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Violence: a reality among even Christian families, says Missouri Baptist researcher

By Julie Nall
For Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — A young, middle-class woman waits in vain for her husband to return home. He has stopped at the bar for a "few drinks" after work. Now at 2 a.m., she prays he will not come home at all; experience has taught her what will occur when he does.

Within the hour, the woman will be dragged from her bed, beaten, and raped. Her young daughter, awakened by the noise, will listen quietly in her room, lest her father's drunken wrath turn on her.

An infant cries inconsolably in the night. At first, the child's parents attempt to give him comfort. The crying only continues. Frustrated, the parents seize the infant and shake him. They shout at the child to "shut up." Moments later, their son lies limp in their arms. His brain has been irreparably damaged by the momentary force of their anger.

In his paper, "Comfort My People: The Church Responding to Family Violence," John Sisson notes these are true accounts. Unlike the sensational stories of O.J. Simpson and Susan Smith, these two stories

did not make national headlines. "However, they are real," Sisson wrote. "In fact, they represent scenes which are far too real for many families all across our nation."

Sisson, a member of the Missouri Baptist Convention's missions education and ministry development team, said he prepared the paper because incidents of family violence are "a frequent yet sad reality of modern family life, impacting and threatening the very lives of both our present and future generations."

He defines "family" or "domestic" violence as spouse battering and/or the physical abuse of a child. The term also addressed issues such as emotional abuse, spousal rape, incest, child abandonment, and neglect and elder abuse.

Family violence can be summarized as "the physical and/or emotional mistreatment of a family member which has the potential to result in harm to that individual and (ultimately) to others," Sisson concluded.

There is denial in religious communities that family violence occurs, said Thelma Burgenio-Watson, a program specialist for the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Do-

mestic Violence in Seattle.

Don Anders, coordinator of missions ministries and special projects for the Missouri Baptist Convention, said statistics show family violence increases when the stress levels of society increase.

"Baptists used to deny that such violence was taking place in our Baptist families, but now we are beginning to admit our Baptist families and children are hurting each other," Anders said.

Sisson called family violence "an equal opportunity crime," noting it occurs among people of all ages, races, socioeconomic classes, and religious faiths. "Christians are not immune to family violence," Sisson said. Christian and non-Christian families are equally at risk of including perpetrators and victims. While spouse battering is predominantly a male crime, child abusers appear equally among both genders.

What is the nature of the problem? Sisson explains family violence as a complex, systematic problem with roots that vary from family to family. Because family violence impacts so many different types of families, there are no composite stereotypes that might — See Violence, page 2

State, local news packaged together in church edition

BRENTWOOD — Want to "save a buck," or more?

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Salem Association elects officers

Officers of Salem Association were elected Oct. 18 at Mt. Herman Church, Smithville. From left, are Gary Anderson Jr., pastor, Burt Church, Woodbury, assistant clerk; Bill Robertson, pastor, Elizabeth Chapel Church, Smithville, clerk; Larry Thomas, pastor, New Home Church, Smithville, vice moderator; and James Bond, pastor, Prosperity Church, Auburntown, moderator.

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Violence: A reality among even Christian families ...

— Continued from page 1 represent all perpetrators or victims.

He suggested some general characteristics that may allow the church to take preventative steps to help before violence occurs:

- Some men who batter their partners tend to embrace the more traditional male and female roles and stereotypes. Violence can occur when the man's role as a family leader is challenged by a "disobedient" wife or child.

- There is a strong correlation between violence and low self-esteem.

- There is a strong correlation between family violence and substance abuse.

- There is strong evidence to suggest that abuse runs in family trees, extending from generation to generation.

- Stress has been cited as a major factor in family violence.

And the list could go on.

Sisson emphasized that regardless of what factors might serve as underlying issues in family violence situations, the perpetrator alone is responsible for any violence that occurs.

"Violence is an act of the will," he said. "It is a choice which one makes in terms of managing his family conflicts. 'The claim 'I just lost it' holds no water, particularly given that most perpetrators manage

to find other options for dealing with conflict when out in the workplace or community."

Sisson raised this question in his paper: "So where is the church amidst the turmoil and pain of family violence?"

The historical church, he noted, may have made more of a contribution to the victimization of women and children in the family than to their relief.

"For centuries the church was an integral part of a society which held that women and children were little more than property," Sisson wrote, observing that the church "at first legitimized spouse battering as a means of correction. Later the practice was outlawed, but it remained largely ignored, because it was seen as a personal matter."

The modern church, Sisson wrote, has responded to family violence with mixed reactions, including total naivete, denial, disbelief, indifference, failed logic, faulty theology, and support. He classified churches into three categories: the "ostrich" church; the "stumbling block" church; and the "lighthouse" church.

"Ostrich" churches remain silent about family violence, either because they are naive or they deny the problem exists, Sisson observed.

"Stumbling block" is an analogy the church uses to refer to anything or anyone that might serve as a barrier to

keep someone away from the hope, love, and salvation of Jesus Christ. Sisson said while few would admit it, the modern church has kept people away from the hope, love, and salvation of Jesus in relation to family violence.

The error of the "stumbling block" church, Sisson said, is that of indifference, failed logic, or faulty theology. The church offers little constructive assistance to the cries for help, sometimes even turning the victims back to their homes with instructions to "suffer quietly for the sake of righteousness" or "be more submissive."

"Stumbling block" churches are "awake," Sisson said, "but perhaps need to walk more carefully." Sisson pointed out that in many states "a minister can be held legally accountable if he knows of family violence but chooses not to report the case to an appropriate civil authority."

"Lighthouse" churches stand as a beacon of hope, extending Christ's love to families who are adrift amidst their own violent storms.

Sisson believes the church is capable of helping in all aspects of the process of healing. In his paper, he offers lesson plan adaptations to train leadership in dealing with family violence. Copies of his paper are available by calling him at (314) 635-7931, ext. 442. □

Family violence: facts and figures

Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — In researching his paper, "Comfort My People: The Church Responding to Family Violence," John Sisson discovered:

- Family violence is the most under-reported crime in America.

- An estimated four million American women are battered every year by their husbands or boyfriends.

- Family violence is the leading cause of injury to American women, exceeding automobile accidents, sexual assaults, and muggings combined.

- Up to 35 percent of all women's emergency room injuries are due to family violence.

- Over two million children are abused each year. Conservative estimates are that 2,000 of these cases will result in the death of a child.

- More than 2.9 million cases of child abuse were reported nationwide in 1993, a five-year high.

- Most abusers of children are "ordinary" people who love their children. □

Indiana state paper sends special edition to Texas readers

Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS — In what may be a first for a state Baptist paper, the newsjournal of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana has been mailed to 6,000 Baptists in Texas.

A four-page "The Plumline," a publication of "Southern Baptists in Texas," was wrapped around the Oct. 18 edition of the *Indiana Baptist* and mailed to a special Texas Baptist mailing list.

Indiana editor Gary Ledbetter, who will leave that post Dec. 1 for a staff posi-

tion at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said the Texas group paid the cost of the wrap and asked the Indiana paper to produce it for them. He also said his governing board supported his decision to do it.

Toby Druin, editor-elect of the *Texas Baptist Standard*, said he didn't think it was in the best interests of Indiana Baptists.

"It is one thing for a state paper to be used by another convention for the promotion of missions — the *Baptist Standard* has done that in the past, offering its

pages to the Minnesota-Wisconsin convention to help tell their story and establish their work. Other state papers are doing similar things.

"What the *Indiana Baptist* has done, in this case, however, is different. The Indiana paper has lent its good offices to a partisan, political cause in another state in an unprecedented manner. While I don't question the editor's right to do it, I question whether this use of the paper, which is almost totally supported by Cooperative Program funds, is in the best interests of Indiana Baptists," Druin said. □

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests



October

- 27 — Pray for the team of six as they prepare to go to Poland, Nov. 9-19, to lead Social Work Workshops in different areas of Poland.
- 28 — Pray for leaders as they prepare to lead a Discipleship Training Workshop in Toronto, Ontario, Canada in November.
- 29 — Pray for a new Spanish work being started in Montreal and Quebec Canada. Pray for Frank and Laurie Johnson as they work in this area.
- 30 — Pray for the Study Committee of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists as they look at the programs and functions of the Convention.
- 31 — Pray for the Associational WMO directors as they continue to direct mission education during this year.

Author urges less paranoia over deficit

Baptist Press

SARASOTA, Fla. — Americans have gone overboard worrying about the federal deficit of \$5 trillion, according to a noted Christian financial advisor and author.

The end result harms the body of Christ, said Gary Moore, because evangelicals worried the economy might collapse tend to cut back on charitable giving.

Moore, a former senior vice president of Wall Street investment firm Paine Webber, now provides financial counsel to religious and ethical investors. A syndicated columnist, he also is the author of the book, *The Christian's*

Guide to Wise Investing.

Moore said the national debt isn't as serious a problem as had been portrayed because 90 percent of U.S. Treasury notes are held by American citizens (Japanese investors hold just 3 percent, although he said many people believe it is much higher).

To better gauge the nation's financial picture, Moore said, citizens must take into account Uncle Sam's assets of approximately \$50 trillion. Including that side of the ledger, Moore compared a deficit of approximately \$5 trillion to a \$10,000 mortgage on a \$100,000 house.

