

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

■ this
week's
news

global —

- Tennesseans work in Albania, Namibia. — Page 6

national —

- Texas Baptists to keep more funds in state to start churches. — Page 3
- Articles focus on different ministries of the church. — Page 12

state —

- Loudon FBC celebrates 125-year history. — Page 7
- Polk County Association ministers on the Ocoee. — Pages 8-9
- New Salem Church observes sesquicentennial. — Page 10
- Offering helps state missions. — Page 11

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Brotherhood prepares launch of Men's Ministries

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — When Southern Baptist Convention President James D. Williams met recently with Dale Schlafer, Promise Keepers vice president for pastoral ministries, he offered this insight: "Don't expect our men to check their doctrine at the door (of PK rallies). We're unique and have beliefs we hold to and are going to keep lifting up."

Schlafer replied: "Jim, our stopping point is your starting point."

"The seventh promise of a

Promise Keeper is to fulfill the Great Commission," Williams said. "We see our new program as a way of helping the mobilization of men into missions."

That program is Men's Ministries, which officially debuts in October. Commission officials say it complements the work of highly successful groups like PK and Dad the Family Shepherd. The SBC agency has cooperative agreements with both organizations, believing they can aid Brotherhood's goal of getting more men — particularly young men — involved in missions.

— See Brotherhood, page 2

Thanks for words of appreciation on 160th birthday; more coming

The *Baptist and Reflector* staff sincerely thanks the readers for their many kind responses after reading the 160th anniversary issue, Aug. 16.

The staff also expresses deep appreciation to those churches who observed *Baptist and Reflector Day* on Aug. 20. Some churches may choose another date. More than 100 churches not currently receiving the paper ordered 7,193 copies for that special day. Thank you!

We promise that more features and historical facts and tidbits will be used in issues throughout the remainder of 1995.

Do you have an interesting moment or item from history that relates to the *Baptist and Reflector*? Would you share it with other readers?

Delving into history is interesting, and we believe this is especially true of newspapers. Reviewing history from a newspaper's viewpoint is a good way to look at history and heritage.

Send us those items of interest. Use the fax method, call by phone, or write us. (Numbers and address are on page 2.) We will be happy to hear from you on history! — □ Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor

Carson-Newman College expresses interest in Southern's Carver School of Church Social Work

Associated Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — At least two Baptist colleges, including Carson-Newman in Jefferson City, have expressed interest in obtaining the Carver School of Church Social Work from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

A committee of seminary trustees currently is studying the future of the social-work school and is to present a report and recommendation to the full board in October.

The trustee committee was formed last spring after President Albert Mohler fired Diana Garland as Carver School dean. The firing came the same day Garland told a group of social-work students that Mohler's faculty hiring practices were jeopardizing the school's accreditation.

The study committee's recommendation apparently could take one of three directions: to retain the school at Southern in some form, to close the school entirely, or to transfer the school's assets to another institution.

In addition to Carson-New-

man, Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., has expressed interest in obtaining the Carver School, officials confirmed. Other institutions reportedly have been in conversation with the trustee study committee as well.

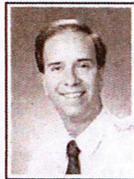
"We would be interested in entering into conversation and dialogue about the possibility of the Carver School coming to Carson-Newman," said Carson-Newman College Provost Michael Carter.

Carter said he has had some "very preliminary" conversations with seminary officials on the subject but doesn't know what the outcome will be.

"The mission of the Carver School and our mission sound very much alike," Carter explained.

"Carson-Newman was started to serve the people of East Tennessee, primarily a low economic region. We have historically done that pretty well since 1851."

Although it doesn't currently offer a degree in social work, Carson-Newman has a "very strong social-ministry program through our campus-ministry program," Carter said. There are "a lot of philosophical components that are very similar" between the Carver School and Carson-Newman, he added.



CARTER

The college, with about 2,100 students, has a small but growing master's degree program, Carter said. The college currently offers master's degrees in school counseling, education, and teaching English as a second language.

The primary degree currently offered by the Carver School is the master of social work.

Seminary officials would not discuss the work of the trustee study committee.

"The trustee-appointed committee is receiving a wide variety of information, and they will process it appropriately," said David Dockery, Southern's vice president for academic administration.

Trustee Skip Stam, a North Carolina attorney who heads the special study committee, did not return ABP's calls.

For now, the Carver School remains open at SBTS, but is not accepting new students. □



From Ashland City to St. Maartens Island

The Acteens of First Church, Ashland City, spent a week in the Dutch Antilles on St. Maartens Island as Activators. While there they taught VBS at the Leeward Islands Baptist Church. It was their first mission trip out of the country. From left are, first row, Tashina Thompson, Amanda Ritchey, Caroline Borum, Jonet Williams; second row, Janis Hamlin, Acteens Director Rochelle Fuller, Mandy Smith, Amanda Thornton, Anna Mitchell, Allison Creed, Melissa Tomlinson, Whitney Craig, Carrie Puckett, and Callie Jo Hamlin.

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Pray for reversal of CBF decision: FMB's Rankin

Baptist Press

RICHMOND, VA. — Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin has urged pastors and Woman's Missionary Union directors in local churches to pray that the national WMU organization will reverse its decision to produce missions education supplements for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

WMU announced July 12 it would produce "missions education supplements" for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of Baptist moderates opposed to the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative leadership.

Rankin, in an Aug. 25 letter to nearly 40,000 Southern Baptist churches, wrote to pastors and WMU directors: "We ask that you pray with us that the decision of

the WMU National Board to deviate from its historic role of exclusive support of HMB and FMB missionaries will be reversed and this special relationship, which has existed for 107 years, not be abandoned."

To receive the CBF supplements, churches will have to specifically order them, according to WMU. The supplements, to be available early next year, will be designed to accompany WMU's coed missions education materials. WMU said only information on Foreign and Home Mission board-appointed missionaries will appear in its key magazines, the new *Missions Mosaic* along with *Dimension*, *Accent*, *Aware*, *Discovery*, *GA World*, *Share* and *Start*.

Dellanna O'Brien, WMU's executive director, was unavailable for comment Aug.

28 concerning Rankin's letter.

Rankin, in his letter, noted:

"At a time on unprecedented growth, evangelistic harvest, and unlimited opportunities overseas, when the Foreign Mission Board is experiencing record numbers of missionaries under appointment, we have been disappointed that the Woman's Missionary Union National Board has chosen to depart from its historic relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention of exclusive support to SBC mission agencies. We are grateful for your faithful support of the Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board as the channels of Southern Baptist mission involvement and support. We are writing to communicate our concerns about this development and express confidence in your continuing partnership." □

Brotherhood Commission prepares launch of Mens ...

— Continued from page 1

The new thrust doesn't scrap the traditional Brotherhood mainstays of volunteer building and disaster relief. But it has more flexible approaches for involving men in outreach through the local church, according to Jim Burton, Men's Ministries director.

"We've never hesitated to challenge men," said Burton, former *Missions Today* magazine editor. "In the past, we put a hammer in a man's hand and said, 'Why don't you go build a church?' Now we're walking up, putting our arm around him and saying, 'What's going on in your life?"

What issues are you dealing with?"

This approach is reflected in the seven ongoing, church-based options outlined in the new materials, Burton said. They include forming men's teams for teaching, prayer, mission action, evangelism, encouragement (accountability groups), career support, or recovery ministries.

Resource materials are available for each option, as well as a 98-page manual, "Leading Men's Ministries." Brotherhood has expanded *Missions Today* from 24 to 32 pages and offers other brochures and books to help

organize the various ministries.

Burton said the materials were designed as a result of focus groups held last year in seven states. In those meetings, commission personnel asked men what issues they faced and what kind of help they needed.

"I feel we've done a good job of responding to grassroots concerns, not telling them what they should be doing," said Burton. "Men told us they wanted a simplified program and planning process, but more program options."

Following the model of Ex-

periencing God: *Knowing and Doing the Will of God* by Henry Blackaby — seeing where God is at work and joining him — Burton advises churches to use a search-and-discovery process. After surveying community needs and praying, a church can fit its men's ministry to the Lord's direction, Burton said.

The beauty of this is a small congregation can start Men's Ministries with a two-man prayer team, he added. A church should not feel pressured to set up seven different teams. It is unlikely most will establish more than one or two, Burton said. □

Views to collide at Beijing gathering

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — When about 50,000 people converge in early September in Beijing, China, for the fourth World Conference on Women and an accompanying non-governmental organization meeting, a clash between disparate world views could dwarf attempts at a widespread consensus on furthering the cause of the feminine gender.

In the months prior to the United Nations-sponsored meeting, pro-life/pro-family organizations charged radical feminists were controlling the conference's agenda. As the meeting neared, their criticisms intensified. When delegates from about 180 countries gather in the People's Republic of China for the Sept. 4-15 meeting, about one-third of the 121-page Platform for Action will remain open for debate. The undecided portions of text include abortion and other controversial issues.

Focus on the Family President James Dobson has gone so far as to call the conference the "most radical, atheistic and anti-family crusade in the history of the world."

Weighing in almost equally

strongly, Diane Knippers, president of the Washington-based Institute on Religion and Democracy, called the Platform for Action the "most intrusive, arrogant, and radical restructuring of the social order in human history."

Not only has the conference been decried for its agenda but for its location. The inhumane nature of China's human rights record, including coercive abortion and sterilization, is well-documented.

"I find it really overwhelming that this conference is being held in China, where women absolutely have no rights," said Nancy Schaefer, who has been designated by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission to represent it in Beijing.

United States officials and promoters of the conference have defended the conference, calling the Platform for Action a consensus document and the site immaterial because the conference is about women, not about China.

Madeleine Albright, United States ambassador to the U.N. and head of the U.S. delegation to the conference, said Aug. 24, according to *The Washington Times*, "This is

about the ability of women to have more than one role — to be a mother and still get low-interest loans and education equal to their husbands and brothers. That is pro-family, pro-human rights."

Nevertheless, critics cite the following as evidence of their charges about the document:

- It fails to describe gender as male and female, though the word appears more than 200 times. Some critics have charged the drafters want to include homosexuals, bisexuals, and transsexuals under the definition of gender, a position espoused in some feminist literature.

- The words "husband" and "wife" are not to be found.

- The words "mother" and "family" have been bracketed throughout. Some have said this opens the door for the words to be changed to "caretaker" and "household," respectively.

- It stresses the sexual and reproductive rights of adolescents with rare references to the rights of parents.

- Abortion rights appear to be elevated above other rights. □

Conference on marriage set at First, Hendersonville

Baptist Press

HENDERSONVILLE — A seminar for couples, married or engaged, who want to achieve maximum happiness in their marriages, will be held at First Church, Hendersonville, on Sept. 8-9.

Led by Gary Chapman, director of adult ministries at Calvary Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., the conference will offer practical helps for better marriages.

Chapman will address issues such as: handling negative feelings toward a mate, communicating in the midst of conflict, rekindling love, and making sex mutually fulfilling.

The seminar begins Friday at 7 p.m. and concludes Saturday at 2:30 p.m. The registration fee of \$65 for couples and \$36 for individuals can be taken at the door. Preregister by mailing the fee to Chapman Seminars, P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, Tenn. 37203. For more information, call (615) 251-5099. □

Texas Baptist funding proposal would drop SBC gifts by \$530,000

Baptist Press

DALLAS — In order to launch 1,400 new Texas Baptist churches in the next five years, a reduction of approximately \$530,000 in giving by the state's Baptists to Southern Baptist Convention national and international ministries is being proposed.

Under a proposal to be considered by the Baptist General Convention of Texas' executive board Sept. 12, the percentage of Cooperative Program gifts for Southern Baptist causes would decrease from the current 35.5 percent to 33 percent in the 1996 budget proposal, while Texas Baptist funding would increase from the current 64.5 percent to 67 percent.

Under the SBC's Cooperative Program budget, half of all gifts received are forwarded to the Foreign Mission Board, one-fifth to the HMB and the rest to other SBC causes. The proposed reduction in Texas gifts to the SBC would be about \$530,000, if computed using Texas' fiscal 1993-94 CP gifts of \$21,185,928.

Final approval for the change in Texas Baptist CP distribution would be voted during the BGCT annual meeting, Nov. 13-14 in San Antonio.

The proposal — already approved by the BGCT administrative committee — originated with the BGCT/Home Mission Board Study Committee, which was established to study how Texas Baptists and the HMB could work together to reach more than 8 million unchurched Texans with the Gospel.

After months of meetings, including sessions with HMB staff and others, and extensive research, the committee concluded that at least 300 new Texas Baptist churches a year must be started to reach the state's diverse and rapidly growing population, said BGCT Associate Executive Director Ed Schmeltkopf, chairman of the BGCT/HMB Study Committee.

