

Baptist and Reflector

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In Polk County

'96 Olympics to provide ministry opportunities

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BENTON — Georgians aren't the only ones getting excited about the 1996 Olympic games.

While most of the Olympic action will take place in Atlanta and other sites in Georgia, the Slalom Canoe/Kayak Competition will take place on the Ocoee River in southeast Tennessee.

For three days in 1996 — July 26-28 — Polk County's population of 13,000 will more than double.

Between 14,000-15,000 people are expected to converge upon the Ocoee River to witness the Olympic events there, said Polk County Association Director of Missions W. L. Shipman.

Polk County Baptists recognize and are excited about the ministering opportunities that will be presented, and they have taken steps to prepare, Shipman added.

"We feel like the Lord has sent foreign missions to our doorstep. The opportunity has been created and what we do with it will determine the outcome," Shipman said.



POLK COUNTY ASSOCIATION Director of Missions W.L. Shipman, right, and Andy Jordan, director of the association's Camp Agape and president of Whitewater Ministries, stand in front of the Ocoee River venue site for the 1996 Olympic Slalom Canoe/Kayak Competition. Though the site is calm now and is under construction, it will be abuzz with activity July 26-28, 1996 as between 14,000-15,000 people are expected to witness one of the few Olympic events to be held outside the state of Georgia.

Members of the association also realized early on they would need help, Shipman said.

The association glimpsed into the future in 1993 when they called Andy Jordan, a

Florida native and recent Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary graduate as director of the association's Camp Agape and resort ministries supervisor.

In early 1994, the associa-

tion contacted neighboring associations including one across the state line in Georgia to discuss ministry opportunities.

As a result, Whitewater Ministries was formed with a — See '96 Olympics, page 2

160 years have passed since birth of state paper

Most readers probably have noticed that 1995 marks the 160th anniversary of the founding of the first continuous Baptist newspaper in Tennessee.

The Southern Baptist Encyclopedia notes that *The Baptist* was founded by R. B. C. Howell, and first published in January 1835. It was our first parent.

We have been celebrating the anniversary throughout the year, and a special edition will be published in time for *Baptist and Reflector* Day, Aug. 20.

We invite readers to join the celebration by:

(1) Ordering free copies of the Aug. 16 issue to be sent to your church for *B&R* Day. We will accept orders through Aug. 11. Call (615) 371-2003 to let us know how many papers your church will need.

(2) Writing a brief congratulatory letter for inclusion in that issue, also to arrive by Aug. 11. Fax letter to (615) 371-2080.

(3) Celebrate both occasions with your church.

More information about the birth of the paper will be included in upcoming issues this year.

The paper was the first published by Baptists south of the Ohio River and west of the Appalachians, with continuing publication. □ — Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

TBC gifts ahead for year

BRENTWOOD — After nine months of the Tennessee Baptist Convention budget year, Tennessee Baptists have given \$19,815,639 through the Cooperative Program.

Gifts are \$980,292 or 5.20 percent over the same period last year and are \$177, 163 over budget needs at this point, according to TBC Executive Director James Porch.

Gifts in July were down slightly when compared to a year ago, \$1,818,889, to \$2,069,462.

"I'm still confident that we will meet budget this year," Porch said. "We're off to a good start in August."

Porch expressed gratitude to Tennessee Baptist churches for their sacrificial giving to the Cooperative Program. □

Date set for 1996 youth conference

BRENTWOOD — The date for the 1996 Youth Evangelism Conference has been confirmed for March 8-9.

The two-day event will be held at Vanderbilt University's Memorial Gymnasium and Opryland. See story in

Aug. 2 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Registration packets for the youth conference will be mailed to all churches at the end of August, according to Jerry King, director of the TBC Evangelism Department. □

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

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'96 Olympics to provide ministry ...

— Continued from page 1
mission to develop "a cooperative ministry plan for the purpose of providing an effective, viable witness for Jesus Christ in the Ocoee River Region leading up to and during the 1996 Olympics."

By working through volunteers Whitewater Ministries also will seek to provide opportunities for service by meeting human needs and sharing a witness for Jesus Christ with people of various languages and cultures, according to Jordan, who also serves as president of Whitewater Ministries.

Whitewater Ministries also is working closely with Atlanta International Ministries (AIM) '96, a joint effort between the Georgia Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, with some involvement from the Foreign Mission Board, Jordan said. Many of the youth groups which have served in Polk County Association's resort ministries this summer were channeled through AIM and the HMB, he added.

Whitewater Ministries is comprised of members from Polk County, Bradley, McMinn-Meigs, and Copper Basin associations in Tennessee and Morganton Association in Georgia. There also has been involvement from Sweetwater Association, Shipman said.

Whitewater Ministries will attempt to do several things during the Olympics, Shipman said.

Polk County leaders encourage Tennessee Baptist involvement in '96 Olympics on Ocoee River

For Baptist and Reflector

BENTON — There are several avenues of opportunity for Tennessee Baptists to be involved in the 1996 Olympic events to be held on the Ocoee River July 26-28, agreed Polk County Baptist leaders W. L. Shipman and Andy Jordan.

(1) Prayer. "Keep us in your prayers," said Shipman, director of missions for Polk County Association. "Put us on your list and keep us there," he added.

(2) Youth groups. Numerous youth groups will be needed for various ministry efforts, Shipman and Jordan said. Priority will be given to groups who worked this summer in resort ministry in Polk County, said Jordan, director of the association's Camp Agape and president of Whitewater Ministries. For those youth teams who are interested, but did not serve, they could possibly do a weekend mission trip in September, Jordan said. In addition to providing groups with experience on the river, it would help continue the association's resort ministry through the fall season, he said.

(3) Interpreters. There will be about 20 different countries at the Ocoee River venue site, Jordan said. Among the languages that will need interpreters are French, Spanish, German, and others.

(4) Bibles. Bibles prepared by the Atlanta International Ministries '96 are needed to pass out to Olympic guests, Shipman said, noting the Bibles can be purchased for less than \$2 each. Church groups, such as WMU, Brotherhood, and missions organizations, could purchase Bibles as a mission project, Shipman suggested. They can be purchased directly from AIM '96 or money, designated for "Olympic Bibles" could be sent to Polk County Baptist Association, P.O. Box 289, Benton, Tenn., 37307.

For more information on these and other ways to be involved, call Shipman at (615) 338-2749 or Jordan at (615) 338-4153. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Among them will be furnishing housing in private homes to families of Olympic athletes, staffing chaplains at the venue site, providing guides on the buses which will take spectators to the venue site, manning refreshment stands at shuttle sites, and passing out tracts and selected witnessing materials.

"There is no way we could have done it by ourselves," Shipman said. "Other associa-

tions have stepped in and shared responsibilities," he added.

Tennessee Baptist Woman's Missionary Union members from across the state also have taken part already by collecting hospitality bags.

These bags, which contain a variety of items ranging from box juices to bandaids, will be distributed during a pre-Olympic event on the Ocoee River in late August, Jordan

said. In addition, Tennessee WMU has set a goal of providing 75,000 bags to be used during the Olympics next July, Jordan added.

Both Jordan and Shipman are well aware there's much to be done before the Olympics begin next July.

"Our challenge is to be spiritually prepared for the opportunity we're going to have," Jordan said. □

Rwandan Baptist refugees cling to hope in Christ

By Pam Parry
For Baptist Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — War. The massacre of intimate friends. Loss of all personal property and vocation. Exile. Nothing can shake Eleazar Ziharambere's faith in God and the belief that his story and that of his people is one of hope.

Ziharambere, a participant in the Baptist World Congress and former general secretary of the Baptist Union in Rwanda,

700 visits made

A group from First Church, Livingston, last month did volunteer work in Novi, Mich.

Results of the work were included in a letter on page 4, Aug. 2, issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*. While working with Orchard Hills Church there, the group from Livingston helped locate prospects for the church by visiting 700 homes, and "knocking on doors."

The *Baptist and Reflector* is happy to correct the number that was incorrectly stated last week. □

da, said despite the devastation and chaos wrought by tribal wars, he knows "the situation in Rwanda is not beyond God's control."

Ziharambere, Baptist World Alliance regional secretary for Africa, joined by Francois Havugimana, former president of the Baptist Union in Rwanda, told reporters Aug. 3 Baptists around the world should pray for peace and reconciliation in that land.

They refuted allegations that the Rwandan churches and religious leaders participated in the bloody killings. The religious leaders' call for peace and reconciliation resulted either in their murder or exile, they said.

"The people who are fighting believed we would interfere with their interest, because they wanted to get power by force," Ziharambere said.

Ziharambere, himself, was targeted for murder and narrowly escaped. His wife was in London when the fighting broke out, and he was alone with their children. They left everything they owned behind, fleeing by car to the Burundi border. Eventually, they made

their way to Nairobi.

Even though the death of the multitudes will never "get out of my memory, I am glad this (violence) began after they made it to eternity," Ziharambere said.

