L. Harris, pastor  
Fellowship Church  
Allons 38541

### Congratulations

Once again we're reminded that "man looks on the outward appearance (male or female), but God looks on the heart." Just as trustees and officers at Southern Seminary took another hard-line stand against leadership roles for women, all male judges selected the three best student sermons and were surprised to discover the three top awards went to women!

God continues to call and empower people of both genders to proclaim his Good News. From Judge Deborah to Deaconess Phoebe (Romans 16:1) to Lottie Moon and into the present, women have answered his call and found his blessing. We can "proof-text" verses on all sides of this issue just as people quoted Scripture to justify segregation, but the Spirit will lead us on until the day when, with shame, we realize that once again the church has let the world lead out in giving equal rights to all. Congratulations to the women whose sermons were proven worthy! And thanks be to our God who sees beyond gender and judges our hearts!

Diane Owen Jordan  
Talbot 37877

### Love and respect

I was reared under another denomination whose plan of salvation depended only on church membership and good works. At 27, a loving Southern Baptist pastor shared with me the Good News of Jesus Christ. Over 40 years ago, I received Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord and joined a Southern Baptist church.

I have not always been a Southern Baptist. Not having a background on Bible concepts of missions, I was completely unaware of what the Bible teaches about missions. As a young Christian, I needed a lot of encouragement and spiritual guidance. Over 40 years ago I received Jesus as my Savior, joined a Southern Baptist church, the Women's Missionary Union played a major role in my spiritual growth.

WMU programs showed me

the importance of Bible study, praying for missions, supporting our missionaries, and how I could share Jesus Christ with the world. WMU helped me to see the importance of giving to our missions offerings. For over 100 years WMU has been leading women like me to a deeper knowledge of the Great Commission.

The Holy Spirit has led women for over 100 years to establish a unique ministry of working with preschoolers through adults. Through WMU programs many have come to know what missions support really means, through prayer and giving to our special offerings.

I am concerned about how a committee of seven can decide what is best for mission education in our churches by giving other entities the responsibility that WMU has had for over 100 years. Why was Woman's Missionary Union left out of the "Covenant for a New Century?"

We have the opportunity to voice our convictions in June at the SBC. Let us give WMU credit where credit is due.

Jeannette Thomas  
Powell 37849

### More on Calvinism

When inerrancy is honored it certainly brings to light the truth of Calvinism (sovereignty). The reason the doctrine of sovereignty comes to the forefront, is because God is once again in control, not man.

The Bible plainly states that the individual must be drawn (John 6:44). Conviction must come by the Holy Spirit for one to experience true conversion. The human will is free, but its freedom is within the limits of fallen human nature. It is free like water; water is free to run down hill. Man through self will never choose God.

Some want to deny God has control over the matter of salvation in order for man's authority to be intact. Could it be the drift to liberalism in many denominations has come from a philosophy related to universalism, which allows man to choose; breeding goats, rather than sheep.

I applaud the president of Southern Seminary, who has brought to our attention the historic stand of Baptists in regard to sovereignty. This man, and men like him, stands for

what the inerrant word of God has always said, not the cheap grace of pragmatism that has been produced by putting salvation in man's hands rather than God's. I don't think John Calvin, Boyce, Rice, Mell, Dagg, Wayland, Manly, Johnson, Howell, etc. invented the truth of sovereignty, but inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the inerrant word of God.

Alan Buckles, pastor  
Springdale Church  
Kingsport 37660

### 'Cooling' needed

The concept of "missions" as communicated through Holy Scripture and the educational process of Christ's church are important to me. I came to know the Lord, and gave myself to full-time Christian service through the RA program.

When I served at First, Clinton, the wife of the DOM guided me to a clear understanding of the importance and priority of missions education. Since coming to this church, my appetite has been whetted by our missions committee and Woman's Missionary Union to become further involved through participation in partnership missions.

My heart is concerned regarding the possible adverse effect on missions presented by the "Covenant for a New Century." I agree the Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board have primary responsibility for promoting missions giving and education. I acknowledge that \$400,000 has been given to WMU to help promote missions offerings in the last budget year. Millions of dollars go to mission involvement because of WMU.

WMU is an auxiliary but its "marriage" to the Southern Baptist Convention has been happy and productive.

