

Baptist and Reflector

August 2, 1995

VOL. 161 ■ NO. 30

STATEWIDE EDITION

■ this
week's
news

Nashville's First Church celebrates 175th; Mill Creek Church left healthy children

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By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Evidence of "things past" took center stage during the July 22-23 celebration of First Church's 175th anniversary.

The downtown Nashville church observed the "big birthday" with a musical "feast" followed by a fellowship meal on Saturday night, a worship time Sunday morning which featured an Ovid Young original anthem, and dedication of a marker on the site of the mother church off Thompson Lane Sunday afternoon.

With appropriate clarity and purpose, church members paid tribute to their historic past as they sang for two hours, in their Saturday night tribute to First Church's heritage. The Saturday night program for family and friends featured a mini-concert by recording artist Cynthia Clawson and music by Max Lyall, Golden Gate Seminary professor, and a former staff member at First Church.

Charles Page, former First Church pastor and now pastor of First Church, Charlotte, N.C., reminisced with the congregation Saturday night and

James L. Sullivan, church member and retired Sunday School Board president, gave a brief history of the church's relationship to Mill Creek Church.

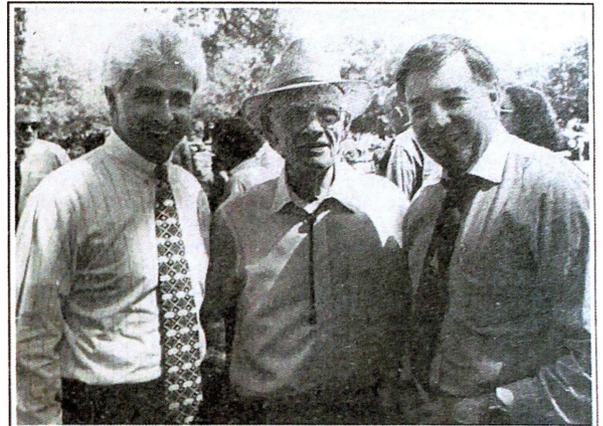
And, as a final act of honor, on Sunday afternoon church members noted the humble beginning 175 years ago as a child of Nashville's Mill Creek Church on Old Glenrose Ave.

Some 150 members and friends did not let 95 degree temperature prevent them from remembering Mill Creek on its original site.

They gathered at the Mill Creek cemetery site to dedicate an historical marker and to honor the Mill Creek Church link with the present.

Sullivan explained during the ceremony that Mill Creek Church (no longer in existence) founded by James Whitsett, was constituted in 1797. The location, now identified by the original cemetery, is on Mill Creek on what is now Old Glenrose Ave.

The first effort for founding the Tennessee Baptist Convention was at Mill Creek Church in 1833. However, that organization did not survive. The present-day convention was organized in



CELEBRATING 175 years, members of First Church, Nashville, met on site where mother church was located on Mill Creek. From left, Pastor Dan Francis, history narrator James Sullivan, and anniversary committee chairman Bracey Campbell.

Murfreesboro in 1874.

First Church, Nashville, was founded in 1820, with Mill Creek as the mother church. Sullivan said Mill Creek was the mother of many congregations "between the mountains and the Tennessee River."

In its 175 years of ministry, First Church, started at least six churches and helped with several others.

On Sunday morning, the

congregation heard Young's commissioned anthem, "What Marvelous Miracles God Has Done," by the choir.

Former pastor Franklin Paschall (1956-84) spoke. Pastor Dan Francis' message from Nehemiah 12 was titled "A Living Heritage: A Hopeful Perspective."

Several former staff members were present during the weekend. □

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1996 Youth Evangelism Conference to blend old with new

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The 1996 Tennessee Youth Evangelism Conference will be a blend of past successes with a new strategy for the future, according to Jay Austin.

"As we look toward the future of Tennessee youth evangelism strategy and specifically the 1996 Youth Evangelism Conference, it is important to understand the past," said Austin, program associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention Evangelism Department.

The annual youth conference which draws between 26,000 to 33,000 youth to Nashville every year "has been the hallmark of our youth evangelism strategy for the state. The Tennessee YEC is the largest annual conference of its kind and 26 years of hard work and dedication have gone into making the conference what it is today," Austin said.

Traditionally the conference has been

held on Friday nights and on Saturday mornings and afternoons at Vanderbilt University's Memorial Gymnasium.

In 1996 the Friday night sessions will still be held at Vanderbilt using the two session format. A difference on Friday next year will be that while one session is going on at Vanderbilt, the Personal Witnessing Conference will be held at area churches. Then the two groups will "flip-flop" for the second session, Austin said.

The major difference is on Saturday. Instead of meeting at Vanderbilt and spreading out to area churches, Saturday's sessions will be held at Opryland Theme Park. The park will be open with rides. In addition,



AUSTIN



McALLISTER

various Christian musical groups will perform at the park's numerous theaters. Also on Saturday, three conferences will be held during the day.

"It's a new format," Austin said, but it's the fulfillment of an eight-year dream of Jerry King, director of the TBC Evangelism Department. Austin noted King has long wanted to utilize Opryland but could not do so because of scheduling conflicts.

"The weeks following the 1995 youth conference were spent evaluating the conference and its future potential," Austin said. During this time the dream of utilizing Opryland was once again proposed.

"Within a matter of hours from that conversation (with Jerry King) an unsolicited phone call was received from a representative of Opryland.

"It is from this eight-year dream of Jerry King and a timely phone call that we have come to realize the opportunity God is giving us as we seek to reach every — See 1996, page 2

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- **Publisher - Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board**
- **Board of directors: Dean Haun, chairman; Gary Gerhardt, vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Christine Bess, Russ Dunham, David George, Frank Hawkins, Diane Jordan, Pat Landrum, Joe Littlefield, Paul Moody, Bill Northcott, Charles Parker, Richard Patton, Mike Thrower, Conyer Walker, Gary Watkins, and Laurann Wheelham**
- **Office - *Baptist and Reflector*, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027**
- **Mailing address - P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024**
- **Phone - (615) 371-2003. FAX - (615) 371-2080**
- **Membership - Southern Baptist Press Association**
- **Address changes - *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024**
- **Postmaster - Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780)**
- **Frequency of issue - The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas and Fourth of July.**



Printed on recycled paper

African American church leaders examine steps toward greater racial inclusiveness

By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Leaders among Southern Baptist African Americans talked in late July of desired "next steps after the Atlanta resolution" they believe will take the Southern Baptist Convention toward greater racial inclusiveness.

Speaking informally between sessions of Black Church Leadership Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, five African American Baptist leaders affirmed actions already in place by denominational agencies and called for more personal involvement by churches and individuals.

Emmanuel McCall, pastor of Christian Fellowship Church, College Park Ga., was part of the 16-member committee that drafted the "Resolution of Racial Reconciliation on the 150th Anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention," approved by messengers at the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta in June.

"The denomination has al-

ready been doing things that would be considered implementation," McCall observed. "Each agency has been doing things consciously to improve race relations. They have been in place for a long time. The resolution simply gives the efforts additional impetus."

Among the number of "positive actions" McCall cited was the Sunday School Board "including black images in its materials" and enlisting black writers. "I would like to see more blacks involved in other weeks at the conference center," he added.

McCall also observed the SBC Pastor's Conference "has begun using black Southern Baptists as speakers instead of black pastors outside the convention. I hope more of these can be used."

Marvin Boyd, a Shreveport, La., pastor, said there needs to "be aggressive action to find black people. They are lost, regardless of color."

Likewise, Boyd said, black congregations should be witnessing to lost white people.

"Every community is in transition. You can't just pack

up and leave like we used to," he observed.

McCall and Boyd agreed that churches need to go beyond the once-a-year pulpit exchange or joint worship service that both black and white churches have used as an effort at race relations.

Doing things regular, in contrast, "helps people grow in their love for each other," they said.

Another leader, George McCalep, a pastor from Decatur, Ga., noted that on a practical level the convention needs "to come to an agreement on the underrepresentation of Africa Americans in Southern Baptist decision-making, and then we need a practical method that will address that representation."

The end result of the Atlanta resolution will depend on what happens in the churches, said Frankie Harvey, a layperson from San Jose, Calif.

"When Anglo pastors see racism toward any ethnic person, they need to do some teaching. The same needs to happen in African American churches," she said. □

Pro-lifers make gains in several House votes

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Pro-lifers have gained victories in a flurry of recent votes on abortion in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Most of the activity occurred during the House Appropriations Committee's consideration of a 1996 spending bill for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. The committee approved the following amendments before passing the bill to the full House:

- By a 28-25 vote, it defunded the Title 10 family planning program. Title 10 funds about 4,000 clinics at a cost of \$193 million a year. In addition to providing condoms and other contraceptives, Title 10 clinics are required to provide counseling and referral for abortions.

- By a 29-25 margin, it voted to prevent federal and state governments from penalizing obstetrics and gynecology residency programs or graduates of programs which refuse to provide abortion training.

- The committee voted 30-23 to prohibit federal funding of experimentation on living human embryos.

On July 19, the full House voted 235-188 to remove coverage of abortion from federal employees' health programs, except when the mother's life is endangered. The restriction was part of the Treasury and Postal Service spending bill.

"It's definitely a new day in Congress for pro-life Americans, especially in the House of Representatives," said James A. Smith of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. □

1996 Youth Evangelism Conference to blend old ...

— Continued from page 1

youth in the state of Tennessee with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the next five years," Austin said.

