

Baptist and Reflector

September 20, 1995

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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In Lebanon

BHEP opens second home at Stoneway Acres

For Baptist and Reflector

LEBANON — Dreams are continuing to come true for Baptist Homes for Exceptional Persons.

The first dream was realized in 1986 when BHEP was formed as a private, non-profit organization dedicated to providing Christian group homes for persons with mental handicaps in Middle Tennessee.

Their second dream was realized in 1988 when the Tennessee Baptist Convention authorized Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes to begin a ministry to developmentally disabled adults. This action made it possible for TBAH to accept Christian group homes as a ministry once the organizing group had the facility debt-free.

Dreams continued to come true when BHEP purchased 6.5 acres in 1989 in Lebanon for what would become Stoneway Acres and culminated when BHEP presented a debt-

free deed for Stoneway Acres in 1992 to TBAH.

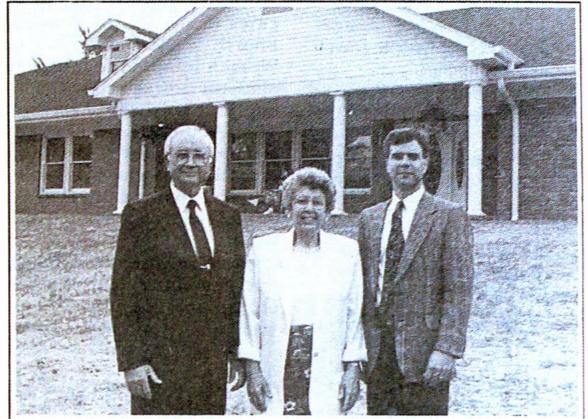
The latest dream has been the addition of a second group home at Stoneway Acres.

Nearly 100 people gathered Sept. 10 to dedicate the newest facility which, like its sister facility, will house eight men.

During the dedication TBAH Executive Director J.L. Ford noted the new structure "is a home with a purpose behind it" and that purpose is love. "There are people with a deep love who have sacrificed time and money to make this home a reality," Ford said.

Joy Nabi, president of BHEP, said the second home "is the culmination of a lot of work."

The new building is a 5,800 square-foot facility that has an estimated value of about \$350,000, according to Mark Anderson, director of developmentally disabled adults for TBAH. The building didn't cost nearly that much, however, Anderson said, because much



J.L. FORD left, executive director of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, and Mark Anderson, right, director of developmentally disabled adults for the Tennessee Baptist institution, join Joy Nabi, president of Baptist Homes for Exceptional Persons at the dedication of Stoneway Acres' second group home for mentally handicapped adults. The two homes are located in Lebanon.

of the labor was provided by volunteers from Tennessee Baptist Brotherhood and Wilson County Association. The deed for the new home will be

given to TBAH when the facility is debt-free.

Serving as houseparents for the second home at Stoneway Acres is Bill and Lori Davie. □

Sevier County WMU sends 'fresh' news to missionaries

For Baptist and Reflector

SEVIERVILLE — John and Kathy Joslin, both Tennessee natives, are Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries ministering in Okinawa.

The Joslins, if they haven't already, soon will receive some good news.

The Woman's Missionary Union of Se-

vier County Association has adopted the Joslins and are sending them an airmail subscription to the *Baptist and Reflector* for a year. This means the missionary couple will be able to read "fresh" news from their home state in just a few days. Most overseas mail arrives weeks or months later than the publishing date.

The *Baptist and Reflector* urges other

WMU groups, or other Tennessee Baptists, to adopt a missionary family by sending them the paper by air mail. Cost is \$100.50. Contact the *Baptist and Reflector* office by calling (615) 371-2003 if you would be interested in sending the paper to a missionary family. Make a missionary family feel "at home" by sending them their state paper. □



Missions fair

Serving as clowns at a Missions Fair sponsored Sept. 9 by Holston Valley Association were Kelli Rimer, left, and Alyson Hunley of Shepard's Chapel, Rogersville. Approximately 900 people attended the event sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union of Holston Valley. See page 7 for more on the Missions Fair. — Photo by Connie Davis

IRS decision will impact retired ministers, Annuity Board officials say

Baptist Press

DALLAS — A recent decision by the Internal Revenue Service to consider retired ministers' housing allowance as subject to self-employment tax (SECA) is drawing fire from leaders at the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

The IRS action is "contrary to" previous IRS policy, such as those in "private letter rulings and IRS Publication 517," according to Annuity Board President Paul Powell.

Powell recently wrote a letter to the board's ministerial participants in which he urged them to write their legislators

expressing support for pending national legislation. He noted those who agree that "the housing allowance in retirement should not be subject to the heavy taxation for Social Security" should express themselves.

The bills, Powell said, are SB 881 and HR 528, titled the Church Retirement Benefits Simplification Act of 1995.

Annuity Board staffer Thomas Miller said the impact of the new IRS policy would be widely felt. "Virtually all retired ministers claim some housing allowance, regardless of whether their house is paid for," Miller said. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Beijing women's conference concludes

Associated Baptist Press

BEIJING — The world's largest women's gathering ended Sept. 15 amid hopes that the two-week conference in Beijing will have a lasting effect on the plight of women around the world.

"Women will no longer accept the role of second-rate citizens," Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland said in a closing statement. "We came here to answer the call of billions of women. We now need a tidal change."

Before adjourning, delegates to the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women adopted a 150-page platform cutting across the social and cultural spectrum. The 5,000 delegates from 189 countries approved the document by consensus after 10 days of behind-the-scenes wrangling over disputed sections.

The declaration calls on world governments to raise the economic standards for women, protect them against

increasing violence, and improve the status of girls throughout the world.

An 11th-hour compromise removed language over sexual freedom interpreted as urging tolerance for homosexuality. In exchange, delegates from conservative Islamic nations agreed to drop a phrase on cultural differences that opponents said could weaken the document's call for universal human rights.

Key items in the platform statement — which is non-binding but is meant to serve as a guide to governments — include:

- The right of women to decide freely all matters related to their sexuality and child-bearing. The document condemns forced sterilizations and forced abortions.

- Condemning the systematic use of rape as a weapon of war. Wartime rape is a crime and perpetrators must be immediately punished as war criminals, the platform says.

- A call for governments

and the private sector to "build a critical mass" of women leaders in strategic decision-making roles.

- A call for strengthening, protecting, and supporting families, which the document describes as, the "basic unit of society." It says families exist in various forms — which some critics said subtly endorses single-parent families and gay unions — and condemns discrimination against women because they are mothers.

- Denouncing marital rape, genital mutilation of girls, attacks on women because their dowries are too small, domestic battering, and sexual harassment work as acts of violence against women and violations of their human rights.

Delegates debated passionately over whether to include "sexual orientation" in antidiscrimination clauses before finally agreeing to jettison the language. Some countries lodged formal protest against portions of the statement. □

Kentucky church raises \$60,000 in a single day

Baptist Press

GLASGOW, Ky. — It may have taken Glasgow Church two years to lay plans for remodeling their sanctuary, but it took just one day to get the project off the ground.

The 179-year-old county-seat church with an average attendance of 390 collected \$60,000 for the project Aug. 20.

The one-day sacrificial offering did not just happen, Pastor Scott Mackey said, but was the result of two years of discussion and consensus-building among the people. Mackey also spent seven days in prayer and fasting prior to the day of the offering.

The church was challenged to give \$50,000, one-half of the \$100,000 needed for the project. When the offering was counted, members had given \$60,000. □

Disputes with universities cloud budget talks in Alabama

Compiled from news reports

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Despite the unanimous approval of a record Cooperative Program budget for 1996, the decision by Alabama Baptists' state board of missions did not come easily.

Before approving a \$31 million basic budget, board members spent more than two hours debating whether to include Samford University and the University of Mobile in the proposed budget to be presented at the Nov. 14-15 annual meeting in Montgomery.

Ongoing disputes with the two universities have raised questions about more than \$6 million in Alabama Baptist support for the two schools.

In the end, the convention's State Board of Missions voted to include both institutions as contingency items in the budget.

Before receiving state convention funds, the University of Mobile must live up to a 1994 agreement to answer questions about alleged financial irregularities related to a satellite campus in Central America. And the state convention must approve a new funding plan for agencies and institutions which accommodates a 1994 move by Samford trustees establishing themselves as a self-perpetuating board.

