

# Baptist and Reflector

June 21, 1995

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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## Polish Baptist churches active in evangelism

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
*Baptist and Reflector*

WARSAW, Poland — The partnership concept is gaining acceptance among Polish Baptist leaders and churches.

But the congregations are not sitting around waiting for evangelism teams to come do their witnessing for them.

Marek Glodek, pastor of the church at Elk, says, "Now is the best time to do something in Poland, because things move slowly, especially for Baptists. We have problems with the government and the Catholic church at times.

"My philosophy," he says, "is the people first, then the boards and concrete. It's not wise to have big buildings just to have the space. So we need to reach people for Christ."

We see that Marek is excited, even before he tells us. "I am excited," he says, quickly adding, "We must forget about our pleasures and comforts; the time is now to work hard, pray hard, it is revival time. I will not stop until Poland knows Christ!"

I've moved ahead in the story — now back to the beginning. It is difficult not to talk about Marek Glodek, guide for Terry Sharp, Partnership Mission director and me for four days. We met him in Warsaw.

A diverse Tennessee Baptist team here in several cities for several days earlier this month

has found excitement at partnership prospects.

Earlier this month, the team arrived in Warsaw and dispersed to travel across country with several assignments and many miles to travel. Two weeks later most team members are back in Tennessee, missions accomplished.

Now the reporting begins. Our team consists of four TBC Executive Board staff members, a WMU representative from Knoxville; a team of four women from First Church, Smyrna; a team of three doctors and three nurses, and two student summer missionaries.

Ryszard Gutkowski, Polish Baptist Union executive secretary, Marek Glodek, and other helpers, met us at the airport.

Several of us went into Warsaw to disperse the next day — while the medical team and students were transported from the airport to areas outside the area.

Gutkowski and his wife Ewa, and Konstanty Wiazowski, Polish Union president, host us at a fine dinner meal.

Most of the team has the next day to relax and get acquainted with Warsaw, the capital city. But the medical team departed by van from the airport for Bialystok in the north; and Sharp and I have an early morning breakfast with Pastor Marek Glodek.

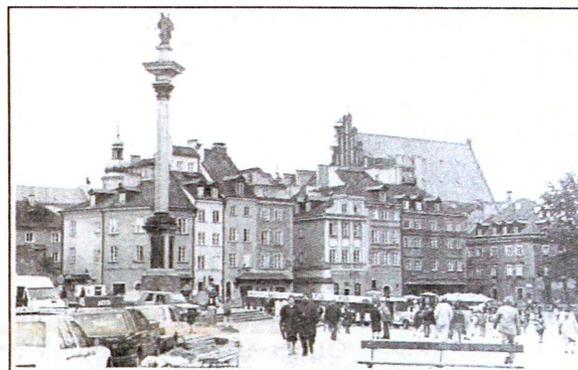
Then we are off to Wroclaw and Czestochowa, southwest of

Warsaw. We won't return until the next day. The morning ride sees us hurtling through rich farmland and scattered villages for four hours.

We arrive at Wroclaw where Glodek shows us unique ministries at First Church — which moved from squalid

who with his wife Marzena, are helping win youth to Christ — along with Second's pastor. They will help host a "wild camp" for youth in the north. These are youth who are on the fringe, needing help desperately.

Pastor Patalon shares the moving story of the rebirth of



AN OLD COUNTRY, Polish cities boast charm and beauty such as old town, Warsaw, rebuilt after World War II.

"Bermuda Triangle," to the suburbs where space is shared with a seminary and Christian bookstore — and Second Church, where a handful of sturdy believers has moved into the rundown, vacated First Church quarters.

In the process we meet Pastor Arek Patalon at Second, and some of his people, in a semi-dark, small chapel.

With us is Andrew Horyza,

Second with those faithful few. And, as any good host would do, he senses our hunger, and orders a pizza by phone.

Glodek laughs at the irony of it. We do too, but we also enjoy pizza and talk missions. We learn how the church has survived and is now growing, through outreach and innovation by the "faithful few." □

See more news on Poland, in Macedonian Call, pages 5-8.

### SBC in progress; coverage next week

ATLANTA — Annual sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention are being held here this week, with a dozen adjunct meetings.

The convention began Tuesday morning, June 20, and will conclude on Thursday.

The *Baptist and Reflector* has three staffers present. Major interest lies in the controversial report on restructuring of the SBC.

On hand for the convention's actions are Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor; Connie Davis, assistant editor; and Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor. Full reports of major transactions will be in next week's paper. □

### Housing request form needed for rooms at TBC

BRENTWOOD — Messengers needing hotel rooms at the 1995 annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention will need to fill out a TBC Housing Request Form, according to TBC Executive Director James Porch.

The annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention is set for Nov. 14-15 in the Chattanooga/Hamilton County Convention and Trade Center.

The form is for the convention block hotels only — Chattanooga Choo Choo/Holiday Inn; Chattanooga Marriott (convention hotel, adjacent to convention center), Comfort Hotel River Plaza, Days Inn Rivergate, Radisson Read House, and Howard Johnson.

The Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau will attempt to secure housing for all who request rooms using this form. Reservations will be made on a "first-come, first-serve" basis until all the hotel rooms in the

housing block are taken. All requests are being handled by the Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Previously, messengers contacted the hotel of their choice for reservations. By utilizing the services of the Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau, the process will be expedited. Every messenger will have equal opportunity to get a good room close to the convention center, Porch said.

The process also is similar to that used by the Southern Baptist Convention and other Baptist state conventions, he added.

Housing forms can be obtained from the TBC Executive Board office or local associational offices. Housing applications should be mailed or faxed to the Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau after July 1.

Forms must be postmarked no later than Oct. 31. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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As TBC Program Services Department director

# Anderson steps down after almost 35 years

By Lonnie Wilkey  
*Baptist and Reflector*



**BRENTWOOD** — After hundreds of thousands of reams of paper and no telling how many gallons of ink, Wallace Anderson is stepping down.

Anderson's June 30 retirement will mark the end of an almost 35-year career as head of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Program Services Department. Ironically, Anderson is the first and last person to hold that position.

Beginning in July, the Program Services Department will be administered under the direction of William Maxwell, TBC Central Administrative Division director.

Anderson noted the job was "on paper" for almost two years before he was hired. A former school teacher in Crossville and pastor of Meridian Church, Anderson came to Nashville on the promise of a job at the Baptist Sunday School Board. After the job fell through, Anderson worked as a cost accountant before accepting the position with the

**IN ADDITION** to serving as head of the TBC Program Services Department for nearly 35 years, Wallace Anderson also has served as recording secretary of the state convention at the same time.

TBC, which was headquartered then at Belmont College (now University).

"The job was weird enough and I had weird enough qualifications that they (TBC administrators) felt I was the one for the job," he laughed.

The fact that the job was on paper for two years and no one came along before Anderson was hired, combined with the fact his position will not be

filled leads Anderson to feel "God planned it (the position) just for me."

When Anderson came on board, he had only two employees and one of them was only part-time.

The job grew to a peak of 17 employees. There are now 12 people in the department, which handles typesetting, printing, the maintenance of mailing lists, and mailing for TBC departments.

Anderson estimated his department does around 5,000 printing jobs annually, although it varies from year to year. And his department has produced quality work. In 1986 and 1988 his department was named one of the top 100 print shops among religious and non-profit organizations in the nation by a national in-house printing magazine.

He takes pride in the fact

his department touches every program and ministry of the convention.

In this department "you see the whole picture, from the germ of an idea to designing, creating, building, and printing it; to putting it into the mail bag," he said.

"Just about anything significant our TBC departments have done, we've been a part of it.

"I consider that a ministry and it's been worldwide," Anderson said.

Anderson noted the best part of his almost 35-year tenure has been relationships, both with employees in his department and the convention as a whole. "We're all in ministry together," he observed.

As he approaches this juncture in life, Anderson knows God has provided for him thus far and "I have to feel like the stages the rest of the way will be taken care of too.

"I have no anxieties concerning retirement. In fact, I'm beginning to look forward to it," he said, noting he "plans to work on the list my wife has made up." □

## Graham recuperation won't derail SBC appearance

Baptist Press

**TORONTO** — Although doctors have advised Billy Graham will address the closing session of the SBC annual meeting, going on this week in Atlanta — the convention's 150th anniversary observance — before beginning an extended vacation with family members.

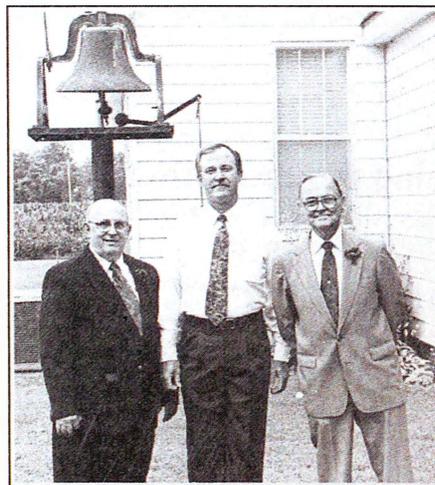
Graham was expected to stay in Toronto for a day or

two of rest, following a second round of medical tests June 15 at a Toronto hospital.

Graham, 76, fell ill in a noon luncheon June 7 prior to the next day's beginning of Mission Ontario meetings in Toronto's SkyDome. Graham was hospitalized and received multiple blood transfusions for bleeding from his colon.

