

Baptist and Reflector

November 15, 1995

VOL. 161 ■ NO. 45

STATEWIDE EDITION

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week's
news**

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TBC coverage next week

For *Baptist and Reflector*

CHATTANOOGA — Next week's edition of the *Baptist and Reflector* will have complete news and photographic coverage of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

Messengers are meeting this week, Nov. 14-15, here.

The meeting began on Tuesday (Nov. 14) and will conclude Wednesday evening (Nov. 15) with an address by Southern Baptist Convention



HENRY

President Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla.

Henry, a native Tennessean, is a former pastor of Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

Coverage in the Nov. 22 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* will include actions on the proposed Long Range Study Committee report, elections of officers, reports of committees on boards and committees, the 1995-96 Cooperative Program budget, and other items of interest.

Staff members reporting on events of the annual sessions and other related meetings include Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen, Associate Editor Lonnie Wilkey, and Assistant Editor Connie Davis. □



New DOM welcomed to Bledsoe

Joe Hinkle, left, pastor of New Hope Church and moderator, welcomes Kristi and Mike Pennington to Bledsoe Association's meeting Nov. 2 at College Heights Church, Gallatin. Pennington was elected as director of missions in October, and this was their first meeting. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

Tennessee Baptists give \$2.6 million

Home missions offering passes \$38 million record

By David Winfrey
For Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Southern Baptists have contributed a record \$38 million to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, and officials said that figure will rise before year's end.

Home Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union leaders hailed the announcement as an indication of Southern Baptists' continuing dedication to evangelism, church starting, and ministry in America.

As of Nov. 8, the offering had reached \$38,103,868. The final total will not be known until the end of the year. The present total is 4.6 percent more than 1994's year-to-date total, said Ernest Kelley, HMB executive vice president for planning and finance. In 1992 Southern Baptists gave the previous record offering of \$37.6 million.

Final figures could be \$1 million more than the offering amount budgeted for 1995, Kelley said. Woman's Missionary Union set an ambitious 1995 goal of \$50

million to coincide with the agency's 150th anniversary. Board planners, however, budget the offering based on the previous year's totals, Kelley said.

So far this year, **Tennessee Baptists have given \$2,636,133 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.** Tennessee Baptists' goal this year was \$3.25 million.

All offering dollars go to support home missionaries and projects on the field, Kelley said. "Not one pencil will be bought out of it for here," Kelley said from the HMB national office.

HMB President Larry Lewis said he was surprised the record was broken so early. "It indicates to me that Southern Baptists still see missions as a priority and give it a loyal and generous support," he said. "In spite of controversy in the convention and financial recession in many areas, support through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering has remained strong and we're grateful," Lewis added.

Kelley agreed. "We really praise the Lord for the faithfulness of God's people.

"We don't get our money in millions of dollars. We get our dollars in little gifts

and they're consecrated gifts and much of the time it's sacrificial gifts," he added.

WMU Executive Director Dellanna



LEWIS



O'BRIEN

O'Brien said she was thrilled by the news of a record offering. "When others in the United States are focused on a lack of jobs, homelessness, and political elections, Southern Baptists have a larger, more encompassing concern — winning our nation to Christ," she said.

The \$38 million will enable missionaries and churches to meet both spiritual and physical needs, O'Brien said. "What's more, the prayer surrounding the Home Mission Study and ingathering of the offering will multiply the dollars contributed and empower his people in service," the WMU national leader added. □

Missionaries to be appointed Dec. 12 at Broadmoor, Memphis

For *Baptist and Reflector*

MEMPHIS — About 40 foreign missionaries, including several from Tennessee, will be appointed to work around the world during a Dec. 12 service at Broadmoor Church, Memphis.

The missionary appointment service of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the



RANKIN



WILLIS

church, located at 3824 Austin Peay Highway in Memphis.

The event will feature a colorful parade of flags representing some of the 130 countries where the Foreign Mission Board's more than 4,100 missionaries serve.

Featured speakers will be FMB President Jerry Rankin and Avery Willis, the board's senior vice president for overseas operations.