That analogy puts the situation in a different light, Moore noted. □

Million Man March may hurt evangelism efforts, Baptists say

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — The Million Man March may have united African American men around positive issues, but it also could bolster the Nation of Islam in African American communities and hurt Christian evangelism efforts there, some Southern Baptist leaders said.

The Oct. 16 march, organized by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, drew an estimated 400,000 African American men to the nation's capital, according to the U.S. Parks Service's estimate.

Amid the religious references and themes, participants and speakers affirmed the

event as a time of atonement and black unity. Some African American Christians supported the march, emphasizing the issues being addressed over the event's main personality.

But E.W. McCall, president of the African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention, said he didn't support the march because the message was inseparable from Farrakhan. "I would never line up Christ under Allah," said McCall, a California pastor. "There are some things I will not sell out to for any social contribution."

Willie McPherson, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's black church extension division, lauded the

goal to instill pride in young black men. "But Louis Farrakhan is the wrong person for Christians to rally around," he said.

The march likely will increase the Nation of Islam's influence among young black men because Farrakhan addresses issues important to them, said McPherson, who is African American.

"There are a lot of people, possible immature Christians, who don't see anything wrong with Farrakhan," he said. "I think it will make it more difficult for people who are wanting to develop people as true, serious followers of Jesus Christ to impact the African American community." □



Indian Creek officers

Indian Creek Association elected officers during its Oct. 16 meeting at Philadelphia Church, Waynesboro. From left, front row, are Ray Willis, Calvary Church, outgoing moderator; Phil Fisher, Green River Church, treasurer; Norman Baker, Bethlehem Church, vice moderator; second row, DOM David Miller, Margaret Morrison, Upper Green River Church, clerk; and Frank Samuels, First Church, Waynesboro, moderator.

Midwestern Seminary trustees elect 'dream' team of vice presidents

By Herb Hollinger
For Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, enthusiastically responding to new President Mark T. Coppenger's leadership, elected four vice presidents and two new faculty members and approved a host of other items as they met for their semiannual meeting Oct. 16-17 here.

The 35-member board elected Lamar Cooper vice president for academic affairs; Martin F. King, vice president for institutional advancement; Gary K. Ledbetter vice president for student development; and Michael Whitehead, vice president for business affairs. Cooper also was elected dean of the faculty and professor of Old Testament and Hebrew.

It was in presenting his first administrative team, the four vice presidents, that Coppenger, who became president Aug. 1, gave the trustees insight into

his direction for the seminary. All four are considered conservative leaders, actively involved in the "conservative resurgence" of the Southern Baptist Convention, as has Coppenger, who was a vice president for the SBC Executive Committee for nearly five years.

Coppenger said some have called the four "a dream or power team." Since coming to Kansas City, the new president has often articulated his vision of the seminary with a strong conservative staff and faculty reaching out to the nation's Midwest in an evangelistic, missionary, and revival spirit, called "prairie fire."

Two of the four vice presidents come from the staff of the SBC Christian Life Commission: Cooper, 63, has been director of denominational affairs for the CLC since 1989, following nine years as dean of graduate studies for Criswell College, Dallas. Whitehead, 45, has been general counsel and director of Christian citizenship and religious liberty concerns for the CLC.

Ledbetter, 40, joins the staff from the editorship of the *Indiana Baptist*. He also was the Indiana convention's director of student work.

King, 44, has been the public relations and development officer for the SBC Home Mission Board.

All four vice presidential positions had been vacant, with interim leadership, although the student development post actually combined two previous positions, dean of students and vocational services.

Cooper will receive an annual salary of \$60,000 while the other three vice presidents will receive salaries of \$50,000.

Trustees also elected two professors: Donald S. Whitney, a Memphis native who has been pastor of Glenfield Church, Glen Ellyn, Ill., assistant professor of spiritual formation; and Ronald D. Rogers, on leave from the SBC Foreign Mission Board, as associate professor of missions. Rogers has been serving as visiting professor of

missions at Midwestern. He is a former pastor in Tennessee.

In other actions, trustees:

- postponed plans to build a \$700,000 Family Life Ministry Center on campus.

- approved a resolution asking the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union to "back away" from its decision in July to publish missions materials for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

- approved a new faculty questionnaire which will be given to all prospective faculty. It includes questions about the person's support of the *Baptist Faith and Message*, and whether the candidate can support the SBC's position in opposition to abortion, exclusion of churches actively supporting homosexual behavior, and opposition to women's ordination and women as pastors.

- discussed a matter concerning a contract teacher who was fired by acting academic vice president John Howell during the summer. □



Royal Ambassadors support church project

On Sunday, Oct. 1, Inglewood Church, Nashville, raised \$44,000 in a one-time offering to purchase a new bus and various other equipment. The Royal Ambassador group at Immanuel helped the effort by raising \$415 in a bicycle rodeo. Here, they present a 'check' to the church. In addition, the church received \$12,000 in regular budget monies, above weekly needs, reported Pastor Kevin Shrum. Shrum also noted the church had 359 in Sunday School that first Sunday. They hope to average 350 for the month during the October Sunday School campaign, Shrum added.

SWBTS trustees urge Texans to bolster giving, not cut CP share

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees, in their Oct. 16-18 meeting, approved a resolution affirming Texas Baptists' plans to start 1,400 new churches but expressing regret over a proposed reduction in Cooperative Program funding for Southern Baptist causes in order to fulfill the state goal.

Instead, trustees proposed Texas churches be challenged to designate an additional one-half percent of their budget for new church starts.

The action was taken as the

Baptist General Convention of Texas prepares for a Nov. 13-14 meeting in San Antonio that will include a vote on a BGCT executive board proposal to cut \$1.5 million in giving to SBC national and international ministries in order to fund 1,400 new Texas Baptist churches in the next five years.

SWBTS officials said when the cuts become effective the seminary would receive \$51,245 less in this fiscal year and \$87,900 less in fiscal year 1996-97.

The resolution urged the BGCT to "understand the impact" of its action. □

He wasn't going to give up, so he chose another route

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

GATLINBURG — Dean Watson chose not to give up.

It is not easy to realize the difficulties he has been through. He is a positive, strong but gentle man. Yet he has come back from the brink of death, limited physical abilities, and inability to work — to become the opposite of all those defects.

Twenty-three years ago a bullet to his head left him seriously injured.

But his years of struggling to be all that God wanted him to be have resulted in an amazing story.

He said recently that, not only had God kept him in the pastorate, he had enabled Watson to develop a new way of telling the Gospel story.

He is using chalk drawing, or "chalk talk" as another way to share the story of Christ with people.

And he has written a book that tells his story, a story of amazing victory from certain defeat, *From Tragedy to Triumph*.

Watson is pastor of Roaring Fork

Church, Gatlinburg, and preaches about the God of miracles. "I know he is the God of miracles," Watson says, "because I am one of those miracles."

Watson was accidentally shot in the head while deer hunting with friends in 1972. The rifle bullet smashed through the left side of his skull and left him an invalid.

But now after years of physical therapy, he is able to walk with a cane and with his right leg braced.

He can move his right hand but eats, dresses, and writes left-handed. He says it was extremely difficult to learn how to do ordinary things differently.

"It was so complicated — the physical therapy," he says. He spent two years in therapy. Always an active person, the therapy was hard because of the slow learning process.

He had been a professional athlete and was successful in business.

Watson says he had a hard time coping with healthy people and had to overcome comparing himself with others.

Watson was an artist in high school years and resumed painting during the

physical therapy sessions.

He met a quadriplegic who painted. Her determination led him to believe "if she could paint with no hands, I could learn to paint with my left hand."

He did, and the new direction helped him get out of depression. One of the toughest aspects of the years in therapy was that his wife Linda had to assume total responsibility for the home, including their three daughters.

Watson says that God gave the family grace to overcome those hard times.

God had another surprise in store for Dean Watson. Not only did he enable him to revive his painting, God called him to full-time ministry.

He shared that decision with his doctor who didn't believe Watson could make it.

Again, he did. He began theological studies in 1978 and after graduation he became pastor of First Church in Slocum, Ala. He later earned masters and doctorate degrees.

"The people have always accepted me," Watson says. "I have never had to send resumes."

In addition to his work as pastor at Roaring Fork, doing the chalk talks, writing a book, and painting, Watson and his wife provide a special ministry of counseling and retreats.

Comfort Touch Ministries is planned to assist ministers and young adults.

The book was written specifically to offer hope and encouragement to people who have had setbacks in life.

The book includes many reproductions of Watson's "left-handed" paintings. The income from book sales goes

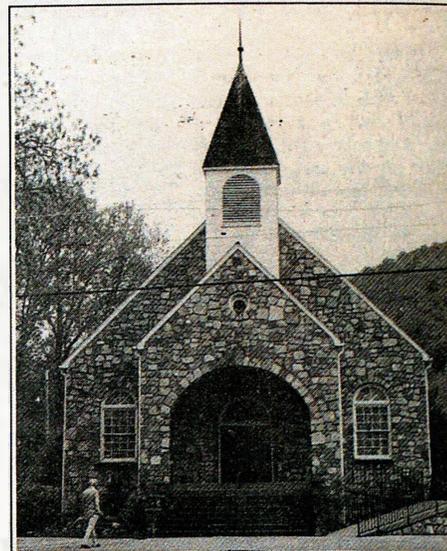
into the Comfort Touch Ministries.

