

Baptist and Reflector

September 13, 1995

VOL. 161 ■ NO. 36

STATEWIDE EDITION

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

TBC Executive Board to propose \$26.9 million budget to convention in November; elects 1995-96 officers

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Members of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board unanimously adopted a proposed 1995-96 Cooperative Program budget of \$26,969,276.

The budget, which represents about a three percent increase over the 1994-95 budget, will be presented to messengers at the TBC annual meeting Nov. 14-15 in Chattanooga.

In other actions, Board members elected new officers, approved an endowment campaign in TBC churches for the state's three schools of higher education, voted to enter a project relationship with the Baptist Mission of Costa Rica, and approved two new staff positions.

Herbert Higdon, pastor of Cross Roads Church, Bells, was elected board president by a 36-33 margin over David George, pastor of Immanuel Church, Nashville, and current board vice president.

Higdon, retired director of missions for Madison-Chester and Crockett associations, was nominated by former TBC president Bill Bates of Jackson. George was nominated by Marshall Gupton, pastor of Una Church, Nashville.

The nominees left the room, so board members could discuss the election. Two voiced opposition to George's involvement with the Cooperative



PAUL MOODY, left, pastor of Erin Church, Erin, and outgoing president of the TBC Executive Board, presents the gavel to incoming president Herbert Higdon, pastor of Cross Roads Church, Bells. Looking on are Bill Northcott, pastor of First Church, Covington, vice president, and Christine Bess, member, Creevewood Church, Nashville, secretary. The new officers will assume their roles on Nov. 15.

Baptist Fellowship. Immanuel hosted a CBF-related meeting earlier this year.

Other board members stressed the need for loving one another and not using the CBF as a "litmus test" for service in the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Bill Northcott, pastor of First Church, Covington, and Christine Bess, a member of Creevewood Church, Nashville, were elected vice president and secretary, respectively.

The new officers will assume their roles Nov. 15.

The adoption of the proposed budget followed a posi-

tion. The percentages are the same as the current budget.

Board members also approved a recommendation that Tennessee Baptists' three colleges and universities — Belmont, Carson-Newman, and Union — be allowed to conduct a church endowment campaign in Tennessee Baptist churches.

The rationale for the campaign comes from the fact that growth in Cooperative Program support may not keep pace with inflation, according to George, who served as chairman of the Education Committee.

The statewide goal is \$30 million — \$10 million in new endowments for each institution within their region. The campaign is to be conducted between Jan. 1, 1997 and Dec. 31, 1999.

The entering of a project relationship with Costa Rica will allow the TBC Partnership Missions Department to promote projects that Costa Rica will send to Tennessee. It will also allow the two countries to build a relationship with the intention of entering into a full partnership for 1997-2000, according to Russ Dunham of LaFollette, chairman of the Convention Ministries Committee.

New program statements were approved for the areas of Stewardship Development, Cooperative Program Promotion and Development; and Worship Ministry.

— See TBC, page 2

tive financial report from TBC Executive Director James Porch.

Porch told Board members that after 10 months, the convention has received \$22,453,307 compared to \$21,156,281 at the same time last year. And while the convention was behind budget last year, receipts this year are \$632,779 over budget, Porch reported.

The budget calls for Cooperative Program gifts to be distributed 62.5 percent through the Tennessee Baptist Convention and 37.5 percent through the Southern Baptist Conven-

See You At The Pole set for Sept. 20

BRENTWOOD — On Sept. 20, students all across Tennessee will gather at their local school for the annual See You At The Pole emphasis.

The student initiated and led event will take place around the flag pole at schools, beginning at 7 a.m., local time.

"See You At The Pole is a time students can come together and encourage and support each other in their

Christian walk at school," said Jay Austin, program associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Evangelism Department.

More than 75 denominations and ministries help promote the SYATP emphasis, including the Home Mission Board. Last year, students prayed in all 50 states and in at least 24 other countries on six continents. □



SBC CP gifts up for August, year

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program gifts for August were up 8.35 percent from the same month a year ago, putting the totals for the year-to-date above the previous year by 2.55 percent, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

CP gifts for August totaled \$11,836,667, compared to August 1994's \$10,924,478.

For the 11 months of the SBC's fiscal year, the totals

stand at \$132,859,801 compared to \$129,555,054 last year.

The SBC's fiscal year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

The SBC's Program Allocation Budget requires a monthly total of \$11,378,310. For the year-to-date, CP gifts are 6.15 percent above the budget requirement, or \$7,698,382.

Designated gifts for August were up 34.77 percent over last year. Current designated receipts are \$130,330,099, compared to \$125,679,914, a year ago, or an increase of 3.70 percent. □

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TBC Executive Board to propose \$26.9 million ...

— Continued from page 1

The new program statements call for the division of the current Cooperative Program/Stewardship Department now headed by Archer Thorpe.

Under the new setup, Thorpe will deal with Tennessee Baptist churches in the area of stewardship only.

The purpose statement for CP Promotion and Development cited the need "to create an awareness of and commitment to the Cooperative Program as a channel of mission support for the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

James Redding, pastor of Gracey Avenue Church, Clarksville, questioned the need of employing another person to work in this area. The program statement was approved with some dissenting votes.

The board later approved a recommendation to hire a Cooperative Program Promotion and Development Coordinator, who would work under the direction of the

executive director.

The program statement for worship ministry issues a call "to assist churches with leadership and resources that will enhance their awareness of the importance of worship and will enable congregations to experience authentic, biblical worship."

The person employed for this position will be under the supervision of the Church Music and Church Media Library departments.

Amendments also were approved for the programs of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes and Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy.

Adult Homes was given the responsibility of conducting "annual camps for mentally handicapped persons to encourage social interaction and personal Christian growth." That assignment has previously been handled by Liz Lee of the TBC Sunday School Department.

Harrison-Chilhowee's program assignment was expanded to add grades K-6 to their teaching program.

In other matters:

■ Porch announced Greer Ruble, director of the TBC Sunday School Department, was being reassigned, effective Jan. 1, to the executive office to work on special assignments.

■ Eleven employees were recognized for five years or more service to the TBC — (Five years) Aubrey Hay, Church-Ministers Relations; Eric Hogstrom, Motlow State Community College; Chris Jackson, Tennessee State University; Archer Thorpe, CP/Stewardship; Bill Wilson, Convention Ministries; Linda Estey, Evangelism; Leanne Robbins, Partnership Missions; Kande Veridal, Program Services; (10 years) Garnette Hogan, Human Resources; Martin Klinghard, Walters State Community College; and Marcia Knox, Public Relations. □

Infanticide, forced abortion decried at women's meeting

Baptist Press

BEIJING — Two female world leaders decried violence against women, including coercive abortion and the infanticide of girls, in speeches during the first two days of the World Conference on Women in a country notorious for both practices. In the opening session Sept. 15.

Without mentioning the host country, China, by name, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton included forced abortion and sterilization among a list of violations of human rights in a Sept. 5 speech to delegates. In the opening session the day before, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan condemned infanticide, abortion, and abandonment of baby girls, especially in Asia.

Their speeches pointed to some of the controversy which has surrounded this United

Nations-sponsored conference, which is the fourth one for women. Some American pro-life and human rights advocates criticized the conference's site and called for the United States to boycott it.

The Chinese communist regime's widespread human rights violations are well-documented. The government's one-child policy for most families has resulted in forced abortions and sterilizations, as well as reports of infanticide, especially of female babies.

"It is a violation of human rights when babies are denied food, or drowned, or suffocated, or their spines broken, simply because they are born girls," Clinton said, according to an excerpt of her speech in *The Washington Times*. "It is a violation of human rights when women are denied the right to plan their own families, and that includes being forced to have abortions or being steril-

ized against their will."

According to the *New York Times*, Bhutto said, "How tragic it is that the pre-Islamic practice of female infanticide still haunts a world we regard as modern and civilized. Girl children are often abandoned or aborted. Statistics show that men now increasingly outnumber women in more than 15 Asian nations.

U.S. Representative Christopher Smith, R-N.J., a member of the congressional delegation to the meeting, praised the first lady for raising the issue of coercive abortion in Beijing, he said her speech was lacking "for want of one word — China.

"If women have a conference in Beijing, and it doesn't mention that China has engaged in this terrible practice, it would be an opportunity lost and negligence, really," Smith said, according to *The Washington Post*.

Clinton administration officials said Mrs. Clinton's comments were consistent with the White House's recent, low-key approach to China's human rights record and as something other than a criticism of the totalitarian government specifically. "Clearly this was a global speech on women and women's rights. It didn't single out China," a senior administration official told the *Post*.

The White House has announced plans for an October summit between the two countries.