The 1996 conference will accomplish several purposes including presenting the Gospel in a new and effective way, Austin said. "It also provides an atmosphere for those attending to invite non-Christian friends to a place that's not intimidating where the Gospel can be shared in a personal way," he said.

The TBC has entered into a two-year written agreement with Opryland with verbal communication to go beyond that, Austin said.

For only \$18 per youth, participants get the entire YEC

program, a day's pass into Opryland, and a box lunch on Saturday, Austin said.

Because of the new format, reservations are needed. The conference will be limited to 32,000 participants, Austin said. Reservations must be made by Jan. 19, 1996, but groups can begin registering now, Austin said. The amount is nonrefundable, but if someone cannot attend they will still receive an Opryland ticket that can be used anytime during the 1996 season, Austin said.

Program leaders already are scheduled, Austin said. The principle speaker on Friday will be Dawson McAllister, a national youth communicator based in Nashville. He has

written 15 discipleship manuals for students and teachers while producing more than 12 timely videos dissecting key teen issues such as self-esteem, peer pressure, and teen sexuality. His weekly call-in radio show, "Dawson McAllister Live," is broadcast nationwide and is one of the fastest growing Christian radio programs to date.

Saturday's conference topics and leaders are:

"Sexually Pure in an Unpure Age," Kevin Shrum, youth communicator, pastor, Inglewood Church, Nashville;

"Inhabiting vs. Inhibiting: How Worship Can Change Your Life," Phil Wilson, minister to students, Two Rivers Church, Nashville;

News media takes note of SBC racial resolve

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Media reaction across the country has been mixed, yet mainly positive, regarding the Southern Baptist Convention's resolution on racial reconciliation. Newspapers and magazines across the country, and even one in London, have carried news or offered commentary regarding the cleansing of the SBC's soul.

On June 20, messengers at the annual SBC meeting in Atlanta overwhelmingly approved a resolution calling for repentance of individual and systemic racism.

Gustav Niebuhr, writing for the *New York Times*, called the resolution a "dramatic move," particularly for a denomination that has turned to the "right both politically and theologically."

Other papers, including major dailies, ran editorials commending Southern Baptists for their boldness, even as some of them questioned the delayed timing or the practical significance of such a resolution.

The *Chicago Tribune* noted, "... the salient fact is that Southern Baptists could have said nothing and nobody would have noticed. Instead ... they stood up and made a full-throated admission of guilt and a public apology."

Not all reaction was positive. Jack E. White, in a commentary for *Time* magazine, wrote: "That's mighty white of (Southern Baptists). Forgive me for being underwhelmed by this astonishingly belated act of contrition from the nation's largest Protestant denomination." □

"Winning Your School for Christ," Scott Paris, minister of youth, First Church, Tullahoma.

Also on Saturday, Dean Finley, who directs youth evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will lead a special conference on youth ministers.

Austin emphasized the new format "is not the end product, but instead is just a part of the youth evangelism strategy to reach every youth in Tennessee for Christ by the year 2000."

For more information about the 1996 Tennessee Youth Evangelism Conference or to get registration information, contact Austin at (615) 371-2077. □

'Right from Wrong' resources voice morality principles

By Terri Lackey
For Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — You deposit 60 cents in a soda vending machine outside the local market. You get your drink, and your deposit also returned. Do you keep the money or turn it into the convenience store owner.

Keeping the change might not make as an alarming moral turpitude, but it does go against a basic principle — honesty, according to Larry Dry and Jimmy Hester, who taught the new Right from Wrong materials at Discipleship and Family Development Week at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center July 15-21.

"Many kids lack basic morality perspectives, and that is partly because adults don't see them all that clearly," said Dry, manager of the preschool/children's section of the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division. "If children are going to learn right from wrong, adult are going to have to teach it to them. We've discovered that many children do not fully understand that God is the standard for right and wrong.

The BSSB together with Josh McDowell, lecturer, author, and head of the Josh McDowell Ministry, have developed a series of Right from Wrong resources for adults, youth, and children. The resources were generated from McDowell's recent study which reveals that even young people who have made personal commitments to Jesus are participating in immoral and even illegal behavior.

The campaign was begun in 1993 and is supported by 42 denominational and para-church groups. It has as its goal "to launch a nationwide grassroots effort to resource parents, grandpar-

ents, pastors, youth workers, and Christian educators to equip youth to know right from wrong, enabling them to make right choices."

"Right from Wrong is not about just completing a study," Hester, editor of discipleship materials for the BSSB, said of the adult workbook, "Truth Matters: For You and Tomorrow's Generation."

"It's about a journey, a trip we will have to take if we plan to see some changes in some of the distressing trends taking place in America today," he said.

Hester cited some of those trends. He said every day in America:

- 1,000 unwed teenage girls become mothers.
- 1,106 teenage girls get abortions.
- 4,219 teens contract sexually transmitted diseases.
- 500 adolescents begin using drugs.
- 135,000 pupils bring weapons to school.
- 3,610 teens are assaulted; 80 are raped.
- 2,200 teens drop out of high school.
- 6 commit suicide.

"These trends in our society are being lived out all around us. Think about your community or your church," Hester said. "You can find that a lot of these statistics have hit right in our own churches. What can we as Christians do to confront those issues?"

First, Hester said, adult Christians can learn the biblical difference between right and wrong and begin immediately teaching them to children and youth.

"This is not just a book for parents, but for any adult with a significant relationship with children or youth," he said.

The workbooks for adults, youth, and

children teach the same basic principles, Hester said.

"On different language levels, of course, they take you through the standards of truth, models of truth, stages or processes of truth, and the four Cs (consider, compare, commit, count)," he said.

One of the basic elements the workbook teaches, Hester said, is the difference between precepts and principles and how to apply those to one's life.

"Precepts are rules, requirements, standards. They are the Ten Commandments. Principles are the way you live those precepts," he said.

For example, Hester said, "Thou shalt not steal" is the precept for the principle of honesty."

"I'm not so sure young people or children ever put together precepts or principles. Kids want to understand the principle behind the precepts or rules. And adults should be able to tell them why."

The "why," Hester said, is "because we believe the principles and the precepts in the Bible are the very nature and character of God.

"The Bible teaches us to be honest because the Bible said God is honest, and I'm created in his image, then I'm to be honest."

When faced with a moral dilemma, Hester said, Christians can apply the 4 Cs outlined in the workbook. Those are:

- 1) Consider the choice.
"Ask who determines what's right and what's wrong in this situation — me, somebody else, or God.
- 2) Compare it to God.
"Compare your attitude or action to God's Word, which reflects his character and nature."
- 3) Commit to God's ways.
"Turn from your selfish ways and submit to God's sovereign lordship. This

is one of the areas where most people have problems."

4) Count on God's provision and protection.

"This is another tough one for a lot of people. We expect him to provide and protect us, but we expect immediate response. When we commit to God's way, we have to commit to God's timetable.

In his book, McDowell relays some startling statistics occurring among church youth.

- For example it was found:
- 66 percent lied to their parents.
 - 36 percent had cheated on an exam.
 - 55 percent had engaged in sexual activity.
 - 20 percent had tried to hurt someone physically.
 - 23 percent had smoked a cigarette or used another tobacco product.

Of those youth surveyed, 65 percent claimed they pray daily, and 84 percent said they attend Sunday School and youth groups at least once a week.

"We've got to counter this culture," Hester said. The goal of Right from Wrong is to become a grassroots effort, and to resource parents, grandparents, and teachers to help youth and children become like Jesus by giving them practical ways to do it.

"We have a tool to counter a culture that needs to hear God's message," he added.

Resources include: "Truth Matters: For You and Tomorrow's Generation," (adult workbook and leader's guide); "Out of the Moral Maze" (workbook for college aged adults); "Setting You Free to Make Right Choices" (junior high and senior high edition workbook and leader's guide); and "Truth Works! Making Right Choices" (older children's edition, younger children's edition and leader's guide). □

SWBTS in good standing with regional agency

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — A recent evaluation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools affirmed Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's standing with the accreditation agency.

According to David Carter, associate executive director of SACS, SWBTS "remains as a member in good standing," with the regional accreditation agency.

The SACS report follows an announcement by the Association of Theological Schools earlier this year that they were placing the seminary on two years probation in the wake of the March 1994 firing of President Russell H. Dilday Jr. by seminary trustees. □

Biblical illiteracy crippling American Christian community, American Bible Society leader says

By Teresa Dickens
For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The United States is saturated with copies of the Bible, but few know its content or understand the significance of its message, according to an American Bible Society leader.

"In the United States, the Bible has become a multi-million dollar industry," said Maria Martinez, vice president of ABS. "Yet, some Christians who are in church on Easter Sunday don't know what they are commemorating."

Given these circumstances, the most effective way to share the Gospel message in the U.S. is through a personal witness, she said.

Martinez shared her remarks during Woman's Missionary Union Week at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center last month. She inter-

preted the week's theme, "Risk the Journey," through a message on the risks involved in sharing the Word of God.

Describing America's multi-million dollar Bible industry, Martinez related, "This year alone, there will be eight new translations introduced into what is called the 'Bible market.'

"Approximately 95 percent of all homes in the U.S. have more than one Bible," she continued. "Yet, most Bibles that are sold are given as gifts, and people tend to use the Bible as a good-luck charm and they don't necessarily value or follow its message and guidance."

