

# Baptist and Reflector

October 4, 1995

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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## Becomes executive director Jan. 1

# TBAH names Cooper to succeed Ford

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
*Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes soon will have a new executive director.

Art Mason, retired professor at the University of Tennessee's Space Center, Tullahoma, said C. Kenny Cooper will succeed J. L. Ford. Cooper is pastor of Bellevue Church, Nashville, where he has served since 1987. He was elected last Friday.

Mason, chairman of a six-member search committee of the TBAH board of trustees, said Cooper will become executive director-elect on Nov. 1, working with Ford through Dec. 31, when Ford retires. Ford will have served TBAH

10 years at the end of the year. He announced his retirement last December.

Mason said Cooper will build on the "solid foundation J. L. Ford has established in his 10 years of service." He added that Cooper's involvement in Baptist work at all levels "gives him special insight in working with Tennessee Baptists in the advocacy of TBAH."

Mason said the board feels Cooper will lead the work of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes in future ministries. "We believe he has a special

feeling for senior adults," he said. He noted that Cooper has 20 years experience in relating to senior adults.

Cooper said he is eager to begin "a challenging work, but also a work with tremendous rewards."

Cooper is a native of Paducah, Ky., and is married to the former Sheryl Barrett. They have two sons. He is a graduate of Cumberland College, and holds the D. Min. and M. Div. degrees from Southern Seminary.

Besides Mason, committee members include David Brown, Bells; Howard Foshee, Nashville; Bill Baird Griffith, Cookeville; Earl Skogman, Knoxville; and Mrs. Pat White, Nashville. □



COOPER

## Kingsport Baptists initiate opposition to NEA resolution

Baptist Press

KINGSPORT — Two Tennessee Baptists played a key role in organizing a move to counter the National Education Association's resolution on homosexuality and its call for a "Lesbian and Gay History Month" in local schools. The grassroots opposition could spread beyond the state.

Ann Bennett, the Christian Life department director for Sullivan Association, said she drafted that group's resolution after an impromptu request at her child's elementary school. Fourth grade teacher Ken Fletcher, a member of Sunnyside Church, Kingsport, wanted the local Parent Teacher Association to pass a mea-

sure opposing the NEA.

However, as PTA parliamentarian Bennett said she had to enforce rules that dictate only items placed on the agenda can be considered during meetings. Afterwards, she told Fletcher and other teachers that she supported their feelings.

Two days later, she took the matter to Sullivan's executive committee.

The executive committee adopted a resolution denouncing the NEA measure. It cited biblical opposition to homosexuality, noting Sodom and Gomorrah's homosexual activity brought about the destruction of those cities.

"The acceptance of and practice of homosexual behavior has preceded the de-

struction of major civilizations throughout history," the resolution said. "We believe the (NEA resolution) to be harmful to the youth of America and our society in general."

Bennett, a member of First Church, Kingsport, said she drew up "the resolution to encourage our churches to pray for teachers and encourage other teachers to take a stand. The church needs to recognize the fight is in the teachers' hands, but let them know we support them."

In the meantime, Fletcher has joined forces with Karen Carr — a past president of the local NEA affiliate — to contact other teachers around the state. He said he is willing for his telephone number to be published (423) 323-0714.

He said he believes the overwhelming majority of his fellow teachers only belong to NEA because of its medical insurance coverage and legal aid.

"A lot of teachers are upset about the resolution (and its call for a) Gay and Lesbian Month," Fletcher said. "A lot of them feel that they have put up with a lot of things to belong to NEA, but when they did this, it was like the straw that broke the camel's back."

Although the Tennessee Education Association took a neutral position on the resolution, Fletcher said TEA recently promised to work with other states to overturn it. Still, the TEA recently sent letters to all its members, he said, claiming the controversy has been fanned by the media and people who hate public education. □



### Group of longtime readers

WHEN EDITOR Wm. Fletcher Allen asked participants at the Senior Adult Conference how long they had been reading the *Baptist and Reflector*, this group from Eastanallee Church, Riceville, quickly stood. Along with Pastor Oran Creasman, they are 40-year readers. From left, Virginia Creasman, Virginia Spurlin (50 years), Oran Creasman, Gladys Leamon, Henry Leamon, and Hazel Womac. Creasman has served the church since 1966, and the paper has been in the budget for members since 1956.

# Tullahoma church honors former pastors

For Baptist and Reflector

TULLAHOMA — First Church, Tullahoma, honored its former pastors during homecoming on Sept. 17.

The church conveyed the "pastor emeritus" title upon Oley Kidd, pastor from 1940-45 (Kidd died Sept. 26 in Birmingham, Ala., where he lived during retirement); Tom Madden, pastor from 1955-76; and James Porch, pastor from 1977-92.

Madden, now retired and living in Murfreesboro, is a former executive director/treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, a position now held by Porch.

The church cited Kidd for his leadership "during the war years to minister to people of Camp Forrest through the development of a service center and soldiers lounge." The resolution given to Kidd also noted the church "grew stronger in financial stewardship, membership, facilities, and ministry leadership."

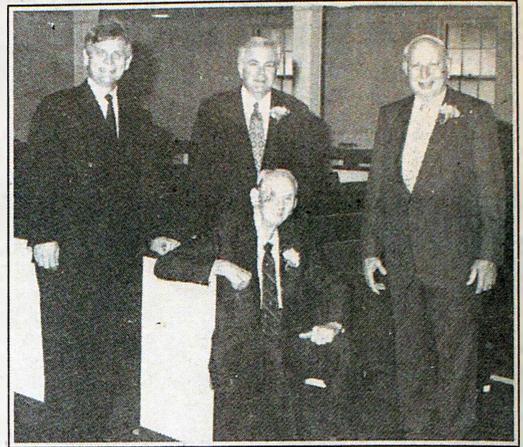
Madden was recognized for the longest pastorate at First Church, Tullahoma, and for leading the church in improving,

enlarging, and adding to its facilities and properties, and for expanding its ministries and missions works and enlarging the membership.

The resolution observed "the church grew stronger in mission church development, personal relationships, and community dynamics" under Madden's leadership.

Porch also was credited for leading the church "in a continued period of facility renovation and improvement, property acquisitions, financial development, and outstanding organizational and administrative concepts."

Porch also was credited for preparing the Tullahoma church to "face the '90s." □



FIRST CHURCH, TULLAHOMA, Pastor Steven Carreker welcomed former pastors, from left, James Porch, Oley Kidd (seated), and Tom Madden to a special homecoming service Sept. 17.

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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## Sunday School Board trustees hear good financial report

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — A projected record turnaround in finances and a range of ministry successes highlight the Baptist Sunday School Board's 1994-95 year, according to a report from President James T. Draper Jr.

Draper addressed board trustees Sept. 25-27 at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center. The detailed, 70-minute report received a standing ovation in response to projections for the fiscal year which ended Sept. 30.

Draper told trustees "... the news is good. In fact, in some areas the news is spectacular!"

Projections for year-end are for \$244.5 million in income, more than \$1 million over budget and almost \$20 million ahead of last year. Funds Provided from Operations, revenue above operating costs

### BSSB literature prices to increase

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Due to rising paper costs that have outpaced inflation, the price of dated literature produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board will increase an average of 7 percent beginning with the April-June 1996 issues.

Gene Mims, vice president of the board's church growth group, noted paper pulp prices have increased 66.9 percent from June 1994 to June 1995 compared to an inflation rate of 3 percent. Paper pulp continued to increase, reaching an all-time high in September.

Paper costs have risen from 5.29 percent of total BSSB literature sales to 10.39 percent in just six quarters.

Mims said the 7 percent increase is an average. Some resources will go up less; others, more, such as titles with limited circulation that cost more per copy to produce. □

used for expanded ministries, is projected at \$5.6 million, compared to a budgeted \$100,000 and last year's loss of \$8.2 million.

Trustees later approved a 1995-96 budget of \$266.7 million, a 9.1 percent increase

over the current year's projection including Funds Provided From Operations of almost \$6.5 million, a 14.9 percent increase over this year's projection, and 2.4 percent of total revenue.

Draper also reported that as

of Sept. 30 the board's capital debt will be down to \$8.4 million. "We are ahead of our three-year payback schedule," Draper said.

Final year-end totals will be available in early November.

"The most important reason for these improved results is that our employees have made a supreme effort, not only in cutting costs and living within the budget but also in improving productivity, listening to the wants and needs of churches and individuals that buy materials and services, improving existing products, developing creative new resources, and solving problems. It has been a team effort across the board," Draper said.

He also noted "we have reduced expenses even when it hurt. Needed positions have gone unfilled." The new budget will allow some vacant positions to be filled, he added. □



### Fall meetings begin

Midland Association got a head start on annual fall meetings when it convened Sept. 18-19 at Highland Church, Knoxville. Participating in the meeting were, from left, Jo Ann Hurst, New Hope Church, clerk; Jerry Vittatoe, pastor, Clear Springs Church, moderator; host pastor Jerry Copeland; and Director of Missions Herbert Jones.

## Baptist volunteers feed 100,000 in first week of Caribbean relief

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Southern Baptist volunteers from Texas and Alabama prepared close to 100,000 meals in their first week of disaster relief on the Caribbean islands of St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix following Hurricane Marilyn.

Texas Baptists restored electricity and replaced plumbing at the Blackbeard's Castle Hotel on St. Thomas and set up their headquarters there, preparing meals continuously each day from 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Using rationed bottled water, they cooked about 52,000 meals that were served by Red Cross personnel. On

Sept. 26 alone, the Texans prepared 6,280 meals for St. Thomas and 2,000 more for delivery on St. John.

Alabama Baptists set up emergency food service at the airport in St. Croix, serving more than 46,000 meals in seven days.

"Team members are thankful for good health among their number and team spirit is good," said Kenny Rains of the SBC Brotherhood Commission, off-site coordinator for Caribbean Relief. A 10-member replacement team was scheduled to arrive in St. Thomas Oct. 1.

Volunteer builders are needed, especially in St. Maarten. For more information, call (800) 280-1891. □



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# Gracey Avenue has final service, but ministry will linger

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — Tears of joy and sadness flowed freely at Gracey Avenue Church during a special afternoon service Sept. 24.

The service marked the end of nearly 50 years for ministry for the Clarksville congregation.

Yet, leaders reminded the remaining members of Gracey Avenue that their legacy would live on in several ways.

Though Gracey Avenue's ministry in the 350-seat sanctuary ended, a Southern Baptist presence will still shine forth in the community.

Greater St. James Church, an African American congregation which has been sharing the facility with Gracey Avenue since last October, is in the process of purchasing the building with the aid of a grant and loan from the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Greater St. James was begun as a mission of Gracey Avenue in 1993.

Gracey Avenue Pastor James Redding said the church voted to disband because it was decreasing in size. The neighborhood around the church also has changed over the past few years.

"Greater St. James was growing and we felt like they would grow much faster if we got out of the way and let them have the ministry here," Redding said.

During the service, Redding officially "passed the torch" to Greater St. James. "Today we want to pass the torch on to our brothers and sisters in Christ of Greater St. James. Gracey Avenue will live on in and through Greater St. James," Redding said.

The church's legacy also will continue in another way.

