

Baptist and Reflector

July 19, 1995

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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In Nairobi, Kenya

Thousands accept Christ during massive crusade

By Linda Lawson
For Baptist Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — As individuals and in small groups and massive crowds, Kenyans in recent days have heard clearly and repeatedly, "There is hope" in Jesus Christ.

Since early June, leaders of 100 Baptist churches in the greater Nairobi area — helped by 500 Southern Baptist volunteers and Foreign Mission Board missionaries, staff, and trustees — have conducted an intensive evangelism effort in east Africa's largest city.

The emotional and visual focus of the six-week Greater Nairobi Evangelistic Crusade in and around the Kenya capital city was a five-day open-air revival meeting in a downtown park. About 100,000 people — including Kenya President Daniel arap Moi — attended its final service.

Teams now have begun following up thousands of people who have indicated a desire to become Christians. The teams will work to organize and strengthen new churches resulting from the crusade.

Final figures likely won't be available until the end of July, but will likely reveal 10,000 to 12,000 individual responses to the Gospel and about 100 new

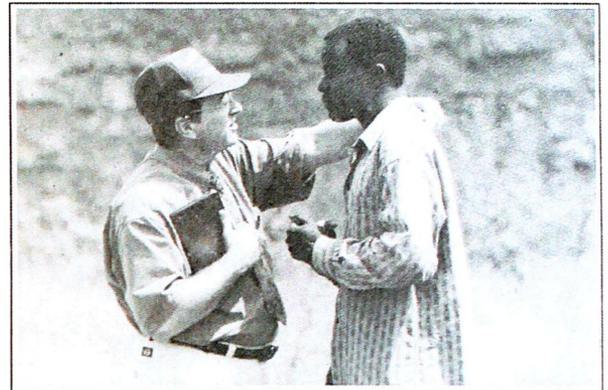
Baptist churches established during the crusade.

Early records from the crusade show 50 new churches started in the city and 50 more in three adjoining associations, said missionary Clay Coursey.

Kenyan and Southern Baptist leaders believe the project will have lasting effects on Baptist work in Nairobi and surrounding communities.

The project incorporated training, evangelism, and follow-up phases in an effort to move the Baptist Convention of Kenya toward its goal of tripling the number of churches from 2,000 to 6,000 by the year 2000. In Nairobi alone, about 5,300 people made professions of faith in street witnessing and in mini-rallies at 21 locations during the three weeks leading up to the revival in Uhuru Park.

During the week of the June 28-July 2 crusade, 514 people prayed to become Christians. More decisions were registered the week of July 3 as Kenya Baptists and Southern Baptist volunteers followed up on responses. Volunteer Jimmy Draper, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board and honorary crusade chairman, noted cards were filled out on most people who made professions of faith.



BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD President Jimmy Draper witnesses one-on-one with a Kenyan man in the Nairobi neighborhood of Kajole. About 5,300 people made professions of faith during the Greater Nairobi Evangelistic Crusade. Draper served as honorary chairman of the crusade. — Photo by Roy Burroughs

The downtown crusade drew several thousand each of the first four days. President Moi attended on July 2 and hosted a two-hour worship service that morning for govern-

ment officials, Kenyan Baptist leaders, and Southern Baptists at his official residence in Nairobi. Moi is a professing Christian and a member of the — See Thousands, page 2

Committee seeks missions director

Nominations for director of the Missions Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, will be received through Sept. 15.

Nominations should be sent to the State Missions Director Search Committee, TBC, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

Wendell Boertje, Knoxville, is chairman. All nominations will be reviewed carefully by the committee. □

Regular Bible readers report higher satisfaction, study shows

Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK — People who read their Bibles, attend church, and value their relationship with God are more satisfied with their lives than those who don't, according to a recent survey commissioned by the American Bible Society.

According to the study, most Americans are either very satisfied (53 percent) or somewhat satisfied (40 percent) with their overall quality of life. However, people who prioritize spiritual and moral values are more likely to be "very satisfied" with their lives than those who don't read the Bible, attend church, or prioritize moral living.

Fifty-eight percent of respondents who read the Bible at least once a week reported being very satisfied with life, compared to 49 percent of those who read the Bible less than once a year. Fifty-nine percent of those who attend church once or more a week reported high satisfaction, compared to 46 percent who don't attend church.

The study also revealed that people who prioritize their relationship with God reported higher satisfaction with their family (72 to 64 percent), friends (70 to 61 percent), job (40 to 33 percent), physical condition (35 to 32 percent), and financial situation (27 to 21 percent). □



Celebration

These ladies from Zion Hill Church, Turtletown, dressed in attire similar to what their ancestors wore 150 years ago to mark the church's sesquicentennial. From left, are, Betty Collins, Glouretta Hughes, Janet Swallows, and Carolyn Hughes. Many other churches across the state are celebrating significant anniversaries this summer. For more about Zion Hill and others, see pages 6-7. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

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

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Printed on recycled paper

To be available in fall

Schools to get religious rights guides

For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Declaring the First Amendment “does not convert our schools into religion-free zones,” President Bill Clinton announced an initiative by his administration to provide guidelines on religious expression to every public school district in the country before the start of the fall term.

While the president did not express an opinion on a proposed “religious equality amendment,” administration officials said after Clinton’s July 12 speech he opposes such a proposal.

In a 39-minute speech on the state of religious liberty in the country, Clinton said some school officials and parents mistakenly believe the Constitution “forbids any religious expression at all in public schools” and some Americans believe the government has an “anti-religious bias.”

“I am deeply troubled that so many Americans feel that their faith is threatened by the mechanisms that are designed to protect their faith,” he said, according to a transcript of his speech.

“Americans feel that instead of celebrating their love for God in public, they’re being forced to hide their faith behind closed doors. That’s wrong. But some Americans have been denied the right to express their religion, and that has to stop.”

“When the First Amendment is invoked as an obstacle to private expression of religion it is being misused,” he said. “It’s especially important that parents feel confident that their children can practice religion. Wherever and whenever the religious rights of children are threatened or suppressed we must move

quickly to correct it.”

While he called the occasions rare, Clinton acknowledged some students have been prevented from reading the Bible silently in study hall, some students have been stopped while praying over lunch, and some student religious organizations have been prohibited discriminatorily from publicizing their meetings.

Under the First Amendment, the president said, the following religious expressions are allowed in schools: Private prayer by students; individual prayers over lunch; at times, students praying together aloud; equal treatment of student religious clubs; individual reading of the Bible or other religious books; teaching about religion; student expression of religious beliefs in homework and class presentations; the right to distribute religious literature; the right to wear T-shirts with religious mes-

“That’s not something that can be said about most of the GOP presidential candidates,” Smith stated.

“We must also recognize that the speech is part of a larger attempt to rehabilitate the president’s image among evangelicals and social conservatives who are deeply troubled about this administration’s advocacy of radical social policies, especially in the area of abortion and homosexuality,” said Smith, who attended the speech at the White House’s invitation.

It was the third speech in a week Clinton had given on values in the American culture.

The directive Clinton announced instructs Secretary of Education Richard Riley and Attorney General Janet Reno to inform all school districts about the administration’s interpretation of the status of permissible religious expression in public schools, including interpretations of the Equal Access Act, which provides religious clubs with the same access to school facilities as secular clubs. His directive is based largely on a joint document released in April by such organizations as the American

Jewish Congress, Baptist Joint Committee, Christian Legal Society, American Civil Liberties Union, National Association of Evangelicals, and National Council of Churches.

In a prepared statement from staff members who attended the speech, the Baptist Joint Committee said, “Education is the key. The president’s speech today elevates the public discussion of these matters to the highest levels and will result in greater public awareness of an appreciation for our first freedom — religious liberty.” □

Wherever and whenever the religious rights of children are threatened or suppressed we must move quickly to correct it.

— President Bill Clinton

Thousands accept Christ during massive ...

— Continued from page 1
African Inland Church.

Attendance in many participating churches tripled during the preliminary phases of the project, said missionary Jack Yates. Four days into the crusade on Sunday, July 2, many churches began holding two services for the first time in their history to accommodate the crowds.

Draper said he thinks “the follow-up will be incredible.”

With his wife, Carol Ann, and other volunteers, Draper worked three days during crusade week in the middle-class Nairobi neighborhood of Kayole. He walked the streets witnessing and conducting daily noontime rallies with Kayole Church pastor Mark Owino. The next week they witnessed and led follow-up studies with new Christians in Kibera, a sprawling slum.