Earlier the Alabama board rejected a

suggestion that the \$4.1 million earmarked for Samford and the \$1.9 million for Mobile in the 1996 budget be designated for scholarships for Baptist students. Alabama Executive Director Troy Morrison said he did not want to hurt the two schools, but the state convention is prohibited from giving money to institutions that violate its bylaws.

Morrison said no one hopes more than he the problems between the convention and the two universities are resolved quickly. He added, however, "But I am not one to pretend there is not a problem when there is a problem."

An ad hoc committee monitoring the dispute with the University of Mobile said the school had failed to comply with a 1994 agreement requiring it to submit quarterly financial reports to the convention. Only one of the three due reports had been submitted and it contained several omissions, according to Glenn Slye, chairman of the committee.

Slye said the university also continues to violate an agreement to stop promoting its Latin American campus in Nicaragua as being related to the Alabama Baptist Convention and is not abiding by guidelines limiting the use of money raised in the "Campaign for a Better Tomorrow" fund-raising campaign.

A study committee recommended a "new paradigm" for relating to Samford

after a 1994 decision by their trustees to make the university's governing board self-perpetuating.

The plan calls for funding of agencies and institutions based on their contribution to the purposes of the convention. Under the proposal, agencies receiving state-convention funding would have the option of continuing to have their trustees elected by the convention or presenting a slate of nominees to the state convention for affirmation with no possibility of amendment.

The proposal offers each incorporated entity of the convention the option of allowing the convention to either elect or affirm trustees and directors. In return, the convention in annual session will determine financial support for the respective entities based on the entity's contribution to the convention's purposes.

"If this report is adopted, we are saying to Samford University, 'We are not fussing with you anymore. But we will decide annually about funding,'" said Ron Madison, chairman of the study committee.

The new pattern of relationship puts weight on shared ministry rather than weight on governance (election of trustees or directors), Madison said. "We are proposing a relationship built on the twin pillars of freedom and responsibility. That is a solid biblical pattern," he concluded. □

— Compiled from ABP & BP reports

Baptists aid hurricane survivors; volunteers, relief funds needed

Baptist Press

ST. JOHNS, Antigua — Southern Baptists are aiding survivors of one of the worst series of hurricanes to lash the Caribbean this century.

Two hurricanes — Luis and Marilyn — have hit the area in recent days.

People on St. Maarten and Antigua islands hit hardest by

Hurricane Luis in early September are receiving food, supplies, shelter, and spiritual help through relief efforts sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission.

From Sept. 30 to mid-December, about 240 Southern Baptist volunteers are needed to rebuild homes and churches damaged by Luis' 140-mile-

per-hour winds. A 12-member team will work simultaneously on each island for two-week stints.

But as the project gets underway, available Southern Baptist disaster relief funds are dangerously low and hunger relief funds are depleted, according to FMB officials. "The situation is beyond critical," one official said.

People interested in volunteering may call Beth Huneycutt at the Brotherhood Commission at (800) 280-1891.

Financial contributions may be sent to: Human Needs Department, Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va., 23230-6767, or the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tenn., 38104. □

Florida board proposes severing 112-year relationship with Stetson

Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The severing of a 112-year relationship with Stetson University will be recommended to messengers attending the annual session of the Florida Baptist state convention in response to a change in the DeLand school's student policy that permits the drinking of alcohol on campus.

The recommendation was approved without any dissenting votes Sept. 8 by 81 of the 99-member state board of missions and will be presented to messengers during the convention's annual meeting Nov. 13-15 in Tampa.

In making its decision, the board heard a report from an

appointed subcommittee that met with Stetson officials Aug. 25 to request the alcohol consumption policy be rescinded on the grounds it is in conflict with Baptist heritage and the Bible.

According to Steve Rayburn, board president, university officials refused to rescind the policy during the meeting.

"The policy taken is not in keeping with who we are," Rayburn told the board. "We cannot be identified with something we cannot, in good conscience, abide. We do not want to say everything Stetson does is bad. It's just time for us to do this."

Ken Whitten of Tampa, convention president and member of the subcommittee, told the

board there was "no alternative but to sever fraternal relationships. We cannot tell Stetson who they are, but we can say who we are."

In a prepared statement Stetson President Doug Lee said, "Stetson did not wish to walk away from its historic partnership, but it was evident that only through formal separation could either Stetson or the convention maintain integrity of purpose."

Because Stetson was chartered as an independent institution, the state convention has never elected the school's trustees.

In recent years, Cooperative Program support for the school has dwindled from \$1.3 million in 1989 to \$28,000 in 1994. □



Baptist Foundation month

September is Baptist Foundation Month on the calendar of the Southern Baptist Convention. Here, W.L. 'Bo' Childs, president of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, presents a check to Wayne Ethendge, pastor of Bell Road Church, Nashville. The check represents a loan to the church for use in refinancing, purchasing an organ, and other remodeling. The TBF also is equipped to assist Tennessee Baptists with trusts, wills, and in other ways. For more information, contact the Foundation at (615) 371-2029 or (800) 552-4644.

Texas Baptist board recommends \$1.5 million for new churches

Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Baptist General Convention of Texas executive board voted Sept. 12 to recommend a 1996 Texas Baptist Cooperative Program budget of \$42,688,625, including a 2.5 percent increase for home mission work in Texas, or \$1.5 million, to help start 1,400 new churches in the next five years.

The budget proposal, adopted with only two dissenting votes, is subject to approval by messengers to the BGCT

annual meeting in San Antonio, Nov. 13-14.

The recommended budget calls for Texas Baptists to use 67 percent of Cooperative Program receipts in the state rather than the current 64.5 percent. Thirty-three percent would go to worldwide causes.

Additional support for foreign missions would be provided through the challenge budget. Of all funds received above the \$42.6 million Texas giving goal and \$21 million for worldwide causes, 50 percent would be sent to the

SBC Foreign Mission Board and 50 percent used to help start new churches in the state.

Based on the current rate of giving — 8.4 percent ahead of the same period last year — total gifts for worldwide causes in 1996 are estimated to be between \$22 million and \$23 million, according to Roger Hall, BGCT treasurer and chief financial officer.

The proposed budget for Texas missions and ministries is an increase of more than \$1.6 million over the 1995 budget.

Reducing the percentage allocation for worldwide causes was not a decision made lightly, said Jack Smith, chairman of the administrative committee.

"The change is seen as a necessary investment in the future support of missions both in Texas and around the world," he said.

Jack Chastain, a retired Texas director of missions, said he did not oppose the intent of the recommendation, but noted he worried about the perceptions created by reducing the percentage of CP giving to worldwide causes. □

SBTS enrollment down 13 percent; accrediting agencies plan joint visit

Associated Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Fall enrollment at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary dropped by the largest percentage in recent history, but not nearly as much as some had predicted.

Total on-campus enrollment this fall is 1,241, according to preliminary data provided by the seminary's public relations

office. That is a drop of 197 students, or 13.4 percent, over last fall. The fall total includes 286 new students, a drop of about 100.

Meanwhile, three accrediting agencies have announced they will make a joint visit to the campus Nov. 8-10 to investigate concerns arising out of turmoil on the campus last spring.

The visiting team will in-

clude representatives from the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada — the seminary's primary accrediting agency — as well as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and the Council on Social Work Education, which accredits the seminary's Carver School of Church Social Work.

The team's investigation reportedly will focus on Presi-

dent Al Mohler's firing of Diana Garland as dean of the Carver School after she told students Mohler's hiring policies jeopardized the school's accreditation.

The investigation also is expected to focus on events after the firing, including trustee-adopted changes in the faculty hiring process and implementation of what critics have called a "gag" order banning

employees from criticizing the president or the trustees.

The accrediting agencies do not discuss specifics of investigations until its final rulings. The visit will take place after SBTS' October board meeting.

Observers both inside and outside the seminary community had predicted a significant drop in enrollment this fall, due to controversies that erupted last spring. □

Deadline nears for church staff orientation

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A New Church Staff Orientation will be held Oct. 2-3 at the Baptist Center.

The orientation is for any Tennessee Baptist church staff member and spouse who has moved into the state this year and for recent graduates in their first denominational position.

Registration begins at 12:45 p.m. on Oct. 2 and will conclude with lunch at noon

on Oct. 3.

"The information gleaned from this type of setting, as well as the friendships made, will prove helpful as newcomers strive to make Tennessee their home for years to come," said TBC Executive Director James Porch.