Watson is also active in community affairs.

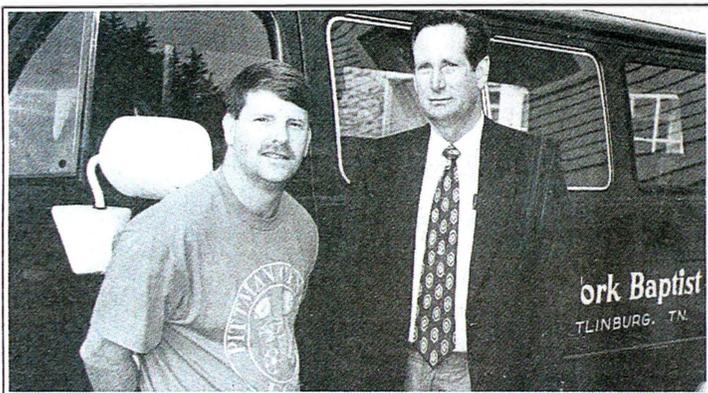
Talking about his life prior to the injury and recovery, Watson says, "I didn't look at sunsets, waves in the sea, the beauty of many little things. I appreciate them now."

Through his life and ministry, he shares that beauty with others. □

— Adapted in part from *The Mountain Press*, Sevier County, Andy Rines.



ROARING FORK CHURCH, Gatlinburg, where Watson is pastor. BELOW, one of Watson's paintings.



DEAN WATSON, right, pastor of Roaring Fork Church, Gatlinburg, stands with Randy McCloud, minister of youth. Watson and McCloud attended the 'Meet You at the Pole' prayer time for students at Pittman Center School, Gatlinburg, on Sept. 20.

'Proclaim Christ's Love' — Gibson Association's theme



GIBSON ASSOCIATION elected new officers at its recent meeting at New Hope Church, Dyer. From left: Billy Hammonds, pastor, First Church, Trenton, assistant moderator; James Adams, host pastor; Virginia Stephens, clerk; Ken Sparkman, director of missions; and Bobby Garland, pastor, Keely Mill, Dyer, moderator. Also elected were William Breeden, treasurer; and Floyd Roberts, assistant treasurer.



FORMER MODERATOR Wayne Perkins, pastor of First Church, Kenton, presents outgoing moderator Randy Crews, pastor of First Church, Rutherford with a plaque of appreciation.

What does the pastor look like; who cares?

There must be less than a half-dozen actors in Hollywood who can play the role of a pastor (preacher) in a movie.

You know the type. He is average size, probably middle-aged, neither ugly nor handsome, and certainly he is a wimp.

In trying circumstances he will tell you not to get upset. When there is a family death, no matter how tragic, he offers only a brief and meaningless blessing. If a child goes astray, or if a dad gambles all family resources, he hasn't a clue of dealing with the problem.

The pastor/preacher, Hollywood style, probably has a get-rich-quick-plan. He wants to get on television so he can bilk thousands of people and hide behind oblique references to faith.

What does the pastor look like? How does he act?

The pastor search committee of Great Hope Baptist Church sits down to its first meeting.

Most committee members are serious, well-meaning, and cooperative. They insist on praying and ask the church body to pray constantly.

They have listened. They invoke God's blessings and guidance. They don't talk much about age or personal appearance. They are interested in experience and ability to lead, but they are careful about moving ahead of the Holy Spirit.

A couple of members are loose cannons. They want a person who has twenty years experience at age thirty-four. He must have had a long string of suc-

cesses — great building programs and huge increases in Sunday School and other programs. He must be a member of the civic club and promise not to rock the boat that is creaky and leaky.

What does the pastor look like? How does he act?

The pastor who pleases Christ is not an angel; but he is not afraid to chase the Devil. He is not a saint, but he is eager to sit with sinners.

The pastor who pleases Christ is handsome — in the eyes of God because he is brimming with a spiritual joy that spreads to those he is with. His face may be wrinkled or smooth, but his heart is flooded with the mercy and grace of Christ.

He is a shepherd, not a vandal who chases sheep. He is a sower of seeds, and a reaper of the harvest — God chooses which.

What does the pastor look like? How does he act?

The pastor who pleases Christ knows about priorities of the soul, and his life reflects the proper perspectives.

He puts Christ first, others next, including his own family, and the church family — and the lost people of the community. He puts himself last, but places himself carefully in the strong care of Christ lest he neglect his spiritual, physical, and mental health.

What does the pastor look like?

When his flock sees him, they see love and compassion. When his family sees him, they see a strong character who will

lead as the spiritual shepherd with strength and tenderness.

When a lost person sees him, that person sees the grace of God and the salvation of Jesus Christ.

What does the pastor look like? How does he appear in the eyes of the budget committee?

As this committee looks at the pastor, as they represent the church, they should see him as a faithful servant.

They should see him as a worker who is worthy of his wages, a father, husband, member of the congregation who serves in a special place. If he is single, he also is deemed a worthy servant, faithful, deserving of real affirmation.

The pastor and church staff members are in a peculiar situation.

In one sense, they are at the mercy of that committee. Committee members have a great responsibility, especially at this time of year, to lead the church to care for the pastor and staff.

This should be done for today and for the future. Salary should be such that pastor and staff do not have to fret about caring for their families.

Health care should be provided, and a generous annuity (retirement) package supplied.

What does the pastor look like?

The face is human. The spiritual, mental, and physical face of the pastor will exude joy and carefree love when seen as a worthy servant, one always on call, always available, always shepherd-ing. He is not from Hollywood. □

■ one
word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

God in our midst

Our family used to revel in the tales that our father would spin. Most of them we had heard before, many times.

They were always worth listening to the second time.

His "growing up" family was larger even than ours (we were six children).

He told us how the brothers walked together to school. One morning they had discovered a cache of homemade wine.

The details are blurred

now, but the impact is the same. On the way to school, they, having sipped too much of the wine, "fell out," unable

to walk any further. Of course their all-knowing parents somehow found out about the escapade and retribution was served.

I heard a speaker recently say that God is doing something remarkable in Southern Baptists' midst.

If that be true, he must be extraordinarily busy. First, it seems to me that we ought to be hovering around God, finding out his assignment for us.

And second, it is hard to believe that he still has patience with us.

My father's family, and mine, (and you might add yours to the list), had hard times. In being attentive to his oft-told tales, it seems to me that the family must stay close to where God is.

It is safe there. It is the comfort zone. It offers a worthy task with equal affirmation from him. It is not a place to which we wander — it is a place from which we should never stray.

The family is even larger than blood kin. The family of Christians that surrounds us, touches us, reaches us even when we are unapproachable — that too is family.

My father's family may not have been perfect — probably not. The family was flawed.

But every member of every family, with God in our midst, must help each other with the upbringing.

Words, examples, lifestyles, choices, concerns, all combine to care for each other. From the youngest to the oldest, in church, in school, at home, let God be in our midst. □

By Wm.
Fletcher
Allen,
editor



ALLEN

■ just
for today
By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Here's how to beat anxiety

Last week we looked at the description of anxiety. Now let's apply that knowledge to defeating the detrimental anxiety in our lives.

I suggest six tools for defeating anxiety

- (1) **Humor.**
- (2) **Drugs.**
- (3) **Words.**
- (4) **Thoughts.**
- (5) **Prayers.**
- (6) **Bible study.**

We will consider each of these briefly, and determine how we can apply them in helping us deal with anxiety. They can each be helpful in certain situations.

At times humor is an effective way of dealing with anxiety. As a pastor I have visited many people awaiting surgery only to find them telling one joke after another.

Humor has a real value in relieving tension. There are some kinds of anxiety that are too serious to joke about.

Sometimes humor becomes a way of denying anxiety, thus it may prevent us from dealing with it effectively.

Doctors are able to prescribe many anxiety-relieving

■ families matter
By Paul Barkley, counselor

medications today.

Some Christians believe these to be contradictory to faith. I'll not confront that issue this week.

However I do recognize that for Christians who do not see these medications contrary to their faith, these can be a genuine source of relief, if not taken to extreme.

Much anxiety is relieved by venting the emotions through talking about those fears. It is absolutely amazing oftentimes how small one's fears become when they are described to a friend.

Talking about our fears does not make them go away but it will sometimes put them in proper perspective.

Thoughts are also an excellent tool for defeating anxiety. The formal term for this is rationalization.

There is sometimes a thin line between rationalization and denial.

Psychologists talk about

helping clients reframe, or develop a different, hopefully, more effective way of conceptualizing their problems.

Some will think I should have mentioned my last two tools first, but I saved the best for last.

Prayer and Bible study are good methods of dealing legitimately with anxiety. God has promised his children a peace that passes understanding which the world cannot take away.

There is peace and comfort in the Word for those who have the discipline to systematically go to God's Word and allow God to speak to them through His Word.