In 1990, Draper led an evangelistic effort in the coastal city of Mombasa, where more than 50,000 people responded to evangelistic witness during mass rallies and crusades. “This has been so



PREACHING TO THOUSANDS in Nairobi’s Uhuru Park as part of the Greater Nairobi Evangelistic Crusade is Ed F. Johnson, at right in pulpit, a pastor from Greenwood, S.C., through interpreter Andrew Puli, left. The final service of the five day crusade on July 2 drew about 100,000 people, including Kenya President Daniel arap Moi.

different,” he said. “Here it has been one or two (decisions) at a time” in the neighborhoods.

Still, “Kenyans are so responsive,” he added. “They’re hungry to know the truth.

They believe there’s one God. Too many just don’t know who he is.”

Samson Kisia, chairman of the Baptist Convention of Kenya, said the major purpose

was to start new churches and gain new members, which has been successful. Also, he noted, the project was to enhance the image of Baptists in Kenya. □

Jewish evangelism conference held within sight of Bethlehem

By Mike Creswell
For Baptist Press

JERUSALEM — Reach Jews for Jesus?

The very question can start arguments, especially in Jerusalem, the Holy City which will celebrate the third millennium of its existence later this year.

But Jewish evangelism was a passionate topic when about 175 evangelists, pastors, teachers, and other church workers from six continents met here in late June. They attended the Fifth International Conference on Jewish Evangelism held by the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism.

The conference is a branch of the larger Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization which encourages Christians to evangelize the world.

They met without incident

at a hotel conference center within sight of the village of Bethlehem, though organizers prepared for potential protests. Little publicized to avoid attracting local attention, the conference was the first held in Israel since such meetings began in 1980.

Half a dozen Southern Baptist representatives in Israel took part.

Conference participants heard some three dozen papers on topics related to Jewish evangelism. Some contrasted first century church life and New Testament teachings with today's scene, especially in Israel, where Messianic Jews who follow Christ are growing steadily. About 40 Messianic Jewish congregations across Israel now have several thousand members.

Many believers of Jewish background say they are trying

to be true to New Testament teachings as they maintain a distinctively Jewish identity while following Jesus, or "Yeshua," as they call him in Hebrew.

Among their distinctives: They use the word "congregation" instead of "church"; worship on Saturdays, mostly in homes; and avoid denominational labels. They have only a loose affiliation among themselves and most lean toward charismatic worship styles.

Only a few members follow Jewish dietary laws, but most observe Jewish holidays with a New Testament interpretation reflecting Jesus' influence.

Jewish evangelism has become a global phenomenon. A conference statement, adopted with only one abstention, rejoiced at the growth of Jewish evangelistic efforts in South Africa, Russia, and Asia. □

Ceiling of Memphis church sanctuary collapses; no one hurt

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — The ceiling of the sanctuary of Audubon Church here caved in June 6 causing about \$300,000 worth of damage.

Luckily, no one was in the room, reported Tom Huls, minister of education, because they would have been hurt. It happened either Tuesday night or Wednesday morning.

The arched ceiling was damaged by thunder and a nearby lightning strike during a storm, the church's insurance company, Preferred Risk, determined. A construction company has begun repair work, which will take about four months, reported Huls.

He suggested churches check their insurance policies to determine if they include coverage for a collapse and if that coverage is limited to storm damage, as Audubon's was. Huls advised churches to add insurance to cover metal fatigue or structural problems.

The church also has learned that the ceiling design is not uncommon for church's built during the early 1970s. It was a one inch plaster ceiling which weighs eight pounds per square foot, the reason pews were damaged in the collapse, Huls added. Audubon moved into the sanctuary in 1969.

Worship services are being held in the church's Family Life Center, Huls said. □

WMCs still key after 51 years

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — For 51 years World Missions Conferences have succeeded in putting faces on the worldwide ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention.

But the best is yet to come for the WMC concept, predicts Myra Book of the Home Mission Board staff.

"It continues to be the best tool Southern Baptists have in telling our mission story," Book said. "WMCs show how Southern Baptists are working together in taking the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world."

World Missions Conferences were held in 161 associations (including nine in Tennessee) in 1994, with 3,344 churches, and more than 824,000 people participating in the program, which originated as Schools of Missions in 1944. Last year's WMCs also produced 228 professions of faith and 322 commitments to missions involvement at home and abroad. Among other things WMCs provide Southern Baptists personal contact with their missionaries and stresses the biblical basis of missions.

WMCs are a joint effort of the Home and Foreign Mission boards, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission, and state conventions. □

WMU expands product line with CBF-related supplements

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Woman's Missionary Union announced July 12 it will produce "missions education supplements" for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The supplements, according to WMU, will "accompany selected existing WMU materials for churches wanting to study the work of missionaries appointed by the Foreign and Home Mission boards and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship."

The announcement came a week before the CBF's annual general assembly July 19-22 in Fort Worth, Texas — and less than a month after the Southern Baptist Convention formally added an affirmation of WMU to the sweeping denominational restructuring adopted June 20 in Atlanta.

WMU's decision to produce the new materials, to be available for every age level by early 1996, follows actions adopted by its executive board in January 1993, one of which states WMU will "produce resources for Southern Baptist groups involved in missions at their request." The board reaffirmed that decision during its June 17 meeting in Atlanta.

According to Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director, the decision to publish materials for churches affiliated with CBF, an organization of Baptist moderates opposed to the SBC's conservative leadership, falls in the same category of WMU production of a Mis-

sion Friends product for Korean Baptist churches. WMU has been and continues to be involved in negotiations with several Baptist groups in North America about the production of tailor-made missions education resources, according to the WMU announcement July 12.

"We are aware that our decision to produce materials in cooperation with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will concern some Southern Baptists," O'Brien said. "But we hope and pray that all Southern Baptists will see this decision as the fulfillment of our commitment to meet the needs of local Southern Baptist churches."

Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, voiced a different assessment in a July 12 statement: "This announcement is astonishing. In light of WMU's strong appeal to have its loyalty to the SBC recognized in the restructuring report adopted just last month in Atlanta, I am disappointed. The decision of the national WMU leadership to customize materials in support of the work of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship — the Southern Baptist Convention's most vocal critic — will be regretted throughout the SBC."

O'Brien noted in the WMU announcement that churches wanting these new materials would have to specifically order them. "No church or individual will receive these materials unless requested,"

she said.

"In addition," she continued, "our magazines, including our new *Missions Mosaic*, along with *Dimension*, *Accent*, *Aware*, *Discovery*, *GA World*, *Share* and *Start*, will include information about Foreign and Home Mission board-appointed missionaries only." The supplements, she explained, will be designed to accompany WMU's coed missions education materials, which like the periodicals named above, center on the work of FMB and HMB missionaries. Churches wanting to include the CBF-related information in their missions education programs would have to order the coed materials and the supplements in order to have a blended plan, she said.

"Again, churches or individuals who normally order our coed materials will not receive the supplements unless they specifically ordered them," O'Brien stressed.

Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis said July 12, "I discussed this issue with Dr. O'Brien by telephone yesterday and expressed my desire again that WMU would continue its historic role of supporting only the two Southern Baptist mission boards. She did indicate the new line of materials will be generic missions study materials which could be used by any group desiring to support Christian missionaries."

"She said the generic materials could be customized for a group like the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. However,

Dr. O'Brien assured me the customized materials will not appear in any publications which SBC churches routinely receive from WMU."

Lewis also said. "WMU has also assured us that none of the funds which the Home Mission Board sends to WMU will be used to support development of the generic or customized materials."

FMB President Jerry Rankin was in South America visiting with missionaries and was unavailable for comment July 12. Spokesman David Button said the FMB did not have a response to the WMU action "at this time."

WMU's willingness to help Southern Baptist groups — and other evangelical groups — in producing missions education materials grows out of its desire to encourage and equip individuals to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ," said O'Brien and WMU President Carolyn Miller.

Miller noted that "our effort is to win the world for Christ," adding that "Southern Baptists cannot do it alone. We need to recognize that we share the responsibility with other evangelicals."

O'Brien agreed. "The Foreign Mission Board has led us to see that we can and we must partner with other evangelical groups to fulfill the Great Commission. In this day when millions die without knowing the offer Christ makes for eternal life, we must find new and more inclusive ways of sharing the Gospel." □

Assures family therapist

Your children aren't possessed; they're teens

By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — The most emotionally intense ages of adolescence — 13 to 15 — may lead some parents to wonder if their children are possessed by evil forces, a child and family therapist joked with music ministers and their spouses during Church Music Leadership Week at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

"We can walk out of a hospital with a newborn child and not have to have any sort of license, like we do for cars and other things," observed Barry McCarty, a therapist in private practice and member of South Main Street Church, Houston.