Reservations for the meeting must be made by Sept. 21. A block of rooms at the nearby Hampton Inn will be released on that date. Make reservations by calling (615) 371-2090. □

CLC rep has credentials confiscated after protest

Baptist Press

BEIJING — Southern Baptist Nancy Schaefer and six other women representing pro-family/pro-life organizations at the World Conference on Women regained their credentials Sept. 14 as the controversial United Nations-sponsored meeting neared its conclusion.

Before the conference closed Sept. 15 in China's capital, the term "sexual orientation" a focus of much debate, was removed from the Platform for

Action, the lengthy document produced from the meeting.

At the close of a Sept. 12 afternoon press briefing by the U.S. delegation, Nancy Schaefer, representing the Christian Life Commission, and six other women raised a banner which read, "U.S. Delegation Ignores Pro-family Women." A United Nations security guard escorted them into a holding room, where he confiscated their badges, took photographs of the badges, and instructed the women to return the next

morning, Schaefer said in a written statement.

The women did not receive their badges Sept. 13, however, said a staff member of the Atlanta-based ministry, Family Concerns Inc., founded by Schaefer.

Instead, the women were told more time was needed before their badges could be returned, the staff member said. They were told to return for the badges on Sept. 14, at which time their credentials were returned. □

■ 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. □

■ Baptist beliefs

By Herschel H. Hobbs, Baptist theologian

Fate of nations

"Babylon is fallen" — Revelation 14:8.

To the Jewish mind Babylon represented all that was evil. So John uses it as a symbol of Rome and her empire.



HOBBS

Rome conquered the world of her day. Yet she is destined to be destroyed. In fact the Greek text reads, "Did fall," as though it was already an accomplished fact. The seeds of destruction were already at work even though the actual collapse was centuries in the future.

The highway of history is littered with the debris of fallen nations which forgot God or did not recognize Him.

Every internal cause of Rome's fall listed by historian Edward Gibbons exists in our nation today. Our nation desperately needs a spiritual and moral revival. Otherwise what happened to Rome could/can happen here. □

'Two points'

In response to the *Baptist and Reflector* story in the Sept. 13 issue on the recent Executive Board meeting, I would like to make two points.

First, I welcome and congratulate Herbert Higdon as our new president. Herbert was not nominated in opposition to me. He was nominated first and was a good candidate no matter who was in the race. He is my friend and a loyal mainstream Tennessee Baptist. He will do a good job and I will support him. I don't question his election at all, only some things that were said in the meeting.

Second, the issue of my "involvement with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship" needs a lot more examination. As a Baptist, I feel free to fellowship with all who love the Lord and proclaim the Gospel, especially other Baptist Christians such as Keith Parks, who spoke at the CBF meeting at our church last May and brought a strong, conservative message about Christ as the only way of salvation for the world.

Our church contributes 8 1/2 percent of undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program. Seventeen percent of our contributors designate their mission gifts beyond the state to the CBF. They let us take 65 percent of their mission money and send it to the budget of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. As pastor of such an inclusive church, I participate in meetings of the Nashville Baptist Association, the TBC, the SBC, and the CBF. When CBF asked to have a meeting in our building, our deacons and the congregation in business meeting said yes.

The fact that so many in the SBC, and a few in the TBC, are labeling CBF as an enemy to be fought saddens and alarms me. I have been telling our members that the TBC is healthy and is not seriously affected by the SBC controversy. They may question my judgment now. Is strict obedience to the SBC to become a condition of participation in the TBC? Surely not! I hope Tennessee Baptists can talk and pray together and find ways to

Rice foundation walkathon set

The Roger Rice Foundation is holding a benefit Walkathon Oct. 7 on the Vanderbilt University campus.

Proceeds of the Ken Hudgens Walkathon, named in honor of the late director of Vanderbilt's National Commodore Club, will go toward the development of a community for the physically challenged. Roger Rice, 37-year-old chairman of the foundation's board and president, is a thalidomide baby of the 1950s. He is three feet two inches tall and has no arms. Rice is an active member of Westwood Church, Nashville.

Rice is challenging 1,000 sponsors for the event, lined up by participants in the walk. Walkers will get their own sponsors from across the state. The event will begin near the Vanderbilt track. For more information contact Roger Rice or the Rice Foundation at (615) 386-3829. □

include all Baptist Christians who want to do missions together.

David George, pastor
Immanuel Church
Nashville 37205

A way to help

I am staggered at the nearly 10,000 of our retired SBC pastors, ministers, and/or widows who are receiving less than \$200 per month in pensions; many even less than \$100 monthly. Most of these served our Lord, living in pastoriums, and as a result had no home to retire to.

Our annuity board has established the timely ADOPT AN ANNUITANT program to supplement the pensions by \$50 each month as long as there are funds being received from churches and individuals.

Pastors, call the annuity board (1-214-720-0511) and ask for the video, *Their Needs Can't Wait*. It will touch the hearts of both you and your people. Most of our church budgets can address this need; Sunday School classes can take a project; affluent individuals can do something personally, etc.

"What does it profit the SBC to reach the whole world, and neglect our retired soldiers living in poverty at our doorsteps?"

Ray Ridgeway, pastor
Arlington Church
Knoxville 37917

Timely news

I am very pleased that "August was a good month for Tennessee CP gifts" as noted on the front page of Sept. 6 issue. Through the years I have read such notices which reported bad news as well as good news. The fluctuation in giving from one month to another is not so much the generosity or lack of generosity of our churches as it is the dates of the last and first Sundays of the month.

For example, the last Sunday of July was July 30, and most churches which give on a percentage basis sent in offerings which were credited to August receipts. Since Aug. 27 was the last Sunday, most gifts

arrived in time to show a good month for Cooperative Program gifts in August. The reverse of this is also true in some months.

I agree 100 percent with Jerry Vines that Calvinism versus Armenianism is an empty argument.

Ira Singleton, pastor
Old Bethlehem Church
Dyer 38330

Hierarchical trend

Southern Baptists are being recognized as the largest evangelistic group in the world. How did we get that way? We arrived at that pinnacle of growth by being what Jesus said we should be (Acts 1:8) — His witnesses in Jerusalem (local church missions), in all Judea (associational missions), in Samaria (state missions), and to the uttermost parts of the earth (foreign or world missions.)

However, we seem to have contracted a conventionitis virus. We tend to forget that the churches established the convention as a cooperative effort to enlarge our practice and promotion of the only mission that God ever gave us: The ministry of reconciliation (II Corinthians 5:18).

Therefore, we do not need the proposed re-organization plan and its hierarchical trend to carry us into the 21st century. The only hierarchy we need, the one that has carried us through all the centuries since Jesus' time, is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Everett S. Robertson
Old Hickory 37138

Let's celebrate

Baptist and Reflector, as you celebrate your 160 years, so are we. This past April this church reached such distinc-

tion. This church is the second oldest church in Bradley County. You might want to check into such history! Congratulations on your 160th!

I enjoy my *Baptist and Reflector*. Keep up the good work.

Thanks for your attention in reading this letter and incorporating the enclosed information into the paper.

Larry Bryant, pastor
New Friendship Church
Cleveland 37312

Many thanks

Were I to say, "Thank you, thank you, thank you" a thousand times over, that would not convey the gratitude and humbleness my heart feels when I pause to think about the blessings that are mine because of the commitment of Tennessee Baptists through the years.

First were the blessings of education for me and two of my children at Carson-Newman College, many hospitalizations at East Tennessee Baptist for both Sylvia, my wife, and myself, not to mention the wonderful redemptive Christian fellowship my wife and I are enjoying at Central Church, Fountain City.

Having served several of Virginia and one of North Carolina's finest Baptist churches as pastor, I was indeed surprised when God led us here to Knoxville for our disability retirement. All I can do is praise the Lord, seek to serve him in whatever limited capacity I can, and thank you, my fellow Tennessee Baptists for the love and support you have given me, mine, and untold thousands as you have been both generous and obedient in reflecting God's love and grace through your giving.

David E. Brooks
Knoxville 37918

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests September



- 20 — Pray for the faculty and workers at the Polish Baptist Seminary as they train and teach the students.
- 21 — Pray for Mountain View Christian Fellowship, Jeff Christopherson, pastor, as they held their first public service Sept. 10 at Canada Olympic Park, Calgary, Alberta.
- 22 — Praise that housing has been found for the new pastor at Pine Mountain Baptist Church, Iron Mountain, Mich.
- 23 — Pray for resources for further academic studies for instructors at the Polish Baptist Seminary. When instructors receive Ph.D. degrees, this will allow the seminary to offer the Master of Theology degree in a few years.
- 24 — Pray for Toronto Baptist Fellowship, a new church in Downtown Toronto, as they begin search for a pastor.
- 25 — Pray for Mr. and Mrs. Mark McNeil, career missionaries, as they move from Warsaw to Bialystok, Poland to begin their work.
- 26 — Pray for Dennis Milne and the new church plant, Mountain View Baptist Church, Salmon Arm, B.C.

