

# Baptist and Reflector

June 14, 1995

VOL. 161 ■ NO. 24

STATEWIDE EDITION

■ **this week's news**

**global —**

■ Two Tennessee colleges among leaders in producing number of foreign missionaries. — Page 7

**national —**

■ Billy Graham recovering after stay in Toronto hospital. — Page 2

■ Editor looks at SBC 'then' and 'now' in final article of SBC historical series. — Page 3

**state —**

■ Students with Tennessee ties graduate from SBC seminaries. — Pages 6, 10

■ Student missionaries to work in Tennessee this summer. — Page 7

■ Riceville church celebrates 125th anniversary. — Page 10

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 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

## FMB drops trademark application

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board administrators have dropped an effort to trademark the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

The decision was communicated to national leaders of Woman's Missionary Union at a June 5 meeting in Birmingham, by Don Kammerdiener, FMB executive vice president, and David Button, FMB vice president for public relations and development. The trademark application had drawn opposition from WMU leaders and others.

Kammerdiener said the decision was made the previous week in a telephone conversation with FMB President Jerry Rankin, who is visiting missionaries in Asia.

"The relationship between the WMU and the FMB is far more valuable than control of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering trademark," Kammerdiener said in a joint press statement released by both organizations.

WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien, one of four WMU leaders at the meeting,

agreed. "This decision has helped to affirm the historic role of the WMU in its support for the offering," O'Brien said in the statement.

"This has been an emotional issue for our membership. I believe the decision will help put this issue behind us and contribute to a closer relationship between these two mission partners."

Kammerdiener added the board would not block any attempt by WMU to secure a trademark on its own. But he suggested "that it may be in the interest of both parties to drop the matter altogether."

"We're grateful for the freedom that the FMB has given WMU to apply for a trademark for the LMCO, but we have no immediate plans to do so," O'Brien told Baptist Press. "For one thing, we haven't had time to consider pros and cons of such an action. And we certainly would not act without a directive from our executive board."

In the Birmingham meeting, WMU and FMB leaders also made several other Lottie Moon-related decisions.

They affirmed two basic Lottie Moon Christmas Offering principles:

(1) "... the liberty of every church (in the Southern Baptist Convention) to give to whatever it wants" and

(2) "... that all monies contributed to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering should rightfully go to the support of missionaries appointed by the Foreign Mission Board." The offering raises nearly half of the FMB's annual budget.

FMB leaders said they initiated the trademark application "after concerns arose regarding unauthorized use and distribution" of the offering named for the famed 19th century missionary Lottie Moon. Some churches reportedly have raised funds in the offering's name and then sent some of the receipts to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of moderate Southern Baptists headquartered in Atlanta, or to independent non-SBC missionaries.

The Birmingham participants also agreed to further consultation between the two organizations and that WMU's New Hope publishing arm will publish a new biography of Lottie Moon, written by Rankin. O'Brien will write the foreword for the book. □ — Teresa Dickens & Robert O'Brien

## Volunteers back from Poland trip; report next week

BRENTWOOD — A diversified volunteer group returned from missions to Poland over this weekend — and preliminary reports are positive.

The group included Cameron Byler, TBC Brotherhood director; Katherine Bryan, TBC WMU director; Doris June Large, WMU leader from Knoxville;

Wm. Fletcher Allen, *Baptist and Reflector* editor; Terry Sharpe, Partnership Missions director; three doctors and three nurses; and a team from First Church, Smyrna.

The group divided into small teams and traveled extensively with Polish Baptist Union leaders.

They explored ways to fill requests from the churches, and met with pastors, women's leaders, and others.

They visited churches and mission centers, stayed in homes, conducted workshops, and solidified the partnership concept.

Other groups also will report in this paper soon. □



### 40 years of ministry

Houston Inman, right, pastor of First Church, Loudon, and his wife, Sherlene, right center, are congratulated by deacon chairman Walt Tester and his wife, Claudia, during a reception June 4 marking Inman's 40 years as an ordained Baptist minister and five years at First Church. Twenty years of Inman's ministry has been in Tennessee. He also has served as pastor of First Church, South Pittsburg, and Cumberland Homesteads Church, Crossville. Inman is a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board.

## Lewis to support PSSC report if three amendments are approved

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis said he will fully support a proposed restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention if three amendments are in the plan.

Lewis' proposed changes to the report of the Program and Structure Study Committee were outlined in a three-page memorandum to HMB directors and members of the SBC Executive Committee June 2.

The memorandum follows a 12-page position paper Lewis issued May 25 in which he addressed a number of concerns with the restructuring proposal. He said the detailed nature of his observations caused some observers to misunderstand his position.

"The only part of the PSSC report that I oppose is that which deals with home missions philosophy and strategy," Lewis wrote. "With a few simple word changes, I could support the entire report and would be glad to do so on the floor of the convention."

Lewis' proposed changes are:

(1) Amend the sentence "The North American Mission Board is charged to focus upon direct mission strategies with a focus on direct evangelism and church planting" to read "The North American Mission Board is charged to focus upon direct and cooperative mission strategies with a focus on evangelism and church planting."

(2) Delete the word "career" — See Lewis, page 2

# PSSC responds to TBC concerns on restructure plans

Baptist and Reflector

- 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

**BRENTWOOD** — During its May 10 meeting here, the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board expressed concern about eight major points included in a SBC committee's recommendation.

The concerns were forwarded to the Program and Structure Study Committee, chaired by Mark Brister, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Shreveport, La.

Brister later responded to the board's concerns.

The concerns referred to restructuring of SBC entities as recommended by the special committee and approved by the SBC Executive Committee, which authorized the study.

The eight concerns affirmed by the Executive Board related to the PSSC's "Covenant for a New Century" which will be presented for approval next week to SBC messengers in the annual convention meeting in Atlanta.

The concerns and responses are presented for evaluation:

(1) Loss of \$405,000 of funding for TBC state mission program, channeled currently through the Home Mission

Board to the TBC.

**Response:** Any loss of funding the Tennessee Baptist State Mission Program experiences will be at the discretion of the TBC that determines the formula for sharing CP dollars with the SBC.

(2) Redirection of emphasis on mission support and mission education away from WMU; specifically promotion of Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon emphases.

**Response:** No redirection of emphasis on mission support and mission education away from WMU. Only change is that all ministry statements in SBC Organizational Manual will be binding and WMU chooses to operate with a non-binding ministry statement appropriate for an auxiliary.

(3) De-emphasis on liberal arts education as preparation for ministerial training.

**Response:** No de-emphasis. State-owned and operated colleges and universities will continue at discretion of state conventions, and as they choose, in cooperation with Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities. Education Commission is not essential to this program.

(4) Substantial reduction of Tennessee Baptists in decision-making process as SBC commissions and boards are downsized.

**Response:** Reduction of trustees will result in substantial savings without reduction in effectiveness. Apart from the new structure, SBC agencies are requesting changes in charters to reduce trustee numbers to be more functional.

(5) Omission of stated role of state conventions in voluntary mission and ministry program, especially foreign missions.

**Response:** The restructure honors Baptist polity by not addressing work of state conventions either prescriptively or restrictively. It affirms partnership missions and cooperative work in missions.

(6) Lack of clarity of role of state convention in relation to Baptist Sunday School Board with respect to Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Church Music, Church Administration. What impact will changes have on Code 29 and Code 30 funds. Will there be a continued joint effort in program support?

**Response:** How state conventions relate to Sunday

School Board is a matter between conventions and SSB as has been the case for decades.

(7) Confusion of role of Executive Committee with regard to funds held in trust by Southern Baptist Foundation. Has issue of conflict of interest been researched?

**Response:** There will be no more conflict of interest in management of Foundation funds under restructure than before. Fund management will be according to donor intent and contractual agreements as always.

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

**Response:** Services of Southern Baptist Library and Archives will remain available to all who are interested in careful retention and use of historical documents whether they be related to state historical societies or not. It is safe to assume that libraries and archives of Southern Baptist seminaries will remain accessible to historical societies. □

## SBC counsel reviews procedure for vote on PSSC proposal

Baptist Press

**NASHVILLE** — Messengers to the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta will vote on the Program and Structure Study Committee's full recommendation and, if approved, then will take the first vote on changing SBC bylaw 15.

James P. Guenther, SBC legal counsel based in Nashville, told Baptist Press the adoption of the PSSC report "would require a majority vote in one convention." An amendment which specifies changes in SBC bylaw 15 then will be recommended by the Executive Committee and will

require adoption by two successive annual conventions.

"If the convention adopts the report, the convention will have expressed its desire to implement the report's recommendations," Guenther said. Among other things, the PSSC report would reduce the number of SBC agencies from 19 to 12.

According to Guenther, convention messengers will first be asked to vote on the entire proposal. If messengers, in majority vote, approve the restructuring proposal, an amendment to change the necessary bylaw will be offered immediately. Amending bylaw 15 would require a majority vote in both the 1995 convention

and the 1996 meeting in New Orleans.

Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president, said the SBC counsel asked that the recommendation specifically amending bylaw 15 be made following the adoption of the full report.

"This specific recommendation will be made on the advice of counsel for the purpose of providing precise language for legal applications in the implementation," Chapman said. This is the recommendation which requires a majority vote by two successive conventions, he said.

The amendment to bylaw 15 would be the only implementation motion offered this year, Guenther said. □

## Lewis to support PSSC report ...

— Continued from page 1

in the provision which directs the NAMB to "appoint, approve, support, and equip career missions personnel." The wording as proposed, according to Lewis, could be interpreted as prohibiting the use of short-term missionaries, such as church planters who compose 75 percent of the present home missions force.

(3) Amend the report's endnote which calls for larger, primarily southern state Baptist conventions "to fund their evangelism and missions staff and program." The amended version would read, "to fund more of (or a greater portion of) their evangelism and missions staff and program."

Unless changed, Lewis said, this note could lead to state conventions immediately assuming total responsibility for

home missions work in their respective states, "including 1,300 home missionaries."