And while a license to steer teenagers might sound appealing to parents who are frustrated with unpredictable, uncharacteristic behavior from a once-loving child, church staff parents may well have a more difficult time with their teens.

The pressures associated with being part of a church staff family can bring incredible social, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual pressure on a teen who felt the need for super performance before physical and emotional changes began.

"It can make them more rebellious, or the rebellion may be put off and emerge later," McCarty observed.

"Watch where they are stressed out," he urged. "We need to cut our expectations, telling teenagers, 'You can't be perfect at everything. We want to take the pressure off you.' Encourage them to choose one area in which to excel, and if other things can be done with enjoyment, continue those without the pressure to be perfect. We have to model that too," he added.

Among factors affecting teens, according to McCarty, are:

- hormones going crazy, coupled with tremendous

physical growth.

- intense feelings.
- a radically changing body and self-image.

- increased sensitivity to peer opinion/pressure.

- a school format changed from one teacher to several, along with a range of different subjects.

- feelings of insecurity and extreme self-criticism.

- sexual thoughts that both frighten and excite.

- fantasies about romance.

- girls are already adult size and shape, while some boys are mature and others are clumsy.

- in many ways, they are still children.

- slights and rejections are a big deal.

McCarty offered suggestions to help harried parents survive their teen's transition toward adulthood:

- try not to take their moods personally.

- break through their walls with humor and games.

- have adult conversations.

- treat them as adults, but expect them to act like children.

- compliment them on their mature moments.

- don't expect them to be part parent to younger siblings.

- think of creative ways for them to pay off mistakes.

- cut them some slack; don't confront every behavioral infraction.

- do not give up.

"Don't build your lives around your teenagers. Invest in peer relationships," he urged. "It is important to have old and new friendships. Have dinner with another couple and agree not to discuss your children for at least two hours.

"Go for rides to get away from the house and the teenagers," he advised. "In a few years they'll be doing that to you." □

Readers, help us celebrate; send us letters

Aug. 20 is a special day on the Tennessee Baptist Convention's calendar.

That's the day of recognition for the state paper, *Baptist and Reflector* Day.

And, while we won't try to fill up the paper with complimentary letters, we do want readers to write brief messages of a congratulatory nature.

We think congratulations are in order for a paper that is 160 years old — that is significant. Write us.

The letters will be used in the Aug. 16 issue of the paper, and Aug. 9 is the deadline for receiving them.

We also remind Tennessee Baptists, especially churches not currently subscribing, of a special offer.

At your request, we will send enough Aug. 16 papers for church members — to those churches who request them.

So send or call your request for the Aug. 16 issue, and plan to recognize the paper on Aug. 20.

Don't forget:

1. *Baptist and Reflector* Day for Tennessee Baptist churches is Aug. 20.

2. This year, 1995, is the 160th year of the paper.

3. Write a letter for the Aug. 16 issue, to arrive in our office by Aug. 9.

4. Enjoy the special features relating to the paper's 160 years, throughout the rest of this year.

5. Write or call about your need for copies of the Aug. 16 issue.

6. Use the papers and other information (from our office) to celebrate *Baptist and Reflector* Day. □

Nashville Baptist on panel

Experts ponder ways to fight media violence

Associated Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Violence in the media poses a crisis for America's children, noted experts invited to a July 10 public policy forum in Nashville by Vice President Al Gore.

The Family Re-Union Conference, Gore's fourth annual conference on children, included thinkers, psychologists, lawyers, and representatives of the entertainment industry.

"With only some dissent, experts agree there's a link between TV violence and aggressive behavior," Gore told an audience of 800.

The issue of violence in media "represents a national public health problem,"

said Jerry Hickson, a Nashville pediatrician and member of Woodmont Church, who sat on a panel discussing how to protect children in a free society.

"We tend as a society to focus on portrayed acts of violence" on television, in music, and in movies, Hickson said, adding he is more concerned about the effects of a "general and systematic lack of respect for the individual" in all kinds of media.

Some media messages portray humans as objects for pleasure while others view them only as consumers, Hickson said. "It's all part of the same process that the media has not done the job we ought to do in promoting the value of the individual and respect for authority."

Hickson said he is opposed to censorship, but would favor industry sponsored rating systems, similar to the one used now for motion pictures, to help parents make decisions about other media messages as well. Parents must "be empowered to make choices" about media violence, Hickson said. "That choice may be they need to deny themselves some of the media participation that might be harmful to their children."

Panelists proposed a series of solutions to the problems including looking to the Federal Communications Commission to more aggressively regulate shows oriented toward sex and violence and getting producers or advertisers to subsidize quality shows to avoid cancellation. □

National WMU leaders thank Tennesseans for support

We would like to thank Tennessee Baptists and the staff of the *Baptist and Reflector* for your expressions of support in recent weeks. Your prayers, telephone calls and letters of encouragement, along with your appeals to members of the Program and Structure Study Committee and other Southern Baptist Convention leaders on our behalf, reminded us once again of your love for missions and confidence in Woman's Missionary Union.

We are grateful for the amendment to the PSSC report which affirms WMU's historic relationship as an auxiliary to the Convention and welcomes its continued contribution through prayer

support and missions promotion. Our special thanks to Roy Smith, executive director of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, for presenting and endorsing the amendment and to messengers for their nearly unanimous approval of it.

Events of the recent past have helped rekindle the missions fire in the hearts of women. Evidence of this is the large attendance at WMU Week (June 24-30) at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center where 2,165 women of all ages responded enthusiastically to the introduction of our new adult organization, Women on Mission, and its

magazine, *Missions Mosaic*, along with changes in our other age-level magazines and curriculum pieces.

The overwhelming affirmation of Southern Baptists for WMU and its role in the local church indicates that there is indeed a place for WMU. We commit to our churches and the Father whom we serve, that we will give our best efforts to producing magazines and other missions education materials that will equip all Southern Baptists to minister to a lost and hurting world.

Carolyn Miller,
WMU National president
Dellanna O'Brien,
WMU executive director
Birmingham, Ala.

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests July



- 19 — Pray that Tennessee Baptists will respond well to the many projects available in the partnerships.
- 20 — Pray for the team from East LaFollette Church, LaFollette, as they conduct Vacation Bible School and Backyard Bible Clubs and do survey work in Sanford, Mich.
- 21 — Pray for the team from First Church, Livingston, as they return home from missions work in Novi, Mich.
- 22 — Pray for the construction team from Grace Church, Knoxville, as they travel today to Kamloops, Canada.
- 23 — Pray for Missionary Mark McNeil and his family as they work with Polish Baptists.
- 24 — Pray for the evangelism team from Loudon Association as they travel to Radom, Poland, today.
- 25 — Pray for Terry Sharp, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership Missions Department as he works with our partnerships.

Another big anniversary is coming soon

When the Southern Baptist Convention met in Atlanta last month, Tennessee Baptists helped messengers and friends celebrate 150 years of lively ministry for the Lord.

We all had something about which to express pride, to demonstrate anew our allegiance to Christ, and we had heroes of the faith to honor.

The passing of W. Fred Kendall is another reminder of our Baptist heritage. Dr. Kendall authored a timely history of the Tennessee Baptist Convention for its centennial in 1974.

His book, *A History of the Tennessee Baptist Convention* is a sequel to the wellknown *Early Tennessee Baptists*, written by O. W. Taylor and published in 1957.

Taylor, former editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*, had reported on the pioneer Baptist beginning and subsequent growth. His book is filled with anecdotes and notations from early church days.

Kendall, in an interesting fashion, tied together missions and ministries of Tennessee Baptists' first hundred years.

When Tennessee Baptists have their 125th anniversary in 1999, those years will be recorded in a third official Tennessee Baptist history.

The Tennessee Baptist History Committee is projecting such an important volume and it will be met with excitement. What will be said about Tennessee Baptists, the Volunteers?

The third volume which will take us

through the 20th century, must bridge the centuries, taking us into A. D. 2000.

And since the *Baptist and Reflector* is in its 160th year, Tennessee Baptists will be reminded of the major role the paper and its editors have played in convention growth since before the convention began in 1874. A series of features may be developed into our own history. It is a worthy project. We too have heroes.

A quantum leap has propelled the Tennessee Baptist Convention into a world vastly more complex and indifferent than the world faced by the frontier Baptists of 1874 — or even the modern volunteers of 1974.

Since Dr. Kendall's book was published, Tennessee Baptists have sent thousands of short-term missionaries to a score of foreign lands, to our sister state of Michigan, and to a partnership network with six foreign nations on five continents.