The appointment service at Broadmoor will highlight a

meeting of the board's trustees Dec. 11-13 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Memphis. **Broadmoor's senior pastor, Dick Sisk, is a mission board trustee.**

The FMB has held missionary appointment services throughout the United States since 1969 to help involve Southern Baptists who live outside the area of the board's home office in Richmond, Va. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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- **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- **Board of directors:** Dean Haun, chairman; Gary Gerhardt, vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Chrisline Bess, Russ Dunham, David George, Frank Hawkins, Diane Jordan, Pat Landrum, Joe Littlefield, Paul Moody, Bill Northcott, Charles Parker, Richard Patton, Mike Thrower, Conyer Walker, Gary Watkins, and Laurann Whetham
- **Office** — Baptist and Reflector, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027
- **Mailing address** — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- **Phone** — (615) 371-2003. **FAX** — (615) 371-2080
- **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
- **Address changes** — Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- **Postmaster** — Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780)
- **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas and Fourth of July.



Printed on recycled paper

Enrollment up at four of six SBC seminaries

Baptist Press

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — Student enrollment at four Southern Baptist Convention seminaries increased this fall, but the two largest institutions saw enrollment figures drop.

The seminaries officially compare fall-to-fall enrollment figures in late October based on the "non-duplicating headcount" of students enrolled in pre-baccalaureate programs, basic degree programs, and classes for academic credit.

Overall, total enrollment at the six SBC seminaries is down just slightly, from 9,190 students in fall 1994 to 9,177 students this fall.

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., with 1,098 students enrolled this fall, posted an 18.7 percent gain over last fall's 925 students.

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., saw a 16.5 percent increase with 494 students compared to last year's 424.

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., had an 11.2 percent increase with 1,142 students, compared to 1994's 1,027.

New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary had 1,796 students enrolled this fall, a 6 percent increase over last year's 1,692.

Showing the largest drop in students was Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., with a 13 percent decline — 1,868 to 1,621.

Southern Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. said, "We had expected a decrease in a total enrollment for this academic year, given issues of transitions and change in academic programs. Nevertheless, we are very pleased with this enrollment and we tend to build upon it.

"God has called together a committed and spirited class of new students to Southern Seminary."

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, also showed a drop in students this fall with 3,026 students enrolled, a 7 percent decrease from the previous fall's 3,254 students.

"The fact that Southwestern has been able to maintain a strong enrollment figure in a transition time is a very healthy sign," said Southwestern President Ken Hemphill.

"The healing process is well underway, and you can see the enthusiasm in class, chapel, and around the campus."

Thousands of other students are included in a "total cumulative headcount" of enrollment in non-credit classes. □



Hardeman County Association officers

Officers of Hardeman County Association are, from left, Mary Louise Craft, Parran's Chapel Church, treasurer; Director of Missions Deryl G. Watson; Carolyn Grantham, Hornsby Church, clerk; Doug Baker, pastor, Parran's Chapel Church, moderator; and Robert Tyson, pastor, First Church, Middleton, associate moderator.

Virginia group opts against new convention

Baptist Press

NORFOLK, Va. — Messengers to the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia meeting Nov. 7 declined to launch their own state convention, voting 150-60 to defeat a motion by Terry Harper, pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Colonial Heights.

Harper's motion called for the creation of a second Baptist state convention in Virginia alongside the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

While the vote was lopsided against the motion, Harper said it was primarily a matter of timing that defeated the motion as SBCV messengers met

at First Church, Norfolk, in their third annual meeting.

"The time was just not right for a work of this magnitude," agreed Charlie Waller, pastor of Fork Church, Bumpass. "There is still a good chance that the Holy Spirit can turn this state back to the basics of God's Word."

If the group had voted to split from the BGAV, it would have been an unprecedented and historic step within the Southern Baptist Convention. Southern Baptists in Texas, an organization of conservatives in Texas, continued to explore the possibility of breaking off from the Baptist General Convention of Texas to form their own statewide organization.

Given the tenor of the discussion preceding the SBCV vote in Norfolk, the general consensus appeared to be that formation of a new state convention was inevitable in the state of Virginia, where a widening breach exists between those favoring and those opposing the current leadership of the SBC.

The SBCV was founded in 1993 with 13 churches. One hundred, forty-four churches were involved through their giving and by their attendance at SBCV meetings in 1995.