Separation and inevitable divorce may be imminent and could become finalized in June. WMU is told it can continue to collect the child support and everything will continue happily ever after. Broken relationships need a safety zone — a cooling down time; counseling is necessary. Messengers of the SBC can provide that counseling. Let each of us seek his will. The lost children of the world will suffer most.

Ronald E. Mouser, min. of ed.  
Central Church, Fountain City,  
Knoxville 37918

### Now, what to do about these letters...

Readers are reminded of the letters' guidelines printed each week on the letters page.

In recent weeks the letters have tended to be much longer than the limit.

Letters about the "Covenant for a New Century" must be received in the *Baptist and Reflector* office by June 9 in order to be used before the SBC meets June 20-22.

Short, concise letters will receive first consideration.

Read the guidelines! □

# Religious liberty: blessing of American life

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" — II Corinthians 2:17.

"The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance" — John P. Curran.

"The love of liberty is the love of others; the love of power is the love of ourselves" — William Hazlitt.

"The God who gave us life gave us liberty" — Thomas Jefferson.

These words can be spoken or written without fear of harassment or punishment — because Americans celebrate life in a nation where religious freedom is real rather than fiction.

Sunday, June 4, churches will join in observing Religious Liberty Day. It is a day when religious liberty truly shines.

A month later most Americans will rally around the concept of true patriotism as special events and personal memories remind us of Independence Day, July 4.

Religious liberty is a hard-earned right, garnered by a hardy band of colonists who wanted an equal share of religious freedom. It was a part of the effort leading toward a new country in a new land, forged with blood, sweat, hard work, and tears. It was hammered out on the anvil of newborn democracy.

Liberty was won, and was put into the hands of enthusiastic defenders of truth, justice, and responsible citizenship.

Religious liberty, always a Baptist distinctive, has a strong biblical basis. It is rooted in standards appearing

throughout Holy Scripture. It is a gift of God to his people.

Genesis 1:27 tells us that mankind was created in God's own image. And, this means that those of that likeness are made of God's essence. Part of that essence is that humans are free to make choices in their own will.

In writing about J. M. Dawson, Texas pastor and Southern Baptist leader who became one of the greatest exponents of religious liberty, James Dunn says that Dawson's bold leadership was not "mere stubbornness but a belief with deep theological roots."

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Said Dunn, "He saw in all persons great potential and infinite worth. Every person must be free to come into a voluntary relationship with God.

"That passion for freedom made him love to quote the words of his friend George W. Truett: 'The right of private judgment is the crown jewel of humanity, and for any person or institution to come between the soul and God is a blasphemous impertinence, a defamation of the crown rights of the Son of God.'"

Like many Southern Baptists today, Dawson held Roger Williams, John Leland, and Isaac Backus as his heroes.

They were powerful spokesmen in colonial America who rallied support for the cause of religious freedom.

For them, and for Dawson, religious liberty was "the right and security of every person and group of freedom of

conscience, belief, and practice — along with free association and unrestricted propagation of faith."

Dawson steadfastly espoused the idea that "the sole function of the American state, in respect to religion, is to recognize its existence and protect its liberty."

Not only does religious liberty mean freedom of choice and conscience for individuals, it means that no church or religion or denomination will be favored over another.

And it means that preferential treatment will not be offered to any church or religious body. Those were the kinds of ideas and actions that Ireland, Backus, and Leland endured and fought against. They suffered physically at the hands of civic establishments.

When we observe Religious Liberty Day June 4, we do well to recognize that there are trends today that, if unchecked, could get church and state entangled and penalize Americans for religious beliefs.

The strident attitudes of some lobbyists and lawmakers ignore law and history when they try to marry church and state. Dawson characterized some fanatics as those "who do all that God would do if God had all the facts."

His is an accurate appraisal of some ideologists today. Awareness is required for the protection of religious liberty. As heritage is honored June 4, let us strengthen that heritage.

Wendell Phillips was right. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. □

■ one word more  
By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

## What about *Christy*

Whether it was professional critics, CBS television moguls, or apathy among people who should care, *Christy* is dead.

I don't refer to someone's dog or goldfish, or someone's great aunt in Seattle.

*Christy* was a real, dramatic, clean, portrayal of how people lived in East Tennessee's mountains when suspicious and self-reliant folk were alive and well.

*Christy* was taken from Catherine Marshall's book which depicted the life of her grandmother as a young teacher in the Tennessee hills. The plot was dramatic and real, with high moral values.

Most of us thought this was one good opportunity for clean TV programming to prevail. For an hour a week even!