Results of the tests "were all normal," according to Michael Bentley-Taylor and Kenneth L. Gamble, physicians who treated Graham. They noted the evangelist's "general health is good," but as "he is extremely fatigued, we strongly recommend" that Graham give up most speaking engagements for the next three months. □

## Elon Church celebrates 150 years of service



**PASTOR ROBERT PRINCE**, left, welcomed former pastors Jimmy Brown, center, and Nolan Criner to the celebration. Brown is now pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Rives, and Criner is retired in Ripley. Brown preached during the morning service June 11. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey

Elon Church, one of the oldest churches in Dyer Association, celebrated 150 years of service in the Double Bridges community near Halls on June 11.

The church has been at its present location since 1935. Several additions have been made to the building in recent years including more Sunday School rooms and a baptistry, according to Juanita Hilliard, who compiled the history of the church. □



**DYER ASSOCIATION** Director of Missions Joe Naylor, left, presents a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to Pastor Robert Prince.

## Red tape delays student missionaries

Baptist Press

**RICHMOND** — Six Texas Baptist student summer missionaries headed to Cuba have been temporarily reassigned to the Dominican Republic because of U.S. government red tape.

The students were to have traveled June 12 to Cuba to spend eight weeks working in churches in the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba. The Cuban government issued them visas but they haven't yet received a U.S. Treasury Department license granting them permission to travel to the communist nation.

"I think we're dealing with strained relationships between governments," said Mark Smith, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board area missionary to the Caribbean. "I'm concerned that our efforts to help spread the Gospel in Cuba are being caught in the middle of the process of politics," he said. □

# Christian homes need responsible leadership

May and June usually are marked on the Southern Baptist denominational calendar for Christian Home Emphasis. What do we want for our homes?

As recently as twenty years ago Christian Home Week was observed actively in many Southern Baptist churches.

It was not unusual for the local church to set aside that special week for deep emphasis on homes. It was not unusual for the church to have speakers to address family needs and to include some "how to" sessions relating to family discipline, the role of fathers and mothers, the vitality of the family altar.

Specialists would speak bluntly but kindly to fathers about their role as spiritual leaders and the need for setting the example in demonstrating love and affection.

Mothers were admonished to provide the stability needed for little ones and for school children.

Even grandparents were involved. They were role models in the Christian home for children and grandchildren. Parents and grandparents regarded a strong work ethic as an important element in building a home that would withstand the winds and rains of weakness in character.

Turn back the clock! We are too prone to say with a wistful sigh, "Times have changed. It is a new day. Nobody does it that way any more."

Let us not fool ourselves. Times will always change because time marches inexorably onward.

And the truth cannot be denied. We have contributed to the changes. Christian parents and grandparents too often have been unwilling to take the extra effort in maintaining order and loving discipline. And if we are honest, we cannot blame the government nor the Supreme Court.

So what do we want, what is needed to strengthen the home, to turn back the clock to a more sane era for Christian homes?

Most Christians want a nation that is politically, spiritually, morally, mentally pure. We need a nation rebuilt on solid rock heritage, leaders that lead with courage and wisdom. The nation needs fathers who are strong in the Lord, filled with love and courage and eager to lead the entire family. America needs mothers who are disciplined to spend as much time as necessary to build homes of lasting value. We need children who care.

We need communities where homes are respected, honored, protected; where homes are put above political maneuvering. We need churches where the home is helped, assisted in nurturing every family member in The Way. We need churches which will saturate the homes with love and care, rather than offering a weak alternative to that keen desire for entertainment.

So what's wrong with Baptist homes in Tennessee? Nothing that can't be fixed. It should be apparent that the

home is under siege by the Prince of Darkness. He is real and he hates Christian homes. He hates them because they are (should be) the cauldron for molding Christian citizens — who will take a stand for all that is right in the church, the government, the schools, the workplace.

When parents do their job as God ordained, homes can and will do just that. Parents and leaders in every walk should stop moaning about school prayer and teach their children how to pray anywhere, anytime to a God that is Omnipotent and Omnipresent.

This means he is present in homes and in schools. He cannot be excluded, no one can prohibit or prevent a child from praying to him.

We must resist placing blame for our failures on schools and government. It is not easy, but parenthood was not intended to be easy. However, the strength of the Lord is present in the home — because he loves it. Parents are given pleasure, privilege, and responsibility for home life standards. These cannot be shirked.

So churches, set aside some days or weeks this summer to honor the Christian home. Make it a significant time of joy and dignity, learning and honoring.

Churches must find ways to let the home be the home. Often we give parents so much to do for the church and at the church — that sufficient time is not allowed for home life.

God give us Christian homes, yes, but God grant us courage, love, and wisdom to cherish our responsibilities. □

■ one word more  
By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
editor

## Going home again

Some people never experience the fulfillment of home. For one reason or another, they rest their weariness in places that really are not homes.

Others lay claim to the richness of relationships that only a home can provide.

To the weary one, home is a place of rest. To the hungry or thirsty, it is a virtual oasis in the desert.

To the wanderer, home is a place that asks no questions, makes no demands; it expresses no need for power. Home is a true expression of love.

Thomas Wolfe, North Carolina novelist, wrote about home life as he experienced it. One of his books is entitled, *You Can't Go Home Again*.



ALLEN

Regardless of intent, Wolfe left the impression it was difficult to return home after a long sojourn. His novels did not meet with hearty approval from Asheville citizens, including some of his relatives.

I think it would be a touchy situation to read uncomplimentary things about yourself in a book that is exposed to thousands of readers.

We visited the Wolfe boarding house in Asheville earlier this year — it is now a museum.

Tom Wolfe's real brother Fred, a character in one of the novels, took a less critical attitude about Tom's books.

It is said of him, "Fred spent the rest of his life content in being Thomas Wolfe's brother." That is humility.

That assessment reminds me of Andrew, the brother of the gregarious fisherman, Peter. Who was it that insisted that Peter get acquainted with Jesus Christ?

Who was it that was always bringing people to the Savior?

And yet, he was content to spend the rest of his days being Simon Peter's brother.

He had found his niche. He was comfortable in his private place of honor, an unknown soldier. He was a particular kind of hero.

I don't know whether Andrew ever "went home again." Fred Wolfe never really left. Anyway, being close to Christ is the best home. □

## ■ just for today

By Fred Wood  
pastor emeritus  
Eudora Church, Memphis

### Start with a Smile

Spence: "Cal sure doesn't know how to manage his money. He never has a dollar to spare." Spence: "You mean he keeps trying to borrow from you?" Spence: "I keep trying to borrow from him and he says he doesn't have any."

### Take this Truth

Maybe fellows like Cal are disorganized or maybe they're just smart!

### Memorize this Scripture

"If you promise to pay a stranger's debt, you will regret it. You are better off if you don't get involved" (Proverbs 11:15 TEV).

### Pray this Prayer

Lord, help me to be careful in my business dealings. Keep me from selfishness and lack of compassion. However, guard me from being naive and trusting everyone. Lead me to consecrated common sense. □

# The way men express grief

I am uncomfortable with some literature that focuses on gender differences. My discomfort comes mainly

because many things get attributed to gender differences when it is simply individual differences in people.

There are typically masculine issues that affect the way men grieve.

Grief occurs not only at death. Any loss in the life experience elicits grief experiences. It could be a move by a close relative, friend, yourself, job termination, or loss of health.

I was shocked recently by my grief when a favorite campground closed. We had been going there for 20 years and had many good times.

The actions I describe can be used only by women, especially if they were raised close to fathers or older brothers.

Men typically respond to losses of life with silence, solitude, legal action, compulsive activity, and stoicism. Women are typically more verbal and expressive with their emotions, including grief.

When a man has suffered a

## ■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor

significant loss, he often will not talk about it. The attitude is usually, "I can't do anything about it, so why talk about it."

It is as if talking about loss is a reminder of his inability to take charge and "fix" things in his life and family life.

Solitude is the second characteristic of the typically masculine grief process. This is sometimes called "secret" grief.

I remember, after 23 years, how much it hurt when people said that I must not have loved my father because they didn't see me cry at the funeral or in public.

Being the eldest son and feeling that I had the responsibility to maintain the equilibrium for the family, I didn't feel free to fall apart.

I did grieve his loss and still do today. I would love to talk with him and share things with him, especially my children.

Men have to "handle" their grief. This leads many of us to take legal action or physical action to

right wrongs that may have been associated with the loss. When this occurs it is important in the grief work of the man. He is not able to come to closure without it.

Some men lose themselves in physical activity that has nothing to do with the loss. It is a way of "taking the mind off the grief work." Norman Wright tells how he painted his house after the death of Matthew, his

handicapped son. Many men find such activity therapeutic.

Wright said he at first had no idea of what was going on, the house just seemed to need painting.

Stoicism or masking or denial of feelings also seems typical of masculine grief work.