Money received for the building will be given by the Gracey Avenue congregation to Cumberland Association to establish the Gracey Avenue Baptist Church New Work Fund.

"When that new church is started, you will see Gracey Avenue is still living there, too," said Cumberland Association Director of Missions Wesley Pitts, who preached the final message at Gracey Avenue.

Pitts cited the missions commitment of Gracey Avenue through the years, taking note of the congregation's giving through the Cooperative Program, state, home, and foreign missions offerings.

"As long as a Southern Baptist missionary is on the field, Gracey Avenue will be alive," Pitts told the combined audience of the two congregations.

Pitts also observed that every time a person who was baptized at Gracey Avenue shares Christ with another person, the church will live on. "Gracey Avenue will never end until Jesus comes again," Pitts said.



**PARTICIPATING IN THE** final service of Gracey Avenue Church, Clarksville, were, from left, Pastor James Redding; James Brigham, pastor of Greater St. James Church; Wesley Pitts, director of missions, Cumberland Association; Ralph Conklin, deacon chairman, Gracey Avenue.

Pitts challenged the Greater St. James congregation to remember its heritage and to continue to emphasize missions and evangelism.

Greater St. James Pastor James Brigham thanked the Gracey Avenue congregation for "believing in us when we found it difficult to believe in ourselves" and for "being a friend in so many special ways."

Greater St. James presented gifts to Redding and his wife, Marilyn, and to Pitts for what they had done

for the church.

Ralph Conklin, deacon chairman at Gracey Avenue noted it was a sad day because he has been at the church for about 28 years and had to face the fact the church was dying.

Yet, he added, "I thank God we were able to raise up another church to take our place."

Conklin said the approximately 30 members who were left at Gracey Avenue will join other churches in Cumberland Association. □

## For new president at New Orleans Seminary

### Tennessee pastor does double duty as search committee chairman

For Baptist and Reflector

PIGEON FORGE — As if being pastor of a growing church in a resort community wasn't enough, Morris Anderson took on another task.

The pastor of First Church, Pigeon Forge, has the arduous task of serving as chairman of the presidential search committee at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Anderson is in his second term as a seminary trustee and third term as vice chairman of the board.

The search for a president is now into its ninth month, and Anderson, who has averaged at least one trip a month to New Orleans during that time, admits it is taking longer than originally expected.

Chairman Anderson stressed the committee has not been divided. The search process is time consuming, he said.

Because committee members are from different locations, it is not easy getting everyone together for every meeting, Anderson said.

"Four or five months can pass quickly without much being done in the process."

Anderson explained how the search process at New Orleans

has happened.

The process began when the committee issued a call earlier this year for recommendations for a successor to Landrum Leavell, who retired at the end of 1994, but is staying on as interim president.

Much to Anderson's surprise the committee received only 25-30 recommendations. He expected more because "in my estimation, this is an important position."

After resumes were received the committee took about 21 days and prayed for each person recommended by name and asked God if that was the man for the job, Anderson said.

They then narrowed the list down to about 10 people, he said, noting every person recommended was outstanding. "The initial process was difficult," he acknowledged.

Anderson said the committee then trimmed the list to a "few," declining to give an exact number.

"We tried to look at those persons with great administrative and leadership ability," Anderson said, noting the com-



**MORRIS ANDERSON** relaxes in his office while answering questions regarding the search for a new president at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Anderson has been pastor at First Church, Pigeon Forge, since 1993.

mittee looked primarily at pastors because they were the group most recommended.

Education also played a role in narrowing the list, Anderson said, as "we looked at those with seminary or college experience in terms of teaching."

The committee also examined each nominee's track record and how God has used

him over the years.

One candidate rumored for the position was SBC President Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla. Henry withdrew from consideration late in the summer.

Asked if that affected the committee, Anderson replied, "We still have quality people to consider."

Anderson admitted the committee is focusing in on someone, but said they are not near an announcement. He said they hope to have someone within the next 60 days or at least by the first of the year.

The "biggest eye-opener" for Anderson has been how the rumor mill operates.

He said he has heard rumors of who the committee was considering and knew "there was not one iota of truth in them."

The experience has taught him to be "more skeptical" of rumors, Anderson said.

The Pigeon Forge pastor has been careful not to confirm or deny any rumors. "There is a degree of integrity when you talk with someone."

"You have to consider the position the person is in and you have to protect that. Our committee has sensed a great commitment to protect that

(confidentiality)," he said.

In addition, the committee made a promise to the trustees that they would be the first to hear who the candidate was "and they would hear it on campus," Anderson added.

"We're all ready for a president. It is better to wait and get the right one than hurry and get the wrong one. Being president of a seminary is an awesome responsibility," he observed.

His involvement has not had an adverse affect on the congregation of First Church, Pigeon Forge, Anderson said.

In fact, despite being short two other staff members, the church has grown during the search, he noted.

The church already has baptized over 50 people this year and worship and Sunday School attendance both have increased.

With most of the committee's meetings on a weekday, Anderson has spent a lot of time in the air and waiting in airports. He has taken advantage of that time, however.

"We have been studying the book of Galatians on Wednesday nights. I have prepared many studies on Galatians at 25,000 feet," Anderson laughed. □ — Lonnie Wilkey

## ■ 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. □

### WMU and missions

In the East Tennessee town where I grew up, there was a Methodist Sunday School

teacher who taught a large men's Bible class. Attending this class was a privilege for many far and wide.

In conversation with my mother, the teacher told her that he got his literature from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. This impressed me as a child that our literature had no boundaries.

With great pride I am a lifetime member of the Woman's Missionary Union. My beginning was the Sunbeams. I am thankful that our WMU literature is shared with anyone who will teach the saving power of our Lord Jesus Christ, pray for our missionaries, and study about the work of missions.

A great concern of mine is turning down the called and committed Christians to the mission field. What is this conflict?

During a recent high school class reunion (1945) I was asked by friends, "Mildred, why have you stayed with Southern Baptists all these years, through all the conflicts and disruptions?" My response was, "Because of the work Southern Baptists are doing in missions."

Being a part of a Cooperative Program that is striving and gaining in sending missionaries "into all the world" is great!

It's exciting to be on the side of the one who said, "and low I will be with you always." Yes, I am a Southern Baptist and

proud of it.

As I've said many times in our church, "When you do something worthwhile, there will always be some problems along the way."

*Mildred Braden*  
WMU director  
Middle Creek Church  
Coalfield 37840

### Supports teachers

Many thanks for your editorial of Sept. 20 on the "wise decision" made by the Tennessee Education Association. It was refreshing to read a report on actions of Tennessee teachers based on fact rather than opinion.

I am a member of both NEA and TEA, and am a Christian. Though I do not agree with all the decisions made by some of those within the membership of the organizations, I choose to remain a member and stand for what our Lord has mandated in the Scriptures. I thank God that other Christian teachers have made the decision to do the same.

Too often teachers in our public school systems are unjustly placed into an all inclusive group, and all labeled with the same label. Tennessee is blessed with many teachers who carry their Christian influence into the classroom daily. I am thankful for the teachers my children have had in Tennessee's public schools, and

the Christian influence they lived before them.

*Dennis L. Livesay*  
Morristown 37814

### Faithful support

I am disappointed in the recent action regarding the election of the president of the TBC executive board. The decades of faithful support by Dr. David George were disregarded. It seems that those voting were interested in punishment and withdrawing fellowship rather than in cooperation and demonstrating Christ's love. We Baptists have come to a sad day. Recovering from littleness and spitefulness certainly appears to be a long way off. May God help us.

*June McEwen*  
Chattanooga 37405

### Action regretted

As members of Immanuel Church, Nashville, we express our concern regarding the report of the defeat of David George, our pastor, in the election of the Tennessee Baptist Executive Board president (*Baptist and Reflector*, Sept. 13, page 1).

Rather than citing a CBF-related meeting in our facilities, it would have been more appropriate for the opposing voices to acknowledge the role our church continues to have in support of all Tennessee Baptist Convention programs and ministries.

Throughout our 108-year-old history, every pastor has encouraged our congregation to be faithful supporters of Baptist freedom and committed to Southern Baptist interests. Dr. George has consistently followed this pattern and has been personally involved in associational, state, and SBC-related committees and boards.

Historically, Immanuel members have been appointed missionaries and trustees of state and SBC entities. Several of our young people have been ordained to the Gospel ministry including, this past week a student at Southern Seminary.

We regret that the pastor of any Tennessee Baptist church who has proven by experience his commitment to service should be denied a significant leadership role because of his and his church's demonstrated respect for Baptist traditions.

*Walton T. Conn*, church clerk  
in Business Session  
Immanuel Church  
Nashville 37205

### Many thanks

I want to share with Tennessee Baptists the great victory our church has just experienced. In our September business meeting the church voted to give 7 percent to the Cooperative Program, and we were already giving 3 percent to Union Association.

Also a word of appreciation to a brother who helped this country preacher back through the years, Bro. Bill Hazelwood. We held revivals from Virginia to Texas, the Lord blessed with souls saved and lives changed. Brother Bill served in many areas, associational missionary, Baptist Student Union director. Most of all, he is a friend and a Christian brother to many preachers, including me.

Any victory that we have, the glory and praise belongs to the Lord, with special thanks to friends like Bro. Bill and Phyllis. These two fellow servants are a great asset to the work of Tennessee Baptists.

Thanks to all of our friends from one end of the state to the other for praying for us.

Thanks also to Brother Archer Thorpe from the TBC coming and sharing with us about the Cooperative Program. He did an excellent job.

*Boyd M. Roberts*, pastor  
Grace Church  
Doyle 38559

## Wilsonville Church celebrates 125th anniversary

For *Baptist and Reflector*

NEWPORT — One thing has been constant on the corner of Cave Church Road and Highway 25/70 near Newport for the past 125 years.

That's where Wilsonville Church was established and still is located today.

In 1870 members of the community just west of Newport met and constructed a log building that would serve as

both a church and school.

In 1911, church members replaced their original building with a more modern frame building. Six years later the building was destroyed by fire. The origin of that fire is still unknown today.

The church has had two other buildings before its present sanctuary was constructed in 1975.

The congregation gathered on Sept. 17 and observed some "Precious Memo-

ries," the theme for the anniversary service.

Pastor Adam Sanders recognized the contributions of members with special presentations during the service.

East Tennessee Association Director of Missions Michael Brooks presented the church a plaque on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society in recognition of its 125 years of ministry in the Newport area. □



**PARTICIPATING** in Wilsonville Church's 125th anniversary were, from left, Jerry Clevenger, master of ceremonies; Pastor Adan: Sanders; East Tennessee Association Director of Missions Michael Brooks; Gene Shoemaker, incoming chairman of deacons; and Bobby Reece, outgoing deacon chairman. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey



**PASTOR ADAM SANDERS**, right, welcomes former pastors, from left, Billy Bush, F.M. Blevins, and Tillman Holt. Blevins preached the Sunday morning message during the anniversary service.

**October is  
Cooperative  
Program  
Month.**

# From Jerusalem to far outposts — CP lifeline

■ one word more  
By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
editor

While Baptists fritter away missions opportunities, ministry needs, and calls to help evangelize the world, the Cooperative Program goes quietly about its business. For how long?