ALLEN

I'm waiting for the explanations. We will probably be told there was not sufficient interest. We may be told that advertisers wouldn't sign up to sponsor the show.

But it's more likely that the show was too Christian. I firmly believe that it is much easier for a smutty or cheap drama to get a fair opportunity than a show like *Christy*.

There are too many hurdles on the road to success. I also believe that TV bosses require more from a show like *Christy*.

It is apparent there is inequity when a show such as *Christy* is tentatively supported by the network. When there is constant warning that certain goals have to be met — it shows a lack of fairness.

It is also apparent that *Christy*, and other family-oriented shows with high moral value, have to constantly prove themselves — or else.

Many of the anti-family shows get several chances before cancellation. Some are never cancelled though the plots are weak and the characters totally immoral.

But, that's okay, that is freedom of speech. And, after all, those who want to see decent TV shows can hit the "off" button if they don't like the fare.

But we really should make so much noise the "authorities" would hear us. □

## Looking at clues to addiction

### ■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor

For the past couple of weeks we have been dealing with the topic of addiction.

We have looked at the components of addiction and the cycle of addiction. Now let's consider the clues of addiction.

Often I am asked how to determine if someone is having an addiction problem.

Parents want to know what to look for in their children. Wives and husbands want to know the signs of addiction.

The number one predictor of whether a young person will use drugs or not is whether the kids that young person hangs around with use drugs.

Studies have shown that a child from the most stable home with the strictest teachings about drugs and alcohol will not be able to withstand the peer pressure if he is continually around people who are using drugs.

I try to help parents understand that the first clue to addiction is the crowd with whom their child runs. It is vitally important that parents know who their children are with and what they are doing. This

is not about being nosy it is being nurturing.

There are some other symptoms of addiction that one can be alert in order to help a family member who finds himself in trouble.

Not every person will experience every symptom, but here are some things that you can watch for.

1. Wide mood swings, elated or depressed, omnipotent or sorry for oneself.
2. New friends or peer group (all drug users are not trashy).
3. Confusion, lethargy, bloodshot eyes, empty stares.
4. Increased irresponsibility at home, work, or school.
5. Stealing, selling household items, gambling, shoplifting (to purchase drugs).
6. Lying.
7. Becoming defensive, demanding, arguing over trivial things.
8. Changing sleeping, eating, personal habits, clothing,

weight (gain or loss).

9. Demonstrating an inability to get along with friends, co-workers, family, authority figures.

10. Unexplained anger, rage, crying, fits of violence.

As I have said earlier, no one will exhibit all the symptoms.

By the same token, just because a person exhibits some of the symptoms, this is not an ironclad indictment that he has an addiction problem.

There are other experiences that can illicit some of the same symptoms as drug and alcohol use and addiction. These symptoms are cause for alarm and should not be ignored.

They will not go away, and they could lead to more serious problems — even the death of a loved one. □

Editor's note: There was an error in this column May 17. The correct wording is: "Adrian Rogers says the Devil doesn't use bad bait." The word **bad** was inadvertently omitted. We are happy to make the correction.

## ■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

### Start with a Smile

Marg: "How would you describe your husband's cooking?" Mil: "Creative. Sort of like a play by Shakespeare." Marg: "What do you mean?" Mil: "Sometimes, it's a comedy, and sometimes it's a tragedy."

### Take this Truth

When you're not good at something, you have two options. First, leave it alone. Second, work at it until you learn how to do it well. Use common sense in determining which one you should do.

### Memorize this Scripture

"Why is a clever person wise? Because he knows what to do. Why is a stupid person foolish? Because he only thinks he knows" (Proverbs 14:8 TEV).

### Pray this Prayer

Lord, help me to be grateful for the abilities you have given me. Show me how to use them in a way that pleases you. □



BARKLEY

## Marxist student finds Christ at Harrison-Chilhowee Academy

For Baptist and Reflector

SEYMOUR — Little did Louise Gann and Nelda Smothers realize last summer that while in the People's Republic of China, they would find not only a student for Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, but a convert for Christ as well.

But that's exactly what happened for the two ladies who spent the summer teaching English and subtly sharing the good news of Christ to many who had never heard it.

When a bright young man began to work with them as an interpreter, they began to be aware of their secondary role. To make a long story brief, Gann, a former staffer at the academy, and Smothers, a relative of former President Hubert Smothers, combined their efforts to help the young man come to the United States.