"Our state population of 18 million is expected to increase to 20 million by the end of the century. Texas Baptists need to start 300 new churches a year just to keep up with the population increase. Although giving is at record levels for the work of the BGCT, because of the tremendous need, we are falling be-

hind in additional church starts," Schmeltkopf said. "Actually, there is a need for 3,600 new churches between now and the year 2000. To be realistic, we do have the human and financial resources to start 1,400 new congregations by 2000."

Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee which distributes national CP receipts to SBC agencies, reacting to the Texas proposal, noted, "I am confident Southern Baptists, who are passionately committed to world missions, will continue to increase support of SBC missions as directed by the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board. I applaud any effort by the Texas convention to accelerate church starting in its own state, but I regret that it may be accomplished by reducing the Cooperative Program percentage to the SBC. There are so many critical spiritual needs to be met around the world."

Said BGCT Executive Director William M. Pinson Jr., "In an effort to be generous, Texas Baptists for years have agreed to the least-favorable ratio of finances from the Home Mission Board of any state convention while contributing more to the Home Mission Board than any other state."

The study committee concluded that the situation in Texas has changed greatly since the arrangements were first agreed to and that new considerations are in order.

Through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and the Cooperative Program, Texas Baptists contribute about \$10 million a year to the Home Mission Board and receive back about \$1 million.

Almost all of the Home Mission Board personnel and projects are jointly funded by state conventions, associations, and the Home Mission Board. In general for jointly funded personnel and projects in Texas, the Home Mission Board supplies 33 percent of the funding and the BGCT supplies 67 percent. In Florida and Oklahoma, the ratio is the reverse, according to Texas officials. These states receive back about one-third of all the funds they send to the Home Mission Board; Texas receives about a tenth.

"If Texas received the same ratio as Florida and Oklahoma, it would receive approximately \$3 million instead of \$1 million, about the addi-

tional amount needed for new work," Pinson said.

The executives of the two Southern Baptist Convention mission boards deplored the proposed cut. Both Larry Lewis, president of the SBC Home Mission Board, and Jerry Rankin, president of the Foreign Mission Board, said in separate statements they regretted the proposed action when the needs of their respective boards are so great.

"Already the Texas convention is retaining 64.5 cents of every CP dollar and sending only 35.5 cents to world mission causes which means the FMB receives less than 18 cents and the HMB 7 cents of every Texas Baptist CP dollar," Lewis said. The agency must consider appropriating funds to states based on their size and strength and the resources available in the state, he said.

Rankin said 92 percent of church receipts remain in the local church and 81 percent of CP funds remain in the individual states.

Miles Seaborn, president of Southern Baptists of Texas, a key Texas Baptist conservative organization, and pastor of Birchman Church, Fort Worth, disagreed with the proposal. "Should this action pass, I will do all I possibly can to send more and more of our mission funds directly to the SBC programs to reach the world for Jesus."

Ken Hemphill, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, said it would be better "to challenge Texas churches to give another half percent to the Cooperative Program." The impact on Southwestern in the 1996-97 fiscal year would be \$87,900.

"With great inward pain and reluctance I voted for this recommendation," said D.L. Lowrie, pastor of First Church, Lubbock, former TBC executive director, and chairman of the BGCT Strategy Committee in 1994 that recommended "Texas 2000." He said the proposal is "a reasonable response to the overwhelming spiritual need in cities of Texas, a logical step following the action of the SBC which encouraged the stronger states to accept responsibility for their needs without dependence upon the Home Mission Board, and a move that will ultimately result in greater resources for world missions as new churches are begun." □

Jericho festivals herald 'new day,' Blackaby says

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — This year's Jericho missions festivals "announced a whole lot of things" about where Southern Baptists are in the work of global evangelization, according to the Bible study leader for both events at Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Centers.

Henry Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said his experiences at Jericho were evidence "God seems to have called us back on mission with him."

I think God had to absolutely humble us.

— Henry Blackaby, Home Mission Board

"I really believe it's a new day for Southern Baptists," Blackaby said. "God has said, 'I can trust you, so I'm going to commit to your path as Southern Baptists a major role in global evangelization,' and I see that here."

"In previous years, probably seven out of 10 people who talked to me would talk about burnout and brokenness in their church. This time, I am hearing testimonies of great joy, fellowship, and power in the churches."

"There has been a tremendous seriousness on the part of God's people (at Jericho), and there has also been revealed a strong working of God in all age groups. (They) are not asking questions to see if God might be one of their options. They are seeing God as their only option."

Blackaby said the movement of God today followed a time of "brokenness" across the convention, from laypersons to agency leadership, that was painful but necessary.

"I think God had to absolutely humble us. He broke us. There was a period there where none of us said we were worthy to carry any leadership role at all ... (because) we were so broken and fractured among ourselves. I think God needed to humble us, as if to say, 'I cannot commit a large assignment to a haughty, prideful people,' but now I think he's committing to us, and those I've seen in leadership in the agencies have a humble spirit before the Lord."

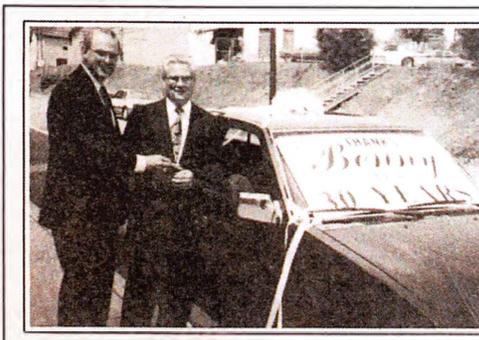
The Jericho week at Ridgecrest, which concluded Aug. 18, saw an appointment service for 77 foreign missionaries, the largest single group charged since 1983. □

Memphian earns Baptist scouting recognition

For Baptist and Reflector

Darrell C. Richardson, a member of First Church, Memphis, was awarded recently the Good Shepherd Award by the Southern Baptist Committee on Scouting. The award is for service to youth in church activities.

Richardson has been a scoutmaster, district commissioner, and received the Silver Beaver Award during his more than 60 years of involvement. He has been a pastor of three Baptist churches and an editor at the SBC Brotherhood Commission in Memphis. □



Knoxville church thanks custodian for service

Benny Jones, right, receives the keys to his new pickup truck from Larry Fields, pastor, Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville, on Aug. 11. The gift was to thank Jones for 30 years of service as head custodian at the church, which is the longest tenure of any staff member of the church, Fields pointed out.

■ about letters
to the editor

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

Religious liberty

The July 19 article on religious liberty by pastor Moncrief Jordan is timely. If anyone desperately needs to learn the true meaning of religious liberty, it is today's Southern Baptist.

We Southern Baptists have acquired an attitude that religious liberty is a one-way street. Anything that we choose to do in the name of religion must be tolerated — but we, in turn, feel no obligation to tolerate anything we don't agree with.

We complain about the injustice of binding creeds, yet we try to impose our moral opinions upon an entire society by force of law. If we truly believe in the right of private judgment, shouldn't we be content to teach and preach the Gospel without trying to legislate it? A Baptist inquisition is just as wrong as a Catholic one!

We say we want liberty, and not merely toleration. I say that mutual toleration is exactly what liberty is all about, and if we are unwilling to grant toleration to others, then we don't deserve to enjoy it ourselves.

Ralph Adkins
Nashville 37210

Time to leave?

We have too long refrained from expression of our convictions concerning the "so-called" moderate group, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). Ref:

Reader remembers editor O.W. Taylor

As I read the paper about the 160-year history of the *Baptist and Reflector* and viewed the pictures of some of the former editors, I found it to be most interesting. I was disappointed not to find the name of Dr. O.W. Taylor listed among former editors. I believe he was the editor in the late thirties and early forties.

Dr. Taylor could quote Bible passages readily. His sermons were filled with Scripture quotations. He and his dear wife had a very painful burden to bear. Their son Charles was killed in action during World War II.

Charles Taylor, or little Charlie, as I sometimes called him, was in a Sunday School class which I had taught at Belmont Heights Church, along with the Moench boys, the Babb boys, and several other fine young boys. This was about 1940-41 and early 42. Charles was only

about 18 when he was drafted into service.

I was stationed in the London area for a time in World War II, and learned that Charles was in England and stationed some distance to the south. I looked him up one Sunday afternoon. He was playing the piano and a number of soldier boys were around the piano singing. This was about three weeks before the invasion and Charles told me he did not expect to be in combat because they had little training and had only recently come to England.

A few weeks after the invasion I learned Charles had been killed. I learned where he was buried and in January of 1945 I went there from Paris to Cherbourg. That cold afternoon the ground was covered with a beautiful white snow and I searched among the

thousands of crosses and stars of David and found Charlie's grave.

Charles was my hero, he was so young, so talented, and he gave his life for his country. Dr. and Mrs. Taylor bore great sorrow in the loss of their son. They were lovely people. I am glad to report Charlie's body was returned to the states and now rests in a Nashville cemetery.

I am thankful for Dr. Taylor's years of service to the *Baptist and Reflector* and his many good sermons.

H. Young Williams
Unionville, 37180

Thank you for sharing these memories. Dr. Taylor was editor from 1933-1950. He wrote the first of what was to have been three books on the history of Tennessee Baptists. It was published in 1957. He was mentioned on page 4 of the August 16 issue. — Editor

(CBF Meeting July 19, Fort Worth).

Since losing control of SBC to conservatives, this dissident group have tried to entice, influence, and enlist other main-line Baptist groups and individuals into their campground. Having long organized their own separate denomination, they continue by innovative means and confusing doctrinal definitions to gain inroads and influence gullible and misguided people.

It is time to take a long strong look at leaders of this group, observe what they have done to SBC and even to their own churches. We witnessed how moderate leadership scattered the flock and reduced our local church roll to numerical lows. Reassess their effectiveness and persuade them, as we have previously done to withdraw from the SBC Fellowship. Their disruptive meddling has caused consternation among many SBC agencies and the WMU, who has been persuaded to oppose the long range restructuring of the convention.

We again ask for CBF's cessation from SBC. If God-led, it will prosper. If not, it will not further damage the largest evangelical group in the world, the SBC.

We trust this perception is not construed as rekindled unkindness toward innocent CBF supporters, but more as our contentious concern to safeguard the conservative inerrancy stance of the SBC.

W.T. Barner
Memphis 38111

New address

Enclosed is the mailing label from our *Baptist and Reflector*. How much we have enjoyed receiving news from Tennessee Baptists for many years. I'm not sure when we began receiving B&R overseas, but I grew up reading it! Thank you!

In July we closed our over-

seas part of missionary service and returned to our home in Woodbury. So after all these years, you can take our Taiwan address off the mailing list, and later we will be added to our church's mailing list.

We appreciate the love and support of Tennessee Baptists.

Don and Helen Jones
Taiwan

Helping students

The buildings of First Church, Cookeville, are seven blocks from the campus of Tennessee Technological University. This affords prime opportunities for ministry to and with some fine students who come to Cookeville for their education. Members of First Church are available to be friends of students.

While we work hard to identify students when they come to us, we want to open other doors and get to know as many students as the Lord would lead our way. Pastors, parents, and youth/college leaders in Tennessee Baptist churches would you send us names and home addresses of your students who will be enrolled in Tennessee Tech? We know we cannot take your place but we desire to be a university church, encouraging your students during the week and on weekends they are in Cookeville.

Send information to First Baptist Church, 18 South Walnut Ave., Cookeville, 38501 or Fax to (615) 526-7320.

Ken Altom, pastor
Bill Stone, youth/students
First Church
Cookeville 38501

Camp policies

I have spent another week of teaching younger youth at Camp Carson, my ninth consecutive year to be on the faculty there during Discipleship Training's Children/Youth Camp.

Tennessee Baptists are for-

tunate to have had Johnnie Hall as our camp director during his years as director of the Discipleship Training Department. Johnnie Hall does everything in his power to insure the safety and well-being of all the campers every year.

There has been some negative talk about the policy of campers not having unlimited access to the telephone. If a camper gets homesick a counselor tries to give that camper assurance and encouragement to stay through the week. If the camper cannot be comforted, he/she is allowed to call home. Campers can get in line to call home at two different times each day, once in the morning and once in the late evening for 30 minutes. Each call is limited to two minutes. This year we had 265 campers, and if 100 campers chose to call home at any one time, even with the two-minute limit, it would be over three and one-half hours. The camp director's office has only one telephone line for everyone to use.

As a state pastor and a camp faculty member, I can assure Tennessee Baptists that our camps are carefully supervised and that our teaching is doctrinally sound and according to Scripture. The TBC staff and the camp faculty will not teach anything unsound doctrinally. Be assured that faculty and counselors are with the children at all times.

I know parents are always concerned for the safety and well-being of their children, but Tennessee Baptists can rest assured that our three weeks of Discipleship Training Camps each summer are uplifting and safe for your children and grandchildren.

I urge Tennessee Baptists to continue to pray for our TBC leaders and to continue to use our camps. Our children are depending upon us to support their camps and to pray for those who care about them and

for them.