Men are typically uncomfortable with anger, frustration, depression, etc. accompanying significant loss. They choose to cover these feelings with which they cannot cope. □



BARKLEY

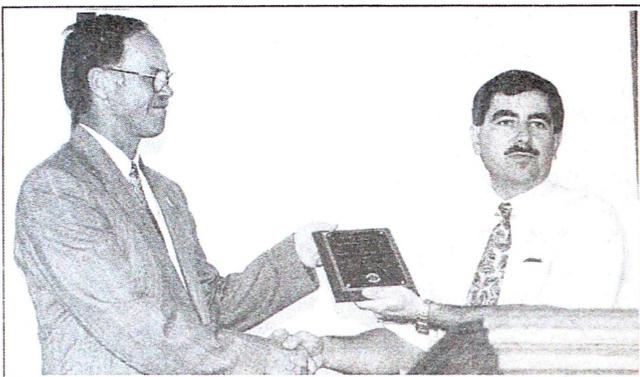
## Maynardville church observes sesquicentennial anniversary



**FORMER PASTORS AND PRESENT PASTOR** attending the sesquicentennial are, from left, Eddie Earl of Chatham, Va., who served from 1978-82; Bud Tipton, who served from 1970-78; Horace Dyer, who served from 1982-86; and Johnnie Beeler, pastor, who has served from 1986 to present, and who has resigned effective July 1 to become director of missions, Northern Association.

**MAYNARDVILLE** — To celebrate its 150th anniversary, Hickory Valley Church, Maynardville, had a special morning worship service June 11 and an afternoon gathering for music and remembrances by former pastors and the present pastor, Johnnie

Beeler. Beeler sang during the service and said he had not only seen the congregation grow in numbers but his nine years there had been the most wonderful of his life. Beeler has resigned to serve Northern Association (see story below). □



**EDDIE PERRY**, right, who served as director of missions, Northern Association, until April 7, and is pastor, First Church, Maynardville, represents the association as he presents a plaque to Johnnie Beeler, pastor, from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society.



**DEACONS JOIN PASTOR BASIL JONES**, center, to receive plaque from Tennessee Baptist Historical Society presented by John Parrott, right of center, director of missions, Holston Valley Association. Deacons are, from left, Leroy Klepper, Bill Davis, Wayne Robinette, Bill Shanks, Claude Parrott, and Bruce Fugate.

## Church in Rogersville celebrates 175 years

**ROGERSVILLE** — Hickory Cove Missionary Church, Rogersville, observed its 175th anniversary June 11. People from five states attended. Wilma Fugate, church clerk for 28 years, reported on the church's history, noting the church's building was moved twice to face a highway. Fugate also noted between 1850 and 1900, 136 members were excluded from the church for non attendance, lying, drinking, swearing, disorderly conduct, dancing, playing the fiddle, going to frolics, lewdness, profane language, fornication, selling spirits and liquor, and leaving

the county without his or her church letter. Fugate also recognized about 50 present members who had been members for at least 50 years.

Pastor Basil Jones said Jesus died for the church and Jesus assured Christians even hell couldn't harm the church. Fugate said she hoped the church would continue to represent hope to the community. □



**FORMER PASTORS AND A DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS** who spoke during the service include, from left, Mr. and Mrs. Clell M. King, who served from 1955-64, of Sevierville; Mrs. and Mr. Vernon H. Fielden, who retired from the church after serving from 1977-84, of Kingsport; and Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Stogner, who was director of missions of Holston Valley Association from 1955-64, of Rogersville.

## Weekday education training scheduled in Brentwood

A Church Weekday Education Conference will be held Aug. 12 at Brentwood Church, Brentwood. The theme is "Train Up a Child."

Program personalities include Jerry Cunningham, Tennessee Department of Human Services for Williamson County; Tim Garrington, State Fire Marshall's Office, Nashville; Randall Davis, Lassiter, Tidwell, Hildebrand Law Firm, Nashville; Cameron Byler, Baptist disaster relief consultant, Nolensville; Patsy Wilson, University of Mississippi; Carrie Lunsford, Caldwell Early Childhood Center, Nashville; and Pam Boucher, Sue Raley, and Mary Ann Bradberry, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. Tennessee church staff members also will teach sessions.

The conference registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the last session ends at 4 p.m.

For more information, contact Cindy Franks, Tennessee Baptist Convention, (615) 371-2082. □

## DOM retires, another named

Bill Hazelwood, director of missions, Cumberland Gap Association, for 26 years, will retire July 31. In Northern Association, Eddie Perry, a bivocational director of missions for five years, resigned April 7 to serve as pastor of First Church, Maynardville. The association has called Johnnie Beeler, bivocational pastor of Hickory Valley Church, Maynardville, for nine years as director of missions, effective July 1.

Hazelwood, a native of Martin, was named student worker at Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, and state missions representative to three counties in 1969. In 1970 he was named associational missions director of Cumberland Gap Association which he did along with student work until 1980 when he assumed the role of full-time director.

He has served as a chaplain's assistant in the U.S. Army and on the staff of the following churches — Sam



**HAZELWOOD**



**BEELER**

Houston Mission, Knoxville; Immanuel Church, Fort Worth, Texas; Arnett Church, Gatesville, Texas; Corinth Church, Decatur, Texas; Springlake Church, Paris, Texas; and East Brainerd Church, Chattanooga. He was a counselor at Tarryton Institute for Children in Knoxville. He also served in various roles in the association before leading one.

Hazelwood is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Hazelwood and his wife, Phyllis, will be honored July 9 at First Church, New Tazewell, at 7 p.m.

Perry works for the Knox Housing Partnership in Knoxville in addition to his denominational or church work. Beeler, the new director of missions, is project superintendent of Merit Construction of Knoxville. □



# Partnership Missions NEWSLETTER

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

Partnership Missions Department, TBC; P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024;  
Phone (615) 371-2021; FAX (615) 371-2014

## From the director

I want to thank you for your volunteer spirit! Hundreds are going this summer to Canada, Michigan, and Poland. I have already received some great reports about our volunteers.

As I am writing, I am traveling by bus with Fletcher Allen from Warsaw to Bialystok to visit our medical team. We have traveled thousands of miles, visiting with pastors, Baptist leaders, worshipping and sharing with Polish Baptists about what a partnership is and can be for us and them.

I am receiving new requests each day. I will return with some good requests for late 1995 and 1996.

Please call me if you have wanted to serve as a volunteer missionary in Poland and have not seen a project that you felt matches your gifts or talents. I will let the Baptist Union know of your interest to serve.

Please pray for Polish Baptists. They are viewed as a cult and have many hurdles and obstacles to overcome as they attempt to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. To be a Pole is to be Catholic. If you are not a Catholic, Polish people think you must be a foreigner. It is almost impossible for them to imagine a Polish person not being Catholic.

Let's respond to the Macedonian Call of our Polish brothers.

In Christ,

*Terry*

Terry W. Sharp, director  
TBC Partnership Missions

## Let us hear from you

We want to share your testimony and recognize you with a special partnership pin and certificate.

If you have gone to Michigan or are planning a trip, please let us know: Partnership Missions, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. ☐

## TBC president, minister of music return as 'blessed ministers' after revival in Canada

By Frank Hawkins  
TBC President

Each evening April 19-23, Bill Simpson and I had the privilege of leading the Dovercourt Baptist Church in a "Here's Hope" revival. Simpson is minister of music at First Church, Kingsport, where I serve as pastor. Patrick Milne is pastor of Dovercourt Church, located in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Our two churches prayed together, worked together, and witnessed together. The results were positive and visible.

There were approximately 25 decisions made during the week. Most of the decisions were rededications, but there were professions of faith, transferrals of church membership, and one decision to follow Christ in a full-time Christian vocation. Milne shared with Bill and me prior to the revival dates his hope that the church might experience spiritual



**TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION PRESIDENT Frank Hawkins, right, visited recently with Pastor Patrick Milne of Dovercourt Church during a 'Here's Hope' revival in Canada.**

awakening. That hope was realized according to his assessment and that of Dovercourt Church members.

Bill and I left Canada as

two blessed ministers for having shared in Tennessee Baptists' partnership missions program. You and your church can participate also. Opportunities abound in our tri-partnership ties with Michigan, Canada, and Poland. Experience is teaching us that partnership mission opportunities bring multiple blessings.

In the sending churches, they increase involvement, giving, and enthusiasm. In the receiving churches, they bring various forms of growth and a renewed sense of hope about their futures. In both sending and receiving churches, friendship ties are formed which bless across national borders.

I close with this suggestion: Consider the role you can realistically fill in partnership missions: going, giving, and prayer opportunities are open. Be involved and encourage other Tennessee Baptists to extend partnership hands, heads, and hearts! ☐

## Bivocational pastor ministers in northern Alberta

By Jay Austin  
For Partnership Missions Department

"God has been very good to me in giving me a very supportive wife, family, and church family," says Dick Hale, pastor of Worsley Baptist Church in northern Alberta, Canada. "There is so much yet to be accomplished for his kingdom."

Hale accepted Christ at the age of 12. At age 18 he sensed God was leading him to be a pastor. Hale followed God's call by studying at the Canadian Baptist Theological College for three years. He became involved with Faith Baptist Church in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where Henry Blackaby was pastor. During that time "God gave me many good experiences to prepare me as a pastor and for mission work," Hale said.

In 1984, Worsley Church called Hale as bivocational pastor. Hale's father once was pastor of that congregation and he had grown up in the church.