The only warning about the inappropriate use of these two tools would be this:

God does not intend for us simply to pray and read the Bible and then sit down and quit doing what we can.

An old German proverb says, "We should pray as though no work could help and work as though no prayer could help." □



BARKLEY

Start with a smile

Man (on golf course facing a difficult 175 foot hole over water): "Lord, help me on this hole." Voice from the Sky: "First you need confidence. Pick up that old ball and put your new Titlest back on the tee." He did. Voice: "Now take a practice swing." He did. Voice: "Now take another." He did. Voice: "Put the old ball back on the ground."

Take this truth

How much good is confidence when you don't have the ability? Some say you can do it if you think you can. Others say you must know your limitations. We must face reality.

Memorize this Scripture

"In Him who strengthens me, I am able for anything" (Philippians 4:13 Moffatt).

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me have a sane view of myself and my ability. I know you will help me if I commit myself to you." □

West Tennesseans foster relationships with French Baptists

For Baptist and Reflector

BOLIVAR — For a third year four West Tennesseans have returned to Dijon, France, to help Baptists there.

This year Deryl and Frances Watson and James and Louise Pulliam of Bolivar were accompanied by Daniel Brown, minister of music and youth,

First Church, Whiteville. The two couples began a relationship with French Baptists when they joined a large group of Baptists to help French Baptists in an evangelism effort in 1992. They were assigned to a congregation in Dijon.

All of the volunteers were instructed by directors of the effort from the Foreign Mission Board to try to develop relationships which would lead to an invitation to return, said Louise Pulliam, who along with her husband is a member of First Church, Bolivar. The Tennesseans not only did that and followed up, but they have hosted a staff

member of the congregation in West Tennessee. Albert Palmlden, who is music director at the church, is a concert pianist from Sweden who is doing missions work there. During two visits to Tennessee, he has combined performing in churches with spreading the message of his work in France.

The Tennessee group returned to Dijon this year to teach the *Survival Kit for New Christians*. Copies of the French translation were provided by Hardeman County Association, reported Deryl Watson, director of missions.

They met with French Baptists in homes, which is a common occurrence for the congregation, explained Watson, because of the small space available in the church building. Members use a building which was a bank. The congregation has outgrown the meeting space because they baptized 31 new Christians last year. The average number attending services has grown from 75 in 1992 to 110.

The congregation isn't reacting to its growth as American Baptists do, said Watson. "You know how we are in America. We picked out a spot for their new building," he explained. But the congrega-

tion didn't consider such an action. The only need they could identify was for a portable keyboard so their cell group meetings could have accompanied music.

The church is the only Southern Baptist congregation in the city of 250,000. The only other Baptist congregation is one which is independent Baptist.

Another reason the Tennesseans are drawn back is the fact that the church leaders sacrifice to lead the church, they reported. Luc Sadorge, the pastor, was a bivocational worker until recently. Palmlden and his wife also live modestly, but that doesn't keep them from holding concerts in their home. They hold the events so they and their fellow French Baptists can make new friends. About 120 attended such an event the Tennesseans also attended, said James Pulliam, who was minister of music at the Bolivar church for 27 years. During the concert he met people from the Sudan, Colombia, and Madagascar. The potential of the congregation to reach people is great, he added, and they have great faith.

"To be in one of their services is to be lifted up. There's no other way to describe it," said Watson. □ — Connie Davis



WEST TENNESSEANS serving in Dijon, France, are, from left, Daniel Brown, minister of music and youth, First Church, Whiteville; Deryl Watson, director of missions, Hardeman County Association; Frances Watson, his wife; and Louise and James Pulliam of First Church, Bolivar.

Clinton church notes 125 years

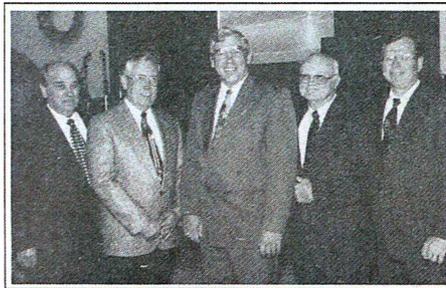
For Baptist and Reflector

CLINTON — About 450 people celebrated the 125th anniversary of Clinch River Church here Sept. 24 with activities which included a luncheon held in its partially completed family life center. The event also was a kick-off for a three-day revival led by three former pastors,

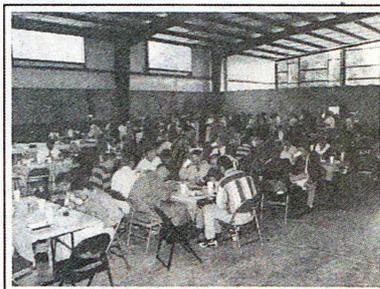
Bill Davis of Maryville, George Delozier, retired of Lake City, and Larry Webster of Clinton.

Former pastors also led the Sunday services. Gary Parker of Cleveland spoke during the morning service and Wayne Provence, pastor, First Church, Norris, spoke during an afternoon session.

The \$300,000 family life center will include a full-sized gym, classrooms, kitchen, and library. □



GATHERED DURING THE CELEBRATION were, from left, former pastors, Wayne Provence and Larry Webster; Tom Byrge, pastor; and George Delozier and Gary Parker, other former pastors.



LUNCH IS ENJOYED in the partially finished family life center.

Bethany Church, Knoxville, celebrates 130 years of work

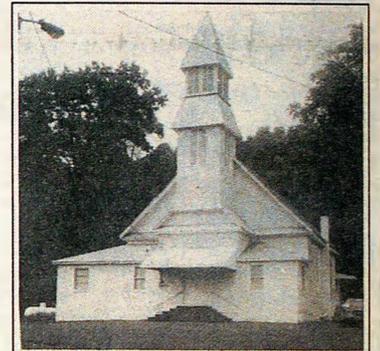
For Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — The members of Bethany Church, Knoxville, are reminded of the congregation's history each time they attend a meeting or worship there. The church building is about 105 years old.

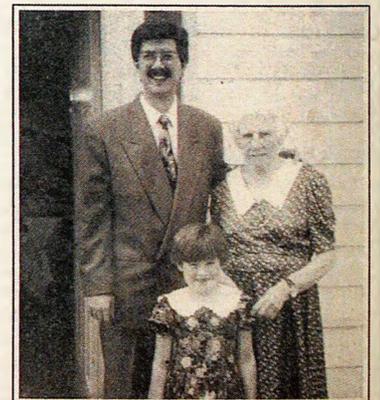
To observe that history and its 130th anniversary, a celebration was held Sept. 17. Members may have discovered many interesting historical facts like the fact that it's first members were from Milan Church, Maynardville. But they didn't stop there.

It's a matter of the church's records that Elder Levi Adkins was called to be the first pastor in March 1865. One of the members thought they knew a descendent of his living in the area. That descendent, Kelly Adkins, great-great-grandson of Levi Adkins and a retired Baptist minister of Maynardville, spoke at the celebration.

Michael Vandergriff, the last person to be ordained by the church, also spoke. □



THE HISTORIC BUILDING of the church is about 105 years old and was constructed with wooden pegs.



PASTOR Keith Weaver poses with the newest member, Melanie Beason, in front, and the member with the longest tenure, Hassie Vandergriff, a member for 68 years.

Deadericks reappointed to South Brazil

For Baptist and Reflector

RICHMOND, Va. — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission reappointed Elbert and Billie Deaderick of Silas, Ala., and formerly of Tennessee, as missionaries to South Brazil Oct. 10.

Elbert Deaderick has been interim pastor of Spring Bank Church in Silas, Ala., since 1994. He considers Knoxville his hometown and New Hopewell Church there his

home church. He was pastor of Riverdale Church in Knoxville before his first appointment by the board from 1976 to 1987. He attended Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City. Deaderick also has served other churches in Alabama.

Mrs. Deaderick is from Frankville, Ala. The couple will move to Brazil in January where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries. □



DEADERICKS

Tennesseans help move European seminary

By Dorothy Lipham Steen
For Baptist and Reflector

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — During summer and early fall, two groups of Tennessee Baptists helped move International Baptist Theological Seminary from Ruschlikon, Switzerland, to Prague, Czech Republic. They were among 743 volunteers.

Eight truckloads of furniture were "relocated" to the Prague campus. Perhaps the toughest task was moving the seminary library, the largest English language theological library in Europe. The 55,000 books and periodicals were packed in 1,502 numbered boxes, loaded in large containers, and moved to Prague by train.

Volunteers carried the heavy boxes into the library and placed them by

their numbered shelves. Professional German movers put all the books on the exact shelves prepared for them.

In preparation for the move, other volunteers had scraped, painted, and washed windows, assembled shelves, vacuumed the floors, and dusted the shelves in preparation for the books' arrival. They also had painted apartments, moved furniture, and done landscaping.

The move is complete, and classes began earlier this month. Administrative and faculty offices are occupied. Apartments and rooms were ready when students arrived.

Work is still continuing. Renovation/restoration of the 18th century baroque administration building, updating of conference center housing, and conversion of a storage building to

a chapel have not yet begun. Volunteer involvement is critical for the continuation of these projects.