SBC Christian Life Commission staffer James Smith said he felt her comments were "as far as she could go" without jeopardizing the upcoming summit. "That is unfortunate. The U.S. relationship with China should be based on frankness and truth-telling, not diplomatic word games meant not to offend the Chinese government," he said. □

Carson-Newman cited in national news magazine

For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — *U.S. News & World Report* has named Carson-Newman College one of the South's top five regional liberal arts schools for its "unusually strong commitment to undergraduate teaching." This is the first annual "Top Teaching Schools" listing compiled by the national publication.

In the "America's Best Colleges" issue, which hit the newsstands Sept. 11, Carson-Newman ranks third on the list based on strength in teaching. This is according to a *U.S. News & World Report* reputational survey of college presidents, provosts, and

deans of admissions.

"With widespread public concern about the quality of teaching on the nation's campuses, I am particularly pleased that Carson-Newman has been cited for its strength in classroom teaching," said Carson-Newman College President Cordell Maddox.

"This recognition is reflective of the college's extraordinary faculty. These individuals promote a zest for learning and challenge students to fulfill their God-given desire for knowledge," Maddox added.

Carson-Newman has a student/faculty ratio of 13:1.

The news came as Carson-Newman opened its 145th academic year. □

Partnership Prayer Requests September



- 13 — Give praise for those who worked at the Polish Seminary this year: Mark Biddle, Howard Gallimore, Doris and Carlton Carter, and a construction team from First Church, Nashville, led by Cecil Palmer.
- 14 — Pray for Pine Mountain Church, Iron Mountain, Mich., as their new pastor arrives on the field.
- 15 — Thank the Lord for Bryan Currie and Eric Thompson who served as summer missionaries in Poland.
- 16 — Give thanks for the more than 50 children each week who were reached through summer programs at First Church, Gwinn, Mich.
- 17 — Pray that leaders can be found to lead a discipleship workshop at Calgary Baptist Deaf Fellowship in November.
- 18 — Pray for Billy Whitt as he leads missions work in Michigan.
- 19 — Pray for Crossroads Church, Edmonton, Alberta, and its pastor Walter West, as they search for a permanent meeting place. They held their first service Sept. 10.

Southern Baptists prefer 'journeyman classic'

By Mary Speidel
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — When Wendy Norvelle talks about changes in the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's journeyman program, she borrows an analogy from the Coca-Cola Co.

In 1985 it introduced a new soft drink known as New Coke, replacing the traditional cola popular worldwide. The new drink tasted sweeter, more like Pepsi, one of Coke's major competitors. But when the revised product hit the markets, unhappy customers voiced their complaints.

The Coca-Cola Co. listened. Three months later they repackaged the original cola as Coke Classic and took the new product off the market. In 1993 the com-

pany reintroduced the product as Coke II, aimed at people who prefer Pepsi.

So what does all that have to do with the journeyman program, a two-year foreign mission opportunity for young college graduates?

"We're back to 'Journeyman Classic' now," says Norvelle, who directs the board's international service department that runs the program.

Well, it's actually a slightly revised version of "Journeyman Classic," but the program is still pretty close to the original. The original journeyman program was created in 1964 to allow recent college graduates to serve overseas for two years alongside career missionaries. The program underwent some minor changes but kept the same basic identity until 1989,

according to Norvelle, a former journeyman to Zimbabwe.

That year the mission board made the journeyman experience a part of a newly created International Service Corps, formed to send non-career personnel overseas for four months to two years. Under that umbrella, it became known as the journeyman "option" of ISC.

Elements of the original journeyman program were used as a model for the ISC program, created to provide a more uniform approach to the sending of non-career personnel.

As the new journeyman option took shape, it drew criticism from some Southern Baptists who felt it weakened the original program. Among the strongest critics were some former journeymen.

In response to the backlash, a task force on journeymen was formed to survey a sampling of Southern Baptists familiar with the journeyman experience. Respondents included missionary supervisors of journeymen, former journeymen, and board administrators.

"Overwhelmingly, respondents wanted to retain that journeyman identity and camaraderie" from the original program, said Norvelle, a task force member.

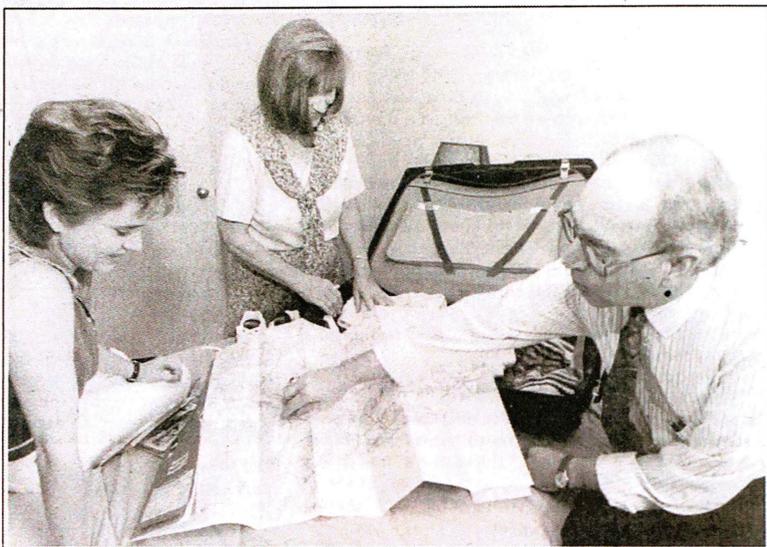
Like the Coca-Cola Co., the FMB listened and restored the "real thing." In 1993 FMB trustees voted to reinstate the journeyman program's original identity.

But for many Southern Baptist young people like Todd Lowe, a journeyman in Haiti from 1993-95, the repackaging of the program doesn't make that much difference. The important thing is what journeymen gain from going.

Lowe returned to his native South Carolina a changed man. "I realized a lot of things in my life which were just unnecessary," he said.

Lowe recently led a segment of training for 67 new journeymen.

For more information on the FMB journeyman program, call (800) 999-2889, ext. 1543. □



LOCATING THE CITY in Spain where she will serve as an FMB journeyman for the next two years is Shannon Bruce, left, and her dad, Joe, as her mom Shirley packs in the background. Shannon's parents both are former journeymen and she is thought to be the first child of journeymen to go out in the same role. Bruce is now an FMB administrator.

TBC's Ruble announces retirement plans

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Greer Ruble, current Sunday School Department director, has announced his retirement, effective February, 1997.

Ruble will continue as department director through Dec. 31, 1995.

Beginning Jan. 1 Ruble will accept a special assignment in the executive director's office



RUBLE

related to long-range planning and relationships with associations and churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The new assignment was approved Sept. 8 by the Executive Committee of the Executive Board.

Over the past 11 years Ruble, through the Sunday School Department, has developed excellent working relationships with the associations and churches and is well qualified to accept these new duties, said James Porch, TBC executive director.

The Sunday School Department's search committee will receive nominations for the department director's position through Oct. 15. □

SBC president seeks input, names in appointment process

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry has requested input and names of people "in the preparation of the appointment process for the 1996 Committee on Committees, Committee on Resolutions, Tellers Committee, and Credentials Committee nominations."

Henry made the request in an Aug. 30 press release with a plea for Southern Baptists: "I want your input and I will need the names of recommended persons."

Henry said he would need the information by Nov. 15.

To request necessary forms, write to: Jim Henry, SBC President, First Baptist

Church, 3701 L.B. McLeod Road, Orlando, Fla., 32805.

Respondents should mark "Form" on their envelopes to have their requests directed to the proper party, Henry said.

"We will be glad to fax a form to you if you include your fax number," Henry said. "The forms will be forwarded to you, and they must be complete in order for the recommendation's consideration."

Henry said a "recommendation is not necessarily a nomination, but will give us the widest possible field of nominees to pray about and consider. Continue to pray for me, our convention officers, and our beloved SBC. Let us exalt Jesus Christ together." □

Hankins nominated for SBC position

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — David E. Hankins will be recommended for a new position, vice president for convention policy, at the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee when it meets Sept. 18-20, according to Morris H. Chapman, president of the committee.

Hankins, 45, served eight years on the Executive Committee, including two as chair-

man, and for the past 10 years has been pastor of Trinity Church, Lake Charles, La.

Chapman will recommend the new executive position, in part to provide staff leadership necessary for developing and implementing the "Covenant for a New Century" transition plan for the SBC. The recommendations of the Program and Structure Study Committee were approved by messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta last June and

will significantly alter the structure of the SBC.

Chapman said the management of orderly change within the convention, including changes in governing documents such as constitutions, bylaws, charters, and the SBC Organizational Manual, will create heavier workloads than the present staff of the Executive Committee can manage.