Tennessee educators make a wise decision

Hold it. For readers who have read or heard that the Tennessee Education Association was preparing for a month of celebration of homosexual and lesbian rights, it is not true!

Delegates to the National Education Assembly in July did approve such a resolution, but the TEA wants no part of it.

The resolution, according to Dr. Peggy Smith, coordinator of instruction and professional development in the TEA office in Nashville, was not on the agenda, and was passed near the conclusion of the convention.

Statements by A.L. Hayes, TEA public relations consultant, in the September 16 *Kingsport Times-News*, verify that the TEA does not agree with the resolution and wants to clear the air.

The NEA resolution emphasizes "the importance of raising the awareness and increasing the sensitivity of staff, students, parents, and the community to sexual orientation in our society."

Moreover, Resolution B-9 states that NEA will "support the development of positive plans that lead to effective ongoing training programs for education employees for the purpose of identifying and eliminating sexual orientation stereotyping in the educational setting."

The programs suggested in B-9 include acceptance of diverse sexual orientation, elimination of sexual orientation name-calling and jokes in classrooms, and support for the celebration of a Les-

bian and Gay History Month "as a means of acknowledging the contributions of lesbians, gays, and bisexuals throughout history."

The resolution also wants "accurate portrayal of the roles and contributions of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people throughout history, with acknowledgements of their sexual orientation."

It is not surprising that the Tennessee Education Association, according to Smith, does not agree with the ideas posed in the resolution.

We have not done a survey to determine how various Tennessee teachers' groups feel, but with the positive stance of TEA, it appears that Tennessee public schools will not support the ill-conceived guidelines of B-9.

Smith said TEA would try to help change the resolution and certainly does not support it. "There is no intention of a celebration and no change of curriculum." State President Kathy Woodall agreed.

The official statement from the TEA office says, "We assure all members and interested citizens that TEA has no plans whatsoever to support a gay-lesbian history month in Tennessee nor to support any kind of gay-lesbian celebration." Several groups of Tennessee Baptists have organized to oppose the resolution and NEA.

The executive committee of Sullivan Association passed a resolution of support on September 11, strongly affirming

teachers such as Ken Fletcher, a member of Sunnyside Church, Kingsport, and Karen Carr, who are opposing B-9, and informing others.

The Sullivan resolution also commits the association's executive committee to lead the churches to uphold the teachers and work with like-minded organizations in their efforts.

Though it is now being discussed, this part of the NEA meeting in July was not widely publicized. Evidently local school administrations and schools were unaware of Resolution B-9, and many still are unaware. What should be done now?

1. Local school administrators, teachers, and school boards, can let NEA know their feelings.
2. People who support public schools can lend a hand by affirming teachers who are opposing the NEA resolution.
3. Parents and friends can insist that programs and textbooks do not suggest special treatment for any group.
4. Support local schools; that will mean more than showing up only to complain. Keep in touch.

We must remember how the system affects the future through children. On a biblical basis, most Tennessee Baptists oppose these ideas espoused by NEA. Our beliefs, though strong, should be shared in a Christlike manner. We can and should speak up.

Any radical plan or action should be prayed over and thoroughly discussed on local and state levels before reaching the floor of the national meeting. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Foolishness hinders

Children, early on, learn the fascination of listening to conversations of adults.

This is particularly true if the adults don't know the child is listening.

One by one, our four daughters picked up that delicious habit, just listening to adults. Sometimes they would dawdle about, circling the adult group, pretending to be disinterested in the talk.

You have seen children hard at work with this project, trying to get in on the conversations of big people.

But what if

the conversation is spicy, g o s s i p , provocative, unChristian?

So what to do then? Well, if we don't do anything else, we can

include the little people in conversations that are oriented toward family life, and we can avoid the gossip and juicy stuff altogether.

Although children like funny stories and jokes, they also like to hear praise and appreciation for their actions.

They will lose interest quickly if the "big people" talk about business transactions and complex issues.

Among my fondest memories are conversations among my parents and friends or family members.

Listening to them talk about things of interest to a little boy with a big curiosity. Now this is not eavesdropping. We little ones might have been on the "eaves" of the circle, we were included.

We learned the importance of family relationships, of talking through problems, of sharing good news, of being included.

We learned of outside events, and how they affected us. We learned proper English and Christian language.

If you have small children, or even teens, try it. Family time is so important that to neglect it is almost criminal.

And don't ignore the children; keep them close. When they tire of grownup talk, you will know that they are really growing up themselves.

They just want to get away for a while and work up some conversation so they can be a part of it.

Make time for family conversation; children need it. ■



ALLEN

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Fran (looking at her exam grade): "Well, there goes my GPA." Frank (looking at his exam grade): "Well, well, there goes my new Mazda."

Take this truth

What do you want most from life? A little girl who lived in poverty conditions was asked what she would like for her eighth birthday. She replied: "I don't know. But can Mama and Daddy have something too?"

Memorize this Scripture

"Seek first the kingdom of God...and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to want what I have so I can have what I want. Lead me to realize further You know what I need and will give it to me when I need it." □

Fred Wood has been writing these humor and devotional columns for three years, and plans to continue writing for us.

Looking at eating disorders

Eating disorders are among the most pervasive problems among the adolescent and young adult groups in our nation.

In particular, we are going to discuss anorexia and bulimia nervosa.

Both are characterized by major disturbances in the eating habits and behavior of those whose suffer from them.

Our society has placed such prominence on appearance, especially thin appearance that many young people fear they will not be accepted by their peers if they are "fat."

Girls are usually more susceptible to these disorders. Ninety-five percent of the people diagnosed with eating disorders are female.

There is an increasing incidence of boys, especially among athletes and young men with long-term health concerns.

Boys who aspire toward being jockeys, wrestlers, swimmers, models, dancers, and flight attendants seem to be more vulnerable to eating disorders.

Men with eating disorders often are avoidant, dependent, passive aggressive. They also may have had experiences in

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

youth and childhood when people made fun of or belittled their physical appearance.

Even an unintentional comment such as telling your daughter that the boys will never notice her until she loses 10 pounds may be enough to trigger an experience with one of these disorders.

These eating disorders revolve around unrealistic concerns about body weight and appearance.

Research seems to indicate that there is a family dynamic that possibly makes some children more vulnerable. Salvador Minuchin has identified four predominant characteristics of families with children who have these types of disorders: enmeshment, over-protectiveness, rigidity, and lack of conflict resolution.

The enmeshed family is one in which no one can be his own individual person.

Together is emphasized to the exclusion of privacy.

Over-protectiveness is expressed in smothering all

kinds of relationships with children.

The rigidity emerges as a fanciful view of one's

self as the "Leave It To Beaver" image where any rebellion in adolescents threatens his picture.

Conflicts are either denied or ignored which leads to a building of stress that is often expressed in one of the eating disorders.

Eating disorders generally do not include simple obesity since obesity is not normally associated with any distinctly psychological or behavioral syndrome. There may be some involvement with food addiction, but this generally is not a diagnosable psychological disorder.

Next week we will consider anorexia more fully, and the following week we will discuss bulimia. □

Dr. Paul Barkley is licensed in Tennessee as a marriage and family therapist and professional counselor.

He is professor of psychology and supervisor of student services at Baptist Memorial College of Health Sciences, Memphis.



BARKLEY

Mission breaks ground in Salem Association

Members come to rescue of elderly couple

For Baptist and Reflector

CLEVELAND — "The makeup of our congregation just couldn't have been any better than it was Sunday night," said Pastor Larry E. Bryant of New Friendship Church.

He referred to different people at the church who joined efforts to aid an elderly couple who had an accident leaving the church.

Clinton Ennis and Essie Cox were leaving New Friendship Aug. 6 after an evening concert by Bud and Barbara Lee. As they started their car, the accelerator apparently stuck, causing Cox to lose control of the car, which backed onto and over a nearby bridge, landing upside down in a creek.

Bryant related that a church member who witnessed the accident yelled for someone to call 911.