There were 26 Tennessee Baptists from Nashville and Knoxville who took part in the work. Learning to communicate with Czech workers who spoke no English was a challenge, and meeting missionaries on the faculty was a joy. The seminary will have an impact on central Europe and the world.

Visas and work permits in the Czech Republic are not difficult to obtain. The economy is stable.

Three groups of Tennessee Baptist missions volunteers will work at the Prague seminary in 1996. Contact Dorothy Steen, (615) 356-1197, for information about volunteer work. □ — Steen is a member of Immanuel Church, Nashville.



A TENNESSEE VOLUNTEER cleans debris from the steps of the building at the Prague seminary used for classrooms and faculty offices.

Daysville Church celebrates centennial



ABOVE, Big Emory Association Director of Missions Bill Bargiol, right, presents a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to Pastor J.C. McCoy and Noble Brown of the Historical Committee. BELOW, McCoy, center, welcomed former pastors Arthur Cates, left, and Pete Scarborough to the celebration.



For Baptist and Reflector

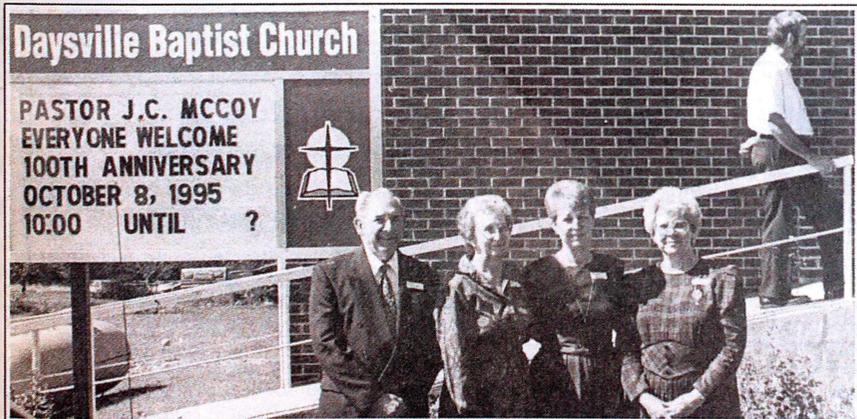
ROCKWOOD — Members of Daysville Church gathered Oct. 8 to celebrate the church's 100th anniversary.

The Big Emory Association church near Rockwood and Westel was begun in 1895 by 12 believers who met somewhere near the present home of George Hodge in the Daysville community. The church now has a membership of 150.

Members took advantage of the morning service to give praise and testimony to the importance of the church in the community over the 100-year period.

Bill Bargiol, director of missions for Big Emory Association, presented a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to Pastor J.C. McCoy and Noble Brown, a member of the church's Historical Committee.

The church's present facility was built in 1968. □



THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE which planned the centennial celebration at Daysville Church, Rockwood, included, from left, Noble Brown, Leola Hodge, Frances Brezeale, and Kay Proffitt.

Bells Campground celebrates centennial

For Baptist and Reflector

POWELL — Celebrating in its newly renovated sanctuary, Bells Campground Church here observed its centennial anniversary Oct. 15.

The congregation dates back to the 1700s, before Tennessee became a state, when Powell was a part of Hawkins County, North Carolina, Southwest Territory of the Ohio River. Pioneer families began using a plot of ground for burial.

In 1809 when a settler gave two acres of property near the cemetery for a meeting house, it was used by all faiths. It



PRESENTING THE CERTIFICATE from the Tennessee Historical Society to note the anniversary is Herbert Jones, left, director of missions, Midland Association, to Jack Anderson, pastor.

became known as Bell's Meeting House after the Bell family bought the surrounding property. Baptists shared that house with other denominations until 1929. □

Bledsoe Association hires former missionary as DOM

For Baptist and Reflector

GALLATIN — Mike Pennington, missionary to Venezuela for 12 years, has been named director of missions of Bledsoe Association, effective Oct. 23.

The native of Columbia considers Highland Park Church there his home church. He is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort

Worth, Texas, from which he plans to earn a doctor of ministry degree this year.

He also has served as a pastor in Missouri and as a staff member of First Church, Warverly; Ardmore Church, Memphis; and Parkway Village Church, Memphis. □



PENNINGTON

Schools, organizations to hold TBC-related meetings in Chattanooga

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention is just around the corner.

In conjunction with the annual meeting Nov. 14-15 at the Chattanooga/Hamilton County Trade Center, numerous organizations and institutions will hold related meetings. Among them are:

DOM Fellowship Dinner

Active and retired directors of missions and their spouses are invited to attend the annual DOM Fellowship Dinner, sponsored by the TBC Missions Department on Nov. 15 at 5 p.m. at The Cellar at Union Square in Chattanooga. Reservations are \$5 per person. Completed form and money should be sent by Oct. 30 to Hamilton County Association, 508 North Market Street, Chattanooga, Tenn., 37505.

Union University

The Union University Alumni and Friends Banquet will be held Nov. 14 in the Continental Room at the Chattanooga Radisson Read House

beginning at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person and may be purchased from the Union alumni affairs office at (800) 338-6644 or from the Union staff at the convention exhibit.

Belmont University

The Belmont University Alumni and Friends Banquet will be held Nov. 14 at 5:15 p.m. at the Chattanooga Choo Choo/Holiday Inn. Tickets are \$15 per person. Melissa Davis Austin, contemporary Christian artist, will sing. Belmont President William E. Troutt will be the featured speaker. For more information, call Belmont's development office at (615) 386-4517.

Carson-Newman College

Carson-Newman College will hold its Alumni and Friends Banquet on Nov. 14 at noon in Ballroom Plaza C at the Chattanooga Marriott. Tickets are \$8.50 and may be purchased at the Carson-Newman exhibit. President Cordell Maddox will be the featured speaker.

Recreation Association

The Tennessee Baptist Recreation Association will

holds its annual banquet Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chattanooga Choo Choo/Holiday Inn. Sponsored by the Church Media Library/Church Recreation Department of the TBC, the banquet will feature Bruce Fields, a comedian from Gainesville, Fla. Costs are: TBRA membership and meal, \$50 per person; TBRA membership and two meals (spouse), \$65 per couple; and meal reservations, \$20 per person. For more information, call Eleanor Yarborough at (615) 371-2033.

Chorale rehearsal and Church Music Conference

Ridgedale Church, Chattanooga, will be the site for the 1995 Tennessee Baptist Chorale Rehearsal and Church Music Conference, sponsored by the TBC Church Music Department, on Nov. 13. Chorale rehearsal begins at 1:15 on Nov. 13. The business session opens at 4:30 p.m., followed by the banquet at 6 p.m. Special music will be presented by Kurt Kaiser, freelance composer and pianist from Waco, Texas. The cost is \$10 per per-

son. For more information and to make reservations, call the Church Music Department at (615) 371-2040.

Southwestern Seminary

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will hold a luncheon Nov. 15 at 12:30 at The Loft in Chattanooga. Leon McBeth, professor of church history, will be the featured speaker. Tickets are \$11 per person and may be purchased from: Larry Gilmore, pastor, College Heights Church, 2100 Nashville Pike, Gallatin, Tenn., 37066.

New Orleans Seminary

The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary luncheon will be held Nov. 14 at noon on the Plaza Level of the Chattanooga Marriott. Mark Foley, professor and staff member, will speak. Tickets are \$10. For luncheon information, call Dallas Roscoe, Memorial Church, Hixson, at (615) 875-6767.

Midwestern Seminary

The Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary luncheon will be held Nov. 15 at 12:30 p.m. at the Chattanooga

Marriott. New President Mark Coppenger will be the featured speaker. For luncheon information, call Thomas Dumsier, pastor, First Church, Lewisburg, at (615) 359-4077.

Religious educators

The annual Tennessee Baptist Religious Education Association banquet will be Monday, Nov. 13, at The Loft in Chattanooga at 6 p.m. Special guest is Eddy Nicholson. Cost of the banquet is \$21. For more information, call Roy Miller, TBC Sunday School Department, at (615) 371-2048.

Ministers' Wives

Fellowship Luncheon

The TBC Ministers' Wives Fellowship annual luncheon will be Nov. 14 from noon to 2 p.m. at Central Church, Hixson. Guest speaker is Sandy Smith of Atlanta. Tickets are \$7 per person. For luncheon reservations and more information, call (615) 877-2462. □

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■ the people

■ **First Church, Savannah**, ordained **Leon Boyd** as a deacon Oct. 15.

■ **Steve Everett** will be ordained as a deacon by **Bethany Church, Knoxville**, Nov. 11.

■ **Ricky Browning** was ordained as a deacon by **First Church, Trezevant**, Oct. 15.

■ **Riverview Church, Columbia**, ordained **Andy Isbell**, **Dennis Malugin**, and **Jerry Norman** as deacons Sept. 24.

■ the leaders

■ **Falcon Church, Selmer**, has called **Scott Pearl**, a student at **Union University, Jackson**, from **Bolivar**, as youth director.

■ **Jerry Powell**, pastor of **Southside Church, Martin**, for 18 years, has resigned.