Hankins and his wife, Patricia, have three grown children. □

ACTS programs to continue on Faith and Values channel

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission has reached agreement with the Faith and Values channel for ACTS programming to continue on the cable channel through Dec. 31.

ACTS is the cable television service operated by the RTVC.

"This is a temporary measure," said RTVC President Jack Johnson. "We are still negotiating. As to whether ACTS will continue to play a vital role on the Faith and Values channel, I just don't know."

Johnson, on Aug. 8, said ne-

gotiations between ACTS, National Interfaith Cable Coalition, and Liberty Media were at an impasse.

NICC owns 51 percent of the "Faith and Values" channel and Liberty Media, a subsidiary of TCI (the nation's largest cable operator), owns 49 percent. □

■ 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. □

Good introduction

The *Baptist and Reflector* has always had a warm place in my heart and I have subscribed to it no matter where I lived.

In 1967 I was pastoring in another state but was terribly homesick for Tennessee. Dr. Richard N. Owen was then editor of the *Baptist and Reflector* and was a personal friend.

One day as I was reading the *Baptist and Reflector* news items I saw that Highland Park Church in Columbia was open. I hastened to contact Dr. Owen and asked him to recommend me to the church. Another friend I asked to help was the saintly B.B. Powers, a former pastor of the church.

Both men gave me warm recommendations and the church called me and we moved on the field in June 1967. I stayed there 10 years and they were golden years. The first year I was there I baptized 67 precious souls and the last year I baptized 75. Of course, God did it through my ministry and some sanctified shoe leather and an old Ford Falcon.

There is no way I could enumerate the other blessings God showered on me and the church during my stay there.

I shall forever be indebted to the *Baptist and Reflector*. Keep up the good work!

Bill Delaney, pastor
Bartlebaugh Church
Chattanooga 37418

Inconsistency

In the Aug. 23 issue, page 2, I read that the FMB voted to spend \$15,000 as membership fee to join the Evangelical Fellowship of Missions Agencies. Purpose: to join forces and spirit with 110 mission organizations, most of whom do not bear the name Baptist. First reaction: Great! Long ago I learned that many other groups strive for the same things we do.

In the Aug. 30 issue, page 2, I read that our FMB president is writing pastors and WMU directors of 40,000 Southern Baptist churches, asking them to pray that our autonomous sister organization, Woman's Missionary Union, reverse a decision they had reached in good faith to offer CBF supplements to WMU publications to church WMU leaders who request the inclusion of said supplements in their WMU periodicals. Basically, the periodicals will carry only SBC mission information; the supplements being included only when requested.

Funny, but from somewhere certain words suddenly come to mind: "duplicity," "inconsistency," "enmity," "double-dealing," or even "hypocrisy." I wonder why. I remember too that a few years ago many of our number rejoiced that non-Baptist groups were ordering from our Sunday School Board. That helped us pay the bills, and also carried our message to some unexpected places.

Yes, I'll pray too. But I'll let God work out the details of who does what, while I thank him for every fellow-Christian who carries the Gospel to some hell-bound sinner.

James E. Humphreys
Huntingdon 38344

Love your neighbor

I had to write and tell you how much I agree with your editorial in the Aug. 30 issue. It has grieved me that our SBC leaders want to ostracize everyone who disagrees with them (if they are Baptists) while cooperating with other denominations whose beliefs are different from ours.

Do they not know the second great commandment — "to love your neighbor as yourself"? I am so thankful that the WMU didn't succumb. I have never thought of someone who disagrees with me as misguided or gullible. They have a right to their own beliefs, just as I do mine.

I listen to Dr. Gerald Mann and certainly disagree with some of the answers he gives to callers. He is pastor of a 7,000-member congregation in Austin, Texas, and says his church gives to SBC causes. I wonder if the SBC accepts his

church's contributions. He does not believe in Genesis 4 and thinks that Revelation was meant only for Jews in the time in which John wrote it. He does help people and that is what we are put on earth for. He thinks love is the key word.

I always read your editorials and "One Word More." The *Baptist and Reflector* gives both sides of a question and I like that.

Please excuse my writing. I am 83 and am gradually losing my eyesight, but I am thankful I can still care for myself and I can still read the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Annie Lee Hart
Jackson 38301

'Well said'

I commend you for the editorial in the Aug. 30 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*. It is something that has been needed to be said for a long time, and you said it extremely well.

We have been much concerned for a long time at the attempts and mostly successful dividing of our Baptist folks instead of cooperation. We have indeed put up with childish behavior far too long, instead of cooperation with all Christians in reaching the lost for Christ.

Thank you again for saying what needed to be said. Keep up the good work. You and your staff do an outstanding job each week and we appreciate it.

Sue D. Brown
Chattanooga 37405

Prayers needed

I appreciate your editorial in the Aug. 30 issue of *Baptist and Reflector*. You said some things that needed to be said. I am so sorry this on-going struggle has to be added to all the problems missionaries face every day. Hopefully, they don't have to explain actions of the Southern Baptist Convention to new Christians. It is amazing that people still join our churches here in spite of the controversy.

We have reached a point where anyone who dares to disagree with actions of the Executive Committee will not be considered for work on the mission field. Some who have been called of God and surrendered to missions are turned down. If this is not power and control, I do not know what else you could call it. It is guaranteed in the SBC constitution and emphasized in the history of Southern Baptists that we do not have to agree on everything; and we are entitled to speak out.

Why should it be detrimental to the SBC if WMU prints mission literature for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship? Our missionaries on the home

and foreign fields would be glad to know that our missionary information and the prayer calendar were going out to every known Baptist — Northern, Southern, American, National, etc., and to Methodists and Presbyterians and anyone else who can lift them up to the Lord in daily prayer. I hope fellow Baptists who are in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship pray for our missionaries. Up until the time when they were systematically excluded, they supported our mission efforts in every way.

I don't understand how the Foreign Mission Board can justify refusing contributions from Southern Baptists who have disagreed and then take contributions from foundations and other groups.

When are you Southern Baptists going to wake up and realize you have lost the very thing that makes a Baptist distinctive — the priesthood of the believer? We have come under a small group who have demanded that we follow like a flock of sheep. My Shepherd is not the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Frances Dial
Cookeville 38501

Too many bosses

If any editorial comment could be called a "timely comment," the editorial in the Aug. 30 issue was definitely on time, if not a bit "late" coming. I appreciate your stand as a Christian writer.

I have pastored Southern Baptist churches for over 20 years and found there are "too many bosses" even beginning at the top of the convention level and trickling down all the way to the pews of the churches.

This problem has not been a sleeping dragon. It's been around for years. It's something I have never understood in all my years as a Christian. I have witnessed this since a boy, that deacons want to be "boss." Associational leaders act as God in their little positions. They act as "placement bureaus." I feel for the next generation of young pastors. Where has all the love gone? Where is the heartbeat for the lost man and his family? What's happened to door-to-door visitation and one-on-one prayer with the lost and troubled?

If we would listen to the will of God through the Holy Spirit, our churches and leaders throughout the convention would find that "all things do work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."

Arthur Bain, pastor
Lexington 38351

■ an occasional word
By Lonnie Wilkey,
associate editor

Beauty around us

One of my favorite times of the year is just around the corner — fall.

It's that time of the year when the heat subsides and we get a brisk chill in the air in early mornings and late at night.

Fall is also that time when God "paints" his creation with beautiful gold and red colors on trees everywhere, and especially across Tennessee.

Tennessee is such a beautiful state. That fact was driven home to me once again over the Labor Day weekend.

As has been the custom in recent years, we went camping with a group of friends from Tulip Grove Church.



WILKEY

Fortunately, the hot, humid days of August subsided and we had some "fall-like" weather, at least at night, for our campout. This year, we decided to stay "close to home," and we chose a Corps of Engineers park in the Mt. Juliet area.

As I told my friends, I had my doubts about this particular trip because we were so close. It was hard to get excited about camping when you only drive 12 miles from home.

Yet, the site we chose was one of the most breathtaking we have ever camped at. It was on the lake and the view when the sun came up in the morning and set during the evening was more beautiful than anything someone could paint on a "picture postcard."

It made me realize that you don't have to drive miles and miles to see God's beauty in the world he created. In our case it was already around us. But in our stress-filled, work-a-day world, we don't take time to "stop and smell the roses," as a song once reminded us.

During our campout, we took time to stop and honor the Lord who created the very spot we enjoyed all weekend. One of our crew, Tony Langton, even did double duty. He got up early, went to church to teach his regular Sunday School class, and then came back to camp to lead us in Bible study.

We missed our church that morning and our pastor's sermon. But sitting out in the open, with the lake in the background, there was no denying the fact that we truly worshipped God that day. □

The future is now, and readiness necessary

The mark of vitality in any organization is the ability to foresee and plan for the future. We are always at the edge of tomorrow.

