

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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

Tennessee missionaries earn emeritus status

FMB earmarks \$10 million for former Soviet bloc

By Mark Kelly
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board endorsed a bold plan Oct. 11 to seize emerging opportunities for the Gospel created by the collapse of communism in the former Soviet Union.

To take advantage of these opportunities, trustees are asking Southern Baptists to participate in "White Harvest '96" by meeting an ambitious \$100 million goal for the 1995 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

During their Oct. 9-11 meeting in Richmond, trustees approved a \$202.6 million budget for for 1996 that injects \$10 million into an intensive effort in the countries of the former Soviet bloc. Trustees earmarked \$90 million of the upcoming 1995 Lottie Moon offering goal for the board's basic budget and the additional \$10 million for White Harvest.

The board also conferred emeritus status on 77 retiring missionaries, including six native Tennesseans, appointed 25 new missionaries and reappointed four others, bringing the total missionary force to 4,131.

The emeritus group represented a total of 2,205 years of



GAMMAGE



GIBSON



MARTIN



MOORHEAD



TRIBBLE



WITT

missionary experience.

Tennesseans in that group include Nettie Oldham Gammage, Hartsville, Philippines, 38 years; Mary Ella Bowers Gibson, Harriman, Singapore, 18 years; Pauline Martin, Kingsport, Nigeria, 40 years; Rae Northern Moorhead, Philippines, 20 years; C. Lamar Tribble, Chattanooga, Bolivia, 32 years; and Mary Witt, Knoxville, Brazil, 32 years.

White Harvest money would follow a special infusion into the region this year of \$4.8 million from the Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist unified giving program.

Last year trustees pledged to use in the former Soviet Union bloc up to \$5 million of Cooperative Program receipts above 1995 budget needs. In early October, FMB officials learned a record year of giving by Southern Baptists would result in an extra \$4.8 million.

Seventy years of communist repression devastated Baptist

work in countries dominated by the Soviet Union, said John Floyd, director of FMB work in Europe. The collapse of the Soviet Union reopened doors for the Gospel.

"We have a tremendous opportunity to intensify Baptist work in these countries," Floyd said. "They've been stagnant for 70 years. Now they (Baptist unions) have the opportunity to do something, but they don't have the resources. Bad economics, devalued currency, high prices, and spiraling inflation are keeping them from capitalizing on the spiritual hunger and responsiveness in these countries," Floyd added.

The \$4.8 million from the Cooperative Program and the \$10 million projected from the Lottie Moon offering will buy houses and automobiles for new FMB missionaries pouring into these countries. It will fund evangelism projects, new church starts, literature production, strategic land purchases, church construction,

and renovation and theological education, Floyd said.

The annual Lottie Moon offering will provide 46 percent, a projected \$90 million of the board's 1996 basic budget. To supply the \$10 million needed in the former Soviet bloc, Woman's Missionary Union and FMB leaders have challenged Southern Baptist to give \$100 million through the offering.

Board members also considered a proposal to cut costs by reducing the number of trustees from 89 to 55 through a new formula, implemented by attrition, that allocates one trustee position for each cooperating state and additional positions for each 500,000 members of Baptist churches in a state. Trustees voted to delay action on the proposal until their Dec. 11-13 meeting in Memphis.

Among guests at the meeting were WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien and SBC President Jim Henry. □

Churches respond to economy offer

BRENTWOOD — The page one article "Produce church newsletter economically: use state paper" in the Oct. 11 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* has drawn the interest of Tennessee Baptist churches.

The *Baptist and Reflector* received several calls last week from churches interested in using the paper's church page plan.

This plan allows churches to send their news on the back page of the *Baptist and Reflector*. The paper currently has churches who use the plan weekly and monthly. Churches also have the option of producing a newsletter twice a month, or even using just one-half page. For more information, call (615) 371-2003. □



Fayette building dedication

Churches of Fayette Association gathered Oct. 8 to dedicate the association's Mission Center. Among guests who attended the service near Somerville were three former directors of missions. From left, Bob Campbell, current director of missions, with guests B.J. McElwain, Jackson; Raymond Hollaway, Murfreesboro; and J.C. Montgomery, Jackson. The three former missions leaders were given opportunity to speak of their experiences in Fayette Association. See page 7 for more photographs. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

Carver talks with Samford hit snag, CC shows interest

Compiled from news reports

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary unanimously decided to discontinue the master of social work degree and continue looking for a home for the Carver School of Church Social Work after negotiations with Samford University hit an apparent snag.

Seminary trustees were expected to approve the transfer to Samford Oct. 10. Instead, they met behind closed doors for an hour to approve a recommendation granting the administration and trustee executive committee authority to negotiate an agreement which would "allow the continuation of the master of social work program at another appropriate institution."

In a news conference after the trustee meeting, seminary president R. Albert Mohler Jr. and trustee chairman Rick White of Franklin declined to say what caused the break-

down in negotiations with Samford.

Campus sources speculated that the problem could involve misunderstandings about what assets of the Carver School would transfer to Samford. The Carver School has endowment funds and Mohler said the seminary "never considered transferring" them to Samford.

In the meantime the seminary officials confirmed they are discussing transferring the Carver school to Campbellsville (Ky.) College, a 1,300-student Kentucky Baptist Convention school.

Mohler said the seminary is "impressed with the possibility that the Carver School of Church Social Work could continue in Louisville."

Both the seminary and Campbellsville indicated the conversations concerning a potential transfer would continue and no formal agreement has yet been reached. □ — Compiled from BP and ABP

Small in number, huge in missions

For Baptist and Reflector

HALLS — "After all, this is what we are all about."

Those words of Dub Jones, chairman of deacons of New Mitchell Grove Church, were sufficient to explain the congregation's heart for missions. So New Mitchell Grove sent the pastor to Poland.

Nestled on the banks of the Mississippi River in the Barr Community of Dyer Association, New Mitchell Grove Church does not think small when missions is the topic. Though small in members (48 enrolled in Sunday School), the people "think big."

Jones, speaking to congregation on behalf of the deacons, asked for a \$4,000 allocation to allow Pastor Joe Trybone and his wife Frances to go to Poland on a Partnership Missions trip. The people concurred, the Trybones went, and everyone involved was blessed.

Working through the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Partnership Missions depart-



PASTOR JOE TRYBONE, front, receives a check for the trip to Poland from New Mitchell Grove's deacons. From left, Garner Kissell, Ike Kissell, Buddy Houston, Dub Jones, Ronald Arthur, Ward Hardy, Trybone, and Erthal Kissell.

ment, the Trybones went to Tarnow, Poland, along with Tony Marot and Leon Fields of Corinth, Miss.

Trybone, a member of the TBC Executive Board, preached in the Tarnow Baptist Church. Frances Trybone taught women about caring for the family in the Christian home. She said there were

many questions during discussion time as she taught.

While Trybone preached, Marot and Fields were busy inviting people to the church.

Later, Marot and Fields preached in Krakow with messages prepared by the Tennessee Baptist pastor. "There were five decisions for Christ," said Trybone. □

Marijuana use among teenagers increasing; Christian helps available

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The bad news is that marijuana use among teenagers has nearly doubled since 1992, according to a federal study released in September.

The good news is that Christian resource materials are available to concerned parents.

According to the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, marijuana use among teens rose to 7.3 percent in 1994 — up from 4 percent in 1992. Another key finding: The number of teens who believe marijuana is risky fell from 50 percent to 42 percent during the same period.

"One impetus behind the increase of marijuana use is Generation X's romance with the 1960s," said C. Ben Mitchell, consultant on biomedical and life issues for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "The popular culture magnifies pot without showing its devastating effects."

Mitchell described marijuana as "more deceitful than alcohol. THC (the active ingredient in marijuana) stays in the body for about a month after each use. It builds up in the brain and leads to learning difficulties, memory loss, and difficulty generally in thinking.

"Physically, marijuana can damage the heart and lungs, negatively affect athletic ability, and cause other prob-

lems. Of course, since it is a hallucinogen, it creates the same hazards while driving as alcohol."

Marijuana also is a "gateway" drug which can lead to more serious drug use, according to John Long in a article written for the Baptist Sunday School Board's *Youth Ministry Update*.