There are more churches and many more baptisms. Surging Cooperative Program giving has helped strengthen Baptist ministries in Tennessee and around the world — as Southern Baptists have answered God's call to missions and evangelism.

Of course a story that will fill the many pages of an action-packed book cannot be told in this short space.

But it is true that any story of Tennessee Baptists must be told in grand style, and it must be interesting enough

to capture the hearts and awaken the dreams of us all.

A story that will survive "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" must emphasize the grand scheme of God at work in Tennessee — but it must also tell about our weaknesses.

Where we erred, let the truth be known. Where we exalted Christ by planting churches, building congregations, discipling Christians, and crossing frontiers old and new — let it be told.

From the exciting days when those pioneers marched boldly into untamed country and claimed it for Christ — until the present when we can trace down by computer where unsaved people live — we must tell it.

Perhaps Tennessee Baptists' story of this last quarter of the 20th century can be wrapped up with a Bold Mission Thrust that merits recording.

What we do before our 125th birthday, and before the turn to the 21st century could be our best years.

We do not live in an age where cowards thrive. There are forces that have caused the world to put on a mask of hardness, brutality, selfishness.

What we do as Tennessee Baptists in the next five to ten years can have a positive influence on a world that is desperate for the grace, mercy, and love of a Savior that is very much alive.

Shakespeare said in *The Tempest* that the past is prologue. If so, let the past of Tennessee Baptists show the way brightly and quickly into a waiting future. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Trauma and drama

Most of us probably have had unexpected events in our lives that have scuttled our "best laid plans."

We have reached a noble level of maturity when we face those moments unabashed and continue to enjoy life despite the handicap of dark and heavy drama.

It is best not to let the trauma supplant the drama of life.

All of us have written birthday greetings admonishing the honoree to "enjoy this day; it belongs to you," or something similar.

I discovered on my most recent birthday that that message is trite and false. First, the day belongs to God, as do all the days. Second, the day belongs, in part, to those events and/or people who interrupt the day.

A good portion of my birthday three weeks ago was spent in a mammoth traffic jam on an interstate highway — about three hours of it.

We were headed for a family reunion in South Carolina, when we rounded a curve and there it was. Instead of the usual Great Smoky Mountains scenery, we spotted the longest line of cars we had ever seen in that place.

It didn't get better for a long, long time. But we decided fuming and fidgeting wouldn't help. We wheeled off I-40 and got a full gas tank to keep the car and air conditioner functioning.

We survived. What a way to spend a birthday. I groaned to myself — while smiling to Betty, daughter Melody, and granddaughter Michaela.

Waiting for us at their home in Columbia, S. C., were daughter Jennifer, son-in-law Bill, and their boys. They greeted us warmly — then carefully told us my brother Fred was hospitalized in Columbia. He and Helen had come from Corpus Christi, Texas — and before the reunion began, he had had a heart attack.

Let me wrap it up. While he was hospitalized, we had some great visits. God blessed in every conceivable way. Fred is at home now, recuperating. Yes, the birthday was at first a washout, but traffic jams and blocked arteries don't make or break the day. There's more, we'll share that later. ☺



ALLEN

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

History professor: "Joe, what did Frederick the Great, Attila the Hun, and Richard the Lion-Hearted have in common?" Joe (arousing quickly from a nap): "Uh...er... They all three had the same middle name."

Take this truth

Who is your role model? Is this the same person who was your role model two years ago? Five years ago?

Don't lose faith in God because you lose faith in, or respect for, one of his servants. Everyone is human and, therefore possesses "feet of clay." Worship God not — his servants or spokespersons.

Memorize this Scripture

"Let no man glory in men... Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas...ye are Christ's" (1 Corinthians 3:21,22).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me never forget whom I worship. Keep me from using anyone as a "crutch" in shunning responsibility for my own actions. □

Children and aggression

Most parents are at sometime concerned about the aggressiveness of their children.

I would like to take some time today to think about what triggers aggression in children and how parents can teach their children to effectively deal with aggressive tendencies.

We live in an aggressive age. The TV, movies, and almost all segments of society encourage us to be aggressive.

Perhaps it would be wise to distinguish between aggression and assertiveness again.

Simply stated, aggressiveness is when I demand your space and assertiveness is when I demand my own space.

Parents may be guilty of triggering aggression in their children by reinforcement.

If the child gets his own way or gets what he wants by aggression, the parent is reinforcing the behavior.

I am afraid that some of what we do with our children reinforces the belief that nice guys finish last.

Some aggression is triggered by frustration.

When the path to some goal or desired destination is blocked, aggression may be

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

the expected result.

Children frustrated by their inability to perform tasks can become aggressive.

A child who wants to play ball with big brother may react in an unhealthy form of aggression to compensate for his inability to do so.

Another real trigger for aggression is imitation. Young children especially play the "monkey see, monkey do" game.

Parents who resort to aggression or even brag about their aggressiveness may be triggering the aggression that they see in their child.

TV may be one of the leading triggers of aggression in children.

A study done in Boston a few years ago followed 427 children and found that the best predictor of aggressive behavior in adolescents was the amount of violence and aggression that they watched on TV as a child.

Admittedly this is correla-

tional data and may only report that those with more aggressive personalities chose to watch more aggressive

TV as children and act more aggressively as adolescents. Even so the kind of TV our children chose to watch may be an indicator of the aggressiveness they will express.

I would like to suggest three ways that parents can teach their children to properly deal with aggression.

The first is by the example they set before their children. As with most lessons in life, the lesson is easier caught than taught.

The second thing that parents can do is set higher standards. Children have an amazing way of either living up to or living down to the parents' expectations.

The final way I would suggest for parents to deal with aggression is to point out appropriate models.

We live in a day without many heroes. Parents need to constantly be on the look-out for people whom they can point their children toward. □



BARKLEY

Philadelphia Church, Waynesboro, celebrates 150 years

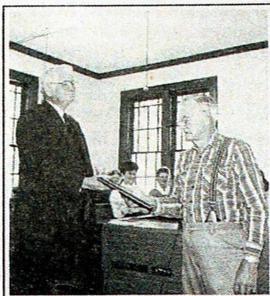
For Baptist and Reflector

WAYNESBORO — The year was 1837. To help some Baptists in the Philadelphia community, a group walked five miles through the woods from Indian Creek. The six people they later met wanted to start a church.

They did start a church and soon the small group was meeting in a nearby school building and eventually built their own building. More than a century later (1941) a 10-day tent revival was held with 40 conversions and 19 baptisms.

Today, reported Russ Davidson, chairman of deacons who presented the history at the July 2 sesquicentennial celebration, the "church of brotherly love" is "grateful for the commitment of our forefathers and is striving to carry out the work of the Lord in

our community." To do that, Davidson added, church stewardship includes giving 7 percent of gifts to the Cooperative Program and an equal amount to Indian Creek Association..



RUSS DAVIDSON is recognized for 31 years of service as a deacon by Ed Gardner, pastor.

Pastor Ed Gardner recognized Elliotte Davidson Brown, who is the longest living member, Joe D. Brown, for serving 30 years as music director, and Davidson.

Tom Madden of Murfreesboro, former Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director, told the church it had cast a long shadow of influence across the state. □ — Connie Davis



RECOGNIZED DURING THE CELEBRATION were, from left, Tom Madden, former TBC executive director from Murfreesboro; David Miller, director of missions, Indian Creek Association; Ed Gardner, pastor; and former pastors Tom Mosley, pastor of Bellshire Church, Nashville; and Harold King, associate pastor, First Church, Muscle Shoals, Ala.



THE ALLEY FAMILY, from left, Sheila, Darren, Michelle, and Jeff, wore their old fashioned style clothing to church.

Group from First Church, Nashville works in Canada

For Baptist and Reflector

Seven members of First Church, Nashville, traveled to North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, recently to remodel a church building there.

The team was hosted by members of Westlynn Church. Its pastor, David Maltzberger, who had recently moved there from Texas, was motivating the church and the Nashville team saw it grow the two weeks they were there.

The team remodeled an area where offices, corridors, and bathrooms existed. The office of the

Korean Baptist congregation, which meets at the site, was moved to a new location. Members of the church helped do the work. A "work day" was held as well as a picnic.

Other activities held included a dinner for the association. The Tennesseans learned many Canadian Baptists are internationals. They met people originally from China, India, and Korea. And during the meeting they heard Alan Schmidt, the executive director of the Canadian Baptist Convention, speak about the work, including efforts at the Canadian Baptist seminary. □



WEARING THEIR T-SHIRTS FROM VANCOUVER are members of the team from Nashville, from left, E.J. Vidrine, Bob Jones, Clayton and Frances Jeannette, and Ethelene and Cecil Palmer. Cecil Palmer was team leader.