If this life was all that the

Rwandans had it would be a miserable existence and their god would be a miserable god, he said. But Ziharambere said with all his heart he knows better. "We will be reunited with one another in heaven," he affirmed. □

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests August



- 10 — Give thanks that the Baptist church in Lodz, Poland, has regained its property taken during the war.
- 11 — Pray for Mr. and Mrs. Charles Layton as they prepare to serve as our partnership coordinators in Poland.
- 12 — Pray for those who were reached through an English course in Cieszyn, Poland, this month.
- 13 — Pray for Orion Oaks Baptist Chapel in Oakland Association in Michigan as they seek to find a place to meet as they will be moving soon out of the Seventh Day Adventist Church where they have been meeting.
- 14 — Give thanks for the 87 volunteers who built a new church in Prince Edward Island, Canada, this summer.
- 15 — Pray for Bryan Currie and Eric Thompson as they return from serving as summer missionaries in Poland.
- 16 — Pray for the pastors and wives retreat being held in Michigan this week.

WMU distributes AIDS education materials in nationwide program

Associated Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — When Baptists have a hard job to do, they can always count on women to be in the forefront. So it is not surprising that the 1.2 million members of the Woman's Missionary Union are beginning a nationwide AIDS education program.

The program, Dare to Care, doesn't officially begin until October, but churches from Texas to Maine are already receiving educational materials on how to help those suffering from acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Some in the religious community have called AIDS a curse from God — punishment for homosexual lifestyles and the promiscuity of heterosexuals. But most Baptists and other evangelicals don't go that far. Their faith compels them to assist people in trouble, re-

gardless of their circumstances.

"We don't try to be judgmental in any of our materials in the AIDS project," said Trudy Johnson, WMU special projects director.

But the AIDS education program of the women's group does promote traditional morality — including sexual abstinence — as a way of preventing the disease. Training materials from the women's group and other Baptist agencies emphasize that sexual contact and blood transfusions are the major ways of contracting the deadly disease.

Worshiping or praying with a person with AIDS won't give you the disease, the materials state. Cards asking for prayers for specific persons who have AIDS are also included. Information is given on setting up care teams and church education programs.

In February WMU will sponsor a nationwide collection of items needed by AIDS hospices as well as money for services. The money will be donated to an AIDS hospice in Victoria, Brazil.

Baptists got a wake-up call about the AIDS pandemic four years ago when Jimmy Allen, a former SBC president, revealed the tragedy that happened to his family when his daughter-in-law contracted the virus through a blood transfusion. She and her youngest son died of AIDS and her oldest son, now 12, is critically ill with the virus.

One of the WMU source materials is a video, Valley of the Shadow, which tells the Allen's story.

Allen commends WMU for its efforts, noting that it is a "network of women who historically have been involved in the cutting edge of caring." □



State Advisory Panel

The 1995-96 State Advisory Panel consists of, from left, front row, Janna Morell, Creeview Church, Nashville; Andrea Aldridge, First Church, Waverly; Michelle Kee, First Church, Camden; Heather Hornsby, Parkview Church, Jackson; back row, Amanda Day, Tennessee WMU program associate; Keeley Woods, Union Church, Lexington; and Erica Cordell, Salem Church, Knoxville. State advisory panelists help plan activities for Tennessee Baptist Acteens for the year, with primary focus on the Acteens Summit. They also assist Tennessee WMU in various ways during various state WMU meetings throughout the year. — Photo by Connie Davis

Religious Roundtable plans 1996 National Affairs Briefing in Memphis

Associated Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — The organization that publicly tied the knot between Ronald Reagan and the Religious Right in 1980 plans to hold a major national forum next January in an attempt to influence the 1996 presidential election.

Ed McAteer, a Baptist layman at Bellevue Church, Cordova, and president of the Religious Roundtable, has announced plans for another National Affairs Briefing Jan. 19-20, 1996. All candidates for president will be invited to address the crowd which could top 22,000, McAteer said.

McAteer said the two-day event, at a yet to be determined site, also will feature addresses by prominent "family values" speakers such as Jerry Falwell, Adrian Rogers, Gary Bauer, James Kennedy, Richard Land, Ralph Reed,

Phyllis Schlafly, and Don Wildmon.

The Religious Roundtable has hosted a number of National Affairs Briefings in the past 15 years, but is best remembered nationally for its 1980 briefing at Reunion Arena in Dallas. At that event more than 20,000 people heard presidential candidate Ronald Reagan declare, "I know you cannot endorse me, but I want you to know that I endorse you."

In the subsequent 1980 election, the support of conservative Christians was considered pivotal in Reagan's defeat of incumbent president Jimmy Carter, who declined an invitation to the Dallas conference.

The Religious Roundtable also held a national event prior to the 1992 election at which George Bush spoke but Bill Clinton did not. Both men were invited.

The 1996 briefing has the potential to be even bigger than the Dallas briefing, McAteer said, adding that it will differ from previous meetings because it will be held before party primaries and either party's national convention.

The scheduling change is "very significant," McAteer said, and reflects that much is at stake as Republicans and Democrats head into their national conventions.

"We want them to know before they nominate their candidates, here is how this bloc of voters feels about it," he explained. "We don't want them taking us for granted."

The Republican Party in particular faces schism between religious conservatives and fiscal conservatives. In a news conference during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting last June, former Richard Nixon staffer

Charles Colson suggested the Republican Party will split if the party nominates a presidential candidate who does not support the moral and social views of religious conservatives.

McAteer said he believes there is "no question" that religious conservatives organized through groups such as the Christian Coalition represent "the largest single bloc of voters in America" and will be a potent force either for or against any candidate.

The purpose of the January National Affairs Briefing will be to "impact public policy on moral issues by convincing our candidates that our agenda is very important," McAteer said.

That agenda includes such issues as abortion, school prayer, pornography, national defense, gun ownership, homosexuality, and education," McAteer observed. □ — Mark Wingfield

SBC Cooperative Program gifts down in July, ahead for year

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program gifts for July dropped 2.8 percent below the same month a year ago, but the totals for the year-to-date still are above the previous year by 2.02 percent, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

CP gifts for the month of July totaled \$11,708,855 compared to July 1994's total of \$12,030,817.

For the 10 months of the SBC fiscal year, which runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, total receipts are \$121,023,134, compared to the same period a year ago at \$118,630,576.

Designated gifts for July were 32.55 percent over the month a year ago: \$5,624,435 compared to \$4,243,380. The year-to-date designated total is \$127,328,164, an increase of 3.14 over last year's total of \$123,452,486.

Year-to-date CP gifts are 6.36 percent above the budget requirement. □

BWA council to study Baptist distinctives

Baptist Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — The Baptist World Alliance General Council agreed to study the "distinguishing marks of a Baptist body" and heard reports of God's work around the world during its July 31-Aug. 1 session.

Meeting in Buenos Aires before the 17th Baptist World Congress, council members also extended membership to five Baptist organizations — the Association of Baptist Churches in Rwanda, the Baptist Union of North India, the Nepal Baptist Church Council, the Brotherhood of Indepen-

dent Christians/Baptists of Ukraine, and the Union of Evangelical Christians/Baptists in Federated Yugoslavia.

The Baptist World Alliance member organizations represent 40,783,213 baptized believers belonging to 152,239 churches.

Baptist World Alliance guidelines specify that members must be Baptist, while they give no definitions of what it means to be Baptist, said Reginald Harvey of the Baptist Missionary Society of England and chairman of the membership committee.

The vote means a committee will study the proposal and

bring a recommendation to next year's General Council meeting, but "we don't want to be a creedal organization," said Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary.

In his opening remarks, Lotz said, "We're a home for every Baptists." Some beliefs Baptists have in common, Lotz noted, are freedom of religion, the Bible being the Word of God, and baptism only for believers.

Yet the diversity among Baptists means BWA members must display a "tolerance and unity from Jesus Christ. We need to learn from one another," he said. □

VBS goes on at Waynesboro First in spite of fire

For Baptist and Reflector

WAYNESBORO — Members of First Church, Waynesboro, refused to let tragedy interfere with Vacation Bible School.

Three days before VBS was to have begun July 24, fire heavily damaged the church's parsonage which was under construction.

"We were down on Sunday, but we got back up," said Pastor Frank Samuels.

"In the long run I think this will help us more than hurt us," he added.

Samuels said members have told him it was the best VBS the church ever had. "We enrolled 110 with an average attendance of 93. Plus, we had more workers than we could use," he added.

"We're seeing the Lord do a lot of things here," said Samuels, who served as vice president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1993-94.

Law enforcement officials believe the fire was started by arsonists. Prime suspects are three juveniles who were seen running from the scene shortly before the fire was discovered, according to a news report.

Much of the work on the new parsonage had been completed this summer by mission groups from three Tennessee Baptist churches — First, Chattanooga; First, Hixson; and Shiloh, Ocoee, Samuels said.

The main structure of the house was completed when the fire occurred but there was no electricity or gas connected to the building. A deacon watching the firefighting effort said that the congregation had just that day contracted to have the interior of the home completed.

Heat, smoke, and water damage was extensive throughout the structure. The estimated damage is approximately \$60,000, Samuels said. □ — Adapted from an article in the *Wayne County News*.

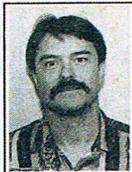


SAMUELS

Language Missions Day celebration set for Aug. 13

By Tim Hill
For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Southern Baptists have set aside one day a year for Language Missions Day. This year it is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 13.