Today, Fie (James) Xie is a senior at The King's Academy of Harrison-Chilhowee. Last October he made a profession of faith in Jesus



JAMES XIE

Christ and has been baptized into the membership of First Church, Seymour.

He is the one student out of 200 Chinese applicants who was accepted to attend Berea (Ky.) College next year.

Xie, who was a Marxist before accepting Christ, said he does not think becoming a Christian will cause any problems with friends or family in China.

"If I go back to China I think God will help me to help other people. We have no Bibles in China to give them. We only have some books about Bible stories."

Xie is grateful for the education he has received at the academy. □

## Knoxville BSU students share Christ; minister to AIDS patients

By Bob Barrett  
Knoxville News-Sentinel

KNOXVILLE — "You mean 90 people gave up their spring break to come here and show us love? I can't understand that. I've never heard of anyone doing that."

The speaker was a dying AIDS patient at St. Clare's Hospital in New York City. He was speaking to Amy Tragesser, one of some 80 University of Tennessee students, all members of the Baptist Student Union, who spent their spring break in ministry in the nation's largest city.

"These people were real people with real needs who just needed someone to love them," Tragesser, a member of Central Church, Bearden, in Knoxville, wrote on the return trip.

The students were divided into six groups and placed at different work sites. The group at St. Claire's was under the direction of BSU Director Bob Hall.

"I found the stereotypes of AIDS patients false," said Josh Hethcox, also a member of

Central Bearden. "I made a friend, William, who told me I had made his day. Little did he know, but he changed my life."

Some also worked at the Bronx Municipal Hospital, doing landscaping work on a playground for children who were born HIV-positive.

Scott Sproul of Parkway Church, Knoxville, said it was his most memorable experience.

"Most of these kids don't know they have the virus and almost all will not live to see their 10th or 11th birthday. So it was nice to be a part of something that will let these kids be kids," he wrote.

Another group worked with a congregation of French-speaking Haitians in Brooklyn and a companion group worked to clean up a Haitian musician's brownstone.

Jennifer Cox, of Athens and a Central Bearden member, described this as "heart-breaking ... His four-story building was falling down, filthy, and unlivable. No heat or running water were available. Not only did we do humbling manual labor, we encouraged a man

whose heart had been broken. The joy of his face and spirit uplifted our group. ..."

Another group painted and cleaned the inside of the Filipino Bible Church International.

Still others worked at Covenant House, which offers food, shelter, and educational or vocational training to homeless young persons, 18-21, many of them runaways.

And another group worked with children's groups at Wake Eden Church in the Bronx.

Kris Barnett, who attends Central Bearden, summed up the feeling of many in the group.

"Spending spring break in New York City with underprivileged people is much more meaningful than getting a sun tan in Florida." □ — Barrett is religion editor of the Knoxville News-Sentinel. Story was used with permission.

**Holy Land, \$1,648, Oct. 30 - Nov. 8**  
Air • Hotels • Meals • Much More!  
Priced from NYC. Add on fares available. Pastor hosted pilgrimage. Space limited. Call for free brochure.  
1-800-654-1166 or (210) 980-2746

## HMB appoints LaFollette native to serve as missionary in Vermont

For Baptist and Reflector

ATLANTA — LaFollette native Sharon Finch and her husband Bob were appointed in May by the Home Mission Board to be home missionary associates to Montpelier, Vt.

Mrs. Finch, a former member of First Church, LaFollette, will serve in family and church ministries. She is a graduate of Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky.

Finch will serve as pastor and director of daytime ministries outreach for Resurrec-

tion Church in Montpelier.

Since 1992 he has been a HMB-endorsed chaplain to Mountain Community Hospital in Hazard, Ky., and a bivocational pastor in the community.

The Finches have one son, Charles.

**A & O CHURCH FURNITURE**  
4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053  
JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282  
— SOLID OAK PEWS —  
PEW UPHOLSTERY / REFINISHING  
BAPTISTRIES STEEPLES  
EDUCATIONAL FURNITURE  
1-800-525-9058  
NC 1-(800)-222-7895

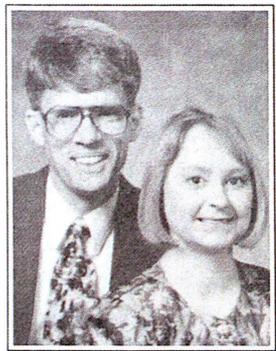
**Subscribe for a Friend Today!**  
The Baptist and Reflector is Tennessee Baptists' only official newspaper. For \$7.50 you can give a friend a gift subscription. Send check and name and address of person you are subscribing for to: Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024.