Paul Turner, a BSSB design editor, said the board has been addressing the problem of teen drug use "for several years and in some pretty up-front ways."

He specifically mentioned these products: "Killers: Alcohol and Other Drugs," a seven-session biblically-based study; "Help! Peer Pressure" and "Fake Answers," 13-session Bible studies with

suggestions for parents' meetings; and more. Volume one of "The 24-Hour Counselor," a series of audiocassettes produced by the board, also deals with drug use.

From the Christian Life Commission, available resources include "Hard Facts About Alcohol and Other Drugs" and "Issues and Answers: Drug Abuse." For information about ordering materials call the BSSB at (800) 458-2772 and the CLC at (615) 244-2495.

"Churches must help warn youth about the hazards of marijuana use. They must teach young people to honor biblical values ... and provide an alternative culture of acceptance and nurture," Mitchell said. □



Big Emory elects new officers

During the morning session of Big Emory Association's annual meeting Oct. 12 at Piney Church, Oakdale, new officers for the coming year were elected. Participating in the meeting were, from left, host pastor Jim Disney; Howard Hannah, pastor, Child's Memorial Church, Harriman, associate moderator; Mike Henegar, pastor, Cedar Grove Church, Kingston, moderator; and Director of Missions Bill Bargiol.

Southeastern trustees move to head off housing shortage

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary moved to head off a looming housing shortage prompted by burgeoning enrollment during their fall meeting Oct. 9-10.

Southeastern President Paige Patterson said the Lord has been very good in providing such rapid growth, "but this growth has created an enormous number of good problems that we had not anticipated to occur so quickly."

Seminary trustees voted to proceed with the renovation of Bostwick Hall, which sits on

the seminary's main campus, to provide housing for married students without children. Bostwick Hall, built in 1924, is "long overdue for renovation," Patterson said.

Faced with a fall enrollment of 1,098 students, trustees also called for the administration to explore the possible acquisition of land off campus for the development of additional student housing.

The board also called for a feasibility study concerning the renovation of the basement level of Lolley Dormitory, housing for single women, to provide additional rooms for women students. □

■ 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. □

Well done

I have mixed feelings concerning the announcement about Greer Ruble's retirement as Sunday School director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. I have rejoiced in Mr. Ruble's success in this area of ministry because of his concern for the Bible teaching program of the local church. Under his leadership, the team of associates have helped to structure a system of communication, aid, and assistance to numerous Sunday School workers in churches and associations throughout the state.

His relationship philosophy and concern for his fellow workers have been an example in administrative work and procedure. Greer Ruble, Roy Miller, Liz Lee, and Martha Couch have been responsible for building the Sunday School department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention to its loftiest height. Their relationships with the leadership across the state have provided the finest leadership training the Southern Baptist Convention through regional conferences, update meetings, personal consultations and planning meetings.

It could be easily expressed this way: The only thing that could not be provided for the churches of Tennessee, through the Sunday School Department, was wisdom for the application of great principles of Sunday School work. The

only reason that wisdom has not been taught is because Greer could not find a qualified teacher.

May the future of the Bible teaching program of the Tennessee Baptist Convention continue to go forth in His name and with His Spirit.

Thanks to Greer Ruble and team.

Stanley M. Johnson, minister of music and education
Calvary Church
Kingsport 37664

Thanks to BSU

While I attended the University of Tennessee at Martin, the ministry of the Baptist Student Union, directed by Adam Hall, played a major role in my spiritual and social development. It was only years later that I came to appreciate the importance of this vital Tennessee Baptist presence on campuses across the state. My thanks goes out to the men and women of Tennessee who give and serve through the Co-operative Program to make student ministries possible during a time in young people's lives when they are accessible to the Gospel and developing values and friendships that will last a life-time.

The Baptist Student Centers extend the ministry of our local churches to students, many of whom are away from home for the first time. In addition, the BSU equips and involves students in every area of ministry. For many of us this opportunity facilitated becoming a dedicated church member or entering church-related vocations.

May we continue to make student ministries a reality through on-going prayer, service, and support at the state level.

Tom Manning
Dyersburg 38024

Teachers' group

Your readers who are educators need to know about an organization that is nonpolitical, Professional Educators of Tennessee (PET). As president for the past two years I had the opportunity to know many of the members, all of whom are Christian.

The meetings open with a devotional and prayer although nothing in the constitution refers to religion. No political candidates are endorsed. Tort liability insurance is provided and other benefits. All this for \$50 per year. Our past members have also received *Teachers in Focus* from James Dobson.

If teachers are tired of the politics and moral stance of TEA-NEA there are three alternatives. There is a national

group of Christian Educators who have an organization; I'll be happy to provide information on them. Teachers can purchase tort insurance as a rider on their homeowners policy; or they are welcome to join PET if they agree with our constitution and bylaws which include such things as: local control of education, teachers do not strike, and there should be no forced union dues. Interested educators (including administrators) may contact PET at Professional Educators of Tennessee, Suite 234, 1116 W. 7th Street, Columbia, 38401, phone (615) 381-5392. My number is (423) 475-4815, evenings.

Bernard Bull
Carson-Newman College
Jefferson City 37760

New work

Thank you so much for sending us the *Baptist and Reflector*.

God used the Feb. 22 issue to invite us into our new ministry. You see in June we received this issue where the TBCH ran a help wanted ad for houseparents. We respond because of God's invitation and will be joining the staff at the Double B Boys Ranch in Millington.

Thank you for publishing a fine state paper. Please keep it up, printing only what is edifying to God. We appreciate the work you and your staff do.

We, Guy and Tammy Causey, FMB/SBC missionaries to Ghana, W. Africa are now in a new ministry and can be reached at 9266 Quito Rd., Millington, 38053.

The Causeys
Millington 38053

Whose 'life' saves?

I have noticed that some teachers tend to focus their attention on a lost person's life when teaching how to be saved. Some popular phrases used when teaching people how to be saved are "Surrender your life to Jesus, give Jesus control of your life, turn your life over to Jesus, and give your life to Jesus."

In actuality, there is nothing in a lost person's "life" that will save them from their sins. This "your life" type of terminology may cause a lost person to believe that he has to somehow "perform" in his life to be saved. Unfortunately, this may inadvertently lead a lost person into a works Gospel.

Of course, Jesus gave his life for us (Galatians 1:4) in order that we might be saved. He was made sin for us (II Corinthians 5:21) so that we could become children of God by faith in him (Galatians 3:26). I believe we need to keep the focus on the King of Kings

and Lord of Lords when teaching lost people how to be saved.

Any terminology that gives a lost person the impression that his "life" is somehow involved in being saved may confuse him. This may prevent the lost person from clearly understanding that they are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Tom Lusk
Clarksville 37043

What about Matthias

Acts 1:23-26 "And they appointed two. Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

"And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen.

"That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

"And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles."

My question, Was Matthias the 12th apostle?

Please put my name and address to this as someone may want to call or write me.

Arthur H. Cate
187 Cate Rd.
Rockwood 37854

Capital punishment

America's First Lady headed our delegation in Beijing with extraordinary insight and courage.

The whole Christian community, indeed the entire secular world, knows that the ultimate unresolved Human Rights violation in the United States is this: capital punishment. It truly is an evil of great magnitude. My own writings over a period of years,

hold that modern sources of international law forbid capital punishment. The charter of the United Nations Organization, the statute of the International Court of Justice, and the United Nations Convention Against Torture are my principal beginning sources.

In his recent book, *The Abolition of the Death Penalty in International Law*, published by Grotius Publications, Limited, Cambridge, U.K., Canadian professor of law William A. Schabas begins his numerous citations of Law of Nations with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Owen Meredith Shaw
Nashville 37212

Long time service

Thank you for your kind editorial "Voices in the wind, candles in the dark" and for your column "Looking at Life."

I was active in my wonderful church, Central Baptist in Johnson City starting with Sunbeams, GAs, YWAs, Woman's Missionary Union, Baptist Training Union, Primary Sunday School Dept., Junior Dept., Sunday School secretary, Church secretary four years under pastor William R. Rigell.