October is designated on the Southern Baptist calendar as Cooperative Program Month. Let's talk about it.

The Cooperative Program does march on, touching lives here and there and everywhere. But without proper interest and concern, without vigilance on the way, the CP can grow weaker and weaker as we approach the 21st century.

The Cooperative Program for seventy years has blessed people around the world. It has enabled the work of Christ, done by Southern Baptists, to be strong and widespread. Ministers, missionaries, and evangelists have not had to forage for support.

As we step into the future, just a blink away from the 21st century, there are more lost people than ever before.

There are more needs at home — and around the world. The percentage of blind and hurting people is increasing daily.

Satan is on the prowl, menacing every move made by the body of Christ.

The Cooperative Program is one of the main lines of support for reaching all the peoples with "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow." It allows Baptists to witness on the cutting edge of

many situations where otherwise we could not go. The CP is, as James L. Sullivan so aptly puts it, a rope of sand with the strength of steel. It is an enabler.

October 29 on our calendar is Great Commission Celebration Sunday. Bold Mission Thrust is a part of that observance, because more than 65 percent of funds channeled by Southern Baptist churches through the CP has been given during the BMT years (beginning in 1976).

All missions and ministries in the state, nation and more than 120 countries depend on the mission support commitments of each Southern Baptist Church.

For those who may not remember the courageous challenges of Bold Mission Thrust, it simply states that Southern Baptists, beginning in 1976, would strive to see that every person in the world has the opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel by A.D. 2000. Looking at reality, we must acknowledge that millions of lost people have died during the past two decades.

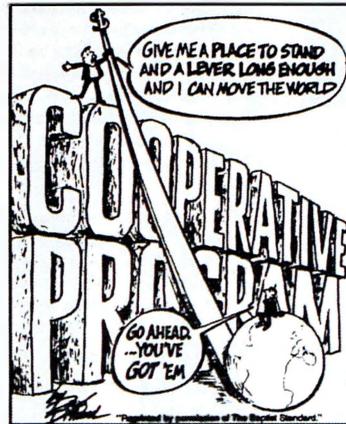
Even so, it is difficult to think of reaching the world without the Cooper-

ative Program.

Southern Baptists cannot afford to repeat the mistakes of the past. We were mistaken in planning to lead the world to Christ without sharing the task with other Christians. We have to get over that attitude, and especially the ostracization of family members.

So as the 21st century stares us in the face, there is business we need to care for before it arrives. We must strengthen our witness. How?

1. Put up the swords and take up tools and plows.
2. Increase CP giving individually and through the church.
3. Pray more and fight less.
4. Accept gifts joyfully from all who want to give.
5. Educate the laity (and ministers) about BMT and the CP.
6. Recognize the leadership of the Holy Spirit in ALL churches, no matter the size.
7. Include other Christian groups in praying planning, going, doing.
8. March to the most distant outposts, beginning at Jerusalem in the name of Christ and his saving grace. □



By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ just for today

By Fred Wood  
pastor emeritus  
Eudora Church, Memphis

## Start with a smile

"This country used to be named Czechoslovakia. Can someone tell me why they changed its name?" Johnny: "Nobody knew how to spell it."

## Take this truth

Do you "run" from something you don't understand? Think what would have happened if Moses had refused to investigate the Burning Bush. The Israelites would have remained in Egypt until God could raise up another leader. Don't be content with half knowledge! Examine! Probe! Inquire!

## Memorize this Scripture

"He who trusts the Lord will prosper ... he who shuts his eyes will have many curses" (Proverbs 27:25b, 27b NASV).

## Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to realize You have many new things to reveal unto me. Help me to be ready for revelations of yourself and your world." □

# How to deal with bulimia

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor

This week we continue consideration of eating disorders by discussing bulimia nervosa.

This disorder is characterized by binge eating where the person is usually aware of his strange eating habits but is afraid that he cannot stop. It usually involves some type of depression or self-depreciation because of this feared inability.

This diagnosis means that the person binges at least twice a week for at least three months. Laxatives, self-induced vomiting, and/or rigorous dieting is often used to compensate for the binge eating. Because of the vomiting, the family dentist is often the first to be aware of the problem because of damage done to the tooth enamel by stomach acids in the vomiting process.

Bulimics often indulge in binge eating which consumes 2,000 to 5,000 calories at a time. This is twice what the normal eater consumes in a day. The binge eating usually focuses on certain types of easily prepared, high-calorie foods such as fast foods and sweets.

While binge eating is a com-

mon occurrence among college-age women, clinically significant bulimic behavior is not, because of two exclusions of the diagnostic criteria. Usually this is not done over extended periods of time. They also do not often combine binge eating with purging.

Bulimics not only experience such strange eating characteristics, they also experience high incidences of depression and anxiety accompanied by coping skills insufficient for dealing with these feelings.

One characteristic is the cognitive override of the "biological" signals the body uses to control diet. Because of the desire to "watch their weight" these individuals develop the cognitive strategy of denying the body's signals of hunger and fullness.

I believe this starts at an early age when parents demand that children clean their plates in order to get dessert. I was socialized very well. I always got a gold star on my

chart in kindergarten and first grade and always got my popsicle. Even now normally I will eat what my wife serves me. If she loads it up, I eat it. If she does not, I don't eat as much. I do not read my body's signals of hunger and fullness well.

Some characteristics:

- Regular binges (large amounts of food eaten over a short period of time).

- Binges often accompanied by regular forced vomiting and/or drugs used to induce vomiting, bowel movements, and urination.

- Despite frequent diet and exercise, individual maintains or regains weight.

- Secret eating.
- Enormous amounts of food eaten at one sitting, with no weight gain.

- Drug or alcohol abuse.
- Swollen neck glands.
- Scars on the back of hands from forced vomiting.

- Increased incidence of cavities due to the loss of tooth enamel from vomiting. □



BARKLEY

## You need a passport

In today's world millions of people travel from nation to nation as a matter of habit.

It is not unusual. We travel for business and pleasure. We travel to visit strange and exotic places, and we travel to see loved ones.

Compared to past years, it's not expensive to travel now, but you have to have a passport if you cross an international boundary.

I recently saw a yellowed copy of the January 6, 1953 edition of the Decatur, Alabama, newspaper. An interesting item informed me

that a man had been traveling back and forth for four months between Macao and Hong Kong — without being allowed to enter either port.

Imagine his predicament. He went across the China Sea hundreds of times, over and over again. But he could not get off the ferry!

Why? Well, he did not have a passport. He had no papers to prove his citizenship.

It was discovered that he had entered the United States with his family as a child — and never got papers. Later he had a brush with legal authorities and fled to the Far East — again without papers.

Now he was "up against it." Neither Portuguese nor British authorities would let him stay.

I don't know how the story ended, but he must have been miserable for at least four months. He became known as the "man without a passport."

The only passport that matters, I think, is the salvation granted by Christ Jesus.

For those who constantly search for peace of mind in every place on earth except the heart of the Savior, there is no passport. Pity!

For those who seek to find salvation in themselves, there is no passport. There is no passport for one who seeks it in wisdom, power, money, authority, honor, fame.

The simplest way to find that peace and joy is often a place of last resorts. Pity!

Christ has a free passport for each one who truly seeks, and his offer still stands. ☺

## Senior adults 'seek the mind of Christ' during retreat



**RECOGNIZED DURING** the TBC Senior Adult Retreat were, from left, Mary and Elsie Allen, First Church, Nashville; Fanny Williams, Meadowview Church, Lawrenceburg; and Marcella Luffman, Eva's Chapel Church Leoma. Mary Allen, who will retire next March, was recognized for 30 years of service with the Tennessee Baptist Convention while her mother, Elsie, 97, was the oldest person at the retreat. Williams and Luffman were sent to the retreat by Lawrence County Association in recognition of their 40 years of service to the association.



**EVEN A YOUNGSTER** was able to enjoy the senior adult outing. From left, Jenni and Molly Spurlock, First Church, Jackson; Ruth Easterly, First Church, Nashville; and Betty Spurlock, seated.



**'UNCLE SAM'** paid a visit thanks to the efforts of J.G. Wise, retired pastor of Woodland Church, Brownsville.

### BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR

Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen, right, meets three Tennessee Baptists who have read the paper for 50 years or longer. From left, Alma Ruth Schrader, First Church, Cleveland, and Mary and Tom Bastin, First Church, Smithville. The Bastins began getting the paper when they were married in 1945. Schrader's father, A.A. Pruett, was a pastor in Chattanooga and she remembers reading the paper as a child.



**JUDSON CHURCH**, Nashville, Pastor Walter Jackson, center, attended the meeting with members Herm and Hazel King, left, and Les and Jannie Baumgartner. Baumgartner and King were recognized for their many years of service with the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Sunday School Board, respectively.

### Annual trek to mountains, Pigeon Forge

Almost 1,000 Tennessee Baptist senior adults flocked to Pigeon Forge Sept. 19-21 for their annual Senior Adult Conference.

The seniors enjoyed the fall changes in color of trees on the mountains, shopping in the outlet malls and craft shops, testing the fresh crop of local apples. But most of all, they said, they appreciated the fellowship and spiritual enrichment.

Meeting in the conference center in downtown Pigeon Forge, the seniors heard Carroll Owen lead four sessions in Bible study. The theme was "Seeking the Mind of Christ ... in the Senior Years." Owen, now retired, was a Tennessee pastor and member of the TBC executive board staff for several years.

The conference was directed by Donald E.

Mauldin, consultant, family ministry, single adults and senior adults, TBC Executive Board.

During the four sessions, conferences were held in several areas: medical, wills and trusts, "how to" for newsletters, exercise, professional leaders, retirement and housing, and volunteer leaders. James Porch, executive director, TBC Executive Board, led a Cooperative Program talk-back session. Mark Caruth, minister of music, Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, led the music.

The Baptist Book Store was open in the foyer, and a crafts area was located there also.

A highlight for the annual meeting is Wednesday's Talent Night. Several seniors performed after the Bible study. As usual, they were well-received. — Wm. Fletcher Allen □



**JOHNNIE HALL** of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Discipleship Training Department visits with Bible study speaker Carroll Owen, left, retired TBC staffer, and Juanell Teter, a member of First Church, Rockwood, who attended with the senior adults from Virginia Avenue Church, Bristol. Teter recited original poetry in the talent show.



**DRIVING ALL THE WAY** from Martin to Pigeon Forge for the meeting were Jim and Aubry Dickenson of Southside Church, where he is minister of senior adults.



**DON MAULDIN**, center, who coordinated the senior adult retreat, talks with Sandra and Robert Lawrence, left, Russwood Church, Springville; Eutis Horton, right center, Morris Hill Church, Chattanooga; and Bill Baker, Woodmont Church, Nashville.



# Partnership Missions NEWSLETTER

Featuring news from Tennessee Baptists' three partnerships — Canada, Poland, Michigan

Partnership Missions Department, TBC; P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024  
Phone (615) 371-2021; FAX (615) 371-2014

## From the director

I want to thank all the volunteers who have served this year through partnership missions. We have had 426 volunteers pay their own way to serve in evangelistic projects in Poland and Canada this year. Since Jan. 2, 793 volunteers have participated in overseas mission projects responding to the call "Come over and help us."