David McCullough, author and historian, said nobody ever lived in the past. "In writing about history," he said, "you must remember that nothing was ever on a track. Things could have gone any way at any point. As soon as you say 'was,' it seems to fix an event in the past. But nobody ever lived in the past, only in the present."

A major role for the present is preparation for the future, unless you want to defy McCullough's logic and live in the past.

Preparation requires bold, courageous, considerate, and careful planning. For the future to be successful, those involved in the master plan must be kept informed, and must be a part of it. Everyone expected to be a part of the eventual organization should be "carried along" as plans are being developed.

The more radical the changes, the more careful planners should be to involve everyone along each step. Organizations such as the Tennessee Baptist Convention are models for such involvement. Seeking God's will in prayer is the most vital part in planning.

Friday's TBC Executive Board meeting at the Baptist Center provided some insight into stepping into the future.

This issue's page one carries news of several substantive changes in the Ten-

nessee Baptist Convention's organization. In that story is good news of current financial stability. There also is news of dissension in the election of board officers. There were heated words, pro and con, about the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Here's some advice. *Tennessee Baptists, if we want to move into the future together, we don't have time for dissension. It is harmful and futile.*

The future is not some point out there onto which we can affix a marker, or put down a peg. The future is elusive; once you have stepped across the threshold, you cannot stop.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

As we move into the future, we leave any excess baggage, and we must be careful to take with us those plans, those ideas, the bold heritage, that made (and makes) us great. The future moves on as swiftly as the past swallows us.

Let's look at some steps taken Friday by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board:

- The board will recommend to TBC messengers in November a \$26.9 million Cooperative Program budget for 1995-96. This budget recommendation is a 3 percent increase, and slightly lower than anticipated CP income for this year. No one can foresee the future with 100 percent accuracy, but the promise is there.

- Board members approved a recommendation to allow the TBC's three colleges to conduct a church endowment campaign in TBC churches. Statewide goal is \$30 million, with an even split

among Union University, Belmont University, and Carson-Newman College.

This is good for the colleges, who will be allowed freedom to raise badly needed funds to help ensure financial stability, relieving CP budgeting pressure. It will assist the colleges in keeping up with inflation even though CP giving does not always do that.

- Tennessee Baptists' missions-mindedness will continue in a new partnership agreement with Costa Rican Baptists. Beginning immediately as a project-driven arrangement, the agreement can blossom into a three-year partnership mission in 1997.

- Stewardship and Cooperative Program will be strengthened as each will have emphasis by singular oversight. Archer Thorpe will continue to develop stewardship in all areas of life and work, and a new staff member will coordinate CP emphasis.

- Other moves to strengthen the Executive Board staff organization are likely. The Long Range Planning Committee has completed its assignment and an executive staff group continues planning for reorganization.

Reorganization involves assignments, goals, financial resources, organization, and responsibilities. But it also includes people — those of the organization and those employed by the organization.

The goal for the future is to arrive well-prepared, and with all parts of the body functioning. And, God's plan is always the best plan for all of us. □

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Keeping identity

They ushered me into a small room without windows and only one door. It was about 10 by 10 feet.

Was I concerned? What do you think?

I felt like shouting, "I'm innocent, I tell you, I am completely innocent of whatever your mission is I did."

But the irony and humor in the situation kept me from losing touch with reality.

I had just landed with about 25 other passengers. Our flight from Jerusalem had taken us across the Negev Desert, down to Eilat on the northern extreme of the Gulf of Aqaba. The next flight would carry us within a long, rough bus ride to St. Catherine's Monastery at Mount Sinai.

But minutes after landing, two Israeli military officers whisked me off to the bad little room, with no more than a curt, "Come with us."

I did not think I looked like a spy, nor could I remember any suspicious activity. I rationalized that they were talking to the wrong guy.

I began to feel uneasy when the questioning began. They were polite, but thorough and very serious.

Something they said sparked my memory. I was carrying two cameras, a tape recorder, and several note pads. In short, I looked like a journalist. I also remembered that I had taken photos from the air over the Sinai. I later learned there were several Israeli army bases in the area.

They let me go when I mentioned that powerful word, Baptist. Connecting Baptist with journalist helped my case considerably.

"We know Baptists," they said, "They seem to be everywhere." I thought about their remarks after I boarded the plane again. I have thought about the incident many times since.

I had broken a rule unknowingly. They suspected me of spying. But when they found out my whole identity, they looked at me differently.

I learned to also bear my identification proudly, openly. This is the Christian life. □



ALLEN

Finding cures for the anger

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor

We have looked at the context for anger. I pointed out last week that our choice is not whether to get angry or not, but rather, how to respond to our anger when it does occur. First we considered the causes of our anger.

Exhaustion, embarrassment, exasperation, and exclusion are all occasions that can usually be depended upon to produce anger for us.

I suggest a three-part process for dealing with our anger. We should attempt to recognize it.

The first step in dealing positively with our anger is to recognize it. We need to call it what it is.

The old saying is "If it is yellow, waddles like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it is probably a duck." This is the response to the problem of denial. If we are ever going to deal successfully with the problem of anger, we must recognize it for what it is.

The second step in handling constructively our anger is to rate it. There are basically two kinds of anger:

Godly and ungodly, con-

structive and destructive, positive and negative, or beneficial and harmful. Positive or constructive anger is the kind that is expressed over things like injustice, exploitation, disobedience, and mistreatment, mainly of others.

The negative or destructive anger is the kind that arises out of self-centeredness, greed, jealousy, and envy.

One of my teachers in my early college career said of God's wrath, "There is always love in God's wrath, but there is always wrath in God's love."

We have the tendency to misunderstand the statement that "God is love" to mean that he will always do what I want him to do and will never do anything that I do not want him to.

My cardinal rule in rating my own anger is to ask myself if it is redemptive.

I believe that everything that God does for us, even in

his wrath, is aimed at redeeming us.

The third step in managing our anger is to resolve it. In order to do this, we must recognize the difference between anger as the emotion that arises in us and the expression of that emotion. It is my contention that we cannot control "getting mad," but we can control how we respond to the experience.

Vengeance is never a choice for the Christian, Romans 12:9.

We have been given the ministry of reconciliation (II Corinthians 5:19-20); therefore, we should work toward being at peace with all people (I Thessalonians 5:13).

Remember how God has loved and forgiven us, we are to use this as a standard for responding to each other.

In considering the context, cause, and cure for our anger, I invite you to remember that we may not be able to cease the emotion of anger but we can control the expression of anger. □

■ just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Take this smile

Jane: "There's a new boy enrolled in our French class this semester." Judy: "Is he good looking?" Jean: "Is he rich?" Jan: "Does he dress sharp?" Sally: "Does he have a sports car?" Sarah: "Is he a good student?" Joyce: "Where is he?"

Take this truth

Where are your priorities? Dwight Eisenhower said, "The older I get the more wisdom I find in the ancient rule of taking first things first — a process which often reduces the complex human problem to a manageable proportion."

Memorize this Scripture

"And this they did ... first gave themselves to the Lord" (II Corinthians 8:5).

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me separate wheat from chaff in my mental processes. May I realize constant fellowship with you is the greatest help in deciding what is best in my choices." □



BARKLEY

Small church grows despite 'drought period'

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

RIPLEY — "We're having fun," says Wayne Rowan about a ministry most ministers would consider a step down on the career ladder.

The relationship began a year ago when Rowan was called as pastor of Calvary Hill Church, Ripley. He had been a full-time pastor of churches for more than 10 years, but he agreed to accept the part-time position. Since then he has worked in a cotton gin and done construction work, but he hasn't been too busy to be involved in dramatic changes at the church.

Calvary Hill Church had become

so small — about 25 in worship — that it had delayed calling a pastor for a year. It owed a large debt on an unused family life center which had been built when the congregation was much larger. And, most representative of the changes, the members had taken out a section of pews in the sanctuary since they were no longer needed.

Just one year later, Rowan is proud to report about 90 attending worship on Sunday mornings with 61 new members. "Sometimes the choir has to look for a place to sit," he explained. The church hopes to pay off the debt owed on the family life center within three years. It has enlarged the parking lot and increased gifts to missions. The family life center has been cleared of cobwebs and is being used. And, of course, the pews have been re-installed.

Rowan could take credit, but he doesn't.

"These people really care for people's needs, not just to have them in the church or in a pew or giving their money, but they really care for them, for their personal needs," said Rowan. That is the main reason for the changes, he

said. "My job was to love them through this hard time," he added. "Now there's a harvest for this church because of their faithfulness."

Rowan said his ministry had always been to grow or re-grow churches. His understanding of that is also why he has stayed rather than going to bigger churches and why he has advised the church to call a bivocational youth minister rather than accepting a salary increase or full-time status.