I was "cut down" with bypass heart surgery and spinal stenosis (arthritis) four years ago. I'm now at Asbury Center (Retirement and Health Care). I can only attend my Sunday School class on Sunday morning. I get what is taking place in my church by our mail-out and a few friends are still active in attendance in church life.

I have wanted through the years for someone to speak for us for what we have meant to our church through "Labor of Love," and finally you have done it.

Thank you and God bless.
Kathleen B. Gibbs
Johnson City 37604

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests

October

- 21 — Pray for John Compton and Chip Leake, First Church, Dickson, as they lead an Evangelistic Weekend in Gorzow, Wielkopolski, Oct. 19-22.
- 22 — Pray for the new French work beginning in Quebec Canada called Assemblée Chretienne de Rouyn-Noranda.
- 23 — Pray for Terry Sharp as he leads Tennessee in partnership endeavors.
- 24 — Give praise for the ladies (over 235) who attended Dayspring meeting in Cochrane, Canada in September.
- 25 — Pray that much needed renovation can be done on the Baptist Union Building in Warsaw, Poland.
- 26 — Pray that the Seminary building in Canada can be completed soon.



Passions of the world aren't always healthy

A Southern Baptist executive recently told a leadership group of an experience which indirectly speaks to relational problems afflicting the SBC.

He saw a television interview with an infamous Hollywood actor-comedian. The interviewer asked what he would want Christ to say to him if they met face to face.

The actor replied, "I would want him to say, 'I forgive you.'"

While the executive applied the message to the world, let's apply it to the Southern Baptist Convention. And yes, it is a lesson in life for Tennessee Baptists.

To many people, the actor's lifestyle leaves much room for improvement. Perhaps he answered in levity, but the truth in the answer is overwhelming, like a direct hit on the target.

"I would want him to say, 'I forgive you.'"

Some Christians seem to feel that hard work and thorough planning, plus some successes, can gloss over the absence of forgiveness and a lack of love.

Not so. The Bible teaches, "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins" I Peter 4:8.

Not only does love cover a multitude of our shortcomings, it overcomes attitudes that keep Christians apart. Funny thing about love; it is like a medical cure that is always available but it is useless

when watered down.

Like undiluted medicine, love must be applied directly to the source of need. Talking about it won't suffice. An unloving person has no business asking others to love. The medicine must be applied to the ones who need it.

For fifteen years Southern Baptists have talked about loving each other while, at the same time, refusing to do it.

We have allowed the passions of the world to dictate many of our actions. Differing groups seem to believe that each can get along without the other.

Wrong! That is definitely wrong.

For a while, a few years perhaps, we may be able to get along without each other. Moderates may survive without conservatives. And conservatives, who are firmly in control, may get along temporarily without moderates at their side.

The truth is, for the long haul, the convention will be weaker. Maybe that's good. It may not be weaker in numbers or income. It may be strong in the eyes of the world. But the convention will be weaker without the strong, inclusive, discerning love that nurtured Southern Baptists for more than a century.

What a tragedy it is that someone, some group, has to be in control. What a mockery of that love it is when we act as Jacob and Esau acted, or when we mimic Joseph and his brothers in their worst behavior. Christian diversity sweetens the mix and adds strength of character to the entire body.

Why settle for "good" when "best" is

possible? How plaintive is that plea, "I would want him to say, 'I forgive you.'"

The deepest tragedy is that of lost relationship, loss of love for each other. That lack of love can lead to unconcern, and then turn into hate.

So it has been fifteen years. Then is it settled? Have moderate Southern Baptists given up? Do some still hope? Some may ask why it has to be discussed. As long as we are divided, it must be discussed.

It may be too late for a robust Southern Baptist Convention to be a reality again, at least in the near future. It seems doubtful that we will ever forgive each other. The world's medicine is too enticing.

The many bruises, hurts, firings, and symbolic deaths may be too deep and numerous for complete recovery.

Much of what is planned now is usually from one viewpoint because the diversity is missing.

But the world still needs Christ's medicine, the pure and undiluted Word, the salvation of our Lord, the love that forgives.

Until we are able and ready to offer that kind of healing to the world's people, we will be ineffectual. Southern Baptists must replace the passions of the world with the Passion of Christ. If we don't, someone else will, and God will enable whom he chooses to do it without us.

Make no mistake. If Southern Baptists are to make a difference of magnitude, first we will include *each other* in love and forgiveness. That lifestyle is a two-way street. Otherwise, as Baseball's Casey Stengel once said, "Include us out." □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

The field of cotton

Yes, it is that time again.

October's blue are still God's perfect blue for autumn. There is something extraordinary about the blue that matches perfectly the reds and golds, oranges, and purples of autumn leaves.

We are in the midst of the season for associational meetings. All across Tennessee's width and breadth, Baptists are meeting together.

But on a recent Sunday, at the front side



of associational meetings, Betty and I celebrated with three groups of Baptists — all in the same day.

The sky was October blue and the leaves were beginning their unabashed display of color.

We headed for the west, and were grateful visitors as Mt. Gilead Church, Bethel Springs, observed a century of service. We moved on to Hickory Valley Church south of Bolivar, and shared their joy for 150 years "in the harness."

As we traveled, Betty almost begged me to find some way to get a stalk of cotton (we had seen field after white field). Enough of this, I thought. She agreed that we couldn't just grab a stalk without permission.

Our last stop that Sunday was to be at Somerville where the churches were dedicating their new associational center.

"Who knows," I said, "the building may be in the middle of a snowy white cotton field."

A few minutes later we arrived at the site. We both laughed. I think, with the God of great surprises. Fayette Association's new center was in the middle of a snowy white cotton field!

Well, we celebrated with folks from the churches. There were challenging words about doing missions from that site. There were some honest, thoughtful words about the people who gave of themselves to make it possible. There was a recognition of God's blessings of answered prayers.

And Betty and I left that place doubly blessed by the people and by the cotton she had been given. It will make a lovely wreath to match October's leaves and blue glory. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Man on golf course (laughing at his wife's short tee shot): "This hole's a piece of cake. One drive to the green and then a putt. Easy birdie." Wife (when he topped the ball and it rolled a few feet in front of the tee): "Would you like to borrow my putter, dear?"

Take this truth

Be careful about being too confident. It can humble you quickly. The early Christians named pride as the first of the deadly sins.

Memorize this Scripture

"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom" (Proverbs 11:2 NIV).

Pray this prayer

"Lord, give me confidence in myself but not too much. Help me to keep my high ambitions for myself and high expectations of myself to myself. Above all, let me never make fun of another's mistakes." □

Learning how to define anxiety

There are two ways to describe anxiety. One is to define specific and free-floating anxiety. The other is to delineate normal and neurotic anxiety.

The first approach is an attempt to identify the source of anxiety. The second approach is more concerned with the severity of anxiety.

Specific anxiety is different from free-floating anxiety. It usually occurs as fears and phobias. One of our daughters is arachnaphobic, afraid of spiders.

Her sister says that she has an antenna in her head which can find a spider anywhere in the house. She has called me in the middle of the night to go up to her room and kill a spider on the ceiling.

She says spiders can jump that far in a single bound. I used to make a lot of noise and report to her that the spider was dead. She caught on and now demands to see body parts or a smudge on the wall.

Another example is snakes. My son has a friend with an eight-foot boa constrictor, named appropriately, "Lu-

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor

cifer." I don't mind my son's friend having a snake for a pet. It would be another matter for my son to ask to bring Lucifer over to spend the night at our house.

These are examples of specific anxiety where the object, event, or person producing the anxiety can be readily identified.

There is another form of anxiety called free-floating anxiety. Proverbs 28:1 says, "The wicked flee when no one is pursuing..." (NASV).

Free-floating anxiety is a pervading sense of peril. The cause or solution is a mystery.

Bob Harrington, a flamboyant preacher from New Orleans years ago called himself the "Chaplain of Bourbon Street." He was raised in west-central Alabama, my territory.

He said he was so bad in school that when the principal used to clear his throat on the intercom before speaking, Bob

would start for the office because he knew that he would be calling for him. Free-floating anxiety is like

that. You don't know why or how, but you know that there is going to be trouble.