Volunteers continue to respond to the call of Michigan Baptists. We already have had the privilege of working with approximately 500 volunteers.

In a continued effort to provide quality volunteer experiences for Tennessee



SHARP

Baptists, the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention has approved a project relationship with Costa Rica in Central America! This relationship will lend itself to the more traditional type projects that Tennessee Baptists have been involved with in the past. This will continue through this year and next and may lead to a partnership after that.

In Christ,

*Terry*

Terry W. Sharp, Director  
Partnership Missions  
Department

## Couple reminded many lost

By Richard Mann

Melanie and I have often heard missionaries — both long- and short-term — say that some of their greatest blessings came from the way God worked in them through missions opportunities. However, until we recently had the opportunity to travel to Poland through our state's partnership missions program, we had never truly comprehended the depth and truth of those missionaries' statements. God not only works through missionaries, he works in them.

From the moment we heard about our newest partnership, we knew that we would be going. Having been to Poland years earlier while it was still under communist rule, I was excited about seeing the changes. Melanie had never been to Poland, but had heard me talk of it often. We were both excited to see whether the people were open to the message of salvation.

Our arrival in Poland brought a quick answer to that question. Immediately upon arrival, the leader (Jarek Hnidec) of the home church in which we were to work asked us, "How are we best going to use these English lessons to reach out to people with the Gospel?" His zeal for sharing Christ was only the first glimpse we were to see of the fire burning in the hearts of our Christian brothers and sisters in Poland. They realize that now is the time to reach their country for Christ.

As our English sessions began, Melanie and I also recognized the openness of the Polish people to the Gospel. We had decided to end each evening with a Bible study which included an evangelistic emphasis. It was decided that since everyone who attended would know that the English lessons were being provided through a church, the Bible study would be considered part of the lessons. Thus, all would be expected to stay.

None of those who attended ever asked about leaving. By the end of the week, that Bible



RELAXING DURING THEIR VISIT are, from left, Jarek Hnidec, church leader, Krysho, his wife, Melanie and Richard Mann and Jakoba Hnidec.

study had also become a special time of praise and fellowship. While we were not to see any public professions of faith during our visit, we rejoiced that many of them already knew the Lord, and we know that God strongly worked in the hearts of those who did not.

With our return to the states, we both began to recognize the ways in which God worked in us. We found ourselves looking for the same zeal in our Christian brothers and sisters here in the states that we saw in Poland, but the first place we had to look was within.

The Lord used this trip to remind us that there are still millions of people who do not know him. It had become too easy to think that since our little corner of the world appeared to be doing all right, the job was done. Ignorance of the work to be done around us easily gave way to excuses and complacency.

Now, our view of that work has changed drastically. Whether through the music ministry at church or the lessons Melanie and I teach at school, we realize someone needs to hear about Jesus, and we keep hearing Jarek ask, "How are we best going to reach out to the people with the Gospel?" □ — Mann is bivocational minister of music and director of children's ministries, Malesus Church, Jackson

## Volunteers needed for new project in Costa Rica

As mentioned in the Director's column, Costa Rica has been accepted as a project of Tennessee Baptists in view of a possible partnership with that country. Three requests — the first an emergency — already have arrived and follow. Approximate costs per person for these projects is \$1,100.

Project: Construction

Team Needed: 20

Date: Oct. 14-28 or Oct. 21-Nov. 4

Place: San Jose

The most urgent need is for restrooms to be built in the gym building at the Baptist camp. The camp needs to be ready for the Second Regional Encounter of Mexico, Central America, and Panama, a conference for pastors/leaders the last week of November. About 250 people are expected to attend and the camp capacity is only 122.

Project: Construction

Team Needed: 8

Date: Flexible (Nov. 5-19)

Place: San Jose

The Belen Baptist Church in the Hatillo community is building its educational building and hopes to be ready to put on the roof by the first of November and needs some help. The roof will be steel supports with a tin roof. Need one person with welding experience.

Project: Construction

Team Needed: 2 teams of 7 each

Date: April or May for two weeks

Place: San Jose

The San Juan de Dios Baptist Church needs help to build its sanctuary. It has the downstairs walls, columns, and overhead steel beams in place.

## 1996 Volunteer Interest Form

If you are interested in participating in a partnership project for 1996, please complete this form and return it to our office: Tennessee Baptist Convention, Partnership Missions Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

Please check ONE of the following areas where you could serve:

\_\_\_ Canada \_\_\_ Michigan \_\_\_ Poland

Type of project you would like to be involved in \_\_\_\_\_

Date you would like to serve \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated number on team \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Tennessee Baptists:

It is the best strategy in the world for missions promotion. Many of us Baptists are far more gray than we once were. Many of us learned about the Cooperative Program in 1925 and have been committed to our local church, our denomination, and our missions since that time.

Others of us who are younger do not understand and have not made those commitments. Some people honestly do not know about the Cooperative Program. How can they know of its significance to the total Southern Baptist mission effort? Here is one example. In July 1992, we took a group (from Virginia) to Mexico City and saw poverty conditions unimaginable and indescribable. This year, we took a group (Lawrenceburg) to Michigan. We assisted a church with heart and hope, but few resources. In the two groups there were a total of 24 persons.

There are now 24 persons that I will never have to teach the concept of the Cooperative Program again. They learned with first-hand, hands-on experience.

Involve yourself and your church in partnership missions. It will make a difference in the places you go and in your home church!

*Rev. Patric Fife, pastor  
Immanuel Baptist Church  
Lawrenceburg*

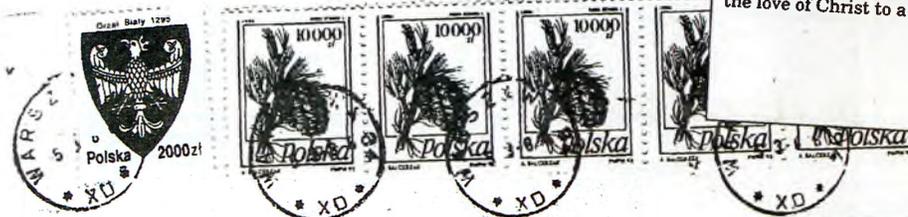
Dear Tennessee Baptists:

The Tennessee/Canada Baptist Partnership has been a great help to our church both in terms of ministering to our people and in helping us to reach out to our community and city. Our revival services led by Kim Allen, Bill Morris, and Renita DeMalade of Little West Fork Baptist Church, Clarksville, were just that — a true revival. Our people have captured a new vision of how they can be a part of the Great Commission in our city and province. While it may seem small by human standards, we have had several significant decisions as a result of that week of revival. I think, too, that the people of Little West Fork have recognized a greater understanding of their own role in worldwide ministry. They have been able to put a name and face to their mission outside Clarksville. Their gifts and prayers have significantly touched the lives of my family and our entire congregation.

The building team from First Baptist Church, Nashville, moved us significantly ahead with our planned renovations and improvements. Their positive attitudes during some difficult circumstances and their hard work allowed them to complete a large part of the task. The team, Cecil and Ethelene Palmer, Clayton and Frances Jeanette, Bob Jones, and E.J. Vidrine, will allow our weekday daycare ministry to continue to the community and provide renovated space for fellowships as well as improved space for the worship activities of our Korean-language mission.

The partnership has helped our congregation to know that we have caring brothers and sisters who, like the early church at Macedonia, deeply desire to aid us in our work and have given liberally of their time and money to see Christ lifted up in Canada. We are looking forward as we continue to serve together with you in proclaiming the love of Christ to a hungry and searching world.

*David Maltsberger, pastor  
Westlynn Baptist Church  
North Vancouver, BC, Canada*



POSING BY THE SIGN OF Victory Church, Portage, Mich., where they worked this summer, is the 30-member group from Unity Church, Maryville. The Tennesseans led three Backyard Bible Clubs and two worship services. Others did repairs and built a ramp at the church. As a result of their efforts, three young people made salvation decisions.



Dear Tennessee Baptists:

It was a blessing to move beyond our "Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria" and go to the "uttermost part of the earth" and see what God is doing among his children in another part of his vineyard.

*Dr. Mike Young, pastor  
Salem Baptist Church, Dayton*

Dear Tennessee Baptists:

It was a very rewarding trip. It was great to see and be involved in the work that God is doing in other parts of the world. It was a blessing to work with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

*Louise Barnes*

Dear Tennessee Baptists:

This was a wonderful experience. Having been raised in the South with churches one or two miles apart, I was impressed by Canadian Christians that travel many miles to attend church. The fellowship and friendship of these Christian friends was overwhelming. It made me appreciate the opportunity that we have here that we just take for granted.

*Pauline Housley  
Salem Baptist Church, Dayton*

# ■ The Macedonian Call

Dear Tennessee Baptists:

I count our trip to Poland a success because people heard the good news of Jesus Christ and some were saved. The young people of Poland can be reached for Christ. We must do it now because of the unstable environment.

*Larry Kirkland  
Union Fork Creek Church,  
Loudon*

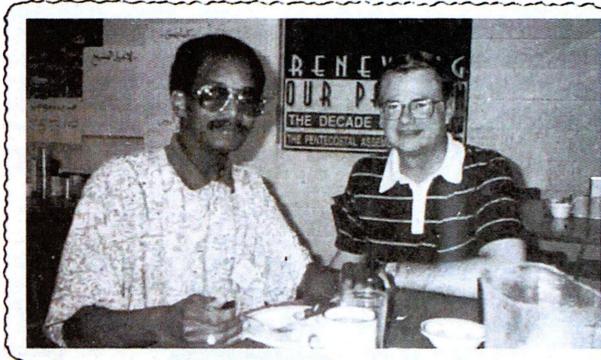


SINGING ON A STREET IN RADOM, POLAND, to make friends are, from left, Bob Gamble, Shelby Lord, and Gay Nelle Rayder of Lenoir City, Larry Kirkland of Loudon and Margo Robbins of Byrdstown.

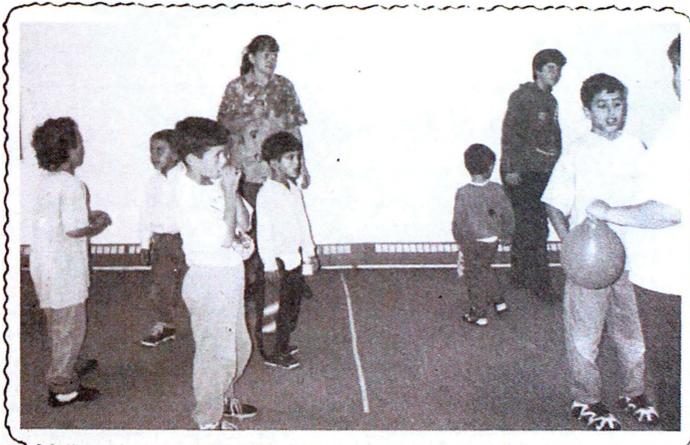
## Leading youth leaders at Arabic Baptist Conference in Calvary, Canada



**CUDDLING A NEW FRIEND** made at the conference is Liz Stevens, who taught a session on leading preschoolers at church.



**PASTOR OF THE ARABIC CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH** in Calvary, Wagdi Iskander, left, visits with Tommy Stevens, pastor, Meadow View Church, Lawrenceburg, over breakfast during the conference.