Lewis told Baptist Press reactions to his proposed changes have been very positive. During a regularly scheduled staff meeting June 7, the HMB's administrative-level staff approved a staff-initiated resolution "to express our affirmation and support of Dr. Lewis' leadership in this critical issue."

Lewis said he expects to present the proposed changes to the Home Mission Board executive committee during its meeting the day prior to the convention. He also said he anticipates presenting his proposal either to the SBC Executive Committee or to the convention and giving full endorsement to the report if the amendments are adopted. □

## Graham recovering from illness

Baptist Press

**TORONTO** — Evangelist Billy Graham remained in Toronto the week of June 12 after becoming ill during a June 6 speaking engagement at the outset of his Mission Ontario crusade in Toronto's SkyDome.

Graham, 76, who is scheduled to address the Southern Baptist Convention's closing session June 22 in Atlanta, was released from Toronto East General Hospital June 9 but was scheduled to re-enter June 13 for further tests, according to a news release issued by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Graham had experienced flu-like conditions June 5 but kept a June 6 luncheon engagement. He cut short his

address when he began to feel faint.

"Mr. Graham's condition has improved at every level," said Kenneth Gamble, one of the physicians who treated Graham.

Doctors reported Graham experienced bleeding in his colon which required multiple blood transfusions. No tumor was found, however. Further tests will be conducted to determine the cause, doctors said.

BGEA associate evangelist Ralph Bell preached in Graham's place. Nearly 1,000 decisions were recorded during the June 7 service. □



GRAHAM

# The Southern Baptist Convention: then (1845) and now (1995)

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
For Baptist Press

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

NASHVILLE — Southern and Northern Baptists parted company in 1845 when almost 300 delegates (now called messengers) from eight Southern states and the District of Columbia met at Augusta, Ga., on May 8-12 to form the Southern Baptist Convention.

The major catalyst in the split was slavery. The 31-year-old Triennial Convention's thread of cooperation snapped when its Home Mission Society, previously neutral on the issue, ruled prospective missionaries could not be slave holders.

However, missions remained the distinctive priority for the fledgling Southern Baptist Convention, with the preamble to the constitution stating their "purpose of carrying into effect the benevolent intentions of our constituents, by organizing a plan for eliciting, combining, and directing the energies of the whole denomination in one sacred effort, for the propagation of the Gospel, agree to the following rules, or fundamental principles."

Article II spelled out the missions directions: to "promote Foreign and Domestic Missions, and other important objects connected with the Redeemer's kingdom, and to combine for this purpose ... (and) respect the independence and equal rights of the churches." They laid the groundwork for the election of officers and boards of managers for "as many boards as ... will be necessary."

In shaping the new convention's constitution, the delegates in 1845 followed the structure of the old General Missionary Convention of 1814, which certainly had been successful. Missions was the mainstay. The two mission boards formed at the Augusta sessions were placed at Richmond, Va., (foreign) and Marion, Ala. (domestic). The framers also considered theological education and publications, but neither was birthed until later. Financing the boards was another matter of concern.

A century and a half later, except for the basic foundation and ideals, there has been a galaxy of change. The Southern Baptist Convention is much, much larger and, for the most part, better.

**Basis of SBC membership.** During the earlier years, membership was based on financial giving, proportioned to allow those giving larger sums to have more representatives, not to exceed five. A contribution of \$100 was the minimum. Membership requirements have changed somewhat, however. Today's Article III says that one messenger is allowed for each church in friendly cooperation with the convention and sympathetic with its purposes and work and during the preceding fiscal year has been "a bona fide contributor to the Convention's work." One additional messenger is allowed from each church for every 250 members or for each \$250 paid to the work of the convention during the previous fiscal year. No church can have

more than 10 messengers.

**Methods of financing.** In 1845 Article V contained an open-ended statement allowing the convention to have as many boards as it deemed necessary, but Article III did not provide an adequate formula for funding them. For many years this arrangement, though fair, hindered the progress of the convention. The mission boards and other Baptist entities found it necessary to solicit funds from individuals, churches, and associations. They had

decided about membership based on giving, but sufficient financing was stymied until 1925.

William B. Johnson, a leading South Carolina Baptist, was largely responsible for the wording of Article V. He had used it five days earlier in addressing a special session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. He had proposed a centralized body, with all missions concentrated into one organization — the Southern Baptist Convention. He called it "judicious concentration."

Now, in 1995, the Cooperative Program, the greatest funding effort of any denomination, functions as the primary source of money for Southern Baptist ministries. The Cooperative Program is the supportive link between individuals and churches, through state Baptist conventions, and on to the Southern Baptist Convention and its ministries.

**Doctrinal views.** In the past the convention benefited from a peculiar kind of loyalty. Before 1845, the Primitive (Hardshell) Baptist movement and the Campbellite movement caused those Baptists of the South to cling tenaciously to strong denominational principles. After 1845, denominational loyalty and unity accelerated in the SBC.

The Civil War and debilitating Reconstruction period deepened sectionalism and brought the churches closer together in allegiance to the still-young convention.

From the beginning the SBC constitution did not contain statements concerning Baptist doctrines, God, Christ, or the Bible. Nothing was said about the church. Messengers were expected to be Bible-believing Baptists. But through the years, convention messengers frequently have approved motions and resolutions involving Baptist theological and moral beliefs. The 1963 *Baptist Faith and Message*, a revised version of a similar 1925 statement, is now the primary Southern Baptist confession of faith, although the Bible remains the sole written authority for Southern Baptist faith and practice. Throughout history, Southern Baptists have not been creedal, but confessional. Qualifications of leaders. Since the SBC's 1845 beginning, the great majority of Southern Baptist leaders have been pastors. This is especially true of the presidency. Most messengers to the

conventions of today also are pastors. For more than a century, most presidential nominations came with little preliminary posturing, but in recent years pre-convention announcements of candidates have become more common.

Generally messengers today elect leaders who have a record of evangelistic fervor, generous giving through the church for convention causes, and a strong belief in missions. These qualifications held true in the formative years of the SBC as well, though there was no funding plan then. Proven

Baptist assignments: the Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary (African American), Brotherhood, Christian Life, Education, Historical, Radio and Television, and Stewardship. All are located in Tennessee except the Radio and Television Commission in Texas. An auxiliary of the convention, Woman's Missionary Union, is a missions education organization that plans and supports women's mission work in the churches, and promotes two major Southern Baptist missions offerings annually.

Those founders also might be surprised that after 150 years the genius of their idea has spawned financial growth in an unprecedented manner. Messengers to

the 1994 convention approved a sesquicentennial budget goal of \$150 million for the Cooperative Program!

We've come a long way. In 1934 Frank S. Mead wrote a little book for Broadman Press called *The Baptists*. The book was published again and again. Mead briefly traced Baptist beginnings up to his day concluding with a stirring summary of Baptist influence on the world:

"The world has done its best to stop them (Baptists). We have tried to shame them by whipping them, and they have made us ashamed of our whipping posts. We chained them in jail and discovered that the other end of the chain was fast about our own necks. We let their blood in Boston and the South, only to find the fairest American flowers we know growing from that very soil. Addeplated world! You tried to stamp them out, and all you got for it was to have them leave their stamp on you!" — Allen is editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*. For information about the SBC's 150th anniversary, write the Historical Commission, SBC, at 901 Commerce Street, #400, Nashville, Tenn., 37203, or call 1 (800) 966-BAPT.

## Disasters could require record volunteer effort

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Hurricane Allison wasn't too bad, but Southern Baptist volunteers can't rest yet.

Recent floods and tornados, combined with a predicted heavy hurricane season, could require a record effort from Southern Baptist volunteer relief crews, their national coordinators said.

"All indications are that this year will be the highest one or one of the top years in terms of disasters," said Mike Bailey, Home Mission Board disaster relief coordinator. Mickey Caison, who does similar work at the Brotherhood Commission, agreed.

"We've already used hundreds of volunteers. If the happenings already are any indicator, it's going to be a very busy summer." □

## The Spirit of Southern Baptists 1845-1995

leadership at the local church and state level always has been a standard for pastors and laymen.

**Communication through state papers.** Six of the Baptist state papers now publishing have been in circulation (either they or direct predecessors) since before the SBC was born in 1845. The oldest is a descendant of the *Columbian Star*, now the *Christian Index* of Georgia, founded in 1822. Today there are 39 papers publishing regularly with 15 of them publishing weekly.

**Missions thrust.** Since the SBC's beginning, missions forces through its foreign and home boards have increased to almost 9,000, about half sponsored by each agency. The Home Mission Board has missionaries in all 50 states and the Foreign Mission Board has work in 126 nations. The mission boards also are using thousands of volunteers to work alongside missionaries. Annual missions offerings for state, home, and foreign mission work provide much-needed funding for many projects otherwise unfunded, supplementing the Cooperative Program. In 1845, the founders said that their energies and plans would be dedicated in "one sacred effort for the propagation of the Gospel." Southern Baptists remain a missions people, heart and soul.

**Looking at where we are.** From a very modest beginning, Southern Baptists have grown rapidly. The convention, with more than 15 million members in about 39,000 churches, is the largest Protestant denomination in North America. The founding fathers and mothers would express surprise perhaps at the surging growth, and gratitude that the doctrines they espoused are still the driving force behind Southern Baptist ministries.

Thirty-seven Baptist state conventions have been formed and, along with several fellowships relate to the SBC in missions and ministries. The convention has four general boards: Annuity, Foreign Mission, Home Mission, and Sunday School, which also is its publishing board. It has birthed six seminaries. The Southern Baptist Foundation (financial investing) and Seminary Extension in Tennessee are other children.

Seven commissions have Southern

## ■ 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. □

### No sense

In regard to the Program and Structure Study Committee's suggestion for a "Covenant for a New Century," it makes no sense to me!