Jonesborough team of 18 does missions in Brazil

For Baptist and Reflector

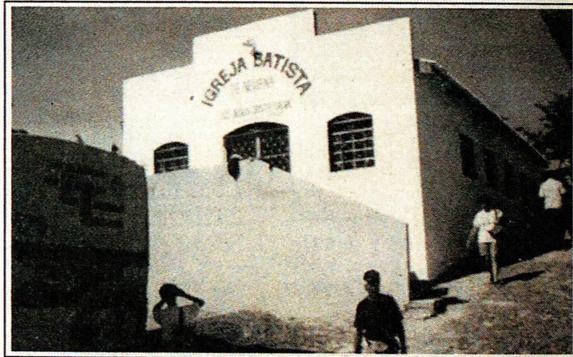
Louise Deakins of Gray said it was sad to go to Brazil for the first time since their missionary daughter, Sherry Akins, 47, died suddenly there Dec. 4.

With some emotion in her voice she added, "We're glad we went," referring to her and her husband, J.E. "I was just glad to have a part of the work that she helped to start."

The couple didn't go to Brazil for the funeral since Akins' death was sudden. It was believed to have been related to complications from scleroderma, a disease that can cause chronic hardening of the skin and organ systems. A service was held at Sulphur Springs Church, Jonesborough, where her parents are members.

This summer the couple helped lead a missions team from Sulphur Springs to Akin's home, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, to build a church. It wasn't the couple's first visit to Brazil. A few years after Akins her husband, Wade, and three children were assigned there in 1982, the Deakins visited. Then in 1992 they joined members of their church and Calvary Church, Kingsport, to build a church in the area.

Deakins explained Wade Akins directs the church building projects in the area.



NORTH AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS walk by the church built in Minas Garais, Brazil, by a Jonesborough team during June.

This trip drew 18 members of Sulphur Springs Church, but they weren't the only ones who worked. The church, which has an average of 130 in worship, held bake sales, garage sales, and hosted meals to raise the \$40,000 for the trip, which covered construction materials for the church. They worked June 15-27 in Minas Garais, Brazil, completing a chapel for Niviana Baptist Church. The Tennesseans also witnessed with puppets and clowns on the streets, and ministered in the local school.

Hundreds of people were saved at the dedication service of the chapel, reported John Turner, pastor.

"I'd go back again," said Louise Deakins, even though all three of her grandchildren will have left home by September to pursue careers or attend college in the U.S. □

Zion Hill dedicates 150th anniversary to pioneers of church

For Baptist and Reflector

TURTLETOWN — Zion Hill Church's July 2 150th anniversary celebration was dedicated to the memory of the "pioneers of this church."

"They're in a better place than we are," said Robert Hughes, who chaired the committee which planned the special service and who compiled a history of the church.

The church's first building was a 25x35-foot log cabin and out-grew that facility in about six months, Hughes reported.

The church has since occupied two other buildings, including its present facility which was first occupied in 1944. Several improvements have been made since and a parsonage was added since then, he said.

Hughes reported that in the early history of the church there were several Indian settlements around Polk County and membership records indicate some of the Indians were members of the church.

Pastor G.W. Mathis remind-

ed members the church "is here to share the Gospel. The main emphasis of this church is the Word of God," he said.

Former pastors who spoke included Dennis Waldrop, pastor of Balm (Fla.) Church; John Newman, pastor of Hi-

wassee Union Church, Reliance; Charlie Ivey, retired pastor, Crossville; and W.L. Shipman, director of missions, Polk County Association.

Originally a member of Polk County Association, Zion Hill is now a member of Copper

Basin Association. It is the oldest church in the association, according to Al Patterson, Copper Basin director of missions.

Patterson presented the church with a plaque on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. □



JOINING IN THE celebration at Zion Hill were, from left, former pastors Dennis Waldrop, Balm, Fla.; John Newman, Reliance; current pastor G.W. Mathis; and former pastors Charlie Ivey, Crossville, and W.L. Shipman, Benton. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey



COPPER BASIN ASSOCIATION Director of Missions Al Patterson, right, presents a plaque to Zion Hill leaders, from left, Mike Whitlow, deacon chairman; Robert Hughes, anniversary committee chairman; Pastor G.W. Mathis; and Zona Davis, Zion Hill's oldest active member.

Dickson congregation celebrates 100th anniversary on July 9

For Baptist and Reflector

DICKSON — "Because He Lives" was the theme of Sylvia Church's 100th anniversary celebration here on July 9.

Pastor Thomas Webb thanked the Lord for the past, but emphasized to the congregation that they must focus on the future.

Several former pastors spoke during the morning service and urged members to continue pressing on for the Lord as a new century approaches.

A special video presentation was shown from former pastor Dale Ledbetter, now a South-

ern Baptist missionary in the Ukraine.

According to Ruthelma Warf, who compiled the history of the church, it was chartered in 1895 and its first building was dedicated three years later. A new building was constructed in 1949. Several improvements have been made since, including the expansion of the sanctuary, library, church office, and basement classrooms, which were dedicated June 11.

Truett Association Director of Missions William Gray presented the church a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. □



PASTOR THOMAS WEBB, center, of Sylvia Church, Dickson, displays a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. With him are deacon chairman Neal Westerman and Ruthelma Warf, who compiled the history of the church.

Nashville youth minister on Scottish island

By Brian L. Garland
For Baptist and Reflector

TIREE, Scotland — Tiree, an island off the west coast of Scotland, may not be the first thought of where a mission team might want to go, but five Nashville Baptists decided to give it a shot last month.

Randy Deering, interim college minister at First Church, Nashville, led four college students on a two-week mission trip to the United Kingdom June 28-July 12. They spent one week of that period on the Inner Hebrides island of 800 people doing children and youth work and assisting International Service Corps worker Susan Morris.

"There is such a lack of leadership now that it's good to get as many leaders as we can," said Morris, who finishes her term there on Aug. 1. "The youth don't have a lot of people a little older than them to look up to."

The students led Vacation Bible School-type activities for about 20 children and 30 youth out of the ministry of Tiree Baptist Church, the only Baptist church on the island. The week led to one youth praying to become a Christian and another seeking rededication. The group also visited the families of the young people, led beach games, and took charge of the church's evening service.

Tiree, despite its rocky beaches and summer visitors, is no Tahiti, the students discovered.

"It is so cold and rainy," said Carol Millard, a Belmont University student. "But it is so beautiful here. Nashville is so busy, and life to me is a computer and a wall."

Tiree is the westernmost of the Inner Hebrides islands, and unlike most people's ideas of Scotland, it is quite flat.

Team members though learned to appreciate the simple lifestyle of the islanders, many

of whom speak Gaelic as well as English.

"They showed me that we don't have to have all the things that we think we need," said Belmont student Ryan Chambers. "Life is simple, and people can be happy with their lives simplified because that's the way it should be."

Deering arranged the trip through Southern Baptist missionary David Moench, United Kingdom mission administrator, and former member of First Church, Nashville, and staff member of Brentwood Church, Brentwood, after a former youth minister came up with the idea of a mission trip to Scotland.

The needs of the young people, scarred at different levels by divorce, cohabitating families, and alcoholism, also spurred on the efforts to bring a team over.

"I'm grateful at the response we had with the children and the youth at the holiday clubs," Deering said. "But I'm also impressed with the great job Susan (Morris) and Peter Williams (pastor of Tiree Baptist Church) have done. What we did here is an indirect relationship to what they've done."

Between club meetings, the team went seal-watching and enjoyed a few sights on the island. A cultural "feche" held toward the end of their stay allowed them to attend a ceilidh, which is a traditional Scottish concert, and a Scottish dance. They also toured Scotland and England.

Team members left Scotland with a better understanding that needs exist there just as they do in other parts of the world.

People tend to think about Africa, "but people need to be saved on Tiree as well," said Bob Fraser, a student at Tulane University in New Orleans, La. □ — Garland is a journeyman missionary serving as the United Kingdom correspondent for the news and information office of the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

an occasional word

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor

Growing up

I have decided "growing up" is just as hard for parents as it is for the kids. I am having to accept that my "little girl" is no longer "little." Joanna will be 10 in September. A few weeks ago I had to begin to "let go," something that is hard for any parent, especially in the beginning.

Joanna attended her first GA camp which meant she was away from Mom and Dad for a week. Now, I've been out of town for that long before, but I always had the security of knowing Joanna and Daniel were at home with their mother and all was well. This time, Joanna was about 100 miles away at Camp Linden.