Bob Reccord, pastor of the host church, opposed the motion, expressing concern as to how the SBC would relate to a state with two conventions. □

Partial-birth abortion ban suffers setback in Senate

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The attempt to prohibit a gruesome, late-term abortion procedure suffered a setback when the U.S. Senate agreed to refer the bill to the Judiciary Committee Nov. 8.

The Senate vote called for the committee to hold a public hearing and to return the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act (H.R. 1833) to the floor Dec. 7. Supporters of the bill had hoped to keep the bill out of committee, but relented when it appeared they might not have enough votes to pass it without a hearing. The vote on referral was 90-7.

BSSB employees celebrate turnaround in finances

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Year-end revenues for the Baptist Sunday School Board's 1994-95 fiscal year have exceeded earlier projections for a good financial year, and Nov. 3 was set aside as a "Celebration Day" to mark the occasion with an employee meeting and coffee breaks hosted by top management.

Ted Warren, executive vice president and chief operating officer, said revenues exceeded

earlier projections presented to agency trustees in September, reaching a total of \$247,814,000, compared to a projected \$244.5 million. The budgeted revenue goal had been \$243,405,000.

President James T. Draper Jr. told the agency's Nashville employees, "The turnaround this year is absolutely incredible and phenomenal.

"A year ago when I stood before you, it was probably the unhappiest day of my life,"

Draper said. "I had to announce to you we had come to an \$8.2 million shortfall. That reflected some great needs and problems, and we began to address those problems."

Draper noted the board's financial success this year translates "into what we have accomplished in ministry terms." He also noted "good stewardship" helped the BSSB provide more than \$3 million to the SBC "to help carry the Gospel around the world." □

Annunity Board's assets approach \$5 billion mark

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Reports of total assets approaching \$5 billion and nine-month earnings exceeding \$621 million were relayed to trustees of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board Nov. 6-7.

Trustees approved a staff recommendation to grant a permanent 5 percent increase in benefits on Jan. 1, 1996, to people drawing life annuities (except variable annuities) and those receiving fixed-period benefits of 60 months or longer. The increase will apply to all such annuities that were funded from defined contribution accumulations coming from the Church Annuity Plan, Convention Annuity Plan, or the Voluntary Annuity Plan,

as well as Plan A retired and deferred benefits. Annuitants will see the increase in checks at the end of January.

In other business, the insurance committee reported the entire insurance program had been rebid for 1996, which resulted in changes of carriers from some programs in order to gain lower rates. It was determined in the best interest of participants to continue the comprehensive and catastrophic medical plan administration with the Prudential Insurance Company of America.

The Personal Security Program serving churches and seminarians with self-funded medical coverage will experience a 7.6 percent rate increase on Jan 1, 1996, the first since 1992. □

Graham to remain as BGEA chairman; Franklin Graham named to succeed dad

Baptist Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Billy Graham celebrated his 77th birthday Nov. 7 in Florida at an annual Billy Graham Evangelistic Association board of directors meeting and affirmed he will continue as the chairman and chief executive officer of the organization he founded in 1950.

Franklin Graham, son of Billy and Ruth Graham, was elected to serve as first vice chairman — a newly created position with direct succession to become chairman and CEO, should his father ever become incapacitated. The action settled within the organization the question of succession and its future.

Said Billy Graham: "Franklin was selected by the board, and as a father I am both proud of his capacity for leadership and humbled in gratitude for the Lord's blessing on him."

Cliff Barrows remains as BGEA vice chairman and the program director for all of Graham's crusades, continuing a 50-year partner-



B. GRAHAM



F. GRAHAM

ship in ministry with the Southern Baptist evangelist.

Graham's crusade schedule for 1996 includes crusades in Australia, New Zealand, Minneapolis, and Charlotte, N.C. He also announced his memoirs will be completed by the fall of 1996.

Franklin Graham will continue his ministry in Samaritan's Purse and World Medical Mission, headquartered in Boone, N.C., and will conduct eight to 10 crusades for the BGEA in 1996.