Please, breathe a prayer for our leadership rather than a criticism.

Donald L. Cobb, pastor
First Church
Livingston 38570

Men at work

Depending on which side of the controversy one stands on, lately we Baptists find it trendy to attack the state and national conventions that work so hard to serve God and our churches. What a shame. With all its faults, the SBC is still a pretty good way to do missions. That idea was brought home to me the other night as I listened to Tim Bearden, the new director of the Brotherhood Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Tim had come all the way from Brentwood to speak to a small group of men in my church.

What true Christian leader isn't concerned with the role of laymen in our churches today? With the seeming collapse of positive male role models, we need to use every tool that God provides to reach men for Jesus and his kingdom. Tim is concerned with the problem, and is seeking ways to build strong men's groups to do the work of evangelism.

I listened with renewed interest as our state Brotherhood Director shared some of his views on the role of men in the church. His enthusiasm was infectious and reminded me of times too long past when I have caught the vision of other men who had a calling from God.

It is my recommendation that every pastor or layman who feels the need for a strong Brotherhood, to seek Tim's help. Tim can be a strong tool for building a men's group in your church. It would be a shame if you did not allow him the chance.

Rocky Churchwell, pastor
First Church
Huntsville 37756

Lost world doesn't care about who is 'right'

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

When Baptists finally wake up from a lethargic view of world needs, when we finally put Christ and others before ourselves, we will view a world that is coming apart at the seams.

It may surprise us but it shouldn't. Paul wrote that when he was a child he spoke as a child, thought as a child, reasoned as a child would reason.

But then he said, "When I became a man, I did away with childish things."

He wrote in I Corinthians 13 that we see in a mirror that which appears as a riddle, but eventually we shall see truth face to face.

Though we know only part of the riddle, we shall some day know the full answers — just as we have been fully known.

One major childish hindrance is that people often put selfish desires first. It becomes easy to misinterpret what we may call God's will. The riddle in the mirror may be the difficulty of understanding why Christians (Baptists) often put personal desires first when JOY spells: Jesus first, Others next, Yourself last.

Observe life. Biases may lead us to put self first. We think, no one else can possibly be as good as I am. Why I have prayed about this, we say.

Henri J. M. Nouwen tells of visiting in a South American country among Christians in a small village. He learned quickly that they were different. How?

He said, after observing them, "We concentrate today not on spiritual heroes, but

on people who are saints by loving one another, forgiving one another, caring for one another in their normal, everyday lives. We celebrate the saints among us who do not have haloes, but who formed and inspired by the Gospel, can make the interest of others more important than their own."

But there is still lack of forgiveness in the way we treat fellow Baptists.

Southern Baptists drafted and approved a statement of remorse and repentance for crimes against Black people. We acknowledged our ancestors' wrongdoing, and admitted ours.

Some said we didn't go far enough. Others say it was too far.

Southern Baptists stood before the world and acknowledged corporate guilt while knowing the criticisms will continue. Surely we can acknowledge our sins toward each other!

Nothing done by the almost-forgotten Peace Committee can replace genuine forgiveness on all sides. When we *all* stop trying to be "boss," we will be better off.

Texas Baptist leaders suggest keeping more Cooperative Program money at home in order to start 1,400 churches. SBC leadership disagrees vehemently.

WMU fulfills a pledge to produce materials for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship churches. SBC leadership disagrees. However, the Foreign Mission Board has signed on with 110 evangelical organizations in missions cooperation. But the

FMB nor other SBC boards will not accept money from CBF (Southern Baptist) churches. Does this make sense?

We aren't making a case for CBF; there is enough blame to go around. But repentance and forgiveness are of utmost importance when we are trying to live in the manner of Christ.

Forgiveness, as *Christ forgives*, can overcome conflict between the Southern Baptist Convention and those Southern Baptists who are part of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. It is eons beyond standing pat or restructuring. It has authenticity when pseudo-Christianity fizzles.

It exceeds selfish attitudes that separate moderates and conservatives. It is the healer for divisive politics. It is the formula for bringing Democrats and Republicans together for one common cause. It is the elixir that state conventions and the SBC should drink to bolster cooperation instead of disintegration.

Every entity in Southern Baptist life and on the state convention level, every individual, needs to heed Paul's words. *Stop seeing as babies. Grow up in the fullness of Christ.*

Nouwen's words won't hurt either, putting the needs of others before our own. Altruistic? Impossible? Can't be done? We must put away childish ways.

There are enough lost people to go around. No one's personal opinions are more important than listening to the will of God through the whispers of his Holy Spirit into ears open to *his* truth. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Our little blessings

Please don't run away when I talk about my grandchildren, or try to show some photos.

I have been "hurt" by friends who feigned sudden attacks of amnesia or remembered an emergency situation that demanded their immediate attention — when mentioned grandchildren.

We have all been victimized, I suppose, by that grandparent whose grandchild was presidential timber, or who at the age of three months was well on the way to discovering another planet or solving the problems with the world's ecosystem.



ALLEN

Have n't you been trapped in the inside seat of a tour bus loaded with Baptists, and your seat-mate's boring dialogue about the grandchild kept you from viewing the mission sites? I have.

But all God's grandchildren are grand. Betty's and mine are. Not only are they *grand* children, they are special.

With our seven, sometimes we feel as though God is giving us a second chance to correct a mistake or two we made with our four daughters.

The role of grandparents is unique. I relish it, and the opportunities it gives me to see the extended family with which God has blessed us.

I knew only two of my grandparents — and those only briefly. Nor does Betty remember hers. Our daughters knew only one — and a step-grandmother.

I remember my grandfather, for whom I was named, and the sadness his death brought me when I was nine.

Grandparents often feel as though no one cares about them, or their grandchildren for that matter. The photos, the laudatory yarns mean little to anyone else.

But in the hearts of grandparents is a love for those grandchildren that is sufficient for a lifetime of joy.

If you have grandparents, tell them you love them, and prove that you do. And I think I can speak for most of us: indulge our silliness when we are with the small ones.

We want to be a part of their growing up, to touch their lives, to love them, and yes, to brag about them too. ☺

Looking at family madness

■ just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Let's explore anger as expressed in the family. This will begin a two-part discussion.

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

Start with a smile

Clerk: "Boss, I have the worst possible news. Our treasurer has run off with my wife."

Boss: "Oh, it could have been worse."

Clerk: "Do you really mean that?"

Boss: "I do. He could have run off with our money instead of your wife."

Take this truth

Each Christian should always make doing our best as a priority. From the day you are born — Till you ride in the hearse — There is nothing so bad — It could not have been worse.

Memorize this Scripture

"How wonderful it is to see a messenger coming across the mountains, bringing good news, the news of peace!" (Isaiah 52:7 TEV)

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to fill my daily conversations with good things, not bad things." □

It is revealing that we use the word "mad" to express the feeling of anger with each other. The term carries with it the connotation of being rationally out of control and beside one's self as it relates to cognitive abilities, or, to have lost one's senses.

This emotion can be especially troublesome in family living which requires close emotional ties.

Let's divide the anger problem into three areas: the context of our anger, the cause of it, and the cures for it. We will look at the context area in this column.

Most frequently Christians choose to deal with anger through denial.

Since anger usually is viewed a less than admirable emotion, Christians may refuse even to admit that they might get angry.

They certainly would be uncomfortable in admitting it was anger that motivated any particular activity. This is curious in light of repeat-

ed emphasis in the Bible of the wrath and anger of God that is focused on man's sin.

Mark 3:1-5 relates an incident in the life of Christ when some Pharisees tried to trick him into breaking their Sabbath rules.

Jesus had healed a man with a withered hand and thus made the Pharisees angry that their rules had been broken.

They did not seem to have any concern for the man and his hand.

Jesus was angry with their anger, not the emotion, but the cause. As we look at the contexts for anger, especially in the family, we must look at the context.

The Bible clearly says that Jesus got angry, therefore we have to deal with the fact that all anger may not be wrong.

Paul the Apostle commands us to get angry. He said, "Be angry and yet do

not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity" — Ephesians 4:26-27.

The Bible seems to see anger as a normal and natural part of life.

Within the context of human emotions, all made in the image of God himself, our choice is not whether we will get angry, but rather whether we will express our anger in godly or ungodly ways.

This also may be the choice of whether we are in control of our anger or our anger is in control of us.

Since we seem to have no choice about getting angry, perhaps we should look at some of the occasions that might become sources of anger for us.

Next week will look at the causes and cures for our anger. □

Dr. Barkley is a psychologist in private practice and professor in Memphis. Letters and/or questions for discussion are welcomed.



BARKLEY

■ Tennessee features

Eight from Grace Church, Elizabethton, minister in Albania

By Gale Hartley, missionary, Tirana, Albania
For Baptist and Reflector

TIRANA, Albania — "It was just like living 50 years ago in America."

That was the comment made throughout the trip by the visiting Americans. Mouths were wide and eyes were stretched because of the sights with carts pulled by donkeys. The shepherds grazing their sheep wherever they found a place — even if it was the middle of the capital city, Tirana — is another common scene.

While a group from Grace Church, Elizabethton, was working in Albania with Southern Baptist missionaries, Gale and Leslie Hartley, they saw the results of the communist fall and the struggling democracy that began in 1991. After arriving in the capital city, Tirana, the team went south to the city of Gjirokaster.

Outside the city in the village of Valera, a Bible school was held for children. About 100 children came to the event.



PAUSING BEFORE LEAVING is the team from Grace Church which included, from left, Bob and Anna Miller, Ron Owens, pastor, Warren Thacker, Wayne Murray Jr., Evelyn Hawk, Rebecca Kindberg, and June Zimmer.

Small Bible story books were given to the children as well as a New Testament in their language. It was obvious that the children did not have access to literature. They pushed and tugged to make sure they received one, and sometimes they tried to get a second by hiding the first in their shirt or pants.

The meeting for the children was held in the kindergarten building, which was dilapidated and in need of much repair. For most of those in attendance, it was their first time to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Also in the city of Gjirokaster, Bible studies were held for young people and

young adults. A special service was held on Sunday. It was the first baptism for a new Baptist church in that city. Ron Owens, pastor of Grace Church, and Alqi Beqo, an Albanian Christian, baptized nine new believers.

The baptismal service was held in an area known as Butrini. The place is an ancient historical site located in the extreme southern area of Albania on the border of Greece. This place was chosen for the baptism because it is the site of ruins of a third century Christian church.

The people who lived there in an-

cient times were of Illyrian descent, from which the Albanian people also came.

Before going to Albania, the mission team from Grace spent a week in Coratia assisting the South European Mission, an organization of Southern Baptist missionaries, in an annual meeting.

They provided a Vacation Bible School for the missionary children and gave spiritual encouragement to the mission family. Bill Steele, mission administrator, gave his personal thanks for the team's efforts. □



MISSIONARY GALE HARTLEY, LEFT, AND RON OWENS, pastor, Grace Church, stand behind nine Albanians just baptized at a historical Christian site in the country.

Memphians work in Namibia

By Donald Minshew, missionary, Namibia, Africa
For Baptist and Reflector

RUNDU, Namibia — The church bell, really only an old car wheel, rang out over the countryside. The team had arrived late and no one remained at the tree that serves as the meeting place for the Mahahe Baptist Mission in northern Namibia. A few minutes later some ladies drifted in with their children, having crossed the Kavango River from their home in Angola.

Chris Gault, a member of Kirby Woods Church in Memphis, preached the Gospel. From English to Portuguese to Luchazi and Kwangali, the eternal truths of God's Word reach out to the heart of one little lady who gave her life to Jesus Christ.

Every member of the 16-member volunteer missions team from Kirby Woods Church has similar stories to share from their recent trip to Namibia.

The team, under the direction of Howard Bickers, minister of missions at the church, arrived in Namibia July 16. The next day one group went to

Oshakati to work with Southern Baptist missionaries John and Sarah Martz of Birmingham, Ala. The other group proceeded to Rundu to work with missionaries **Don and Carol Minshew of Memphis.**

The Oshakati team went to work immediately, distributing over 700 Bible Way Correspondence Courses in the local market. A worship service that began at three in the afternoon ended at nine in the evening.

All five members of the team — Bickers, Steven and Cindy Jobert, Bob Moore, and Andy Limbaugh — were able to speak. God blessed their efforts with over 25 decisions, many of which were professions of faith.

The Rundu team had a major impact on the Kavango Baptist Association. Divided up into preaching teams, they led worship in all the 17 churches and preaching points in the association. Preachers for the week included David Bickers, Chris Gault, and Jack Young. Young, an ordained minister who is a member at Kirby Woods, also was able to baptize four people at the Livuyu Baptist Church.

Before each service, members of the team passed through the villages adjacent to the church to share their faith and invite people to attend the worship services. Involved in this aspect of the ministry with the preachers were Jim Scott and Eric McDaniel.