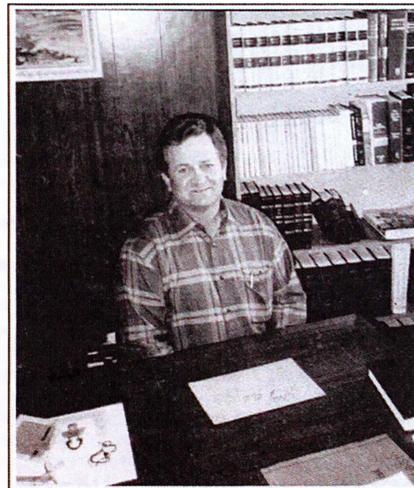
There are many challenges he faces as a bivocational pastor, he admits. There is a "tension between pastoring, farming, and logging. It is a challenge to maintain my personal growth and walk with the Lord." The church, however, is "good about volunteering and being supportive of God's work," he added.

Hale noted it is important "to keep priorities in the order that God desires, rather than letting cares and demands guide his life."

Hale and his wife, Shirlee, have six children ranging in age from 2 to 11 — Andrew, Aaron, Benjamin, Laurie, Melanie, and Michelle. Shirlee is a mom, homemaker, and bookkeeper.

"I am so thankful for our children and I appreciate their help. It sure makes a difference," she says.

Hale's goal is to "keep a mission vision and spirit and not become self-focused, thus leading people to grow and continue in the Lord's way." ☐ — Austin, program associate in the TBC Evangelism Department, participated in a "Here's Hope" revival in late April at Hale's church in northern Alberta.



**PASTOR DICK HALE relaxes in his study at Worsley Baptist Church in northern Alberta, Canada.**

## Reflecting on ministry in Michigan

The "Spotlight on Michigan" in the May 10 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* was a thrill for me for I was a member of one of those six churches that organized the Motor City Association in 1951.

We wanted to be affiliated with the SBC and to do that we had to affiliate through one of the southern states. Our pastors came to Tennessee and asked to be allowed to affiliate through this state.

They were told the state was just recovering from the depression and could not afford it. Kentucky also rejected us. One pastor's wife said, "Well we really can't blame them. After all, our pastors look like hayseed and not a one of them has an education." But they had something else. They had faith in God and a willingness to work.

Arkansas accepted us and sent us leadership in the person of Fred Hubbs. In a few years we had grown to 30-plus churches, and felt we were strong enough to have our own convention.

Dr. Courts Redford from the Home Mission Board and a number of other SBC leaders came to Detroit to meet with us and assess the situation. We were disappointed but not discouraged when they said we must have 50 churches before we could have our own state convention.

Oct. 31, 1957 was a red letter day for us, as we with 52 churches and 21 missions, became a state convention. I thank God for allowing me to be a part of it.

Since coming back to my home state of Tennessee, after having lived in Michigan for 36 years, I am now very glad that we have become partners in missions, and I'm gratified to see how the work there has grown since we left. Thank you for that "Spotlight on Michigan."

Rosa Nell Wallace  
First Church, Clarksville

## How to overcome generations of persecution

### Polish Baptists mix love with courage as churches break out of long 'winter'

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
Baptist and Reflector

WARSAW, Poland — There could have been some Tennessee Baptists who didn't know much about Poland when the Poland/Tennessee Partnership agreement was forged in November 1994.

But partnership volunteers quickly are becoming aware of history, culture, geography, and working together.

Partnership team members who came here in early June learned by listening, studying, working, and praying.

In short, we have learned that Polish Baptists are "for real."

The intensity of dedication to the local church is evident. Praying and ministering under minority duress is not easy, but it is a challenge to be conquered by Polish Baptists. They are doing just that.

Polish writer Wojciech Gielzynski says, "Poles may be East for the West and West for the East, but they themselves claim that they live in the very middle of Europe." Geography proves that, and perhaps its strategic location is the main reason Poland has been the victim of aggression so many times.

In a land of striking natural beauty and spectacular and venerable structures, the Polish people are "coming back" after the horror and devastation

of World War II and Soviet armed occupation for five decades.

The stubborn pride that initiated the workers' Solidarity movement also toppled Communist control in recent years. And it gave impetus to a rebirth of Baptist and other evangelical churches in Poland.

So this is Tennessee Baptists' first European partner in missions, and the first experience of European culture.

We may have difficulty with the extra letters in the Polish alphabet and the new sounds in pronunciation, but there is no difference in the need for Baptist ministry and witness in Tennessee and Poland.

Gielzynski also wrote that because of its choice geographical location and natural resources, "Poland experienced numerous victories and defeats during its history lasting over 1,000 years. Its border extended and shrank, its territory increased and decreased, it moved on the map and even disappeared from it for a moment!"

But now we find evidence that Poland and Polish Baptists are breaking out of that long winter.

The refreshing tactics of many Polish Baptist churches are enabling them to move forward with the Gospel of Christ. There seems to be a boldness in leadership and people.

Each team member will have oppor-

tunity to share experiences with other Tennessee Baptists in future issues of the *Baptist and Reflector*.

As noted in a related article (page 1), Partnership Missions director Terry Sharp and this editor traveled extensively with Marek Glodek, pastor of Elk Baptist Church.

Glodek's church is illustrative of those churches that are reaching out to people from all strata of life — including, as he tells us, alcoholics and drunks, drug addicts, and Gypsies.

Six years ago when Glodek moved from his native Warsaw to Elk, he found the church there almost desolate.

With the retired pastor's help,

Glodek began to clean the building from the unwelcome inhabitants. But, with the aid of some caring young people who began coming, he was able to reach for Christ some of those people whom he had had to evict.

Though membership at Elk is still less than 70 — and many of those are under age 25, the church

supports a missionary to Kazakhstan.

On a trip to Czestochowa, Glodek introduced us to Pastor Zbigeniew. The former Catholic priest and official in the bishop's office, now converted, is trying to plant a Baptist church there. This major city is the center of worship for the Cult of Mary in Poland.

He says the going is difficult, but he is determined to reach the thousands of lost people. The huge cathedral dominates the entire area, and many thousands of pilgrims come to worship Mary, the pastor says.

Tennessee Baptists will be able to link up with Polish Baptists for many Christian ministries in partnership. □



TALKING MINISTRY and strategy are, from left, Pastor Marek Glodek, Terry Sharp, and Pastor Zbigeniew, in a Czestochowa cafe. The city is without a Baptist church at present.

### Poland volunteers share testimonies

A nine-member team traveled to Warsaw, Poland, May 2-10, to work with missionary children during the mission meeting for Central Europe missionaries. Here is what some of them had to say about the trip:

"This was an incredible opportunity. I'll never forget the sights and smells of Warsaw, or Conrad, or the Polish man who graciously opened up his home to us. I now have a better appreciation for all missionaries."

Lori Mills

First Church, Smyrna

"Meeting the missionaries who serve us in Central Europe showed me what a family we

as Southern Baptists are. It was a joy to go with people who wanted to serve Christ. I pray God will give me the chance to return."

David Miller

DOM, Indian Creek Association

"The work we were involved in was to provide VBS for MKs. I shared teaching responsibilities for a class of nine boys, ages 9-12. It was a wonderful experience getting to know these children and sharing God's Word with them. They already know the Bible well; I learned as much as they did. The boys especially enjoyed soccer, making T-shirts, and 'hillbilly billfolds.'"

John Kirksey

Green River Church, Waynesboro

"The class I taught consisted of the 13-15-year-old MKs. They were wonderful. Our missionaries over there were absolutely great. They helped us to adjust to the culture shock by sharing what they had gone through. They also reminded us that the prayers of the people in the States is what gets them through hard times of adjustment. Thank God for those who stand in the gap. It was a great blessing to see what God is doing through his faithful servants. Thank you FMB, TBC, and Grace Church in Springfield. I thank God for the opportunity he gave me to serve him in Poland.

Cricket Baptiste  
Grace Church, Springfield



TEAM MEMBERS and MKs in Poland were, from left, front row, David Miller, Christopher and Ben Kirksey, Patricia Tolbert; second row, Dola Holt, Joyce Kirksey, Lori Mills; third row, Cricket Baptiste, John Kirksey.

### Books needed for Canadian seminary

The Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary is in need of books for their library. This would be a wonderful missions action project.

Please contact the TBC Partnership Missions Department at (615) 371-2021 if you would like a list of the books requested.

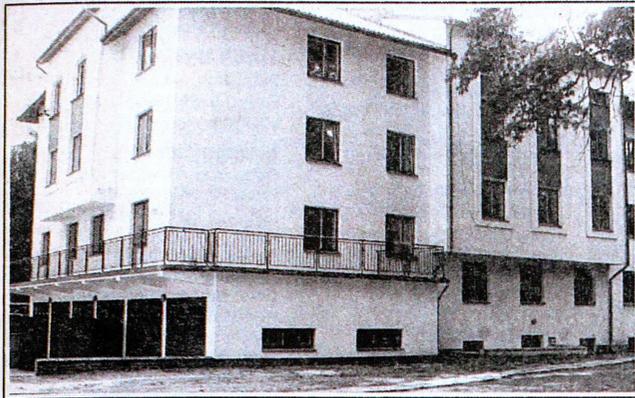


### 'Here's Hope' Michigan

Seven pastors and two ministers of music from Fayette and Haywood associations recently participated in 'Here's Hope' revivals in Oakland Association in Michigan. There were 22 professions of faith and other numerous decisions during that time. Fayette Association plans to return to Oakland Association again next spring. Participants were, from left, front row, Bob Campbell, DOM, Fayette Association; Rickey Burns, Williston Church; Charles Pratt, DOM, Haywood Association; Bill McIlwain, retired DOM; Chuck Long, Rossville Church; Eddie Little, First Church, Hickory Withe; Loyd Shelton, First Church, Pipe-ton; back row, Ralph Brown, Brownsville Church; Ralph Thomas, First Church, Oakland.