■ **Lloyd Sutton**, a staff member of **Seventh Avenue Church, Cullman, Ala.**, has been called as minister of music, **Brainerd Church, Chattanooga**. He also has served churches in **Kentucky** and **Indiana**. Sutton is a graduate of **Campbellsville (Ky.) College**, and **Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.** **Louise Stephens** served as interim minister of music for almost two years.

■ **Susan Matthews** has been called as interim minister of music, **Crievewood Church, Nashville**.

■ **Tim Miller**, pastor, **First Church, Hohenwald**, has been called to serve a church in **West Virginia**.

■ **Tom Mayberry** has been called as interim pastor, **Edgewood Church, Centerville**.

■ **Ron Dyer**, pastor, **Brotherton Church, Cookeville**, has resigned to attend **Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute** in **Hendersonville, N.C.** He began Oct. 3.

■ **Kingwood Church, Chattanooga**, has called **Lee Robbs** as director of youth and children's activities and **Randy Bryant** as Christian education director, effective Oct. 1.

■ **Jimmy Edwards**, a former employee of the **Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville**, has been called as interim pastor, **First Church, Carthage**.

■ the churches

■ **Leoma Church, Leoma**, which has an average Sunday School attendance of about 200, has increased its giving to special missions offerings for the past several years, but this year was exceptional. Members gave \$16,093 to the **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions**, \$7,440 to the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions**, and \$3,832 to the **Golden State Missions Offering**. **Jerry Lee**, pastor, also noted the church funds the **Cooperative Program** with 9 percent of its budget, a missions volunteer, and is a large contributor to the **United Tennessee League**.

■ **Clear Creek Church, Crossville**, will observe **High Attendance Day** Oct. 29 in a service featuring **Keith Prewitt**, recording musician from **Cumberland Gap**. A luncheon will be held following the service.

■ **Hebron Church, Middleton**, holds "Moms In Touch, International" each Monday morning. The local group of mothers meets to pray for their



TOGETHER AGAIN AFTER 32 YEARS are, from left, missionaries **Margaret Fairburn** of **Tylertown, Miss.**, **Mary Witt** of **Knoxville**, and **Clara Brincefield** of **Brentwood**. They met for the first time at missionary orientation in 1963 and the second time in September at a **World Missions Festival** in **Jonesboro, Ga.** Each has served 32 years as missionaries — **Fairburn** in **Liberia**, **Witt** in **Brazil**, and **Brincefield** in **Chile**, and each has plans to retire after her present furlough.

children and the schools.

■ **South Seminole Church, East Ridge, Chattanooga**, celebrated its 40th anniversary Sept. 24. It was started by the **Brotherhood group of Brainerd Church** after **C.A. Dabney**, pastor, challenged the group to start a congregation in the area known for a beer garden called the "Chicken's Roost." Former pastors **Laverne Mosher** and **C.S. Knapp** joined the observance.

■ **Charlotte Road Church, Nashville**, will hold a missions revival Oct. 29 - Nov. 1. **Gary Hines**, a member of **Brook Hollow Church, Nashville**, and founder of **Cornerstone International Ministries**, which focuses on **Russia** and the **Ukraine**, will speak. The theme of the revival is "Missions — The Touch of the Lord."

■ **Clear Creek Church, Dyer**, will dedicate its new steeple Nov. 5.

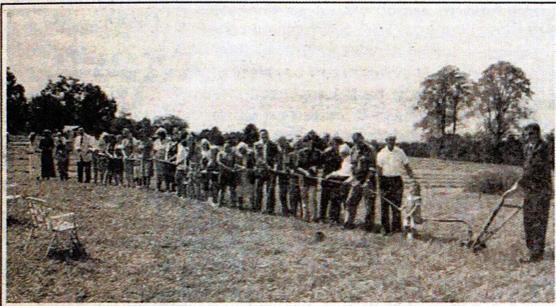
■ **Brush Creek Church, Brush Creek**, held revival in September. **Ronnie Owens**, an evangelist from **Clinton**, spoke.

■ **Fairfield Church, Centerville**, held revival Oct. 15-18. **Skip Youngcourt** spoke and **Greg Duncan** led the music.

■ **Harsh Chapel Church, Nashville**, will hold **High Attendance Day** Oct. 29 with **Rudy Kalis**, sportscaster for **TV Channel 4**, as speaker. A luncheon will follow.

■ **Brace Church, Summertown**, held a revival in which 13 people made professions of faith. **Floyd Lammersfeld**, evangelist of **Gleason**, spoke.

■ **First Church, Trezevant**, will hold revival Oct. 29 - Nov. 2. **Paul Veazey** of **Union University, Jackson**, will speak and **Doug Braden**, minister of music at the church, will lead the music.



PULLING TOGETHER a plow to break ground for a new facility are members of **Westel Church, Rockwood**, on Oct. 1. The church also celebrated its 60th anniversary that day. The new facility is on **Highway 70** one mile from its present location on land given by the **Horne family** of the church.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Choosing great actions

By **Phillip M. Young**, pastor
Rocky Hill Church, Knoxville

I recently read a story about **Annie Taylor**. She was a schoolteacher from **Bay City, Mich.** She wanted to be rich and famous. She searched desperately for a cause to which she could give her life.

In 1901 she learned that **Buffalo, N.Y.**, would host the **Pan-American Exposition** which would attract thousands of people. She decided to take advantage of the large crowd by attempting to be the first person to ride in a barrel over **Niagara Falls**. She hired an agent to promote her stunt, and thousands of spectators came to see this schoolteacher — who couldn't even swim — go over the falls, in a four-and-a-half-foot, 160 pound barrel.

Taylor did what no one had ever done before and survived with only minor injuries. As soon as she recovered,

she began a lecture tour. People quickly tired of her boring, redundant presentations and stopped coming to hear her. She returned to the **Niagara Falls** area neither rich nor famous.

Twenty years later, just before she died, she wrote, "I did what no other woman in the world had nerve enough to do, only to be a pauper."

Annie Taylor had all the courage and commitment to be someone great, but she applied all that courage and commitment to a trivial cause. Let me encourage you to live your life for **Christ** in faithful service to him. There are many things you can do to serve the **Lord** in your workplace, in your family, in your church, and in your community.

Being courageously committed to the cause of **Christ** is always worth the risk. **Paul** wrote, "I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always **Christ** will be exalted in my body, whether by

life or by death" **Philippians 1:20 NIV**.

Living your life for **Christ** does not bring fame or fortune, but it does bring meaning to your life and glory to **God**. □

Greatest reality of one's life

By **Tim Walker**, pastor
Dalewood Church, Nashville

If someone were to ask, "What is the greatest reality in your life," what would your answer be?

When **Leonardo da Vinci** had completed his masterpiece, "The Last Supper," it is said that he took an artist friend with him to inspect and criticize his work. The friend examined the painting with great admiration, but had a comment to make to **da Vinci**.

"You have painted the chalice on the table with exquisite beauty. It is the most beautiful thing in the whole picture and captivates the eyes of the beholder."

Very deliberately, **da Vinci** went to his palette, took his brush in his hand and wiped out the beautiful chalice — the cup. He wanted nothing to take attention away from the face of **Christ**.

"It is **Christ** who must be preeminently seen as the center of my painting," said the famous artist.

A hymn writer expressed the same thought when he wrote the words:

*The dearest idol I have known,
What 'ere that idol be —
Help me to tear it from thy throne
and worship only Thee.*

In the above story, written by **Benjamin Browne**, of **da Vinci's** passion to make **Christ** the center of all, I believe one can find the answer to the question, "What is the greatest reality of my life." For the **Christian**, the answer must be **Christ** and **Christ** alone.

May he truly become the **Lord** in your life. □

C-N students prove commitment to missions at home and abroad

For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — Carson-Newman College students have again proven their commitment to mission work both at home and abroad.

With final totals in, about 60 Carson-Newman students ministered this past summer in locales ranging from C-N's backyard to foreign countries of Brazil, Pakistan, and the Philippines.

"That number of students involved in summer missions and wanting to be involved in service speaks highly of the caliber of the students here at Carson-Newman," said Nnette Measels, associate

campus minister and Baptist Student Union director.

Each student had radically different experiences but all were held together by a common bond of growth and understanding, Measels said.

Be it construction work or resort ministry, be it leading Vacation Bible School, or seeking to understand those who are different, the C-N missionaries both literally and figuratively spanned the globe in their experience. Two students shared their experiences.

Senior Michelle Johnson spent her third summer in missions at the Department of Juvenile Justice in South Carolina. There she worked with

275 young men ages 15 to 18 who had been jailed for violent offenses. "I found out the power of prayer this summer and I saw several miracles," she related.

Jack McClelland spent time in Pakistan working with the Baluch people, a group of 10 million formerly nomadic people who have been forced to settle in small villages throughout Central Asia.

Poverty is widespread and illiteracy is rampant, McClelland said, observing that the Baluchs need prayer from all Christians. □

Belmont 'Rebels' to become 'Bruins'

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Belmont University's athletic teams are now the Bruins.

Athletic teams at Belmont were formerly known as the Rebels. The origin of how the school became the Rebels is somewhat arbitrary. The first basketball team in 1952 had no nickname, and little was thought of one until the night before the first game with Birmingham-Southern. The team came up with Gents and High Hatters before settling on the Rebels.