Call for Free BROCHURE  
**BAPTISTRIES**  
HEATERS, PUMPS  
FACTORY DIRECT  
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE  
1-800-251-4879  
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.  
3511 HISSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

**TELECORP SYSTEM**  
**AUTOMATIC CALLER**  
Sends & Receives Messages  
Contact: C. Moon  
9516 East Brainerd Road  
Chattanooga, Tenn., 37421

**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-Bryington Road, Knoxville, Tenn., 37931.

SEE THE GREAT PASSION PLAY in Eureka Springs, Ark! \$31 package for Groups now includes the Best (\$13) tickets, plus lodging & meals! Where One Call Does It ALL: KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT, (501) 253-8418.



THE FINCHES

**CREATIVE... CHURCH FINANCING**  
**STARTING BELOW PRIME**  
Rates fixed 15 years  
**\$250,000 to \$5,000,000**  
We are financing from 4 to 10 churches every month with BONDS  
**CALL OR WRITE TODAY:**  
1-800-245-9448  
For a FREE professional analysis and a written proposal to meet the construction and long term financing for your CHURCH  
**Security Church Finance, Inc.**  
3305 Hobbs Road, Nashville, TN 37215



Andy F. Hardy

**Dr. John MacArthur**  
Sunday, June 18  
9:30 or 11:00 A.M.  
**First Baptist Church of Snellville**  
2400 Main Street, East Snellville, Georgia  
(404) 978-7000  
Dr. MacArthur is one of America's premier speakers and authors. Join us as we welcome him to one of America's most dynamic, exciting churches.  
**First Baptist Church, Snellville, Georgia**  
Dr. James Merritt, Pastor

# ■ Sunday School lesson commentary

**Life and Work Series  
for June 4**

**Focal Passages:  
Acts 20:18-21, 27-31,  
35-37**

## Encourage one another

By Chuck McElhannon

Several years ago I was experiencing some frustration in my ministry, and a deacon stopped by my office early one morning on his way to work and left a letter on my desk. When I came in to work that morning and found the letter, I was encouraged by what I read. He wrote that he was praying for me, that he thanked God for my ministry, and that he considered me a dear friend. It was just what I needed at that time. I praise the Lord for a caring deacon who sought to encourage me. We all need to be encouraged from time to time, and Luke's account in Acts 20 can help us understand different ways we can offer encouragement to one another.

**By example — vv. 18-19**

When bad things happen, people have two choices: they can blame God and move away from him, or they can acknowledge God and move toward him. Christians can be an encouragement to others by the way they respond to troubles in their own lives. Paul was able to use his personal experiences in ministry to encourage others who were now going through what he had already experienced. When bad things happen to us, it helps to know that others have been there, too, and they know what we're going through. The example of our lifestyle is one of the greatest testimonies we have to the power and influence of God Almighty.

**By telling — vv. 20-21, 27**

It's not enough to encourage by example, we need to open our mouths and let words of encouragement flow from our lips. Sometimes Christians are too timid when it comes to speaking openly about Jesus, but the Bible reminds us that faith comes by hearing.

**By warning — vv. 28-31**

In these verses Paul is addressing church leaders and is reminding them of their responsibility as shepherds to guard the flock of God from wolves who would seek to destroy them. When we know in advance that an attack is coming, we can be prepared. Paul also warned these leaders that the attack would come from two sources: wolves from outside the church, and false teachers from inside the church.

**By giving — v. 35**

I entered college in the fall of 1974 planning on a career in architecture. A man in my home church knew that I couldn't afford to buy all the supplies and tools I needed, and he offered to buy them for me. What an encouragement that was to me, to know that someone was willing to give to meet my needs with no thought of gaining anything in return! I have since forgotten that man's name, but I will never forget his act of generosity, and I will forever be encouraged by the lesson he taught me about Christian giving. I believe that he was as blessed in his giving as I was in receiving.

**By loving — vv. 36-37**

Love and fellowship in the church are a tremendous witness to the world. The description of the early church in Jerusalem in Acts 2 is marked by a spirit of love, fellowship, and giving. When we can kneel, pray, weep with, and embrace our brothers and sisters in Christ, then there is a spirit of unity that can encourage us through all kinds of situations. □ — Chuck McElhannon is pastor of Valley View Church, Nashville.