Why would the Southern Baptist Convention want to "control" (a word I am hearing too much of in this discussion) Woman's Missionary Union? All of our meetings are open to anyone, our literature is available, we have nothing to hide, and what we do meets the approval of our missionaries.

We pray for them, learn of their needs through correspondence, speaking engagements, etc. and bring these needs to our church folks. I don't believe the PSSC has really done their homework, or why would they want to create a new board to conduct the education of our churches regarding our missionaries — something WMU has done well for 107 years!

Mary Jane Stanley  
WMU director  
Hamilton County Assn.  
Chattanooga 37405

### Only a proposal

I am writing about the "Covenant for a New Century" proposed for the SBC. As we seriously and prayerfully consider its importance to the future of the Southern Baptist Convention, we must remember that it is a proposal by a few men.

There are many questions one could ask about this proposal; however, I will only list a few that come to mind. What input did the committee have from the various agencies involved? What's the cost of implementing and how much will be saved in the future? Did the committee represent Southern Baptists (including the women who comprise more than half the membership of most SBC churches)?

Will the proposed changes in the Brotherhood Commission and the exclusion of WMU's traditional role strengthen or weaken our mission education organizations?

The majority of our missionaries, products of WMU organizations, accepted the Great Commission given by Jesus to his disciples. They are serving around the world teaching about a loving and forgiving Saviour who accepts folks as they are and loves them in spite of their sinful nature.

If our missionaries went out on their fields of service with the attitude of some of our seminary presidents, pastors, and leaders, they would have to pack up and come home.

I believe it is time for our SBC leaders to seek divine power instead of seeking power to control their fellow Baptists, particularly those with whom they disagree.

The proposal will further weaken the SBC. It is already producing division among our people.

Lola Byrd  
Powell 37849

### Consider this

As we approach Atlanta, it might be wise for us to reconsider one of our classic study course books, *Rope of Sand With Strength of Steel*, by James L. Sullivan (1974). Consider this passage from pages 49 and 50.

"Centralization tends to produce a hierarchical structure. Unless the denomination is conscious of this tendency, it may gravitate toward a totalitarian system with one man or one small group of men in control. ... Our forefathers set up safeguards so that we could not gravitate toward centralization.

"An illustration of this is that there is no executive board in the Southern Baptist Convention. Our forefathers feared such a board at this level because this is the only place in the denomination where a hierarchical structure could evolve."

We need to decide as we prepare to vote, are we giving more power to fewer people, perhaps creating an executive "board." I hope our rope of sand with strength of steel, doesn't become a rope of steel

with strength of sand.

Mike Thrower, pastor  
Brunswick Church  
Brunswick 38014

### Pastor sought

Faith Church is now actively seeking candidates interested in pastoring our church, located in Homer, Alaska.

We are interested in preachers who are responsive to pastoring in Alaska, supporting missionaries, knocking on doors, and winning the lost to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Please send Faith Church any resumes from perspective preachers, desiring to pastor a church in the North.

Upon receipt of resumes, we will send a letter of candidate qualifications along with a church constitution.

Paul Sayer  
Faith Church  
P.O. Box 1406  
Homer, Alaska 99603

### Second choice

We have two possible responses in regard to the "Covenant for a New Century."

(1) "We ain't never done it that way before. It won't work. I'm against it."

(2) "God's given a vision to some great godly men to move the SBC forward and to better fulfill the Great Commission. I'm for it."

I'll vote the second choice in Atlanta.

Lyndel Littleton,  
Minister of music/ youth  
Central Church  
Martin 38237

### Speak up

Since the March 1 issue of *Baptist and Reflector*, I have spent many hours reading, meditating, and searching the Scriptures.

The seven-member committee stated the "Covenant for a New Century" is the total word of the Holy Spirit. Having been born into the Kingdom of God by the Holy Spirit, what was true of the Virgin Mary in Luke 1:35 is true in every saint. The Son of God is born into me by the direct act of God, then I as a child of God have to exercise the right of a child, the right of being always face to face with my Heavenly Father.

(Other Scripture as to my spiritual birth, John 3:3; Colossians 1:27, 2:9-10; Galatians 4:19).

My spiritual gifts were given by the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12; Romans 12; Ephesians 3, 4) to be used to edify the Church (I Corinthians 12:8, 27). The Holy Spirit empowers me to accomplish my mission (Matthew 28:18-20).

I cannot agree or reconcile the same Holy Spirit that led

these men to prepare and present a document that would exclude more than 50 percent of Southern Baptist members in being obedient to the Heavenly Father's command. "That His will be done on earth as in heaven."

How did these men get to the top leadership in our convention? We must speak up, let our voice and vote be heard, June 20, in Atlanta or our denomination will return to the Dark Ages of Christianity.

Richard Agee  
Lebanon 37087

### Spiritually tired

Many of us are spiritually tired of the argument over Calvinism in the SBC. Calvinism is not a traditional Southern Baptist belief. Calvinism denies the "whosoever" truth of salvation that most of us preach from our pulpits on Sunday. God is sovereign, the Bible is infallible, and Calvinism is neither.

I was taught in a Bible-believing church that God in his sovereignty convicts us of sin, draws us to salvation, and does the saving. God's sovereignty also allows man's free choice at the point of a faith response to the offer of salvation. God, not man, created man's free choice. Free choice is a result, not a denial, of God's sovereignty.

Many conservative Christians believe the Bible, reject Calvinism, and decry the unjust treatment of the WMU. I hope the restructuring effort will improve the efficiency of the SBC; but the convention procedure must allow for serious consideration of constructive amendments to the proposal. Otherwise the proposal will become another suspicious

notch in the tightening belt of SBC control.

No seven of us are wise enough to know all that is best for the convention. Even the most sincere small group is bound for mistakes. Have the "seven" made some positive suggestions? Certainly. Should we just accept the initial proposal unquestioningly? Certainly not.

Prayer and free discussion must dominate the SBC if we are to find God's will in these matters. We must pray for God's wisdom for our convention, our leaders, and our decisions.

Donald A. Davidson, pastor  
National Avenue Church  
Memphis 38122

### Alaska opportunity

Would you be so kind as to inform your readers of the following need?

False Pass Baptist Chapel is looking for a long-term interim pastor. False Pass is a remote community with a population of 80-100 people. It is located on Unimak Island on the Aleutian Island Chain.

The Chapel has been in existence for nine months and averages 10-15 in attendance. It is the only church of any denomination in the community.

The interim pastor must have income from outside the community, as there are very few full-time employment opportunities. Housing will be provided.

Interested persons may contact Michael R. Procter, Director of Missions, P.O. Box 110670, Anchorage, AK 99511; (907) 344-1221, telephone; or (907) 349-6182, fax.

Michael R. Procter  
Anchorage 99511

## Daily Partnership Prayer Requests June



- 15 — Pray for the team of five from First Church, Nashville, as they travel today to Warsaw, Poland, to build cabinets and make furniture for the seminary.
- 16 — Pray for Allan O'Gorman, a recent graduate from the Canadian Baptist Seminary, who has not found a place to serve.
- 17 — Give praise that Houghton (Mich.) Church has called Bruce Cargile as pastor.
- 18 — Pray for a 58-member team from Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, as they travel and work in Winnipeg, Canada.
- 19 — Pray for Jeff Christopherson, who has just begun planting a new church in northwest Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Especially pray that he will find homes to host Home Bible Study groups.
- 20 — Pray for the many volunteers who will be traveling and ministering in Michigan this summer.
- 21 — Pray for the students who have just graduated this month from the Canadian Baptist Seminary as they go to their places of service.

# At SBC look for good things, be positive

Southern Baptists meet in Atlanta next week for their 150th annual session. Major items await discussion and messenger action.

During the past fifteen years, some meetings have been acrimonious and divisive. As often as not, messengers have returned home with mixed feelings. Some have been pleased, others have been discouraged and angry.

This year's meeting in Atlanta has potential to be divisive and disruptive. But we don't think that will happen.

Messengers probably will be presented with a resolution calling for recognizing the role slavery played in the founding for the SBC, and for messengers to repent of racial bigotry.

It is significant that this resolution is poised for action during the convention's 150th anniversary year. Southern Baptists' official responses to racial prejudice have been weak and very late. It is time for a strong and dedicated corporate response. Personal cleansing, though an individual matter with God, also is overdue.

Even unanimous approval of such a resolution will not clean the slate. Shoddy treatment of any racial or ethnic group is irresponsible and un-Christlike. Moral restitution certainly should be extended to Native Americans whose overall treatment has been despicable.

Since February Tennessee Baptists and thousands of other Southern Baptists

have been discussing a recommendation calling for tremendous convention restructuring. A committee of seven men, appointed by the Executive Committee, suggests the sweeping changes.

The recommendation, which was approved by the Executive Committee, will be presented to messengers on Tuesday.

The seven-man committee proposes vast changes in both mission boards, the Radio/TV Commission, Brotherhood Commission, Stewardship Commission, SBC Foundation, Historical Commission, Education Commission. (See previous issues.)

Woman's Missionary Union's role in mission offerings promotion and education was handed to the mission boards. Little opportunity for input was given to leaders of the affected commissions and boards.

From the outset, this paper has maintained this is too much to digest at one meal. The originating committee insists that Baptists act on the entire recommendation — even though its scope is sweeping and its effect long-lasting. The committee has not presented satisfactory answers to the hundreds of questions.

Refusal to supply figures on financial savings and facts on impact weakens the case for hearty approval. Many Baptists have been justifiably concerned as to whether there will be adequate time for thorough discussion. That has changed. If you read last week's *Baptist and Re-*

*flector*, you know that the capable SBC president, Jim Henry, has pledged to grant time for discussion of every item of interest in the Program and Structure Study report.

His pledge, coupled with assurances from Mark Brister, chairman of the committee that brought the restructure recommendations to the SBC Executive Committee, does much to calm a very disturbed group of messengers.

Whether messengers are able to make some amendments or changes, at least they will have had opportunity to try.