The announcement came after more than a year of planning and dialogue about the most representative name and symbol for the school.



"As we gain recognition as a national institution, and particularly as we make the move to the NCAA (from NAIA), it will be helpful to have a mascot around which we can all boldly rally," said Belmont President William E. Troutt. □

Classified

PIANIST AND ORGANIST: Needed for Petros Baptist Church. If you can read music and are available for Sunday morning and evening services, call Lois at (615) 324-4642. Salary paid per service.

CHILD CARE POSITIONS: Several part-time positions are available for immediate employment at Forest Hills Church in south Nashville. Wages are \$7 per hour, Wednesday and Sunday evenings, 4-8 hours per week. Call Ted Holmes at (615) 373-8074 for an application.

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Two Staff Openings

Drexel FBC in Drexel, N.C., is seeking energetic, enthusiastic persons to fill two staff positions: Associate Pastor: Education and Associate Pastor: Youth and Activities. Candidates should have a master's degree. Experience is preferred. Please send resume by Oct. 31 to: Rev. Bill Bigger, Drexel FBC, P.O. Box 308, Drexel, N.C. 28619.

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Minister with Children Needed

The First Baptist Church (FBC) of Chattanooga, Tenn., is presently searching for a Minister with Children. This historical congregation has a growing number of young families with children. This position will be one of six full-time pastoral ministers. FBC is a regional congregation averaging 600 to 650 on Sundays with a resident membership of 1,400. Inclusive in its theology and creative in its approach to ministry, FBC is seeking a high energy person who reflects this perspective.

Resumes should be mailed to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 401 Gateway Avenue, Chattanooga, Tenn., 37402.

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Life and Work Series for October 29

Focal Passages:
Mark 5:18-20; Matthew 28:18-20; III John 5-8

Telling my world about Jesus

By Charles Parker

To become what God wants me to be involves finding a place in the church, relating to other Christians as family, developing Christian character, and daily Christian living. But no Christian can become complete in Christ without also learning to bear witness for the Lord who has saved us. However, neglect of conversation about Christ and spiritual matters is widespread. This lesson addresses that neglect.

We can start by telling people closest to us. Mark 5:18-20 shows the outcome of the healing of a demon-possessed man by Jesus. This life-changing event which totally revolutionized his life was too good to keep to himself! His initial reaction was to want to stay with Jesus, no doubt to have as many talks to the Master as possible. But Jesus knew that the man's own people in the Decapolis needed the man's presence and conversation more. He knew that a man who had just had such an experience would not remain silent and that he had something to say that people would listen to. Verse 20 shows that the man's family and friends, indeed the whole populace, "did marvel." Later, when Mark 7:31 reports a second visit by Jesus to the Decapolis, he was met by people bringing their friends to him for a healing touch, instead of a man raging with demons or an unfriendly crowd.

Although we may start with telling those closest to us about Jesus, we do not stop there. Jesus wants us to tell the whole world about him. He gave us our marching orders in what we know as the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. Teachers and preachers may have some trouble coming up with a fresh angle on this familiar passage. It is, however, simpler to talk about to each other than it is to fulfill in everyday life. Basically, these verse mean that as we go about our business every day, we are to tell the world about Jesus so that its people become his followers, become a part of his church (symbolized in baptism), and grow in their obedience to his commands. If we do these things, we are assured of his abiding presence. So simple, yet so demanding! So clear, yet so far away from much we do every day as Christians and churches! Perhaps the insight the teacher might focus on is that "my world" includes the whole world. The Gospel is not an exclusive message for any particular group of people. God's salvation extends to all nations and people groups. He loves everyone regardless of race or class or nationality. This insight is contemporary to every age of Christian history.

Third John 5-8 opens a window into the means the early church followed in trying to obey this command of Jesus. Many Christian preachers joined those of other groups on the road in trying to take the Gospel to the whole world. John wrote here a strong encouragement to Christians to extend Christian hospitality to traveling missionary preachers. They needed places to stay that were safe and free from immoral activity. The inns of that time were usually subject to crime and immorality. So by opening their doors the church members could "be fellow helpers to the truth" (verse 8). Modern-day application of this teaching includes not only literal hospitality (still possible in some cases and places), but also faithfully contributing money, praying, and offering services in the form of friendships and tangible help to missionaries, as well as the new opportunities in partnership missions. □ — Charles Parker is pastor of First Church, Jacksboro.

The church at Antioch

By Kim Allen

History is being made by the church at Antioch, large numbers of Jews and Gentiles are worshipping together and people give them a new name — Christians.

For the church it was instant success! God had prepared many in Antioch for his message. By cooperating with the Lord, people by the hundreds came to faith in Christ Jesus and formed this mighty church (v. 21). The Antioch church quickly became a great missionary church. We later find Paul adopting the Antioch church as his spiritual home. Let's digest it in this manner:

Verses 19-26 establish the church.

(1) Verses 19-21: The Jews who had fled the persecution of Saul wasted little time in lamenting their loss of physical possessions but rather began quickly to preach to all the Jews they met. Why just the Jews? They, like a lot of us, had not grown in Christ enough to preach to all they met.

Some among them did however and it began a mighty work of God resulting in the Church of Antioch.

(2) Verses 22-24: Barnabas at Antioch — Word spread quickly to Jerusalem of the mighty work of God at Antioch so the church sent Barnabas to investigate. Remember the Jerusalem church was the first or mother church thus holding emotional and historical clout. James, the brother of Jesus, was the pastor.

Barnabas went joyfully as a servant without jealousy. He was glad in the good work at Antioch where he exhorted them to be faithful and even more people came to know Christ.

(3) Verses 25-26: The First Christians — What a flash of divine inspiration Barnabas had in sending for Paul at Tarsus. For a full year they labored together at Antioch, seeing the response of the people and developing their close friendship.

It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians. Since the Jews came preaching Christos, the Greek form of the title Messiah, it was not long

Convention Uniform Series for October 29

Focal Passages:
Acts 11:9-30; 12:24-25

(v. 27-30)

One of the earliest gifts to the church was the gift of prophecy. A group of men banded together as in Old Testament times and came to Antioch.

One was Agabus who predicted a famine which did occur. The Antioch congregation was mostly spared the worst effects so they collected funds to relieve the suffering of God's people in Jerusalem. Isn't it ironic, money came to Jerusalem from people the church in Jerusalem did not at first want to associate with.

(2) Sent by Barnabas and Saul (v. 30)

The two who had taught them and encouraged them in the way of Christ were chosen to take the offering to Jerusalem. It was more than money; it was an expression of gentle love to Jewish brothers and sisters in Christ.

(3) Mission accomplished (ch. 12:24-25)

This passage lets us see the church marching on. With Herod out of the way; persecution came to a screeching halt, at least for a little time. The leaders, such as Saul and Barnabas, were thanking God for the removal of such wickedness. They took advantage of the time of peace to move forward. Saul, Barnabas, and John Mark left Jerusalem returning to Antioch to prepare for their first full-fledged missionary journey.

God is not a God of races, creeds, or colors, he is a God to all who will call upon the name of Jesus to be saved. His arms open wide to all who will embrace him.

A lesson to the church today: throw open the doors and compel them all to come in and the church will stand and sing, "Tis the church triumphant singing, worthy the Lamb!" □ — Kim Allen is pastor of Little West Fork Church, Clarksville.

Doing what God wants done

By Phil Lovelace

Introduction: Whenever God wants to get a work done, he lays hold of a willing man. The walls of Jerusalem had been ruined, a small remnant had returned, and there was much work that needed to be done. In 536, Zerubbabel and Jeshua had taken 50,000 Jews back and (by 516) had rebuilt the temple. In 457 there had been a small revival under Ezra; but now it was 445, and God was looking for a man to go to the ruined city and restore safety and order. Nehemiah was to be that man!

Nehemiah prays for the work — ch. 1:3-4

As cupbearer to the king, Nehemiah (a Jew) held a high position in the court. He was close to the king and could share his confidence. But Nehemiah was not forgetful of his own people, for he eagerly asked his friends for news about Jerusalem. The news was distressing; the remnant was suffering shame, the walls were broken down, and the gates were burned. Instead of being a city of praise and glory, it was a city of shame and reproach.

Nehemiah was immediately burdened for the city. The fact that he was 750 miles away made no difference; nor did it matter that he was enjoying luxury and power in the palace of the king. He wanted to do something to save his city. For four months he wept and prayed.

Bible Book Series for October 29

Focal Passages: Nehemiah 1:3-4;

2:4-6, 11-13, 16-18

Nehemiah prepares for the work — ch. 2:4-6; 11-13, 16-18

Four months pass, for Nehemiah is waiting for God's time to approach the king. Faith and patience go together. But Nehemiah had a plan in his mind, given to him by the Lord, and he knew just what to do when the right hour arrived.

Nehemiah and the king — vv. 4-6

No man was to appear before the king with sadness or bad news; but the burden of Nehemiah's heart revealed itself on his face. He was a man of sorrows, and the king noticed it. Before taking his burden to Artaxerxes, Nehemiah quickly went to the throne of grace in prayer; and then he told all to the king. He knew God would open the way. So thoroughly had Nehemiah worked out his plans that he was able to give to the king a time schedule and a list of the materials he would need to do the task! God's strong and good hand did the impossible!