Despite the potential for knowledge, Martinez noted "there is a rising level of biblical illiteracy in the Christian community.

"A recent research study revealed that although eight out of 10 persons in this country

call themselves Christians, half of those don't know that Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. Americans says that they believe in the Ten Commandments, but they can't name them. And some Christians who are in church on Easter Sunday don't know what they are commemorating."

This erosion of biblical knowledge among Christians results in the loss of a personal witness, she said.

"We (Christians) are responsible for sharing the Christian message with others," she declared. "Yet a solid biblical foundation is too often absent from our minds and hearts. And regrettably, too often the difference between our words and action is great."

She noted that fulfilling the Christian mandate in the U.S. will require biblically literate Christians to take risks. □

Henry withdraws as NOBTS candidate

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The apparent leading candidate for president of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary — SBC President Jim Henry of Orlando, Fla. — has withdrawn his candidacy. Baptist Press has learned.

"I am deeply grateful that the school I love so much considered me as a candidate for president," said the 57-year-old Tennessee native and former Two Rivers Church pastor, adding that it "is best for me at this time to withdraw my name."

Henry declined to elaborate on his decision. □



HENRY

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- Make it concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length.
- Name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Include address and phone number.
- Avoid personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone.
- Send original copy. Form letters and "open" letters will not be published.
- Only one letter in a three-months period per writer will be published.
- If letter does not conform, it will be returned.
- Opinions and ideas expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the *Baptist and Reflector* and its staff. □

Repenters needed

A bomb exploded in my heart while attending the

North American Convocation on Revival at First Church, Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 14-17. God had sent me there to listen to the Word and to confess my sins. I had hurt some dear friends, had grown cold toward my church and family, had offended some of my preacher brethren. On Thursday of that week God restored me to his fellowship.

Out of that meeting has come a new beginning, making things right with my people, my family, and the brethren. Also, God has nudged me about the letters I have written over the years to the Baptist state papers. He let me know that I needed the forgiveness of Tennessee Baptists. In many of the letters I called names and used inflammatory and condemning remarks.

I apologize for these things. I do not apologize for upholding Jesus and His Word, but I ask you folks to forgive me for being unkind and insensitive.

I now want to be absolutely right with God and with fellow believers, if at all possible. Seeing what real repentance has done and is doing in my life I want to recommend it to all of our Tennessee Baptists. We have some 2,916 in Tennessee. Just think! If every Christian repented in all of these 2,916 churches, revival would sweep across America and maybe even the whole world.

Let's join the small band of repenters (Isaiah 57:15; Psalm 139:23-24).

Vaughn Denton, pastor
Kirby Parkway Church
Memphis, 38141

Thanks from HMB

On behalf of our 4,913 home missionaries, I thank every Southern Baptist for supporting the 1995 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. This year's ambitious goal of \$50 million is the highest ever. It will take all of us giving sacrificially to meet the goal. I encourage individuals and churches who have not yet given to consider the significant impact their dollars have on reaching our nation for Christ.

I especially commend those churches in the Tennessee Baptist Convention which have reached or exceeded their offering goals. All are to be commended for their faithfulness in giving to this special offering which represents nearly half (49 percent) of the total Home Mission Board budget. One hundred percent of this offering directly supports our missionaries and their ministries on the field. I can't express enough the importance of your continued participation in this effort.

Southern Baptist home missionaries minister to the needs of hurting people in all 50

states, the Caribbean, American Samoa, Guam, and Canada. Annie Armstrong called these missionaries "substitutes," because they went for you to places you could not go. As you pray and give, you share in the victories with your "substitutes." You also share in their disappointments when needs exist and resources are not available.

Thanks for all you have done and continue to do as our partners in home missions.

Larry L. Lewis, President
Home Mission Board
Atlanta, Ga. 30202

Michigan volunteers

It was my joy to take a group to Novi, Mich. (a suburb or Detroit), to work with Orchard Hills Church July 15-21. The pastor asked us to do survey work.

I preached for them on July 16. Then from Monday through Wednesday we knocked on about 100 doors in three areas within their church field. We met all kinds of responses — some good and some bad. But we located a good number of prospects for the church. We found some committed Christians of other faiths who love the Lord and made us feel welcome. There is a tremendous need for the Gospel in that area.

Orchard Hills Church shares its facility with Faith

Korean Bible Fellowship, so they are able to get good usage of their building. Orchard Hills averages only about 30 to 50 on Sunday morning.

Pastor Lee Vandenberg, asked that I express the church's gratitude to Tennessee Baptists for all they have done for them. Tennessee Baptists built their sanctuary and parsonage. They said they could never have had such marvelous facilities had it not been for the labor and generosity of Tennessee Baptists.

As we prepared to leave Michigan for a side trip to Niagara Falls, the Vandenberg said, "You have no idea how much you have helped this week. What you have done in the survey will benefit this church far more than a Vacation Bible School ever could have." It was then that our group felt content that we had stepped out of our "comfort zone" into the "risk" area of survey work. Originally we were scheduled to have VBS.

The Vandenberg and the church family were great hosts and worthy of our continual prayers. Most Tennessee Baptists do not realize how easy we have it here in the Bible Belt.

Pray for and get involved in the Michigan Partnership.

Donald L. Cobb, pastor
First Church
Livingston, 38570

Understanding our six Southern Baptist seminaries

I offer some words in the vein of John (I John 2:1) who addressed his chiding words to his constituency by beginning "My little children." After having preached for 74 years, maybe I am "senior" enough to do this now without offense.

Unfortunately, the seminaries are under constant bombardment. Of course, no thinking Baptist would want theological liberalism to prevail in any of the seminaries supported by Cooperative Program funds.

The Peace Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention checked this and announced they found no serious problems about the theological solidarity of some 495 of the approximate 500 seminary employees. The rumor that theological liberalism prevailed was proven false.

The saying is perhaps true that if our Bible were lost, our current seminary professors are such masters of the Scripture that they could reproduce them from memory in their original tongues. That fact speaks volumes to us.

We need to know that our seminaries have been under attack since "day one" by friend and foe. Foes have been jealous of our excellent physical facilities and the number of young ministers coming from their halls into the massive "army" of the Lord serving our pulpits, mission fields and our church staffs with vigor and effectiveness worldwide.

Friends have argued about whether

■ a historical view

By James L. Sullivan, retired BSSB president

the seminaries should be required to follow an "indoctrination" or an "inquiry" method of study to discover ever-deepening meanings of Bible truth.

There is much to be said about both of these methods of guidance in teaching. Both are necessary in certain times and circumstances of one's life. The "indoctrination" methodology must be followed, of course, in a learner's earlier or young years.

Sometimes the materials will be hardly more than a refined catechism in which the teacher controls all or most of the thinking and leads into much rote memorization.

As learners advance toward higher levels of learning, however, they are taught to think more for themselves. Mere memorization is not forever. At first many "pat answers" are provided by which one could answer anticipated answers. At best, however, such a method becomes more inadequate as those learners advance in age and experience.

Our seminaries exist for training the older and more advanced students who have already graduated from college. They are mature and experienced students and thinkers, even on matriculation day when they first enrolled.

While God's revelation is complete,

our knowledge of his revelation is still incomplete. This demands a lifetime of study, exploration, and learning. It is this background which induces our

seminaries to follow the "inquiry" method for the most part as they train preachers generally to think for themselves more, using acceptable methods and tools of inquiry in the quest for ultimate truth. Such training equips them to do their own mature and deeper thinking while using the Bible as their textbook.

Certainly, ministers, when they run into acute unanticipated problems in the field, cannot run to their old professor for pat answers, if he has done all the thinking for them earlier.

Once on the firing line of the pastorate, they must face the situation as it is and questions as they are with courage, maturity, and their faith in God.

People may argue over whims that have been accepted from the thinking and experiences of others, but they will die for convictions which have come to them through the mill of their own deep spiritual experiences along the way.

Each method has its own place. Neither should be condemned as invalid or wrong. — Sullivan wrote this series of articles for his church newsletter a few years ago. Future articles in this "A Historical View" series will be printed on an ongoing basis.

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests



August

- 2 — Pray for the group from Meadowview Church, Lawrenceburg, as they work with youth leadership in Calgary, Canada.
- 3 — Pray for Community Church, Prince Edward Island, Canada, that they will complete their building this fall.
- 4 — Pray for the team from Salem Church, Dayton, as they return today from a construction project in Canada.
- 5 — Pray for new church starts in Michigan and the pastors who are serving them.
- 6 — Pray for Mr. and Mrs. Mark McNeil, career missionaries, as they finish language school and begin serving in Poland.
- 7 — Pray for summer missionaries who complete their work in Michigan and return home this week.
- 8 — Pray for the evangelism team from Loudon Association that returns today from Poland.
- 9 — Pray for Unity Church, Maryville, as they lead VBS/BYBC at Victory Church in Kalamazoo, Mich. this week.

Hiroshima: tragedy, triumph, and lessons

As August 6 nears, Americans and Japanese people will be remembering the same date of 50 years ago.

On August 6, 1945, time stood still for a moment — and the whole earth seemed to shake. It was the fourth year of America's involvement in World War II. The Allies were winning on all fronts, but the armed forces were getting tired; men were tired of killing and wanted to go home to their loved ones.

The United States used the first nuclear weapon on that date, dropping an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, with devastating results. At least 75,000 people were killed, reports said, in an instant.