Every afternoon Bible School was taught at the Sauyemwa Baptist Church. An average of well over 50 attended each day to sing, study, and do crafts. Shirley Jackson, Christy Ryan, Sarah Young, and Catherine Cunningham were the teachers for the Bible school.

Friday evening a revival crusade began in the Kaisosi Baptist Church, the largest Baptist church in Namibia. Southern Baptist evangelist Benny Jackson, who is a member of Kirby Woods, preached this weekend evangelistic effort which resulted in dozens of conversions, as well as many rededications. Jackson also led a pastoral leadership seminar during the week for the leaders of the association's churches.

As an added help to the leaders Craig Andrews, a nurse from Kirby Woods, did blood pressure screening and basic checkups. □

State leads in media awards

For Baptist and Reflector

Tennessee led all states in church media libraries receiving achievement guide recognitions in 1994 with 39.

Eight Tennessee churches received basic recognition.

Thirty-one churches received advanced recognition — Allons, Allons; First, Camden; Brainerd, Chattanooga; East Ridge, Chattanooga; First, Chattanooga; First Calvary, Chattanooga; Ridgeview, Chattanooga; Clingan Ridge, Cleveland; Westwood, Cleveland;

Pleasant Heights, Columbia; New Union, Dayton; Boone Trail, Gray; Bayside, Harrison; Central Hixson, Hixson; Highland Park, Jackson; Litz Manor, Kingsport; Central, Knoxville; Oakwood, Knoxville; Lascassas, Lascassas; First, Lenoir City; Pleasant Hill, Lenoir City;

Grandview, Maryville; Piney Grove, Maryville; Georgian Hills, Memphis; Whitehaven, Memphis; First, Murfreesboro; Mount Hermon, Murfreesboro; Westgate, Murfreesboro; Two Rivers, Nashville; Woodmont, Nashville; and Grace, Tullahoma. □

Belmont recognized for innovative management

For Baptist and Reflector

Belmont University in Nashville has been awarded the 1995 Overall Innovative Management Achievement Award from the National Association of College and University Business Officers. Sponsored by NACUBO and Barnes and Noble Booksellers Inc., and endorsed by the U.S.

Department of Education, the IMAA program recognizes colleges and universities that improve the quality and efficiency of higher education in the areas of business management techniques, revenue enhancement, and cost reduction.

The school was honored for its continuous quality improvement. □

First Church, Loudon, celebrates anniversary

Modest start, early growth, bright future

LOUDON — Here on the banks of the Tennessee River where it curves northeast toward Knoxville, here where the Appalachian Mountains stand within misty view, a dream came alive in 1870.

A small group of people here saw a need for a Baptist church, and so they met on Aug. 28, 125 years ago to talk about making that dream a reality.

They met in a building on Main Street between Cedar and Church streets and organized the church.

It was a humble beginning, but there was growth through the years. On Aug. 20, the current congregation and friends met to celebrate 125 years of Baptist life from that beginning.

Despite a steady drought-breaking rain, a large crowd met for the celebration, which included the morning Sunday School teaching, regular morning worship, a bountiful dinner prepared by members, and an-



REUNION TIME for family of L. A. and Janie McCollum, back row right, First Church members, with daughter and son-in-law Jonell and Dana Young, former members, left, and the Youngs' granddaughter, Karen Buchanan (the McCollums' great granddaughter); and front row, Larry and Laurie McCollum, son and daughter-in-law. The Youngs are from Roan Mountain.

other worship time in the afternoon.

Two former and retired pastors preached on Aug. 20. Paul Hall, a former director of missions, spoke in the morning hour. Pastor from 1949-54, Hall challenged the church to live up to the bright promises.

Charles Earl, who also was a director of missions, who served from 1979-84, spoke at the afternoon worship. The Jeff Storey Family of musi-

cians also was featured.

The church recognized Pastor Houston Inman for his five years as pastor, and observed *Baptist and Reflector* Day with comments from Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen.



PASTOR HOUSTON INMAN holds silver plate awarded Lennie Lawson for her 79 years of service to the church. At left is her sister Lallie Bumette, longtime pianist at Loudon United Methodist church. The sisters were musicians for at least 50 years at their churches.

First Church, Loudon, also honored Lennie Lawson, a member for 79 years and church organist and pianist for at least 50 years.

A brief church history says that J. B. Lee was the first

pastor and served for three years. Two years after the birth of the church, members voted to lease the Episcopal Church building for five years.

At least two more buildings have been built. □



INMAN, left, and Walt Tester, chairman of deacons, admire plaque from Tennessee Baptist Historical Society honoring the church for its 125 years of history.



CHARLES AND CHRISTINE EARL, left, and Clara Lee and Paul Hall enjoy fellowship and food at the anniversary dinner at the church. Earl was pastor at First Church 1979-84, and Hall, 1949-54. — Photos and story by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor



TWO YOUNG LADS enjoy the bounty of Baptist cooking.

Rice Foundation stages benefit walkathon

A benefit walkathon is on the calendar and participants are needed. Tennessee Baptists can play a leading role.

Scheduled for Oct. 7, the Roger Rice Foundation is holding a benefit walkathon with proceeds going to the development of a community for the physically challenged.

The Ken Hudgens Walkathon is named in honor of the late director of Vanderbilt University's National Commodore Club. His wife, Mary Ruth Hudgens, is honorary chairperson.

Rice, 37-year-old chairman of the foundation's board and president, is a thalidomide

baby of the late 1950s, is 3-foot-2 and has no arms. Rice is an active member of Westwood Church, Nashville, where Jerry Foust is pastor.

The foundation is set up to raise funds to develop a community for the physically challenged, including a rehab-engineering center and 10 custom-designed houses.

Rice has issued a challenge for 1,000 sponsors who would be lined up by participants in the walkathon. Walkers will get their own sponsors from across the state, not by amount per mile. The three and a half mile event will begin at the Vanderbilt track

near the football stadium on the Nashville campus.

Rice says an incentive package will be awarded the walker who raises the most money.

"The walkathon will do more for getting out the word than actually meeting a goal," he said. "This will help us lay the groundwork for launching our capital campaign."

Rice has involved several major corporate sponsors for the event, plus several churches and the university.

Hudgens, he said, was one of the "biggest supporters of the Rice Foundation." He is hopeful of a large turnout. □

Polk County's Camp Agape provides setting for ministry

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BENTON — Although Baptists in Polk County and surrounding areas are hard at work preparing for ministry opportunities for the 1996 Olympic Slalom Canoe/Kayak Competition on the Ocoee River (see front page story in the Aug. 9 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*), the work is easier because the association has long had a presence on the Ocoee River.

Polk County Association began its resort ministries on the Ocoee River in 1982, long before the decision was made to have the 1996 Olympics in nearby Atlanta, Ga.

And, years before that, the association had the foresight to purchase 230 acres of land

bordering the Cherokee National Forest. The land was purchased in 1967 for \$400 per acre.

"I believe God had in mind 30 years ago," Andy Jordan says with conviction.

Jordan is director of Camp Agape, now located on that land, and resort ministries supervisor for Polk County Association.

Polk County Director of Missions W.L. Shipman agrees.

The association met with Cherokee National Park and state parks representatives early on before beginning a resort ministry on the river in 1982, Shipman related.

"We've had to earn our rights and prove we could do ministry without being hard-nosed in presenting the Gospel," Shipman said.

"We have done it. The ministry has opened up over the years. We have more opportunities than we have had staff to take advantage of them," he said.

To meet the increasing needs, the association voted about two years ago to bring Andy Jordan in as the first full-time director of Camp Agape and resort ministries.

The association also approved a plan to borrow \$250,000 this summer to expand Camp Agape by adding a 100-plus capacity dormitory and a dining hall which can feed 200 people. Both facilities

have just recently been completed, although there is minor work that still needs to be finished on both.

Some of the work has been done by volunteers, Jordan said, noting that Brotherhood teams looking for a week-end project this fall could still be utilized, especially in the areas of electric and plumbing work and painting. For information about needs, call Jordan at (615) 338-4153.

This year's construction is just the first phase in a long-range program, Shipman and Jordan noted.

"As we look to the future, we understand that the camp facilities must expand to meet the ministry needs and opportunities which we face," Jordan noted.

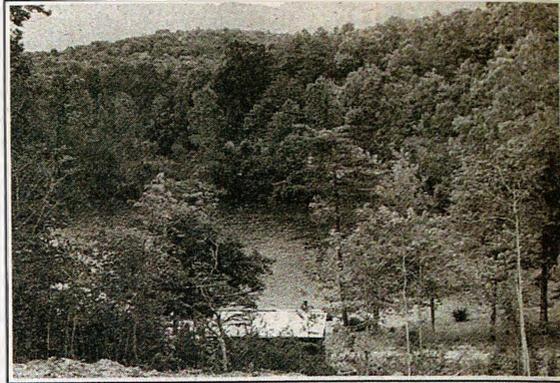
The new dormitory greatly expands the camp's functions, Jordan said.

In addition to hosting the typical associational camps in its original facilities, the camp at the same time can accommodate youth groups who come in for ministry opportunities, Jordan said.

The plan for expanding resort ministries from the camp has worked well. There have been about 20 youth mission groups at Camp Agape this summer, more than double the number from last year, Jordan said.

Teams have come from Tennessee, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Kentucky, Jordan observed, noting the Home Mission Board helped spread the word about the ministries available in Polk County.

The youth teams who



THIS LAKE on the property of Camp Agape offers a picturesque setting with the Cherokee National Forest in the background.

served this summer will have first opportunity to serve during the 1996 Olympics, said Jordan, who also is director of Whitewater Ministries, an organization of several local associations that is planning ministries for the 1996 Olympics on the Ocoee River.

Both Jordan and Shipman are confident interest in Camp Agape and resort ministries will continue after the Olympics are over.

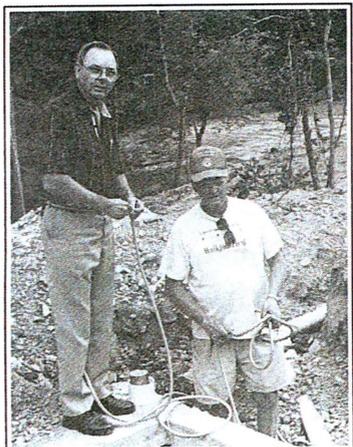
The camp is in a setting where people enjoy coming to, Shipman said

"The rivers (Ocoee and Hiwassee) draw the crowds, but we're hoping the day comes when the ministry of our camp will be the drawing source. I believe it will," he said.

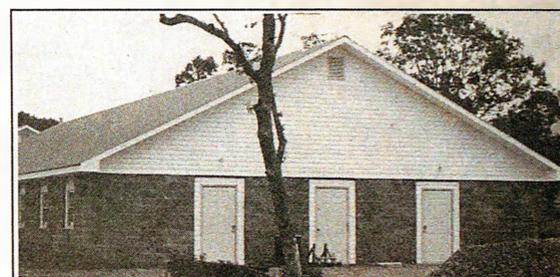
The bottom line of the camp and the resort ministries is to draw people to the Lord, Jordan said.

"We're supposed to be stewards of everything God has given us, including this property.

"God has called us to use this property as best as we can to lead people to him," Jordan affirmed. □



VOLUNTEERS HAVE helped with the new construction at Camp Agape this summer. Polk County Director of Missions W.L. Shipman, left, chats with volunteer Jim German of Smyrna Church, Ocoee.



CAMP AGAPE'S newest dormitory is now ready for occupancy.

Camp Agape, resort ministries provides challenge, fulfillment for Jordan



THE JORDANS, from left, front row, MacKenzie, Meredith, Morgan; back row, Andy, Ramona, and Matthew.

For Baptist and Reflector

BENTON — When Andy Jordan gave up a successful insurance business in Florida to prepare for the ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, he had never heard of the concept of resort ministries.

"I went to seminary with the intent of becoming a pastor," he said.

Yet, toward the end of his studies, he was not convinced God was calling him to one church.

At the same time his

wife, Ramona, who also was completing seminary studies, was contacted by Wetmore Church, Delano, about serving as part-time minister of music and education.

During those talks, the association talked to Jordan about the opening at Camp Agape and resort ministries. "It fit well with what I wanted to do," Jordan recalled.

So, the Jordans ended up moving to Tennessee about the same time the famous "Blizzard of '93" hit. He hit the ground running and hasn't slowed down yet.

But after two years in the post, "I wouldn't change for anything in the world," Jordan said.

He noted he sees how the Lord helped prepare him for the tasks at Camp Agape through experiences in his life even before he went to seminary.

"I enjoy what I'm doing," Jordan said, adding that he especially likes the idea of helping the camp build and expand its ministries. "It's similar to building my insurance agency in Florida," he noted.

"It's a lot of hard work, but unique things happen here and it's fun to be a part of it," Jordan said.

A plus has been the natural beauty of the area. "We've just started tapping into tying programs into the beauty of God's creation here and the natural resources we have."