The other method of distinguishing the different kinds of anxiety is to differentiate normal and neurotic anxiety. Normal anxiety is exhibited when there is real danger and it makes sense to be anxious.

Neurotic anxiety involves intense feelings of discomfort when the danger is mild or even non-existent.

The neurotic is the person who goes to a football game and imagines that those 11 men in the huddle are talking about him. It is not always easy to distinguish normal and neurotic anxiety.

Take "Lucifer", my son's friend's pet, for instance. For me it would be normal anxiety to be anxious about his presence in my house, but for my son's friend it would be neurotic anxiety because he would see his pet as harmless. □



BARKLEY

In Knox County Association

Western Heights' Community Market fights hunger before it happens

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — The basic premise behind the Community Market at the Baptist Center at Western Heights is simple.

Prevent hunger before it happens.

That's the theory of Tom Everett, the center's director for the past 20 years.

"Several people have told me, 'I don't come to the market until I need it,'" Everett said.

The market, however, is designed to prevent hunger rather than responding to it, Everett added.

The Western Heights center, a ministry of Knox County Association, has had the market since 1984. The market is open three days a week with food provided by area markets and other agencies.

All the food is given away. All people have to do is show up, Everett said, noting there are no interviews or forms to fill out.

And, people do take advantage of the ministry. Last year more than 32,000 people came through the market, Everett said.

In order to carry out the ministry a large number of volunteers are needed and Knox County Baptists have responded well. Everett said they average about 45 volunteers in the course of a month and some of them help more than once a week. In addition, the center

also has volunteers from other denominations who have learned about the Community Market and wanted to help.

Everett noted the market is different from other food programs in that people can come three days a week rather than once a month.

This goes back to the principle of trying to prevent hunger rather than responding to a hunger need, Everett said.

Included among the food given away is fresh produce, sweets, snacks, dairy products, and meat, he noted.

Everett related that volunteers once did a survey. They determined that if someone went to the store and bought everything given to a person

on a typical day, it would cost about \$50 per person, he said.

By using the market, people can make their money last longer for housing, utilities, and other essentials, Everett said.

The market has never run out of food, Everett said, noting "it's like the loaves and fishes."

He observed the market also is good stewardship. "It means food is not going to waste." □



BAGGING POTATOES in the Baptist Center at Western Heights are, from left, Jim Roberts, First Church, Fountain City; Henry Lusk, Wallace Memorial Church; and Jean Hall and Snow Badgett, Gillespie Avenue Church.



CARSON-NEWMAN COLLEGE nursing students Julie Crisp, left, a member of Sevier Heights Church, Knoxville, and Rhonda Kesterson, a member of Clinch River Church, Lake City, do blood pressure checks during the Community Market at the Western Heights center.

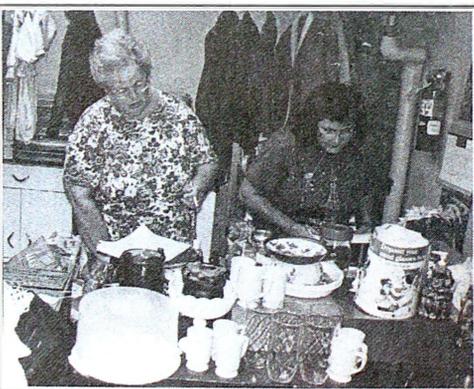


ANNA BELLE HALL, right, passes out tickets for the Community Market. Hall, a member of Gillespie Avenue Church, has been a volunteer at the Western Heights center for 11 years.

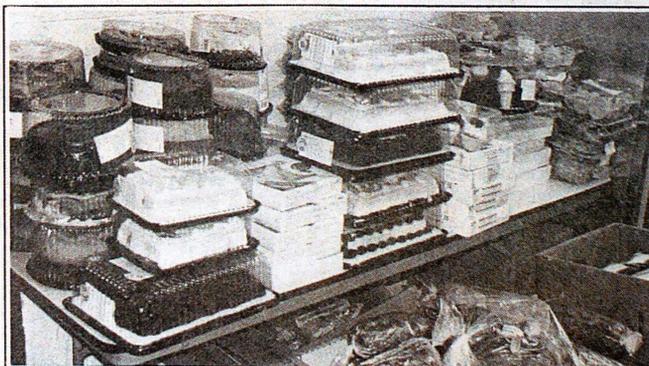


TOM AND SHIRLEY EVERETT sort through 'Christmas in August' items that came from GA groups across the country. They have received over 500 packages filled with school supplies and toiletry items.

SHIRLEY EVERETT, left, wife of Tom Everett, the center's director, sorts through clothes and household items which will be given away to people during the Community Market, with the help of Irene LaFollette, a member of Gillespie Avenue Church.



WESTERN HEIGHTS center director Tom Everett, right, helps volunteer Roy Perkey of First Church, Powell, sort through boxes of grapes which will be given to 'shoppers' at the Community Market held three times a week at the Knox County Association Baptist Center. Perkey is a long-time volunteer at the center.



FOR THOSE WITH a sweet tooth, this table of cakes and other desserts is beautiful to behold.

Everett marks 20th anniversary as Baptist Center director

For Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Tom Everett has spent 20 years in inner-city Knoxville as director of the Baptist Center at Western Heights.

Yet, his roots run even deeper because he also grew up in the same community.

"God has used my own life experiences as part of the preparation for my ministry here," Everett acknowledged.

Everett left the area for a short time when he joined the Army and then went to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to study to be a pastor.

After graduating he returned to his hometown of Knoxville as pastor of Lonsdale Church where he served for three and one-half years before becoming director of the Baptist Center which is sponsored by Knox County Association. Everett also is an associate missionary with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Serving in church and community ministries has proven to be a better fit for Everett than the pastorate.

"This kind of work fits more of what I read in the Gospel," Everett explained. "Jesus went to places where nobody else wanted to go. He did it intentionally," Everett added.

In one sense the community has not

changed since Everett was a boy because there were housing projects there even then.

Poverty is a way of life in the inner city, he observed. "I've known that all my life," Everett said, noting the community is one of the poorest and most integrated in Knoxville with five public housing projects in the area the center serves, including Western Heights which is the second largest public housing project in Tennessee.

The biggest difference, Everett said, has been the influence of drugs, especially "crack."

Other things that have negatively impacted the area have been the loss of jobs in the community because industries have left the inner city for the suburbs and the closing of local high schools.

Yet, despite the changes, Everett is comfortable in the inner city. "Taking this job was like coming home," he said.

Everett's ties to the community, plus the fact the center has been there since 1953 gives credibility to their ministry, he affirmed.

In addition to the Community Market (see page six), the Baptist Center also offers Bible studies, sewing, quilting, and ceramics classes for adults, and numerous activities for children and youth, including tutoring for ele-



TOM AND SHIRLEY EVERETT
mentary students.

Everett also writes and produces a monthly newsletter for the residents of the community. The newsletters provide information about what is going on not only at the center, but the community as well. The newsletter serves two purposes for Everett personally. Writing is an "outlet" for him, he said. Plus, delivering the newsletters is "a good way for me to make contacts in the community," he added.

The Western Heights center has four full-time staff members, including Everett's wife, Shirley, who had been a long-time volunteer, and three part-time staffers.

The center is funded by Knox County Association as well as individual contributors. "The local churches are very supportive," Everett said.

"People do care. They know there is pain and suffering in the inner city. We're the conduit they use for ministry," he added.

Knox County Association Director of Missions Walter Taylor noted that Everett's ministry at the center "has made a difference in hundreds of lives over the past 20 years as people have come to the center and found a friend who really cares."

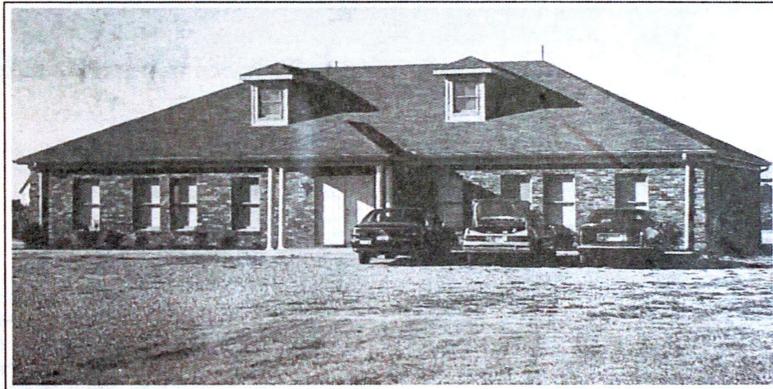
Taylor also observed Everett has "an acute sense of the problems faced by the poor. He attempts to portray the love of Christ to the downtrodden in a way that brings dignity to the individual," Taylor added.