A few days later, another bomb was dropped on Nagasaki with equally horrifying results.

The bombs were used, it was said, to break the will of the enemy and to end the war quickly. There was no stomach for fighting a horribly bloody war forever against a fearless enemy — all the way to the Imperial Palace walls in Tokyo.

Less than two weeks later, the war was over. Japanese officials capitulated to an unconditional surrender with the hope that Emperor Hirohito could remain as titular leader.

So now fifty years have passed and on Sunday the anniversary arrives. Second-guessers and potential revisionist historians are asking again whether it was necessary to use the nuclear weapons.

I remember the war years as days and

weeks and months of distress, with two brothers in the Army. I remember the troubled faces of my mother and father and we prayed for them, thought about them, dreaded to answer the telephone and looked askance at daily mail, dreading a notice from the War Department.

I remember the stars hanging in our front window, sharing the pride and uncertain feelings of having two men on active duty. I remember the news that friends and neighbors received of deaths in battle, wounds of heart and soul. I remember when we learned that Billy Farrow, a high school chum of my brothers and sisters, was shot down over enemy territory after bombing Tokyo in a daring air raid of early 1942, led by Gen. Jimmy Doolittle. I remember when we found out he died in captivity.

I remember my anger at being too young and distressed at my mother's deep concerns and my father's soul-searching.

I truly do not know whether it was wise, but in the context of those times, and having the feelings I have expressed, it was right. I would feel better if I knew our leaders had prayed over all the options and made the right decision.

Too young to realize the import of it all, I suppose, I do recall my feelings. My parents and sisters all told me that President Truman believed that the war's end would mean everyone could go home.

On a crisp August morning in the cool

Blue Ridge Mountains, I was awakened by our dormitory manager. He bounded up the steps, and shouted to us that the war was over. The war was over!

I hastily pulled on my clothes and ran full speed across the campground to where my mother slept. We crushed each other in a frenzy of ecstatic hugs. "They are coming home," she said. "They are all coming home." Of course we remembered one son, wounded in Europe, was already in the U. S. being treated in an Army hospital. She referred to ALL of them.

Was it right to use the bombs? Who can know. The people who made the decisions were leaders of nations involved in a hideous and evil war.

The men who flew the planes were ordinary American men, hoping and dreaming for a good and peaceful life. The people who were killed were ordinary people going about their daily lives. Some were military, most were civilian.

These were lessons. It has never happened again. Japan and Germany recovered to become two of the most economically developed and strong nations of the world. We are friends again.

Was it the best way? Did it save lives? As they say, you had to be there. Gen. William Sherman said it well, war is hell, not glory. We dare to hope we have learned how to be true peacemakers, how to forgive, and how to ask for forgiveness.

War does not always have absolutes. Families on both sides suffered terribly. War always involves some evil and enough guilt for all. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Real thing, or alias?

There is an innocent little word used in computer jargon which startled me the first time we met.

Alias.

I am sure most of us know at least one definition of alias.

Criminals or suspects being chased by law enforcement cadre usually have an alias.

They flee pursuit, find a safe place far from the scene of the crime, and take on another name. That is an alias.

Sometimes writers or novelists choose a name other than their legal name, and call it a nom de plume, or pen name.

But in computer language an alias serves a slightly different purpose.

You can create as many aliases as you like — for certain folders. The topical information really isn't stored in the alias; it is just a reminder that the real file exists.

So the alias can remind the computer operator that though that file is blank, empty, there really is a folder filed properly, that has that information in it.

The alias is a reminder, but I wonder if sometimes it operates as a decoy. You can open the alias folder — and nothing is there.

The alias file tells you there is a certain file (with the same name) somewhere else.

I suppose this is the way children hide from their mothers when they want to be invisible, or unseen.

Do they just file themselves somewhere out of sight, out of reach? Mother knows the child is somewhere, but where?

Children (and adults too) have a way of pointing to someone else when trying to escape blame. That's another kind of alias, often called "Idunno."

When we are forgetful, we file some important fact — and open all the aliases before finding what we are looking for.

Well, while aliases may be helpful reminders when we are in computer land, in the real world it is best to carry only one name. It isn't as though God can't find us under the alias file.

It is a matter of being responsible for who we have come to be — and do. □



ALLEN

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Hospital patient to pastor visiting him: "Preacher, I have inflammatory rheumatism. Do you know any ailment that causes more pain?"

Pastor: "To have it and St. Vitus dance at the same time."

Take this thought

Do you believe any problem you have could get worse? Let me suggest another thought. Remember, any problem that you have can get better. Take your burden to the Lord — and leave it there. No need for both you and the Lord to carry it. He will if your will let him.

Memorize this Scripture

"My God will supply all your need" (Philippians 4:19).

Pray this prayer

Lord, please help me to realize that when it gets dark enough, the stars always come out. □

Bedtime for preschoolers

Parents of active preschoolers continuously ask about how to help the children at bedtime. When children reach the

age of five, they usually have developed an active involvement with their world and enjoy exploration and play.

There are new things to do and enjoy. They don't want to waste time sleeping because they might miss something. The adults are still up; so why shouldn't they be with them?

They usually find more creative excuses not to go to bed or to go to sleep. Then comes the infamous glass of water. One of our daughters would choose bedtime to share the chronicle of her life.

Every time my wife would try to interrupt her to put her to bed, my enterprising little daughter would protest by saying, "But this is important." It is common for children to find more imaginative excuses to delay going to bed.

This also occurs during afternoon nap time. Thus many parents feel that since the child does not seem to be sleepy that he no longer needs the afternoon nap. I learned this the hard way. As pastor I used to look forward every

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

year to taking the children of my church to a week-long camp where we could get to know each other as real-live persons, and where I could have the opportunity to introduce them to Jesus in that relaxed atmosphere.

The first few years I thought since they were away from home and rules, I would let them stay up as late as they wanted (without disturbing anyone else) and would not make them take naps.

At the end of the week I brought home zombies who would go to bed on Friday afternoon and not get up until Saturday afternoon. Children do not have the stamina and physical reserves of adults, so they need those afternoon naps to keep from getting cranky and irritable.

There is another concern of many parents about the sleep rituals of preschoolers. Many children need that special friend or familiar object they treasure in order to go to bed

and go to sleep. This special pal or security blanket is what psychologists call a transitional object. It usually involves

the fear of the dark or of going to bed by themselves. This object helps the child make the transition from the dependence of infancy to the increased independence of childhood.

Parents usually get concerned that their children will become too dependent upon these objects and carry them off to college with them.

There is nothing wrong with allowing children to keep these objects as long as they desire them.

Studies have shown that these children grow up to be well adjusted adolescents and young adults with no more dependency problems than the average.

In summary, it is important for children to have proper rest, whether or not they seem to desire it. It is also important that children be allowed to use whatever devices they choose to make this transition a little easier. □



BARKLEY

State Pastor's Retreat offers 'Sanctuary on the Mountain'

For Baptist and Reflector

The annual Pastor's Retreat for Tennessee Baptist ministers is set for Aug. 28-31 at Camp Carson in Newport.

The theme of the four-day retreat, sponsored by the TBC Evangelism Department, is "Sanctuary on the Mountain."

Kenneth Mathews, a profes-

or from Beeson Divinity School of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., will teach "Amos," the 1996 Winter Bible Study topic.

David Daugherty, pastor, Shellsford Church, McMinnville, and vice president of the Tennessee Pastor's Conference will serve as camp pastor. Other speakers are James Porch,

TBC executive director; Lawrence Hudson, Memphis pastor; and Ron Barker, Georgia pastor. Archie Fendley of Central Church Bearden, Knoxville, will serve as camp recreation director while Bud and Barbara Lee of Blue Springs, Mo., will serve as camp musicians.

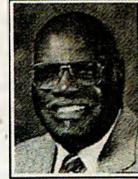
Total cost for the retreat is

\$75 and includes program, food, and lodging.

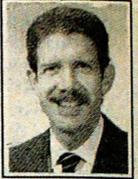
For additional information, call the TBC Evangelism Department at (615) 371-2058. □



David Daugherty



Lawrence Hudson



Kenneth Mathews

Jubilee held in Church Hill



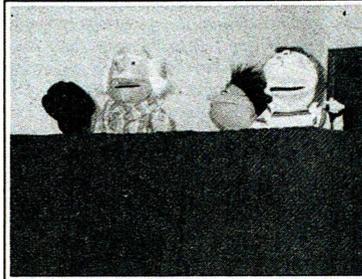
In photo to left, Pastor Gary Gerhardt, left, accepts a plaque from John Parrott, director of missions for Holston Valley Association commemorating the 50th anniversary of First Church, Church Hill.

The church held a "Jubilee Celebration" July 23 in observance of its 50-year history in Church Hill. □



CHARTER MEMBERS joining in the 50th anniversary celebration at First Church, Church Hill, on July 23 were, from left, Marion Boyd, Irene Chestnutt Venable, Evaline Jeter Jessee, Elsie Jeter, Margaret Ann Derrick Hamilton, D.C. Jeter Jr., and Helen Derrick Eachus.

Lawrenceburg team ministers in Michigan



A 14-member team from Immanuel Church, Lawrenceburg, recently returned after serving for a week in Michigan in conjunction with the Tennessee/Michigan Partnership. The Lawrenceburg team is one of many from Tennessee that has assisted Michigan congregations this summer. The Immanuel group led Vacation Bible School during the morning and revival services in the evening. Below, the youth choir sing at Grace Southern Baptist Church in Rogers City, Mich. The church's puppet ministry also performed. During the week there were two people who renewed their commitment to Christ and one profession of faith, according to Immanuel Pastor Patric Fife.