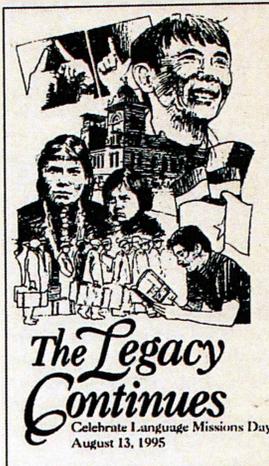
HILL

This is a time when we as Southern Baptists can celebrate our diversity as well as our unity. We can give thanks to God for allowing us to be able to share the Gospel with all people of this great nation regardless of their language, religious, or cultural background.

America's population is a unique mosaic blend of many peoples. Many of our forefathers

came to this land to be able to worship our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. That migration continues today as people come for many and diverse reasons: religious persecution, political strife, financial difficulties, and others. Some come as refugees. Others come as immigrants. Some are here temporarily but most are here to stay. Whatever their reason for coming they hold one thing in common. They wish to start a new life in this land we call America.

The 1990 census indicates there are some 89 million people here in the United States who classify themselves as belonging to one of some 500 different ethnic groups speaking some 636 languages. This presents a tremendous challenge to Southern Baptists if we are sincere about reaching all our nation for Christ. So far we



have responded well. Today there are some 6,000 language congregations here in the United States, including approximately 140 in Tennessee. On

any given Sunday we worship in more than 100 languages among 103 ethnic groups. Ethnic people have been very receptive to the Gospel and we as Southern Baptists have been there to share.

How can Tennessee Baptists help celebrate Language Missions Day? A few suggestions include:

- Plan an ethnic culture fair using ethnic art, music, crafts, and food.

- Plan a joint worship service with equal participation from both congregations.

- Start an ethnic ministry or congregation.

The best part is that Tennessee Baptists can be involved in language work throughout the year. □ — Hill began duties July 1 as associate director for language church extension with the TBC Missions Department.

Tennessee Baptist couple receives 'triple blessing' from Russia

By Michelle Mattox
For Baptist and Reflector

FRANKLIN — For most couples, being told that they cannot have children can be devastating. For one Tennessee Baptist couple, however, it proved to be a triple blessing.

After being told that they could not have children, Jim and Carol Bryson of Franklin decided to adopt a child in the spring of 1994. Realizing that they would need more money for the adoption, Carol spent the summer commuting weekly to a job in Atlanta, Ga. "The job was an answer to prayer," Carol said. While talking to her former boss about getting a job, a call came in from a lady in Atlanta, Ga, who needed her to work as a customer service trainer. The pay was the exact amount that they would need for the adoption.

The Brysons contacted Heaven Sent Children's Services (HSC) in Murfreesboro last August. At that point they wanted to adopt one baby, out of Eastern Europe, so Janet Morris of HSC connected them with Americans for Independent Aid and Adoption (AIAA), an agency in Detroit, Mich., which handles international adoptions.

AIAA asked the Brysons if they would consider taking more than one child out of Eastern Europe, and they answered "yes," three at the most. They were asked if they would take a sibling group.

The next week the agent gave them pictures of the three

children they would soon adopt.

The Brysons knew then that this was it, these were their children. Within three weeks they decided to adopt the children. Jim and Carol traveled to Russia Nov. 16 of last year to pick up the children.

"There are times when you know the Lord is working. This is without a doubt one of those times," Carol said. There were many barriers the Brysons had to overcome in Russia, including getting a transit visa for their children, but the Lord prevailed through them all. "We had to be very flexible," Carol said, "because we were taking three citizens out of their country."

It was worth all the trouble and inconvenience when they received the children (Maria, 8, Nadia, 4, and Nicholas, 2), Carol said.

The many prayers and support of family and friends, especially those from First Church, Nashville, where they are members, kept them going. One couple promised to stop and pray for the Brysons everyday at noon.

The couple feels that the Lord put them in this situation and are willing to help and encourage other families to adopt. "It's fabulous. We've become advocates of adoption," said Jim, president of a Nashville business.

Many people get wrapped up in the fact that their children aren't biologically theirs and they lose their perspective.

"It was not as big a problem for us because these are our children. The main thing is that God knows what he's doing. Sometimes he has to bring you to rock bottom (in this case not having children) before he

can show you the joy in it," Carol said.

The Brysons say that one has to be careful with adoption agencies. They suggest finding a good adoption agency and checking its sources. "This went smooth because the agency knew what it was doing," Jim said.

The children have adjusted well to their new home and family. They love playing outdoors and spending time with their dog Opie, a golden retriever.

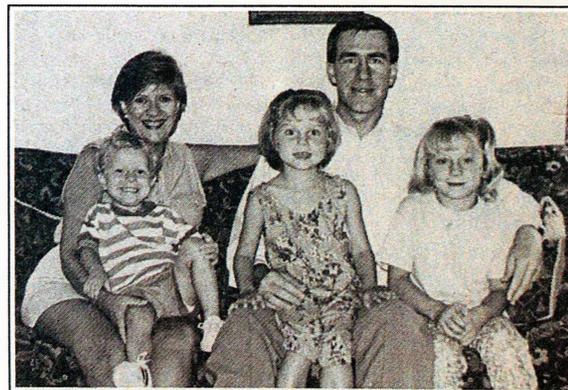
Jim and Carol both notice how their children have changed since the adoption.

The biggest change has occurred in Nicholas. "When we first got him he would just kind of stare at you. Now he's opened up and will get closer to people," Carol said. Nadia has mainly changed in appearance.

Her hair has grown out and she seems to be a little taller. "She's pretty much her own person," Carol said.

Carol talks with her oldest daughter, Maria, about Christ and his second coming and explains that God planned this adoption. Maria continues to ask when Christ is coming again.

The Bryson family has clearly allowed God to work through their lives, and it has all been for the best. □ — Mattox, a student at Union University, Jackson, is working this summer as an intern for the Baptist and Reflector and the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Public Relations Office.



JIM AND CAROL BRYSON relax at home with their three children. From left are Nicholas, Nadia, and Maria. The Brysons adopted the three Russian siblings last November.

Doing more than merely 'hanging in there'

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

"Hang in there" is a well-worn piece of advice freely given but almost worthless.

Most who say those words no doubt mean well, but the words are weak and trite. They give the impression that the recipient of such advice has no reason to hope, no friend who would give support, no Father who can answer prayers abundantly and with great power.

The three words are graphic and picturesque, but of little help to a person who has reached physical and mental limits. In the mind's eye, we can see the person stretched out and scratching to survive.

Some examples of better ways to survive and overcome difficulties without "hanging in there" are found in the Bible, and we can see them evidenced in everyday Baptist literature.

First, the Scripture. By no means do we offer exhaustive advice from the Bible — it is there for all to study. We read about God's awesome creative power in Genesis, Job, Malachi, and other Bible portions.

Remember that Jesus took simple necessities such as a boy's lunch of bread and fish and fed thousands. Remember that he broke the bonds of death and rose triumphantly — preparing the way for resurrections to follow. Remember that he healed many bodies, souls, and minds.

Isaiah 43 is a chapter that offers tremendous advice to the stricken — by reminding us that God has called us by name and pledged to lead us and walk

with us. He also called us to be his witnesses because we know him.

That is not merely "hanging in there." Christians also need to remember that Jesus promised to give his disciples such power that the gates of hell could not withstand it.

There are many positive events and successes in today's world.

Freedom of religion: Instead of making disparaging remarks about each other, Christians should be grateful that there is an open forum today concerning religious freedom.

It is important that government and citizens talk about it. It is even more important that we use and protect the religious freedom that we have.

In the *Illinois Baptist*, Editor Bill Webb makes an interesting point.

He said an associate editor for the FMB's *The Commission* magazine once quoted a Baptist leader who lived his life of faith under a totalitarian government in eastern Europe. The writer had asked about the difficulty of expressing faith in a land with such harsh limitations on religious freedom.

The person being questioned thought for a moment, then answered, "We have more freedom than we use."

Does that sound like someone who was "hanging in there?" Persistent, dogged, yes; but that is substantially more than just hanging in there.

Leaving the car at home: Rather

than whining about air pollution and automobile operating expenses, the Evangelical Alliance in Great Britain went beyond "hanging in there."

The *Baptist Times* of the British Baptist Union reports that the Alliance urged Christians to support a "Car Free Sunday."

The group determined that many Christians are not involved in caring for the environment, despite Biblical admonitions. God created the planet, they said, and as God's people, Christians ought to be first in taking care of it.

The first "Car Free Day" was not a major success, but the Alliance promises to try it again, going beyond "hanging in there."

Obedience rather than politics: Baptists have been talking about denominational politics particularly since the early 1980s. In a letter to the editor of the *Texas Baptist Standard*, retired missionary Sam Cannata put it plainly.

"We are convinced that politics in God's kingdom is sin," he wrote. "Kingdom implies a king, and we all acknowledge in God's Kingdom that he is sovereign — totally in control. There is to be no politics, only obedience." He added a plan for unity among Southern Baptists.

Not whimpering, and going beyond hanging on, Cannata spoke with the courage God gave him.

These are but three examples of courage instead of timidity. Let us be as persistent, and brave. God enables us to do more than "hang in there." □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Both left and right

In a little book called *Brethren, Hang Loose*, Robert C. Girard pointed to seven principles of the New Testament Church which he said guided his church.

He said the principles helped the church "rediscover in century twenty the vibrant life of the Christian fellowship of century one."