The 20-year missions and ministry veteran does not see the need for Baptist centers in the inner cities disappearing anytime in the near future.

"Baptist centers will continue to be a viable ministry in the years to come. Churches alone can't provide the ministries we provide," Everett said. □



A BOOK OF HISTORY was written by Emma Sue Carpenter and presented to DOM Bob Campbell. The association's historian noted that WMU had been with the association since at least 1925. Photo at right shows new Mission Center from outside.



Fayette Association dedicates Mission Center at Somerville

SOMERVILLE — A longtime dream became reality Oct. 8 when congregations from Fayette Association met to dedicate a new associational Mission Center.

"I'm sure that every one of our 18 churches participated in some way as this mission center was being constructed," said Bob Campbell, director of missions.

The spacious and practical building will house the DOM office and will provide a place for meetings and resources for all the churches, Campbell stressed.

James Porch, Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director was dedicatory speaker.

He reminded those attending that the building was a place

where prayers would go out for all the lost people in Fayette.

He said the center will be like a house of worship, providing hope for all the association plans and does.

Porch emphasized that the solid relationships between the 68 associations and the TBC is "absolutely essential and critical."

"We cannot do without each other," he added. He said the work of the association's churches is vital to Christ's kingdom.

Present among guests at the dedication service were three former directors of missions: B.J. McElwain, Jackson; Raymond Hollaway, Murfreesboro; and J.C. Montgomery, Jackson. □



BUILDING COMMITTEE members were recognized at the dedication. From left, Bob Campbell, Jerry Culver, Ann Campbell, Danny Dowdy, Sue Dowdy, Rickey Burns, Chairman Eddie Little, Ralph Thomas, and Claudie Hammers. The building committee honored key workers with certificates, and everyone who participated in any way was recognized. Story and photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen

Centennial comes for Mt. Gilead

BETHEL SPRINGS — Mt. Gilead Church was not as large in numbers when it began here 100 years ago, but current members tried to recapture the pioneer spirit when they observed the birthday on Oct. 8.

They dressed in "old fashion" clothes. They brought back some of the former pastors. They rejoiced with visitors and members who had moved away.

They heard Union University President Hyran Barefoot challenge them to keep building on a solid foundation. They acknowledged the past with a history prepared by Katherine Kiestler. Of course they enjoyed a bountiful meal at noon. Children launched 100 balloons for past and future.

Mt. Gilead's congregation heard good singing. They laughed, expressed love, and lived in the light of the occasion. It was a good day for remembering. □



JOHN BEDFORD, director of missions for Shiloh Association, right, presents TBC Historical Society plaque to pastor David Green. — Story and photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen.



DRESSED FOR THE OCCASION, from left, are Mrs. Jehu Henry, Inetha Henry, Robert I. Livingston, Coy Mitchell, Doris Wilson, and Patsy Pickle.



CELEBRATING MT. Gilead's 100th birthday, from left, Pastor David Green and wife Paula, Katherine Kiestler, John Bedford, and Hyran Barefoot.

Hickory Valley matches Southern Baptist Convention's 150 years

HICKORY VALLEY — The most notable birthday in recent memory was celebrated here Oct. 8 as Hickory Valley Church marked number 150.

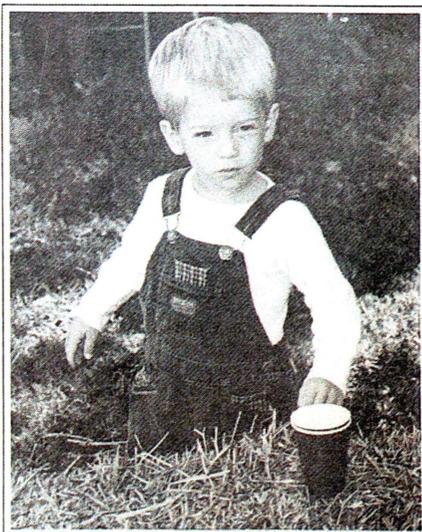
It was almost an all day affair as the worship hour, after Sunday School, honored the storied past. TBC executive director James Porch spoke.

As the morning service con-

cluded, old and young members rang the old bell 150 times.

After dinner on the grounds, the church reconvened for a session of music, communion, and words from former pastors. An historical plaque was presented as well as printed historical notes about the church. And, as the old saying goes, "A good time was had by all!" □

DERYL WATSON, right, Hardeman Association DOM, presents anniversary plaque from TBC Historical Society, to John Oldham, deacon and one of oldest members of Hickory Valley



THIS YOUNG fellow turned a bale of straw into a table. Dinner was served on the grounds and many folks used straw bales for seats. — Photos and story by Wm. Fletcher Allen

PROGRAM LEADERS included, from left, Jerry Taylor, music director; interim pastor Gary Anderson Sr.; Sue Davis, historian; and Amy Hammons, pianist.



TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the associations

■ John Bisagno, pastor, First Church, Houston, Texas, will speak at the 209th annual meeting of **Holston Association** Oct. 24 at Bethel View Church near Bristol. The meeting marks the beginning of a year-long celebration during the 210th year of Tennessee's oldest Baptist association. The association organized at the Cherokee Meeting House, now known as Cherokee Church near Jonesborough. Holston Association has 99 member churches and two mission congregations. The annual business session of the association will convene at 5:30 p.m. Other guests will be Allen and Andrea Duncan, missionaries to South Africa.

■ The Nov. 6 pastors' meeting of **Bradley County Association** will be addressed by Lewis Drummond of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.

■ **Indian Creek Association** celebrated its 150th anniversary during the Oct. 16-17 annual meeting. Speakers included Morris Chapman, president, Executive Committee, Southern Baptist Convention, and Ray Willis, moderator of the association and pastor, Calvary Church, Waynesboro.

■ the people

■ Valley View Church, Nashville, ordained **Gil Dyer**, **Mitchell Karnes**, and **Bobbie Reid** as deacons Sept. 24.

■ **John Cole**, a member of First Church, Huntingdon, spoke to a group of Royal Am-

bassadors and Girls in Action at First Church, Bemis, about a mission trip he and his wife, Virginia, made to Burkina Faso. The Coles have made 10 foreign missions trips and in the United States they have worked in construction and Disaster Relief, and World Changers, Brotherhood programs. Cole challenged the children to become involved in missions with their families.

■ West Jackson Church, Jackson, ordained **Todd Herndon**, **Jerome Teel** and **Chris Todd** as deacons Oct. 15.

■ the leaders

■ **Richard M. Lee** has been called by Brainerd Hills Church, Chattanooga, as minister of education and associate pastor, effective Sept. 24.

■ **Frank Crawford** has been called as pastor of Calvary Church, Kingsport.

■ **Paul Williams** has been called to serve as interim pastor of New Bethlehem Church, Dyer.

■ Calvary Church, Jackson, has called **Eric Barron** as minister of music, effective Oct. 15.

■ Union Church, Knoxville, has called **Brian Trapp**, a student at Pellissippi State Community College, Knoxville, and member of Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, as youth director.

■ **Charles A. Parker Jr.**, pastor, First Church, Oliver Springs, has been called as pastor of First Church, Jacksboro, effective Oct. 22. Parker,

who served the church for nine years, also has held church staff positions in Kentucky, Indiana, and Alabama. A member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, Parker also has taught seminary courses for Clinton Baptist Association and written Sunday School lesson commentaries for the *Baptist and Reflector*.

■ Pleasant Grove Church, Greenfield, has called **Bobby Robertson** as pastor.

■ Long Heights Church, McKenzie, has called **Lee and Leslie Downing** as youth directors.

■ Gillespie Avenue Church, Knoxville, has called **C.W. Turner** as pastor.