## When power is misused

By Brian Courtney

Shifts in power occur in every society. Examples are easy to find. Corporations in the business world experience takeovers, mergers, and changes in leadership. Republicans and Democrats seek to gain control in the legislative and executive branches of government. Even Southern Baptists have seen shifts in denominational power since 1979. But a shift in power carries a great temptation. It can be used wisely or misused foolishly. And sometimes those in power are insensitive to the danger.

**The situation — vv. 1-5**

The death of Solomon in 922 B.C. began a shift in power. At the end of his reign, Solomon had become oppressive. Now Rehoboam, Solomon's son, had the opportunity to reverse his father's harsh policies and make a new beginning possible. Thus a great deal is at stake in this meeting at Shechem. Shechem was a traditional meeting place for the old tribal confederacy. It was the place where Israel assembled when something crucial was to be decided. Rehoboam will be king. But the people under Jeroboam's leadership want relief from Solomon's oppression. Rehoboam is faced with a decision. How will he use power to order and shape his administration? He can, unlike Solomon, choose life. Power: it can be used wisely or misused foolishly.

**Two conflicting views — vv. 6-11**

Faced with decision, Rehoboam sought help from his royal advisors. His old advisors counseled conciliation (vv. 6-7). Perhaps they understood the dangers of the throne. The young advisors counseled new, harsher measures (vv. 8-11). Effective power and authority is never to be reduced to brute force. The New Testament affirms this Old Testament text. The Gospel is about another kind of power that works in compelling ways

but never by force or coercion. This text serves notice to church, denomination, institution, boards, and committee leadership. Brute force is an ineffective use of power. Note well, the cycle of force is not begun by the people but by the king.

**Rehoboam's choice  
— vv. 12-20**

Rehoboam listened to those who thought royal power was limitless and accountable to none. And in making that choice, the future of Israel was dangerously decided. The offer of oppressive policies is rejected. Israel remembered Solomon's tactics and wanted no more of them. But this had already been predicted. The prophet Ahijah had already proclaimed the rebellion of the northern tribes. Rehoboam brought it to reality. Power misused results in division and alienation. Sadly, God's leaders and people fail to learn this lesson.

But the northern tribes remembered an alternative form of people power. The defiant cry of verse 16 recalls the old way of doing things. Kingship is not a necessity for Israel. As Israel got along without a king in the beginning, so it will now. There is always an alternative to the order of things. No present structures of power in the church, denomination, or civil communities is essential. There are alternatives to oppressive powers.

**God's involvement — a summary**

The prophetic prediction of Ahijah became a reality. Rehoboam, like Solomon, chose oppression instead of life and the kingdom was divided. This text shows an alliance between the word of God (Ahijah's proclamation) and justice for the northern tribes. God's word speaks for the powerless not for those in power in this text. Often those in power believe their policies are in the boundaries of God's desires. This text invites an examination. God wants justice not oppression. Power: it can be used wisely or misused foolishly. □ — Brian Courtney is pastor of First Church, Sneedville.

**Convention Uniform Series  
for June 4  
Focal Passage  
I Kings 12:6-11, 16-17**

## Confrontation in Jerusalem

By Thomas Vinson

If the moon stopped shining because of every puppy that barked at it, it would have stopped shining long ago. If Jesus had halted his journey to Jerusalem because of opposition, he would have never gotten there. Our focal passage today centers on the controversies which his entrance into Jerusalem precipitated. We enter now into the last weeks of our Lord's life.

Mark devotes 38 percent of his Gospel to these last few days. Galilee had been a place of revelation, where he disclosed the fact that he was the Son of Man and Son of God. We will now discover that Jerusalem will be a place of opposition.

**The shallow response — vv. 1-11**

The last week in our Lord's life began with his riding into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey. The entire episode has Messianic overtones (Zechariah 9:9). Jesus presented himself as Messiah, but not a conquering one in accord with prevailing Messianic expectation.

His choice of a donkey rather than a horse spoke of humility and peace as opposed to a militant conqueror. Some might consider a King riding on a donkey absurd, but it was commensurate with the kind of Kingdom he had come to establish. The references to the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:14) and the

**Bible Book Series for June 4  
Focal Passage: Mark 11**

"Kingdom of David," verse 10, lend further strength to the Messianic nature of this event.