**PREPARING TO LEAD A GAME** for children attending the conference is Cyndi Shults, center, from Highland Park Church, Lawrenceburg. Other team members were Tony Shults of Highland Park Church; Wayne and Sandra Stevens, Trinity Church, Southaven, Miss.; and Tommy and Liz Stevens, Meadow View Church, Lawrenceburg.



# ■ The Macedonian Call Partnership opportunities

## Michigan

**Date: Spring/Summer**  
Project: Landscaping/Music/Repairs  
Place: St. Joseph (Niles Avenue Church)  
Team Needed: Open

**Date: July 1996**  
Project: Vacation Bible School  
Place: Madison Heights  
Team Needed: Open

**Date: July/August**  
Project: Beach Ministry  
Place: St. Joseph  
Team Needed: Open

**Date: July 15 - Sept. 15**  
Project: BYBC/Puppetry/witnessing  
Place: Detroit  
Team Needed: 4-5

**Date: Summer 1996**  
Project: New Roof  
Place: Clio  
Team Needed: Open

**Date: Summer 1996**  
Project: VBS/Construction (new auditorium)  
Place: Cadillac (Evergreen Church)

Team Needed: Open  
**Date: Fall 1996**  
Project: Leadership training  
Place: Marquette (First Church)  
Team Needed: Open

**Date: Summer 1996**  
Project: VBS/BYBC  
Place: Kalamazoo (Victory Church)  
Team Needed: 30

**Date: Open 1996**  
Project: BYBC/VBS/Survey  
Place: Centerline  
Team Needed: Open

**Date: Open 1996**  
Project: Evangelist Outreach  
Place: Charlevoix (Safe Harbor Church)  
Team Needed: Open

## Poland

**Date: Open**  
Project: Landscaping  
Place: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw  
Team Needed: Open  
Project #: PM11995402

**Date: Open**  
Project: Businessmen/women meetings  
Place: Warsaw  
Team Needed: 1-2  
Project#: PM11995464

**Date: Open**  
Project: Construction (sidewalk system)  
Place: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw  
Team Needed: 6-8  
Project#: PM11995403

**Date: June 30 - July 13, 1996**  
Project: Construction/Evangelism (new chapel)  
Place: Warsaw  
Team Needed: 10-12  
Project#: PM11996478

**Date: July 1996**  
Project: English Course  
Place: Zelow  
Team Needed: 2-4  
Project #: PM11996477

**Date: September/October 1996**  
Project: Assist local church in all ministries  
Place: Gizycko  
Team Needed: 1-2

## Canada

**Date: Nov. 24-27**  
Project: Discipleship Workshop (ASL)  
Place: Cochrane, AB (Calgary Baptist Deaf Fellowship)  
Team Needed: Open  
Project#: PM11996614

**Date: Open 1996**  
Project: Church Planting/Survey  
Place: Winnipeg  
Team Needed: Open  
Project#: FPIVS95616

**Date: Open 1995/96**  
Project: ESL Teacher  
Place: Vancouver, BC (Gladstone Church)  
Team Needed: 1-2  
Project#: FPIVS95607

**Date: July 14-21**  
Project: Evangelism  
Place: Edmonton, Alberta (Crossroads Church)  
Team Needed: Open  
Project#: PM11996610

**Date: July 1996**  
Project: VBS and teaching team

Place: Winnipeg, MN (River South Church)  
Team Needed: Open  
Project#: PM11996612

**Date: July 20-27**  
Project: VBS/BYBC  
Place: Edmonton, Alberta (Crossroads Church)  
Team Needed: Open  
Project#: PM11996614

**Date: Summer 1996**  
Project: Construction (re-roof auditorium)  
Place: Delta, BC (Royal Heights Church)  
Team Needed: 4-6  
Project#: PM11996660

**Date: July/August**  
Project: Outreach  
Place: Enderby, BC (Mountain View Church)  
Team Needed: Open  
Project#: PM11996613

**Date: Oct. 10-20**  
Project: Revival  
Place: Cochrane, AB (Calgary Baptist Deaf Fellowship)  
Team Needed: 1-2  
Project#: PM11996607

## Eyeglasses needed

If you have old eyeglasses that you would like to donate to missions, please send them to our office. These glasses will be used on medical missions trips.



## It was 'a joy'

As of Sept. 20, I began serving as Administrative Assistant in the Discipleship Training Department. I wanted to share with you what a joy it has been to work with so many wonderful people in Tennessee through volunteer missions. Tennesseans definitely have a missions heart and that was very evident to me these past months.

I am looking forward to working with Tennessee Baptists in my new area of responsibility.

Leanne Robbins

## Will You Be a Prayer Partner?

Will you commit to pray daily for our partnerships with Poland, Canada, and Michigan? As a prayer partner you will receive monthly prayer requests and a quarterly newsletter just for prayer partners.

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please complete the form below and return it to the Partnership Missions Department, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024, or FAX it to (615) 371-2014.

### Prayer Partner

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Association \_\_\_\_\_

## Daily Partnership Prayer Requests

### October

- 7 — Praise that Arabic Evangelical Baptist Church of Ottawa, Canada, has asked to become a member of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists.
- 8 — Praise for all people who served in Poland this year.
- 9 — Pray for Mountain View Christian Fellowship in Canada, which started Sept. 10. The church has had more than 30 unchurched or new Christians attend over the past weeks.
- 10 — Praise that the Lord answered prayers for the building teams who assisted in the work at the Migrant Outreach Center, Good Samaritan Baptist Church, Lawrence, Mich.
- 11 — Pray for the Baptist Student Ministries team being developed for the summer of 1996 in Western Canada.
- 12 — Pray for the Polish Convention as they meet Oct. 12-15 in Warsaw and for the election of new Executive Board leadership.
- 13 — Pray for the meetings of associations in Canada this fall.



# Holston Association returns to Romania for youth camp

For Baptist and Reflector

For a fourth year Holston Association funded a youth camp in Romania and Tennesseans led it for the third year. The five-member team worked with 121 Romanian youth and their adult leaders July 24 - Aug. 1. And the team is already making plans to return.

Tal Thompson, director of missions, Holston Association, reported the campers, who were members of Baptist churches, had to travel by train to the camp, some as long as 15 hours. The event was held at facilities owned by the Romanian Christian Baptist Union high in the "beautiful," added Thomp-



**VISITING WITH MIKE AND KATHY KEMPER, left, formerly of Waynesboro where he was pastor of Green River Church, are Amy Sams, right, and Liz Thompson. The Kempers are missionaries based in Bucharest.**

son, Carpathian Mountains at Bradatel, Romania.

Activities included Bible study based on *Experiencing God*, led by Liz Thompson, a member of First Church, Bluff City. Steve Davis, minister of mu-



**STEVE DAVIS of Bluff City pauses while directing a camp choir of Romanian youth performing at the Baptist church in nearby Hateg.**

sic at the Bluff City church, organized a camp choir and drama group, which performed. Others in the Tennessee team were Amy Sams, a youth from New Life Church, Bluff City; Frank Blevins, pastor, First Church, Bluff City; and Tal Thompson. The camp was directed by Daniel

Fodorean, pastor, Second Church, Constanta, Romania.

Holston Association church members, including youth, raised about \$5,000 to fund the camp. These gifts were in addition to those given to fund the trip of the team members. □

## Missions efforts of John, Helen Tullock come full circle

For Baptist and Reflector

**DELANO** — When John and Helen Tullock of Delano received a letter from I.M.D. Okpara of Nashville, they weren't surprised. They had a relationship which spanned 20 years. Then they learned that their missions efforts had come full circle.

It began when the Tullocks served in Nigeria for a year in 1975-76 while he was professor of Old Testament at Belmont University, Nashville. They met Okpara, who was a student at the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary in Ogbomosh. The couple was so impressed by Okpara and his fellow students they established a scholarship for them at Belmont when they returned to the United States. Eventually Okpara and his wife studied at Belmont, benefiting from the Tullock scholarship.

Now the Okparas have established the John and Helen Tullock Scholarship at the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary for students from any of Nigeria's foreign mission fields. It will be awarded for the first time on the 20th anniversary of the beginning of their friendship — August 1996.

The Tullocks were honored, they told the *Baptist and Reflector*. "To a student in Africa it will be worth an awfully lot," said Mrs. Tullock. They reported Okpara, who is in the U.S. without his family working at the American Baptist College in Nashville, will return home soon, where he works at the seminary. Now the Tullocks, who retired to Delano after John served 32 years at Belmont, hope they can help a child of the Okparas, Victoria, who has been trying to get a visa so she can study at Belmont University. □ — Connie Davis

## Whitesburg church celebrates 210 years

For Baptist and Reflector

**WHITESBURG** — The second oldest church in the state celebrated its history with a Homecoming on Aug. 6.

That history includes members such as Davy Crockett's mother when it was known as Bent Creek Church. Other members were the Scotch-Irish, English, and German settlers of the Whitesburg area. Many of the church's members fought in the War for Independence.

The history of the church is the oldest record available for Jefferson and Hamblen counties.

The first meetings of the church were in homes. Then the church services were moved to the banks of Bent Creek under a large elm

tree with a 100-foot limb spread. A gavel used by Nolachucky Association is made from the wood of that tree.

In 1810, two acres of land were given by a member to the congregation for a church building and graveyard. The graveyard, which was the first public burying ground in the area and still stands, is known as Bent Creek Cemetery. It is still maintained as a free burying ground.

At that site hand-hewn logs were used for the walls and heart of pine shingles made up the roof. The building was so sturdy it was used for 77 years. During that time the Nolachucky Association was organized there and the Civil War was fought.

The minutes of the church record

this note: "From September 1862 to the fall of 1865 during the Civil War, the church met quite irregular and little business. While the war continued, our pastor preached for soldiers of both armies, Federal and Rebel."

Some of the casualties of the war are buried in the church cemetery.

Another building built by the church in 1872 still stands in Whitesburg and is used by the fraternal organization, the Masons.

To honor the church, in the 1920s the Tennessee Baptist Convention helped erect a monument to honor Tidence Lane, the first pastor of the church, at his gravesite located on Whitesburg Pike.

The current pastor of the church is Leroy Davis. □

## Belvidere church celebrates centennial

For Baptist and Reflector

**BELVIDERE** — On Sept. 10 the Lexie Cross Roads Church, Belvidere, observed its centennial anniversary.

Members were led to recall its history. About a month after the congregation was formed, it bought a schoolhouse for \$100. And a month later the first pastor was called. His salary was \$50 per year and that "was subscribed (collected) in less than five minutes," according to the history.

The land where the church stands today was given by John Steelman in 1898.

The church has a tradition of helping fund charities, it was reported. "Every year, money is sent to help an orphanage. In 1913 two quilts were made by the ladies of the church and raffled for the cause." Members of Lexie Cross Roads also have given money to help rebuild two churches which were destroyed by storms.

"With prayer and the help of God and our members, the next 100 years will be as good as the last," it was reported. □



**PAUSING AFTER RECEIVING A PLAQUE** from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Association presented by Joe Mayberry, left, director of missions, William Carey Association, are Herbert Maxwell, pastor, and Leo Smith, a former pastor of Belvidere.