"I am committed to do whatever I can to support my father so that he can continue to do the work that God has called him to do," his son said. "I accept this position in order to help him and to take some of the responsibility off of his shoulders." □

Small church organizes huge shipment of items to war-torn Liberia

Baptist Press

MARIETTA, Ga. — A small Georgia Baptist church has undertaken a mission's project that will benefit hundreds of Liberian Baptist churches battered by years of civil war.

Under the leadership of pastor and retired missionary to Liberia John Mark Carpenter, Labelle Heights Church, Marietta, has collected enough Bibles, hymnals, Bible study literature, clothing, and other relief supplies to fill a 40-foot shipping container, a shipment that was to have arrived in the war-torn country Nov. 7.

The project started out as a plan to fill one 20-foot shipping container, but the huge response necessitated the larger scale. "It's just been overwhelming," Carpenter said.

Carpenter first had the idea for such a large-scale shipment of relief supplies while he was a missionary. The concept was simple. Americans often have surplus quantities of so many items, and the Liberians — especially after years of war — have so many needs. And a large shipment is the most cost-effective way of transferring those surplus goods.

Carpenter wrote a letter making requests for contributions to about 250 churches, pastors, directors of missions, and others, many of whom were involved in the Georgia/Liberia missions partnership from 1985-87. The response nearly overwhelmed the small congregation. Among the contents of the container after it was loaded Oct. 14 were:

164 cartons of used clothing weigh-

ing 50-75 pounds, each of which will go to a different church in Liberia; 270 cartons of used hymnals; 42 cartons of used books and Bibles, each of which will make up a mini-library for pastors who lost most of what they owned in the civil war;

61 cartons of books for the library of Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary, where Carpenter served as president; 20 cartons of medical supplies for Baptist relief clinics; 48 cartons of literature for churches, including Bibles, Bible study books, and Sunday School supplies; nine cartons of used Bibles; 14 cartons of new Bibles for the Living Way Bible Correspondence Course in Liberia; and many miscellaneous items.

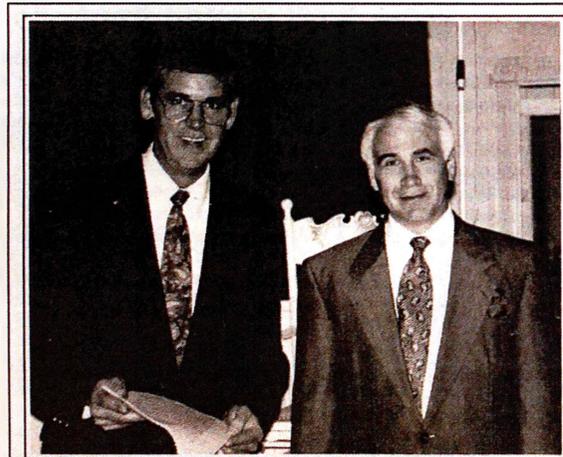
"It looked like a mountain," Carpenter said.

The Marietta pastor said the project

was made possible in large part because of the personal contact with Liberian Baptists many donors experienced during the mission partnership.

The scope of the project was expanded as opportunities grew, he noted.

In the letter, Carpenter asked donors to send a financial contribution to help with the freight, anticipating a cost of about \$5,000 to send a smaller 20-foot container. In the end, they received more than \$13,000 in gifts, which more than covered all shipping expenses on the larger container as well as the \$2,000 for new Bibles. Most of the response was from Georgia, but donations also came from as far as Dallas and Austin, Texas. Several faculty members of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., made donations to the mini-libraries. □



New Salem leaders

New Salem Association met Oct. 22 at Brush Creek Church. Moderator Larry Duke, left, a layman from Rome Church, and Assistant Moderator Wayne Jamison look at the order of business. Jamison, pastor of the host church, preached the annual sermon. The 108th annual session included 11 churches, one of which was accepted into the association at the meeting.

World 'galvanized' for peace, Henry observes

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Returning from the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin in Israel, Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry said the Israeli prime minister's assassination has "galvanized" the world community to press toward peace in the Middle East.

But the pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., said he fears "a narrow window of opportunity" could rapidly close.

"This (assassination) will galvanize (world leaders) for the immediate future to press on with it," Henry said Nov. 7 after returning from his two-day trip to Israel. "(Rabin's) death made people realize in a sense, what peace costs. And they want to move on with it; they want to get something done. He was the cement, the glue in the process and how

that plays out in the long run will be interesting.