This is extremely important. It means that all those troublesome questions can be asked, amendments suggested, and ample discussion allowed. It may not mean that disapproving messengers will readily agree with the broad range of sweeping restructuring — but they will be heard. This is the Baptist way.

Tennessee's Executive Board forwarded eight major items of concern to Brister, and his committee responded. Although the responses were not in depth, Tennessee Baptists can decide for themselves whether they were adequate to quell deep concerns. (See page 2.)

Jim Henry is known for his ability to face potentially divisive matters with fairness and integrity. He will do so during this Sesquicentennial Convention. Vital issues will be discussed, but most of all, Southern Baptists will want to honor the will of the Lord Jesus.

Prayer will help us do just that. □

■ one word more  
By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
editor

## 24 Johannes Strasse

They gave us a key for the front door of 24 Johannes Strasse that winter, the coldest winter Germany had endured for 75 years.

We were a young couple, Betty and I, in the army and thousands of miles away from home. It was our first experience in sharing a home with folks of another culture, and we made the best of it.

The apartments which would house us and other couples were not completed, so we found a home with Frau Knittel and her two daughters.

The home was modest — we had two rooms and shared an unheated bathroom. Needless to say, baths didn't take very long!

It was the first of many experiences of sharing cultures. It proved beneficial as we have moved about through the years in serving God.

I learned how, without knowing any German, to divide the coal and coke costs with Frau Knittel. We counted it by lumps, and assigned a cost to each lump.

When the apartment building was completed, we felt some regret in moving away from our new friends. They seemed just as sad to see us go.

Thinking of that humble home and its small family often reminds me of the responsibility to love people where and when Jesus loves them. And the love is to be unconditional.

Tennessee Baptists have a great opportunity to do that as we participate in partnership missions and evangelism.

The recent partnership trip to Poland reaffirmed these ideals. The Knittel family had more than one reason to dislike Americans — especially soldiers. But they didn't.

And we were just young and innocent enough to forget the cultural differences. We took a giant leap forward in servanthood that winter.

So I am thankful for the experience. When I travel now in the name of Jesus Christ and also representing Tennessee Baptists, I know how to share with Christians of other cultures — giving and receiving.

Tennessee Baptists must be more than volunteers. ✎



ALLEN

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

## ■ just for today

By Fred Wood  
pastor emeritus  
Eudora Church, Memphis

### Start with a Smile

Clara: "Honey, if I were to die and you were to remarry, would you two live in this house?" Carl: "I suppose so — it's paid for." Clara: "What about the furniture? Would you all use it?" Carl: "I suppose so — it's paid for." Clara: "What about my golf clubs?" Carl: "Oh, no — she couldn't. She's left handed."

### Take this Truth

Long range planning is good, but you can overdo it. We may think we know how all future buildings should be constructed, but conditions and circumstances may change. We must remain flexible and keep options open.

### Memorize this Scripture

"... do not worry about tomorrow; it will have enough worries of its own. There is no need to add to the troubles each day brings" (Matthew 6:33-34 TEV).

### Pray this Prayer

Lord, help me trust the future to you and do all you expect me to do. □

# Some M & Ms of manhood

Many men today are struggling with what it means to be masculine. We hear so many contradictory views of what it means to be a man.

Who is the true model to pattern ourselves after? Should we be like Richard Simmons or Rambo? What will be the standard and who will get to set it?

In the short space of this article I would like to suggest three essential ingredients that must be a part of any Godly model of manhood. Man needs a Messiah, a model, and a motivator.

We live in an era that places a great deal of significance and value on self-reliance, self-sufficiency, and self-determination.

Men are taught that they should not need help with a certain task or accomplishment. I am afraid that some men carry this over into the area of the spiritual life. Salvation is not a do-it-yourself project.

A man is not capable of being a man as God created him to be until he has been willing to invite Jesus to be his Savior.

## ■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

The indwelling equipping presence of the Holy Spirit cannot come until the man has made this commitment.

I personally do not believe that it is possible for a man to be the man God intended without this presence.

Man also needs a model. I am a wood worker by hobby. I enjoy making things for my family and friends. Before I can ever create a project, I need a model to follow.

If I cannot find one that someone else has already done, I must draw one myself.

I must be able to have in my mind's eye what this thing is going to look like so I will recognize it when I have it.

God sent His Son into the world not only to be our Savior but to be our model of man as God intended man to be. Therefore, when I begin to

search for a man to emulate, I have my model.

It is not John Wayne, but Jesus Christ.

After man has found his Messiah and identified his model, he still has trouble motivating himself to live out his own expectations, much less God's.

Many men today are made to feel impotent and powerless to produce what is expected of them.

I want to assure men that our gracious God has supplied his own Spirit to indwell us and enable us to live up to the expectations that have been laid out for us.

A real man will be both tough and tender, strong and soft, resolute and resilient as the occasion demands.

This can only be done as he has found his Messiah, followed his model, and been filled with his motivator. □

Dr. Barkley is a licensed psychologist. He is a former pastor from Memphis and TBC Executive Board member.

He is a practicing psychologist and also teaches at the school of nursing of Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis.



BARKLEY

## Students with state ties graduate from SBC seminaries

Southern Baptists' six seminaries held graduation services in May.

More than 60 students with Tennessee ties were among graduates of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary (GG-BTS), Mill Valley, Calif.; Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MBTS), Kansas City, Mo.; New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS); Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS), Wake Forest, N.C.; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS), Louisville, Ky.; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS), Fort Worth, Texas.

Photos and information on graduating students were provided to the *Baptist and Reflector* by the seminaries. Information is listed in this order — name, name of home church and location (home town used when church not provided), school, degree.

Abbreviations of degrees are as follows: master of church music (M.C.M.); master of divinity (M.D.); master of divinity with biblical languages (M.D.B.L.); master of divinity in Christian education (M.D.C.E.); master of divinity in church music (M.D.C.M.); master of arts in Christian education (M.A.C.E.); master of music (M.M.); master of arts in marriage and family counseling (M.A.M.F.C.); master of arts in religious education (M.A.R.E.); doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) doctor of ministry (D.M.); doctor of musical arts (D.M.A.); and diploma in theology (Dip.T.).

Information and photos on New Orleans Seminary graduates can be found on page 10. ▽



**John C. Argo**  
Memphis  
GGBTS  
M.D.



**Steven Tiebout**  
First Church  
Monterey  
GGBTS  
M.D.



**Charles Covington**  
Broadmoor  
Memphis  
MBTS (D.M.)



**Robert Massey**  
Trafalgar Village  
Memphis  
MBTS  
D.M.



**William Borre**  
Nashville  
SEBTS  
M.A.C.E.



**Donald Douglas**  
Maryville  
SEBTS  
M.A.C.E.



**Norman Miller**  
Nashville  
SEBTS  
M.A.C.E.



**C.W. Turner Jr.**  
Knoxville  
SEBTS  
M.A.C.E.



**Chris Bell**  
Morristown  
SEBTS  
M.D.



**Chad Childress**  
Morristown  
SEBTS  
M.D.



**Fred Wade**  
Knoxville  
SEBTS  
M.D.



**Jay Austin**  
Brentwood  
Brentwood  
SBTS  
M.A.C.E.



**Grover Baker III**  
Goodlettsville  
SBTS  
M.C.M.



**Derrell Billingsley**  
Eagleville  
SBTS  
M.C.M.



**Jonathan Bishop**  
Brentwood  
SBTS  
Ph.D.



**Geoff Bowden**  
Central Bearden  
Knoxville  
SBTS  
M.D.



**Paul Bunger**  
Clarksville  
SBTS  
M.D.



**Brian Crowe**  
Arlington  
Knoxville  
SBTS  
M.D.C.M.



**Mark Dance**  
Ridgeview  
Church Hill  
SBTS  
D.M.



**Kathy Deasy**  
Trace Creek,  
New Johnsonville  
SBTS  
M.C.M.



**Roger Duke**  
Germantown  
Germantown  
SBTS  
M.D.



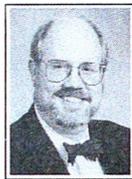
**Angela Easterday**  
Wallace Memorial  
Knoxville  
SBTS  
D.M.A.



**Joseph Hudson**  
Knoxville  
SBTS  
M.A.C.E.



**Mike Jennings**  
Wallace Memorial  
Knoxville  
SBTS  
M.C.M.



**Thomas Leuze**  
Lenoir City  
SBTS  
Ph.D.



**John Mitchell**  
First Church  
Jefferson City  
SBTS  
M.D.C.E.



**Roberta Nielson**  
Erwin  
SBTS  
M.D.C.E.



**Dixie Petrey**  
First Church  
Knoxville  
SBTS  
M.D.



**Mary Scott**  
Oaklawn  
Jackson  
SBTS  
M.C.M.



**James Smith**  
Salem  
Parson  
SBTS  
Dip.T.



**J.C. Smothers**  
Wynnsburg  
SBTS  
D.M.



**Betsy Wells**  
Clarksville  
SBTS  
M.D.



**Jo Blackaby**  
Greenbrier  
Springfield  
SWBTS  
M.A.R.E.



**Amy Branch**  
First Church  
Goodlettsville  
SWBTS  
M.D.B.L.



**Richard Connell**  
Westwood  
Cleveland  
SWBTS  
M.M.



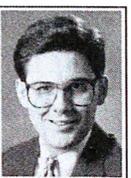
**Tammy Jo Foren**  
Milan  
SWBTS  
M.A.R.E.



**Mark Harrod**  
First Church  
Athens  
SWBTS  
M.D.B.L.



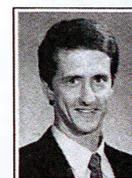
**Jerry Harwell**  
First Church  
Mt. Juliet  
SWBTS  
M.D.