# Copyright violations common in churches, but still illegal

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Copyright violations are both unethical and common in Southern Baptist churches, according to leaders who work in music and legal concerns for Baptist organizations.

"In my experience with many Alabama Baptist churches, a lot of music libraries contain copies of photocopied music," said Keith Hibbs, associate director of the Alabama Baptist State Convention church music department.

Hibbs said some church members believe they are safe in copying music, as long as it is not for the purpose of selling it.

"It does not matter whether the intended use is resale," Hibbs said. "It is still illegal."

Jim Cordell, church music director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said he also sees "a lot of violations" and — in some cases — entire music libraries have been created from photocopied music.

"Most of these violations are not intentional," Cordell added. "Some churches just don't know."

However, Cordell said he suspects some music leaders in small churches don't want to be told what they're doing is wrong.

"They want to consider themselves the exception to the rule. They have tight budgets, and they have the idea that if someone writes for God or for the church, it should be free," he noted.

Consequently, these people tend to ignore the fact that Christian songwriting is a livelihood for many musicians, Cordell said, adding that "while the word 'stealing' seems a little strong, that's really what it is."

Larry Cannon, a legal consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board, agreed. "The only difference between photocopied music and shoplifting music out of a music store is that you're not getting the white piece of paper the music is printed on in the store."

"Some people who wouldn't think about walking into a bookstore and stealing a sheet of music are doing basically the same thing anyway," noted Cannon, who is an attorney.

"It's not only the music publishers, such as the Sunday School Board, which suffer but the composers as well," Cannon said.

How can a church know whether it is violating copyright law? A rule of thumb, Cordell suggested, is to ask, "Am I copying to avoid buying the music?"

A brochure produced by the Music Publishers Association offers a brief definition of copyright laws: "The U.S. copyright law is designed to encourage the development of the arts and sciences by protecting the work of the creative individuals in our society — composers, authors, poets, dramatists, choreographers, and others."

The brochure also notes that "copyright owners have every right to prosecute offenders under the U.S. copyright law."

Infringements of the law include any kind of copying without permission, such as:

- copying to avoid purchase.
- copying music for any kind of performance, rehearsal, or congregational singing.
- copying to create anthologies, compilations, or other collections.

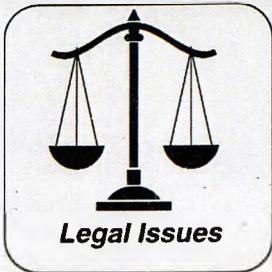
Some music publishers now work to-

gether to offer licenses for churches to reproduce music. While these do not permit choir directors to purchase one anthem and make 20 photocopies, they do permit restricted reprinting.

One such organization is Christian Copyright Licensing International of Portland, Ore. CCLI serves as a clearinghouse for most major Christian music publishers, including the Sunday School Board, Lillenas, Stamps-Baxter, Word, and more than 1,600 other publishers and publishing houses.

A small annual fee to CCLI registers a church or organization with a license number and allows the church to reprint music for congregational singing through printing songs in bulletins, programs, song sheets, and other forms. The license does not permit copying for choir performances, ensembles, soloists, and instrumental performances.

The membership for CCLI is based on regular combined attendance at a church's main services. For example, a church with 200 or less in attendance would be required to pay \$145. A church with 1,500-2,900 would pay \$390. For information, CCLI may be contacted at (800) 234-2446. □ — Based on reporting by Keith Hinson and Melanie Childers.



# Churches can take precautions to prevent abuse, lawsuits

Baptist Press

OWENSBORO, Ky. — Churches must take all the precautions they can to reduce their vulnerability to criminal predators such as child molesters and to criminal opportunists looking for an easy lawsuit to file, according to Mary Sells, minister to children at Highview Church, Louisville, Ky.

Sells led a session on "Legal Issues in the Ministry to Preschoolers and Children" during a recent event at First Church, Owensboro.

Sells cited three reasons churches are vulnerable.

- (1) The church exists as a community of trust.
- (2) Most churches are "ignorant of the facts" of abuse and "are not aware of what's going on in the real world."
- (3) Most churches lack appropriate safeguards, because they never have thought about what is the best way to ensure safety and security for children in their care.

Increased attention to legal liability has caused most businesses and organizations in American society to be more

careful and cautious, Sells noted. "There's not any organization left that's vulnerable — except the church."

This creates the perfect environment both for the abusive adult and for the person looking to level false claims and file a quick lawsuit, Sells said. She urged churches to "take all the precautions you can" to prevent either problem.



The best advice is to create situations where abuse cannot easily happen and where false claims cannot easily be made, she said.

Suggestions offered by Sells and others included:

- Implement some form of child claim-check program, so that only the parent who drops off the child can pick up that child.
- Maintain a roster of all children present in each classroom every day, and in case of fire or other hazard, make sure the teacher carries the list out to double-check the head count.
- Place maps in each classroom showing how to exit the building in case of a fire, and instruct all teachers on how to

get the children out of the building.

- Know where you can locate a doctor or nurse at all times.
- Keep a first aid kit on hand in an accessible location.
- Never leave one worker alone with children or youth, both for the protection of the children and of the worker.
- Don't allow anyone to be a teacher in children's classes

until he or she has been a church member at least six months.

- Develop screening forms for hired staff and volunteers in the children's area. Ask pertinent questions of all workers, and be willing to verify a newcomer's character with his or her previous church.
- Install interior windows or glass doors between class-

rooms and other open areas.

- Avoid creating obscure nooks and crannies or out-of-the-way classrooms where abuse could be perpetrated or alleged without possibility of a witness.
- Develop permission forms for parents to sign when church groups take children away from the building or on overnight trips. □

# Expert: churches not safe from lawsuits

Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Warning about the legal risks of sexual misconduct that churches face, church liability expert Richard Hammar emphasized, "We live in a different day today than in the past."

Hammar, an attorney, accountant, and author specializing in legal and tax issues affecting churches and clergy, was the featured speaker during a statewide "Risk Management Seminar" held recently at Immanuel Church, Little Rock.

"Twenty years ago people never even considered suing a church," Hammar explained. "That is simply not a safe assumption anymore. People are increasingly suing churches and we need to take affirmative steps to respond to those risks."

Highlighting "three trends for the 1990s" in preparing to respond to church liability issues, Hammar cited the "increase in litigation involving churches."

Noting an overall increase in litigation in the United States, Hammar said the main rea-

son for the increase is the size of the nation's legal profession. "There are 865,000 legal attorneys. We have 27 times more attorneys per capita than Japan and 20 times of any country in the Western Hemisphere," he said.

He cited increased regulation of churches by government as the second trend and an increase in child molestation as the third.

"The No. 1 risk that we are going to be talking about today is child abuse and child molestation occurring in the church," he said. "People ask me, 'Is this something that is just being reported more?'"

The answer to that is absolutely not. The numbers of children being molested today are significantly higher than they have been in the past."

Hammar said most successful lawsuits against churches are for negligence, usually the "negligent selection or retention of a worker or supervision of the worker."

Hammar noted churches are not "guarantors of the safety of children" but they "are held to a standard of reasonable care." □

## ■ the leaders

■ Charlotte Road Church, Nashville, has called **Barry Smith** of Pegram as youth minister, effective Sept. 17. He is a student at Belmont University, Nashville.

■ **John Blevins**, pastor of Broadview Church, Winchester, for 15 years, has been called as pastor of First Church, Gainesboro, effective Oct. 22.

■ **Robert J. Bean** of Albuquerque, N.M., has been called as minister of music, Trinity Church, Cordova. He has served churches in Albuquerque, South Carolina, and Texas. Bean is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

■ Rocky Valley Church, Lebanon, has called **Mike**

**Thomas**, pastor, Morning-side Church, Huntsville, Ala., as pastor. He has served churches in Alabama for 24 years and is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **W.F. Miller**, minister for over 40 years who is a member of Fairview Church, Obion, is available for pulpit supply or leading a small church. He can be contacted at (901) 536-0630 or P.O. Box 351, Obion, Tenn. 38240.

■ **J.B. Miller** has been called as bivocational pastor of



**POSING DURING THEIR TRIP TO MEXICO** is the youth group of Tri County Church, White House. The 19-member team used a Backyard Bible Club format to reach Mexican youth and children. The team worked with 87 at a church in Villa Fuente and 31 at an orphanage in Casa Horga, resulting in one person making a profession of faith. Some translation was provided by youth from Eagle Pass, Texas. The Tennesseans left gifts of food and money to help the orphanage.

Peytonsville Church, Peytonsville. The church also has plans to change its name to First Church, Peytonsville.

■ **Reed Wright**, pastor, Maple Street Church, Cleveland, has been called as associate pastor and director of senior adults, Central Church, Hixson. His last Sunday at the Cleveland church is Sept. 24. Wright has served as a pastor for 36 years.

■ **Herschel Spivey**, part-time music director, Morris Hill Church, Chattanooga, has resigned to serve churches as interim or supply worker and to spend more time in his travel business — STI Travel. His last day is Oct. 8. Spivey has served churches in Florida, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee for 44 years. He also is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

## ■ the churches

■ **Speedway Terrace Church, Memphis**, will hold "A Day for the Lord" Oct. 8 with the theme, "Reaching Forth." Activities include an extended morning worship service, a love offering for missions, and a luncheon.

■ **Hickory Hills Church, Mount Juliet**, will hold its annual fall revival Oct. 15-19. Terry Wilkerson, staff evangelist, Alta Loma Church, Madison, will speak. Tim and Amy Wuester of Gallatin will serve as worship and praise leaders. Special activities for youth will be held Oct. 17 and for families on Oct. 18.

■ On Sept. 24 **Range Hills Church, Memphis**, celebrated its 35th anniversary. The theme was "Range Hills Round-Up." Twelve of the 81 charter members were present along with Richard Panis, pas-



**LEADERS OF GRACE CHURCH, DOYLE**, from left, Horace Prater, Bob Prater, and Boyd M. Roberts, pastor, present the church's first gift to the Cooperative Program to Ray Maynard, director of missions, Union Association. The church joined the association four years ago.

tor emeritus, and Sidney Waits, former interim pastor.

■ **Central Church, Chattanooga**, will host a Woman's Christmas Seminar Nov. 4 from 9:30 a.m. — noon. The theme is "Preparing Heart and Home for Jesus' Birthday Celebration." It will be led by Mardi Bass of Macon, Ga.

■ **Bethel Church, Harri-**

man, held a 50th anniversary celebration Sept. 24.

■ **Southside Church, Johnson City**, held revival which resulted in seven people making professions of faith and many others making other decisions. Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld, evangelist of Gleason, spoke.



**TENNESSEANS SERVING** on the Southern Baptist Association of Ministries with the Aging include, from left, Don Mauldin, Tennessee Baptist Convention; Bill Howse, Home Mission Board; and Greg McNeece, Baptist Sunday School Board. The association, which includes those who serve on church staffs and in associations, state conventions, SBC agencies, educational institutions, and government and community agencies, met recently at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

# Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

## An indescribable gift

By Melody Kidd, minister of children and preschool  
South Knoxville Church, Knoxville

Have you ever received a gift from a child, maybe your own child, which was "indescribable?" Let me tell you of the indescribable gifts I have received.