The church is some distance away from the closest emergency personnel, so members, knowing time was precious, acted immediately to save the couple.

One of the church's visitors that night was Bryant's own son, Jonathan, who lives in Lenoir City. He is an EMT-IV in Loudon County and also works with the Loudon County Sheriff's Department.

Jonathan Bryant took control of the situation, with help from others in the congregation, including licensed nurses Linda Foster and Dana Harper. Local veterinarian Bill Moore also was there and was able to provide medical knowledge, the pastor added.

While they helped get the couple out of the vehicle, others, including a lot of the youth, formed prayer circles. The Coxes were taken out of the vehicle and cared for until help arrived. They were then taken to Bradley Memorial Hospital.

Through it all, Bryant said, there was no panic, but more of a calm that the couple was being cared for and that God was obviously looking down on them.

The couple, both in their 80s, are doing better, Bryant reported. — Adapted from a story written by Allen Mincey for the *Cleveland Daily Banner*. Used with permission.

For Baptist and Reflector

BEECH GROVE — Sunday evening, Aug. 27, was an important date in the life of Lakewood Mission here.

Members of the mission broke ground for a new building.

Lakewood is a church planting endeavor of Salem Association with First Church, Woodbury, acting as the mother church. The Tennessee Baptist Convention also has been instrumental in providing technical and financial assistance.

The mission came into being about two years ago when five to eight people began meeting in the home of Pastor and Mrs. Charles George. They soon graduated into a trailer, and now with the aid of the mother church, have purchased a large lot outside Lakewood Park on Ferrell's Loop Road.

First Church, Woodbury, has been very supportive, led by James Jennings, chairman of their missions committee, in helping Lakewood to move toward becoming a self-supporting church.

Seventy-one people attended the Aug. 27 groundbreaking, according to Imogene Fitts, church clerk. Taking part in the ceremonies were George, Gene Vincent and James Jennings of First Church, Woodbury; Thurman Seber, director of missions, Salem Association; Larry Kirk, TBC Missions Department; and Richard Easterly, Tennessee Baptist Foundation.

In his closing remarks, George noted, "We as a mission want to express our heartfelt gratitude to each individual, church, and group for their support and prayers in our desire to have a witnessing church in this area." □



BREAKING GROUND, from left, are Thurman Seber, director of missions, Salem Association; James Jennings, chairman of missions committee, First Church, Woodbury; Larry Kirk, associate director, TBC Missions Department; Charles George, pastor, Lakewood Missions; and Gene Vincent, pastor, First Church, Woodbury.

Tennessee Baptists extol benefits of Bible memorization

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The name is changed and young children can get involved, but Sword Drills — now called Bible Drills — are still a staple in Southern Baptist churches across America.

"One of the greatest benefits of the Bible Drill is that children can learn discipline and confidence," said Mary Allen of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Discipleship Training Department.

Also, she said, "they memorize Scripture and learn to find the books of the Bible. Our doctrine becomes real and biblically sound."

Last year, Mississippi Baptists recorded more than 3,000 participants in their

state Bible Drills, more than 1,600 of them young children.

Texas had about 2,000 children who participated with Tennessee close behind with 1,400.

Sword Drills, as they once were called, began in 1927, originally involving older students. Now children are allowed in the competition, although they're given 10 seconds to find their verse, rather than the fleeting eight-second clock used for youth. There are 24 verses to learn and participants are allowed a certain amount of mistakes as they compete to advance through three levels of competition: church, associational, and state.

No matter how far the students make it in the competition, Bible Drill leader Bev-

erly Moore of Parkway Church, Goodlettsville, says it's worth the long hours of practice.

"Every year we have some children who draw closer to the Lord through their involvement in Bible Drill, and sometimes we have children come to the Lord for the first time."

After 15 years of leading Bible Drill at her church, one of Moore's students won at the state level this year.

Jokingly, she says, "Endurance is not only a trait needed by the drillers, but also the leaders."

Moore says her students come back to tell her that, years later, knowing a verse from Bible Drill helped them in school or on the job. □

Maynardville church observes 150th anniversary

MAYNARDVILLE — On its 150th birthday, Milan Church, Maynardville, held an extended service Sept. 10.

Members in period dress helped the congregation relate to the history of the church as presented by Mike Simmons. Honored during the presentation were Jack and Gerri George, who have served the church as music director and pianist respectively for more than 40 years. Also recognized were Elsie Cox, for fundraising efforts over 66 years, and Myrtle Butler, 99, who is the oldest member.

Ralph Cox, former pastor who served 23 years, spoke along with Rep.- John Duncan Jr., of Knoxville. □



REPRESENTING A PERIOD of the church's history are Kimberly and Jonathan Goforth.



DRESSED LIKE ANOTHER AGE are Imogene Simmons, Della Coppock, and Ella Mae Vandergriff. Mike Simmons, in back, gives history.



RECEIVING THE PLAQUE from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society is Charles Oliver, right, pastor, from Johnnie Beeler, director of missions, Northern Association.

■ Tennessee features Association's Missions Fair draws about 900

ROGERSVILLE — The fourth annual Missions Fair of Holston Valley Association drew a record attendance — about 900 — Sept. 9 at Cherokee High School in Rogersville. About 30 of the association's 52 churches participated in the Woman's Missionary Union sponsored event. It featured activities to teach missions and free lunch, said Glenda Davis, director, from First Church, Rogersville.

"You're going to be educated in form today, have an opportunity to be involved, and be inspired. And all of it is to bring the Great Commission to pass," said John Parrott, director of missions, Holston Valley, to participants. □ — Connie Davis



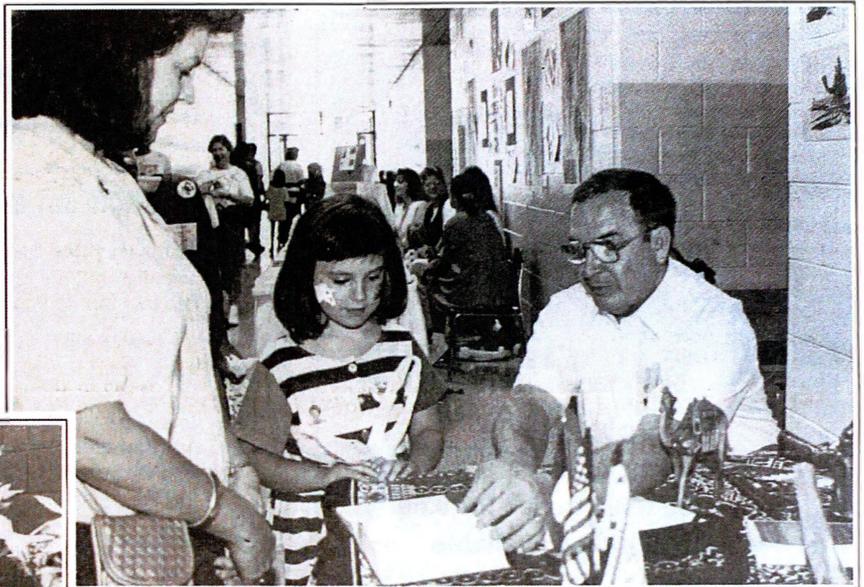
GETTING ACQUAINTED at the Tennessee Disaster Relief Unit were, from left, Richard Todd and Estle McCool of Haywood Hills Church, Nashville, and Pleas Lawson of Spire's Chapel, Rogersville.



HAVING HER FACE PAINTED is Erica Lawson of McKinney's Chapel, Rogersville, by Theresa Hurd of First Church, Rogersville, while Jamie White of East Rogersville Church, watches.



HALLY THE CLOWN, alias Landon Roberson of First Church, Church Hill, uses a rope to illustrate a story he tells during sessions he led at the Missions Fair.

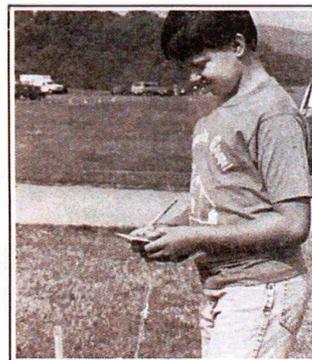


■ **CLEANING UP** after getting an image of her fingerprints for her family is Jessica Elkins of Shepard's Chapel, Rogersville, with help from Michael Dean, patrolman with the Rogersville Police Department. Glenda Davis, director of the Missions Fair and a member of First Church, Rogersville, looks on.