He listed them this way:

1. Depend on the Holy Spirit instead of "the flesh."
2. Concentrate on the maturing of Christians.
3. Recognize the priesthood of all believers.
4. Build the church fellowship around Christ.



ALLEN

5. Release church life from the confines of the church building.
6. Recognize our place in the total Body of Christ.
7. Build church unity on the basis of love.

These are sound principles, of course, even though they can be worded differently.

One of my school chums was left-handed. We freely chided him when he attacked a piece of paper — trying to write legibly. He was mimicking the right-handed scribbles.

The teacher startled him one day when she said his handwriting was special.

"Your paper is beautiful, Charlie," she said. "I just can't read a word of it."

Of course we snickered. But she firmly reminded us that when Charlie stopping trying to write like us — his would still be beautiful — and legible.

It is good advice, I think, for each church to follow God's plan for that particular body. He puts together people in a place, gifted and able, and then asks them to follow him.

We may "do church" differently, but the same principles guide us.

Sometimes our "left-handed" writing may not be legible to others, but in God's eyes, I think it is still beautiful.

The truth causes us to be courageous dreamers, good planners, and fruitful Christians.

A person who refuses to continue dreaming after a failure is like someone who draws a line in the sand and says, "I will not cross that line."

God needs builders! ■

Kids' sleep disturbances

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

Last week we looked at sleep rituals of preschoolers. Today let's address common sleep disturbances of the same group.

It is not uncommon for children to have one of several types of sleep disturbances. These include bedtime temper tantrums, nightmares, night terrors, sleep walking, and sleep talking.

These sleep disturbances are often associated with traumas or stress in the life of the preschooler.

Such things as accidents, illnesses, depressed or ambivalent mothers, or mothers who are suddenly absent from the home can contribute to these difficulties of preschoolers going to sleep at night.

I realize with the increasing attention to the father's responsibility that these statements may sound a little one-sided.

More research in the past focused on the mother's relationship to preschoolers and that is slowly changing today.

I usually suggest to parents of preschoolers that they establish a bed time and consistently stick with it.

This often meets with resis-

tance from the child. Sometimes this will even produce bed time temper tantrums where the child throws a fit, kicking and screaming about having to go to bed.

If the child's biological clock is set then the parents may want to consider changing the bedtime to suit the child's own biological clock.

Tantrums can also be avoided by having several quiet activity-level changing activities that help the child make the transition from play to rest.

These may include rituals such as the bedtime story, nightly prayers, brushing teeth, a good night kiss, etc.

The Walton's TV program used to close where everyone told everyone else good night.

Nightmares are also a frequent form of sleep disturbance for children. It is not unusual for children to have occasional nightmares.

If they become frequent (more than two or three times

a month) and if the fears remain and are talked about in waking hours, the child should be taken

for professional help.

Many parents do not seem to be aware that these occasional nightmares are often caused by staying up too late, eating heavy spicy meals, such as having a pizza delivered close to bedtime.

Over-excitement and watching horror movies are also contributing factors.

Children at this age already have overactive imaginations and don't need any help imagining monsters and scary stories.

Parents could help their children avoid the experience of nightmares by simply avoiding these kinds of behavior.

The occasional nightmare is usually nothing to become alarmed about, for they usually disappear as mysteriously as they start.

Next week we will take a look at night terrors, sleep walking, and sleep talking. □



BARKLEY

■ just for today
By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Toastmaster to the honoree: "Now, Oscar, tell us what you had when you started in this city?" Oscar: "Thirty years ago, I had only one set of clothes. All else I carried in a paper bag." Toastmaster (after speech): "You never said what was in that bag. Do you mind telling us now?" Oscar: "I had \$300,000 in cash."

Take this truth

All of us have hidden assets. We may realize it, but often we don't! The Lord does not want us to be vain, nor persons without ability. Be honest concerning your gifts. Then determine to use them to glorify him.

Memorize this Scripture

"And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one" (Matthew 25:15).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to evaluate and use my assets for You. Make me grateful. □

Tennessee Royal Ambassador

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector



PUTTING UP INSULATION on a house are, from left, Jeremy Black of Loudon, Charlie Hysinger of Cleveland, and Charles Fitzgerald of Gray.



SURVEYING THE NEW PIG YARD she will direct for the community is Ginny Pittman, with Charles Fitzgerald, who helped build it.



VISITING ARE Charlie Hysinger of Cleveland and Renee Garrett of Clairfield.

CLAIRFIELD — Last week some teens ignored '90s attractions and demands and stepped back in time to toil in the heat of Appalachia.

For the last three years the Tennessee Royal Ambassador Camp staff has done missions work following their camp duty. Each year they return to Appalachia because of the needs there, said Bob Davison, Royal Ambassador director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Staff member Jason Roy of Sweetwater had never been to this portion of Appalachia, which rests north of Knoxville at the Kentucky border. He said he didn't see any more poverty than he sees near his home. What he did learn was that Appalachia has a different culture which is hard to define. However, he noted most of the people are church-goers, and they became his friends.

Some of those new friends "even offered to stand guard for us" overnight, said Roy, referring to the community's response to vandalism of the staff's cars (see story below).

Roy said it was his favorite week as a camp staffer. He enjoyed working with boys and girls in the day camp and he learned he knew how to handle most of the tools they used doing projects.

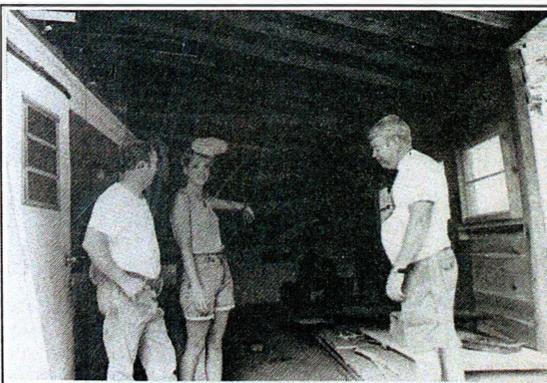
The 15 young men did several kinds of work in Appalachia. They led a day camp for area children held at the public school in Clairfield. They cleared brush for a pig yard and set posts for it. And they continued construction on a house and a trailer house begun in previous

years. Two recipients of their labor live in the Woodland Land Trust located in Roses Creek.

The land trust has been the site of work by the staffers every year, said Davison, but he doesn't exclude anyone who needs help if they can provide their own materials.



JEREMY BLACK of Loudon hammers a nail on the outside of a house.



POINTING TO THE AREA FORMED by the new siding around her trailer houses is Renee Garrett with Charles Fitzgerald, left, and Charlie Hysinger. She hopes to make it into an additional room.

The land trust is an organization which provides land at a reasonable rate and housing through government grants and loans. An outgrowth of the trust are cooperative efforts by renters such as the pig yard, which will provide meat for anyone who agrees to care for the stock on a rotating basis.

Help with construction

The work is led by two builders who have helped for several years. Charles Fitzgerald of Gray and Charlie Hysinger of Cleveland are both in the construction business. Hysinger is a general contractor and Fitzgerald is a subcontractor who specializes in trim work.

Both men admitted their businesses suffer because they take the week off, but they wouldn't miss the effort, they agreed. And because of the needs they see, they return several times a year to bring gifts, especially construction materials, to their friends.

"The stuff we throw away they'd love to have," said Hysinger. "They're not like the people in the cities that we help."

"They're mountain people. They're rooted here," explained Hysinger.

He helps one family celebrate Christmas each year. One year he found the father had done what he could, said Hysinger. He had killed a wild goose for dinner and set a Christmas tree up in the house, but it was bare of presents for the two children.

The house has no running water and needs a well. It had no locks on the doors until Hysinger installed some.

"I'd always heard about Appalachia, but until you get off the main road there and get back into it, you don't know it," said Hysinger.

"They've got to know people care," said Fitzgerald.

Those helped react

Renee Garrett lives in a "holler" or valley accessed by one road that links her to the homes of other family members. She and her husband and two children made a home by moving two trailer houses together. But because of the help of the RA staff their home is more comfortable, especially during the winter. The staff added heavy siding to the outside of the trailer houses. They also cut an additional door for a bedroom which makes a child's room much safer in case of fire, explained Hysinger.

The only groups who have helped her family are Baptist, said Garrett.

Ginny Pittman couldn't believe what the RA

RA staff vehicles damaged at site

Baptist and Reflector

CLAIRFIELD — While the Tennessee RA Camp staff was in Clairfield, vandals struck five cars July 27 parked at the Clairfield School where the staff stayed. Twelve tires were punctured, one windshield was broken, and some body damage done.

Local people helped even though they didn't know the group personally. Charles Higonbach gave eight tires and Ron Atkins offered wheels. Baptists such as Russ Dunham, member, First Church, LaFollette, also helped.

Bob Davison of the TBC said two men had been arrested and court dates had been set. □

Tennessee features Camp staff works in Appalachia

staff accomplished to prepare the pig yard. Besides clearing the overgrown area located in the Woodland Land Trust, they set 155 posts. She quickly added, "But we don't want to depend on them. That's a form of dependency." She and her family live near the yard, which she helped plan. From her research she found the pigs will clear easily the land in the pen, including the kudzu, which usually takes five years to kill.