**R. Maurice Hollingsworth**  
Broadmoor, Memp.  
SWBTS  
Ph.D.



**David Holt**  
Powell  
SWBTS  
M.A.M.F.C.  
M.A.R.E.



**Matthew Hudson**  
First, Jackson  
SWBTS  
Ph.D.



**Angela Kelley**  
Westwood  
Cleveland  
SWBTS  
M.M.



**David McDurham**  
Brownsville  
SWBTS  
M.A.R.E.



**Barbara Oden**  
Broadmoor  
Memphis  
SWBTS  
M.A.R.E.



**Robert Peters**  
First Church  
Cleveland  
SWBTS  
M.D.B.L.



**Thomas Smith**  
North Springfield  
Hendersonville  
SWBTS  
M.M.



**Sarah Standerfer**  
Judson  
Nashville  
SWBTS  
M.M.



**Irby Stanley**  
Lenoir City  
SWBTS  
M.A.R.E.



**Rachel Williamson**  
FBC, Winchester  
SWBTS  
M.A.M.F.C.  
M.A.R.E.

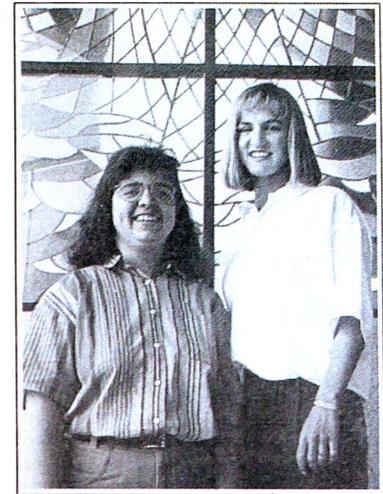
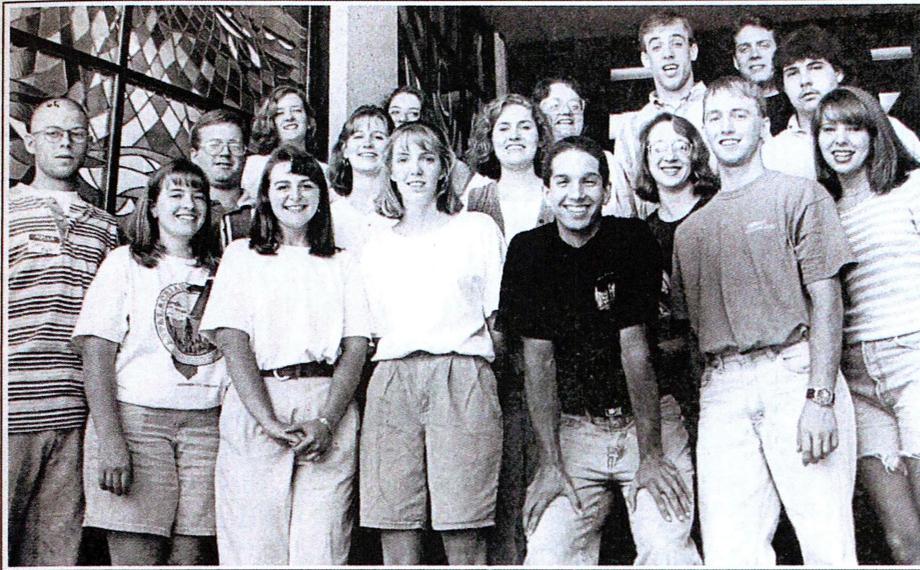


**John Mark Wood**  
Niota  
SWBTS  
M.D.B.L.

### Union plans alumni dinner at convention

JACKSON — Union University will host a dinner at the SBC for alumni and friends June 20 at 5 p.m. in Room 260 in the Georgia World Congress Center's west concourse. Cost is \$16. Tickets may be picked up at Union's SBC booth. ▽

## About 40 student missionaries work in state

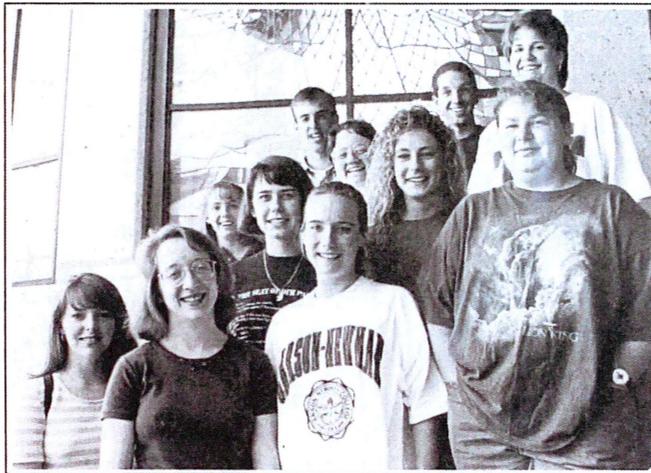


**WORKING FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT** of the TBC are, from left, Missy Payne, Carson-Newman College; and Amy Houk, Belmont University.

**SPONSORED BY THE TBC MISSIONS DEPARTMENT** are, from left, first row, John Mark Toomey, Carson-Newman College; Pam Swanson, C-N; Angela Wolden, Belmont University; Laura Latham, Union University; Paul W. Carter, Tennessee Technological University; Tim Dalton, C-N; and Duffy Walls, Belmont; second row, Bryan Webster, C-N; Melissa Overby, Baylor; Beth McGregor, Union; Amanda Stephens, Lincoln Memorial University; Jonathan Kiser, C-N; third row, Kim Choate, C-N; Nikki Harkleroad, C-N; Kelly Perry, East Tennessee State University; Philip Brown, University of Tennessee - Martin; and Michael D. Turner, C-N.

**BRENTWOOD** — Forty-one student missionaries who will work in Tennessee this summer met for orientation at the Baptist Center in Brentwood June 5-7 before setting out for their assignments at churches, associations, Baptist centers, children's homes, Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries, and Appalachian Outreach, a ministry of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City.

Of the 41, three were sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention Sunday School Department, 27 by the Missions Department, and 11 by the Student Ministries Department through Baptist Student Unions on Tennessee university and college campuses. Those 11 BSU directed missionaries are joined by 17 others from the state who went to other states or Canada and seven who will work in foreign countries. Tennessee students raised over \$90,000 in BSUs to sponsor these missionaries. □



**BAPTIST STUDENT UNION SPONSORED** missionaries are, from left, first row, Amanda Stephens, Lincoln Memorial University; Krisdee Pearson, Carson-Newman College; Marti Lewis, Union University; second row, Duffy Walls, Belmont University; Emily Butters, C-N; Misty Boling, C-N; third row, Laura Latham, Union; Kelly Perry, East Tennessee State University; Kim Godsmark, C-N; fourth row, Philip Brown, University of Tennessee - Martin; and Paul W. Carter, Tennessee Technological University.



### Burns Church, Burns, dedicates first building June 4

Leaders of Burns Church, Burns, and of its sponsoring church, Kirby Woods Church, Memphis, and other guests gathered June 4 for the dedication of the congregation's first building. From left are Jess Haun; Miller Grantham; Howard Bickers, Kirby Woods Church; Bill Shope; Bo Childs, Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Brentwood; Philip Lim, Kirby Woods Church; Shirley Jackson, Kirby Woods; Don McCoy, retired pastor, First Church, Dickson; and J.D. Cathey, pastor. The congregation is almost three years old. Volunteer labor, gifts of furnishings from Baptist Hospital, Nashville, and a TBC gift and loan helped with construction costs.

## Two state schools produce most foreign missionaries

**RICHMOND, Va.** — Two Tennessee colleges were in the top 11 schools in the country in the number of missionaries appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1994 according to figures released by Lloyd H. Atkinson, director of the Personnel Selection Department of the board. The University of Tennessee was second in the nation with nine appointees and Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, was eighth with five.

The top school was Baylor University, Waco, Texas, with 11 selected. Six of the top schools were institutions supported by state Baptist conventions, three were state supported universities and two were Baptist related.

Eight other Tennessee colleges were represented in the total list. Union University, Jackson, had four while Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, and the University of Memphis, Memphis, (formerly Memphis State University) had three each. Others in Tennessee with one appointee each were Austin Peay State University, Clarksville; East Tennessee State University, Johnson City; Maryville College, Maryville; Vanderbilt University, Nashville; and William Jennings Bryan College, Dayton. □

# Oklahoma raises share of Cooperative Program to stay in state

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Saying they believe missions in Oklahoma are as important as missions across the country and around the world, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma board of directors voted to increase the percentage of Cooperative Program money kept for Oklahoma ministries.

The action was taken at the May 30-31 board meeting.

The budget subcommittee met with every department di-

rector before recommending a 1996 budget of \$17.9 million, with 60 percent to Oklahoma missions and 40 percent to Southern Baptist Convention-wide missions.

An attempt to amend the motion failed. The original motion passed by a 52-2 margin, with seven members abstaining from the vote.

Last year, SBC missions were allocated 42 percent of a \$17.45 million budget, or \$7.329 million.

If approved by messengers to the BGCO annual meeting

in November, Oklahoma missions would receive \$10.74 million and SBC-wide missions would get \$7.16 million.

Some members opposed cutting the SBC allocation because it would also cut "the locomotive that drives the Cooperative Program, the Foreign

Mission Board," according to Lawrence Cox, a director of missions in the state.

Allen McHam, chairman of the budget subcommittee and a pastor in Perry, reminded board members "missions do not just occur 'over there.' They occur in Oklahoma.

"We have had a budget deficit going on eight to 10 years, and we have not addressed it," McHam said.

The new budget will provide for a 5 percent salary increase for BGCO employees, who have had only minimal increases the last 10 years. □

## Texas paper elects associate as editor

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Southern Baptists' largest state newspaper, the *Baptist Standard* of Texas, has named longtime associate editor Toby Druin as editor-elect.

The *Baptist Standard's* board of directors met June 6 and unanimously elected Druin, 60, as successor to Presnell Wood. Wood, 63, will retire at the end of this year after 17 years at the *Standard*, the longest tenure of any editor in the paper's 107-year history.

Druin will assume his new duties, effective Jan. 1, 1996.

He has been associate editor of the paper since 1976.