"The far right (Jewish) radicals are having to be quiet. They're on the defensive. They're not all like the guy who shot him. But the opposition party will need to be quiet in the immediate future. There is a narrow window of opportunity" for peace. "It's yet to be seen."

Henry was one of three evangelical Christian leaders invited by President Bill Clinton to accompany the 40-member U.S. delegation to Israel as special guests for Rabin's funeral. Joining Henry were Henry Lyons, president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, the largest African American denomination, and Robert Schuller, pastor of Crystal Cathedral, Garden Grove, Calif. Several Jewish leaders from New York City and Wash-

ington, were included in the delegation as were former U.S. Presidents George Bush and Jimmy Carter.

Henry called the funeral ceremony "very somber" and said he was reminded how "ironic it was that several of us had been there a year ago celebrating the signing of the peace treaty" between Israel and Jordan.

"In that same room (where the body was laid in state in the Knesset), I had met Mr. Rabin personally," Henry said. "A year ago we were shouting and rejoicing and thanking God for the peace treaty that meant so much to the world. A year later we were standing there grieving — in the same building — for the man who had worked so hard for (peace). ..." said Henry, who was among approximately 300 mourners invited to the cemetery for the burial service. □

■ 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. □

Thanks to BSU

My son is trying to decide which college he will attend. This started me to thinking about my own college days at UT Martin. One of the first things which comes to mind is the BSU and Adam Hall. I praise the Lord for the good work which Adam has done and is doing at the BSU at UT Martin.

I did more growing at the BSU under the direction of Adam than any other time in my Christian pilgrimage. He challenged us to grow and develop our talents and serve the Lord with the talents which we had at the moment. He taught us the importance of missions and service to God.

Adam's sphere of influence literally goes around the world. In my own family his influence is in three states.

Many of our friends are missionaries and ministers scattered throughout the United States and around the world. The BSU is where we caught the vision reach out to a lost and dying world.

When I talk to someone who is starting to college, I tell them immediately to find the BSU and get involved. It is a place for young people to grow spiritually. They always come back to this pastor stronger and more mature in Christ than when they left to go to college.

Thank you, Adam, for the blessing you have been to me

and my family. Thank you, Tennessee Baptists for ministering to us through Adam and the BSU at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Jack Price, pastor
Fairhaven Church
Olive Branch, Miss. 38654

Who are they?

In reading the Oct. 25 story about violence in Christian families, with the headline one would think these were Christian families that are used to grab our attention. Nowhere does the article give any information one way or the other. It is very misleading if they are not Christians. Most of the information given in the article has been written by secular researchers in one form or another. I guess I have a higher regard to whom I refer to as a Christian with the understanding I have based on God's Word. I would be hesitant in putting forth anyone with conduct such as these as Christians. I might agree they could be church members, but I don't think I would refer to them as Christian, nor would I make the judgment that they were not.

There are plenty of writers that put Christians in a bad light without help from within the family. I know many Christians who serve their Lord in the church, community, workplace and their homes. They spend daily time in the Word for growth and guidance for their everyday lives. They meet the needs of those around them and are prayer warriors. They give generously to the church and to many other needs that God lays on their heart. They respond instantly to whatever God requests of them. If the people that were described in the beginning of the article are Christian, who and what are these saints I've just described? The New Testament describes those who have no inheritance in the kingdom. The reason for this letter is we need to be careful who we call a Christian, especially in light of the fact that world reads what we write.

Nick Kennedy
Ooltewah Church
Ooltewah 37363

Forgetting the past

I write about a recent editorial. The subject was "Passions of the world aren't always healthy." Forgive me if I sound critical but I wonder if we as Southern Baptists should not adopt the theme, "forgetting the past and press on to the high calling of God in our Lord Jesus Christ."

I believe as Christians we individually are responsible for our own choices.

At the judgment seat of Christ we each will stand and be judged for the choices we have made in life, (right or wrong) by the Word of God.

The subject of love and forgiveness is taught many times in the Bible for Christ taught to love our enemies and pray for them. He also taught us to "come out from among the world and be ye separate." Is not that the reason he had so much trouble with the "religious" leaders of his day? They would not believe that he was the Son of God. The Bible had foretold of his coming but the religious leaders wanted their own way.