SS department missionary works with children

By Melissa Payne
For Baptist and Reflector

As a summer missionary, I have had many rewarding experiences. Many of them have taken place at a small church called Mountain View in Crossville.

I helped lead Vacation Bible School there. The theme was "Windows On the World." Throughout the week, the children heard about missionaries who go

all over the world telling people about the good news of Christ. They also learned how they could love others who weren't like them, and how they could teach their friends about Jesus.

I had the opportunity to teach the four- and five-year-old class. Their energy and enthusiasm added a lot to the class.

Throughout the week, their lessons concentrated on the love of Jesus for them. As always,

you never know what to expect from this age group. While we were making "prayer phones," one girl asked "What's God's number?"

A meaningful part of each day came when we would say the pledge to the flags and to the Bible. Then we would sing a song that went along with each pledge.

We had a student who was hearing

impaired. A member of First Church, Crossville, interpreted everything we did into sign language for her. The church sent several workers who helped us.

The week was a definite success. I know that the kids had a good time, and I'm sure they left with a true message of love. Perhaps one of the greatest experiences I had was leading a boy to

Christ. My "cup was filled" every night, but it was especially overflowing that night.

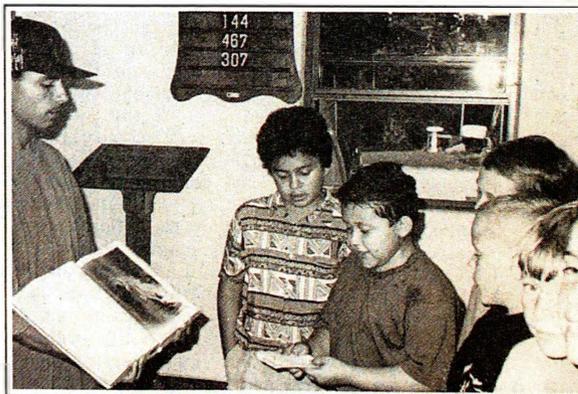
My summer in Cumberland Gap Association thus far has been a great one, and I'm sure that it will continue to be. I thank God for this awesome opportunity to serve him. □ — Payne, a student at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, is one of two summer missionaries working with the Tennessee Baptist Convention Sunday School Department this year.



PASTOR ELIOT ROBERTS leads worship for the VBS, which drew about 40 children.



LEADING THE MUSIC during the worship time of VBS is Melissa Payne, who is from Kentucky.



PRACTICING THE PLEDGE TO THE BIBLE is an Hispanic boy who participated in the Vacation Bible School.

Begun in 1820, Nashville's First now 175 years old

NASHVILLE - Have you ever wondered how long it takes a church to prepare for an anniversary celebration?

Every anniversary marks another year of ministry, another 12 months of history.

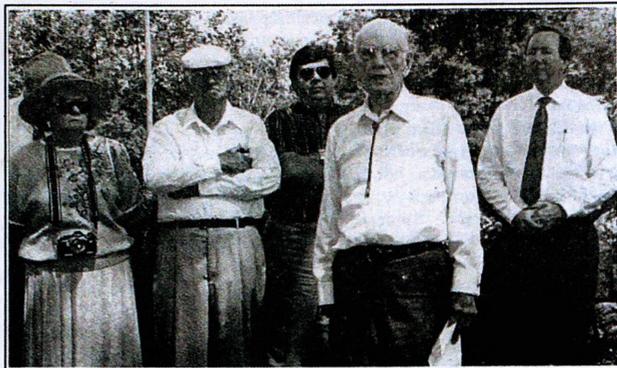
For Tennessee Baptist churches, anniversaries usually are a prime occasion for rejoicing, reflecting, and even merrymaking.

So how long does it take to plan and make ready for a church anniversary "party?"

As long as the church has existed? That's a good answer. It means that for 175 years First Church, Nashville, has been preparing for the anniversary that was recognized July 22-23.

The story on page 1 of this issue gives some of the facts about First Church's 175th birthday celebration. First Church's lineage goes back to Mill Creek Church (no longer in existence) — and it is difficult to separate the history of the two. In short, First Church is one of Mill Creek's offspring.

After the Saturday night and Sunday morning (July 22-23) celebration of First Church's 175th birthday at 108 Seventh Ave. in



JAMES L. SULLIVAN, center, explains the historical connections between Nashville's First Church and Mill Creek Church, on the site of the original Mill Creek Baptist Church.

downtown Nashville, a smaller group of interested Baptists and friends gathered at the site of Mill Creek at Old Glenrose Ave. off Thompson Lane.

They saw an historical marker commemorating the cemetery and church site. They heard a brief history of Mill Creek given by James L. Sullivan. They heard Jess Love, pastor of Grandview Church and president of the Friends of Mill Creek explain how they are planning to raise funds to preserve the site. They also heard Nick Fielder, Tennessee state archeologist express thanks to the group and pledge further

cooperation from his office.

According to Sullivan approximately 240 people, Black and White, are buried at the site. However, only a few grave markers remain.

Fielder's staff ascertained the exact site of the original log church building. He said the site will be placed on the National Historical Register.

At least three descendants of people buried on the site were present Sunday, July 23: Thomas Whitsett, Amelia Edwards, and Fannie Williams, who is 102 years old.

According to Sullivan, "The Southern Baptist Convention was shaped in large part by Mill Creek Church." He said Baptists from Flat Rock Church, Yadkin, N.C. in 1786 brought with them the best of Regular and Separate Baptist traditions and blended them at Mill Creek. The church thrived for 100 years.

It's fitting that efforts have begun to preserve the cemetery and original church site. Old Mill Creek and First Church are inextricably tied to the history of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. □

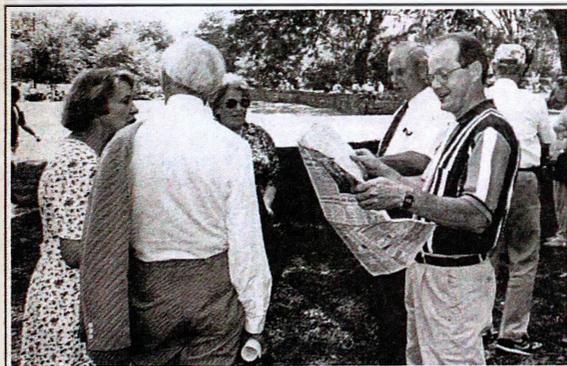


FIRST CHURCH, NASHVILLE, began celebrating its 175th anniversary with a singing festival on July 22, followed by dinner for church members and friends.

Story and photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen



TWO DESCENDANTS of persons buried in the Mill Creek Cemetery: Fannie Williams, 102; and Amelia Edwards.



WAITING FOR the dedication program, Mark Edwards, First Church minister of music, checks on news items about the 175th anniversary.



JESS LOVE, pastor of Grandview Church, welcomes visitors to the Mill Creek site. Love also is president of the preservation group.



TENNESSEE'S department of archeology assisted in locating the exact site of the original Mill Creek church building. A corner marker is shown in photo above.

Four issues threaten families, therapist says

By Terri Lackey
For Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — History has set the stage for the cast of characters who play the modern-day family, and it's up to Christian playwrights to determine whether the final story line of that long-lived production will be death or survival, a family therapist said.

Divorce, poverty, absentee fathers, and America's television viewing habits are the four plots that "cry out for change" above all others, according to Stephen Sumerel, director of Family Life and Substance Abuse for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Sumerel presented a paper on "Family Trends: The Elements of Change" during a seminar at Discipleship and Family Development Week at Ridgecrest Conference Center, July 15-21. He determined the causes of some modern-day maladies of families may find their roots in history.

Sumerel chronicled the family from Old Testament/Hebrew roots through Roman, Greek, and Christian cultures, and into the Dark Ages, the Renaissance and the Industrial Revolution. He concluded by arriving at a snapshot of the modern family.

"Too many families live in poverty. Too many children have no father present in their lives. Too many marriages end in divorce, and too much violence and depersonalization have robbed us of our hope," Sumerel said.

However, he added, "I sense that families cannot be, nor should they seek to be, what they were in times past. On days when I experience families struggling with harsh realities and finding their own capacity for healing, I then marvel at the resiliency of the American family."

Some statistics Sumerel cited are:

- In 1970, the number of currently divorced people was 4.3 million; by 1993, the number had escalated to 16.7 million.

- In 1970, the number of unmarried couple households was a half million; by 1993, it had multiplied seven times to 3.5 million.

- In 1970, the percentage of children under 18 living with one parent was 12; it had more than doubled by 1993 to 27 percent.

- In 1947, 20 percent of married women worked outside the home; it had nearly tripled by 1991 to 59 percent.

- On any given night, 40 percent of children go to sleep without a father in the home.

While divorces "have been increasing at a relatively steady rate for over 100 years, and while divorce rates in America have increased by 40 percent in the last 20 years," he said the number of divorces "seems to be leveling out."

"It appears the social, economic, and cultural changes in our nation which made such an increase likely have now done all the damage they can do," he said.

Some factors which have

contributed to divorce, Sumerel said, are:

- An economy which has produced a need for both marriage partners to work outside the home.