He noted there have been decisions for the Lord made at camp. "A lot of good things happen here," he affirmed.

Polk County Association Director of Missions has been pleased with the efforts of Jordan.

"Andy and his family have been a gift from God to our ministry here," Shipman said. □

Resort ministries on the Ocoee — more than Kool-Aid

By Lonnie Wilkey
For Baptist and Reflector

OCOEE — A little bit of Kool-Aid has gone a long way in Polk County.

Though it may seem insignificant, Kool-Aid has opened doors for ministry along the Ocoee River that were not open before, associational leaders say.

"The Kool-Aid stand has opened up the door for all the other ministry we do," affirmed W.L. Shipman, director of missions for Polk County Association.

For several years Kool-Aid has been given to tour guides who bring rafters down the Ocoee and Hiwassee Rivers. The rafters would be given cups of cold water. The ministry was usually manned by summer missionaries.

In addition, tracts are available. "We can't hand out the

tracts but they are there to be picked up," Shipman said, noting that volunteers at the stands also can share the Gospel if others initiate the conversation.

Shipman noted the association has gained the trust of federal and state government officials not to overstep church/state boundaries.

The relationship "is not a free reign to do everything," Shipman said.

The ministry has expanded over the past few years, due in part to the employment of Andy Jordan as full-time director of Camp Agape and resort ministries supervisor.

Rodney Ferguson is a former Home Mission Board summer missionary at the camp who has seen noticeable growth.

"When I was here in 1991, we had only the Kool-Aid stand and some campground services," Ferguson noted.

Now, with the help of youth mission groups, ministries are held in campgrounds and outfitters' posts where people rent rafts to ride down the river.

Ferguson is now an engineer in Decatur, Ala., but he still makes the trip to Polk County occasionally to remain active in the ministry here.

"I keep coming back because the summer I worked here had an im-



MEGAN TALIAFERRO of Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville, signs while puppets sing at an outfitters' post near the Ocoee River.

pact on my life," Ferguson said.

He noted it is easy to ask the question, "What's the big deal about Kool-Aid?"

But that's not what it is about, Ferguson observed.

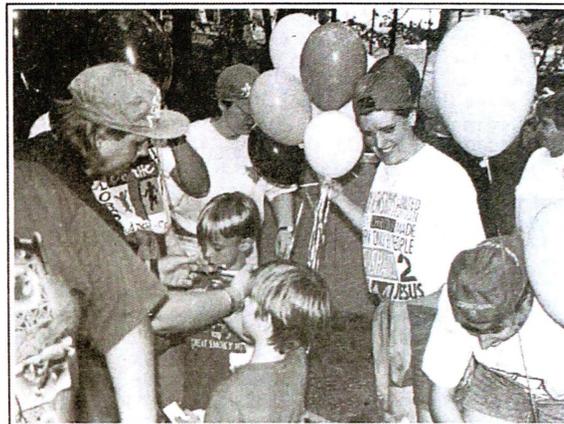
"Even though it seems small, we are doing it for Christ," he said.

And, people do remember the Kool-Aid and remember that it is a part of Polk County Association's resort ministries, Ferguson added.

It is an opportunity to plant seeds, Ferguson continued.

He noted people have even tried to pay him for the Kool-Aid. "It gives you a chance to say we're giving a cup in Christ's name," he said, adding, "It makes an impression on the people."

One of the teams that participated in the ministry this summer was an Acteens Activators team from Nashville Association, led by Debi Camp and Linda Ryan of Bluegrass



NASHVILLE ASSOCIATION Acteens Activator Director Debi Camp, left, of Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville, and Hope Hardy pass out balloons at a campground in the Cherokee National Forest.

Church, Hendersonville.

The team, which included girls from Bluegrass and Saturn Drive Church, Nashville, wanted to work in resort ministries this year in Polk County, so they could be prepared for the Olympics next year, Camp said.

Flexibility proved to be the key word for the Nashville crew as they worked at both campgrounds and outfitters' posts.

Not knowing who would be there or how many children to provide for made it difficult but the team was able to adjust.

One of the hardest things about the resort ministries was not having "as many opportunities to build relationships," Camp said.

The team basically has been planting seeds. "This year we don't know what we're planting, we're just planting," she said.

Jenny Middleton, one of the Activators, agreed the ministry was "different from what we

usually do" at children's camps. "We have to ad-lib more here," she observed.

Yet, she has no doubts as to why they were in Polk County. "We're down here to win people to Christ," Middleton proclaimed.

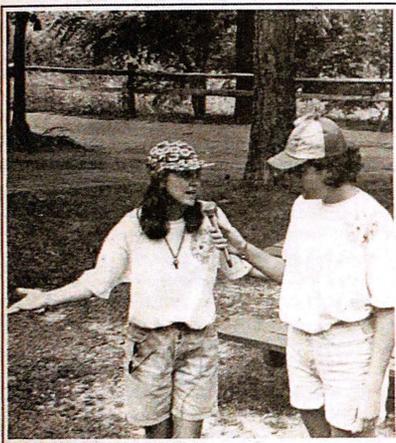
At the same time the Nashville group was working in the campgrounds and outfitters' posts, a group from First Church, Hollister, Mo., was manning the Kool-Aid stand on the Ocoee River.

"We're handing out cold water in the name of Jesus," said Dale Prichard, one of the adult sponsors.

During the group's tour on the river, they gave out more than 500 cups of water, plus Kool-Aid to the guides, Prichard said.

Though actual numbers would be hard to calculate, Polk County's Shipman is sure of one thing.

"There have been thousands of people touched with a Christian presence and witness on the Ocoee River." □



MARY BEA SKINNER, left, and Loren Sluder perform a skit as part of their ministry near the Ocoee River.



KOOL-AID and ice water are still an important ministry tool on the Ocoee River. Here, a group from First Church, Hollister, Mo., prepares to pass out ice water to rafters after a trip down the river. From left are Dale Prichard, Jana Gentry, Evalina Williams, and Robin Case. They hope to return next summer to minister during the Olympic events to be held on the Ocoee River.

New Salem celebrates sesquicentennial in Limestone

For Baptist and Reflector

LIMESTONE — Not far from the site where legendary hero Davy Crockett was born, a Southern Baptist church was formed in 1845.

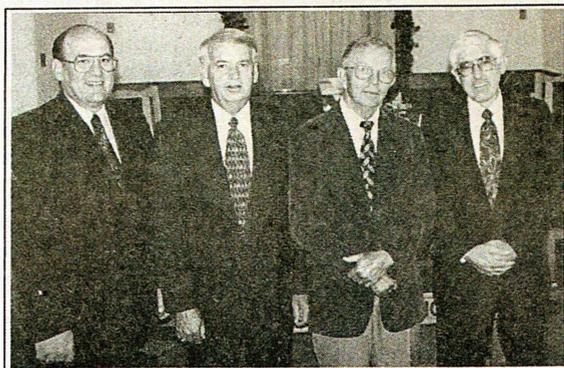
One-hundred, fifty years later, New Salem Church is still alive and prospering.

The congregation met Aug. 20 to celebrate its heritage and look to the future.

Trustee George Jaynes noted the church was organized by Pastor William Cate with 34 charter members. The first members met in the home of John Hunter, who later gave the land and lumber to build the church's first building.

Jaynes said that many of the church's records were destroyed in a fire several years ago at Carson-Newman College where they were to have been put on microfilm.

In 1930, Jaynes said, the church put on a play and sold



PARTICIPANTS in the Sunday morning celebration service at New Salem Church were, from left, Pastor Garry Edwards; George Jaynes, trustee; S.G. Hensley, deacon chairman; and Ron Owens, former pastor.

hens to raise money to purchase pews still used today.

The church voted to build its present building in 1948 and services were first held in 1950. An educational building and fellowship hall was added

in 1979. The church has a working vision, Jaynes said, noting a committee is looking at the possibility of adding a new fellowship hall.

Pastor Garry Edwards said, "We salute our forefathers. It



HOLSTON ASSOCIATION Director of Missions Tal Thompson, left, presents a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to Pastor Garry Edwards, center, and E.V. Gillis. Gillis has been a deacon at New Salem for 48 years.

was greater sacrifice than we can ever imagine for them to build the church and to maintain it through thick and thin."

Former pastor Ron Owens, now pastor at Grace Church, Elizabethton, preached the

morning message. Holston Association Director of Missions Tal Thompson presented the church a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. □ — Lonnie Wilkey

TBC, Big Hatchie offer career enhancement seminar

The Church-Ministers Relations Office of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Big Hatchie Association are co-sponsoring a Career Enhancement Seminar Sept. 28-29 at the Big Hatchie associational office.

The conference is open to any minister and spouse, but reservations are limited and the reservation deadline is Sept. 6. The fee is \$30 per person or \$35 per couple.

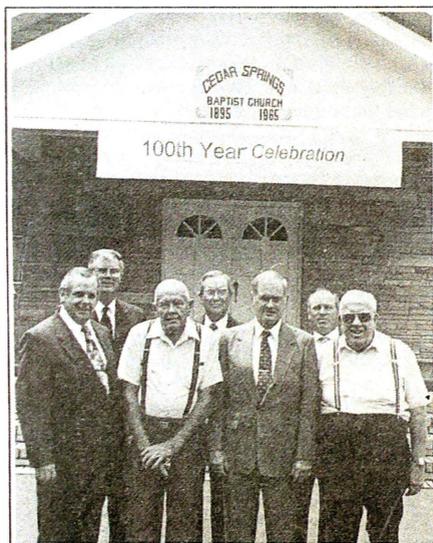
The seminar is designed for anyone

wanting an interlude in their ministry — to step back and look at how they do leadership.

It also is for those who wish to hear some affirmation about their role as ministers, as well as those who are at a point of some difficulty.

Material and reservation information may be picked up at the Big Hatchie Association office or obtained by calling the TBC Church-Ministers Relations Office at (615) 371-2010. □

Cleveland church celebrates centennial



JOINING IN CEDAR SPRINGS' centennial celebration were, from left, front row, deacons Gene Moore, J.W. Poteete, Jack McClure, Kenneth Ogile; back row, Pastor Wayne Cooper, Assistant Pastor Ernest Arms, and Sunday School director Ed Mantooth.

Cedar Springs Church, Cleveland, celebrated its 100th anniversary Aug. 6.

The Polk County Association church was "set and established on the rock — and that rock is Jesus," Pastor Wayne Cooper told the congregation.

The church began with 10 charter members and has been in its present facility since 1965. □



POLK COUNTY ASSOCIATION Director of Missions W.L. Shipman, left, presents a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to Pastor Wayne Cooper.

Barney Anderson of Camden dies

For Baptist and Reflector

Barney F. Anderson, 80, of Camden, died June 27. At the time of his death he was Northwest Regional Volunteer Consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention and had been a key leader in the development of the Michigan/Tennessee Baptist Partnership. Anderson and his wife, Jessie, served in Michigan as volunteer Mission Service Corps workers through the Home Mission Board from 1978-81.

Anderson, a deacon at First Church, Camden, also helped start Sugar Tree Baptist Chapel, Sugar Tree, where he

was serving. He had worked in public school administration for 16 years, then was the first director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program in Benton County and was developer of Aging Programs for the Tennessee Council on Aging.

After retirement in addition to working for Baptists he was a volunteer for the American Bible Society, New York City, and a transportation coordinator for the Tennessee Department of Human Services and Carole Care Center Inc., a non-profit organization.

He is survived by his wife, Jessie, three children and four grandchildren. □

Sehested resigns as pastor

Associated Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Nancy Hastings Sehested, a pioneer woman minister in the Southern Baptist Convention, has resigned as senior pastor of Prescott Memorial Church in Memphis, a post she has held since 1987.

Sehested has accepted a position as writer-in-residence for Sunset Ministries, an ecumenical retreat center in Lake Junaluska, N.C. She also

plans to work weekends at the Sunset Inn, a bread-and-breakfast operated by friends.

"I have not made this decision out of any crisis event at the church or out of a sense of forced leaving," Sehested wrote in a letter to the congregation. "I am responding to a strong stirring of my heart. I hope and pray that it is the rumbling of God's Spirit calling me toward this opportunity." □

First Church, Smyrna, omitted from list

First Church, Smyrna, was inadvertently omitted from the list of churches which led the state in baptisms in 1994, according to Jerry King, director

of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Evangelism Department.

First Church, Smyrna, baptized 58 people last year. □

Goldens' concern leads to state missions offering

The Baptist church committee member was puzzled as she studied the fall calendar of events. Pointing to the entry entitled Golden State Missions Offering, she mused aloud, "Why do we send money all the way to California when there are so many needs here in Tennessee?"

Without a background in Tennessee Baptist history, this woman lacked an understanding of the true nature of the offering and its relationship to the Week of Prayer for State Missions.

Since 1902, Tennessee Baptists have observed a season of prayer for state missions with an offering.