Nehemiah and the ruins — vv. 11-13

It took three months for Nehemiah to arrive at the city, and he arrived as a governor, not as a servant. A man of patience,

before they became Christ-people. The name fit which is why we are called Christians.

Sending help to Judean believers — ch. 11:27-30; ch. 12:24-25

(1) Love one for another

Nehemiah waited three days before taking any steps. The enemies were watching and Nehemiah had to be wise and cautious. Later he would discover that some of the nobles of Judah were allied with Tobiah, the enemy of the Jews. By night Nehemiah investigated the situation, keeping counsel to himself. He was awake when others were sleeping and concerned while others were at ease. He saw more of the situation at night than others could see in the light.

Nehemiah and the Jews — vv. 16-18

Nehemiah did not believe in a one-man ministry; he challenged the leaders of the remnant to work with him in repairing the walls. He was concerned with the glory of God as well as the good of the nation. Immediately the opposition was aroused, but Nehemiah knew that God's hand was upon him and his work.

Whenever God wants to get a work done, he lays hold of a willing man. Nehemiah was that man! Are you that man or woman — available — to do what God wants done? □ — Phil Lovelace is pastor of First Church, Somerville.

Church feeds Opal's refugees

Baptist Press

CAMDEN, Ala. — Like most south Alabama churches on Oct. 4, Camden Church cancelled its midweek services as Hurricane Opal approached the Gulf Coast.

The church already had the food that had been prepared for its Wednesday night supper — roast beef, mashed potatoes, and green beans.

With all the food and no one to serve it to, church staffers called area police and civil defense personnel and told them to send people to Camden for shelter and a free meal.

About 112 refugees, mainly out-of-town visitors, from the storm came to Camden. They were so grateful, virtually all of them left an offering of some amount, totalling more than \$1,000, said Pastor Eddie Davidson.

The next Sunday, Oct. 8, was World Hunger Sunday in the Southern Baptist Convention, so the church decided to donate the money to the world hunger offering, Davidson said. □

GGBTS trustees review enrollment growth

Baptist Press

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — Reports on enrollment increas-

es, new campuses, and a variety of money matters occupied trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary during their annual fall meeting in October.

President William O. Crews told trustees overall enrollment has increased more than 27 percent since last year — from a total of 1,092 in 1994 to 1,395 this fall.

Fall enrollment at the seminary's residential campus in Mill Valley rose to 619 this year, up 39.4 percent from last fall's 444 students, he said.

Trustees affirmed steps by seminary officials to prevent a repeat of a budget deficit reported for the 1994-95 fiscal year which produced a \$163,388 deficit.

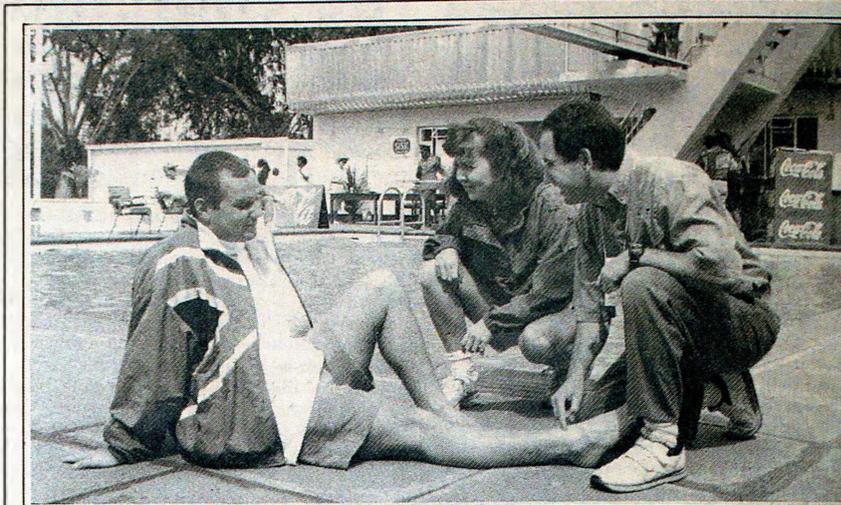
On a brighter business note, Crews reported a development project nearing completion adjacent to the 150-acre campus should net \$5 million for seminary endowment. □

FMB missionary dies in bout with malaria

Baptist Press

GAGNOA, Ivory Coast — A 32-year-old Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary died Oct. 14 at her home here during a bout with malaria.

The missionary, Holly Larm of Highland, Mich., was appointed to the West African nation in 1992 with her hus-



Ministering to Athletes in Africa

Dr. Jared Ellis, right, and his wife, Shannon, members of Southside Church, Huntsville, Ala., talk to an athlete beside a pool during the recent All Africa Games. The Ellises were among 10 Southern Baptist volunteers from five states who ministered to athletes and spectators during the games in Harare and Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. The volunteers joined more than 100 African Baptist volunteers and 15 Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries in witnessing to more than 6,000 athletes from 49 countries. Ellis used his medical skills to help injured athletes — taking the opportunity to share his faith in Jesus Christ. The games were a preliminary event for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, where Southern Baptists also will minister to athletes around the world.

band, Allen. The couple had just completed local language learning requirements. She was assigned to a church and home ministry.

"We're grieved over Holly's tragic death," said FMB President Jerry Rankin. "This is a reminder to Southern Baptists that we must not be negligent in praying for our missionaries as they serve in places of danger and risk where health and safety can't be taken for granted."

In addition to her husband, Larm is survived by two children, Amber, 9, and Luke, 7. □

High court debates case involving rights of homosexuals

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The issue of homosexual rights elicited stiff questions from and indirect debate among the justices of the U.S. Supreme Court during oral arguments in one of the new term's most divisive cases.

The court is not expected to announce its opinion in *Romer v. Evans* for several months. It promises to be one of the most fervently awaited opinions of the 1995-96 term. The decision also may be a pivotal one in the escalating battle over one of American culture's most hotly debated issues.

The case was accepted by the Supreme Court at the request of Colorado and Gov. Roy Romer after the Colorado

Supreme Court ruled as unconstitutional a 1992 initiative prohibiting current and future local or state laws granting civil rights status to homosexuals. □

Competency hearing set for Lewis Nobles

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — A federal judge in Jackson Oct. 11 denied former Mississippi College President Lewis Nobles' request to be released from jail while he awaits an Oct. 31 competency hearing to determine whether he can be tried on charges he allegedly embezzled money from the Baptist-affiliated school.

U.S. District Judge William Barbour also denied a motion filed by Nobles asking for the return of more than \$25,000 in cash that was in his possession when he was arrested on a federal fugitive warrant in San Francisco on Jan. 26, 1995.

While in San Francisco, Nobles allegedly attempted suicide by swallowing poison as FBI agents closed in on him. He was rushed to a nearby hospital where he underwent two surgeries and suffered a brain disorder. He later was transferred to a federal prison hospital in Missouri for extended recovery.

Barbour expressed concern that Nobles might again disappear or attempt suicide if released to a halfway house in Jackson for further treatment, as he requested. □

Baptist association launches new effort

Baptist Press

COLUMBIA, Md. — In one of the most strategic areas of the world, a local Baptist association is reaching out to the unchurched through television and newspapers.

The multimedia outreach campaign, called "Advangelism," is the result of the prayers and efforts of a group of Southern Baptist businessmen in Howard County in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. area.

The campaign's first newspaper advertisements highlighted the logo, "Someone Still Cares. God Cares ... and so do we!" Subsequent TV and newspaper ads will run through December and will include the toll-free telephone number of the Howard Baptist Association.

A recent study of the suburban county indicated 83 percent of its 216,000 residents have no church membership. □

Smith joins BCE staff

BCE News Office

NASHVILLE — Former Baptist Sunday School Board book editor Harold S. Smith has joined the Baptist Center for Ethics as project coordinator. Smith will manage the development of congregational resources, said Robert Parham, director of the Nashville-based ethics organization. □

Church sends 'Shoobox Blessings' to Bosnians

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Thousands of children in Bosnia will discover good things come in small packages this Christmas, thanks to Ninth & O Church here.

Ninth & O members plan to ship 8,000 "Shoobox Blessings" to children in the battle-decimated country, reported Pastor Rodney Burnette.

"These Bosnian refugee children have lost everything — their homes, their possessions, their peaceful country," Burnette said. "They just don't have anything.

"We're trying to gather as many shoeboxes filled with toys as possible, so that these children can know someone cares for them this Christmas."

Burnette is working with Bill Steele, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board administrator in Eastern Eu-

rope, to collect the shoeboxes filled with gifts.

The shoeboxes will be shipped to the region Oct. 30 in a container capable of holding about 8,000 boxes, Burnette said. They will be distributed through FMB-operated feeding stations in Baptist churches.

Boxes are being collected for both boys and girls. Each box will be marked according to age and gender, he said, adding boxes will contain age-appropriate toys for youngsters who have lost their own toys.

Boxes also contain such items as Bible-story picture books, school supplies, wrapped and sealed hard candy, stuffed animals, dolls, balls, flashlights with extra batteries, underwear and hygienic items.

Each box also contains personal notes to the children, Burnette added. □