# ■ The Macedonian Call

## Polish, Tennessee Baptists gear up for partnership missions



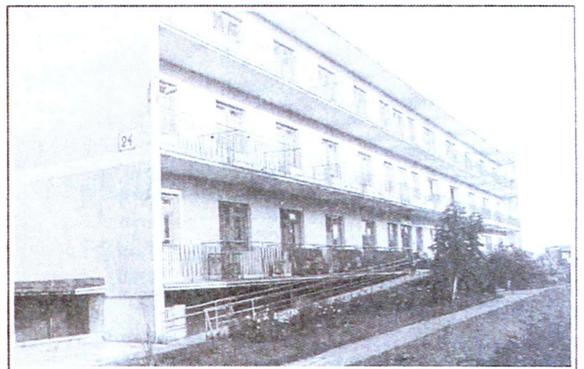
**DORMITORY AT Polish Baptist Seminary at Rodosc near Warsaw** houses students and some faculty. The seminary grounds await landscaping.



**POLISH BAPTIST LEADERS** with Tennessee volunteers earlier in June at Baptist House, Warsaw. Front from left, Cameron Byler, TBC; Cathy Sharp, Laura Bagwell, Anna Bailey, Sharon Adams, First Church, Smyrna; back row, Konstanty Wiazowski, Polish Baptist president; Terry Sharp, TBC; Ryszard Gutkowski, Polish executive secretary; Doris Large, Knoxville; Ewa Gutkowski, Polish women's leader; Katharine Bryan, TBC; and Marek Glodek, pastor at Elk Church



**AFTER MORNING** worship, congregation of Baptist church in Elk ready to greet visitors — especially volunteers from Tennessee.



**MAIN BUILDING** for senior adults at Bialystok, adjacent to church.



**MAREK GLODEK** shows building that needs repair.

## Health care team sees Polish needs

In early June, a health care team of five Tennesseans and one Texan journeyed to Poland, spending two weeks in Bialystok. Nashville physician Dewey Dunn, one of the group, wrote this story for the *Baptist and Reflector*. — Editor

The first Tennessee Baptist health care team served recently in Bialystok, Poland, where the Baptist church has more than ten doctors in its membership of 300.

We found this situation to be ideal for health care volunteers because housing is available in a Baptist senior citizens center adjacent to the church building.

In the center there is a dental office, a medical clinic, and pharmacy supplies. We were able to take with us many supplies for future health care work.

Bialystok is a good place to send teams initially. Persons who can go on a partnership trip can do projects in this area and there will soon be teams going to other places in Poland for medical evangelism and church planting.

The initial team included Dr. Bill Skinner, former medical missionary, Nashville; Dr. Jim Williams, Texas pathologist; Dr. Dewey Dunn, gastroenterologist, Nashville; Juanita Hall, veteran partnership nurse; Sterline McCoy, nurse and former missionary; and Gwen Huey, veteran partnership helper.

The team agreed the mission was productive

even though they could not set up health clinics this trip — that will come later.

Dr. Orest Hnidec, Polish gastroenterologist, arranged the team's schedule, and it was evident that the Lord actually directed this project. The week was like a revival spiritually and the learning curve was steep!

The team was impressed with Polish Baptists, the culture, history, health care system, and identified needs that Tennessee teams can help fulfill through partnership — physicians, dentists, nurses, physical therapists, pharmacist, ophthalmologists, optometrists, etc.

Specific requests are for teams in October, dentists with assistants at any time, and eye surgeons and optometrists as soon as possible.

Faculty is needed to lecture at the universities. There is a special need for a cardiologist in the Bialystok medical center. Patients are waiting for months for bypass surgery — some do not survive.

Williams and Dunn lectured at the university hospital. Skinner went a week early to meet and speak with the Polish Christian Medical meeting.

More information will be shared about this partnership team in a future issue. Tennessee Baptists can help now by sending used eyeglasses to the Partnership Missions office at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. □

# ■ The Macedonian Call

## Opportunities for service abound in Michigan, Poland, Canada

### Michigan

Editor's Note: Unless detailed information is given, see May 10 issue of *The Macedonian Call* for project details.

#### Student Teams

**Date: July 21-31**  
Location: Good Samaritan, Lawrence

#### Vacation Bible School/ Backyard Bible Club

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

#### Leadership Training

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

#### Vehicles

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

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

#### Construction

**Date: Summer '95**  
Location: St. Clair Shores (Lake Side Community)  
Project: Needs new roof 80 x 50 feet (church has money on hand for materials; would like to have a 3-4-member team to assist with work)

**Date: Summer '95**  
Location: Frankfort (Crystal Lake Church)  
Project: New church construction  
**Date: Summer '95**  
Location: Burton (Harmony Church)

Project: Construction of wood, frame educational building  
**Date: Summer '95**  
Location: Croswell (Croswell

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

**Date: Summer '95**  
Location: Munising (Superior Church)  
Project: additions to church  
**Date: Open**  
Location: Gaylord  
Project: inside improvements to church building  
**Date: Open**  
Location: Pontiac (Columbia Ave. Church)

Project: remove wood eaves and replace with aluminum eaves.

**Date: Open**  
Location: Newberry (Tahquamenon Church)

Project: Paint outside of church building

**Date: Open**  
Location: Kalamazoo (Trinity Church)

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

**Date: Open**  
Location: St. Joseph (Niles Ave. Church)

Project: remodeling  
**Date: July or August**  
Location: Adrian (Trinity Church)  
Project: rebuild planters attached to sanctuary; also interested in VBS.

**Date: Open**  
Location: Walled Lake (Commerce Pines Church)  
Project: new roof, remodeling

#### Project: Construction

Location: Portage, First Church  
**Date: Aug. 14-18**  
Interior Painting

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

**Date: Summer/Fall**  
Location: Warren (Dequindre Church)

Project: re-roof Educational Building

### Canada

#### Additional Team Members Needed:

**Date: July 31-Aug. 4**  
Location: Calgary, Alberta (Arabic Christian Fellowship Church)  
Project: Youth Camp: team will lead youth from church in all ministry areas.  
Additional Team Needed: 4 (especially need musicians, instrumentalists)  
Please contact Rev. Tommy Stephens, Meadow View Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg (615) 762-6686.

**Date: Open**  
Project #: FPIVS95609  
Location: Vancouver (Royal Heights Church)  
Project: Construction  
**Date: Open**  
Project #: FPI11995659  
Location: Vanderhoof (Maples Church)  
Project: Construction

**Date: Open**  
Project #: FPIVS95640  
Location: Surrey (Gateway Church)

Project: remodeling  
**Date: Summer '95**  
Project #: FPIVS95645A

Location: Fairview, Alberta

Project: Construction  
**Date: Summer '95**  
Project #: FPIVS95647  
Location: Calgary (Cambrian Heights Church)  
Project: Roofing

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

**Date: Open**  
Project #: FPI11995658  
Location: Headingley  
Project: Building/finishing repair  
**Date: Open**  
Project #: FPIVS95622  
Location: Cochrane (Bow Valley Church)  
Project: remodeling  
**Date: Open**  
Project #: FPIVS95627  
Location: Prince Albert, Sask (Little Red Reserve)  
Project: Purchase or build a mobile home to serve as a worship center in the reserve area.

#### Vacation Bible School/Backyard Bible Club

**Date: July 17-21**  
Project #: FPIVS95656  
Location: First Church, Williams  
**Date: Aug. 14-18**  
Project #: FPIVS95636  
Location: Prince George

#### Music Camp

**Date: July or Aug. '95**  
Project #: FPIVS95611  
Location: Vancouver (Towers Church)

#### Long Term Assignments

**Project: ESL Teacher**  
Length of Assignment: 1-6 months  
Location: Gladstone Church, Vancouver

**Project: Auxiliary Staff**  
Length of Assignment: 6 months - 1 year  
Location: Gladstone Church, Vancouver

**Project: Program Leadership**  
Length of Assignment: 1 year  
Location: Discovery Church, Regina, Saskatchewan

**Project: Restart Congregation**  
Length of Assignment: 1-2 years  
Location: Brandon, Manitoba

### Poland

#### Social Work

**Date: Nov. 9-19**  
Project #: PM11995440  
Locations: Warsaw-Bialystok-

Malbork  
**Date: Sept. 1-11**  
Location: Rudka

#### Youth Workers

**Date: Nov. 3-11**  
Project #: PM11995439  
Location: Warsaw

#### Evangelism

**Date: Aug. 31 - Sept. 30**  
Project #: PM11995435  
Location: Bielsko-Biala

**Date: Sept. 22-24**  
Project #: PM1995468  
Location: Gorzow Wielkopolski

**Date: Nov. 13-19**  
Project #: PM11995467  
Location: Gorzow Wielkopolski

Team Needed: 1-2  
Project: Bible training weekend for local church: Bible lectures on the topics of Christian life and the blessing of service.