Fortunately, God knew I would be a nervous wreck while my "little girl" was away, so by divine providence the Southern Baptist Convention was scheduled at the same time. That kept me busy enough so I wasn't constantly worrying. That, along with three other thoughts kept me sane throughout the week.

First and foremost, I knew God was in control.

Second, I knew Joanna was at a camp sponsored by our Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union. Knowing those in charge as well as I do gave me peace of mind. Tennessee Baptists are fortunate because our WMU is led by a quality, efficient, caring staff.

Third, Joanna was at one of our TBC camps. Again, knowing Tommy and Shirley Strong gave me the security of knowing Joanna and all the other GAs were in good hands. I would have felt the same if Joanna had been at Camp Carson which is managed by Keith and Dorrie McKinney.

Joanna and I both "survived" camp. She had a good time and hopefully I have learned a valuable lesson. It's not my job to keep Joanna "little," as much as I would want to. As a Christian parent, my duty is to give her opportunities to grow and to present her with as many good, positive Christian experiences as possible.

Without a doubt there will be trials ahead that we must endure together as a family. But with God's help, we'll all "grow up" together. ☐



WILKEY

FMB, world ministries group sign covenant of cooperation

By Mark Kelly
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — A covenant pledge between the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and a fellowship of overseas missions ministries has been signed to help focus more volunteer resources on strategic overseas missions needs.

The covenant will help groups affiliated with the Fellowship of Baptist World Ministries better support the board's goals overseas. The FBWM is a fellowship of autonomous groups, led by Southern Baptists, that conduct different types of overseas missions ministries, primarily evangelistic and human needs projects. Their ministries regularly involved thousands of Southern Baptist volunteers in overseas projects.

The covenant calls for the FMB to help fellowship groups organize projects around strategic board field requests. FMB President Jerry Rankin

and fellowship president Jim Ponder signed the document June 20 during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta.

"Here's a group of Southern Baptists who have a heart for a lost world," Rankin said. "We're committed to partnership with them and to mobilizing all the resources of Southern Baptists to fulfill the Great Commission. We can all be more effective by working together cooperatively. That's why we've reached out and made this covenant."

Fellowship of Baptist World Ministries groups also recognize the value of plugging into mission board plans, said Ponder, head of Jim Ponder Ministries, Orlando, Fla.

"We want to reach as many

people for God as we can and use our talents in the best way for God and the work of Baptists," he said. "We're all Southern Baptists and supportive of the Foreign Mission Board. These covenant guidelines will enable us to better meet needs around the world in support of the board's missionary purpose.

"It gives us an opportunity to say that we're in this together, that we want what we do to be a strengthening blessing to

the Foreign Mission Board."

Rankin's signature reflects the board's desire to cooperate with God by helping Southern Baptists answer his call to overseas missions, said Avery Willis, FMB senior vice president for overseas operations.

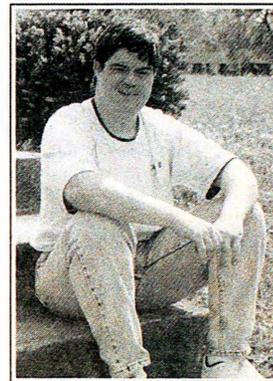
"Coordinating our efforts will help us get maximum strategic benefit from autonomous groups that take people overseas," Willis said, adding that the effort will "improve results on the field." ☐

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■ the people

■ **LeeAnn Hagan**, 17, of Memphis, will serve July 17 – Aug. 7 in the Dominican Republic as a short-term missionary. Hagan is a senior at Briarcrest High School and a member of Germantown Church, Germantown.

■ the leaders

■ The daughters of **Sammie** and **Steve Playl**, Woodlawn Church, Bristol, are serving as Home Mission Board summer missionaries. **Shannon**, an Innovator, is serving with **Stacia**, a Sojourner, in Charleston, S.C. **Stephanie** is serving in New Mexico.

■ **Adonis F. Rodriguez Chirinos**, minister to Hispanics, Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, has earned the master of arts in theological studies, master of divinity, and doctor of ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Ill., during June.

■ Sulphur Springs Church, Jonesborough, has called **Janice Olinger** as youth minister.

■ Sunset Village Church, Bristol, has called **Donald Caudill** as pastor.

■ **Otto Giles** has resigned as pastor of First Church, Baleyton.

■ The pastor of Second Church Lenoir City, **Bob Gamble**, has resigned after serving nine years.

■ **Mark Foster** has been called as minister of music at Unaka Avenue Church, Johnson City.

■ **Travis Holloway** has been called as pastor of West-erly Heights Church, Johnson City.

■ **Clarence and Voreata Lewis** were honored by Sunset Village Church, Bristol, on their 50th wedding anniversary. He is the former pastor of Sunset Village Church.

■ **Campbells Chapel**, Bristol, Va., ordained **Roger Bentley**, who is pastor of the church's mission located in Russell County, Va.

■ **Allen Raines** of Union, S.C., began serving as pastor of Everett Hills Church, Maryville June 25. **Bob Peek** is serving as interim pastor.

■ **Greg Whaley** has been called as minister of music at First Church, Troy.

■ **North Etowah Church**, Etowah, has called **Bart Starr** as minister of music/youth. He is a 1995 graduate of Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens and has been minister of music/youth at First Church, Niota.

■ **Allen Sherwood** has been called as minister of youth and activities of First Church, Blountville. He is a graduate of Mars Hill (N.C.) College, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He has served churches in Kentucky and South Carolina.

■ **Mike D. Ray**, minister of education/administration at First Church, Martin, and his family will serve as missionaries in the Ukraine.

■ **Springfield Church**, Springfield, has called **Allison Leding** as summer youth worker, **Sue Walling** as interim senior adult worker, and **Greg Miller** as interim minister of education.

■ the work

■ Eight volunteers from **Campbell County Association** will work with handi-

capped orphans and prisoners and redecorate two residences in Romania. They include **Annie Margaret Caldwell**, **Joe Samples**, **Missy Taylor** and **Larry and Julia Smith** of First Church, LaFollette; **Liz Trencham** of Cedar Hill Church, LaFollette; and **Linda Wilson** of West LaFollette Church.

■ **Senior high youth of First Church, Martin**, worked in Lawrence, Kan., during June.

■ **Cumberland Plateau Association** is holding its annual construction ministry July 15-22 near Altoona, Pa., where they are doing repair work on three churches.

■ **Volunteers from Loudon County Association** will work in Poland July 24 – Aug. 8. They will work door to door during the day seeking witnessing opportunities and help in a tent revival at night.

■ The annual mission work of **Maury Association** was done July 9-15 in West Tennessee. They did construction work and led a Vacation Bible School.

■ **First Church, Bolivar**, participated in Project Help: Hunger of the Woman Missionary Union by collecting \$3,953.81 during the year. Their goal is \$5,000.

■ A group of youth and adults from **Brook Hollow Church, Nashville**, will be doing missions work in Appalachia.

■ the churches

■ **Central Church, Hixson**, will host its annual golf tournament Sept. 22 to benefit the Central Message, a weekly half hour television ministry program.

■ **Knob Creek Church**,



BREAKING GROUND FOR A Family Life Center at Bethel Church, Greenbrier, on June 11 are, from left, Dennis Pulley, director of missions, Robertson County Association; Mike Cook, banker; Del and Winston Hickman, contractors; Roy Gilleland, architect; and Robert Mobley, mayor of Millersville. The addition will cost \$2.5 million and is phase one of the church's plans

Columbia, held homecoming July 16, which initiated its revival through July 19. **Phil Glisson**, evangelist from Memphis, spoke.

■ The **Woman's Missionary Union of First Church, Sweetwater**, collected items to make up hospitality bags for ministries at the Ocoee River led by Polk County Association.

■ **Rogers Creek Church, Athens**, celebrated its 154-year anniversary June 4, making it one of 309 Southern Baptist churches older than the convention.

■ **Raleigh Church, Memphis**, is seeking someone with at least two years experience in 12-step chemical dependency recovery program to begin a ministry in this field.

■ **Cedar Fork Church, Philadelphia**, will hold homecoming July 23. **Virgil Turbyfill** will speak.

■ **First Church, Nashville**, will celebrate its 175th anniversary July 22-23. Activities include a 6 p.m. service July 22, featuring **Cynthia**

Clawson and **Max Lyall**, musicians, and former pastor **Charles Page**. Dinner and other activities will follow at 7:30. The July 23 morning worship will begin at 10 a.m. and include **Robert Snead**, a former minister of music; **Franklin Paschall**, former pastor; and **Dan Francis**, pastor.