Along with God he credits his wife, Patti, for his ministry. She is so much a part of the ministry, he said, he doesn't consider trying to serve as her pastor.

Rowan's approach to church growth is patterned after some mentors and includes making contacts in homes and at gatherings — usually planned around meals — hosted by members. He usually develops a relationship with people before he witnesses to them, he added.

He has led the church to do outreach every Thursday evening and the first Saturday of each month. Other gatherings include that of women and of men each month for a meal and of deacons and their wives. And a retreat for members has been planned. The cook for many of these gatherings is Rowan, which he said he enjoys although he is dieting.

Besides all the local work which is now being led by Calvary Hill, Rowan said another measure of the members is their response to missions needs. Gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions increased from a goal of \$250 to \$500 with \$912 being given. Response to other missions needs has been similar. The members gave \$1,000 to member Patsy Crihfield, a nurse who worked in Chile.

The church has regained its vision, he said. "We're having fun." □

My job was to love them through this hard time.

— Wayne Rowan, bivocational pastor

TBC employees with tenure honored



RECOGNIZED AT THE TBC Executive Board meeting Sept. 8 for 10 years of service were, from left, Garnette Hogan, manager, Human Resources; Martin Klinghard, student director, Walters State Community College, Morristown; and Marcia Knox, news writer, Public Relations.



RECOGNIZED FOR FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE were, from left, first row, Linda Estey, administrative secretary, Evangelism; Archer Thorpe, director, Cooperative Program and Stewardship; Kadee Veridal, mail clerk, Program Services; second row, Aubrey Hay, director, Church Ministers-Relations; Eric Hogstrom, student director, Motlow State Community College, Tullahoma; Leanne Robbins, administrative secretary, Partnership Missions; and Bill Wilson, director, Convention Ministries Division.

Men need accountability groups, Nashville layman advises

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — All Christian men, including singles, should forge close relationships with other men to be spiritually vital, a speaker told conferees at the Single Adult Labor Day Getaway, Sept. 1-4, at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

David Atchison, a member of Grace Community Church, Nashville, said, "God's desire for us — his design — is that we would experience close, meaningful relationships with other guys."

Yet Christian men in America today are often spiritually isolated from other men, said Atchison, director of a discipleship ministry based in Nashville.

"You may have a lot (of men) ... you can call your friends but ... when it comes to sharing the personal things in our lives — the things that are most private — we are very alone," said Atchison, who also is recording secretary for the Southern

Baptist Convention.

Men have a tendency toward self-isolation, Atchison said, which is spiritually dangerous. "Men, that's exactly what the enemy attempts to do to you and me. He wants us to get self-suffi-

Accountability is the willingness to give an honest account of your life to another or others.

—David Atchison

cient. We get alone, and we basically have a life that's unchecked, and that's when we are most vulnerable to the enemy," Atchison said.

Accountability, on the other hand, is a good thing, he said. "Accountability is the willingness to give an honest account of your life to another or others," he said.

Atchison urged the men to form accountability groups or one-on-one accountable relationships, such as

between Paul and Timothy in Scripture.

When forming a group, Atchison said, be careful how many men are in the group. "If the number is too small, it's kind of hard to stimulate the group in discussion and openness," Atchison cautioned. "If you get it too big, you don't have time for everybody to share what's on their hearts. Your meetings will last five hours, with folks trying to have a chance for everybody to talk."

The ideal number in an accountability group would probably be four, Atchison said. He noted the Old Testament example of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the New Testament example of Jesus, Peter, James, and John.

Atchison made several suggestions for men who want to establish accountable relationships:

■ **Seek out men who want to grow spiritually.** Watch for "something in their lives that says they're longing for

God. The key to it is men who are willing and hungry," Atchison said.

■ **Avoid long-range plans at first and try a trial period.** When a group starts with a long-term commitment, "then it's real awkward to get out of it," Atchison said.

On the other hand, setting a trial period of three or four weeks may allow a group to see if the "chemistry" is there, he said, adding it may become obvious "this thing isn't clicking. There's nothing wrong with you or any of the other guys. It's just not working."

■ **Meet for lunch and share thoughts and feelings.** "Get a little bit vulnerable with them, and tell them, 'Hey, I'm looking to try to build some kind of real accountable relationships in my life,'" Atchison said. "Just drop the hook out there and see if there's any response."

■ **Avoid legalism.** "Accountability is not a system of legalistic harassment of one another," he said. "Accountability is not forcing you to do something you don't want to do. Accountability is when others help you accomplish and become what you want to be most." □

Tennesseans see 247 professions of faith in the Ukraine

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — An eight-member team, which included six Tennessee Baptists, has returned after serving 10 days in the Ukraine through the Foreign Mission Board's volunteer mission program.

Tennesseans on the team included Gary and Dixie Hines, Barbara Smith, and Gina Tisdale of Brook Hollow Church, Nashville; Pierce McIntyre, former pastor at Brook Hollow; and Stan Smith, pastor, First Church, Henderson.

During the 10 days at Sambeer Baptist Church in Sambeer, Ukraine, the team conducted Vacation Bible School, ministries in a local prison and hospital, and held open air services. There were 243 professions of faith, including 75 from young men in prison, but "the numbers and statistics do not even begin to tell the story," according to team member Gary Hines.

Hines, McIntyre, and Smith also led a pastor's conference for 12 young ministers in Sambeer. Hines said one of the highlights was taking badly needed medical supplies, including bed pans, to the hospital in Boryslav. The 68-bed hospital had 64 patients but only one bed pan before the team arrived.

The trip had an impact on team members. "What a remarkable experience to see people come to know Christ in the villages and towns" of the area, Hines said. □



PASTOR STAN SMITH of First Church, Henderson, helps unpack medical supplies with Dr. Era Lipska, center, and Nodya Provozuk, a nurse, of Sambeer Baptist Church.



TENNESSEE TEAM members included, left, Pierce McIntyre, Stan Smith, Barbara Smith, Dixie Hines, Gina Tisdale, and Gary Hines.



TEAM MEMBERS Susan Howard, left, of Texas, and Tennessean Barbara Smith, third row, center, worked with these children in VBS at Sambeer Baptist Church.



DIXIE HINES visits with a new friend in Torchinovicky, Ukraine

Bishopville celebrates 125th anniversary

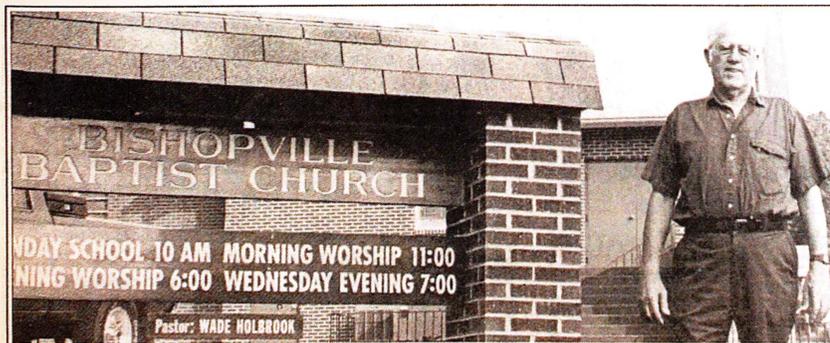


MIDLAND ASSOCIATION Director of Missions Herbert Jones, left, presents a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to Pastor Wade Holbrook of Bishopville Church, Heiskell. Bishopville celebrated its 125th anniversary with special services Aug. 27.



New Hope celebrates sesquicentennial

New Hope Church, Hendersonville, celebrated its 150th anniversary Aug. 20. Joining in the celebration were, from left in top photo, former pastor Terry Mitchell, Pastor Joe Hinkle, former pastor Clifton Alexander, and Paul Durham, pastor of Radnor Church, Nashville. Durham, who was licensed into the ministry at New Hope, preached the morning message. Below, Bledsoe Association Interim Director of Missions J.C. Lewis presents a plaque to Pastor Joe Hinkle.



TRUSTEE Glenn Davis stands outside Bishopville Church, Heiskell, which celebrated its 125th anniversary on Aug. 27. Davis, who has attended the church most of his life, remembers when the old church building had to be propped up by poles. Davis estimates his linkage to the church goes back 100 of the 125 years. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey

Healthy eating, exercise listed as vital for effective ministry

By Chip Alford
For Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — If the cliché "you are what you eat" is true, a lot of Baptist ministers (and laypeople) may be in trouble.

With church suppers of fried chicken and home-baked pies and fast-food lunches common among those constantly on the go, it's not surprising ministers and church workers are one of the groups most at risk for high blood pressure, heart attacks, and depression, a Baptist Sunday School Board consultant said.