The phrase "he who comes in the name of the Lord," verse 9, originally referred to the pilgrims coming into the city for religious celebrations. Obviously, Mark intends for us to see this as referring to the Lord Jesus as the one who came as God's representative and with his authority.

Sadly, some of these same people crying "hosanna" on Sunday probably were lining the Via Delarosa a few days later shouting "crucify him." Like the parable in Mark 4:5-6, these emotion-based hearers have no root to their faith. How fickle is the human heart apart from the grace of God!

**The stinging rebuke — vv. 12-26**

These verses present two acted-out parables after the order of the Old Testament Prophets.

1. The cursing of the barren fig tree is prophetic of the impending doom of the fruitless nation of Israel. They, like this doomed fig tree, had more in the show window than they had in the warehouse.

2. The cleansing of the Temple was the expression of a two fold anger. First, Jesus was angry at the

exploitation of the pilgrims. They were forced to pay exorbitant prices for sacrificial animals and to exchange currency so that they could pay the Temple tax.

Secondly, Jesus detested the fact that it was impossible for a Gentile to worship in the court of the Gentiles because of the noise and traffic. Mark is careful to acknowledge that the Temple was to be a house of prayer for "all nations," verse 17. This would be especially appealing to his Roman audience.

**The sobering reply — vv. 27-33**

These "bloodhounds of hate" who represented the Jewish Supreme Court (Sanhedrin) were exercised over whether or not Jesus had proper credentials. The purpose of the question in verse 28 was to force Jesus to admit that he had no authority to teach and act the way he did the previous day when he cleansed the Temple.

His reply in verse 30 implied that his authority, like John's, was from God. By suspending judgment, these religious leaders showed that they were not interested in truth but in trying to trap the Lord Jesus. □ — Thomas Vinson is pastor of Leewood Church, Memphis.

## ■ the churches

■ **First Church, Lavergne**, will hold its annual Homecoming along with the dedication of its new building June 4. Activities include a luncheon followed by a dedication program at 1 p.m.

■ **Park Avenue Church, Nashville**, celebrated its debt-free status May 3.

■ **First Church, Jamestown**, will hold revival July 23-27. Harold Hunter, evangelist of Nashville, will speak.

■ **Hickory Hills Church, Mount Juliet**, will hold a "Coping With Grief" seminar June 4 at 6 p.m. John Lane of Kansas, who has earned degrees from Columbus College, Columbus, Ga., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, will lead it.

■ **Harsh Chapel Church, Nashville**, will hold revival June 4-7. David Daugherty, pastor, Shellsford Church, McMinnville, will speak.

■ **First Church, Paris**, broke ground May 7 for a new building.

## ■ 'Here's Hope' revivals

■ **Volunteer Church, Bristol**, held its revival April

30 - May 3. The church received 10 new members, two of which made professions of faith. Kenneth Jordan, pastor, spoke.

## ■ the missionaries

■ **Jimmy and Anita Joseph** are transferring from Brazil to Grenada beginning in June. They can be reached at P.O. Box 399, St. George's, Grenada, West Indies.

■ **Lamar and Betsy Tribble**, who are retiring from service in Chile and Bolivia for 32 years, were honored recently by Central Church, Chattanooga. He spoke during the morning worship service and participated in a reception given by the church.

## ■ the people

■ **Donald E. Headrick Jr. of Walland** has earned the certificate in pastoral training from the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute. The institute is the correspondence arm of the Seminary Extension agency.

■ **Ken Witcher and Fay Hall** were ordained as deacons by First Church, Red Boiling Springs, May 14.

■ **Bruce McCartney** of

Bradford, has earned the diploma in biblical studies from the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute. The institute is the correspondence arm of the Seminary Extension office.

## ■ the leaders

■ **Anthony Dwayne Conlee** has joined the staff of Range Hills Church, Memphis, as minister of music.

■ **Jeff Nave**, pastor, Powell's Chapel, Murfreesboro, has resigned.

■ **Homer Whited**, interim pastor, Round Mountain Church, Jamestown, has been called as pastor.

■ **Gerrald Bland** has resigned as pastor of Everett Road Church, Lenoir City, and is available for supply or interim work. He can be reached at 1570 Spring Rd., Lenoir City, 37771, (615) 988-5065.