I have read and been told by some of our pastors that "conservatives" and "moderates" disagree over whether the Bible is the true infallible Word of God. Then let us choose the Word of God to stand on, so we can be pleasing to our Lord.

I have been a Christian for over 50 years and not one promise has the Lord failed me and as I trust and obey I have perfect peace with my Lord.

I do like the cooperative spirit which our churches support to reach out to others to share the Gospel. May God continue to bless SBC, if we let him lead.

"Include us out" — no — just include us to be on God's side, thanking him for great things he has done and is doing in our age.

Wilma Camp
Chattanooga 37421

We agree. "Include us out" means that God can use others as well as Southern Baptists if we do not obey him. — Editor

An answer needed

Where does "goodness" come from?

I would appreciate feed back concerning this question. On Oct. 27 I was laid off from Sequoyah Nuclear Plant where I had worked three years with over 30 immigrant Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish, and Catholic engineers. Their presence made me painfully aware of my lifestyle and work ethic at all times. On Oct. 25 when an Iranian Muslim, Egyptian Coptic, and an Indian Hindu joined me at my lunch table I begged God to let me know if he was showing me witnessing failures or celebrating my success.

Taking no chances I began a conversation about the one supreme creator God we each served. At other times we had talked about our different prophets. Later, I ran into a Russian Jew "in whom there is very little guile."

These engineers' written theology is not as confusing as

their "lived" theology. They are loving, joyous, peaceful, long suffering, gentle, good, meek, temperate, and full of faith in God. Add to these fruits of the Spirit tolerance, a commodity in short supply in the SBC. Where did they obtain these "fruits?" Did they come from God? Don't all good things come from him?

Raised in an ethnically cleansed, fundamentalist Baptist church, I spent the first 22 years of my life worrying whether white Methodists could make it to heaven. Then God placed me at a Fort Monmouth, N.J. chapel teaching a large class of Yankees, Blacks, and Asians. Some of their denominations I knew nothing about. Thirty years later God permitted me a three-month stay at a Belgium IBC with no ethnic or denominational purity. I learned to pastor and love four white-black families.

If the above is heresy to you, write me, and pray for me. If it is progress help me find a job.

Ralph H. Lee
1844 Nandina Dr.
Maryville 37801

The right keys

"The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open." Isaiah 22:22

"And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:19

"Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hin-

Scholarship fund named for Taylor

Trustees of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation have established a scholarship in recognition of the late Robert C. Taylor.

Taylor had served as attorney for the Foundation and for the Tennessee Baptist Convention for more than 30 years.

According to William Childs, executive director for the Foundation, Taylor also donated many hours of his time. "He believed in the work of the TBC and the Southern Baptist Convention," Childs said of Taylor.

The scholarship fund was established with a principal balance of \$10,000 and will benefit Tennessee Baptist students preparing and studying for careers in law, government service, and politics.

Each year the interest earned will be distributed by

dered." Luke 11:52

"I am he who lives; and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death." Revelation 1:18

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says he who is holy, he who is true,' he who has the key of David, he who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens." Revelation 3:7

"Then the fifth angel sounded; And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. And to him was given the key to the bottomless pit." Revelation 9:1

The "keys of the kingdom of heaven," is a metaphor for the power of Jesus Christ's teachings. He who accepts the teachings of Jesus Christ will be saved. He who does not accept the teachings of Jesus Christ will not be saved.

Archimedes A. Concon
Memphis 38117

Correction

In a letter about capital punishment appearing in the Oct. 18 edition, the writer's name was misspelled. It should have been: Owen Meredith Smaw. — Editor

Readers are invited to share Christmas

Baptist and Reflector readers are invited to share brief Christmas thoughts in the Dec. 20 edition of the paper.

Deadline for these letters is Dec. 13. Readers are asked to send the letters early. Short letters get preference.

Briefly share a reason for thanks, joy, love, or tradition about celebrating the birthday of Jesus Christ. — Editor

the Foundation's scholarship committee.