In 1943 the state missions offering was named in honor of W.C. and Mildred Golden, pioneers in state missions efforts in Tennessee.

Golden served as state missions secretary while his wife, Mildred, worked as corresponding secretary of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.

Mrs. Golden's overriding concern for missions across the state prompted her to propose a season of prayer similar to the weeks observed for foreign and home missions. The state WMU adopted her idea in 1901, and the following year Tennessee Baptists set a national precedent, becoming

the first state to collect an offering designated for state missions.

For the first 10 years of state missions emphasis, the Goldens worked together without benefit of the mass mailing techniques of our day to educate Tennessee Baptists about needs across the state, challenging believers to give, pray, and serve. Through the years the GSMO has experienced steady growth, and increasing numbers of volunteers have become personally involved in state missions through prayer and service.

God used the Goldens' willingness to give of their time and re-

sources to spark a fire that has impacted the missions efforts of an entire state. Your willingness is equally important to God's plan.

Are you willing to give sacrificially so that others might come to know Jesus as Savior? Are you willing to pray for missions efforts across the state? Are you willing to be used of God to spread the Gospel in your community?

Just as the Goldens labored together, let us join together in giving, praying, and serving so that others may discover the good news of Jesus Christ. □ — from *If You are Willing*, produced by Tennessee WMU.

1995 allocations for GSMO

Ministry
 Alcohol and Drug Prevention — United Tennessee League — \$48,000
 Developmentally Disabled Adults — \$10,000
 Disaster Relief — \$10,000
 Gifts to Native Tennessee Missionaries — \$15,000
 Gifts to Native Tennessee Missionary Children — \$4,000
 Literacy Mission — \$3,500
 Ministers Aid Fund — \$50,000
 Ministries with Internationals — \$13,500
 Ministry to Sign Impaired/Physically Disadvantaged — \$2,500
 Mission Service Corps Volunteers — Construction — \$1,000
 Mississippi River Ministry — \$16,500
 Nurture of Tennessee Missionaries and Families — \$4,000
 Special Friends Camp —

\$40,000
 Weekday Ministries/Mission Center — \$5,000

Outreach/Growth
 Associational Missions Development — \$10,000
 Language Missions Ministries — \$36,000
 Mega Focus/Metro — \$40,000
 Prison Ministries/Scripture Distribution — \$13,600
 Resort Missions — \$9,000
 Rural Mountain Ministries/Appalachian Outreach — \$25,000
 Student Summer Missions — \$12,000
 Student Summer Missions — VBS — \$5,500

New Work Thrust
 Key Church — \$25,000
 Mission Lot and Building Fund — \$150,000
 New Work Literature — \$10,000
 New Work Pastoral Salary

Supplement — \$130,000
 New Work Revolving Loan Fund — \$50,000
 Site Fund for New Churches — \$150,000

Leadership Development
 Chaplaincy — \$5,000
 Metro Supplement — \$7,000
 Ministries with African American Students — \$15,400
 Seminary Extension Assistance — \$6,500
 Student Scholarships — \$36,000
 Summer Preachers School — \$10,000
 WMU Leadership Training Assistance — \$6,000

Miscellaneous
 Camps Capital — \$200,000
 WPSM Promotion — \$28,000

Total — \$1,200,000



*Golden State
 Missions Offering
 Goal — \$1,200,000*

Week of Prayer — Sept. 10-17

If you are willing to give ...

- 10¢ — provides tract on plan of salvation
- \$1 — provides soap for needy family
- \$5 — Whitewater Ministries can serve 64 cups of Kool-Aid to visitors along the Ocoee River
- \$10 — a smock can be bought for a childcare worker serving with the Disaster Relief Team
- \$15 — provides children's Bible video for use at missions center
- \$20 — provides partial scholarship for child to attend All Nations Camp
- \$25 — buys supplies for a literacy ministry
- \$50 — a native Tennessee missionary will receive a Christmas gift
- \$100 — enough groceries can be bought for the residents and staff of Rainbow Acres for a week's worth of meals
- \$125 — helps minister terminated by his church to provide for his family
- \$150 — gift to a child of Tennessee missionary (home or foreign)
- \$200 — two children can attend All Nations Camp
- \$2,220 — provides rental assistance for someone in temporary facilities
- \$4,400 — provides assistance for multi-housing ministries for five churches/associations
- \$4,800 — provides assistance for Urban Allies in Knox County and Shelby County associations
- \$95,000 — provides assistance for erecting first unit for missions/churches

Why have it?

- Tennessee population — 4.9 million
- Tennessee Baptist Convention churches — 2,905
- TBC resident members — 808,646
- Baptisms — 23,866
- Language Ministries — 140
- Language Groups Reached — 27
- Estimated unchurched in Tennessee — 3 million



WORKING IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM are two residents of Rainbow Acres, a Baptist home for adults with special needs in Jacksboro directed by Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes and partially funded by the Golden State Missions Offering.

Church media library should be a family place

By Linda Lawson
Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Church media libraries were challenged to open their hearts and their libraries to preschoolers, and, in the process, help young children develop positive attitudes about church and God.

"It would be great if the library was the friendliest place in the church," said Morlee Maynard, ministry/systems coordinator specialist in the Baptist Sunday School Board's church growth group.

She and Cindy Lumpkin, design editor of preschool Sunday School materials, led sessions on media and preschoolers during Aug. 4-11 media library conferences at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Ministering to preschoolers is the 1995-96 focus for Southern Baptist media library ministry.

Maynard urged librarians to demonstrate they value preschoolers by broadening their understanding of

preschoolers' common characteristics, including being imaginative, creative, active, and sensitive.

"They wear their feelings on their sleeves even if they're bullies," Maynard said.

Also, she noted, preschoolers are imitators. "If you want them to sit in chairs in the library and not on tables, adults need to sit in chairs."

Preschoolers also are literal-minded and do not learn how to separate fantasy from reality until about fifth grade. Therefore, realistic art is preferable to cartoons, especially in books with religious themes, said Maynard.

In selecting media for preschoolers, she said librarians should evaluate on the basis of truth and biblical accuracy, age appropriateness and attractiveness of the art and color.

In addition to valuing preschoolers, Maynard also cited the importance of media librarians accepting preschoolers "just the way they are. And

help by letting them know of helpful resources they can check out," she said.

She suggested cultivating relationships with parents and teachers by sending birthday cards, listening, and sharing helpful information.

"You may have the best library in the world, but if they don't know you, chances are they won't come," Maynard said.

With preschool workers, Lumpkin suggested media librarians collect used Sunday School, discipleship training, and missions resource kits and place items in a vertical file for future use. Also, she said, librarians can assist preschool workers by helping them catalog their books and tapes and help them repair books.

"There are a lot of things you can do to help preschool workers be better trained and

equipped," Lumpkin said.

Finally, Maynard urged, make the library a "family place."

"Sometimes the family needs to come to church together and stay together. The library could be that place," Maynard observed.

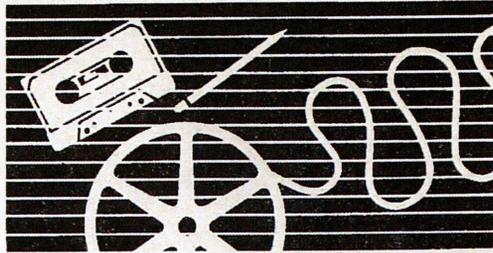
"You have the resources. You have the place where parents could sit on the floor and read a book to their children."

Lumpkin suggested librarians place a blanket in a corner of the library with simple toys where a toddler can play while his parents are using the library.

Children need to feel the library is a "safe place where they know they won't get chewed out," Maynard said.

At church, all adults in some way "are teachers of preschoolers and we need to take that role pretty seriously," she said.

The conferences were sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's church media library program. □



they are active, noisy, and obnoxious sometimes."

"When children come to your library, there may be some things going on (in their lives) you don't know about," she said.

In addition, Maynard challenged media librarians to see themselves as partners with parents and teachers of preschoolers.

"The teachers and parents have battle fatigue. You can

workers, Lumpkin suggested media librarians collect used Sunday School, discipleship training, and missions resource kits and place items in a vertical file for future use. Also, she said, librarians can assist preschool workers by helping them catalog their books and tapes and help them repair books.

"There are a lot of things you can do to help preschool workers be better trained and

Deacons' wives encouraged to develop ministry

GLORIETA, N.M. — True or false? The deacon's wife is to see to it that her husband and children are perfect.

The worst thing about being a deacon's wife is having your children play with the preacher's kids.

The greatest benefit of being a deacon's wife is being able to tell the deacons what to tell the pastor.

Most wives of deacons attending Barbara Sheffield's training sessions knew the above three statements on a class quiz were false. What they and other deacons' wives don't know is what the church expects of them.

"They may not have been talked with before their husbands were ordained," said Sheffield who led conferences for deacons' wives during the Aug. 5-11 Bible preaching — church growth leadership conference. Also, expectations may vary from church to church.

"Wives really want to do what the church wants them to do," she noted.

Sheffield, a middle school computer skills teacher and wife of Bob Sheffield, deacon ministry consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board, has been leading deacons' wives conference for eight years. She also is the author of two chapters in the Convention Press book, *Help! I'm a Deacon's Wife*.

Ideally, she said churches should include wives in the deacon selection process. "This is especially true with the shift from the concept of deacons as management board for the church to deacons as ministers."

The primary role of a deacon's wife is "to support him and to be a partner with him in ministry," Sheffield said. "As a couple, many times they can minister more effectively. But the wife also needs a strong sense of who she is so she can minister through

her own uniqueness."

The greatest pressure faced by deacons' wives is the time needed to be effective ministers, Sheffield said.

"Usually they and their husbands are the busiest people in the church. It becomes a matter of balancing the needs of family and other issues," she said.

On the positive side, Sheffield said deacons' wives tell her the most rewarding thing about their role is the "special joy in sharing in ministry, doing what they feel the Lord wants them to do."

Using I Timothy 3:11, Sheffield identified four characteristics of an effective deacon's wife: 1) worthy of respect and serious about the Lord's work; 2) careful not to gossip; 3) self-controlled; 4) trustworthy and reliable.

"To me it's a very high honor for someone to say you're dependable," she said.

In ministering to people in need, Sheffield said deacons' wives should not tell others they understand their problem.

"Don't assume your experience will help someone else," she warned. "Don't ever say, 'I know how you feel.'"

Also, "we need to be less in tune with what we need to do for someone else than what they need for us to do," Sheffield said. "Too often we minister out of our needs."

When in doubt, she urged, minister. Even in the best of circumstances, people fall through the cracks and fail to receive ministry they need.

"There's no such thing as too much care," Sheffield said.

More information about training for deacons' wives is available from associations, state conventions, and the BSSB pastor-staff leadership department. □

Vibrant worship services evolve from planning, musicians agree

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Too many times planning for worship services gets too little time and energy, participants in a conference on worship said during Church Music Leadership Week at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

The strongest services, they concluded, result from team planning.

"So much happens in the course of a week that takes energy and time," agreed Danny Jones, a consultant in the Baptist

Sunday School Board's music department. "It becomes easy to take last week's order of service and just scratch out the hymn numbers to replace them with others."

Participants observed many times worship planning is hampered when the pastor does not decide on a sermon topic until late in the week, sometimes hours before the service.

Meanwhile, in many churches the task of planning worship services has evolved toward the minister of music. The pastor has only the concern of the ser-

mon material, while the music minister is held responsible for the role of music leader and planner, the pastor's time to preach, the choir, keyboard accompanists, other instrumentalists, sound technicians, Scripture readers and any others.

Yet conference participants agreed even in the midst of apparent disorganization, God uses what church leaders provide.

"Have you noticed," one participant observed, "in spite of the lack of coordination of a team, how many times you go to a service ... the pastor presents

what he has prepared; you present what you have prepared. And a miracle happens!"

While music leaders would like to work with their pastors, some reported asking for a team relationship, only to be told by the pastor, "It's my church."

And regardless of the circumstances in which they work toward a positive worship experience, music ministers agreed on several principles: worship begins a long time before we get to church; worship is an attitude, as well as an action; worship is being in tune with God; worship

is paying tribute to God no matter where or how we do it; leaders can create an environment conducive to an encounter with God; the objective of planning is that the congregation worship; worship isn't confined to the official worship hour; offer something worshipers can take with them; the language of worship services — terms such as prelude and offertory — can be foreign to the unchurched; where one is and how one ministers affects what worship changes can be made and how quickly they can be made. □

■ the people

■ **Harold Morris** was ordained as a deacon of First Church, Covington, Aug. 20.

■ the leaders

■ **Dwayne and Sunny Zimmer**, retired chaplain and manager of Deer Lake Retirement Community of Adult Baptist Homes in Nashville, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Sept. 16. Dwayne is retired minister of education, Woodmont Church, Nashville. They live in Nashville and Crumpler, N.C.