John Garner, pastor/church growth consultant and projects coordinator at the BSSB, led a seminar recently on nutrition at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

"In too many of our churches, people are dying younger of heart attacks, strokes, and cancer," Garner said. "Others are sleepy and fatigued all the time or depressed. It's affecting their interpersonal relationships, and among pastors and church workers, it's affecting their ministry."

"It's fabulous, unbelievable,

what God has done in creating our physical bodies," Garner said.

"We have a responsibility to take care of them. ... Our objective ought to be to serve God as well as we can as long as we have."

Garner shared eight common complaints which prevent people from starting a healthy eating and exercise program and he responded to each:

(1) "I tried it once, but it didn't work for me." (It's never too late to try again.)

(2) "It's too hard." (It's never going to get any easier.)

(3) "It takes too much time." (It doesn't have to. A two-mile walk in 30 minutes three times a week can make a significant impact on your health. Look for simple ways to get a little extra exercise, such as parking further away from the door at the grocery store or taking the stairs instead of the elevator.)

(4) "I can't afford it." (It

could cost as little as a good pair of walking shoes.)

(5) "I feel self-conscious." (Is that worse than feeling bad or becoming ill?)

(6) "I lack support from my family and friends." (Don't let others dictate your actions when your physical health is at stake.)

(7) "I'm too tired to exercise." (Exercise will energize you.)

(8) "I'm too old to start." (You're never too old to begin reaping the benefits of healthy eating and exercise.)

Healthy eating, Garner said, can involve steps as simple as eating more fruits, vegetables, cereals, and other high-fiber foods and consuming fewer foods with a high content of fat, sugar, and salt.

He also offered the following suggestions for a healthy diet:

(1) "Wait a while before you go back for seconds. Give our stomach a chance to 'record'

what you've already eaten."

(2) "Eat a healthy breakfast. This gets your metabolism going and gets your day off on the right foot."

(3) "Stretch the amount of meat you eat. Eat more poultry and fish."

(4) "Avoid nutritional 'cures' or 'dramatics.' They won't work."

(5) "Drink six to eight glasses of water daily."

(6) "Go for a walk."

(7) "Figure out your fat gram consumption."

(8) "Forget dieting to lose weight quickly."

(9) "Don't eat too close to bedtime."

(10) "Eat slowly."

(11) "Eat whatever you want, but eat wisely. The key is balance. As Scripture tells us, do everything in

moderation."

Garner also suggested people learn all they can about nutrition, exercise, and healthy eating.

He suggested as a resource the workbook, *Nutrition for God's Temple*, by Richard Couey, professor of nutrition and fitness at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. □

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Scripture suggests the wisdom of reinvesting some of the harvested seed for planting next year.

Accumulated wealth can be thought of as seed corn. The laws of our land encourage us to give in the support of ministries such as those supported by our churches. Your Tennessee Baptist Foundation can show you how your property and other accumulated wealth can be preserved while benefiting Christian causes.

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The two joined together as one on Sept. 12, 1928. From the beginning of this union, B. Mack and Rubye Canup knew their loyalty as Christians would include planting seeds each year and the years to come for bountiful harvests.

The Canups were believers that the work and ministry of Southern Baptists was biblical. Many years ago they contacted the Tennessee Baptist Foundation to assist them in their estate planning. God blessed them through their ministries of teaching and preaching. Reverend Canup pastored several churches while also teaching school; Rubye taught piano and typing. Through the years they revised and updated their wills, but they never forgot from whom their estate had come and always remembered the ministries supported through the TBC and SBC. B. Mack and Rubye remained active in their church and association until their deaths.

Because B. Mack and Rubye Canup believed that Scripture taught the wisdom of reinvesting some of the harvested seed for planting next year, their property and other accumulated wealth will benefit the Cooperative Program and other Christian causes for eternity.

So you see, the Canups proved, through their lifestyle and giving spirit, that it is possible to save the seed and continue to have bountiful harvests.




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TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the work

■ The 36 members and sponsors of YouthPraise, a youth choir of **Southeast Church, Murfreesboro**, ministered in five states during its recent week-long tour. They worked at churches in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and at the Roanoke Rescue Mission, Roanoke, Va., MUST Center Ministries, Marietta, Ga., and Hunter Army Air Field Post Chapel in Georgia.

■ The Vacation Bible School of **Mouth of Richland Church, Blaine**, collected and gave about 700 aluminum cans for recycling to Carson-Newman College's Samaritan House.

■ The Brotherhood of **Good Hope Church, Adamsville**, built a communion table and pulpit furniture for a new church in Utah.

■ The senior high mission tour choir of **Brownsville Church, Brownsville**, supported the Canada/Tennessee Baptist Partnership by working in Canada this summer. Thirty-one volunteers worked at Dixie Church, Mississauga, Ontario. They led a Vacation Bible School which drew 75 children and resulted in eight youngsters making professions of faith. They also led a worship service at the church.

■ A team of youth and adults of **New Friendship**

Church, Cleveland, supported a three-year commitment to First Church, Heyworth, Ill., by working there July 22-29. They led a Vacation Bible School, did survey work for a new congregation, and provided creative arts for revival services. Five people made professions of faith as a result. This was only the second mission trip of the church's youth.

■ the people

■ Pleasant Heights Church, Columbia, ordained **Rick Sykes** and **Michael "Mickey" Wilson** as deacons Aug. 27.

■ **Randy Turley** was ordained by Oakland Church, Rutledge, as a deacon Aug. 27.

■ **June K. Padgett**, secretary, First Church, Erwin, has retired after serving eight years.

■ the leaders

■ Pleasant Hill Church, Powell, ordained **Lee Strunt** to the ministry and **Doug Clark** and **Jerry Walker** as deacons Aug. 26.

■ **Ronald C. Baker** has been called as pastor of Maplewood Church, Clarksville, effective Sept. 10. He is a graduate of Florida Baptist Theological College, Graceville, Fla., and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. He has

served churches in Alabama, Florida, and Michigan.

■ **Jodi Norton Blackwell**, US-2 missionary who was interim director of missions, Belmont Heights Church, Nashville, has concluded her term. She will remain in Nashville.

■ **Ronnie Sells** has resigned as pastor of First Church, Crump.

■ **Randall Pressnell**, pastor, Haynes Flat Church, Speedwell, has resigned effective Sept. 1 to become executive assistant to the president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky. He will live in Harrogate.

■ **C. Marvin Spivey**, former missionary to the Philippines and Hong Kong is available for pulpit supply, interim pastorate, and as a speaker for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions emphasis. Contact him at (615) 833-0549, 2613 Mashburn Ct., Nashville, 37210.

■ **Barry Rhoades**, associate pastor, Prairie Plains Church, Hillsboro, will be ordained to the ministry Sept. 17. He also was minister of music of the church for a year.

■ **Scott Paris**, minister of youth, Swope Park Church, Kansas City, Mo., and a recent graduate of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, has been called as minister of youth, First Church, Tullahoma. The native of Jackson also is a gradu-



HONORED FOR 75 YEARS of membership at Chinquapin Grove Church, Bluff City, is Orel Lowrie, who received a clock/plaque as a gift which is being held by his wife, Irene. Lowrie is the father of former TBC executive director D.L. Lowrie of Lubbock, Texas.

ate of Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, Mo.

■ the churches

■ **Laneview Church, Trenton**, will observe its 75th anniversary Sept. 17.

■ **Kirk Church, Collierville**, will hold its annual Homecoming Sept. 17. Bob Campbell, director of missions, Fayette Baptist Association, will speak. Activities include a luncheon and afternoon music program featuring "The New Beginnings."

■ **Cog Hill Church, Etowah**, observed its 135th anniversary Aug. 27. Hubert Daugherty, retiring church treasurer after 44 years, was honored. It also is holding a revival led by former pastors.

■ **Falcon Church, Selmer**, will hold revival Sept. 17-10. Victor Ward from

Corinth, Miss., and Rob Pelkey from Indiana will speak.

■ **Southside Church, Rutledge**, celebrated its 40th anniversary Aug. 6.

■ **First Church, Antioch**, will celebrate its 185th anniversary Sept. 17. William Fox, a former pastor, will speak. Other activities include dedication of a pavilion, a picnic luncheon, and a concert by the adult choir.

■ the schools

■ **Carson-Newman College**, Jefferson City, has begun offering a master's degree in school counseling. The program, which offers a thesis and non-thesis option, will enable a person to serve as a guidance counselor from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade in Tennessee.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

A sure bet

By Joe Hudson, pastor
Tennessee Avenue Church, Bristol

A sure bet. You have heard the expression. People are looking for a sure bet. Americans wager \$400 billion annually on horses, dogs, lotteries, casinos, and other legalized forms of gambling. This reminds me of the statement, "Common sense is referred to as horse sense because you never see a horse betting on a man.