Carol Judy, who lives in a camper and is looking forward to living in a house the RA staff worked on, said the RAs have accepted Appalachian people, which leads to friendships. Proof of that, she said, is that she's had visits from some of the RA staffers after a project week.

Explaining work

RA staffer Carl Johnson of



BUDDIES Sarah King and Casey Pittman watch a video at the day camp.



ROY FISHER, a student at Carson-Newman College from Spartanburg, S.C., helps some day campers make their bird house wall-hanging.

Lebanon has been a staff member for four years while he has been in the military. He even took military leave to work on the staff. He observed that the children attending the day camp were shy at first and then became very loving in contrast to the mostly middle-class kids at RA camps who are detached, he said. He also noted these children were mesmerized by the Christian videos shown, leading him to

think they don't get to see such videos.

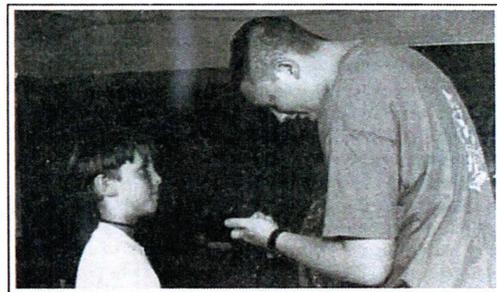
Evaluating the work, Davison said because the staff has returned for three years they are beginning to be accepted, which is essential in Appalachia. The day camp has grown

each year. This year it drew 251. And this year the principal, Joe Jennings, told Davison the Baptists were welcome any date even though the school's custodians are trying to prepare for the school year. He even promotes the camp during school.

"It's like we're family now," said Davison. □



FRANK BOWLING, student at Middle Tennessee State University, makes new friends at camp.



JASON ROY of Sweetwater admires a pendant worn by Lance Miden.

Picks 'no more concrete'

Baptist and Reflector

PRIMWRIGHT — Jesse Cox lives in the mountain community of Primroy, if one goes by name of the community church, but he remembers his home being called Primwright, so that's what he uses.

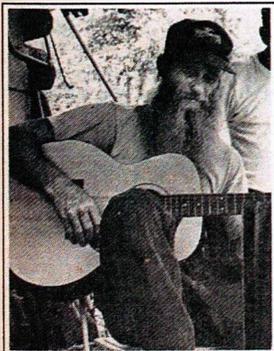
Cox, 46, left Primwright during his last year in high school because he was embarrassed to attend school with patches on his clothes and holes in his shoes. Some years ago he came back to attend the funeral of an uncle. He felt drawn back three years ago and stayed.

His roving stopped on the land which is his family's and its cemetery is just in front of his house, which he built. He lives off the land, carrying water a mile. The only monetary assistance he receives is from food stamps.

It's a solitary life. He said he has few friends and sometimes several months will pass without a visitor. Although he is a member of First Church, Morley, he doesn't attend.

"I don't want no more concrete, no more chlorine water," he said.

"Down there (down the mountain) I'm not Jesse Cox. I'm Tom, Dick, or Harry; what somebody else wants me to be. I can't do that anymore. I'm in good hands. I have the love of God and these hands," he said, holding out his big, rough



COX SINGS a song he wrote on the front porch of the house he built.

hands.

"I have a calling. There's too many times I ought to be dead. I've had no sickness up here. I have a purpose. I just have not found mine."

He has found friends among Baptists. A Baptist group from Georgia helped him build his roof. The RA Camp staff helped him build a chimney and loaned him a chainsaw.

Cox said he lives in the wild, but so did John the Baptist. □

Local missionaries coordinate work

Baptist and Reflector

LA FOLLETTE — Campbell County Association will coordinate 900 volunteers — some in Baptist groups but mostly in non-denominational organizations — this year who will work in the area on about 100 homes, said Glen Petree, director of missions.

The needs are great, he explained. The people here "have been trodden down for so long that they don't have the motivation to change," he said. They have experienced a kind of abuse, he added, so they stay. "Logic says that's crazy," he said, but Jesus wouldn't condemn them. Instead, just as he responded to the woman at the well, he would help them and ask them to examine their lives.

With the assistance of Nelsie Wooden, missions development chairperson, Gene Alred, Brotherhood director, and Joel Gilliam, a Baptist with the Office of Aging, Petree has formed Haven, an organization which screens people who may need help and which gets grants and loans for the work.

Those wishing to help may contact the Campbell County Association office at (615) 562-5213. □



PAUSING FROM HELPING the RA staff are Nelsie Wooden and Glen Petree, who lead Campbell County Association.

World Changers make 'house calls' in Jackson

By Keith Currey
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — During the week of July 17-22, the streets of east Jackson were filled with the usual sounds of young people laughing and enjoying the summer, but the source of these sounds was not as familiar.

Approximately 430 junior high youth and counselors from 13 states and 40 churches converged upon the city for a World Changers work project in the area. With the appropriate theme, "We Make House Calls," the project provided much-needed painting and repairs for 33 homes.

"The World Changers are attempting to help low income families get their homes in better condition," said Gary Williams, executive director of Madison-Chester Association.

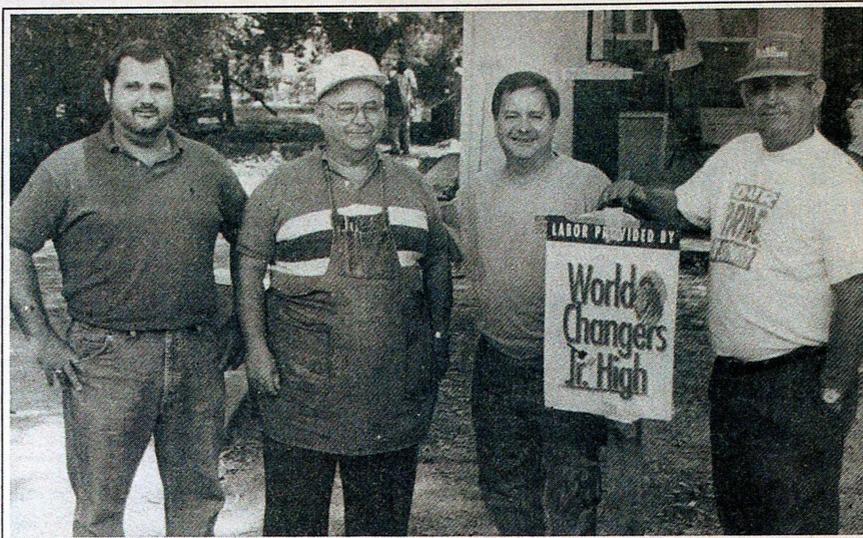
"By participating in World Changers these young people are gaining exposure to hands-on mission work and having a lot of fun while doing it."

World Changers is a program of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, based in Memphis.

Work crews of 10-15 youth and counselors were assembled from the different churches, giving participants the opportunity to interact with other youth throughout the project. Volunteers from Madison-Chester Association churches helped supervise maintenance efforts and provide on-site meals for the workers.

"It's great to see how our local churches, along with the community as a whole, have supported the efforts of these young people," Williams said.

With help from Area Relief Ministries and supplies provided by the city of Jackson, the



DROPPING IN on a World Changers work site in Jackson are, from left, Larry Murphy, associate director of missions for Madison-Chester Association, Watts Stewart, Parkview Church, Jackson, site crew chief, Gary Williams, executive director for Madison-Chester Association, and Maurice Hays, construction project supervisor and BSU director for Jackson State Community College. World Changers crews painted and repaired 33 homes during their week-long stay.

youth provided the necessary manpower to improve areas that might ordinarily go untouched. As a result, city officials welcomed World Changers volunteers heartily, with Jackson Mayor Charles Farmer proclaiming July 17-22 as "World Changers Week" throughout the city.

The work was hard and the days were long, but all youth who participated expressed a desire to work on future World Changers projects.

"This is my second year to work with World Changers," said Laura Wood of Tuscaloosa, Ala., "and it keeps getting better. You get to meet lots of new people, help people in need, and serve the Lord, all at the same time."

"Overall, the project went

remarkably well," said Bill Kisner, project coordinator for the week and former BSU director at Union University.

"This is the first time Jackson has hosted World Changers and we had a larger than usual group of youth coming in. A normal project involves 250-330 workers, but this one included 35 crews involving 430 volunteers. Everyone involved, whether with the association, the visiting churches, or the community, kept up well and made World Changers a

success in Jackson," Kisner said.

Each evening, youth explored the week's "Making House Calls" theme even further, exploring the "rooms" of their personal "house" during worship and devotional times, Kisner noted. □

Holston plans to 'Celebrate '96'

For Baptist and Reflector

JOHNSON CITY — Messengers at Holston Association's recent semi-annual meeting voted to "Celebrate '96" in commemoration of the association's 210th anniversary next year.

Plans for the celebration will offer mission opportunities locally, nationally, and internationally, according to Moderator Clay Austin of First Church, Blountville.

"We will celebrate our past by looking to the future," Austin said.

Mission projects will include trips to Canada, Poland, and Romania as well as WMU-sponsored family mission projects in the United States.

Local projects will include the Baptist Center, the summer migrant ministry, and construction of a Habitat for Humanity house.