Childs said the scholarship fund is open to individuals, churches, or other groups "who may wish to make a contribution in memory and appreciation of Bob Taylor."



TAYLOR

Donations may be sent to the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood 37024.

Taylor had been a deacon at Woodmont Church, Nashville,

He served on boards of several SBC entities, and had been involved with volunteer and civic work in the Nashville community.

Taylor was a local founding member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. □

Peacemakers are still an endangered group

Alan Gaunt penned some thoughtful words in the hymn, "We Pray for Peace." "We pray for peace," he wrote, "But not the easy peace Built on complacency And not the truth of God."

Psalm 122:6-7 reads, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels." To many this is the Holy Land.

We were reminded of the need to pray for the peace of Israel when, in 1970, Simon our dedicated guide, with tears, pointed to the Golden City, and recited those verses to us weary pilgrims. They still have meaning.

Yitzhak Rabin, had he read it, would have understood the words of the hymn. He probably knew the verses from the Psalm.

Before he was assassinated November 4, Israeli Prime Minister Rabin had given most of his life in a struggle for freedom and peace. A true soldier of Israel, he had fought in hills and deserts, alleys and cities to bring birth and life to a strong nation that would nurture and protect its citizens.

As a fighter for freedom, he was known for his courage and astute prowess in planning and carrying out strategies for peace and stability.

For many centuries, somehow war and peace have been entangled inexorably in the Middle East. Jewish people from around the world, then and now, have learned that any peace they won would be earned through long and bloody

strife. It has never been easy.

Yitzhak Rabin in recent years was a loyal soldier for peace. Most of his life he was a warrior, dedicated and unafraid, a leader upon whose shoulders people could find rest and consolation. He knew them; he was a Sabra, a native of the land before it became a modern nation. He was dependable, stalwart.

It is ironic that a lifelong soldier, lately turned to fighting at the diplomatic table for that elusive peace, would be gunned down in violence.

A coward's assault did what countless battlefield bullets could not accomplish.

Peace often exacts a terrible price from those willing to risk even their lives, for it.

We name but a few fallen peacemakers and seekers of freedom here, for surely Abraham Lincoln, Folke Bernadotte, Martin Luther King Jr., Mohandas Gandhi, and Anwar Sadat merit mention.

Apparently there is something evil in the breast of assassins. It is a kind justice, however, that those who murder the peacemakers often play a role in galvanizing the very processes they sought to extinguish. Thank God that lives of martyrs are not discounted.

When the Southern Baptist Convention met in New Orleans in 1969, we had a brief encounter with Yitzhak Rabin.

He was at that time Israel's ambassador to the United States. He was invited to the Wednesday afternoon reception

sponsored for missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board.

He mingled with those who attended, and was affable without being forward. As we remember it, he was gracious and appreciative of encouragement and affirmation. Already a wellknown general who became a diplomat, he would in future years continue to serve his country with honor, respect, and distinction.

Years later, Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat was the first Arab leader to visit Israel and address the Knesset on behalf of peace. He paid with his life when one of his countrymen assassinated him because Egypt and Israel opted for peace.

Not long ago when Israel signed the peace accord with Jordan, another Arab neighbor, Rabin played a leading role. We were housed in a hotel a few blocks away, watching on television.

For Israeli and Palestinian leaders who now work for peace, we should pray. The process so daringly and courageously began must not falter.

Today's Middle East bears many similarities to lands of Bible times. Leaders are still struck down. Blood flows freely. Strife continues. But flowers of peace are budding. Courage is not lacking. Agreement is hard to come by. But — strength of character blossoms where peace and freedom are highly prized, eagerly fought for, steadfastly defended.

And cohesion prospers where there is constant prayer for the peace of Jerusalem. O Jerusalem, may those who love you be secure! □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Following orders

My company commander was not much older than I, but he was experienced in doing the "dirty work."

One of the thousands of men thrown into the vortex of the Korean conflict in its early days, he was a survivor.

Attrition was so heavy that he, Wally Gross, was given a battlefield commission — because he survived and because he was brave and responsible.

Until I knew the second

part of his story, I was hesitant to give him respect due a commanding officer. He looked so very young!

In many ways he was a typical slogger. He worked hard and he played hard.