The Amarillo, Texas, native also has served as associate editor of North Carolina's *Biblical Recorder* and with the news service of the Home Mission Board. □

Call for Free BROCHURE

**BAPTISTRIES**  
HEATERS, PUMPS  
FACTORY DIRECT  
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE  
1-800-251-0879

FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO  
3511 HIXSON FWKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

**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

1-800-523-9058  
NC 1-(800)-222-7885

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.

**Steeple & Baptistries**

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

Call or write for our free catalog

• Steeple • Annular • 1-800-527-1452  
• Lighter • Windows • P.O. Box 1942  
• Lighter • Windows • Henderson, TX  
• Crosses • 75603-1340

**FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED**

**CHURCH STEEPLES**

- BAPTISTRIES
- WALLCROSSES
- BAPTISTRY WATER HEATERS

COLONIAL CONTEMPORARY AND MODERN DESIGNS  
ERECTION AVAILABLE  
WRITE OR CALL FOR LITERATURE OR PROPOSALS

TOLL FREE  
1-800-241-3152  
IN N.C.  
1-800-523-9058

4871 HARVEY RD. • BOX 1053  
JAMESTOWN, NC 27282

## WHY PAY MORE FOR LIFE INSURANCE?

VERY LOW NON-SMOKER MONTHLY COST!

Age	\$125,000	\$250,000
50	18.13	30.04
60	27.93	49.62
70	63.75	121.26

Please call Roy Naper (Knoxville, TN)  
Toll Free 1-800-274-0776 • 9-9 Mon.-Sat.

Jackson National Life, Lansing, MI Rated A (Excellent) by A.M. Best. Yearly Renewable Term to age 100 - Preferred, form #10903. Above premiums are first year only. Premiums increase annually to age 100. Preferred. Female rates illustrated above. Please call for other ages and Male rates.

**Southern Baptist Founders Conference**  
July 25-28, 1995  
Samford University • Birmingham, AL

*A Heritage for the Future*

THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION 1845-1995

FEATURED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:  
Dr Al Mohler, Jr  
Dr Timothy George  
Dr Mark Coppenger  
Dr Mark Dever • Mr Bill Ascol  
Dr Fred Malone • Dr Tom Nettles  
Dr Tom Ascol • Dr Walter Johnson

Registration Deadline: July 15, 1995

For more information:  
Call 813-997-5440

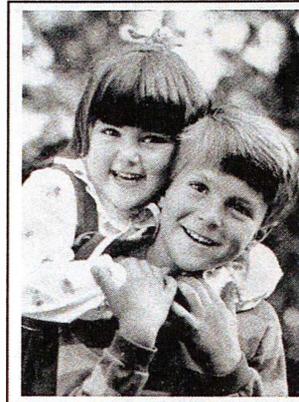


**Church Buses New and Used**  
(We take trade-ins.)  
Call Henry Headden Carpenter Bus Sales  
Brentwood, Tenn.  
1 (800) 370-6180  
1 (615) 371-6180

Available in 20' to 33' models  
(12 to 37 Passenger)

**Church Buses New and Used**  
(We take trade-ins.)  
Call Henry Headden Carpenter Bus Sales  
Brentwood, Tenn.  
1 (800) 370-6180  
1 (615) 371-6180

## We Still Need Your Help to Reach Our Goal



With approximately one-third of our annual operating budget received through the Mother's Day Offering, you can understand how important your support is to the children of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

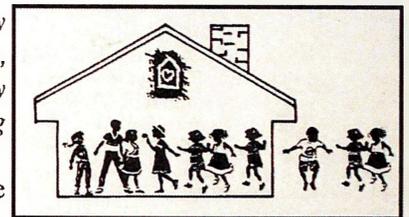
In our nine locations across the state, we care for more than three-hundred children each year—and that doesn't include those we place in foster care. Our children are fed nutritious meals, dressed well, live in comfortable, clean environments, and are instilled with

Christian faith and values. Because most of our children come to us as victims of abuse, neglect, and abandonment, we also have the finest social workers and counselors in the state helping to heal years of hurt and brokenness.

We have chosen not to use government funds so we can fulfill our primary purpose of instilling children with Christian faith and values without restriction.

*So please help us to help every child who needs us. Without you, we would have to turn away three out of every ten hurting children in Tennessee.*

Your gift makes all the difference in *their* world. . . .



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

**TENNESSEE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES, INC.**

**Dr. Gerald L. Stow**  
President / Treasurer

Central Office  
5001 Maryland Way  
Brentwood, TN 37027  
(615) 371-2000 • 1-800-624-8591

Chattanooga • Clarksville • Franklin  
Greenville • Johnson City • Kingsport  
Memphis • Millington • Oakdale



# TenneScene ■ the people, their work

## ■ the people

■ **Bascom C. Yager** was honored June 4 by Hickory Grove Church, Moscow, for 34 years of deacon service. The church presented him with a pocket watch, letter of proclamation, and held a dinner in his honor.

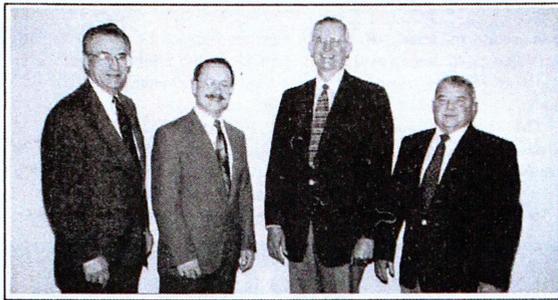
## ■ the missionaries

■ **LaFollette native Sharon Finch**, a former member of West LaFollette Church, and her husband, **Robert**, are now serving as home missionaries in Montpelier, Vt.

## ■ the leaders

■ **Bill Sherman**, pastor, Woodmont Church, Nashville, has decided against running for mayor of Nashville.

■ **Brian Sims**, pastor, Parkdale Deaf Church, Harlingen, Texas, has been called as pastor of the Deaf Mission of Brentwood Church, Brentwood. He also has been associate pastor, Woodhaven Deaf Church, Houston, Texas; helped start the Bay Area Deaf Church, Pasadena, Texas, which he served as pastor; and was a Home Mission Board Mission Service Corp volunteer



**OFFICERS OF TENNESSEE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES** elected at a recent board meeting stand with **Gerald L. Stow**, left, president-treasurer, and include, from left, **Larry Parrott**, pastor, Pleasant View Church, Talbott, chairman; **Ed North**, pastor, First Church, Humboldt, vice chairman; and **Bob Hunt**, member, First Church, Lawrenceburg, secretary. The meeting was held at the Middle Tennessee Campus in Franklin.

for five years. Sims is a graduate of Houston Baptist University.

■ **David Taylor**, a recent graduate of Union University, Jackson, has been called as youth ministry intern at Southeast Church, Murfreesboro. Taylor will enter Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, this fall.

■ **Mossy Grove Church**, Harriman, has called **Carl Young**, pastor, Rosedale Church, Abingdon, Va., as pastor, effective June 1. Young is a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky.; Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky.; and Luther

Rice Seminary, Lithonia, Ga. He has served as pastor of churches in four states.

■ **Oakwood Church**, Chattanooga, has called **Eugene Roberts Jr.**, of Mount Holly, N.C., as minister of music and youth, effective June 18.

■ **Eugene Spencer**, interim minister of music, Alta Loma Church, Madison, who served as minister of music and senior adults, First Church, Old Hickory, for 22 years, and his wife, **Margaret**, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 15. The couple has served churches in Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee for 45 years.



**TENNESSEE DOCTORAL GRADUATES** of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, standing with **Landrum P. Leavell II**, center, interim president, include, from left, **Tim Meadows**, native of Newbern, who earned a philosophy degree in church history; **Phil Griffin**, native of Chattanooga, ministry degree in evangelistic church growth; **Dennis Trull**, native of Humboldt and pastor of First Church, Savannah, ministry degree in pastoral ministry; and **Jimmy Williams**, native of Memphis, ministry degree in pastoral ministry.

**Grove Church, Harriman**, has been refurbished and installed on the new sanctuary building. It includes a church bell which may be 100 years old. The church also held Vacation Bible School June 5-9 and drew 140 children, 23 percent more than last year and a record.

led evangelistic services.

■ A group from **Southeast Church, Murfreesboro**, will conduct its 10th annual mission work on the Sioux Reservation near Wounded Knee, S.D., June 21 - July 1.

## ■ the associations

■ **Grainger Association** ranked 11 among Tennessee associations in earned Church Recreation Leadership study course awards for 1993-94. The awards are made by the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

## ■ the work

■ **Beaver Dam Church, Knoxville**, sent 12 of its members to the Dominican Republic May 12-18. They did construction work on a church and

## ■ the churches

■ **Forest Hills Church, Nashville**, will host **Max Lyall**, professor of church music, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., who will present a piano concert June 18 during a 6:30 p.m. service. Lyall has been a staff member of Belmont University, Nashville, and the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. He is a recording artist and performer serving as accompanist for the Centurymen of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

■ The steeple from the second church building of **Mossy**



**PASTOR AND FORMER PASTORS** of Fairview Church, Obion, gather during its April 30 centennial anniversary observance, and include, from left, **Lee Hatch**, **William L. Knight**, **J.D. May**, **Harvey Evans**, pastor, **Phillip Senn**, and **Bill George**, current director of missions, Beulah Association. The sanctuary, built in 1955, overflowed with people during the morning service and additional seating was needed. Anniversary activities included a luncheon and afternoon service of music and recognitions.



**REPRESENTATIVES OF CHURCHES IN DUCK RIVER MISSIONARY Association**, from left, **John Segree**, **Robert Payne**, **Baylon Hilliard**, director of missions, **Eric Hodge**, **Jeff Clark**, **Marvarene Vincent**, and **John Troxler**, break ground in April for the association's office building. The planned 4,900-square-foot facility will more than double the space available at the present site. Plans are for volunteer workers to help and for work to be completed in the fall.

# Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

## An amazing discovery

By **Jerry Tidwell**, pastor  
West Jackson Church, Jackson

John Newton was a nice boy raised in a nice Christian family. His early life's story would be similar to our own. He grew up knowing right from wrong and attending church. Young Newton rebelled, though; and in 1743 he aban-

doned his Christian principles and started living a worldly life.

His life worsened and he became a common felon. After serving time in prison, he spent his days with cruel slave traffickers.

One day while on a ship he had a tremendous awakening, realizing he had not strayed so far that God could not save him. He gave his life to Christ and wrote the words to this song:

"Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see."

The good news of the Gospel is that God's hand reaches farther down than we can reach up! Wherever you go, tell others that Jesus can make useful pots from useless clay. Thank you for allowing me to serve you as pastor. ☪

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.

# Mt. Harmony #2 celebrates 125th anniversary in Riceville

For Baptist and Reflector

RICEVILLE — Mt. Harmony #2 Church in McMinn-Meigs Association celebrated

125 years of history June 4. The church was organized in 1870 as the First Baptist Church of Christ at Ebenezer. The name was changed to Mt.

Harmony in 1889. It is referred to as #2 because there is another Mt. Harmony in the association at Niota.

The church has occupied its present building since 1968. Several additions have been made since, including a fellowship hall, two classrooms, two

restrooms, and a pastor's study in 1992. The debt on that addition was erased two years later.

The church has been led by Pastor Garry King since 1992. King was honored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention as an outstanding bivocational

pastor in 1991.

The June 4 festivities included a message by former pastor Glenn Clowers and a presentation of a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society by McMinn-Meigs Association Director of Missions Roy Fowler. □



PASTOR GARRY KING, left center, holds a plaque given to the church from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. He is flanked by deacons, from left, Johnny Brady; Gary Moore, chairman; and Harold Hunt. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

## Tennesseans graduate from NOBTS

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary held graduation services May 19 in New Orleans.

Pictured are Tennessee graduates.

The seminary did not provide photos for Keith Pierce and David Wade. Pierce is pastor of Oak Streek Church, Maryville. Wade's home church is First Church, Powell. Both men earned the master of divinity degree.

Other seminary graduates are printed on page 6. □



James Cason  
Nashville  
M.D.



Ronald Edwards  
Hannah's Gap  
Petersburg  
M.D.



Phil Griffin  
Red Bank  
Chattanooga  
D.M.



Tim Meadows  
First Church  
Trimble  
Ph.D.



Rick Morton Jr.  
Balmoral  
Memphis  
M.A.C.E.



Charles Priest  
First Church  
McMinnville  
M.M.



Vickie Starkey  
First Church  
Pigeon Forge  
M.D.



Dennis Trull  
First Church  
Savannah  
D.M.



Jimmy Williams  
Memphis  
D.M.

### 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



Andy F. Hardy

Security Church Finance, Inc.  
3305 Hobbs Road, Nashville, TN 37215

# Providing adequate benefits for all

## Two sides of the coin



### Preparation for those still working.

The Church Annuity Plan and insurance programs help make all the tomorrows secure and comfortable. Are your pastor and all staff members covered?

### Relief when it's too late.

1. The Cooperative Program provides \$1 million for the most desperate cases.
2. Adopt An Annuitant provides \$50 a month to make life more pleasant for 1,600 others.

Call or write for more information.

Annuity Board Sunday June 25, 1995  
Paul W. Powell, President

ANNUITY BOARD OF THE  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

2401 Cedar Springs Rd. • P.O. Box 2190 • Dallas, Texas 75221-2190  
1-800-262-0511

Serving Those Who Serve the Lord

# ■ Sunday School lesson commentary

**Life and Work Series  
for June 18**

**Focal Passages:  
Acts 27:20, 22-25, 30-  
31, 33-36**

## Surviving the storms

By Chuck McElhannon

On Monday, June 5, severe storms hit both the eastern and western sections of the United States. Hurricane Allison hit the Florida panhandle with winds of 75 miles per hour, accompanied by torrential rain, high water, and tornadoes. At the same time, winds over 100 miles per hour blew across sections of Nevada and Utah, blowing over eighteen-wheelers and causing damage to buildings. These concurrent storm systems in opposite sections of the country reminded me that we are all subject to storms, no matter where we live.

In the same sense, we are all subject to difficult times, no matter who we are. The story in Acts 27 reminds us that even chosen leaders like Paul were subject to the storms of life. This week's lesson uses Paul's experience with a storm at sea to show how Christians should respond when trouble strikes. Paul clung tenaciously to his faith in the goodness and faithfulness of God. Paul also remained faithful to his mission, his purpose. He encouraged the others on board to stay with the ship (v. 31).

Sometimes storms come because we are out of God's will. Jonah deliberately disobeyed God's will, and the Bible says that God sent a great storm while Jonah was on a boat headed for Tarshish. Another example is Ananias and Sapphira, who died because they deliberately lied to God and the church concerning their giving.

On the other hand, storms may also come because we are in God's will. Paul was doing exactly what God wanted when the storm came. Many times we assume that if something is going wrong in our lives, it must be because we're doing something wrong. It may be that we're doing something right! Believers have a tendency to conclude that in bad times God is far away, and in good times God is close. That's not true.

There are several Biblical principles that can help us make it through the storms when they come.

(1) The Sovereignty of God. God is free to act as he chooses without any limits set by you or me. God is in control, and he doesn't have to ask me before he does something or allows something.

(2) Romans 8:28. This Biblical promise is for our good, not our pleasure. God never said we would like or agree with everything that happened. He did promise, however, that everything would work out for our good.

(3) God Rewards Faithfulness. Job is an excellent example of how God will ultimately reward those who are faithful to him, even through the tough times. We must remember, however, that God's rewards may not take the form of material blessings.

Paul's example in Acts 27 teaches us one more valuable lesson. When the storms come, God expects his people to minister to the hurts and the needs around them. In verses 33-36, Paul ministered to the physical needs of his shipmates. We are to minister to the unfairness. We don't have to like the storms; we don't have to always understand the storms. But it is our responsibility as Christians to minister to others who experience them. □ — Chuck McElhannon is pastor of Valley View Church, Nashville.

## When justice is corrupted

By Brian Courtney

What happens when God's world is faithfully proclaimed to human situations? The answers to this question are multiple. Unbelievers become believers. Christians have to deal with sin in their lives, or receive encouragement for the tasks of life. Christians learn about ethics, justice, and the responsible use of power. To be sure, the "happenings" caused by God's Word are endless. King Ahab found this to be true, and so will present day persons.

**The situation — vv. 1-4**

King Ahab's neighbor, Naboth, has a vineyard which joins Ahab's palace. Ahab wants the vineyard. But he cannot have it. Naboth's reason for refusing to sell is that the land is an inheritance. This conflict stems from two understandings about land. Naboth perceives land as an inheritance, belonging to the family by tradition. On the other hand, Ahab perceives land as something to be bought and sold. This conflict is still present. Many are faced with a decision to sell the "family place" to land entrepreneurs for significant monetary gain. And that's understandable.

Ahab's response is vexation and sullenness. In other words, the king pouts because he does not get his way. But he suggests nothing dishonest to obtain the land. The king remains faithful to ethics and justice for his neighbor. May his tribe increase!

**The true troubler — vv. 5-14**

Ahab is not the problem in this story. Jezebel is the "troubler" in Israel. She has none of the ethics and justice which vex Ahab. Naboth's vineyard which he desires, she knows how to obtain for him. Her proposal suggests an alternative way of doing "kingship" in Israel. Ahab asked for it and will pay for it (see I Kings 16:31). Jezebel's plan is simple: frame Naboth, execute him, and his vineyard becomes the property of the king.

But she forgot one thing: the Word of God.

**Enter the prophet with God's Word — vv. 15-20**

For all purposes the story could have concluded.

Jezebel completed her scheme. Ahab obtained his vineyard, though he did not know the scheme. Naboth, an innocent individual holding to his land, was dead. So what? This story has the makings of a

**Convention Uniform Series  
for June 18  
Focal Passage  
I Kings 21:1-4, 15-20**

modern "soap." It's the same old story with new characters, isn't it? Not hardly! God has the final say on this story.

"Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah..." are words of historical impact. History in Israel begins when God's prophet appears. The point is clear: when one thinks life is over, God's Word comes and life begins anew.

The Word of God to Elijah (vv. 17-19) states the violation of Ahab and the punishment. Short, simple, and to the point is prophetic speech. Plain talk (and God's Word) is easily understood. Note well, the prophetic word reverses the alternative established by Jezebel. Her "new" social values and ethics are not known by God. He and he alone establishes what is normative in Israel (and everywhere else!).

Ahab and Elijah's encounter (vv. 20-24) is fairly dramatic. Ahab calls the prophet "enemy." And surely, he is, for he is determined to remind this kingship who is in charge. His devastating sentence (vv. 21-24) serves as a reminder that a king or anyone else for that matter who breaks the law of God has a short reign. The Word of God reminds, again, that kings are not essential for history.

What happens when God's Word is faithfully proclaimed to human situations? The answers to this question are multiple. But one thing is certain: something will happen! □ — Brian Courtney is pastor of First Church, Sneedville.

## Confidence in facing the cross

By Thomas Vinson

A young man visiting a famous art gallery was heard making disparaging remarks about the famous painting the Mona Lisa. The curator of the museum listened to all of this criticism he could stand then responded, "Young man, the Mona Lisa is not on trial. You are!" The novice response of this would be critic said more about himself than it did about the masterpiece.

How a person responds to Jesus Christ is a commentary on their heart. This chapter exposes the hearts of several people as it catalogs their response to him. The reactions vary from lavish love to shameless hypocrisy. Each response is an index to their character.