People start gambling and looking for a sure bet because they think money will solve their problems. Even money, a lot of money, is not a sure bet.

Take the case of 69-year-old Phyllis Cohen. She won the one million dollar instant prize at McDonald's recent monopoly game. She did so by picking up a hamburger and drink on her way home ... from a round of chemotherapy. Her response to her new wealth, "I am worried I won't live to collect it. I'll be glad if I reach 70." We pray Mrs. Cohen is a Christian and lives for eternity.

I know of no sure bets, but I do know a sure thing. Jesus Christ is a sure thing. He is our anchor sure and stead-

fast. In him we have passed from death into life now and will move one day into his glorious presence forever.

As part of this sure thing, Jesus said lay up treasure in heaven. When one invests in the Lord's church one also has a sure thing. Blessings far more priceless than money are ours when we spend both our possessions and ourselves in the ministry of his church.

It has been well said that true wealth is not measured by the things one has, but by the things one has that money can't buy. Such is the wealth of a child of God.

A sure bet or a sure thing. By depositing my life in Jesus and his church, I lay up treasure in heaven and that's a sure thing. No bets about it. □

An adjectival view

By Calvin S. Metcalf, pastor
Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville

In grammar class we learn that adjectives modify nouns and pronouns. They are helping words used in describing places, persons, events, or things. Most of the time we put more emphasis on adjectives than we do on nouns. This is especially true

in our treatment of people.

We tend to place people in categories according to our description of them. Often we see adjectives rather than people. "Red and yellow," "black and white" are adjectives. "Republican and Democrat," "southerner and yankee" are adjectives. "Conservative and liberal," "fundamentalist and atheist" are adjectives. "Educated and ignorant," "cultured and uncouth" are adjectives.

The noun is "mankind." The pronoun is "us." It is so easy to get caught up in the ways of describing people that we never really see people. Prejudice is the result of our exaggerated emphasis on adjectives.

In our world of amazing diversity there are any number of ways to categorize people and things. The context in which we were reared conditions us to form our philosophy of life. The way we look at things and people determines the adjectives we use.

No one was freer of letting adjectives determine his outlook on life than Jesus. He taught us to look into the hearts of people and evaluate them for who they are rather than what they are called. He did not come to die just for those with pleasant adjectives. He died for all people, regardless of their cate-

gory. He established an all-inclusive fellowship called "church."

The best way to describe the people of his kingdom is "Biblical persons." The words indelibly written on every human being are "made in the image of God." Our maker has made it clear that no one is inferior who bears the resemblance of the Heavenly Father.

Sin creates any number of adjectives which separate us from one another. Our personal iniquities define us in ways which make us less desirable. Because we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God, our greatest need is to struggle toward being a "Biblical person."

When this occurs, such words as "kind," "forgiving," "trusting," and other Biblical adjectives will best describe us. We will also focus on nouns and pronouns instead of adjectives. □

Articles included in "Tennessee Sampler — views, insights" are written by Tennessee Baptist church and associational leaders. The articles are chosen for publication from newsletters of churches and associations. The *Baptist and Reflector* does not necessarily concur with the views expressed.

'Home Life' television program to be aired daily on FamilyNet

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — "Home Life," a television program produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, will move from a once-a-week one-hour schedule to a daily half-hour.

The new 30-minute version, produced in cooperation with the Baptist Sunday School Board, which publishes a monthly magazine by the same name, will begin airing week-

days on Oct. 2 on FamilyNet at 9 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. FamilyNet is the broadcast television service of the RTVC.

"Home Life" producer Martin Coleman said, "The idea behind the change is to make it more feasible for our FamilyNet affiliates to find a regular slot for 'Home Life,' and to build an audience for the program by being there every day at the same time."

The program will be a "must

carry" for FamilyNet affiliates. Coleman said the daily format will help develop program hosts Vicki Hutson and Ralph Baker as personalities and build a more loyal audience for "Home Life."

Most programs will have two guests, the producer said.

The old format had three guests per show. With the new half-hour format, the audience will be able to now view 10 guests each week, Coleman said. "I think the pacing will be better and the diversity greater."

The RTVC plans to produce

85 new programs to be aired during a 17-week period. Each of the programs will be repeated twice. In addition, the 17 one-hour programs already produced will each be edited to the 30-minute format, giving the RTVC a total of 102 "Home Life" programs for airing. □

Illinois executive director in coma

Baptist Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Gene Wilson, executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Association, collapsed at his home and suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage at 8 p.m. on Aug. 30.

As of Sept. 5, Wilson was still in a coma and on a respirator at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield.

Doctors have described his condition as "grave." Family

and friends continue to pray for his healing.

Wilson, a native of Texas, has been the executive director in Illinois since 1993. □

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Andy F. Hardy

■ Sunday School lesson commentary

**Life and Work Series
for September 17
Focal Passage:
Romans 5:1-11**

Salvation: what's new?

By C. William Palmiter

It is no make-believe righteousness that fills the believer and radiates in joy throughout his whole person. Previously a guilty sinner, the believer now lives in a right relationship with God because of all that Christ is and has accomplished in salvation. The one who believes that Christ died and rose again knows with assurance that he experiences God's peace because of Christ. The word translated "access" occurs only three times in the New Testament and in every case it applies to Jesus. The word means an introduction to the presence of an exalted person. So the believer confidently rejoices in the hope of one day sharing the ultimate glory of the Father. This hope is the climax of salvation by faith and a contrast to falling short of God's glory.

Even suffering can be enigmatically transformed into the raw material for spiritual growth. If a believer continues to trust God even in the midst of suffering, he develops constancy which is the very essence of spiritual growth; it is persevering faith in God that keeps one alive to God and his gifts. The more constant one's faith in God, the deeper the experience of God's presence. Tribulation describes a variety of troubles that may stress us and weigh us down. Trials and tribulation work for the believer, not against him. No amount of suffering can separate us from the Christ (ch. 8:38-39). Suffering brings us closer to the Lord and builds Christian character making us more like the Lord Jesus. The obvious sequence is: tribulation, patience, proven character, then hope.

As proof of the reality of salvation, Paul points to the gift of the Holy Spirit whom God bestows on every Christian in baptism. His dynamic and beneficent activity in the life of the believer constantly makes God's merciful love real and provides a guarantee of greater mercies if only one perseveres in faith. Another reason for Christian confidence is that God chose the very time when men were enemies with God and too weak to help themselves as the moment when Christ should die for sinners. It is rare to find anyone ready to give his life for another, even for a good person. This objective experience focuses on the incomparable reality of God's love. He did not wait for us to get better before he expressed his deep love for us.

Paul logically concludes that if Christ died that sinners might live an entirely new life as just in the eyes of God, how reasonable it is that he should save these just ones from condemnation at the final judgment. If God initiated salvation when we were hostile to him, how much more should he intercede to save and keep us after he has made us his friends through faith.

If God's first intervention cost the death of his own Son, how much more readily will he intercede to save those he declares just at the final judgment. There he confirms the reality of their sharing in the life of the risen Christ. Our reconciliation to God through the death of Christ opened the way to the whole process of salvation so that we are able to enjoy the complete assurance of salvation because of our Lord Jesus Christ. We owe to Jesus all the many benefits of our salvation including a transforming relationship with God, a new understanding or suffering, and complete confidence in final judgment. □ — William Palmiter is pastor of Bethel Church, Greenbrier.

Healing and preaching

By Jerry Barker

Many wonderful spiritual events followed Pentecost. One major ministry was the healing and preaching ministry of Peter and John. This ministry was not in their power or in their authority but in the name of Jesus Christ.

An overview — ch. 3:1-4:31

A lame beggar was healed at the temple gate by Peter and John. The people were astonished at the healing (ch. 3:1-11). Peter then took the opportunity to preach on the death and resurrection of Jesus. He then called the people to repent. This sermon did not sit well with the Sadducean leaders so they seized Peter and John and demanded that the apostles tell them by whose authority they were acting. This became a testimony to the healing and saving power to Jesus (vv. 8-12). The Sanhedrin warned Peter and John but the apostles stood their ground and said that they had to tell what they had seen and heard. The council threatened them but let them go. The church prayed for them and after the empowering of the Spirit, they spoke God's word with great boldness (vv. 23-31).

The healing of the lame beggar — ch. 3:1-11

Peter and John went up into the temple at one of the prayer times. This occasion would have been at three in the afternoon. At one of the temple gates was a beggar. This man had been lame from birth and others brought him each day to the temple to beg for alms from those who were entering the temple. The Jewish teachings always emphasized giving alms to those in need.

The beggar saw Peter and John and asked for money. The two apostles did help the beggar but they gave him something far better than anything he had expected.