#### Medical Projects

**Date: Fall '95**  
Project #: PM11995451  
Location: Malbork

Team Needed: 1-2  
Project: Medical examinations

**Long-term Projects**  
**Assignment: Geriatric Nursing**  
Project #: PM11995441  
Location: Bialystok

**Date: May 1, 1995 - May 1, 1996**  
(date flexible)

**Assignment: English Teacher**  
Project #: PM11995444  
Location: Chelm (Southeast Poland)

**Date: June 1, 1995 - June 1, 1996**

**Assignment: English Teacher**  
Location: Chociwel  
**Date: June 20, 1995 - June 20, 1996**

**Assignment: Church Planting**  
Location: Cieszyn  
**Date: July 1, 1995 - July 1, 1996**

**Assignment: English Teacher**  
Project #: PM11995443  
Location: Chociwel (NW Poland)

**Date of Assignment: June 20, 1995 - July 1, 1996**

**Assignment: English Teacher**  
Location: Gorzow Wielkopolski  
**Date of Assignment: Sept. 1, 1995 - June 30, 1996**

## Will You Be a Prayer Partner?

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

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

### Prayer Partner

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

ASSOCIATION \_\_\_\_\_

## Daily Partnership Prayer Requests June



- 22 — Pray for Eric Thompson and Bryan Currie, summer missionaries to Poland.
- 23 — Pray for the physical and emotional strength for all members of FBC, Guinn, Mich., after the closure of the Air Force base there in September. (85 percent of this church is military)
- 24 — Pray for Allen Schmidt, executive director of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists as he and his staff lead in Canada.
- 25 — Pray for the team from City View Church, Knoxville, as they work at Genesis Church, Centerline, Mich.
- 26 — Pray for Doris and Carlton Carter as they return from Poland after working in organizing the library at the Baptist Seminary in Poland.
- 27 — Pray for missionary Mark McNeil and his family as they serve in Poland.
- 28 — Pray for financial resources to complete the chapel at the seminary in Warsaw, Poland.

# TenneScene ■ the people, their work

## ■ the work

■ **First Church, Franklin**, will have mission groups working this summer in Guatemala, Ukraine, Colorado, and Indiana.

■ The youth of **Parkway Village Church, Memphis**, will do missions work in Tampa, Fla., for a week beginning June 24.

■ Volunteers from **First Church, Jackson**, will be working in Brazil June 15-28. While there, they will help construct a church building in the town of Santa Margarida. They also will conduct Bible schools and work in evangelism.

## ■ the people

■ **Loese Grisham**, church secretary, **Stones River Church, Smyrna**, was honored June 11 for many years of service.

## ■ the leaders

■ **Patty Dorosh** who has served as director of friends at **First Church, Jackson** for the past five years, has moved to Texas. The new director of friends, **Jenny Pruett**, began

work on June 5. Pruett is from Bradsford and is a graduate of Union University, Jackson. She also has taught public school.

■ **Edward B. Pullen Jr.**, has been called as pastor of **Cherokee Hills Church, Morristown**. He served **Thompson Church, Smithdale, Miss.** Pullen is a graduate of **Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City**, and **New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary**.

■ **Stones River Church, Smyrna**, honored **G. Ross Maroney Sr.**, pastor, and his wife, **Sara**, June 11 for seven years of service.

■ **First Church, Lexington**, has called **Richard Savage**, chaplain and counselor, **Hospice of Gaston County, N.C.**, as minister of education/outreach, effective June 5. He has been program director, **Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Chattanooga campus**, and minister of education, **First Church, Athens**. Savage is a graduate of the **University of North Carolina, Charlotte**, and **Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.**

■ **Mike Wilson** has joined the staff of **Sunnyside Church in Kingsport** as minister of youth/outreach.

■ **Steve Carver Jr.**, has been called as associate pastor



**AT THE RECENT 50TH ANNIVERSARY** celebration of **Lakeview Church, Harriman**, **Bill Bargiol, left, director of missions, Big Emory Association**, presents a certificate from the **Tennessee Baptist Historical Society** to **Gregg Kelly, pastor**. Former pastor **H.M. James** spoke at the event.

and youth director of **Northwest Church, Knoxville**.

## ■ the churches

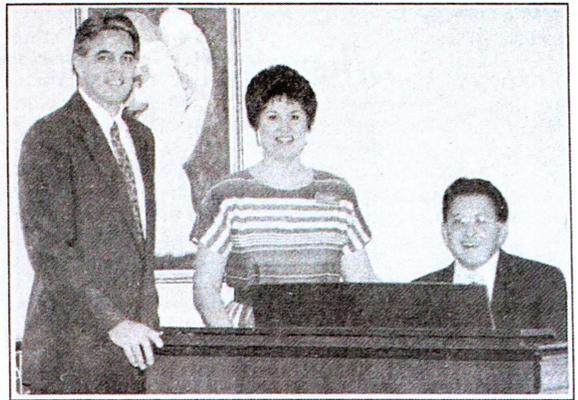
■ **First Church, Humbolt**, has begun an adopt-a-cop program. Employees of the **Humboldt Police Department** will be adopted for a year by a family in the church.

■ **Ivy Memorial Church, Nashville**, will hold **Vacation Bible School July 10-14** and **revival July 16-19**. **Henry Linginfelter, evangelist** based in **Alcoa**, will speak.

■ **First Church, Bethel Springs**, will host a **Blackwood Brothers concert** on **July 7 at 7 p.m.**

## ■ the associations

■ **Bradley Association** churches need volunteer piano players and music directors. They also need a secretary to work one or more days. Those interested can apply with the



**GIVERS AND RECEIVER** enjoy gift of organ from **Calvary Church, Lenior City**, to **Baptist Health Care Center in Lenior City**. **Roger Solomon, seated, minister of music at Calvary**, plays the organ, which is located in the center's chapel, while **Scott Cagle, left, pastor**, and **Cindy Wilmoth, administrator of the center**, listen.

association office at (615) 476-5493.

■ **The Bradley Association Woman's Missionary Union** participated in **Project Help: Hunger** by collecting 2,033 cans of food and \$520,60.

■ **Bradley Association** ranked seventh in the state in **Church Media Library study course awards**.

## ■ the schools

■ The sixth-sixth annual **Carson-Newman College**

**Preachers' School** will be June 26-30. **Evangelist Jim Dorriety** will speak on subjects including "Ministry Options that Time Doesn't Change." **Gary Farley, Home Mission Board**, will discuss "Advantages of Smaller Church Pastorates" and "Pastors of Churches in Appalachia," while **Dottie Williamson** of the board will address, "Do You Really Need Me, Lord?" Other speakers include **Ted Huckaby** and **Don Garner** of the school's department of religion. To register for the school, which is free, call (615) 471-3245.



**A RECOGNITION OF STANLEY JOHNSON, left, minister of music and education, Calvary Church, Kingsport**, for 17 years of service, involved, from left, **Marie Johnson, Paige Johnson Brooks, Tiger Brooks, and Greer Ruble, TBC Sunday School director**. Ruble presented several certificates to Johnson. About 300 people attended the event held at the **Sullivan Retreat Center**.



**BREAKING GROUND** for a new building are members of **Trinity Church, Cordova**, while **Pastor Earl Davis, center**, speaks. The \$3.6 million multi-purpose facility and be located in eastern **Shelby County**. The congregation meets at the **Cordova Community Center**.

# Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

## What is your God?

By **Chuck Doss**, youth intern  
First Baptist Church, Union City

What is your god? Better yet, what are your gods? Webster's *New Collegiate Dictionary* has several definitions. The definition I'm referring to is the one that says "an idol." The first and second commandments address gods and idols. We are not to let things come between us and our relationship with the Lord.

What occupies your time? What are

the things you feel are too important to do for you not to come to church? If it keeps you from a closer relationship with the Lord, for example, reading your Bible daily, devotions, prayer, and (maybe touchy for some) church attendance, it is a god! My challenge for you is to let the Lord be your God. Let Him be first in your life.

In Matthew Jesus tells us "Seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be given to you." These things are the riches and treasures we store up in heaven by being obedient to our Lord and Savior.

All the rewards on earth for faithfulness will be nothing compared to what our rewards will be in heaven. Let's all work together as one body of Christ to make God first. Be ready, the King is coming. Look up! ☐

## Homecoming

By **Bennie Morrison**, music director  
Harmony Baptist Church, Whiteville

We are people on the move. Looking back is not one of our virtues; hence, "coming back" does not hold the same

appeal as it once did.

The homestead where one is born and lives out his life is a rarity rather than the rule. The "old families" in a community may compose a very short list. In short, "homecoming" just isn't what it used to be.

C.C. Widmeyer tells of a homecoming feast prepared and waiting where a multitude of friends and loved ones are already gathered.

Jesus has a table spread where the saints of God are fed; he invites his chosen people to "come and dine."

I don't plan to miss that one! ☐

# Southern Baptists help Chechnya refugees

By Mike Creswell  
For Baptist Press

GROZNY, Chechnya — Baptists in war-ravaged Grozny, the capital of Chechnya, continue to minister despite the death and destruction around them, say two Southern Baptist missionaries who visited there.

Jack Shelby and Norman Lytle, both based in Moscow, visited Grozny and Vladikavkaz (also known as Ordzhonikidze), about 70 miles away, to evaluate refugee needs and the use of Southern Baptist hunger relief funds. They traveled with Michael Zhidkov, a Russian Baptist leader, and Boris Godunov, a Russian Baptist photographer.