■ **Frank Holt** of Alabama has been called as pastor of Oak Grove Church, Florence, Ala., which is a member of Indian Creek Association.

■ Valley View Church, Nashville, has called **Brian Vaughan** of Green Hill Church, Mount Juliet, as youth director.

■ **Bob McConnell**, minister of music, Cherry Road Church, Memphis, has retired.

■ the churches

■ Phil Glisson, evangelist from Memphis, will speak at a Nov. 12-15 revival held at **Immanuel Church, Lebanon**.

■ **Gibson Church, Gibson**, will host a Friendship Festival Oct. 28 from 2-4 p.m. Activities include games for children and youth, a display of the church's history, refreshments, and music.



HARRY MYNATT, pastor, Valley Grove Church, Sevierville Pike, Knoxville, and his wife, Joyce, pose during Sept. 17 events noting 16 years of service. A surprise "This is Your Life" program was held featuring video taped messages from the church's missionaries. About 60 out of state guests attended.

■ **First Church, Donelson** will hold a Fall Family Festival Oct. 31. Judging of costumes portraying inanimate objects will be held in several age groups and activities will be available at booths.

■ **Ward's Grove Church, Milton**, will hold revival Oct. 22-27. Benny Jackson, evangelist from Memphis, will speak and David Hudson, minister of music at the church will lead the music.

■ **Woodbine Church, Nashville**, will hold an October Praise Fest Oct. 28. It will feature the music ministry of Gladeville Church performing "My Highest Praise" led by Steve Shepherd, worship leader of Gladeville Church.

■ **Coal Hill Church, Hariman**, will celebrate its 150th anniversary Oct. 22 with an Old Fashioned Day.

■ **Ballplay Church, Old Fort**, celebrated its 100th anniversary Sept. 17.

■ **Lewis Drummond**, Billy Graham Chair of Evangelism and Church Growth at Beeson Divinity School, Samford Uni-

versity, Birmingham, Ala., will lead the Nov. 3-5 revival services at **Oak Grove Church, Cleveland**.

■ **Sullivan Church, Kingsport**, will hold revival Oct. 22-25. Bill Kendrick, director of missions in Virginia, will speak. A preparatory Praise and Worship Service and meal will be held Oct. 21.

■ the hospitals

■ **Baptist Hospital, Nashville**, is offering a new community service to Middle Tennessee — Nurse On Call. By calling 284-RN4U, Middle Tennesseans now have a direct line to a team of Baptist registered nurses ready to answer health questions free of charge. The service is available seven days a week from 8 a.m. to midnight all year. The nurses have specific experience in critical care, emergency care, and pediatrics. For those outside the Nashville calling area, the toll-free number is 1 (800) 211-6699.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Being 'on hold?'

By Michael S. Lester, pastor North Etowah Church, Etowah

It happened again to me this morning. After placing a phone call, I heard that familiar recording, "All our lines are busy at the moment. Please continue holding for the next available operator or hang up and try again later." I had been put "on hold."

Listening to endless selections of elevator music, I wondered if anyone would ever come on the line. How long should I wait? Maybe my call wasn't as important as others, but how did they know?

Have you ever felt your life was "on hold?" Change wasn't taking place as quickly as you'd like. Perhaps you felt penalized for past mistakes.

Blowing the dust off the Old Testament, we discover a man to whom we

can relate: Moses. Though a Hebrew, he was miraculously spared from death as a baby, and then raised in the palace of the Egyptian Pharaoh. It seemed he was on the fast track to fame and fortune ... until one fateful day.

A tragic mistake forced him into desert seclusion. Just when he thought his life was permanently "on hold," God appeared and spoke to him. And what God had to say was worth the wait!

God has your number. □

In the dark

By David E. Clay, pastor Spring Creek Road Church, Chattanooga

Have you ever tried to walk across a familiar room in the dark? Maybe you knew there was nothing in the way, yet your steps faltered and your balance was unsteady. Abundant light is so commonplace, you seldom realize how

much you depend on it. The late R. Earl Allen tells of a blind woman who, having experienced partial loss of her sight commented, "People with normal vision can't realize what irritating and dangerous handicaps you encounter when you can't see very well." Without appropriate light and clarity, almost every activity is hindered.

Without God, we walk in the dark spiritually. John said of Jesus, "That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world" John 1:9. We must have the light of Christ in our lives and the will of Christ in our hearts. If not, we will have little spiritual perception of our environment. We must be men and women of prayer, feeding on his Word, then walk boldly and wisely in the light he gives.

My prayer is, Lord Jesus, in your perfect knowledge, give me clear sight and emotional stability as I lean on your unchanging love and limitless light. Amen. □

Weakley 1,000 Day

By Richard Skidmore, director of missions Weakley County Association

Each year we hold Weakley 1,000 Day. On that day, people scattered throughout the churches of our association will make a \$10 donation above their tithe at their church for the association. These funds are set aside in the Weakley 1,000 account to be spent on capital expenses for pioneer missions or churches.

These grants help congregations to meet the expenses of property, buildings, remodeling, additions. We have helped a new church in Michigan, a deaf congregation in Puerto Rico, a black congregation in Michigan, New Hope Mission in Iowa. Our Missions Development Council is praying about another new church start. Thanks for your involvement. □

MTSU BSU students do missions work in Japan

For Baptist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — Ten Middle Tennessee State University students participated this summer in a new mission program called Global Student Involvement.

GSI is a joint venture of the Baptist Sunday School Board's National Student Ministries and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The program provides short-term missions opportunities

for students.

It is different from traditional BSU summer missions opportunities in that each student is responsible for his or her own financial support for the trip, said Charles Nored, BSU director at MTSU.

The MTSU team spent almost a month serving in Japan and Korea helping with the annual mission meeting of Southern Baptist missionaries in both countries and coordinating children and youth MK

(missionary kids) activities.

The team was led by Lesia Nave, former BSU secretary at MTSU. Nave's husband, Jeff, was pastor of Powell's Chapel Church, Murfreesboro, before accepting a call to Bethel Church, Morristown, later in the summer. Nave was instrumental in helping to select the students for the trip.

Each team member was required to raise \$2,500. They did so through various methods, ranging from car washes to personal letters asking for support.

During the months leading up to the trip, team members also were preparing to lead three different camps for children and youth.

The team worked with missionaries both in Seoul, Korea, and Nagoya, Japan.

While in Korea they were

assisted by missionary Laura Moak who coordinated the team's work there. The MTSU students stayed at the Baptist Mission compound. The BSU students also had an opportunity to visit the Korean Baptist church and were excited to learn Christianity is flourishing in Korea.

From Korea, the team flew to Nagoya where they were met by Barbara Phipps, who coordinated their activities in Japan. In Japan the team stayed in missionary homes.

Team members included Jennifer Taylor, Kristie McDaniel, Lori McKee, Steve Martin, Bobby Todd, Kate Smotherman, Ken Porter, Ginger Kendall, Brent Scott, and Jennifer Kelley. □ — This story was reported by BSU member Ginger Kendall.



MTSU BAPTIST STUDENT UNION students, along with team leader Lesia Nave, participated during the summer in Global Student Involvement, a new mission program through National Student Ministries and the Foreign Mission Board.

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Religious educators to meet prior to TBC

The Tennessee Baptist Religious Education Association will meet Monday, Nov. 13, for their annual banquet meeting at The Loft restaurant in Chattanooga, beginning at 6 p.m.

Following the banquet the group will hear humorist Eddy Nicholson of Ooltewah, who is known as "America's Rocking Chair Philosopher."

Music will be provided by the Bluegrass Ensemble of Belmont University under the direction of Raymond McClain, professional musician and adjunct professor at Belmont.

Reservations are \$21 and can be made by writing Conroy Ryan, 4328 Emory Rd., Knoxville, TN 37938. □

**Life and Work Series
for October 22
Focal Passages:
Ephesians 5:1-12, 15-18**

Living for God every day

By Charles Parker

The mother was very upset when she found her little blonde-haired boy smearing mud all over his head. "How could you do such a thing?" she asked. I was just trying to make my hair brown like Daddy's," was the reply. Most of us parents have seen our children trying to imitate us, particularly when they are little. Though they may choose other models later on, there is no way to calculate the influence for good or ill we have had on our children. In an even greater way, living as a child of God means becoming more Christlike in the way we think and act every day.