One little boy gave me a dead cricket glued to this handmade card which read, "I'm stuck on you, Miss Melody."

A four-year-old girl gave me a drawing. I couldn't describe what the drawing meant, so I asked. She said, "It's a picture of you, Miss Melody!"

Yes, in working with children we receive many indescribable gifts.

In II Corinthians 9:15 Paul writes: "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" This verse strikes a key note in the heart of this believer.

In this verse I hear Paul writing a short hymn of praise. I sense his gratitude for God's gift. In one short verse we are taken from the theology of giving to the doxology of grace. Let's look at the three stanzas of this hymn of praise.

**The Gracious Giver of the Gift.** The affection of the giver is grand. God's gift is given solely and exclusively because he loves us. He is no merchant who sells his gift, or a peddler who barter his gift. God's gift is freely given.

A gift requires three things: a giver, a gift, and a recipient. The giver is God; the gift is Jesus Christ, God's Son; and the recipient is a person exercising saving faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

The awareness of the giver is merciful. God's gift perfectly fits the nature and need of the one to whom it is given — me. His gift is given solely because he loves us! God is too rich to

sell it! God's gift reflects his unique awareness of our need.

**The Glorious Gift itself.** Notice that it is a gift — not a purchase, or a reward, or a thing of merit. Some gifts we receive are unsuitable. But this gift is simply unspeakable and filled with grace, mercy, love, goodness, and glory. Once again I must pause for praise and thank God for his gracious gift! Praise the Lord!

In I Peter 1:8 we read: "Joy unspeakable and full of glory." In this verse the word implies inexpressibility. This gracious gift is something that cannot be fully expounded, and is beyond human understanding.

**The Glad Gratitude with which we should respond to the Gift.** We must think of the gift. Thinking precedes thanking. To think of the gift (eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord) is to thank God and praise him for his greatness and grace!

We must take the gift. No person is

grateful for that which he has refused to receive. We must receive this indescribable gift. God graciously gives this gift, but we must accept this gift.

We must thank God for the gift. We could never thank God enough. His gift is indescribable. Remember, thanksgiving is "thanksgiving!" It is more a lifestyle than mere lip service.

We must trust God with our total lives. True gratitude is never clothed in suspicion. It is utter abandonment and trust.

We must tell others of this indescribable gift. Andrew told his brother; the woman at the well told the people of her city; Philip told the Eunuch from Ethiopia.

I have received many gifts from many individuals, but none so precious as the gracious giver (God) giving the glorious gift (Jesus Christ) to a grateful sinner as myself. Thanks, God, for giving! □

an  
**occasional word**  
By Lonnie Wilkey,  
associate editor

## Milestones

September was a month of milestones for two members of the Wilkey family.

My daughter Joanna turned 10 years old. It is so hard to image that a decade has gone by since she was born. A great deal has happened in her life and the world during the past 10 years. She had relatives who fought in the Gulf War. Joanna has seen new life come into the world (her brother Daniel); she has experienced the death of a loved one (her grandmother); and so much more.

Plus, she has already made the most important decision of her life — accepting Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior.

While I have often written about Joanna and Daniel, I have been negligent in writing about the other member of the Wilkey clan — my wife Joyce.

Joyce also celebrated a milestone in September. She began the first year of her fourth decade of life (that's a tactful and polite way of saying she turned 40).

Also, we recently celebrated our 14th wedding anniversary. And while that is far from being any sort of record, it is an accomplishment considering all the failed marriages we see and read about every day.

God blessed me with a wonderful wife. She has the patience of Job, which some would say she really needs since she has to "put up" with me all the time.

But she has done much more than simply "put up" with me, however. She has been a partner in my ministry as a Christian journalist.

And, though there have been some tough times over the years we have a stronger marriage and deeper love for each other than ever before.

Together we are working hard to be the best Christian parents we can be.

Joyce and Joanna are the two most important "girls" in my life. Each is special.

Hopefully, Joanna and Daniel one day will remember their childhood and thank the Lord for the mother (and dad) they had. The greatest compliment Joanna could hope to receive would be, "You're just like your mother." □



WILKEY

# S.C. editor to retire after 30 years on job

Baptist Press

GREENVILLE, S.C. — John E. Roberts has announced he will retire Feb. 29, 1996, as editor of the *Baptist Courier*.

Roberts will complete 30 years as editor on his projected retirement date, a longer tenure than any of the previous eight *Courier* editors and the longest among current Baptist state paper editors.

The *Baptist Courier* has had unprecedented growth during Roberts' 30 years as editor. Circulation has doubled, an office building was erected, and the paper has won several awards for news and editorial writing. From a negative cash balance, the *Courier's* assets have grown to \$4 million, including more than \$2 million

in endowment.

"These were my announced goals when I became editor," Roberts said upon announcing his retirement to the paper's trustees Sept. 15. He said he was surprised they were reached early in his administration.

After the *Courier's* 7,000-square-foot office building was erected in two phases in 1968 and 1979, Roberts broadened his interests.

He was president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention in 1980, the only Baptist editor in the nation to hold such office in at least 40 years.



ROBERTS

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He was a trustee of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, serving as chairman in 1984-85. He currently is on the board of trustees for Gardner-Webb University, a North Carolina Baptist school.

Roberts praised three groups for what they have done for the publication — the staff, trustees, and South Carolina Baptists. The *Baptist Courier* is the third largest of Baptist state papers with a circulation of nearly 109,000.

*Baptist and Reflector* Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen served as associate editor of the *Courier* for 17 of Roberts' 30 years as editor. □

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## Two CML regional clinics scheduled during October

Two Fall Regional Clinics are planned this month by the TBC Church Media Library/Recreation Department.

The first will be held Oct. 6-7, at Westwood Church, Cleveland, while the second one is set for Oct. 20-21 at Camp Carson in Newport.

The weekend workshops are designed to offer church librarians in-depth training and up-to-date resources in all aspects of the church media library ministry.

For more information, call (615) 371-2033. □

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**Life and Work Series  
for October 8  
Focal Passages:  
Galatians 6:1-10**

## Relating to other Christians

By Charles Parker

Someone once said, "I love mankind; it's people I can't stand!" Even Christians will occasionally have trouble relating in a spiritually healthy way to other Christians. It was because of this fact and because of his intimate knowledge of everyday church life that the Apostle Paul penned the eminently practical words of Galatians 6. Not only is the church the body of Christ, as described in I Corinthians 12, it is also a family of faith. Paul urged the troubled Christians of Galatia to "do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (v. 10).

How do we relate to other Christians in a Christian way? First of all, if a fellow Christian is overtaken in sin, we restore him or her kindly and humbly (v. 1). Just as brothers and sisters in a human family sometimes get into trouble, so do siblings in the church family. Only dysfunctional families shut off or run off their loved ones who fall. But isn't it strange that the church has been described as the only army in the world that shoots its own wounded? As the Gulf War began in 1991, it was revealed that seven of the first 11 American ground fatalities in Desert Storm died because of a misfired Maverick missile. The newspaper headlines read "Friendly Fire Claims Lives." The odd expression "friendly fire" is an example of the figure of speech called "oxymoron" — a contradictory phrase like "jumbo shrimp" or "cruel kindness." Americans are always shocked when a soldier or sailor is injured by friends instead of enemies, but it seems unavoidable. Even such a notable as General "Stonewall" Jackson in the War Between the States was shot by his own men. We must do all in our power, however, to avoid such "friendly fire" in the family of the Lord's army. We are called to lift up the fallen. The purpose of the church discipline is always redemptive.

Secondly, we are told to relate to other Christians by helping them to bear their burdens. Not only in restoring the fallen, but also in our ongoing work is this true. Verses 2 and 5 are sometimes cited by shallow Bible students as an example of contradiction in the Scriptures. Do we bear the burdens of others (v. 2) or bear our own (v. 5)? In fact, we do both. The Greek words for "burden" are different. In verse 2 the word is "a heavy weight or stone" which we cannot handle alone; in verse 5 the word is often used for a soldier's knapsack which he must personally be responsible to carry. Burden bearing fulfills the law of Christ, which is the law of love, and when we need love, we will receive it, too. Furthermore, bearing the burdens of others is part of our personal load of responsibility.

Thirdly, Paul told the Galatians to share specifically with one group in the church, the teachers (pastors or elders), which expresses the principle of burden bearing (vv. 6-8). "All good things" includes not only financial support, but also cooperation and fellowship. Such sharing is an example of the spiritual law of the harvest, which has wide applications beyond this passage and harkens back to Galatians 5:13-26.

Finally, the Galatians should not grow weary in doing good, but should "keep on keeping on" with good deeds in the Spirit both to Christian and non-Christian alike (vv. 9-10). Again the law of the harvest will operate to the blessing of the believer.

If we are to become what God wants us to be we must surely learn to relate to other believers of the Christian family. Jesus himself coupled love for God with love for other people (Mark 12:29-31). John, too, echoed this (I John 4:20). □ — Charles Parker is pastor of First Church, Oliver Springs.

## Philip: witness to outcasts

By Kim Allen

**Convention Uniform Series  
for October 8  
Focal Passages:  
Acts 8:5-6, 26-38**

After the death of Stephen the church was scattered to the winds by persecution. One of the key disciples to emerge with the Gospel was Philip as we find him in this passage in Samaria.

This should be astonishing to us because it was proverbial that a Jew have nothing to do with a Samaritan. The quarrel was several centuries old, dating to the 8th century B.C. because the Assyrians had conquered the Northern Kingdom whose capital was Samaria. The reason for bitterness is due to intermarriages with strange races causing the Jews to lose their racial purity. To them their loss was unforgivable.

We must realize because of persecution, Christians brought to Samaria the message of the love of Christ, light to men's eyes, healing of their bodies, and something they had never had — joy!

### Philip in Samaria — vv. 4-25

In verses 4-8 we find Philip preaching the Word in Samaria. This message was to all people, a concept unknown in Samaria that included preaching, healing, miracles and much joy, and they all responded. In verses 9-13, the local magician, Simon, who had claimed through his magic to hold the Great Power, was seen in a new light by the newly converted and they turned from his magic to God's power. He was converted and followed Philip all over Samaria, amazed at God's power.

In verses 14-17, when the rest of the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the Samaritans had responded positively to the Gospel they decided to send two more of their own to Samaria; Peter and John.

We do not know if Philip was still in Samaria when Peter and John arrived, but they found something important lacking in lives of new converts. As Paul did in Acts 19:6 they laid hands upon the converts and they received the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence while praying for them. This is in no way a condemnation of Philip's work or miracles, but an affirmation of God's blessing on the work in Samaria.

The laying on of hands did not bring about the manifestation of the Holy Spirit; it was the completion of the act of baptism of today as we baptize in the name of the Father, the

Son, and the Holy Spirit. I still recall the emotion almost 20 years later of God's men laying hands on me at my ordination service to the Gospel ministry.

Verses 18-24 bring about a confrontation still real today. Often there is no evidence of a person's conversion. So others ask if the person really is saved. Even today religion for profit and its persuasive power invades the institution of the church.