Earthly and Godly kingdoms

By Clay Austin

The visions of Daniel have a unique way of separating the kingdoms of the world from the kingdoms of God. The values of earth and heaven are on a collision course.

These chapters of Daniel are meant to inspire both hope and warning to the original readers and to us. The writer definitely believed that God was in control of history.

Ultimately, God will reign over his creation. The drama of earthly kingdoms that rise, reign, and fall will end with the final triumph of God's kingdom. The poet Tennyson stated it well when he said, "Our little systems have their day; they have their day and cease to be; they are but broken lights of thee, and thou, O Lord, art more than they."

The use of animal symbols unfold the history of the nations before us. Many interpretations attempt to shed some light on the identity of these nations represented by the beasts. The primary focus turns to the fourth beast. It is this animal that Daniel seeks to know more about. The fourth beast is presented with monstrous cruelty and surpasses its predecessors in destruction.

One writer points out that for those who see this prophecy as a prediction, this animal is interpreted as Rome. For those who see this prophecy as contemporary, this

**Convention Uniform Series
for September 17
Focal Passages:
Acts 3:1-8; 4:5-12**

Names are of great importance in the Bible. When Peter invoked the name of Jesus, it was invoking the power of Jesus. The man was healed and began to walk, leap, and praise God. For

the first time, he could enter the temple. In Jewish law the lame were excluded from the inner courts of the temple. In verses 9-11, the people recognized the leaping man as the beggar. Already as his life was changed by God, his witness to the Lord was observed. He went in just a few moments from despair to a new life through the power of God.

Peter and John before the council — ch. 4:1-22

Word spread quickly about the sermon of Peter and John. The apostles were preaching not only the resurrection but also the future resurrection of the believers. The Sadducees not only didn't believe in the future resurrection but the new found religious excitement threatened spiritual business as usual. They seized Peter and John and put them in prison. They were questioned by the council, probably the Sanhedrin and demanded to know who gave them the authority to do what they had done.

Peter declared that the healing of the man was a sign and witness to the salvation offered only in Christ Jesus. The man received not only physical healing but spiritual healing.

The religious council wanted to deny and crush the working of God through these men. But how could they deny the healed beggar who praised God, the thousands who had been saved, and the shouts of praise to God for the events that had taken place. God can do anything, anywhere, anytime with anyone, when an individual will yield self to the power of God through the Holy Spirit. □ — Jerry Barker is pastor of First Church, Alamo.

**Bible Book Series for September 17
Focal Passage: Daniel 7:17-22;
8:19-25**

animal is identified as Greece.

This latter interpretation would see this writing as being given to the people as a word of comfort during the horrible reign of Antiochus Epiphanes rather than as a blueprint for the second coming of Christ.

Although interpretations are varied, verse 22 sounds a positive word of encouragement to all. When the devastation seems unbearable, the "Ancient of Days" appears and the "saints" take possession of the kingdom.

We are reminded again that all earthly power is temporary. God's power is forever! He will not allow his people to be defeated.

The vision of the ram and hegoat interpreted — ch. 8:15-27

The interpretation of this vision is less controversial because the writer explains the countries represented by symbols. Verse 23 tells of a king who is shrewd and powerful. He reigns with assurance and force. His downfall is described in the statement, "he will magnify himself in his heart." We know from history that Antiochus Epiphanes, was a man of overbearing conduct. We also know that he met a sudden death.

The crisis surrounding this event was one of the greatest in the history of Israel. The prophet brings the word that God has noted the wickedness of Israel's oppressor and God has acted on behalf of his people. God will not allow this wickedness to overcome his people.

We often look at our present difficulties with a great deal of spiritual nearsightedness. At times we mistakenly feel that the way things are now is the way they will always be.

There are times when we feel that the wicked always prosper and the righteous always suffer. However, God's vision is more far sighted than ours.

Daniel's visionary prophecies send out a message of hope to the faithful of all time. God is working for us. Even though we cannot see the end we can know that, "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose."

The prophecies of Daniel are a much needed reminder for the faithful that the final victory belongs to the people of God. □ — Clay Austin is pastor of First Church, Blountville.

FMB reorganizes communications staff

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Award-winning Home Mission Board photojournalist and magazine designer Bill Bangham joined the Foreign Mission Board's communications staff Sept. 5 to direct its new presentation department.

Bangham, 51, is one of four new directors named in a reorganization announced by Louis Moore, FMB associate vice president for communications at the SBC missions agency.

The reorganization, effective Sept. 1, creates four new departments in the communications office: editorial, presentation, publishing, and electronic media.

The new plan shifts the "organization of the communications office from product-centered to function-centered,"

Moore said.

The other three department directors are all long-time FMB staffers: Anita Bowden, editorial; Dan Allen, publishing; and Van Payne, electronic media. □

IBTS completes move to Prague; ready for fall semester to begin

Associated Baptist Press

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — The International Baptist Theological Seminary's move to Prague is complete, easing fears that the new campus might not be ready to receive students when the fall semester opens Oct. 3.

The seminary's president, John David Hopper, promised students in March that the relocation of the school from

Ruschlikon, Switzerland, would be completed by fall. But many students wondered if the deadline was realistic.

Yet, things look bright. The move is complete and construction on essential buildings is nearly complete. The campus "quad" perimeter, marked by four main buildings, has begun to convey the mood of an academic setting.

Trustees of the school voted in 1993 to move the school, citing operating expenses, tighter immigration laws, and the changing religious landscape in Eastern Europe. The sale of the picturesque Ruschlikon campus — six buildings on five acres overlooking Lake Zurich — is expected to bring \$20 million.

The school is expected to have 33 students in the fall.

The seminary was founded in 1949 by the Foreign Mission Board. Board trustees transferred the property to the European Baptist Federation in 1989 and cut all funding for the seminary in 1991, citing charges of liberalism at the school.

Only one faculty member was lost in the move. Thorwald Lorenzen chose not to follow the school to Prague. He and his wife moved to her native Australia. □

Evangelist's 'future' goes up in smoke

Baptist Press

EDDYVILLE, Ky. — Don Short's future just went up in smoke.

Short, one of Kentucky Baptists' best-known vocational evangelists, recently lost his calendars for 1996 and 1997 when fire destroyed a garage at his home. The garage also contained a part of Short's of-

fice and its 400-500 books.

Short, a former vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, says there is no way he can remember all the dates he has scheduled.

Short knows his family keepsakes are irreplaceable, but he desperately wants his future back.

He has asked churches that have scheduled him for revivals in 1996 and 1997 to contact him at 1400 Elkhorn Road, Eddyville, Ky., 42038. □

Texas group lists nominees for office

Baptist Press

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — Southern Baptists of Texas, an organization of conservatives in the state, has announced a slate of nominees for Baptist General Convention of Texas officers to be elected at the BGCT annual meeting Nov. 13-14 in San Antonio.

Gary Miller, pastor of Sagamore Hill Church, Fort Worth, will be the group's nominee for BGCT president, according to an announcement Aug. 30 by John Yeats, editor of the group's newsletter, *Plumbline*.

Miller will face at least one other candidate, Charles Wade, pastor of First Church, Arlington.

Southern Baptists of Texas also will back Casey Perry of Malakoff, and Dee Slocum of Amarillo for first and second vice president, respectively.

The group was critical of Wade, whose church gives to both SBC and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship causes. □

Seaport work brings foreign missions home

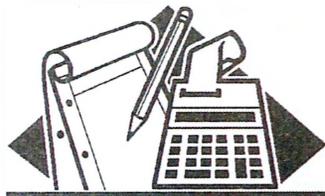
Baptist Press

SEATTLE — Foreign shipping vessels often export more than the products in their hull. Scattered around America's ports, Southern Baptist seafarer ministries witness to shipping crews, who in turn carry the Gospel around the globe.

"The Lord is bringing the people of the world to our port and we're able to minister to them," said Carlos Abeyta, a port minister in Everett, Wash., north of Seattle.

Port ministries offer a variety of services, from Scripture distribution and worship opportunities to phone calls back home and visits into town. Along the way, port ministries directors share Christ's love as the motivation behind their service. Many directors are home missionaries; others are pastors or volunteers. □

IT'S BUDGET PLANNING TIME IN TENNESSEE!



Has your church begun planning its budget for the next church year? If not, don't faint when you see how costs for paper, printing, and postage have gone up. But, there is a way out — let the *Baptist and Reflector* do your newsletter for your church. Then they will be the ones to worry about skyrocketing paper and postage costs.

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"And, we saved over 20 percent of the cost! That's wise spending." — Jim McCluskey, Senior Pastor, Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville

The *Baptist and Reflector* could be the answer for your church newsletter as you plan for the new budget year. Clip this form and discover how you can make the *Baptist and Reflector* work for you. We will send you information about the Church Page Plan and a special offer. Mail form to: *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024.

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