Several special events are also planned in 1996 including a church growth conference April 22-23 and an association-wide tent revival Sept. 8-12 in Johnson City with John Bisagno of Houston as evangelist. □

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Dean Search

Southwest Baptist University invites nominations and applications for the position of dean, College of Christian Studies. Responsibilities: academic programs, budget, student and faculty recruitment, relationships with Missouri Baptists. Qualifications: must be Southern Baptist, with strong commitment to Missouri Baptists; PhD or ThD in religion; academic teaching and administration experience; commitment to principles of shared governance and collegial decision-making; preaching and local church experience. Application deadline: Sept. 15, 1995. Applications must include curriculum vita, statement of Christian educational philosophy, and at least three references. To submit nominations or request additional information: Dr. Fred Teague, Chair, Dean Search Committee, SBU, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar, MO 65613; FAX: (417) 326-1719; E-mail: <gradedu@sbnunivedu>.

NEW LOCATION

Retreat for Women on Mission
Sept. 15-16, 1995
Union University Chapel, Jackson



Beverly Miller,
Bible Teacher



Karla Worley
Musician

Pre-registration: \$7
Pre-registration deadline:
Sept. 1
After Sept. 2 and at door: \$10

Theme: Risk the
Journey plus
testimonies by
Women on Mission

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room
Comfort Inn, 1 (800) 850-1131,
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(ask for Jill), \$49



Vel Cross
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Arkansas

For more information, call Tennessee WMU at (615) 371-2038

Classified

POSITIONS VACANT: Ivy Memorial Church, Nashville, is seeking a part-time youth director and part-time minister of music. If interested, call the church at (615) 262-1442.

FOR SALE: Oak padded pews, pulpit furniture, & communion table. Call (615) 775-1154 or (615) 624-5846.

PART-TIME OPENING: Growing Chattanooga church seeks a part-time youth and education director. Needs self-motivated person who can relate to youth of all ages. Some experience with Christian education preferred. Send resume or contact Pastor Kerry B. Smith, 3522 Ringgold Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37412.

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■ **Sidney R. Young**, pastor of Raleigh Church in metropolitan Memphis for four years, has been called as pastor of First Church, Paris, Texas, effective Aug. 31.

■ **First Church, Lenoir City**, has called **Douglas R. Alexander**, pastor, Sharon Woods Church, Columbus, Ohio, for nine years, as pastor, effective Aug. 21. Alexander has been minister of education at First Church, Little Rock, Ark., and a staff member of churches in New Mexico, Texas, and Ohio. He is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons Baptist University, Abilene, Texas; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and Trinity Bible Seminary/Southern Baptist Center, Jacksonville, Fla. He was first vice president of the Ohio Baptist Convention.



■ **Grassland Heights Church, Franklin**, has called **Lenny Farmer** of Charlotte, N.C., as pastor, effective July 30.

■ **East Lake Church, Chattanooga**, has called **Rick S. Gates** of Cleveland, as minister of music.

■ **Richard M. Lee**, associate pastor and minister of education/youth at West Lonsdale Church, Knoxville, earned the master of arts in Christian education degree from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary July 28. Lee also is a graduate of Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.

■ **Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville**, has called **Mark Caruth**, minister of music and

youth, Lockeland Church, Nashville, as minister of students/music, and activities, effective Aug. 3. Caruth is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, and Belmont University, Nashville.

■ the churches

■ **Little Flat Creek Church, Corryton**, will celebrate its 198th anniversary with a homecoming service Aug. 20. Lunch and music will follow the morning service. A history will be shared which will include information about its log building dating from 1797, which it is restoring.

■ **First Church, Loudon**, will hold revival Aug. 16-18, a music program Aug. 19, and celebrate its 125th anniversary Aug. 20. Speakers at the revival are members of three generations of a family — Bernard Courtney, a retired pastor who most recently was interim pastor of the church; Brian Courtney, pastor, First Church, Sneedville; and Mark Roberts, pastor, Tazewell Church, Tazewell. Speakers at the Sunday celebration will include former pastors Paul Hall, retired from the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department; and Charles Earl, retired director of missions, Holston Valley Association.

■ **First Church, Millington**, will host a Vocal Freedom Seminar Aug. 25-26. The seminar is designed for any singer or anyone needing to improve his or her speaking voice. It will be led by Ray Holcomb. The cost is \$15 in ad-



vance or \$20 at the door. Times are 6:45-9:45 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. — noon on Saturday. For more information, call the church at (901) 872-2264.

■ **Island Home Church, Knoxville**, will hold revival Aug. 13-17. Henry Linginfelter, evangelist from Alcoa, will speak.

■ **First Church, Dyer**, will hold revival Sept. 17-22. Paul Jackson will speak and Ron Norton will lead the music.

■ **Bethlehem Church, Westpoint**, held a revival which resulted in 12 people making professions of faith. Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld, evangelist from Gleason, spoke.

■ **Ridgeview Church, Chattanooga**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary Sept. 10. Gary Rickman, director, Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Annuity Programs, will speak.

■ **Brentwood Church, Brentwood**, has sent a team of six men to lead a sports camp for youth in Dundee, Scotland. In October, another team will go to help stage a children's musical. The church is supporting a church in Michigan to support the Michigan/Tennessee Baptist Partnership. And it sent 39 youth and their sponsors to work in Mississippi.

■ On Aug. 19 a Franklin car dealership will sponsor the Marathon Wash-a-thon, a car wash fundraising event for youth. Each group will wash cars for 60 minutes and compete for prizes with other groups in number of cars washed. For more information, call Steve Faulkner at (615) 794-0405.



MEMBERS OF FIRST CHURCH, RUTHERFORD, break ground in front of their church building for a Family Life Center on July 2. The 9,600-square-foot building will include gymnasium, fellowship hall, kitchen, conference room, and offices. It is scheduled for completion in January 1996.

■ A 14-member team from **Bear Cove Church, Sparta**, helped a church in Marietta, Okla., have Vacation Bible School for the first time in 20 years.

■ Men from **Lawrence County Association** worked on six different Saturdays at New Song Church, Memphis. They left about 4:30 a.m., and when they arrived did renovation on a residence for the church. Lester Venable led the group.

■ Mr. and Mrs. Royal Cozart of **Antioch Church, Humboldt**, left July 26 to work in the Philippines. They will assist volunteers from First Church, Tucumcari, N.M., in teaching *Experiencing God* materials.

■ events

■ **The Middle Tennessee Ministers' Conference** will meet at Belmont University, Nashville, Tuesday, Aug. 29, at 10:45 a.m. Don Miller, a national leader of prayer conferences, will speak. Lunch will be provided by the university.

■ **The annual Tennessee Baptist Golf Tournament** is set for Henry Horton State

Park, Chapel Hill, Sept. 21-22. Housing reservations can be made by calling the park at (615) 364-2222 by Aug. 15. For more information about the tournament, call Dan Farmer at (901) 235-3017 or 235-3365.

■ the schools

■ **Harrison-Chilhowe Baptist Academy, Seymour**, will host classes at its two Bible Training Centers. On the Seymour campus "Studies in the Holy Spirit," "Studies in I and II Timothy and Titus," and "Inspirational Word Studies" will begin Aug. 12 and continue for eight Saturdays. At the Mountain Empire Bible Training Center in Kingsport "Inspirational Word Studies" and "Developing a Spiritual Church" will begin Aug. 15 and continue for eight Tuesdays. For more information, call (615) 573-8321.

■ **Union University, Jackson**, will offer three courses for seminary credit from Sept. 11 — Dec. 11 on Mondays for 13 weeks. They are "Introduction to Christian Theology," "Pastoral Care in Human Crises," and "Elementary Greek." For more information, call (901) 661-5160.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Getting to the top in God's kingdom

By Rocky Ramsey, senior pastor
Corryton Church, Corryton

I have to admit that I'm a highly motivated person. I want to do my best and I want to win. On the positive side, my drive has enabled me to get my doctoral degree. On the negative side, though, it turned me into a workaholic. (I am working on slowing down ... honestly.)

I am highly motivated spiritually, too. Besides my basic drive, I feel Jesus Christ is more than worthy of my love,

devotion, and effort. But how do you become a success in God's Kingdom?

Do we adopt society's standards of measure? One bumper sticker reads, "He who dies with the most toys wins." Jesus Christ died with no toys ... zip. He's now been given all authority on heaven and earth (Matthew 28:19) and a name above every name (Philippians 2:9). Every knee will one day bow to him and every tongue will confess him to be Lord (Philippians 2:10-11). I'd say he won.

People of our day measure success by what you get and keep, by salaries and net worth. Jesus seemed to be more impressed with what people gave away. One day a widow woman put

what little bit of money she had into the offering plate and the sacrifice blew Jesus away (Mark 12:41-44).

In giving, we tend to measure the gifts by the size or amount. God, on the other hand, measures the gift by the sacrifice and by our ability to give. "To whom much is given, much is required" (Luke 12:48).

Society seems to measure success by how high you can climb up the proverbial ladder and how many people are under you and serve you. Jesus once again measures by a different standard. He said, "The greatest among you will be your servant" (Matthew 23:11). He seems to measure our success by how many people we serve, not by how

many serve us.

Jesus "did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life" (Mark 10:45). In John 13 Jesus performed the most lowly task of his day: washing feet. He continually set the examples of servanthood. Biblical leadership is servant-leadership. Jesus knows that the highest level of living is giving. He knows that people are the happiest when they are living outside of themselves and doing for others (Acts 20:35; II Corinthians 9:7).