Peter rebuked Simon for trying to buy the Holy Spirit's power to continue to profit in his town. Peter called upon Simon to repent so he might be forgiven. The word gift in verse 20 in the Greek means a free gift that cannot be bought.

### Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch — vv. 26-40

The second major occurrence of this passage is the encounter of Philip with the Ethiopian Eunuch. In verses 26-29 Luke does not tell us where Philip was when he received the call for this mission.

On the desert road, Philip encountered the eunuch returning from worshipping in Jerusalem. According to the law a eunuch could never participate fully in worship of God with Jews. In verses 30-35 the Spirit prompted Philip to go to the eunuch where he found him reading Isaiah without understanding. Philip had to be overjoyed when he realized why the Spirit prompted his going on this mission. Philip preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In verses 36-40 we find an overjoyed Christian convert who immediately wanted to be baptized. He had been excluded from Judaism all his life; now he wanted to know if he would be baptized. This is one of the passages that teaches baptism by immersion. A practical application is that salvation cannot be purchased, and that the good news of Christ Jesus knows no race or ethnicity. □ — Kim Allen is pastor of Little West Fork Church, Clarksville.

## When the going gets tough

By Phil Lovelace

**Bible Book Series for October 8  
Focal Passages: Ezra 4:1-6; 5:2-3;  
6:14**

Resisting the enemy — Our enemy, Satan, never wants the Lord's work to prosper. Christ is the builder; Satan is the destroyer. We now see the hand of the enemy as he seeks to oppose and hinder the Lord's work.

**1. Compromise (ch. 4:1-3)** — The people of the land offered to assist the Jews in their work, but Zerubbabel and Jeshua refused their aid. These people were the Samaritans, a half-breed nation of mixed Jews and Gentiles. Read II Kings 17 for a description of the Samaritans and their false religion.

In John 4:20-24, Jesus explained this rejection by the Samaritans. As a result, the Samaritans finally built their own temple on Mt. Gerazim and remained separated from the Jews.

**2. Interference (vv. 3-6)** — The people of the land hired men at court to resist the Jews. This device succeeded in stopping the work (see ch. 4:24). For nearly 15 years (534-520) work of the temple ceased.

**Resuming the work (ch. 5:2-3)** Fifteen years pass. It is not until the Word of the Lord is proclaimed by the two prophets Haggai and Zachariah that the work of the temple begins again. The Word of God had begun the work (Ezra 1:1). Now the Word of God would encourage

the workers and ultimately finish the work (Ezra 6:14). From 520 - 515, the people labored and finished the temple. The preaching of God's Word by his servants is the secret of victory in any work of God. God's Word encouraged Jeshua and Zerubbabel. God's eye was upon them (Ezra 5:5).

### Completion of the temple — ch. 6:14

Darius became ruler in 522 B.C. and established the great empire of the Persians by defeating Babylon. (This was not Darius the Mede mentioned in Daniel 5, 6, 9). He had a friendly attitude toward his subjects and was kind to the Jews.

The Jews joyfully completed and dedicated the House of the Lord — even though the building was not as grand and glorious as Solomon's temple. They kept the Passover of Unleavened Bread.

God had answered prayer and turned the king's heart (see Proverbs 21:1); the nations had its temple again.

**Application:** Constructing a new building may stimulate a church's entire program of activi-

ties. The best and worst comes out in people. Some from whom little support is expected give much. Some who could contribute generously give sparingly. Some may find reasons to oppose the work. Many issues arise, some are trivial, involving design, decor and color. Some involve ethical decisions about methods of fund raising.

One thing church builders — pastors and laymen — must keep constantly before them is that the building is not the end in itself but only the means to the end. The church is the people not the buildings. People worshiped God long before buildings were constructed.

This lesson deals with more than constructing a temple.

In the biblical event, people were struggling to keep worship properly related to their God amid opposition.

This is how it is today — let's remember in the final analysis, the church is the people, not the buildings; people worshiped God long before buildings were constructed. □ — Phil Lovelace is pastor of First Church, Somerville.

## Inserts, ads detail work of FMB

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board distributed about 1.9 million tabloid-size inserts through daily newspapers in four major cities during September.

In addition, the board placed a full-page color ad — with a clip-out coupon to order the tabloid report — in three other newspapers of major cities with circulation totaling 625,000.

The eight-page, four-color insert, a special report titled "Changing Lives Overseas for 150 Years," highlights the size and scope of the board's work throughout the world using stories, photos, and informational graphics.

The inserts were distributed through the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, *Houston Chronicle*, and *The Dallas Morning News*. Ads were run in the *Birmingham Post-Herald*, the *Greenville (S.C.) News-Piedmont*, and the *Nashville Tennessean-Banner*. Cities were chosen based on their Southern Baptist population. □

## World Changers to expand opportunities

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Youth can participate in a new kind of missions experience in 1996 as World Changers introduces World Tour.

Combining the best of "traditional" World Changers projects with inner-city ministries in a host city, World Tour offers youth in grades seven through 12 a multifaceted ap-

proach to missions, exposing them to urban needs and ministries.

Through their involvement in light construction and painting projects, World Tour participants will have the opportunity to demonstrate Christ's love in action.

World Changers and World Tour are ministries of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. For more information, call the World Changers office at (901) 272-2461. □

## Missionary to Lesotho dies in car accident

Baptist Press

MIDWATERS, South Africa — Glenda Middleton, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary to Lesotho died Sept. 22 in an accident while driving alone behind her husband to a prayer retreat in Midwaters.

Middleton, 56, apparently lost control of her four-wheel-drive vehicle while going over a series of humps in the terrain on the paved road, said John Gordy, who directs FMB work in South Africa.

It appeared she died on impact after her vehicle flipped over, Gordy said.

The Middletons are assigned to Maseru, capital of the tiny country of Lesotho, which is surrounded by South Africa. He is a church developer. Much of her work has been in literature development.

Middleton and her husband, Charles, were appointed by the FMB in 1968, and they served in the southeastern African country of Malawi 13 years where they did church planting and publications work. They also served for a decade in Transkei before transferring to Lesotho. □

## Enlisting volunteers to Antigua is calling for FMB missionary

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — For John Hamilton, a feeling of accomplishment has been replaced by one of need.

On July 11, just three days before the Southern Baptist missionary left the island of Antigua for furlough in Memphis, he was part of the first worship service inside Cedar Grove Church. It had taken 12 years of sweat and anguish to see the 30-by-35-foot building completed by himself, church members, and volunteers from Charlotte, N.C.

When Hurricane Luis struck the island Sept. 7, Hamilton feared the worse for the Cedar Grove facility and his fears proved to be reality.

"Half of it was destroyed," Hamilton said.

Since Hamilton is on furlough and his chances of returning are dimming because of an illness, he's doing all he can in Memphis to make sure Cedar Grove and others like it are rebuilt.

As the co-project director of Caribbean Disaster Relief for the SBC Brotherhood Commission, he is recruiting volunteers to travel to the Leeward Islands and do the construction work that is so desperately needed. "Those people down there are hurting," he said.

If the relief effort is to be successful, Hamilton is convinced volunteers must listen to and act on God's call to service.

"I really believe God placed me here for this purpose," he said. "That church will not be rebuilt unless Southern Baptist volunteers do it. We must have their help."

Persons interested in volunteering in the Caribbean disaster relief work can contact the Brotherhood Commission at (800) 280-1891. □

## 40-year missionary David Mein dies

Baptist Press

VALDOSTA, Ga. — David Mein, who grew up in Brazil as the son of late Southern Baptist missionaries John and Elizabeth Mein, and served there himself for 40 years as a missionary, died Sept. 18.

Mein, 75, succeeded his father as president of the North Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary in 1953 and held that post until his retirement in 1985. The seminary's library and chapel are named after Mein, a two-time president of the Brazilian Baptist Convention. □

## National bivocational ministers meeting set

Home Mission Board

BOLIVAR, Mo. — Bivocational ministers from across the nation are encouraged to attend a national meeting Nov. 30-Dec. 2 at Southwest Baptist University here.

Bivocational ministers and their spouses will be joined by state convention and SBC agency leaders who have a strong "heartbeat" for bivocational ministers.

The conference theme is "Bold Believers, Willing Workers, Faithful Servants." Speakers include Roy Blunt, Charles Chaney, and Charles Lee Williamson. For those interested, a Saturday evening group trip is planned to Branson.

For more information about the meeting, contact Dale Holway at (601) 845-2107. □



### 'Common Ground'

Matt Tullos, a drama consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board, and his wife Darlene present dramatic sketches during worship services at 'Common Ground,' a worship gathering held Sept. 14-16 in Riverside, Calif. The event, sponsored by the BSSB, and the California Baptist Convention, drew worship leaders from 11 states who focused on diversity in worship styles and musical tastes, as well as common elements of faith and worship among Southern Baptist churches. — Photo by Jim Veneman

# Turkey-calling Baptist layman calls for conservation of creation

Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Ralph Duren isn't worried about going on David Letterman's TV show. After all, he already has performed before Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf.

The Gulf War hero sat at the head table as Duren competed in the National Wild Turkey Federation turkey-calling contest earlier this year before 3,000 banquet guests at Nashville's Opryland Hotel.

Competitors had to do a two-minute routine that could incorporate turkey calls and any other natural sounds. Duren used his voice to combine 40 different animal noises in a symphony of the woods waking up in the morning. When he heard the crowd respond to a coyote bark midway through, Duren knew he had won the audience.

Shortly afterwards he learned he had won the title: national champion turkey caller. He received a trophy, a fancy new shotgun, and an expense-paid trip to New York City to appear on a cable network interview show. He expects to appear on the Letterman show in mid-November.

Duren, a member of Liberty Road Church, Jefferson City, has spent nearly a lifetime perfecting his calls. Growing up on a farm in Jefferson County, he entertained himself while doing chores by talking to the animals around him. His father taught him some fine points of calling game birds.

In his job as public relations specialist for the Missouri Department of Conservation, Duren travels the state making presentations for groups and special events. That can mean anything from a prison Bible study group to a

Baptist association's wild game dinner.

Duren imparts humor and knowledge in liberal doses. Before his hour-long presentation is over he has demonstrated everything from a screaming toad to a screeching owl.

He said his primary job is to make people aware of the wildlife that is all around them — even in their own backyards. He enjoys helping folks recognize the sounds they may hear every day. Another message Duren tries to get across is: "It's all right to hunt and trap; in some cases, it's pretty necessary." Many people do not realize the contributions sportsmen have made to restoring wildlife that had nearly disappeared, he noted.

"I'm not trying to make hunters out of the audience," Duren said. He seeks to educate the public about the difference between the "market hunting" of

old and the sport hunting of today, as well as the role of hunting in managing wildlife populations.

"Genesis says we're supposed to be stewards of the creation," the Missouri Baptist layman said.

When he speaks in churches, Duren points out that the animal rights movement is misguided because its emphasis is on worshipping creation rather than the Creator.

In his talks, Duren emphasizes that hunting and fishing can help young people stay out of trouble. Like most outdoorsmen, he acknowledged that being in the great outdoors causes him to feel close to God.

But, "that doesn't mean you need to skip church and go hunting and fishing on Sunday morning," said Duren, who has been a Sunday School director and teacher. □