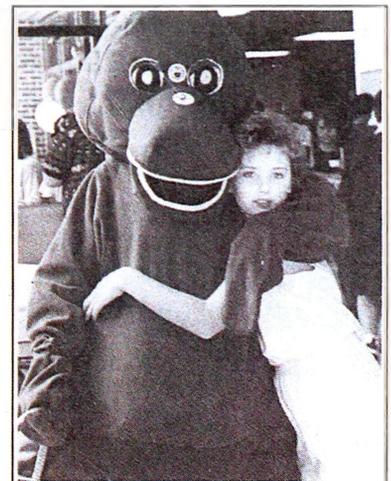
✠ **MISSIONARY TO JORDAN AND ISRAEL** for 19 years, Gene Eller of Bristol, Va., shows a Bible to Karriane Williams of Persia Church, Rogersville, while her mother, Linda, looks on. Eller, who attended the Missions Fair with his wife, Jane, now works as the principal of a public school.



AT THE ROYAL AMBASSADOR TENT boys could test their skills as Jordan Mallory, left, and Trey McMillan prepare to do with the help of Ricky Harris, seated at left, of East Rogersville Church.



TESTING HIMSELF at the compass exercise is Royal Ambassador Elijah Webb of Shepard's Chapel, Rogersville.



HUGGING A POPULAR dinosaur look-alike is Nikki McLain of McCloud Church, Rogersville.

Tennessee minister combines love for God, great outdoors

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The great outdoors is often inspiring. To a Tennessee minister and backpacker, it inspired the creation of a Christian devotional booklet based on backpacking, climbing, and canoeing.

Bob Landham says the idea for "Ripstop" came to him two years ago when hiking Mt. Rogers on a portion of the Appalachian Trail in southwest Virginia.

Upon reaching a summit, he saw a Christian youth leader reading to his group from a de-

votion based on a football player. "I thought, 'Gosh, Here you've got this incredible place and you're reading from a smelly locker room.'"

Ripstop's devotions are drawn from personal outdoor experiences, said Landham, minister of education at Two Rivers Church, Nashville. "I grew up in a camping family."

Landham also is a former

backpacking instructor in Mobile, Ala., for Centrifuge, Southern Baptists' summer camp for teenagers.

Written in a conversational style, Ripstop has seven devotions based on a variety of outdoor topics. One titled "Strike the Match" compares salvation to lighting a cooking stove; another about spiritual immaturity is called "Stupid

Tourist Questions."

The title "Ripstop" comes from a type of nylon fabric woven to prevent a hole or tear from becoming a major failure in the garment. Likewise, the "guide book" is intended to prevent minor spiritual problems from developing into big ones, Landham said.

"There are so many great illustrations that the Lord has

shown me," Landham said.

The 16-page booklet costs \$1.75 and is available by calling Landham at (615) 868-7725. □

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■ **Pierce Dodson**, member of Hillcrest Church, Lebanon, has done missions work in Trinidad, Russia, and Romania during the past year and a half. He is available to speak on this work or preach.

■ The University of Tennessee — Martin Baptist Student Union has elected **Anna Silver**, Clarksville, as president for 1995-1996 and **Katie Legg**, Culleoka, vice president and worship chairperson. Other officers are **Joe Morris**, Memphis, secretary; **Deborah Doss**, Martin, Barnabas chairperson; **Toby McMillin**, Martin, community mission chairperson; **Stephanie Barnhill**, Spring Hill, fellowship chairperson; and **Doug McCaslin**, Lexington, sports chairperson.

■ Fairview Church, Lebanon, ordained five new deacons Sept. 10. They were **J.W. Brown**, **Tommy Edwards**, **Jimmy Speck**, **Charlie Winn**, and **Mike Goins**.

■ the leaders

■ **Richard Childress**, pastor, Covington Church, Covington, Va., has been called as pastor of Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain, effective Sept. 3. The native of

Kingsport, also has served churches in Kentucky. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

■ **Walter Alley** of Murfreesboro, has been called as minister of education, Memorial Church, Hixson.

■ **Brian Trapp**, a student at Pellissippi State Community College, Knoxville, has been called as youth director, Union Church, Knoxville.

■ **Charles Belt** of Nashville, former Baptist Sunday School Board employee who worked in pastor/deacon ministry there for six years, and former pastor or church staff member for 24 years, is available for interim work, pulpit supply, and leadership of conferences and retreats. Belt can be contacted at 765 McMurray Drive, #M-6, Nashville, 37211, (615) 331-9590.

■ **Jeff Simmons**, student ministry assistant, Trinity Church, San Antonio, Texas, has been called as minister to students, First Church, Nashville, Sept. 17. He will work with high school and college students. Simmons is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **Bill Freaney**, a retired pastor and member of New Salem Church, Soddy-Daisy, is available to supply in churches or lead special meetings. He can be reached at 8921 Hensley Road, Hixson, 37343, (615) 842-6916.

■ First Church, Water-town, has called **Tim Crosby**, of Lowrey Memorial Church,

Blue Mountain, Miss., as pastor.

■ **Tony Jones**, minister of music/youth, First Church, Halls, has been called as minister of education/youth, First Church, Covington.

■ **Willie M. Newman**, pastor, First Church, Bryson City, N.C., for 25 years retired June 30 to Mountain City, where he is available for supply work. He is the former pastor of Blue Springs Church, Cleveland; First Church, New Tazewell; and Armona Church, Alcoa. He can be reached at Rt. 5, Box 86, Mountain City, 37683.

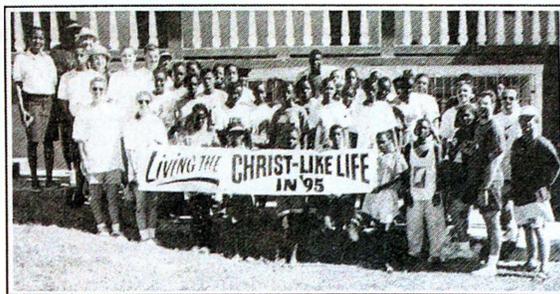
■ the churches

■ **Fosterville Church**, Fosterville, will hold revival Sept. 24-29. Charles McKnight will speak. On Sunday a luncheon and afternoon musical program featuring the "Mastersmen" will be held.

■ **Memorial Church**, Hixson, will celebrate its 40th anniversary Oct. 1. Laverne Mosher, first pastor, will speak. A luncheon will follow.

■ **First Church**, Morristown, will host "The Seasons of a Woman's Life" Oct. 6-7. Luci Swindoll, vice president of public relations of "Insight for Living," her brother Chuck Swindoll's international radio ministry, will speak along with Buna Sorrell, member of Bellevue Church, Cordova. Debra Talley will sing. For more information contact the church at P.O. Box 1394, Morristown, 37816.

■ **First Church**, Livingston, held revival Sept. 6-10 with former pastor Clarence Stewart, retired director, Tennessee Baptist Convention



TENNESSEE LEADERS and youth from Grenada pose during Grenadian Association Youth Camp Aug. 10-19 in Grenada, West Indies. Leaders were 12 college students and adults from Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, directed by Jerry Ball, minister of youth. They worked with missionaries Carter and Charlotte Davis from Knoxville, to lead the teens in drama, crafts, recreation, and Bible study on the theme, "Living the Christlike Life in '95."

Partnership Missions Department. Rush Harrison, the church's minister of music and youth, led the music. The church also held its annual Fall Festival Sept. 10.

■ **First Church**, Troy, held a tent revival which resulted in 32 people making professions of faith and 17 being baptized. The evangelist was Brady Weldon.

■ On Oct. 28 **Gibson Church**, Gibson, will hold a Friendship Fair for the community. It will include games for children and a musical program by William and Jill Donnel of Martin.

■ the associations

■ **Nashville Association** will host a "Power Partner Tour" Sept. 30 from 9:30 a.m. — noon. Participants will view association office, Woodcock Church and Mission Center, Toy Store and ministries of Shelby Avenue Church, and Truckstop Ministry of Inglewood Church. For more

information, call (615) 259-3034 by Sept. 22.

■ **Grainger County Association** is holding a World Missions Conference Sept. 17-24 with 22 churches participating in two four-day sessions. That is up from 19 churches which were involved in a 1988 conference. Missions involved in this conference are from as far away as Nigeria, Chile, Indonesia, and Japan.

■ the schools

■ "Lunch and Learn" for senior adults will be hosted by **Union University**, Jackson, Sept. 28. Wade Akins and Ted Burden, leaders of Union's fall revival will speak. For more information, call (901) 661-5163.