Statistics show that marriages where women work 35 to 40 hours outside the home are four times more likely to end in separation or divorce than marriages where women work 20 or fewer hours, he said.

- Increased financial independence of women, which gives them more freedom to leave unhappy marriages. "Historically, the men have made the choice to leave. Now both men and women can choose to leave a marriage," he said.

- Laws which have made divorce easier to achieve. Divorce, Sumerel said, quite naturally leads to the phenomenon of absentee fathers.

"Twenty-seven percent or 18 million American children grow up in a single-parent home. Of these, only one out of eight is headed by a father," Sumerel said he believes society sees fathers as "expendable."

Another alarming trend in today's family, Sumerel said, is the amount of time children and parents spend watching television. He said researchers have found that while the television set is on seven hours a day, mothers spend 12-15 minutes of undivided attention per day with their children and fathers spend approximately two to four minutes a day.

"Television viewing is the second most time-consuming activity in our nation. We only

spend more time sleeping, and working comes in a close third. The common thread connecting each of these top three activities is that none of them invites interaction between members of a family.

"The amount of time spent in front of a common household appliance is nothing short of revolutionary," he said. "The average American child whose home is connected to cable will be exposed to 32,000 murders and 250,000 acts of violence. By the time a child reaches age 18, he or she will have encountered over 100,000 commercials for alcoholic beverages."

Sumerel suggested parents spend less time trying to ban certain television programming and more time with their children talking and playing.

Poverty is another haunting trend in American society targeted by Sumerel, who says the percentage of children living below the poverty line with only their mother is 54 percent. One-fourth of our nation's homeless are children, he said.

Without shelter, Sumerel said, children become "developmentally arrested. One does not generally move to the next level of development when the foundational levels have not been established."

Sumerel suggested churches look at these trends and determine how to become motivated by them. "Our faith informs us not to treat the family as a victim of our society, but to work to empower the family to become an agent of change. As we encounter families in pain, we are able to hear it as a call to action." □

Family Resources

Following is a list of family life resources:

Parenting by Grace: Discipline and Spiritual Growth — Helps parents understand the gift of God's grace in their parenting, including loving, affirming, disciplining, and guiding their children to mature and responsible Christian living. Also available in Spanish. Parent's guide: 7764-06 G \$4.95; Leader's notebook: 7765-06 G \$24.95; Video sessions, trains leader and supplements, 8434-68 G \$69.95

Christian Self-esteem: Parenting by Grace — Teaches parents to build their children's self-esteem. Parent's guide: 7802-01 G \$4.95; Leader's notebook: 7801-01 G \$24.95

Tough-Minded Parenting — Broadman and Holman book that addresses concerns of parents, including contemporary issues, overcoming fears, setting examples, instilling values, building courage and parental love. Book: 4260-48 G \$14.99; Videocassette: 4427-63 G \$24.95; Audiocassette: 4446-23 G \$14.99

Single Parenting with Dick and Jane — Advice on the joys and challenges of single parenting from two custodial single parents. 7217-83 G \$4.95

The Family Worship Bible — Includes special helps for families: special articles, 52 family worship plans, daily Bible reading plan, songs, concordance, Bible pictures, and more. Hardcover, 4670-44 G \$36.99

When a New Day Dawns: Families Dealing with Change — Change is inevitable. Families will learn to identify transitions they may experience, apply biblical teachings to change, and develop skills to cope with change. Book: 5453-94 G \$4.35; Equipping Center Module: 7248-14 G \$25.00

When Crisis Comes Home — Equipping Center Module, teaches what the Bible says about crisis and about God's care during crisis. Families identify and eliminate the causes of crisis, develop coping skills and ways to minister to others during crisis. 7631-13 G \$23.50

Breaking the Cycle of Hurtful Family Experiences — This self-paced workbook helps individuals understand how parents, as primary role models, shape our view of God, our self-concept, and our relationship with others. 7210-74 G \$12.95

Baptist therapist traces root of family problems

By Terri Lackey
For Baptist Press

Some of the problems families face in the 1990s have roots in history, according to Stephen Sumerel, director of Family Life and Substance Abuse for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

During a seminar at Discipleship and Family Development Week at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center, July 15-21, he presented a paper, "Family Trends: The Elements of Change," chronicling the family from Old Testament times through modern day.

Among his observations:

- The Old Testament or Hebrew family structure was stable. Sexual misconduct was a sin, but more because it would jeopardize pure Hebrew bloodlines. The power of women was nonexistent. Large families were needed for family work,

and women provided "the garden in which the (male's) seed was to be planted." Concubines were a part of the family structure, and fathers were financially tied to the children of their concubines. Hebrew men were able to divorce their wives for reasons of adultery and incompatibility, but the most frequent reason for divorce was infertility.

- Romans were much more monogamous than Hebrews because children of their concubines were not considered male heirs. As a result, Romans had more liberal divorce laws. Roman men could divorce their wives for adultery, making poison, drinking wine, and counterfeiting house keys.

- In Greek families, the level of women reached an all-time low. Wives were for children; concubines were for enjoyment and love. The attitudes toward concubines and any children

they bore paralleled the advent of today's plight of absentee fathers, Sumerel recounted.

- The Christian family was a mixture of Hebrew, Greek and Roman family structures. The family was still ruled by the father, but women, while not equal in power in families, were elevated in the sight of God.

- In the Dark Ages, people began working outside the family structure to make their money. "That's when we began seeing a decentralizing role of family which we are really feeling the result of these days," Sumerel said.

- During the Renaissance, commerce became increasingly focused outside the home. Large families were less attractive. And the nuclear family began emerging. "A case can be made that in the Renaissance the modern family was finally taking on embryonic form," Sumerel said.

TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the people

■ **Angela Campbell** has been called as the secretary and activities director of Zion Church, Elizabethton.

■ the leaders

■ **Harold McNabb** has resigned as pastor of Unaka Church, Elizabethton, to serve a church in Marion, N.C.

■ **Brooks Peters** has been called as interim pastor of Lynn Valley Church, Elizabethton.

■ **Eric Lynn Pierce** has been called as youth minister of Harmony Church, Elizabethton.

■ **Scott Davis**, a student at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, has been called as youth minister of Little Milligan Church, Butler.

■ **Frank Lethcoe** has been called as interim pastor of Immanuel Church, Elizabethton.

■ **Tom Straka** recently has resigned as pastor of Happy Valley Church, Elizabethton.

■ **Mark Dance**, pastor of Ridgeview Church, Church Hill, has earned his doctor of ministry degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

■ **Elmer Bailey** has been called as interim minister of music of Trafalgar Village Church, Memphis.

■ **Chuck Smith**, former youth minister at Cherry Road Church, Memphis, has been called as minister of music of Walnut Grove Church, Cordova.

■ **Greg Spears** has been called as associate pastor of

Speedway Church, Memphis.

■ **Joe Franklin** has been called as pastor of Eldad Church, Trenton.

■ **Mike Rhodes** has been called as pastor of Gibson Church, Gibson.

■ **Gary Lowrey** has been called as minister of music and youth at Hickory Grove Church, Trenton.

■ **First Church, Milan**, has called **Gene Eudy** as associate pastor.

■ **Bruce McCartney**, pastor of Mt. Pisgah Church, Bradford, has earned his diploma in biblical studies from Seminary Extension at Union University, Jackson.

■ **Gerry Gallimore** has resigned as pastor of Hodge's Chapel, Palmersville, to accept the call of Corinth Church, Sharon, as pastor.

■ **Alan Pittman** has been called as minister of youth of First Church, Troy, effective July 16.

■ **Jim Phillips** has been called as pastor of Dodson Branch Church, Cookeville.

■ **Mill Creek Church, Monterey**, has called **Glenn Conner** as interim pastor.

■ **Mark Conway** of First Church, Wellsville, Mo., has been called as pastor of Zion Church, Brownsville, effective July 16.

■ **Shane O'Guinn** of Dyersburg has been called as minister of music and youth of Poplar Corner Church, Brownsville.

■ **Stanton Church, Stanton**, has called **A.L. Slaughter** as interim pastor.

■ **Charles R. Conger** was licensed to the ministry July 12 by First Church, Paris. Conger has been a laypreacher for many years and has been treasurer of the Western District

Association for 21 years.

■ the work

■ **Scenic Hills Church, Memphis**, accepted an assignment from the Home Mission Board to serve in Georgia July 15-22. A team of 18 youth and adults served through the Dauphin Island Church Ministry near Mobile, Ala. The led Big A Clubs in the evenings at various locations, such as the International Seaman's Center there.

■ **Lee and Margaret Cowan, Jack Lavender, Gary Hite and Larry Bowers of Indian Springs Church, Kingsport** will be going to South Venezuela to help build a children's home and do evangelistic work Aug. 11-21.

■ **Calvary Church, Knoxville**, has been requested by the Foreign Mission Board to help lead a missions group in Peru Aug. 6-13.

■ the churches

■ **Poplar Grove Church, Elizabethton**, enjoyed a celebration party June 18 for exceeding the special offerings goals.

■ **Elk River Church, Butler**, celebrated its 125th anniversary July 23.

■ **First Church, Church Hill**, celebrated its 50th anniversary July 23.

■ **Mt. Pisgah Church, Bradford**, has new heating and cooling units, and a new roof, organ, and steeple.