This passage from the practically oriented second half of Ephesians contains much light on each aspect of this truth. In verse 1 Paul addressed the Christians as children, a family term that recalls "the household of faith" in Galatians 6:10. To follow God is to be Christlike, for no one more perfectly revealed the Father's nature than the Son of God. The word "therefore" points to what has gone before in Ephesians 4:32 about forgiveness. Since Christians have experienced forgiveness from God through Jesus Christ, they should be forgiving every day those who wrong them.

Christ is forgiving as an aspect of His love (v. 2), supremely revealed in his sacrificial death on Calvary, so Christians should "walk in love" every day. The "walk" is the total way of life of the follower of Christ. We are to "walk the walk" as well as we "talk the talk."

A major aspect of this behavior involves purity in sexual morality. Paul wrote to people who had grown up in the pagan world, where immorality was prevalent. In verses 3-5 he mentioned only a sample of the common practices all around the believers, which were even encouraged by their philosophers. "Saints," however (v. 3), do not partake of such behavior (v. 7). They are to be busy walking in forgiveness and real love to be impure; they avoid immorality as unbecoming a kingdom person (v. 5) and dispute the well-crafted pagan arguments in support of immorality as "vain," or empty, words (v. 6). Paul highlighted "covetousness," or greed, as the root of all impure behavior. Someone has said, "Greed demands to be satisfied at any cost ... Christ taught that the true way to gain in life is through giving."

God's children are also "children of light" whose way of life is fruitful (vv. 8-9, see also Galatians 5:22-23 for "the fruit of the Spirit"). When a person is a child of God, walking in the light of God, that person relates to other people in moral excellence, enjoys a right relationship with God, and possesses integrity, honesty with self. This everyday matter is "acceptable" or pleasing to the Lord (v. 10) and avoids "the unfruitful works of darkness" that the unregenerate do "in secret" (vv. 11-12).

It is in verses 15-18 that Paul especially emphasized the "every day" aspect of living for God. Verse 16 called upon Christians to redeem "the time, because the days are evil." To "redeem" means to make the most of every opportunity. It may be wise to take 10 or 15 minutes a day to read the paper; it is foolish to take an hour and a half to read it. It is wise to catch up on world news and perhaps relax a few minutes in front of the TV; it is foolish to spend every free moment in front of "the one-eyed hypnotist." Children of God are not unwise and drunkards. Wasted chances are replaced by a well-lived life. □ — Charles Parker is pastor of First Church, Oliver Springs.

Gentiles receive the spirit

By Kim Allen

As Christianity came alive during the first century, missionaries of the Gospel carried the message to all people. It started in Jerusalem, then to Samaria, and the Roman Empire.

Attitudes of leaders had to change so they could be freed from legalism and Judaism for the freedom of the Gospel. After Paul's conversion God led Peter into a new area of commitment when he faced Cornelius. In Acts 10:1-11, we deal with Peter and Cornelius.

Everything indicates Cornelius was a God-fearing Gentile. He was found to be a devout man who feared God, gave alms, and prayed. He was a truly religious man; yet one can be religious and not a Christian.

In verses 3-8, Cornelius had a vision in which an angel of God appeared to him. As the angel called him by name his terror lessened. The angel told him because of his generosity and his prayers he had found favor with God. The angel told him to send a message to Simon Peter, in Joppa, to come to Caesarea. Once again God worked through an ordinary man to accomplish his purpose.

If we ever doubt God's intention to make salvation available to all people in every nation, in every age, this one account should cancel the idea. Gentiles had encountered Christianity but God wanted the chief apostle, Peter, to see the mandate to go to all the world.

Cornelius immediately told three of his men his vision, and sent them to find Peter.

Verses 9-16 is the vision of Peter. He saw a great sheet filled with clean and unclean animals, and he heard a voice telling him to kill and to eat that which he considered tainted; the clean and the unclean had been together. The voice said, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common."

In verses 17-23, we see God's timing. As Peter struggled with the meaning of his vision, a knock was heard at the gate. Devout soldiers, Roman-Gentiles were standing at the gate of a Jewish home.

Peter's astonishment can be felt as his mind screams "Unclean!" and the Holy Spirit whispers, "No, clean.

**Convention Uniform Series
for October 22
Focal Passages:
Acts 10:30-39, 44-48**

Remember?"

Peter invited them inside. He ate with them and then slept under the same roof with them; a Jew with a Gentile. It must have been awesome for Peter. He was tested and

he passed with flying colors, but like us he later had relapses. Under pressure in the Jewish Church, Peter would back up somewhat from his stand but he never went into full retreat.

Peter goes to Cornelius in verses 24-28. He was greeted by his relatives and friends. Peter explained his breaking of tradition by being with them and then explained his vision.

Peter's sermon begins in verse 34. The words "opened his mouth" lets us know something profound is being said. Peter's being in a Gentile house helps him explain that God has no favorites but accepts all persons who serve him and love him. Peter's sermon focused on Jesus which the Gentiles had heard of, but Peter assured them that, "Jesus is Lord of all."

The Holy Spirit descends in verses 44-48 in what theologians call the "Gentile Pentecost." An observable moving of God's Spirit in the speaking of tongues, witnessed by other Jews, affirmed God welcomed the Gentiles. The men with Peter were astonished that the Spirit fell on Cornelius and his relatives and friends. Peter wanted to know if anything prevented the believers from being baptized.

In chapter 11, verses 1-3, Peter is criticized by those "of the circumcision." Strict Jews still believed that eating with a Gentile made them unclean.

In verses 4-17, Peter gives a summary of events in his going to Cornelius. He went because the Spirit led him and he took witnesses. Verse 18 — Faced with the irrefutable fact that "God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life," the church in Jerusalem praised God for opening the door to the Gentiles.

Unfortunately salvation for all is still questioned by some today. □ — Kim Allen is pastor of Little West Fork Church, Clarksville.

Commitment without compromise

By Phil Lovelace

**The Confession of Sin —
ch. 9:1-2**

No sooner has a teacher of the Word arrived than the Word begins to reveal sin (Hebrews 4:12). Ezra discovered that the Jews had mingled with their heathen neighbors and married heathen wives. Ezra was so burdened at hearing this report that he publicly tore his garment in sorrow and repentance and sat like a dumb man until the hour for the evening service. The people who knew God's Word began to tremble. The people feared what the Lord might do to the feeble nation.

The prayer of confession (for the people) — vv. 10-14a

Ezra's prayer of confession should be compared with Daniel's prayer (Daniel 9) and the prayer of Nehemiah (Nehemiah 9). "I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face!" (v. 6). Ezra prayed. He looks back to Israel's past sins (v. 7) and admits that the nation deserved captivity. But now the Lord had sent deliverance. They had been restored by his grace. And yet the nation was sinning again. The future of the kingdom was hanging, as it were, like garments on a tent nail, so feeble was the restored remnant of Israel. God had given them a wall of protection (v. 9) and graciously answered their prayers.

**Bible Book Series for October 22
Focal Passages: Ezra 9:1-2; 10-14a;
10:2-3**

What more could Ezra say? "We have not learned our lessons," he says, "for God has punished us for our sins, yet we go on sinning still!" (v. 10).

Observation: It is interesting to note that Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah all had to confess national sin and plead for forgiveness. II Chronicles 7:14 applies here. However, it was not enough for the religious leaders to pray; the entire nation had to face its sins and make matters right with the Lord.

Question: I wonder who is confessing national sin for America and asking God for forgiveness? However, it is not enough for the religious leaders to plead America's case. The entire nation must face its sins and make matters right with the Lord.

Note: God does not accept compromise, much less; commitment with compromise. God only accepts commitment without compromise. How about you? Your life? What about America? More importantly, what about it Christian?