■ **Susan O'Dell Underwood**, English professor, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, was awarded the school's 1995-96 Teaching Excellence Award.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Church — being all it can be

By Jerry Sutton, pastor
Two Rivers Church, Nashville

My passion is to see the church be all that God intends for it to be. I am convinced that many congregations settle for far less than what the Lord wants for them. Vital to experiencing God's best is having God's purposes as our own.

Every church has a purpose for existence. Yet, not every church has God's purpose. Purposes other than God's can be traditions, fears, strong personalities, finances — or lack of finances — proverbial sacred cows, and even comfort. These things can displace God's purposes and become the driving forces behind decisions, plans, and agendas.

In his Word, the Lord identifies his

purposes for the church. According to Scripture, the church is called to worship the Lord. This is not something optional, it is an essential part of the church's purpose. We are also called to evangelize the world.

Another purpose of God for his church is that we disciple, build up, encourage, and edify believers to assist them in growing to full spiritual maturity. This applies to our relating rightly to both the Lord and to people, and to developing and understanding God's Word, God's ways, and God's world. It involves healing hurts, building faith, strengthening families, teaching stewardship, and cultivating leadership.

A fourth purpose is that we are called by the Lord to impact and influence the world around us. Jesus used metaphors of salt and light in his Ser-

mon on the Mount to describe this dimension of our calling.

Authentic Christianity will settle for nothing less than these purposes being our purposes as a church family. □

Looking back

By Garry Burkacki, pastor
Beverly Hills Church, Memphis

Have you ever driven up the side of a mountain and then stopped to look back? I was 18 years old and hadn't been driving long when I was asked to go to Florida and drive a truck back to Michigan for a preacher that was moving. Long into the night we arrived on top of Lookout Mountain — a long winding road that I had never been on before, and me, in a 27-foot truck. The next morning I looked down that moun-

tain road. What a sight! Winding, curvy, steep, hair-pin curves were all I saw. It was then I thanked God I had driven up that road at night so I couldn't see what was ahead of me.

Sometimes as Christians we need to stop along life's road and look back. It may have been winding and steep, yet we see the love, grace, and leadership of Christ directing us all the way. Someone has rightly said, "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to an all-knowing God." □

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.

Little Rock churches launch 'LOVE'

Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A campaign to curb violence through church intervention was unveiled in a recent two-day conference in Little Rock.

The "Let Our Violence End" (LOVE) conference featured sessions that addressed such violence-related topics as rape, gangs, suicide, domestic violence, and self-esteem. Many of the 200-plus participants organized into teams to take the campaign into schools, neighborhoods, and businesses.

The campaign was initiated by Robert Holt, a member of Second Church, Little Rock, which served as one of the conference's hosts. "LOVE is a ministry that God has given us ... to replace the violent actions that are going on in our community with loving actions," Holt explained.

He said LOVE is designed to "give the people tools in order to take the message of love into our communities. Each church is a toolbox for love and whatever tools we put into that toolbox will determine what we build in the community."

Emphasizing LOVE is a multi-denominational effort, he noted conference participants represented 33 different churches.

Holt also voiced his hope the

campaign could grow into a worldwide effort. When asked how that would happen, he answered, "Only God knows that. God is continually changing this ministry. We're going to take this message to the streets through the churches, through our schools, and through our communities in any avenue we can utilize," Holt said. □

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Song titles updated for 'Ivory Palaces'

In the advertisement for Bette Stalnecker's "Ivory Palaces" tape in the Sept. 6 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, the song titles were inadvertently omitted. They are: "There's Something About That Name, That Beautiful Name," "I Must Tell Jesus," "O' Rejoice in the Lord," "Amazing Grace/He Looked Beyond My Fault," "King Jesus," "When I've Done My Best," "Ivory Palaces," "Benediction" (Edelweiss), "Moses," and "Without Him."

Audio tapes are \$10 and CDs and Videos are \$15. Postage and handling is \$1 per unit. Tapes may be ordered from Bette Stalnecker Ministries, 234 Lackey Lane, Ripley, Tenn., 38063, or telephone/fax: (901) 635-0347. □

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First Baptist Church of Fort Myers, Florida, seeks a Minister to Students/Activities Director. In July of 1994, the church opened a new \$3 million Family Life Center. The church is seeking a minister who is both academically trained and practically experienced. All candidates should have a master's degree and have served in two church staff positions. Experience in both Student Ministry and Church Recreation is required. Send letters of recommendation along with biographical sketches to:

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SEPTEMBER — FOUNDATION EMPHASIS MONTH

**Life and Work Series
for September 24
Focal Passage:
Romans 6:12-13, 15-23**

Salvation: what now?

By C. William Palmiter

Although God will not withdraw his gift of salvation, man has the ability to reject it. If a person is truly a believer, he must be careful not to yield to the aggressive power of sin. The word "yield" is found five times in this passage and means "to place at one's disposal, to present, to offer as a sacrifice." It is the same word translated as "present" in Romans 12:1 where the believer's body should be presented to the Lord as "a living sacrifice." The Old Testament Law focused on dead sacrifices; the New Testament Lord focuses on living sacrifices.

Someone might think that freedom from the Law means license to do whatever one wants, even if it is to sin. This objection allows Paul to articulate his simple, yet very profound recommendations. Paul used the analogy of slavery to contest a casual attitude toward sin. Slavery was common in Paul's time. Many Christians were slaves which made this metaphor easy to understand. In this section (vv. 15-23) an illustration is used from the institution of slavery in which salvation is represented as a change of masters. The slave belonged to his master who alone had a claim upon his time and energies, and could dispose of him as he thought fit. Once a person offers himself to obey the commands of a master the way that a slave would, he actually becomes a slave to that master. For example, if a person obeys the provocation of sin, he becomes a slave of sin which means spiritual death. On the other hand, if one is obedient to God, he is God's slave which results in true righteousness or right living. Paul is thankful that the Roman Christians have indicated that they are God's slaves. Before salvation they had followed sin as their master. But now that they are converted, they obey the teachings of Christ's Gospel.

Paul apologizes for using the example of human slavery since he knows that the only slavery in the life of a Christian is the compelling force of love which makes you truly free to become all that God wants you to be. With God it is all or nothing. A true believer has surrendered complete control of his life to Christ and held nothing back. No one who has done that would ever think of using grace as an excuse for sin.

Verses 20-23 summarizes Paul's teachings on the moral consequences of salvation. He describes the two masters, freedoms, fruits, and destinies. The two masters are sin and righteousness. The two freedoms are mutually exclusive: the slave of sin is free from righteousness and the slave of righteousness is free from sin. The two fruits are shameful behavior and holiness. The two destinies are death and eternal life.

Their own experience should reinforce the right choice. When they were enslaved by sin, they felt none of the restraint and control of God's righteousness. This resulted in actions which then filled them with shame and which inevitably led to definitive separation from God. Now things are different! Freed from the tyrannical drive of sin and enrolled in the service of God, they are gathering fruits of holiness which will ripen to full maturity in eternal life. This is a fundamental principle. The pay off for sin is death, while the surpassing gift which one receives in a saved life that is serving God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. □ — William Palmiter is pastor of Bethel Church, Greenbrier.

Obedient to the Spirit

By Jerry Barker

The highs — Acts 4:32-37

One of the highs of the early church was their concern for those in need. Certainly the concern for the needy among them brought about a unity or oneness in spirit. The people who had property would sell their property and give the proceeds to the apostles and those in need were helped (vv. 32-35). A good example of this concern was Barnabas who sold land and gave the money to the church (vv. 36-37).

The lows — ch. 5:1-11

Ananias and Sapphira gave only a part of the money they had received for what they sold (vv. 1-2). The great sin of Ananias and Sapphira was not that they brought only a portion of what they received but that they lied about the amount. There was an impact on the church, as those who heard about them felt great fear (v. 11).

The obedience — vv. 17-42

Certainly this passage and chapter 4:5-22 have much in common. These two passages describe the first and second time that the apostles were brought before the Council of the Sanhedrin. In the first instance only Peter and John were arrested, but in the second instance all of the apostles were imprisoned. Also there is a great difference in the tone and intensity of the two situations. In chapter 4 the authorities warned them but in the second instance there was more intense anger as the Sadducees were not only angry about the defying of their orders but they were jealous of the success that the apostles had with the people.