■ **First Church, Red Boiling Springs**, has called **Mike Farmer**, minister of education and youth, Memorial Church, Murray, Ky., for six years, as pastor. He is a native of Weakley County and graduate of University of Tennessee — Martin and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **Kenny Long** was ordained by Westover Church,

Jackson, into the ministry Aug. 13.

■ **Alta Loma Church, Madison**, has called **David Thompson**, pastor, First Church, Carthage, as pastor, effective July 23. Thompson, who served the Carthage church for three years, was minister of education and youth, Oak Grove Church, Mount



THOMPSON

Carmel, minister to youth, Silver Springs Church, Mount Juliet, and associate pastor, Southside Church, Opp, Ala. Also he has been adjunct professor of church history, Emmanuel Bible College, Nashville. Thompson is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Christian Bible College and Seminary, Independence, Mo.

■ **Vance Pitman**, youth minister, Leawood Church, Memphis, has been called as pastor of Lakeview Church, Selmer, effective Sept. 3.

■ the churches

■ **Calvary Church, LaFollette**, dedicated its new sound system to N.E. Lanham.

■ **First Church, Red Boiling Springs**, has completed remodeling the pastor's house owned by the church.

■ **Sevier Heights Church, Knoxville**, will hold a tent revival Oct. 1-4 with Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Church, Cordova, speaking. Phil Chaney and the church's choir will lead the music.

■ **Third Church, Murfreesboro**, will hold revival Sept. 10-13. Phil Glisson, evangelist from Memphis, will speak.

■ **Bethel Church, Harri-man**, baptized three in its new baptistry Aug. 13.

■ the work

■ **Holly Grove Church, Bells**, sent a 30-member youth and adult team to Ionia and Lansing, Mich., to support to the Michigan/Tennessee Baptist Partnership. They led Backyard Bible Clubs, did door to door evangelism, and musical presentations.

■ the schools

■ **Carl Perry**, retired minister of music, West Hills Church, Knoxville, and former adjunct professor at **Carson-Newman College**, Jefferson City, has donated his collection of more than 500 hymnals and music books to the sacred music library of C-N's Center for Church Music. The collection contains a number of rare hymnals, including one with a strong anti-drink theme from the days of prohibition, a spiri-



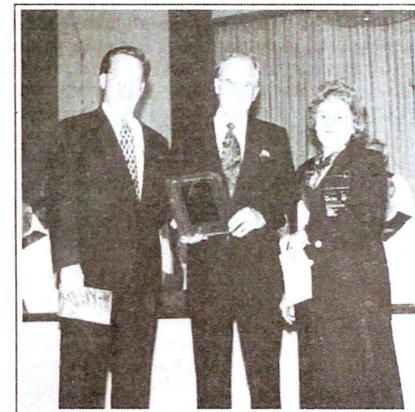
LEADERS OF WESTOOD CHURCH, MANCHESTER, get ready to burn a note July 30 representing the debt-free status of the church. Leaders are, from left, **Earl Cairns**, pastor, **John Brown**, treasurer and deacon, and **Kiaser Rigney**, deacon. Other activities held to celebrate the occasion were an afternoon service featuring former pastors and music.

tualist hymnal, and several songbooks written in the native languages of the foreign countries to which Perry has traveled. There are even shaped note hymnals used to assist congregations not trained to read music.

■ death

■ **Don J. Milam**, 84, pastor emeritus, Park Avenue Church, Memphis, died at his home in Memphis. Milam

served Park Avenue Church 25 years as pastor. He also was pastor of other churches in Memphis, and in Texas, and Oklahoma, and was an evangelist for 10 years. He was a member of the Tennessee Baptist Executive Board. Milam was ordained by First Church, Tulsa, Okla., and was a graduate of William Jewel College, Liberty, Mo., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He is survived by his wife, **Ettie Marie**, and children.



CLAY FRAZIER, center, shows the plaque he received to acknowledge his naming as pastor emeritus, Alpha Church, Morristown. He received the recognition from **Thomas R. James**, pastor, while his wife, **Pearl** looked on. Frazier served the church as pastor for 10 years and 46 years as a minister.



THIS 15-MEMBER TEAM from seven churches in Watauga Association pose for a picture during their mission work at Brinkley Heights Church, Memphis. The team conducted Backyard Bible Clubs and did community improvement projects in the afternoon.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Stormy weather

By Kyle Duvall, minister of music
Woodmont Church, Nashville

I awoke one morning not long ago to sunny weather. I was working on a house project which required that I be outside. I had storm windows spread out across our basketball court out back. We were painting our house, and Emily, the kids, and I were painting the storm window frames to match the paint on the trim of our house. I heard thunder. I immediately looked up to the sky; the sun was shining as bright as it could be and there were only a few clouds in the sky. The thunder was at a distance and, therefore, faint in sound.

The thunder became a bit louder; yet the sun was still shining. No cause for alarm, right? The third time I heard thunder, I decided that I could not ignore it even though the sun was still shining. It took a while, but I finally got all of the screens and storm windows into the garage. Within a matter of minutes, clouds rolled in and the wind started blowing so hard that it blew over our potted hisibiscus trees. Then the torrential rain came with harsh thunder and lightning.

Just think, moments earlier, the weather was fair.

Sometimes life is this way. No storm is in sight; all is well, we think. Then in the distance, we hear discordant sounds — an alarm, if you will; and

even though things look bright and sunny, rough weather is actually ahead and we must be prepared for it lest the winds of life blow us away. It would be nice to think that because we see sunny weather now that all will continue to be well.

But, life is not this way. Who would have thought that our pastor and other members of our church would be experiencing "storms" in their lives today when just a few short weeks ago things seemed so sunny for them? Questions: Are we suited for stormy weather as well as fair weather? What effect do storms have on us as individuals and as a church? How prepared are we for "stormy weather?" Will our anchor hold in the midst of a storm?

The essence of faith has to do with letting go of our fears and trusting in the "solid rock" — **Jesus Christ, Lord above all circumstances, even the "storms of life."** Oh, that we may be able to say: "When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His unchanging grace; in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand."

Storms do cause damage and often times much pain. But, if we are anchored in Christ — the solid rock — our anchor will hold throughout the storm; and when the storms of life subside, we will once again experience the "sunshine" of his grace. ☐

Monterey church observes 125th anniversary

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

MONTEREY — Luther Atkinson discovered as he researched the history of Mount Union Church, Monterey, that it's appropriate a church be located there. Atkinson, a former member of Mount Union who now attends Clarkrange Church, Clarkrange, also learned a lot about his relatives, who helped found the church.

The area was the site of camp meetings or religious meetings held each year after harvest. It may have been after the Civil War, when it was used as a campground, that it became known as the Campground Community.

During camp meetings, the term "dinner on the grounds" wasn't a metaphor. To provide food, campers brought cattle with them for fresh milk and built a grist mill. The grinding was done by hand using rocks. "This would give the young men an opportunity to show their strength to the young ladies," wrote Adkinson.



FORMER PASTORS Delbert Humphrey, left, of Loudon, pastor of Compromise Missionary Church, Philadelphia, and Dewitt Sampley, second from right, of Monterey, retired pastor of Sand Springs Church, Monterey, pose with Talmadge Welch, second from left, pastor, and Ken McMillen, director of missions, Riverside Association.

One of the first church buildings on the site was used by Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians.

Across the years Mount Union has helped begin seven churches and dates before Riverside Association, which was started 17 years later in 1887.

At the Aug. 6 anniversary celebration Pastor Talmadge Welch said, "I thank the Lord

for our forefathers who did blaze the way for us, to tell us the way to Jesus Christ. Today we come not to rejoice, not to be exalted in ourselves, but in Jesus Christ because of what he has done for us.

"This is our homecoming. But the homecoming we're really looking forward to, those of us who know the Lord, is that homecoming in the sky." □



PRESENTING THE PLAQUE from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society is Ken McMillen, second from left, director of missions, Riverside Association, to Talmadge Welch, pastor. Deacons, from left, Rodney Adkinson and James Wilson look on.



LUTHER ATKINSON, right, receives a plaque from Talmadge Welch for compiling the history of the church.

Trustee wants Mohler detractors blocked from HMB appointment

Associated Baptist Press

HOUSTON — Students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary who oppose seminary President Albert Mohler may have a hard time getting appointed home missionaries.

At least one trustee of the Home Mission Board want to exclude Mohler opponents from missionary appointment.

"At the Home Mission Board missionary personnel committee, we find out if any candidate who has just graduated from Southern participated in the protests against the president," said trustee Walter Carpenter, a Houston attorney and member of the committee. "If one ever has or does, he (or) she will not be considered."

"We agree with Mohler that students are there only to learn, not to participate in management or politics," wrote Carpenter in a recent issue of the *Texas Baptist*, a conservative newspaper which he edits.

Student protests, including a two-week sit-in and public rallies erupted on the Southern campus in Louisville, Ky., last March after Mohler fired Diana Garland, dean of the seminary's social work school. Though Mohler's actions drew the support of seminary

trustees, several accrediting agencies are investigating.

Apparently no home-mission candidates have been denied appointment because of participation in the protests, but Carpenter said one has been investigated.

The Atlanta-based Home Mission Board has 4,913 missionaries under appointment in a variety of roles, including church starters and mission pastors. Members of the trustees' missionary personnel committee do not interview the candidates personally but act on recommendations from the staff, which conducts interviews, and background checks.

Both Everett Geis, chairman of the committee, and Dan Garcia, director of the HMB's human resources division, said the official criteria for appointment and the board's screening process do not address the SBTS protests.

"It really hasn't come up,

and I'm a little surprised by (Carpenter's) comment," said Garcia. "It's not a criterion."

"It is not policy and I regret any implication that it is," conceded Carpenter in an interview Aug. 17. But, he added, "I am going to ask the question" of future Southern graduates who seek appointment.

In the case of one recent Southern graduate, whom Carpenter would not identify "the HMB staff people had already asked that question," he said. Carpenter would not identify the staff member involved either, but he said, "he knew there had been no such involvement" in the protests. Carpenter's inquiry apparently was in private and not part of the committee's proceedings.

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Both Geis and Garcia said they are unaware of any candidate coming under such scrutiny. Geis, pastor of First Church in Delhi, La., said the issue of anti-Mohler protesters "has never come up for discussion in the missionary personnel committee."

"I don't have any idea where this came from," he said.

But Carpenter promised to keep the issue alive. If any missionary candidate is known to have participated in the campus protests, he said, "I

would want to review those circumstances very carefully."

Diana Garland said the protests are being misinterpreted. "There were no protests against Dr. Mohler," she said, but only students showing support for the social-work school. □

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Salvation: who needs it?

By C. William Palmiter

No other letter of Paul has attracted so much attention or exerted so much influence as his letter to the Romans. At the Reformation its teaching provided the chief intellectual expression for faith and salvation.

Paul begins this passage with insight into his sense of God's calling. He regards himself as debtor to all men. The type of obligation Paul experienced was to preach the Gospel to as many as possible. Paul then adds his enthusiasm to share the good news of salvation in Rome.

Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel because it is the dynamic saving act of God. The Jews received the message first; this was their privilege and God's plan. But this is not an exclusive message for either the Jew or the Gentile; it is for everyone. If a person is to be saved, he must freely accept the grace of God by believing in the power of Christ's saving work and by surrendering himself to it completely. In the process of salvation, living faith is necessary from beginning to end.

In verse 17, Paul presents "the righteousness of God" as the theme of his letter. Some form of the Greek word for "righteousness" is used more than 60 times in this letter. God has revealed his righteousness by making salvation available to the sinner who repents and believes in Christ. God is both just and justifier in salvation that is by faith alone.

God's wrath is also an active force in man's life (v. 18). When people rebel against God, they experience a foretaste of God's wrath, the full reality of which awaits the final judgment. Through both his righteousness and his wrath, God seeks to lead everyone to repentance and faith that imitates a right relationship with him.

Man could and should know that God exists since nature itself provides the opportunity to know the true God from the evidence of its own complex creation. But man deliberately misread the evidence and committed the inexcusable sin of fashioning gods to his own liking who could impose no godly moral standard and left man to pursue his own fleshly desires. Even though man has the possibility of coming to God through the evidence of nature, the possibility is so remote it might as well not exist. Godless man desperately needs salvation.

In the final passage, Romans 2:17-24, Paul proves that even the religious Jews need salvation. As a Jew himself, Paul recognized that the Jews prided themselves in having the law of Moses as a moral guide. Hearing this in the synagogue every week, they felt fully adequate before God and empowered to present God's view on every issue. In their own eyes, they were a shining light in a pagan world. Although this attitude rested on Israel's true privileges, Paul spoke of it with irony. These same Jews often violated its basic principles of justice and purity. Such inconsistency between knowledge and conduct brought dishonor to God himself, as Paul notes with a quotation from Isaiah. Instead of leading Gentiles to seek and praise God by their faithfulness, they caused them to blaspheme his name by their disobedience. The very law the Jews claimed to obey only served to indict them! In a similar way, some who call themselves Christians can cause others to disdain God through their shallow discipleship. □ — William Palmiter is pastor of Bethel Church, Greenbrier.