Application: Years ago, a pastor called into his office a church mem-

ber who was not honoring God in his daily living. He was engaged in a business that opposed the church's stand on moral issues, and his personal character was suspect. With love, yet firmly, the pastor pointed out to him what he should do and pleaded with him to do it. The church member changed his life style and became a dedicated Christian. A short time later, he surrendered to the ministry. When he preached his first sermon, six people were saved, including two of his old crowd and his son. He finished college, went to a seminary, and became a powerful preacher as well as an excellent pastor. A pastor must be careful when he engages in this type of "one-on-one" confrontation, and he must do it in the right spirit. Sometimes, though he feels that he has no option.

Likewise, people as a group must be called to repentance. Our nation has arrived at the place where people must repent, turn from sin or face decline and destruction — judgment by our Lord. □ — Phil Lovelace is pastor of First Church, Somerville.

Largest church without building finally gets one

Baptist Press

LAKE FOREST, Calif. — The nation's largest church without a building finally has one. After nearly 16 years of meeting in schools, country clubs, warehouses, tents, and even mental hospitals, Saddleback Valley Community Church has moved into its own facility.

Nearly 12,000 people filled the three dedication services Sept. 17 of the Lake Forest, Calif., congregation where Rick Warren is pastor.

The event included the baptism of 384 new converts in Saddleback's outdoor baptismal pool on the patio of the new facility.

"We wanted to keep the focus on the theme of our church: changed lives," Warren said. The church has baptized more than 1,000 so far this year.

Saddleback has used 79 different facilities, in five different cities, since beginning in Warren's home in 1980 with seven members.

In December 1992 the church purchased 74 acres of prime Orange County land worth \$9 million. In 1994 members committed \$23.5 million in a single weekend to be used for buildings. The first building was erected in 10 months and was completely paid for when the congregation moved in. Additional buildings will follow. □

Missionaries sought to serve in Austria

Baptist Press

VIENNA, Austria — Southern Baptists are seeking two new Foreign Mission Board couples to start churches in Austria, to fill the first personnel requests from there in five years.

They will help Austrian Baptists meet their goal of 10 new churches by the year 2000.

One church planter would begin work where virtually no Baptist witness exists. A second would team up with an existing church to develop cell groups, intending to start new congregations. □

Montana Baptists reach first \$1 million budget at convention

Baptist Press

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — Montana Baptists' first \$1 million budget was approved during the annual meeting of the Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship Oct. 4-5 at Westside Church here. The 1996 budget — \$1,001,369 — was approved by 125 messengers representing the 136 churches, missions, preaching points, and Bible studies in the state. The 1995 budget is \$960,459.

Montana Baptists kept the amount to forward to the Southern Baptist national Cooperative Program the same as 1995 — 22 percent.

Great Falls pastor James Shaver was elected president of the Fellowship without opposition. □

Texas association expels church for ordaining gay deacon

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Austin Association at its annual meeting ousted University Church for ordaining a homosexual as a deacon last year.

Following a recommendation by the association's credentials committee, messengers voted 108-55 at the Oct. 9 meeting at First Church, Pflugerville, to disfellowship the church.

The issue in Austin came to a vote after what Larry Bethune, pastor of University Church, called a "difficult year, but a year of courage in the life of our church" and which associational officials termed a "long, deliberative process."

But parties on both sides agreed it was "a sad time" as the relationship between the church and association was severed.

"Our church had no agenda concerning the issue of homosexuality or ordination," Bethune said. "We did not ordain an orientation. We ordained a person."

The man, who Bethune declined to name, was one of six people ordained by the church in June 1994. He said the deacon is in a "long-term continuing relationship" with another man, and Bethune was aware he was a homosexual before the ordination.

"At no point was the question of sexual orientation raised or considered relevant in relation to the biblical qualifications for deacon outlined in our bylaws. Neither did the

church choose to take a stand one way or another in regard to the question of sexual orientation," according to a letter to Austin Association signed both by Bethune and David Gavenda, chairman of the deacons.

The letter also stated its belief that the association had no authority to dictate whom a church might ordain or how a church should interpret Scripture. □

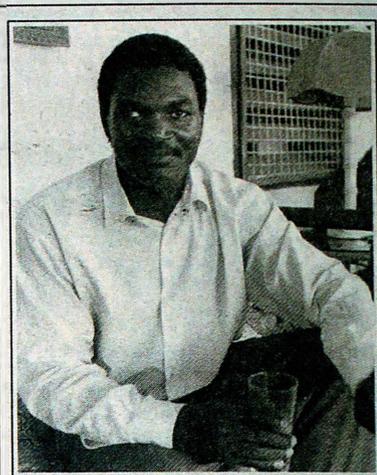
BWA team addresses India conflict

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON

— With the help of a Baptist World Alliance reconciliation team, 55 Kuki and Naga Baptist leaders came together in Manipur in the Indian state of Nagaland Sept. 16-17 and agreed to condemn violence and to work for an end to the shooting and looting that has plagued their land and Baptist work there. They also agreed to exchange pulpits on Nov. 26 and asked Baptists around the world to pray for peace in Manipur on that day.

In a statement issued after their meeting, leaders from the two groups resolved "to con-



He wouldn't burn

Fola Lateju has lived to testify that God intervened when a Muslim mob came to burn down the Baptist church in Kaduna, Nigeria, where he was pastor. Mob leaders drenched him three times in gasoline and set a torch to him. He didn't burn. Astounded after the first failure, they poured some of the gas on a nearby clump of grass and torched it. The grass exploded in flames. But two more attempts to drench and burn Lateju failed. Today he teaches at the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary in Ogbomoso and works to build bridges between Muslims and Christians.

demn all kinds of violence at all levels and solve all disputes and difficulties through negotiations and non-violence."

They also agreed to "encourage their church leaders in particular, and the public in general," in a spirit of confession, forgiveness, reconciliation, and reconstruction and hold reconciliation workshops.

"Our prayers are answered," said Roger Fredrickson, former BWA vice president, who was on the reconciliation team. □

Chinese Baptists offer outreach to Apache Indians in Arizona

Baptist Press

PHOENIX, Ariz. — When pastor Simon Tsoi and his wife, Christina, took a trip to the White Mountains this summer, they took along more than 1,000 eggs, 200 pounds of chicken, 100 pounds of pork, and 250 pounds of rice.

But don't look for a new Chinese restaurant opening in northern Arizona anytime soon. Rather, the Tsos joined workers from eight churches, seven of them Chinese Southern Baptist, in a mission effort to the Apache Indians.

"This is long overdue," Tsoi said. "Christian missions, especially sharing Christ, is the privilege as well as the re-

sponsibility of every Christian, regardless of their ethnic background," said Tsoi, a former first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The mission effort, now in its fourth year, began to take shape in 1979 as Tsoi prayed for a way to reach the Apache people. Three churches finally united to begin the annual trek to lead Vacation Bible School and revival meetings and provide services to the community. This year 87 volunteers from six California churches joined 28 volunteers from two Arizona congregations in the effort.

A total of 400 children in four locations went to VBS and there were 200 decisions for Christ. □

Churches discover a shortage of organists

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A nationwide shortage of church organists has caused some congregations to pull out all the stops in their search to fill the position.

A Methodist church in New York sent out 240 letters to other churches looking for names of organists.

Southern Baptist Convention churches are not exempt from this shortage, according to experts in the field.

"My sense is just from calls we get at our office that there is definitely a shortage of organists" in Kentucky, said Jim Cordell, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention church music department.

Schools of music across the country, including Baptist colleges and universities, cite fewer and fewer students majoring in organ each year. Baylor University in Waco, Texas, once enrolled about 40 organ majors each year, according to Clinton Flowers of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department, and church organist at First Church,

Murfreesboro. That number has dwindled to between eight and 10, he said.

The scarcity of organists stems from a combination of several factors, according to Kathleen Pardee, a member of the organ faculty at Syracuse University which once had one of the premier programs in the country.

For example, church music demands a high level of skill on the part of the organist, while many churches are unable to pay high salaries. Small churches often can't afford to pay at all, she said.

"It's going on across the country," Pardee said. "It's a big topic of discussion in the field," she added.

Some churches also are changing their approach to music and are turning to prerecorded music, orchestras, or other methods.

Don Hustad, senior professor of music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, is confident that organs and organists will persevere in Baptist churches.

"The organ has been a symbol of worship for 1,000 years," he said. "It won't be voted out overnight." □