The first part of this chapter presents **A love that knows no limits (vv. 6-9).**

It seems that every time we find this woman in the New Testament she is at the feet of Jesus. John reveals that her name is Mary (12:3). In Luke 10:38-42 we see her seated at his feet as a **spiritual scholar**. In John 11:32 Lazarus has died, so Mary is found again at Jesus' feet as a **sorrowful sister**. In our present text we discover Mary afresh at the feet of the Savior as a **grateful giver**. She came to Jesus as a Prophet to learn of his infinite wisdom; as Priest to be comforted; and as King to honor him with her substance.

**Bible Book Series for June 18  
Focal Passage: Mark 14**

This gift was costly, amounting to approximately a year's wages for a common laborer. She emulates the unselfish spirit we have already observed in the widow of 12:41-44. This gift was also criticized with some calling it a "waste" (v. 4). We are not surprised to learn from John's Gospel that it was Judas who led in this feigned concern for the poor. Jesus had certainly proven throughout his ministry that he cared greatly for the needy. The emphasis here is that the window of opportunity for bestowing lavish love on Jesus was limited. Like Mary, we need to renew our commitment to do "what we can while we can" (v. 8). Perhaps most importantly, the gift was commemorative. Jesus interpreted her anointing as preparation for his imminent burial. No wonder Jesus said this act would be spoken of throughout the whole world (v. 9).

Contrasted with this lavish love we then see a **hypocrisy that knows no shame (vv. 10-21).**

The late evangelist E.J. Daniels wrote a book entitled, *The Man Who Kissed the Door of Heaven, Then Went to Hell*. What a description of Judas! Outwardly Judas was a good man with impeccable

credentials. He was selected by his peers to be the treasurer of their group. When Jesus declared at the Lord's supper that one of them was going to betray him (v. 18), none suggested that it would be Judas. Dr. John Bisagno offers the perspective that Judas was an enterprising business man who saw his financial opportunities evaporating and decided to get out while he could and get as much as he could in the process. If Judas could not sell the spikenard, then he would sell the Savior. Let this warn us of the deceiving power of indwelling sin (Jeremiah 17:19). What a testimony to the fact that outward religious affiliation does not make one a genuine believer.

Lastly, we notice in our focal passage a **commitment that knows no boundaries**. This is seen first in his prayer in Gethsemane — vv. 32-36. The "cup" refers to his dying for our sins (cf. II Corinthians 5:21). His commitment included the cross and death. Secondly this boundless commitment is seen in his profession as "the Son of Man" (v. 62). Jesus knew that this admission was tantamount to signing his death warrant. □ — Thomas Vinson is pastor of Leawood Church, Memphis.

## Heart attack kills mission volunteer

Baptist Press

ST. JOHNS, Antigua — Southern Baptist foreign mission volunteer Phillip Knott died May 30 of a massive heart attack on the Caribbean Island of Nevis.

Knott, 54, of Swan Quarter, N.C., was serving a three-month stint as pastor of First Baptist Church of Brick-kiln on Nevis. He had been there since May 1.

Knott participated in numerous FMB volunteer mission projects. He is survived by his wife, Karen, and two children. □

## Georgia pastor to nominate Henry

Associated Baptist Press

WOODSTOCK, Ga. — Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Church, Woodstock, says he plans to nominate SBC President Jim Henry of Orlando, Fla., for a second term when the convention meets June 20-22 in Atlanta.



HENRY

Henry is expected to face no opposition for a second term, which is traditional.

Henry, who said his election last year marked "a shift in emphasis, not a repudiation" of the conservative movement, last year defeated Alabama pastor Fred Wolfe, who had the backing of most of the past conservative SBC presidents.

Hunt said he has "not always been a supporter" of Henry, but is "a personal friend and has been for 20 years.

He requested that I nominate him and I certainly had no problems with nominating him. I was honored when he requested," Hunt said. □

## Merritt to nominate Wynn as SBC first vp

Baptist Press

SNELLVILLE, Ga. — James Merritt, president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, has announced he will nominate Larry Wynn as first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention during the SBC annual meeting June 20-22 in Atlanta.

Wynn, pastor of Hebron Church, Decaula, Ga., since 1978, has been president of the Georgia Baptist Convention and vice president of the SBC Pastors' Conference in addition to numerous other committees and associational positions.

Merritt's is the first public announcement of a nominee for either the first or second vice presidential post of the SBC. □

## Mantle receives liver transplant at Baptist hospital in Dallas

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Baseball legend Mickey Mantle received a liver transplant June 8 at Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, a Texas Baptist hospital.

Mantle, who doctors said

would not survive unless he received a transplant within a couple of weeks, enjoyed a Hall of Fame career with the New York Yankees in spite of a long history of problem drinking.

The longtime Dallas resident was treated for alcoholism in 1993 at the Betty Ford Clinic, and he had suffered cirrhosis of the liver. □

## Oklahoma's Tanner announces retirement

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Saying it has been "an exciting and wonderful journey," William G. Tanner announced his retirement, effective June 30, 1996, as executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma during a BGCO meeting May 31.



TANNER

Tanner, 65, became Oklahoma's executive director in 1986, following a 10-year stint as president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta. Before that, he was president of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee from 1971-76.

"By the time I complete my 10 years on June 30, 1996, it is my deep conviction that I will have completed my assignment for (God) as executive director-treasurer," he said. "I do not wish to be a leader who finds himself slowly becoming counterproductive by repetition, lack of interest, or not caring to be creative." □

## Florida board names committee to study Stetson relationship

Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Florida Baptists' state board of missions has named a four-member committee to study the convention's relationship with Stetson University, which has reversed a century-old ban on the use of alcoholic beverages on campus.

The Florida missions board also registered its "dismay" and "sincere and anguished distress" May 19 over a decision by trustees of the Baptist-related college in DeLand to allow beer, wine, and wine coolers at approved parties and in some residence halls.

The Florida board said its response is rooted in "Scriptural mandate and historic Baptist principles."

Stetson elects trustees independently and receives no direct Cooperative Program funding from the convention. However, each church is provided an opportunity on its remittance form to forward gifts to the university. □

## BWA women plan largest meeting ever

Baptist Press

MCLEAN, Va. — Women form 93 countries or geographic entities have registered for the 1995 BWA women's department "Reunion of Baptist Women" July 31 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The reunion will be held prior to the 17th Baptist World

Congress in Buenos Aires, Aug. 1-6.

Planners expect the July 31 event to draw 3,000 people to the Grand Rex Theater in downtown Buenos Aires.

"I am very excited in that it appears we shall have our biggest meeting ever in numbers of women and the number of countries represented," said Catherine Allen, president of the BWA's women's department, auxiliary to the Baptist World Alliance. □

## Baptist pioneer among Messianic Jews dies

Baptist Press

TULSA, Okla. — Robert Lindsey, a retired Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board representative who began work in Jerusalem three years before modern Israel was formed, died May 31 here. He was 77.

A scholar fluent in Greek and Hebrew, Lindsey was a key leader among Israel's Messianic Jewish community. He helped Jews become believers in Jesus Christ while also doing research to recover the Jewish roots of the Gospels.



LINDSEY

Lindsey gained lasting notoriety in Israel after losing his left leg below the knee when he stepped on a land mine in 1961. The accident occurred as he was crossing the border without authorization to retrieve an orphan detained in Jordan. □

# Tennessee Baptist's true-life music to precede dad's SBC sermon

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — There's a saying among music industry officials in Nashville: "It all starts with a song."

But in her music, Kate Campbell proves that statement false. The true-life experiences integrated into her country-folk songs shout: "It all really starts with the life behind the song."

Like her songs, her life is filled with stories of human pathos, humor, faith, and hope. These stories are set within the confines of a Baptist preacher's family. "I do best when I write about what I know," she said. "I decided that it's OK to write about being a preacher's kid."

Indeed, her life is so interwoven with Baptist history and tradition that she is scheduled to sing before her father, Jim Henry, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, preaches his convention sermon on the opening day of the SBC annual meeting June 20 in Atlanta.

Campbell, a member of Crieewood Church, Nashville, was born in New Orleans where her father attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. After graduating Henry moved his family to Sledge, Miss., where he served as pastor of Hollywood Church. Years later, in her song, "Mississippi and Me," Campbell would write about her earliest childhood memories:

"Daddy was a preacher in Sledge. We were living on Gospel and beans. Every Sunday night Deacon Jones would give a silver dollar to me. On the way home my poor mama would pry it from my hand and say it fell from heaven."

The family's financial condition improved when the Henrys moved to Nashville when she was around 4 years old. Her father became pastor of Two Rivers Church in 1965. Under his ministry the church's membership grew from about 100 to more than 4,000.

Campbell began learning the rudiments of music at age 4 when her par-

ents gave her a ukulele. Piano lessons began at age 6; then guitar lessons.

But musical training was not the only gift her parents gave her. She was well-grounded with a healthy dose of ethics. She said her family's life experiences during that time molded her attitudes on social issues, such as race relations. These attitudes are reflected in her first Compass Records recording, "Songs From the Levee." "My daddy was one of the first pastors in Nashville to have an open-door policy," Campbell said. "He caught some flak for that in the '60s."

Campbell went on to graduate from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and later earned a master's degree at Auburn (Ala.) University. In 1984 she married her husband, Stan. After he graduated from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., he was called to Middle Tennessee as pastor of Orinda Church in 1988. Campbell helped her husband's ministry efforts by serving as

music director for the church.

During that time Campbell began to pursue her career as a professional singer/songwriter. In 1994, her pursuit of her musical dream culminated in a record contract with Compass Records and the release of "Songs From the Levee." She also was signed as a staff songwriter for Fame Publishing Company in Nashville.

This year has been particularly busy for her and her husband, who is now a chaplain at a Nashville hospital. He also does double duty as his wife's manager. She recently returned from a tour to Australia and also has toured extensively throughout the U.S.

Although she is not "marketed" as a Christian artist, Campbell said her faith is an important aspect of her songs. "I believe music is a gift, and often reaches more people than the spoken word. So, my songs reflect my faith and life experiences. I am grateful that God provides me the opportunity to sing and write." □