■ the associations

■ **Big Emory Association** will host a "Here's Hope Crusade" Aug. 20-23 which will be held in a tent in Oliver Springs on property owned by Kellytown Church. **John Sullivan**, executive director, Florida Baptist Convention, and **Bucky Phillips**, former minister of music, Trenton Street Church, Harriman, will help lead it. Also a 400-voice choir is planned.

■ **Hamilton County Association** and other churches will sponsor **Kids Across Chattanooga**, two weeks of camp for children in July. This year the camp is planned for 120 inner city children.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Religious liberty according to George W. Truett

By Moncrief Jordan, pastor First Church, Jefferson City

Since this is the 75th anniversary of George W. Truett's world famous sermon dealing with religious liberty on the steps of the United States Capitol, it seems entirely appropriate to share some of the excerpts from that message as follows:

"Years ago, at a notable dinner in London, that world-famed statesman, John Bright, asked an American statesman — himself a Baptist, the noble Dr. J.L.M. Curry — 'What distinct contribution has your America made to the sci-

ence of government?'

"To that question, Dr. Curry replied: 'The doctrine of religious liberty.' After a moment's reflection, Mr. Bright made the worthy reply, 'It was a tremendous contribution!'

"Indeed, the supreme contribution of the new world to the old is the contribution of religious liberty. This is the chiefest contribution that America has thus far made to civilization. And historic justice compels me to say it was pre-eminently a Baptist contribution.

"The impartial historian, whether in the past, present, or future, will ever agree with our American historian, Mr. Bancroft, when he says: 'Freedom of conscience, unlimited freedom of the mind, was from the first the trophy of the Baptists.'

"They have never been a party to oppression of conscience. They have forever been the unwavering champions of liberty, both religious and civil.

"Our contention is not for mere toleration, but for absolute liberty. There is a wide difference between toleration and liberty.

"Toleration implies that somebody falsely claims the right to tolerate. Toleration is a concession, while liberty is a right. Toleration is a matter of expediency, while liberty is a matter of principle. Toleration is a gift from man, while liberty is a gift from God.

"What is the explanation of this consistent and notably praiseworthy record of our plain Baptist people in the realm of religious liberty? The answer is at hand. It is not because Baptists

are inherently better than their neighbors — we would make no such arrogant claim.

"When we turn to this New Testament, which is Christ's guidebook and law for his people, we find that supreme emphasis is everywhere put on the individual. The right to private judgment is the crown jewel of humanity. Out of these two fundamental principles — the supreme authority of the Scriptures and the right of private judgment — have come all the historic protests in Europe and England and America against unscriptural creeds, polity and rites, and against the unwarranted and impertinent assumption of religious authority over men's consciences, whether by church or by state." □

Brotherhood functioning in transition

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — While the details of the Brotherhood Commission's proposed merger into the new North American Mission Board are cloudy at best, the agency's president wants to make it clear that Brotherhood and its programs are very much alive.

"We are fully functioning in our role of helping churches involve Southern Baptists in missions," said President James D. Williams. "All of our

current products will continue to be available and new materials will continue to be developed."

Williams answered questions he has received in recent weeks about how the agency's work will be affected during a transition period expected to take several years.

"In the meantime, we will still offer missions education and involvement opportunities, just as we always have," Williams said. "This means we will still offer resources for

programs for Royal Ambassadors, Challengers, and Baptist Men, and we will still go forward with the transition from Baptist Men to Men's Ministries in October. And it means that our volunteer recruitment, our disaster relief work, and all the rest will continue as well," he said.

A transition team appointed recently will begin work in August and is committed to coordinating its activity with the SBC Executive Committee's transition team. □

Union to host annual Summer Preachers School

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Union University will host the annual West Tennessee Summer Preachers School July 31-Aug. 4.

Registration begins Monday, July 31, at 8:30 a.m. in the atrium of the university's Student Union Building.

Chuck Kelley, director of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's center for evangelism and church growth, will lead nightly worship services. Music will be provided by Christian concert artist David Skinner of Nashville.

Jimmy Dukes, assistant provost of NOBTS, will teach the 1996 Winter Bible Study "Amos: Repentance or Ruin."

Other program leaders include Norris and Joyce Smith, Robert Coleman, Thomas Ranier, Gary Rickman, Bob Elliott, Jimmy Horton, Jerry Eggenberger, and Mel Mason.

Registration costs are \$25 for individuals and \$35 for couples. Costs include food, lodging, and conference materials. There is no charge for those who provide their own room and board.

For more information, call Union's office of religious affairs at (901) 661-5160. □



Recognized for years of service

Fall Creek Church, Kingsport, recently celebrated 150 years of accumulated service by honoring, from left, Violet Hyatt, Dewey Ramey, and Avery Horne. Mrs. Hyatt has served as church pianist for 50 continuous years. Horne has been a deacon of the church for 50 years, and Ramey has served in the pastoral ministry for more than 50 years. Fall Creek Church is the oldest church in Sullivan Association, having been organized in 1855.



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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

**Life and Work Series
for July 23
Focal Passages:
Colossians 2:6-15**

Living anew through Christ

By C. William Palmiter

Paul was deeply concerned about the threat from the inside by false teaching in the church at Colossae. Paul used words like a scalpel to expose the menacing danger and to prescribe the way to spiritual health. In verses 6-7, he emphasized the importance of living in Christ and in verses 8-15 he stressed that Christ alone was all that was needed to live the new life that pleased God.

To be a Christian is to be in a personal relationship with Christ, not simply to be in possession of some knowledge about him. Once again Paul stresses that Jesus is the only focus of a Christian's progressive journey through life. To illustrate this, Paul used several vivid word pictures. The Christian life is pictured as a pilgrimage and believers must learn to walk by faith (v. 6). The false teachers wanted to introduce additional truths for Christian maturity, but Paul rejected them.

In verse 7, "rooted" is a term from agriculture; the tense of the Greek word means "once and for all having been rooted." Christians are not supposed to be spiritual tumbleweeds with no roots nor plants that are moved from soil to soil. In the right soil, the roots provide stability and nourishment. The word for "built up" is architectural terminology. When we trust Christ, we are placed on the right foundation. "Taught" is a term from the field of education. A Christian who is grounded in God's Word is not easy prey for teachers of false doctrine. The word, "abounding," pictures a river overflowing its banks with thanksgiving.

Paul underscores the complete supremacy of Christ. The term "fullness" was used by false teachers to refer to the unseen powers of the universe. Paul gave the term new meaning by recognizing that the fullness of God dwells (present tense) "bodily" or altogether in Christ. Now Paul comes to the climax of his argument by affirming to the Colossians: "You have come to the fullness of life in Christ" (v. 10). An experience with Christ that is real and personal demonstrates beyond words the supremacy of Christ for living life anew.

Paul pictures this new life in Christ with two powerful symbols: circumcision and baptism. The false teachers probably had incorporated the religious ritual of circumcision into their system to initiate followers into a higher form of their religion. Paul meets this challenge by stressing the spiritual significance of circumcision as inner purification. In Christ the Colossians had already received a spiritual circumcision that was superior to anything the false teachers could do. It is superior because it is the work of God, not of men's hands; Christ completed this work for us in our redemption. The power of God which raised Jesus from the dead also resurrects us to new life (v. 12). The picture of death and resurrection with Christ in baptism is a life-changing experience.

"Death" is an appropriate description of life without Christ. He not only cancels the sin debt, he also destroys it by nailing it to the cross. Christ is the victor who makes a spectacle of all "principalities and powers" by vanquishing them completely. By conquering the power of sin that enslaves men, Christ makes new life possible. □ — C. William Palmiter is pastor of Bethel Church, Greenbrier.

God's love for Israel

By Jerry Barker

When we consider the great love chapters, I Corinthians chapter 13 in the New Testament is considered the high point of the expression of God's love. Chapter 11 of the book of Hosea certainly can be considered the high point of the expression of God's love in the Old Testament. Hosea was certainly not soft on sin but he had special insight when it came to the loving heart of God.

Let me share with you a brief outline of this passage. God showed his love by calling his people out of Egypt (v. 1). From the start, Israel sinned against the love of God (v. 2). Despite their sin God continued to show his tender love and care for Israel (vv. 3-4). God did allow Israel to reap what they had sown (vv. 5-7). However, God's love was great; he rebelled at the idea of giving up on his people (vv. 8-9). The rest of the chapter points out God's plan that someday the scattered people would return, but Israel despite God's love and patience continued to sin (vv. 10-12).

God's call and love — v. 1

Without question the deliverance from Egypt was the formative event in the history of Israel. The unfortunate part of Israel's history is that the Israelites interpreted God's calling as a privilege and not also as a great responsibility.