■ **First Church, Pulaski**, will host a crusade for Giles County Nov. 15-19 at Martin Methodist College's Christian Life Center in Pulaski. To prepare, 21 teams will pray for



SINGING IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH they helped start in the Grand Rapids suburb of Dorr, Mich., is the Chapel Choir of First Church, Cleveland. Worship services will begin in the new building in September. The youth also performed in the Jackson, Mich., area and conducted seven Backyard Bible Clubs and a soccer camp. The camp drew 218. The trip resulted in 29 professions of faith.

three months. The theme for the crusade is "Reaching People, the Miracle Begins."

■ **Public Well Church, Martin**, has raised a new steeple on its building.

■ **Third Church, Nashville**, will hold a revival Aug. 6-9. Evangelist Dickson Rial of Texas will speak, and music will be led by Wayne Ray, minister of music at Immanuel Church, Lebanon.

■ **First Church, Old Hickory**, is holding a revival for youth July 31 - Aug. 4. Wally Carson is emphasizing what is right and wrong.

■ The annual homecoming activities of **Clear Creek Church, Crossville**, will be Aug. 6. A luncheon and a music program beginning at 1:30 p.m. will be held.

■ **Charlotte Road Church, Nashville**, will hold a dedication service for its newly renovated sanctuary Aug. 6. This will complete the final phase of the building program that was begun in 1991. Also, the date

will mark the church's homecoming.

■ **New Corinth Church, Rutledge**, observed Youth Sunday July 30. The youth performed skits they learned at the annual State Youth Evangelism Conference. Clint Hibler from Indian Ridge Church, Blaine, spoke during the morning service.

■ **Oak Grove Church, Washburn**, will celebrate its homecoming Aug. 13.

■ **Calvary Church, Lebanon**, will hold Vacation Bible School Aug. 7-11 from 6-8 p.m.

■ the associations

■ **Holston Valley Association** will host its fourth annual missions fair Sept. 9 at Cherokee High School, Rogersville.

■ **Giles County Association** is holding a tent crusade July 30 - Aug. 5. Gerald Stow, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes president, is speaking.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Would it make any difference if I asked?

By Kenneth D. Heath
minister of education
Dalewood Church, Nashville

Have you ever thought about the people who look up to you? Some that come to mind are your children, your brothers and sisters, and people you work with. It might be different people for you, but I'll bet there are some who appreciate being with you and working with you on a shared task.

It's nice to have the respect that goes with being "looked up to," when people ask your opinion and then really listen

to your answer.

There is something else about being "looked up to" that you should note. It carries some deep responsibility. When people respect your opinion and desire to know what you think, they expect to get your best.

Think about some of the people you contact each week — at work, the grocery store, the gas station, or over the backyard fence. Some of them think you are nice. They see you as someone who cares about his/her friends and would help if it was needed.

If you do care for them, could you show your concern by inviting them to join you for Bible study? How much more could you care for someone than to want them to know about Jesus? To

some of those around you, a simple word from you might be all that is needed to help them find out about saving grace. Who is waiting for your invitation?

'Take Time to Be Holy'

By Grover Westover, pastor
Harmony Church, Whiteville

I came across the following in the July issue of *Reader's Digest*.

One Sunday morning at church, our pastor announced "Today's final hymn will be No. 238: 'Take Time to Be Holy.'" Then he added, "In the interest of time, we will sing only the first and last verses."

Paul encourages us to "redeem the time, because the days are evil." Time is certainly the most valuable commodity we have at our disposal. All of us have an equal number of hours in a given day that we must decide how to spend. As important as spending time with family and in our vocation is, the most important time we can spend is that time we spend alone with God.

We cannot hurry through our public or private worship and expect to grow in our relationship with God. Our relationship with God is the foundation upon which all other relationships must be built if they are to be solid and steadfast relationships. Therefore it is important that you and I "Take Time to Be Holy." □

Dobson's Focus on the Family ministries to monitor religious freedom violations

Associated Baptist Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Focus on the Family ministries has declared itself a clearinghouse for people to report incidents where religious freedom has been violated.

This effort was spawned by a conversation between Focus on the Family President James Dobson and Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., Dobson said in a July letter to his supporters.

Dobson's immediate goal, he said, is to get Congress to pass a religious liberty amendment to the Constitution.

Religious conservatives have been calling for such an amendment, which they believe is necessary to set the record straight on what is allowable religious expression in places such as public schools. Other religious groups have said such an amendment is unnecessary but that courts and

school administrators need a clearer understanding of the freedoms already afforded by the First Amendment.

In his July letter, Dobson cited the case of a Salt Lake City high school graduation ceremony where a student choir was barred from singing two religious songs.

"It is estimated that more than 1,000 incidents like the one in Salt Lake City occur every year, but the national media typically ignore them unless they involve 'homosexual rights' or other politically correct viewpoints," he wrote.

The Salt Lake City incident was widely reported in both the secular and religious press.

Dobson said Gingrich suggested congressional understanding of the problem would be enhanced by more careful recording of alleged religious liberty violations.

"What is needed is a central registry through which viola-

tions of religious freedom can be reported," Dobson said. "Henceforth, Focus on the Family will serve as the repository of that information, which will later be reported, hopefully, in congressional hearings.

Dobson emphasized Focus on the Family "has no intention of becoming a political organization. By that, I mean we will never endorse political candidates or align ourselves with political parties," he wrote. "Despite some perceptions to the contrary, we are not 'owned' by Democrats, Republicans, or independents."

Dobson said his ministry has spent only 4 percent of its total budget in the past year on "public policy" issues. "That ratio is not likely to change in the future — but please don't ask me to snuff out the remaining 4 percent in order to avoid 'getting political,'" he wrote. □ — Mark Wingfield



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Union to offer seminary extension courses this fall

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Union University, in cooperation with local associations, will offer 11 extension courses this fall in nine West Tennessee locations.

Registration, meeting time, and costs vary at each location. Sites, courses, and teachers are:

- Ardmore Church, Memphis, "Studies in Isaiah," Wrex Hauth, Memphis chaplain
- Beech River Center, Lexington, "I Corinthians," Michael Moore, pastor, Bear Creek Church, Parsons
- Big Hatchie Center, Covington, "Romans," Paul Moore, pastor, Charleston

Director Needed
Southern Baptist Assembly and Camp Managers Conference is seeking applications for the position of Part-time Conference Director. Applicant must have proven communication skills, administrative orientation, and be computer literate. If interested, contact George Coleman, % White Oak Conference Center, P.O. Box 360, White Oak, S.C. 29180. Deadline for applications is Aug. 31, 1995.

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- Church, Stanton
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- Gibson Center, Trenton, "Hebrews," Wayne Perkins, pastor, First Church, Kenton
- Hardeman Center, Bolivar (for details, contact the Hardeman Association office at (901) 658-9378.)
- Shiloh Center, Adamsville, "Studies in Amos," Jimmy Garrett, pastor, Gravel Hill Church, Stanton

- Church, Ramer
Weakley Center, Dresden, "Evangelism," Mike Peterson, pastor, Long Heights Church, McKenzie; and "Formation for Ministry," Richard Skidmore, DOM, Weakley Association
 - Western District Center, Paris, "Studies in Amos," Lynn King, Maplewood Church, Paris
- Courses are open to individuals age 16 or older. For more information, call Union's office of religious affairs at (901) 661-5160 or any local DOM. □

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Sunday School lesson commentary

Life and Work Series
for August 6

Focal Passages:
Colossians 3:5-16

Living in a new way

By C. William Palmiter

The therefore of verse 5 presents a conclusion to what has gone before. Because Christ is his new life, the Christian is called to be dependent on the power of the glorified Lord. Paul describes the negative and positive consequences of living in a new way as demanded by Christ Jesus. By consistently turning one's back on self and turning in obedience to Christ, a believer experiences what, from the standpoint of eternity, is an accomplished fact. The word, mortify, means "to put to death." Since we have died with Christ, we have the spiritual power to deal with the fleshly desires that try to control our lives.

Fornication represents any sexual relationship outside the bond of marriage. Uncleanness is lustful impurity that is associated with loose living. Inordinate affection defines a state of mind that is receptive of sexual impurity. Evil concupiscence means the base, evil desires. Here covetousness obviously is related to the type of greed that drives a person to seek sexual immorality. This sin is idolatry since it replaces a passion for God with sexual indulgence that leads to a broken relationship with God and an unhealthy, hurtful relationship with others.

After warning about the judgment of God against the sensual sins, Paul points out sins of attitude and speech. He paints the picture of a person changing clothes: "Put off ... put on" (vv. 8-10). Now that we have new life in Christ, we must put off the old actions, desires, attitudes and speech. The word anger characterizes habitual attitudes, while wrath is a sudden outburst of anger. Malice describes an attitude of ill will toward a person. If we harbor malice toward a person, we are unhappy when that person is successful, and we rejoice when that person is in trouble. That is sin!

Blasphemy is speech that slanders someone and cuts them down. Lying is any misrepresentation of the truth, even when the words are accurate. The tone of the voice, the look on the face, a gesture or the motive of the heart can change the meaning of any truth.

The new order of life in Christ must not make artificial distinctions between persons. Sin divides, but Christ brings people together. In Christ there are no racial (Greek nor Jew), no religious (circumcision nor uncircumcision), and no cultural or social (Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free) differences. Christ is all in that he is the Lord of all.