The promise of the spirit's power

By Jerry Barker

We often refer to the book of Acts as the Acts of the Apostles, but the Acts of the Holy Spirit, may be more appropriate.

Chapter 1 of Luke's work shares a brief summary of the Gospel. Contained in this chapter is special emphasis on the appearances of the risen Lord. The main emphasis is on the promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit and how the power of the Holy Spirit would enable God's word to be spread and to help begin a worldwide witness. Our study will come under three main sections: Prologue to Acts, Instructions of the Risen Lord, and Special Events Before Pentecost.

Prologue to Acts — vv. 1-2

The word "began" in verse 1 is a clear implication of the continuation of the Lord's work. This means that the Gospel of Luke tells us what Jesus began to do and to teach. Then, the book of Acts continues to tell the work of the Lord through the work of the Holy Spirit. Note that both Luke and Acts are dedicated to a man named Theophilus.

Instructions of the Risen Lord — vv. 3-8

The appearances of the Lord were not continuous but rather at various times and places. The Lord's appearances to his followers showed them the reality of his resurrection. In spite of the words of Jesus before his death, the ultimate proof was his appearance to them. Remember when the women first came with word of his resurrection, the apostles did not believe that this event had happened (Luke 24:11).

Also the appearances of Jesus helped to open the minds of the disciples about the kingdom of God in the Scriptures. In Luke 24:44-48, Jesus stressed his death, resurrection, and their mission to all nations.

The risen Lord was preparing his followers for the

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Acts 1:1-14**

coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was preparing them for the time when he would not be with them in body but he wanted them to know that he would still be with them through the Holy Spirit.

Verse 8 is God's commission to worldwide witness. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Friends, God has told us what to do! We are to share in witness locally, regionally, nationally, and worldwide the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The key to the great commission is that we do not go as witnesses in our power but in the power he gives us through the Holy Spirit.

Special events before Pentecost — vv. 9-26

Three special events are mentioned. The ascension is mentioned in verses 9-11. Prayer in the upper room is mentioned in verses 12-14 and the selection of a twelfth apostle is mentioned in verses 15-26.

Let me focus on one event that is so vital to our lives and that is prayer. When we think of Pentecost, we think of the wonderful revival. We reflect on the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the thousands who were saved but we must never forget that preceding all of these events was a small band of people praying together.

"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren" (v. 14).

Friends, someone once said, "We are never so tall, as when we are on our knees." □ — Jerry Barker is pastor of First Church, Alamo.

Daniel and his friends faithful to God

By Clay Austin

The book of Daniel is set in the period of the Babylonian empire and the beginning of the Persian era. For language and culture students, Daniel offers an intriguing study. Daniel is written both in Hebrew and Aramaic. Language scholars date the Aramaic style and vocabulary to the sixth to second century B.C. Daniel takes center stage in chapter 2 by outdoing the wisdom of the Babylonian prophets with the power of God.

The writing style in Daniel, is unique and usually produced during times of national or community tribulation. The work was written to encourage suffering Jews to be faithful. We can find many contemporary applications for Daniel.

A faithful beginning — ch. 1:8, 14-17

Daniel and his associates were chosen as the best and brightest from Israel. They were given a position of status in the King's court. This is evidenced in the food delivered from the king's table. Daniel decided he would not eat food which was forbidden by God. The faithfulness of Daniel is seen in the statement that he "... made up his mind." Daniel had already decided to honor God. Once this commitment was made, other decisions he would have to make fell into place. Verse six tells us that Daniel was "among" the exiles chosen for recognition.

Daniel's decision as a person of faith in God is relevant to decisions of Christians to follow Christ. Daniel decided that although he was in a foreign land and in a king's house, he was not in exile from his relationship with

**Bible Book Series for September 3
Focal Passages: Daniel 1:8, 14-17;
3:17-18, 26-28**

God. The God of Israel was still God. Daniel intended to influence his surroundings rather than being influenced by them. He set definite faith boundaries and refused to compromise. We might do well today to do some thinking about our own faith boundaries. Are we clear with those around us about what we believe? Do they see our convictions displayed in our lives? As Christians, are we changing our society or is our society changing us? The sobering truth is that our witness is being diluted so gradually we may not recognize the loss. Like Daniel, we need a firm resolve in our heart to live in a way that demonstrates our convictions.

God rewarded their faithfulness. Verse 17 states that "God gave them knowledge." Not only did Daniel meet with the king's approval, God recognized his extraordinary faith. The reward was increased wisdom and discernment. Daniel is given even greater opportunities to demonstrate his faith bear witness to his God. His testimony was given credibility by his stand. It is possible to be a person of faith and to demonstrate that faith positively even in a hostile environment.

Faithful under pressure — ch. 3:17-18

The story now turns to three of Daniel's partners in faith, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They refused to worship this foreign king and as a result, they faced a death sentence.

Pressure to give in to the king's expectations was enormous. Yet in the face of death these brave men make two bold statements. They knew that their God would deliver them from the fate proposed by the king. Their affirmation of faith in God must have enraged the king who had authority over their future.

The second affirmation is more poignant. Even if God should not save them, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego still refused to worship the golden image. They would rather be faithful to death than betray their Lord and live. The faith they professed had so permeated their lives, these three were willing to trust their physical security to God's providence.

The faithful delivered — vv. 26-28

From the midst of the fire three faithful men emerge. Not only is there no singed skin or smoldering clothes, they do not even smell like smoke. God had quenched Nebuchadnezzar's flames! A powerful new reality began to settle over the land. The God of Israel is powerful and personal, able to deliver his faithful. Even the king is forced to bow to the God of his captives.

This story is a reminder that the faith of a few shared in uncompromised fashion can be powerful. Even in our time, people of faith willing to make a stand can still make a difference. □ — Clay Austin is pastor of First Church, Blountville.

Veteran journalist hospitalized in Texas

Baptist Press

VERNON, Texas — Dan B. Martin, longtime Baptist journalist was hospitalized Aug. 17 with acute pancreatitis and other health problems.

A series of tests and other medical procedures at Wilbarger Medical Center, Vernon, indicated Martin has a stomach mass, he said, but surgery was delayed pending further tests.

Martin has been working as a reporter for the *Vernon Daily Record* since being laid off by Texans Against Gambling in May due to lack of financial support for the organization.

Martin, 56, was news editor for Baptist Press for 10 years before being dismissed by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in July 1990.

Martin and his wife, Colleen, have limited health insurance and he had not been with the Vernon newspaper long enough to build up any sick leave. Many of his friends and former colleagues have contacted the *Texas Baptist Standard* wishing to help with medical expenses. The *Standard* is serving as a channel for getting the contributions to the Martins. Gifts, which are not tax deductible, may be sent to *Baptist Standard*, P.O. Box 660267, Dallas, TX 75266-0267. □

NOBTS starts year with Bible reading

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary began its 78th academic year with a Bible reading marathon. More than 95 people from both the seminary family and the community participated in the four-day, three-night vigil to read the Bible through nonstop in the seminary's Roland Q. Leavell Chapel during the week before classes were set to begin.

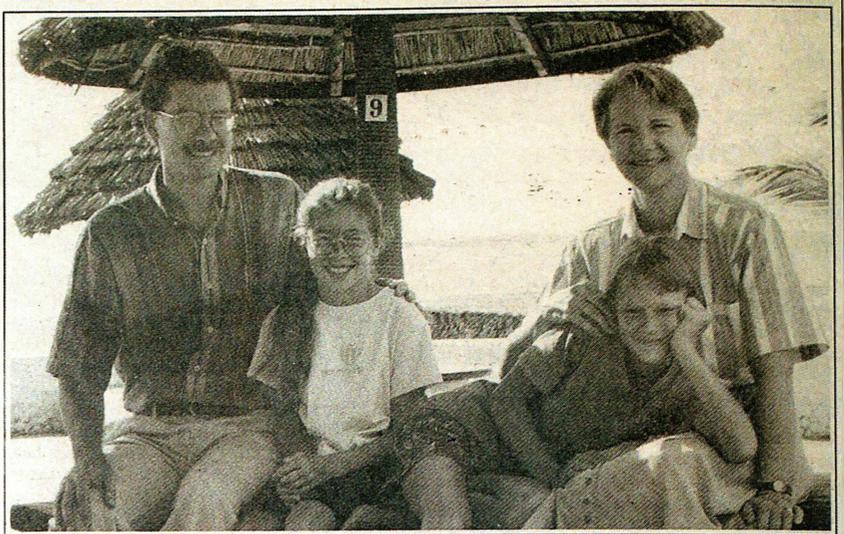
Starting at 4:30 p.m. Aug. 16, participants, beginning with NOBTS interim president Landrum P. Leavell II, took turns standing before the chapel pulpit to read through the Bible in 15-minute intervals, signing their names at the end of each passage read. The last passage was read at 7 p.m. Aug. 19, to conclude the marathon in a total of 74 and one-half hours. The finale of the event was a praise service in the chapel. □

Renowned evangelist Angel Martinez dies

Baptist Press

PORT SMITH, Ark. — One of Southern Baptists' most renowned evangelists, Angel Martinez, died early Aug. 17 following a bout with a respiratory infection. He was 73.

"If he had lived to Sept. 5, he would have celebrated 60



Safe and sound

Ten-year-old Southern Baptist 'missionary kids' Christine Harrington, left, and Joanna Giddens, right, relax with Christine's dad, Bill Harrington, and Joanna's mom, Nancy Giddens, a few days after the girls were kidnapped Aug. 5 and drugged in the African bush. Also kidnapped at a wide game park in Tanzania were Christine's mother, Sandy Harrington, and David and Millie Moreland, all Foreign Mission Board missionaries in Tanzania. The five kidnap victims and their families attended a retreat Aug. 9-11 in Dar es Salaam to help them and other FMB missionaries in Tanzania process the trauma of the ordeal. 'We've worked through the crisis management phase of the situation,' said missionary Jon Sapp, who led the retreat attended by 112 missionaries and missionary children. 'Now we must deal with aftershocks. The idea is to deal with what happened and get on with our lives,' Sapp said. — Photo by Steve Evans

years in the ministry," said Steve Taylor, a music evangelist from Brentwood who worked with Martinez for 41 years. Martinez held more than 1,500 revival/crusades during his career.

He is survived by his wife, Robbie, and two sons. □

Jailed Moroccan Christians released

Baptist Press

TANGIER, Morocco — Four Moroccan Christians arrested in early August for proselytism were released after a trial Aug. 17 here.

During crusade in Kenya

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Bob Curtis turned 85 in June, and not in the comfort of his easy chair or in the confines of a rest home. He celebrated his birthday in Kenya along with the spiritual birthdays of 108 people he led to faith in Christ from June 12-26.

Curtis, a member of First Church, Dallas, joined 500 Southern Baptist volunteers who assisted Kenyan Baptists and Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board personnel in the six-week Greater Nairobi Evangelistic Crusade.

"There was a lot of walking

Released were Mehdi Ksara, Fouad Jaafar, Samir Benali, and Mohcen Ibrahim Belhaj.

Despite their release, it's not clear if any charges still are pending against them, according to a report from News Network International. □

Bible teaching must be priority, Draper says

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Why have Southern Baptists remained strong as a denomination for 150 years?

Jimmy Draper doesn't hesitate when answering that question.

"We have remained strong as a denomination because we have magnified the Word of God," the Baptist Sunday School Board president told 340 ministers and church workers attending Small Sunday School Conference Aug. 21-25 at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center. The theme for the conference was "Carry the Light: Live God's Word."

Draper said he is convinced "there will never be a great church that does not have great Bible teaching." □

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Texas octogenarian wins 108 to Christ

between the villages — no streets, just paths — but there was almost no rejection when I told people about Jesus," said Curtis, who spent eight days trekking the village trails outside Nairobi, the Kenyan capital.

"The Holy Spirit had been working, and to God be the glory. I believe 108 of those people I talked with made confessions of faith," he said. Curtis explained each person prayed a prayer of confession as proof of their commitment to follow Christ.

The highlight of Curtis' trip was training a Kenyan layman, Maason Kwuva, how to

tell others about Jesus.

Curtis told Kwuva, "I'll be leaving today, and my witness here will be over. I would like you to be my disciple, and you continue as I have been doing." Kwuva listened as Curtis asked people in a Nairobi market whether they would accept Christ. After hearing Curtis three times, "Kwuva led someone to Christ," Curtis said.

"Now I feel as if my mission is complete because I replaced myself, said Curtis, who has trips planned to Sweden in 1996 and France in 1997. He has done missions work in 21 countries on every continent. □