The sin against God's love — v. 2

"As they call them, so they went from them: they sacrificed unto Baal, and burned incense to graven images." The children of Israel were like wayward children. They were aware of God's great love but they also strayed to worship Baal and other false gods. Sin is so evil because it ignores and rebels against the love of God.

God kept on loving — vv. 3-4

Verse 3 describes three acts of love that a father has for his child. God teaches Israel to walk. The word "go"

**Convention Uniform Series
for July 23
Focal Passage:
Hosea 11:1-9**

means "walk." Then God took them in his arms, and God healed his children. Verse 4 describes that God bound them with bonds of love and gave them food.

Tough love — vv. 5-7

What a sad commentary on the future of Israel. Tough love is tough. The Israelites chose not to return to the Lord, and because of that they would return to a land of captivity. The earlier captivity was in Egypt and this captivity would be in Assyria. Tough love is done with the hope that children will wake up to reality. It is hard to step back and let one reap the consequences of choice.

A love that lasts — vv. 8-9

"How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? How shall I deliver thee, Israel? ..." These verses are filled with anguish and emotion. You can feel God's heart breaking. There is a difference in allowing a person to reap what is sown and giving up on that person. God simply in his heart could not give up on his children. Parents can empathize with this passage as much as any passage in God's Word. You love your children with a love that cannot be explained with logic. It is a love in the heart that recoils at any thought of ever giving up on your children. Well friends, God's love is like a parent's love, only much greater. His love is farsighted and long-suffering.

Dr. Gaston Foot tells of walking back to his parsonage when he saw a young man lying on the sidewalk. The young man had been drinking and had been beaten into unconsciousness. He recognized the young man as the son of one of his widowed members. He picked the young man up and took him to the house of his mother. As she tended to him, the mother pushed her son's bloodmatted hair back out of his eyes and wept: "Oh, my boy, my boy, you will never let me love you when you're sober." God loved Israel with that kind of love, but like the wayward son, Israel resisted God's divine love. □ — Jerry Barker is pastor of First Church, Alamo.

New understanding of God's judgment

By Clay Austin

We live in a society where people are rarely expected to take responsibility for their own actions. Often in a courtroom the defense is built not on the idea that the defendant is innocent, but on the concept that the defendant is not guilty because of some circumstance. Some feel that the responsibility for their actions rests with parents, spouse, employment, or society. The blame is focused everywhere except with the individual. Chapter 18 places the responsibility for Israel's spiritual condition with the individual.

Ezekiel begins by addressing another contemporary proverb familiar to his audience. The proverb states that because the parents have eaten sour grapes, the children's teeth are set on edge. The children of Israel are using as their defense their parents' spiritual shortcomings. Actually there is truth to the proverb. Children often do suffer for parents' sins. Yet, there comes a time when the individual either overcomes and grows or succumbs and withers. Israel belongs to the group flirting with spiritual death. Regardless of the past, spiritual growth takes place after honest evaluation and confession. Ezekiel's

**Bible Book Series for July 23
Focal Passages: Ezekiel 18:4-9, 20-22, 30-32**

congregation is prepared to do neither.

God rejects Israel's excuse — vv. 4-9

In verse 4 all excuses are addressed, "the soul that sins shall die." Denial of sin and offering excuses often go hand in hand. Likewise, confession of sin and forgiveness go together. Being honest with God is the first step to healing and forgiveness! In this case the first step is critical. The future of no person can be held hostage to past mistakes once honest confession is present. However, in Ezekiel's time Israel seems bent on self destruction. They refuse to acknowledge their mistakes and as a result, fail to embrace God's support.

Verses 5-9 offer a hopeful contrast. Those who are seeking to be right with God are actively involved in "doing" right. These are not involved in excuse making; they are actively immersed in seeking God and his way. God points out that those that are "right" are fair, ethical, and compassionate in con-

duct with others. Right relationship with God not only involves honesty with God, but honesty with others as well. Those who follow God's commands are righteous and shall live, no excuses necessary.

God challenges individuals — vv. 20-22

Here the prophet reinforces his message. Responsibility for choices rests with the individual. Each person has the opportunity to choose God or reject God. Once the choice is made the results are predictable. Those who acknowledge the wrong direction in their lives have made the first step in the right direction.

God offers hope — vv. 30-32

For those who stubbornly walk in the wrong direction God offers the hope of repentance. For those who see God in the Old Testament as one who is stern and vindictive, read verse 32. God says, "I have no pleasure in the death of anyone ... so turn and live." There is no joy for God in punishment. God desires life for his creation. □ — Clay Austin is pastor of First Church, Blountville.

Manila's upper class walks through 'eye of the needle'

By David Williard
For Baptist Press

MANILA, Philippines — If it's easier for a camel to walk through the eye of a needle than a rich man to come to Christ, the ministry of Southern Baptist missionaries Gerald and Glenda Davis is blatantly futile.

But the Davises, from Carrollton, Ala., and Batesville, Miss., respectively, don't pretend to lead the camel. They entrust that to God — and God is working.

For years Southern Baptist mission leaders in the Philippines have said that the Asian nation won't be won to Christ without reaching the upper class. Yet the Foreign Mission Board had no one working among them. That changed only a couple of years ago when the Davises followed God's call to make themselves available.

Availability has turned out to be a tall order. Essentially they have opened both their home and their lives in service to a wide web of business own-

ers and corporate professionals they have cultivated, investing each new relationship with the depth necessary to forge it into friendship.

"High maintenance" is how one colleague describes their work. Their house seems continually occupied by those attending one of the seven Bible studies or Christian "care" groups they host. Unannounced visitors come through their door without ringing the bell. Their telephone is likely to ring at any hour, including three or four o'clock in the morning.

The Davises wouldn't have it any other way. "What many people don't understand is that if you want to reach people, you have to become part of their culture, part of their family," Davis explained. "It's not like a business; it must be a relationship."

The constant disruptions seem easier on Mrs. Davis than on her husband. She thrives on relationships, on being with people. "Have you heard about the coconut tree?" Davis asked. "Anyone can talk to a coconut tree. ... Glenda is one of those few people who can get the tree to talk back."

Davis is the opposite. He thrives on quiet time: time to

prepare notes for his ministry at Lord's Christian Fellowship, or prayer and study guides for the various groups.

"The interruptions can be frustrating at times," he admitted. But the intrusions have not become a burden. Friends are merely treating the missionaries like they treat other friends and the Davises rejoice that they have fit in. It's through such family-like relationships that they can ensure their testimony gets a hearing.

Among their ministries, they've been particularly successful with Bible studies based on the *Experiencing God* materials widely touted by Southern Baptists around the world.

Experiencing God has proven a good tool to get people to look into Scripture and into their own lives, he said.

"It's important for people here to see that God does answer prayer, that he can hear them and respond. It's important for them to see they don't need the Catholic church or even myself to mediate their relationship with the Lord," Davis said.

There's a spiritual awakening among the upper class in the Philippines, he affirmed. □



SOUTHERN BAPTIST missionary Gerald Davis prays with Edgar-do Pesayco and his wife, Vini, at their place of business in Manila.

Witnessing to New Agers requires creativity, patience
Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Witnessing to people involved in New Age movements requires creativity and patience, said a Southern Baptist specialist in world religions.

"New Agers are some of the hardest people to witness to because of their beliefs. They believe they are God and there is no such thing as sin," said Bill Gordon, associate director of the Home Mission Board interfaith witness department. "On the other hand, they're open to spiritual things and willing to talk."

New Agers believe in reincarnation and the idea sin does not exist. Gordon suggested pointing out to New Agers "inconsistencies between what they claim to believe and how they live."

As an example, he suggested asking a New Ager why he or she locks their doors if sin does not exist.

Patience is a key to witnessing to New Agers, Gordon stressed. □

It's no mystery — Aug. 20 is Baptist and Reflector Day



This year marks the 160th anniversary of the *Baptist and Reflector*. The paper has been published under its current name since 1889 when *The American Baptist Reflector* and the *Tennessee Baptist* were combined.

Baptist and Reflector Day is a time set aside on the calendar of the Tennessee Baptist Convention to inform and remind Tennessee Baptists of their weekly newjournal which enters more Tennessee Baptist homes than any other TBC entity.

Plan now to observe *Baptist and Reflector* Day in your church. We will provide a free copy to members of non-subscribing churches for use on Aug. 20 or any other day you choose. If your church used to provide the paper but no longer does so, this will be a good opportunity to remind your members of their state newspaper and to introduce it to new members. Return the form below to reserve copies of the Aug. 16 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* for your members.

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