The team made the trip in late April, but the report was only recently made available.

The visitors brought away vivid memories of bombed buildings, sniper fire, land mines, and bodies of victims

slain in the fighting.

Chechnya is a small, predominantly Muslim republic in the Russian federation located east of the Black Sea. Russian troops attacked when leaders there declared independence. Intense fighting has dragged on for months.

Before the fighting broke out, there were about 300 Baptists in Chechnya, about two-thirds of them in Grozny. Today only about 150 Baptists remain in the war-ravaged city. Two Baptist women, ages 60 and 80, were killed when Russian troops pounded the city with artillery shells. About 20 homes of Baptists have been destroyed.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appropriated \$50,000 in February to help war refugees in the region. The

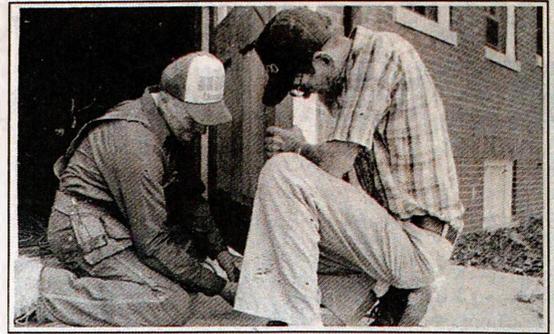
money — sent in five installments — is being used by Baptists in Grozny and by Vladikavkaz Baptist Church in Vladikavkaz and North Ossetian Christian Mission in Ossetia. Both congregations are led by Baptist pastor Peter Lunichkin. About 70,000 refugees from Georgia, Ingushetia, and Chechnya are in Ossetia, a state adjacent to Chechnya.

Shelby recommended the board send another \$50,000 after verifying the funds were being managed with integrity and that supplies are indeed reaching needy people. □

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## Tennessee Baptists assist SBTS

Kin Mosley, left, and John Chandler were among nine members of Haywood Hills Church, Nashville, who recently spent a week painting and doing carpentry work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. The Haywood team was organized by Associate Pastor George Horton. — Photo by Tom McDonald

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**DOM SEARCH:** Cumberland Gap Association will accept resumes for the position of Director of Missions through July 31. Resumes may be sent to Danny White, chairman, 710 Robin Drive, New Tazewell, Tenn., 37825.

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## Life and Work Series for June 25

**Focal Passages:**  
**Acts 28:16-17a, 23-26,**  
**28, 30-31**

## Being a faithful witness

By Chuck McElhannon

Paul's experiences in Acts 28 are reminders to believers that God will always provide opportunities for sharing our faith, even when conditions are less than ideal. Based on his own circumstances in Rome, the Apostle Paul would say, with regard to not witnessing, "No excuse is a good excuse!" Paul shows us that a faithful witness can overcome unfavorable circumstances (vv. 16-17a).

Upon arriving in Rome, Paul was placed under house arrest. Even though he wasn't "jailed" in a typical prison cell, he still wasn't allowed to come and go as he pleased. Yet Paul remained undaunted in his mission to share the Gospel. If he couldn't go to the people, he would invite the people to come to him!

It may have worked for Paul, but the church today cannot afford to sit back and wait for the lost to come. Paul had no choice but to make the best of his unfavorable circumstance. Why should Christians today create their own hindrances by limiting our witness to those who happen to attend our church services? A faithful witness will also persevere in the face of rejection — v. 23.

Paul continued to reach out with the Gospel to his Jewish brothers, even though he had been rejected by them time and time again, in city after city. Paul was not willing to give up on them just because of a few rejections. He understood the value of persistence.

Our denominational outreach experts tell us that research indicates that it takes an average of 13 invitations before a prospect will visit a Sunday School class. We shouldn't give up just because people don't respond favorably the first time we try to reach them. A member of a men's Sunday School class in our church kept inviting a friend to Sunday School. He called him every weekend for several years. Every week the friend would say, "I'll think about it," but never came to Sunday School. After quite some time, the friend said, "Don't give up on me. One of these days I'll be there!" Today that man is a strong believer, a faithful Sunday School member, and active deacon in our church — all because one man persevered in his efforts to reach him. Third, a faithful witness will accept a mixed response — v. 24.

Some accepted Paul's message, others didn't. Those who turn away should not discourage us from reaching those who will accept the Gospel. My goal was that no couple whom I married would ever get divorced. The very first couple I married stayed married less than two years. My goal is not to be perfect, but to be faithful. The same holds true for our witnessing efforts. Faithful witnesses will seek those who will listen — vv. 25-26, 28.

Paul understood that God's grace is not limited to one group of people. If the Jews were going to stubbornly refuse the Gospel, Paul would simply turn to a more receptive people, the Gentiles. The only categories we can choose are receptive to the Gospel or unreceptive. Finally faithful witnesses will triumph over obstacles — vv. 30-31.

Paul may have been limited in his personal freedoms, but his ability to witness knew no restraints. For the faithful witness, there is no such thing as an obstacle that cannot be overcome! □ — Chuck McElhannon is pastor of Valley View Church, Nashville.

## A day of good news

By Brian Courtney

Psalm 46:1 boldly declares, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Is that true? Does God help the family that is breaking up or help the pastor who is terminated from a church? Is God concerned with the plight of the poor and helpless or with struggling churches and ministries? The most basic question seems to be: Is God relevant?

### The situation — II Kings 6:24-33

King Benhadad's siege of Samaria has created a famine. The famine has devastating results. It has created an economic crisis (v. 25) which drives up prices to the disadvantage of the poor. Second, the king of Israel is helpless to cope with the crisis (vv. 26-27). Third, the famine has led to cannibalism (vv. 28-29). While most do not face such acute famines, there are other famines just as real. What about famine of spirit, ethics, faith, and boldness? A lack of these can cause famine as real as physical famine. Is there any help?

The king of Israel asks the key question: "Why should I wait for the Lord any longer?" (v. 33). In other words, why expect help from God? Is he really going to help in this crisis? Is he relevant to this situation? This is an age old question that is still being asked. Is God relevant? Or, is God a reality from another era?

### The prophetic word — II Kings 7:1-2

Now the prophet speaks (v. 1) and history in Israel begins when the prophet speaks. Elisha's word shatters despair and brings hope to famine. The prophetic word offers an alternative to famine. It opens a new possibility. It is a word beyond the hopelessness of the king. Elisha's word suggests that God will do this. The prophetic word states that God is relevant.

But verse 2 reveals doubt on the part of the king's captain. He dismisses Elisha's word as nonsense and dreaming. And the prophet rebukes him for his lack of

faith. The captain may dismiss the prophetic word, but he can't stop it. In fact, his punishment will be that he can see God's work but he can't participate. His descendants are still alive! They believe God is not relevant. Which way is it? Is God relevant or not?

### Fulfillment of the prophetic word — vv. 3-20

These verses report the radical way in which Elijah's word comes to pass. First, in verses 3-8, lepers, unclean and disqualified, enter the Syrian camp and find it vacant. Why? God has acted (v. 6). The lepers plunder the camp of food, silver, gold, and clothing. This is fulfillment of the word of verses 1-2.

Second, in verses 9-16 the lepers report their findings to the king of Israel. The king acts cautiously and finds the lepers' words to be true. But what is important is that all the action — enemy fleeing, lepers' plans, and the king's plan — all participate in the fulfilling of God's Word. God's Word to the prophet will have its way.

Third, verses 17-20 bring the fulfillment of God's Word. The famine is stopped. Poor people regain advantage. The doubting captain perishes. God's Word is not mocked. God helps the people in their crisis. The new alternative suggested by the prophetic word, God's Word has come.

The king's question (6:33) poses the issue, "Why should I wait for the Lord any longer?" In other words, is God relevant? The answer in verses 1-20 is this: God is relevant! The text suggests that God rules and offers a new possibility which people can't give. The text invites people to wait, hope, expect, have faith, and believe God's promises which may happen even by the unclean and disqualified, like lepers. Is God relevant? Is God "... a very present help in trouble?" What does the text say? □ — Brian Courtney is pastor of First Church, Sneedville.

## Convention Uniform Series for June 25

**Focal Passage:**  
**II Kings 7:1-9**

## Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection

By Thomas Vinson

Many years ago there was a movie about a man who visited earth from another planet. He came as a friend and brought with him a great number of books. Instead of a friendly reception, the people of earth were afraid of him, ended up killing their visitor from another realm, and burned his books. The last scene shows a man retrieving one burned page from the fire. The only legible words are the title: "Cures for Cancer."

He came to help and they killed him. He brought answers to their greatest questions, and they refused to listen. He came to bring hope from another world, and they rejected it. What a parallel to the way the world treated the Lord Jesus. The difference is that the Gospel version isn't fiction. Thank God his death is not the final chapter.

Someone has well said that Jesus was born in defiance of the laws of life and raised from the dead in defiance of the laws of death. The truth of the resurrection has a prominent place in the New Testament. Christianity is in reality a faith of the resurrection. Hundreds of years before Mark wrote his Gospel Job asked the question: "If a man die shall he live again?" We find the answer to that question in today's focal passage on the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pilate asked the most important

## Bible Book Series for June 25 Focal Passages: Mark 15:25-27, 33-39, 46; 16:2-6

question that anyone can ever address: "Then what shall I do with Him whom you call King of the Jews?" (ch. 15:12). This is a universal question. All of us must answer it individually. Our text for this lesson gives us several insights into this important question.