While not ignoring the negative, the Christian is to accentuate the positive by doing what is right. The expression, bowl of mercies, could be translated compassionate heart; it means to feel so deeply for another that one experiences his pain with him. The term, kindness, is the spirit rooted in Christ's love that enables others to overcome the wrong in their lives. Humbleness of mind means to be willing to submit oneself to another out of a commitment to Christ. Life characterized by God's peace does not ignore problems; it resolves them in love that binds people together. The result of living in peace and unity in the body of Christ is growth through great learning and rejoicing in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. □ — William Palmiter is pastor of Bethel Church, Greenbrier.



PALMITER

Isaiah's call and message

By Jerry Barker

For the past few weeks we have studied passages from three of the fourth century prophets. Over the next three weeks we will be studying from Isaiah, the fourth and most famous from this group. Isaiah is the first of the prophetic books because of the length and importance of this book and its message. Today, we will summarize Isaiah's call and his basic message.

Isaiah's call — ch. 6:1-13

Isaiah's vision of God comes at a critical juncture in the history of his nation as they had just lost a great leader.

"In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple" (v. 1).

King Uzziah, also called Azariah, had a long and a prosperous reign. As Isaiah grieved over Uzziah's death he had a vision of the eternal King (v. 5). In this very difficult time, Isaiah felt the holiness of God (v. 3). The word holy means that God is exalted above human beings. The word holy means that the Lord is righteous in who he is and what he does. In verses 5-7 we see how this vision touched Isaiah in his own personal life.

"Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips ... for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts" (v. 5).

Isaiah became deeply aware of his own sins. Isaiah discovered a great truth about this righteous God. When we confess our sins and realize our great need for forgiveness then we find that cleansing and forgiveness.

In verse 8, we are made aware of God's call and of Isaiah's response. "Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

Convention Uniform Series
for August 6

Focal Passages:
Isaiah 6:1-8; 1:14-17



BARKER

Then said I, Here am I; send me."

Isaiah exhibited the kind of faith God wants all of us to practice. Isaiah at this point did not know what God wanted him to do, but he volunteered to fulfill that mission in faith. God then gave him his commission in verses 9-13. Isaiah was to go and to preach God's message even though he knew that most would reject that message. Again, we are to be thankful no matter what the results may be.

Isaiah's message — ch. 1:14-17

God hates hypocritical religion. "Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them" (v. 14).

True worship was based not on the basis of what happened in the temple but on what happened in the daily lives of the worshipers. Notice, even though the people said the right words in prayer and made the right motions, their hands were "full of blood" (v. 15). Folks, people in the world evaluate our Lord by our example. The best worship you could ever give God is to live out your faith in a way that would honor God.

The first step to true worship is to get our hearts right with the Lord. We need to repent and serve our God. "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow" (vv. 16-17). Someone once said, "Your actions speak so loudly, I cannot hear what you are saying."

Verse 17 shares with us the positive side of repentance. If we truly repent then we become obedient to God. Keep in mind that "judgment" means "justice." It means treating the helpless and oppressed with fairness and compassion. People of faith should always be concerned about defending those who are exploited. □ — Jerry Barker is pastor of First Church, Alamo.

God's judgment against the nations

By Clay Austin

The danger of rejoicing when others fall — ch. 26:2-3

Tyre was judged because the city rejoiced in the fall of the nation of Israel. Tyre probably felt that they would stand to profit in their commercial trade now that Israel was out of the way. They learned, however, that it is dangerous to oppose God's purposes. Tyre's rejoicing was short lived. Ezekiel delivered the verdict that no nation could oppose God and his purposes without consequences. Even though Israel was not the people that God desired, he still loved them and intended for them to be his.

At times we are guilty of the same dangerous mistake. Christians can seem to "enjoy" the failures of other brothers and sisters in Christ or other churches. We are quick to point out why they have failed. We may be tempted to rejoice when one church has problems and another gains members as a result. When one Christian or local church has success we should rejoice, and when an individual or a church suffers distress we should grieve with them. Tyre and Jerusalem were in economic competition. Unlike these ancient competitors, those involved in Kingdom work should never feel



AUSTIN

Bible Book Series for August 6
Focal Passages: Ezekiel 26:2-3;
28:1-7, 24-26

the tension of competing, but rather the strength of complementing one another. Israel had failed, but God was not through with them.

The danger of replacing God — ch. 28:24-26

Ezekiel still had much to say to Tyre. Not only had they rejoiced at the wrong time, they also were in the precarious position of replacing God in their nation. The dangerous attitude had been displayed from the top down. The example was demonstrated by the prince himself. Ezekiel pointed out that the prince is a wise person who had "increased his wealth." The sin lies not in the wise use of abilities and multiplication of resources, but in the attitude concerning the source of these blessings. Again we may fall prey to this very human temptation. We sometimes think that we can be absolutely self-reliant and do almost anything on our own. Even in church we may mistakenly feel that our programs, our ideas, our strategies, and our work will equal Godly results. When this takes place, like Tyre, we are tempted to give ourselves all the credit. We soon forget that without God our work would have no purpose or meaning and with God we can do more than our abilities permit. Both Israel and

Tyre needed to comprehend this truth.

The danger of rejecting God's people — vv. 24-26

In the midst of judgment there is a word of hope. God is still for his people and anyone or any nation that frustrates his purpose will be punished. In II Thessalonians Paul stated that God would "repay with affliction those who afflict you." Israel was promised that their enemies would be dealt with by God. God promised to gather his people from foreign lands and restore them to their own land. In the new land they would dwell securely because God would provide their defense! Ezekiel's message underscored the truth that anyone who rejected God, or his people would be forced to recognize the Lord God.

God's intention for his people included their being a powerful force in the world. His first choice for his people did not include exile or foreign domination. Other nations now witnessed the same bitter lesson that Israel had been forced to digest. Security comes not from economic success, political superiority, or military strength, it comes from God. To entrust your life to anyone less is dangerous. □ — Clay Austin is pastor of First Church, Blountville.

Record set for junior high participation in World Changers

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — The soaring temperatures were no match for almost 500 junior high students and their leaders who participated in a World Changers work project June 17-22 in Savannah, Ga. The project marked the highest attendance ever at any World Changers site.

Sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, World Changers involves youth in coeducational missions projects.

During the same week, another group of 430 junior high students and leaders were involved in hands-on missions activities in Jackson, Tenn.

In all, more than 900 seventh and eighth graders were involved in World Changers Jr. High. □

CBF council approves plans to hire reps

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The coordinating council of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has approved a plan to hire seven part-time "field representatives" in eastern states

to promote the four-year-old organization of moderate Baptists opposed to current Southern Baptist Convention leadership.

The unanimous vote of the 80-member board came during a July 19-20 meeting prior to the CBF's fifth General Assembly meeting.

The program will be on an 18-month trial period, according to CBF Coordinator Cecil Sherman. The council approved an allocation of \$105,000 for the proposal.

In other action, the council, upon request from the council's ethics and public policy ministry group, approved a request to remove funding from the budget of the Memphis-based Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America.

Nashville pastor Joel Snider of Crieewood Church, chairman of the ministry group, said there was a "lack of consensus" in the group for the peace fellowship's recent and controversial stance affirming some homosexual relationships.

In his report to the council Sherman shared that the CBF's receipts of \$6.4 million from January-June exceeded the prior year's period of \$4.6 million.

The amount received was about \$500,000 over the \$5.9 million budget for that period, the council learned. □

Arkansas college elects Tennessee native as new president

Baptist Press

WALNUT RIDGE, Ark. — Jerol Swaim, interim president of Williams Baptist College since March, has been given the job on a permanent basis.

The college's board of trustees voted unanimously July 20 to make Swaim WBC's fifth president.

Swaim is a native of Brighton and received his bachelor's degree from Union University, Jackson; a master's degree from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, Nashville; and the doctor of education from the University of Memphis.

Swaim has been affiliated with the Arkansas Baptist school since 1964, when it was then known as Southern Baptist College. He and his wife have two grown daughters. □

WMU Foundation elects first president

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A 13-year veteran of the Kentucky Baptist Convention staff has been named as the first president of the Woman's Mis-

sionary Union Foundation.

Richard Carnes, president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation since 1988, will assume the new position Sept. 1.

The WMU Foundation, an independent corporation governed by its own board of trustees, was created last January to strengthen the ministry of Woman's Missionary Union. The 107-year-old WMU provides missions education and sponsors missions activities for women, girls, and preschoolers. It also has been the lead promoter of Southern Baptists' home and foreign missions offerings.

Under Carnes' leadership the WMU Foundation will assume the management of more than \$2 million in WMU assets. □

SBTS vice president takes Virginia post

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Thomas F. Mabe, a vice president at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1987, has resigned to become director of development at Virginia Baptist Homes, based in Culpeper.

Mabe has led SBTS' division of institutional advancement which includes development, public relations, and alumni services. □

Radio programs reach estimated

388 million weekly

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Five weekly radio programs produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission reach an estimated worldwide audience of 388 million people each week.

The Commission's June radio marketing report shows "Country Crossroads" as being the most popular RTVC-produced program, airing on 887 stations a total of 946 times per week. It airs in 213 different markets worldwide and in 36 of the top 50 markets in the United States.

The program is a combination of the latest in country music, interviews with country music personalities, and inspirational thoughts from hosts Bill Mack and Jerry Clower.

Following in popularity among RTVC-produced programs are "Powerline," carried by 608 stations, "MasterControl," 500 stations, "On Track," 416 stations, and "The Baptist Hour," 372 stations. □

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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