In verses 19-21, we read of God's deliverance of the apostles from prison so they could continue to do the Lord's work. The apostles were obedient to the Lord. In verse 21 it seems apparent that the Sanhedrin thought they were in control and running things but

**Convention Uniform Series
for September 24
Focal Passages:
Acts 5:17-32**

to their surprise God's work was continuing at the temple.

"Then came one and told them saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the

people" (v. 25).

The apostles were then brought back before the Sanhedrin and two accusations were made against them. First, they had openly disobeyed the order to not preach in Jesus' name.

Second, the high priest charged that they were trying to hold them accountable for the death of Jesus. The laying of blame for someone's blood was an Old Testament way of accusing someone of murder.

Peter responded with the most important words for any Christian to hear.

"Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men" (v. 29).

Human authority and government deserves our respect, honor, and obedience. But only God deserves our ultimate obedience.

A Pharisee named Gamaliel suggested that if this movement was not of God then it would fail but if it was of God they didn't need to oppose it for it could not be stopped. The Sanhedrin beat the apostles and let them go.

Please note that when they were released they continued to be obedient in their witness. They were not only faithful but they rejoiced that they were allowed to suffer for their Lord (v. 41). They kept on preaching and teaching (v. 42).

Our lesson today is a contrast of light and dark. The dark side of the lesson is lying to God by Ananias and Sapphira. The bright side of the lesson is the obedient spirit of Peter and the apostles in the face of persecution. □ — Jerry Barker is pastor of First Church, Alamo.

Visions of suffering and victory

By Clay Austin

Seventy weeks — vv. 24-27

The context of this vivid scene is Daniel's prayer. While Daniel was praying in confession of both his sins and the sins of his people, God revealed a powerful vision to this "highly esteemed" messenger. No doubt, Daniel was very concerned about the future of his people. Six brief clauses in verse 24 summarize God's spiritual intentions for the future. Each phrase denotes action on the part of God and his people.

The first three clauses are more negative in nature and can be considered a response to Daniel's prayer. The people are instructed to finish their "transgression," make an end to "sin," and to atone their "iniquity." All of these require action on the part of Daniel's congregation.

There are promises made which follow these correctives. God is going to deliver his people, again. It was the task of Israel to make preparations. Many commentators feel that there is no reason to relate any of these passages to the first or second coming of Christ. However, the ultimate expression of hope of Israel was always expressed in the concept of Messiah.

There are many interpretations of the 70 weeks prophecy. One

**Bible Book Series for September 24
Focal Passages: Daniel 9:24-27;
12:1-4**

school holds that the 70 weeks begins with the destruction of the temple in 586. This would bring fulfillment to the days of Antiochus Epiphanes. Others associate the period as being fulfilled during the time of Jesus. Millenarians see the weeks as being fulfilled at the death of Jesus.

Choose your viewpoint carefully, however, do not miss the greater picture. God will have the final victory. Like Daniel, we need to be prepared to see what God is going to do. Perhaps our prayer life should be similar to that of Daniel.

The end — ch. 12:1-4

Daniel's prophecy reaches a dynamic crescendo in chapter 12. The end will be a time of unparalleled "distress." A casual look at any newspaper, newscast, or virtually any television program will affirm that we also are living in "distressing" times. To the faithful the world will always represent danger and conflict. One of the greatest dangers we face is to accommodate our convictions to

the standards of the world.

We are called to be as distinctive as "salt" to a bland world and as powerful as "light" to a world of darkness. Understanding prophecy does little good if we fail to offer an alternative to "conventional wisdom" or sound alarm to a spiritually sleeping world.

First, these verses are not presented as Daniel's ideas, but as a revelation from God. God was speaking to Daniel's contemporaries just as he speaks to us through this prophecy. Second, God is involved in shaping earthly history. Chance, random order, or fate do not control our lives, God is in control. Third, the ultimate resolution of all conflict involving God's people belongs to him.

We are reminded again that the faithful have the final victory. Fourth, it is the task of the people of faith to be steadfast. The primary task we have been given is not to predict when the victory will come, but rather to be prepared to be a part of the celebration. □ — Clay Austin is pastor of First Church, Blountville.

Samford employs former editor

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Former *Florida Baptist Witness* editor Jack Brymer has taken a job at Samford University.

Brymer, 59, has been named to a newly-created post of director of publications at the Alabama Baptist school, effective Oct. 1.

Brymer, an Alabama native and Samford graduate, resigned abruptly last August as editor of the *Florida Baptist* paper, citing "continued harassment" from the newspaper's governing board. □

Kentucky editor takes Texas associate post

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Marv Knox, editor of *Kentucky Baptists' Western Recorder* since 1990, will become associate editor of the *Baptist Standard*, Texas Baptists' newsjournal, effective

Dec. 4. Knox, 39, was elected unanimously by the *Standard's* board of directors Sept. 12.

He will succeed Toby Druin who will become editor on the retirement of Presnall H. Wood Dec. 31.

Knox is a Texas native and a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He and his wife, Joanna, have two daughters. □

NOBTS trustees learn 'faculty is nervous'

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary were told total enrollment is up more than 3 percent, the seminary finished the fiscal year in the black, but the "faculty is nervous" in anticipation of a new president.

Landrum Leavell II, president of the seminary for 20 years until his retirement at the end of 1994 and now interim president, told trustees the

faculty "needs a leader, the sooner the better." Leavell was referring to the nine-month period since a search for the seminary's eighth president began the first of the year.

Trustee search committee chairman, Morris L. Anderson, pastor of First Church, Pigeon Forge, said he understands the concerns, but "I don't know how long" it is going to take. Anderson said the committee is unanimous "in the direction we are going," but wouldn't comment on how close the committee is to a nominee. The committee plans to notify the board of trustees at least two weeks in advance for a two-day meeting with the nominee. But with the announcement SBC President Jim Henry had withdrawn from consideration, no particular person appeared to be discussed during the trustees' campus meeting Sept. 12.

Anderson said the committee wants the man "God has for us" but won't set any timetable.

Part of the anxiety of the faculty, officials said, could be

attributed to the stress of present faculty dealing with eight vacant teaching positions. The seminary apparently had been waiting for a new president to have input for new faculty, but trustees voted to have seminary officials go ahead with recruiting for vacant positions. □

FMB vice president named to BWA evangelism effort

Baptist Press

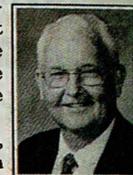
RICHMOND — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's vice president for mission personnel has been named as a special assistant to Nilson Fanini, the newly-elected president of the Baptist World Alliance.

Thurmon E. Bryant and a team of mainly Southern Baptists, named by Fanini and Bryant, will begin working to develop an evangelism focus with Fanini and BWA.

Fanini, a Brazilian pastor, was elected to a five-year term as BWA president in August.

He challenged Baptists meeting in Buenos Aires for the Baptist World Congress to engage in a coordinated effort to reach the world with the Gospel by the year 2000.

Bryant, 65, will remain on the FMB payroll and continue to work out of FMB offices in Richmond. But he will use up to a fourth of his time helping coordinate Fanini's evangelism plans with those of the BWA and national Baptist bodies throughout the world. □



BRYANT

RTVC trustees adopt resolution on possible agreement with F&V

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — A resolution approving in principle a proposed programming agreement between ACTS and the "Faith and Values" channel was approved by trustees of the Radio and Television Commission at their Sept. 12 meeting.

In other actions, trustees adopted a 1995-96 fiscal year balanced budget of \$8,020,000 and appointed a transition team to prepare for the restructuring voted by the Southern Baptist Convention last June.

"There is some language to clarify in the agreement proposed by the Faith and Values channel, but I think an agreement is now reachable," said Jack Johnson, RTVC president.

ACTS is the cable television service operated by RTVC. The National Interfaith Cable Coalition owns 51 percent of the F&V channel. Liberty Media, a subsidiary of TCI (the nation's largest cable operator) owns 49 percent. □

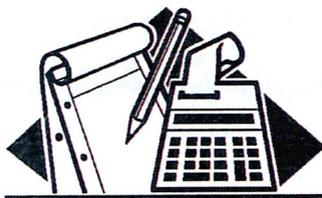
Texas church pledges \$100,000 to Draper chair at Southwestern Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — First Church, Euless, Texas, has pledged \$100,000 toward the million-dollar James T. Draper Chair of Pastoral Ministries at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Draper, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, served as pastor of the Euless congregation from 1975-91.

The Draper chair was established in 1994 and will be activated when designated endowment funds reach \$1 million. □

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