It was a personal question. "What shall I do?" No one could answer it for Pilate even though several tried. His spouse couldn't answer it for him (Matthew 27:19). The spiritual leaders were unable to answer it for him (Mark 15:6-11). Society at large tried to answer it for him as they shouted "crucify Him, crucify Him" (Mark 15:12-14). And amazingly the Savior wouldn't! (Mark 15:5).

Not only was the question personal, it was about a person. "Him whom ye call King of the Jews" v. 12. Pilate meant the statement to be facetious but Mark would have us to know it is true. The question for Pilate was: "Is he innocent or guilty? Will he live or die?" You and I face the question of what we will do with the person of the crucified, buried, but resurrected Jesus Christ. The crowd that day mocked and spit upon him. Our temptation today may be simply to ignore him.

Either response signals an eternity of despair and separation from God.

This was also an urgent question. It required an immediate response from Pilate. No doubt Pilate wished for more time to ponder the consequences of his decision. Paul put it this way: "Behold now is the time and today is the day of salvation" II Corinthians 6:2.

Lastly, it was an inescapable question. Mark, in concert with the other Gospels, reveals a pitiful attempt by Pilate to sidestep this issue. He tried sending Jesus to Herod (Luke 23:6-12). He tried having him scourged in hope this would appease the Jews. He even offered them a choice of releasing Jesus or the known murderer (Luke 23:25) Barabbas in hopes they would choose to release Jesus. Pilate was convinced of Jesus' innocence (John 18:6). All his efforts failed. So will all of ours. You cannot avoid the question by delay or indecision. B.B. McKinney expressed this dilemma of Pilate in the following words: "What will you do with Jesus? Neutral you cannot be: ... Some day your heart will be asking: 'What will he do for me?'" □ — Thomas Vinson is pastor of Leawood Church, Memphis.

## Former Baylor head Abner McCall dies

Baptist Press

WACO, Texas — Baylor University President Emeritus Abner V. McCall, who grew up in a Fort Worth orphanage and became one of the most influential figures in Texas' academic, religious, and political life, died June 11 at his home in Waco.

McCall, 80, served as president of Baylor University from 1961-81. Appointed in 1956 to an interim term as associate justice of the Texas Supreme Court, McCall was affectionately known on campus and throughout the state simply as "the judge."

McCall was a past president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and was first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1979. He was honored by the convention the following year for refusing to allow Baylor coeds to pose for a Playboy magazine "Girls of the Southwest Conference" feature. McCall was defeated, however, one-year later when he was nominated for the SBC presidency, challenging incumbent Bailey Smith. □

## Heated debates mark hearings on religious liberty amendment

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — "Spirited discussion" marked the first two in a series of congressional hearings on whether an amendment to the U.S. Constitution is needed to protect reli-

gious freedom, a Capitol Hill aide said.

In hearings at Washington and Harrisonburg, Va., strong opinions on both sides were expressed. Proponents of an amendment said it was needed to protect the right of people to express religious beliefs in schools and other public places. Opponents charged an amendment is unnecessary and would damage religious liberty.

The hearings apparently are designed to provide the foundation for the introduction of a "religious equality" amendment which some conservative and Christian organizations have been formulating.

The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission supports the ratification of an amendment to protect religious expression but has not committed itself to a specific proposal. The Baptist Joint Committee, the SBC's former church-state representative, opposes an amendment. □

## Building project in Bulgaria threatened

Baptist Press

SOFIA, Bulgaria — The city government of Sofia has moved one step closer to confiscating property where Baptists were building a school, orphanage, and church.

In its most recent action, Sofia's mayor and city council referred an investigation of the Baptist project to the Commission for Education and Culture, which claims to be hostile to it.

Sofia is the capital of Bulgaria, one of many Eastern

## BSSB to offer own version of 'Calvin and Hobbs'

By Chip Alford  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Beginning in October, the Baptist Sunday School Board will offer "Calvin and Hobbs."

No, the Southern Baptist publishing house isn't getting into the comic strip business; it's just making available adult Sunday School commentaries by Calvin Miller and Herschel Hobbs.

Miller, a best-selling Southern Baptist author, speaker, and seminary professor, will be featured in a new audio commentary on adult Life and Work Sunday School lessons.

Released quarterly, "Sound Truths: Life and Work Bible Studies on Tape" will consist of original comments, insights, and applications written and recorded by Miller. Each session will be

10-12 minutes in length.

Miller is professor of communications and ministry studies and writer-in residence at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He is the author of 30 books, including *The Singer* and *The Song*.

"We wanted to offer a product that provides the convenience of an audiocassette and substantive commentary on Sunday School lessons," said Rick Edwards, manager of the BSSB's adult biblical studies section.



HOBBS



MILLER

The new product replaces "Life and Work Pursuits: Cassette Tape Edition," an audio version of Sunday School lessons designed for adults 35-54.

October marks the beginning of the 28th year of Hobbs' commentary, *Studying Adult Life and Work Lessons*. One of the BSSB's most popular products — it generates sales revenue of almost \$1.5 million annually — the quarterly publication is being renamed *The Herschel Hobbs Commentary* with the previous moniker as a subtitle.

"Most people refer to it as the Hobbs' commentary anyway," said Ross McLaren, a biblical studies designer at the BSSB. "He's had such an impact on Southern Baptist Bible study, we felt it was time to name the product in his honor." □

European nations struggling with the responsibilities of freedom after decades of communist rule.

Former communists, who now call themselves socialists, control much of the government there and align themselves with the powerful Bulgarian Orthodox Church bloc. Baptists are not held in high regard in the country and negative rumors continue to circulate against Baptists there.

The Baptist Union of Bulgaria and Sofia Baptist Church secured necessary documents and approvals before beginning construction in 1994.

Records show the union received a lease for the property in 1992 and won a permit to build on it in 1993. Baptists already have spent about \$175,000 on the project. □

## Baylor president responds to alumni

Baptist Press

WACO, Texas — Baylor University President Robert B. Sloan Jr. has responded to a group of 17 alumni challenging the university's ties to the testing of the controversial abortion pill RU-486.

The alumni group is concerned about the testing of the abortion pill by the Houston-based Baylor College of Medicine.

Sloan framed his June 1 statement by noting there are "several areas of confusion I would like to clarify."

Sloan noted the medical college's charter provides for 25 percent of its board to be elected by Baylor University's board of regents. "Obviously, Baylor University cannot change the charter, which is granted by the state of Texas, of the Baylor College of Medicine," Sloan said.

Sloan said it was the college's legal right "as the Baylor College of Medicine to use the Baylor name, contingent only upon their retention of accreditation."

He added that he understands the pill research is "being conducted on a contractual basis by one faculty member" and is not "an institutional

project" of the Baylor College of Medicine.

Sloan emphasized Baylor's historic opposition to elective abortion is the same as that adopted by the Baptist General Convention of Texas: "In exceptional instances, based upon informed individual decision, abortion may be the appropriately chosen response to endangered life of the mother or in cases of rape or incest. Even in these situations, the decision should result from prayerful consideration of all factors." □

## Celebration to focus on Baptist volunteers

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Southern Baptists from around the country will meet to celebrate volunteer missions work this September in Arlington, Texas.

The meeting not only will recognize previous volunteer accomplishments, but also educate potential volunteers about missions needs, said event coordinator Bob Mills.

The event will be held at the Arlington Convention Center Sept. 15-19.

Last year, more than 13,100 Southern Baptists volunteered for foreign missions work while nearly 69,000 Southern Baptists volunteered for home missions work.

Registration costs is \$40 per person, excluding meals and lodging. Three-day meal packages are available in advance for \$58. For more information, call 1 (800) HMB-VOLS. □

## Pastor discovers cordless phones not always private

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Think your confidential telephone conversations are private? Better think again if you have a cordless telephone, says a Mississippi minister who found out the hard way.

The minister, who wishes to remain anonymous, recently used the cordless telephone in his residence to share some personal matters with a longtime friend and confidant in another state.

He had no idea that a local electronics buff was using his sophisticated equipment to listen in on the radio waves being transmitted by the cordless telephone. A friend came to him a short time later and told him his conversation had been overheard.

The minister was even more shocked when he learned specific details of the conversation had been spread around town by the electronics buff.

"I was in the den of my home when the conversation took place, and this guy picked it up on his scanner five miles away. I can't describe the feeling of violation, that someone in

my community would sit there and listen to other people's conversations and then go out and talk about it," the minister said.

Many people don't understand that their cordless telephones, while convenient, operate on radio waves that can be snatched out of thin air, said Gene Dobbs, a Mississippi Baptist Convention staffer and a licensed amateur radio operator for 27 years.

Dobbs noted each component of a cordless telephone has a transmitter and receiver. "Anyone with a receiver or sequential-type scanner can listen in," Dobbs said, adding that cellular telephone work in much the same way.

"There are a lot of people out there who get a great deal of satisfaction from listening in other people's conversations," Dobbs observed.

That's a point the violated minister won't soon forget. He called local police and the telephone company, only to discover it is not illegal to intercept radio waves. He has since converted all the telephones in his house to the wired variety that plug directly into the wall.

His advice to cordless telephone owners? "Don't use them — any time," he said. □