■ The pastor of Hanging Limb Church, Monterey, **Odel Ashburn**, resigned. **Bruce Phillips** has been called as interim pastor.

■ **Conroy Ryan Jr.**, has been called as minister of education and church administrator, Beaver Dam Church, Knoxville, effective March 5. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee - Chattanooga, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **Randell Hughes**, pastor, Falling Springs Church, Alpine, has resigned to serve as pastor of East Robbins Church, Robbins.

■ **Harry Neal**, pastor, First Church, Byrdstown, resigned April 16 to serve in Marion, Ky.

■ **Donald J. Douglas**, a May 13 graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., was ordained to the ministry by East Maryville Church, Maryville. He has been called as minister of youth and outreach



**LEADERS OF FIRST CHURCH, DRESDEN**, breaking ground for its new addition are, from left, Trent Bullock, minister of education; Bill Mangum; Wilbert Segebarth; Roger Tibbs; Linda Melton; Sylvia Swearingen; Don McCulley, pastor; and David Searcy. The 8,300 square foot addition will include space for education, fellowship hall, and a kitchen.

by Lincoln Park Church, Knoxville.

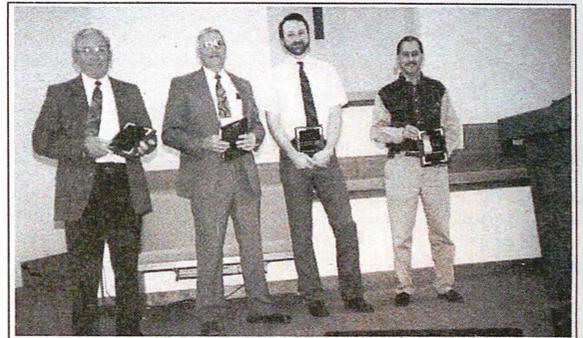
lege, Jefferson City, has reorganized its division of applied human sciences into the division of family and consumer sciences headed by Kitty R. Coffey, dean of applied human sciences division, and a division of nursing led by Ann Harley, chair of the nursing program. Coffey and Harley were named deans.

■ **Greg Hoover**, associate professor of sociology, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, recently was presented the Lane Bryant Award for his efforts on behalf of Habitat for Humanity, the national program which provides housing for poor people.

## ■ the schools

■ **Two Carson-Newman College** students are participants in the school's Oxford Scholars Program. Leann McDaniel, member, Washburn Church, Washburn, and David Cox, Colonial Heights Church, Kingsport, will study in England at Regents Park College, a Baptist school which is a part of Oxford University.

■ **Carson-Newman Col-**



**BUILDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS** of Mount Gilead Church, Cedar Grove, hold plaques given to thank them on April 2 when the new buildings were dedicated. They include, from left, Houston Jordan, Roy Hutson, Gary Bohn, and James Oswalt. The sanctuary seats 275 and the education building includes 17 classrooms. Activities included drama and a reception.



**POSING WITH RETIRING Minister of Music George Wadlington**, center, of South Harriman Church, Harriman, is Julian Suggs, left, Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Music director, and Frank Charton, former director now of Fayetteville, Ga. They were attending a recognition of Wadlington May 6-7 for 47 years of ministry.

# Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

## Who are we?

By Randy Pressnell, pastor Haynes Flat Church, Speedwell

On May 7 we celebrated 150 years of a people called Southern Baptists. In 1845, meeting in Savannah, Ga., Baptists from across the south made a historic decision to join together as a convention of churches.

The question might be raised, What

is the Southern Baptist Convention? Simply put, the SBC is a group of churches voluntarily cooperating together to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

A second question might be raised. How does the SBC attempt to accomplish such a lofty goal? One could start naming various boards, agencies, etc., in an attempt to answer that question. However, primarily Southern Baptists have accomplished their cooperative

venture through the Cooperative Program. Since 1925, churches of the SBC have voluntarily given a portion of their receipts through the CP and thus formed a lifeline for world missions. Together, our churches have accomplished, with God's help, what no single church could do alone.

A final question might be raised. What hope is there for the continued success of the SBC? This answer is simple: the cooperation of SBC churches

voluntarily supporting world missions through the CP. Any denomination that exists only to support its own institutional church or life is doomed for failure. If any motive other than the Great Commission drives a church or denomination, there remains no valid reason for its existence.

Let's pray, work, give, and cooperate together today so that our children and grandchildren will be able to celebrate in the future. □