If you want to be a leader in God's kingdom, then become a great servant. If you want to be a spiritual high achiever, then the way up is down. □

Follow example of Jesus by making time for children, leader urges

By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — When it comes to the welfare of children of all ages, Dessie Dixon says, "It's not how much we do, but it's important that we do something."

While children are considered innocent and dependent, many today are put in situations where they are expected to respond as adults, Dixon, Woman's Missionary Union director and a pastor's wife at El Bethel Church, Fort Washington, Md., told participants at a recent Black Church Leadership Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center. The conference was sponsored by several SBC agencies.

She cited, as an example, placing a 7-year-old in charge of caring for younger children at home while the parent is away.

Dixon said Jesus set the example for his followers by making time for children.

She noted that talking to children, listening to them, un-

derstanding and encouraging them to share their lives does not come easily for everyone. Dixon offered guidelines to help adults get to know children:

- Children experience the world differently from adults. Try to see how they view the world.

- Children do not always believe adults really want to talk to them.

- Speak normally. Loud or shrill speech does not communicate best to children.

- Use space to communicate both respect and affection.

- Be sensitive to the fact that children and their parents live in a world haunted by scary adults. If you talk with a child alone, mention the conversation to the parent to relieve any concerns.

- Actions and physical presence communicate as loudly as

words to children. They feel special when an adult friend attends a school event in which they are involved.

- Children often communicate most effectively through actions and play. When adults play with them, often they will talk about concerns.

Churches, she said, also can take actions. Among them:

- Provide support and encouragement to families in crisis as friends and parent aides.

- Encourage adults to become friends with a child who needs an adult friend.

- Encourage members to

consider becoming foster parents or adoptive parents for a child with special needs.

- Develop a family support program in the church or in cooperation with other churches in your community.

"God calls us to be faithful," Dixon said. □

BACK TO SCHOOL

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- construction paper
- folders
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- dividers

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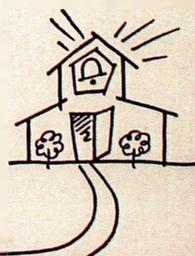




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**Life and Work Series
for August 13
Focal Passage:
Colossians 3:17 - 4:6**

Living in Jesus' name

By C. William Palmiter

With verse 17, Paul sums up all the responsibilities of the Christian life. The key to developing Christian character is to "do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." Because Jesus Christ is God, and he has died for us, we have authority in his name. The Christian life is not meant to be a desperate struggle to please God in our own strength. Our living is supported by Christ's authority. By our words and actions we bring honor to the name of Jesus.

Paul's command that the wife be submissive to her husband means that the Christian woman should recognize her responsibility to serve Christ in her place in life. Assuming the social structure of his time, Paul did not say that marriage is a hindrance to her being a Christian nor did he imply that in any way was the woman inferior. "As it is fit in the Lord" means for the Christian wife to decide appropriately how her station in life relates to her calling in Christ. Submission in this relationship is considered from the perspective of the basic relationship with Christ.

The emphasis in these instructions for the family is that the responsibilities are reciprocal. If the wife is submissive, it is in the context of the husband's love. The word used for love is the one used of God's love for people (John 3:16). The reciprocal responsibility of the husband is to provide tender, wholehearted, and sacrificial love for his wife.

By "children" (v. 20), Paul does not necessarily mean little children. He means those that are still under the care of and receiving support from their parents. Christian youth need to observe their responsibilities. In the context of Christ's lordship, they are to accept the nurture, wisdom, and direction of Christian parents. The parents are not to "provoke" or "exasperate" or "drive to despair" their children (v. 21). Parents are not to demand so much of their children that the children never receive needed approval and feel hopelessly trapped in their inability to please their parents.

Slavery was an accepted practice in Paul's time. The principles that Paul stated about slavery do have application to the relationship between employee and employer today. The clear meaning of Paul's discussion of slavery is to claim all of life's relationships for the name of the Lord. Whether or not we perform our life's work by giving or receiving orders, we do so under the lordship of Christ. Eye service is trying to get by with the least effort possible; this is combined with pleasing men when we ought to be concerned with pleasing God out of reverential fear. An impartial God views believers as sons and heirs (ch. 1:12).

To pray is not an afterthought or empty duty, but it is central to the life and power of a true believer. Paul frequently speaks of thanksgiving in connection with prayer, here he adds the idea of being watchful or alert. The purpose of the requested prayer was to enable Paul to have a greater opportunity to share the reality of the Gospel. Prayer is not just a sensitivity to God's presence; it is also a concern for how others are related to God, especially unbelievers. Wisdom is doing and saying the right thing in the right way. This way of life in Christ's name is not wasting, killing, or losing time, but redeeming time. □ — William Palmiter is pastor of Bethel Church, Greenbrier.

When a nation is in danger

By Jerry Barker

Our focal passage this week is one of the early prophecies of Isaiah, and the message comes at a critical time in the life of Judah. The message was delivered to King Ahaz who was one of Judah's most evil Kings. We will look at the man Ahaz and the message of God to Ahaz through Isaiah.

The man Ahaz — II Kings 16

Ahaz served as king of Judah. The evil acts of Ahaz are described in II Kings (vv. 1-4). He practiced idolatry and even offered his son as a sacrifice to pagan gods. His father Jotham and his grandfather Uzziah or Azariah were basically good men, but Ahaz didn't follow a Godly pattern and was leading his nation toward ruin.

In verses 5-9, Ahaz appeals to Assyria for help. At this time in history, the Assyrian Empire was the dominant power. Rezin, King of Syria, and Pekah, King of Israel desired to oppose the Assyrian influence and sought Ahaz to join in opposing them. Ahaz refused and Rezin and Pekah sent their armies after Jerusalem. Then comes the fatal step of Ahaz. He sent silver and gold from the temple of God to Tiglath-pileser, King of Assyria. The Assyrians attacked Damascus, the capitol of Syria, and took the Syrians into captivity. The downfall in sin continued as in (vv. 10-20), Ahaz continued to appease the Assyrians by altering the temple of God. He made a copy of an altar of the Assyrians and worshiped at that altar. He was trusting others, not God.

The message from God — Isaiah 7

Ahaz feared Syria and Israel (vv. 1-2). The fears of Ahaz and the people were like a strong wind. The term "Ephraim" referred to the largest tribe of Israel and sometimes the term "Ephraim" referred to Israel as a whole.

God's message is clear in verse 4. He was to practice quiet trust and confidence in the Lord. These words of

**Convention Uniform Series
for August 13
Focal Passages:
Isaiah 7:2-6, 10-17**

Rezin and Pekah (son of Remaliah) were all smoke and no fire.

Then in verses 10-13, God told Isaiah to tell Ahaz to ask for a sign, but Ahaz refused. Sometimes signs were given by God to

present a word or message from God. Now Ahaz said he didn't want to test God. But God was himself changing Ahaz to trust God by asking for a sign.

God chose to give a sign to Ahaz in verses 14-16. "Therefore the Lord shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Verse 14 is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The difficulty is not in identifying the ultimate fulfillment but the immediate fulfillment. Verses 15-17 are clear that the child was to be a sign in the crisis. Many believe that Hezekiah may have been the child. Remember that Old Testament events often had an immediate application but in many instances an application that foreshadowed an ultimate fulfillment in the New Testament.

The final verses of chapter 7 are of judgment on Judah (vv. 17-25). Make no mistake, God reaches out to us in love, in warnings, in messages, in many ways to get our attention when we are not trusting in him. God is a just God and cannot and will not ignore our sin, all sin has consequences and hurts our relationship with God. Our trust must be in God and not in man or in other nations.

Lord Moran said there are four degrees of courage in men and women: Those who do not feel fear; those who feel fear but never show it; those who feel fear and show it but carry out their assignment; and those who feel fear, show it, and shirk their responsibilities. Ahaz fits category four. His disobedience to God was one of the key factors that led to Judah's eventual destruction. □ — Jerry Barker is pastor of First Church, Alamo.

God's solution to evil shepherds

By Clay Austin

A primary leadership model of the Bible is that of Shepherd. The Old Testament often attributes to God or his messengers the role of caring, guiding, and protecting shepherd. In the Gospel of John, Jesus called himself the "Good Shepherd." The shepherds that Ezekiel addresses in chapter 34 possess none of these Godly qualities. Here we observe another contributing factor to Israel's spiritual decline. The people made poor choices and have been subjected to poor leadership. One of the worse choices Israel ever made was in trusting certain leaders.

Many parallels may be made to shepherds and pastors. For those called to the pastoral ministry, hear the prophet's words. Yet these words can be applied to more than just pastors. Ezekiel is relevant to all mature Christians who should have arrived at the point of leadership. Godly leaders have a responsibility to care for those they lead. Wise shepherds know that their first responsibility is the welfare of their flock.

These ancient shepherds are accused of feeding themselves, and slaughtering the best without caring for the rest of the flock. They did not strengthen the flock, they did not care for the wounded, they did not look for the lost sheep. They only sought to dominate.

It is dangerous for Christians to

**Bible Book Series for August 13
Focal Passages: Ezekiel 34:2-6,
15-16, 22-25**

embrace the notion that leadership equals domination. Sheep follow shepherds because of the shepherd's care. Good shepherds never have to lecture the flock about authority. The sheep accept and respect authority because they trust the shepherd. In turn, the shepherd is concerned with the welfare of the entire flock including the sick, the broken, and the lost. Most sheep and people can quickly determine who really cares. The power of Jesus' ministry as the Good Shepherd came from the intensity of his love and care.

Because these shepherds cared more for themselves than the flock, God intervened for his people. God said their lack of attention had caused him to take the flock from under their care (v. 10). God stated that he would take over the flock, and would model for the nation the care and leadership they should have received. He promises to care, deliver, feed, and protect the flock. How soothing these words must have been for exile weary people.

In the midst of these comforting words we find a word of caution in verse 17. God was going to judge between the sheep. His flock will be pure. Some of the flock was pictured as being selfish. These sheep fouled

their own water and spoiled their own pasture. They used their personal might and strength to take advantage of the weaker sheep. But God will not have some of his flock to be victims. God proclaimed, "they will no longer be a prey..." (v. 22).

God does not want his people to suffer from self-centered leadership. Ezekiel delivered the good news that there was a new day of fresh spiritual leadership coming. The quality of the new leadership would be the same as that of David, a leader who even in failure, submitted himself to God. Many writers note that verse 24 has messianic implications. This new and Godly style of leadership will require a unique individual. Only with a new shepherd leader will the sheep live securely in the wilderness (v. 25).

Today's reader of Ezekiel 34 has the advantage of understanding leadership having met Jesus. We can comprehend the love, commitment, and sacrificial service of a shepherd-leader because God has sent his son. Jesus became the ultimate expression of God's intentional care for his people. We can give thanks that we have been invited to be the "sheep of his pasture." □ — Clay Austin is pastor of First Church, Blountville.

Former NOBTS head Leo Eddleman dies; burial in Tennessee

Baptist Press

MIDDLETOWN, Ky. — Henry Leo Eddleman, former president of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, died July 28 at his home here. He was 84.

Eddleman was president of New Orleans from 1959 until his retirement in 1970. He also was a former editor at the Baptist Sunday School Board and was the author of 13 books and numerous articles for denominational journals.

The funeral was Aug. 1 in Louisville, Ky., with burial Aug. 2 in Morristown, hometown of his wife, the former Sarah Fox.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters. □

CLC joins brief opposing ruling for homosexual rights

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has joined in a brief asking the U.S. Supreme Court to protect religious liberty by upholding a state initiative prohibiting homosexual rights.

The case, *Romer v. Evans*, promises to be one of the most closely watched in the high court's next term, which begins in October. The court's opinion may be a pivotal one in the escalating battle over one of American culture's most hotly debated issues — civil rights for homosexuals.

In February, the justices granted a review at the request of the state of Colorado and Gov. Roy Romer of a Colorado Supreme Court opinion which ruled as unconstitutional a 1992 initiative prohibiting the passage or enforcement of laws granting civil rights status to homosexuals. In a 6-1 vote announced last October, the court upheld a lower court ruling against Amendment 2, the first state provision against homosexual rights.

While the high court may rule on the issue of homosexual rights, it could determine the case without deciding whether homosexuals make up a class deserving of legal protection. Voters' rights also constitute an important issue in the case.

The friend-of-the-court brief signed onto by the CLC and written by the Christian Legal Society argues Amendment 2 would protect religious free-

dom in a way religious exemptions would not. The Colorado court said such exemptions would provide adequate protection. □

HMB does not endorse CBF chaplains: Lewis

Baptist Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The Home Mission Board Chaplains Commission has not and will not endorse any Cooperative Baptist Fellowship chaplaincy candidates, according to HMB President Larry Lewis.

Lewis was responding to news media reports from the recent annual CBF meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, where an official said CBF chaplaincy candidates have been endorsed by the HMB. CBF is an organization of moderate Southern Baptists, based in Atlanta.

"The Chaplains Commission endorses persons who are active members of cooperating Southern Baptist churches and meet the qualifications for endorsement. We do not endorse chaplains for the CBF or any other para-denominational group," Lewis told Baptist Press.

News media reported Ed Beddingfield, CBF Coordinating Council member from Sylvania, N.C., said the HMB has not turned down any CBF chaplaincy candidates and has "bent over backwards" to help. Lewis said that implies "we are working with the CBF to endorse chaplains. That is not true."

"The Home Mission Board has no working relationship with the CBF on this or any other issue." □

Prayer strategy sought for cities

Baptist Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Claiming "the spiritual battle for the hearts of our cities is won through prayer," the Southern Baptist council that assists associations in America's largest urban areas endorses a national prayer strategy for the cities.

The strategy, to be developed by the start of 1996, will involve prayer coordinators for each large city and a network for communicating prayer concerns across the country, said members of the Mega-Focus Cities coordinating council.

"It changes the whole process," said Hugh Townsend, Home Mission Board director of Mega Focus Cities. The coordinating council helps associations in the nation's 50 largest

Lewis: People count, but do we care?

By David Winfrey
For Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — "People Count" is next year's theme for the Season of Home Missions, but Southern Baptists must constantly ask themselves whether they really care about the lost, Home Mission Board President Larry L. Lewis told those attending Home Missions Week here.

Lewis reminded missionaries, pastors, and others that former HMB President Arthur Rutledge kept a sign reading "People Count" on his desk.

"We have to ask continually, 'Do I really care about the unsaved?'" Lewis said, citing several statistics as a cause

for concern to Baptists and other Christians.

Although the country's population grew 22 percent

between 1970 and 1990, the number of churches grew 7 percent, he said. Southern Baptist churches

grew 12 percent in the same time. America needed 96,000 churches overnight to have the same ratio of citizens to churches it had 20 years earlier, Lewis said. "If we don't care, who's going to care?" he asked.

Cities of 100,000 people or more account for 74 percent

of America's population, yet they contain just 42 percent of the country's churches, Lewis said.

"Do we care about our cities?" he asked. "I think the world is looking to Christians and asking, 'Do you have an answer?'"

If Christians care, Lewis said, they should do three things — make witnessing a priority, make church planting an obsession, and make ministry the goal.

"Our goal is not 50,000 new church starts by this decade," he said, referring to Bold Mission Thrust, a set of target statistics for Southern Baptists by the year 2000.

"Our goal is to evangelize America," the Home Mission Board leader stressed. □



LEWIS

cities with strategic planning.

Southern Baptist agency representatives focus on these cities, in part, because they represent 57 percent of the country's population. □

New study Bible for women set for publication

Baptist Press

DENVER — In an era where it seems there are more varieties of Bibles than flavors of ice cream, each packaged to appeal to a different audience, here comes another one.

The *Women's Study Bible* is designed to reach the largest niche in the marketplace — women. It is being released almost a century after publication of the first women's Bible.

The latest Bible for women project brought together a team of 80 women, many of whom were theologically trained and who "saturated themselves in the Word of God ... standing under Scripture without apology," said Dorothy Patterson, editor of the new *Women's Study Bible* which is to be published by Thomas Nelson Publishers in September.

Patterson, whose husband is president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., said the new Bible will bring readers more than devotional notes.

Explaining that most students of the Bible do not have available a vast library of biblical commentaries and reference works, Patterson said the new Bible will provide "the finest scholarship in a succinct and precise manner." □

NOBTS undergraduate extension center set to open in Huntsville

NOBTS News Office

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary announces the opening of a new undergraduate extension center campus at Southside Church in Huntsville.

Classes begin Aug. 22 at the Huntsville site. Courses will apply toward either the associate in pastoral ministry degree or the associate in Christian education degree.

For more information about the program, call David O. Cofield, director of the Huntsville extension center campus at (205) 492-1910. □

Resolutions advocate justice, evangelism

Baptist Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — The General Council of the Baptist World Alliance adopted six resolutions Aug. 1 on issues ranging from calls to justice to a recommitment to evangelism.

The resolution on justice laments wars and violence that "perpetuate such life-threatening conditions as hunger, poverty, preventable disease, and racism."

The resolution on evangelism challenges every Baptist church to establish at least one new congregation by the year 2000 and for more effort to be directed to reaching the 20 percent of the world's peoples who are not Christians.

Other resolutions addressed

differences among Baptist groups, calling for harmony within the global community; expressed appreciations for Argentine Baptists for facilitating the Baptist World Congress; paid tribute to Billy Graham for his unique contribution to world evangelism; and called for increased support of the Baptist World Aid program which was begun 75 years ago to provide relief and development ministries. □

Croatia, Serbia Baptists lament war's implications

Baptist Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — While world news focuses on strife in Bosnia, Baptists from Croatia and Serbia lamented not being able to see each other more often.

The Baptist World Alliance General Council recognized Baptist representatives from the warring countries during its July 31-Aug. 1 meeting here, prior to the opening of the Aug. 1-6 Baptist World Congress.

"We have longed to be somewhere we can meet with one another," said Branko Lovrec, president of the Baptist Union of Croatia, as he put his arm around the shoulders of Dane Vidovic, a pastor in Belgrade, Serbia.

Vidovic noted it is not possible for Baptists from the former Yugoslavia to meet in their home countries.

Lovrec said that the fact Baptists distribute "tons of food as a testimony that we do not regard anyone as different." □