When I was assigned as a platoon leader in his company of the 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment, in Fulda, Germany, at first meeting he did not seem to be leadership type.

He was. The two years he had spent in Korea taught him leadership and the wisdom to enjoy life within boundaries.

I came to like him. He respected and cared for his men. He gave us his best and expected the same from us.

Among the platoon leaders in Company A, I was the one with a wife, newness, and Baptist ways. You know, no alcohol, gambling, or carousing.

In my heart, I expected him to reward me for my virtues. But he didn't. Instead, he assigned the "dirty work" to me.

I was given the unwanted duties. Ever the country boy, I probably was too naive to realize what was happening.

Our regiment had to assume additional border patrol duties when the French or British units needed relief.

The northern area of the East-West German border was particularly rough duty. No one wanted that duty.

Guess who got the assignment! When I asked the captain "why me?" he had a quick response.

"You are the only one I can trust," he said, "and I know you are the only one who will act responsibly. And that's what we need out there."

I thanked him. The lesson was well taught, accepted, finally learned. □



ALLEN

■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Joe to Jane (after their first date): "I know this has been a miserable date for you because I've been so clumsy and stupid. Just think though, 10 years from now we'll look back at tonight and laugh about it." Jane to Joe (as she closed the door): "I'm sure we will — but separately, many miles apart."

Take this truth

A bad beginning does not make a good ending. It may make an even worse ending if we continue to pursue it. If at first you don't succeed, should you keep trying? Not necessarily. Sometimes you should quit and try something else.

Memorize this Scripture

"What will ye do in the end thereof?" (Jeremiah 5:30).

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to see I have only one chance to make a good first impression. Help me to realize I recover to do better next time. □

Marriage is a lasting matter

I want to address an issue from my heart today. It is not that the other subjects I have discussed have not been serious, but this issue is breaking my heart. The statistics that I see report that two-thirds of the marriages formed today will not make it. When I was a boy, divorce was legal, but it was not nearly as rampant as it is today.

The latest issue of *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy* deals with the effectiveness of marital and family therapy.

There is an article on treatment of marital conflict and prevention of divorce, authored by two Baptists from Baylor University and University of Houston.

These researchers made the point that marriage and family therapy could help couples learn to manage their conflict and find more satisfaction in their marriages. As a therapist for 25 years, I believe what they reported. There is help for those who want to save their marriages. There is a joke about the topic. How many pastoral counselors does it take to change a light bulb?

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor

The answer is, "One, but the light bulb must want to be changed."

Recently a student came to my office at school and asked if I could recommend a good marriage counselor. As we talked of the reason for the request, she said she thought it might be too late and that a counselor might not be able to help them.

She added that her husband did not want a divorce, but she did not know if she wanted to put forth the effort to try to make it work. I reminded her that they had two lovely children and 20 years invested in this marriage. That is too much to throw away. She replied it was too little, too late. The tragedy is that there are so many couples who feel as she does.

These situations don't happen overnight. Every couple needs to be vigilant in the protection of their marriage relationship. Think of what a great marriage an "okay" couple

could have if they were willing to put forth the effort that this couple will have to put forth to try to save a marriage.

Good marriages just don't happen. They are not gifts of God to some lucky bystanders. Good marriages are intentional efforts of two people who take seriously the commitment, "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part."

Divorce is heart-breaking. Let us make a commitment to make good marriages better through programs like the Sunday School Board-sponsored Fall Festival of Marriage and some of the life courses. The SSB also has a marriage festival in the spring. Let us commit to do what it takes to redeem troubled marriages. □

Among other helps for marriages is "Marriage Savers," a plan developed by Michael McManus, who has a book with the same title. Some of his columns have been in this paper. Write for information. — Editor



BARKLEY

Groundbreaking highlights Riverside Association meeting



ON THE SECOND DAY of the annual meeting, Riverside Association broke ground in Livingston for a new office building. From left, front row, Charles Eldridge, Allons Church; Ken McMillen, director of missions; Cloyd Stratton, Fellowship; Jack Winingham, Byrdstown; back row, Phillip Williams, First Jamestown; Bill Davis, First Livingston; Raymond Phillips, Columbia Hill, pastor and builder; and Don Cobb, First Livingston. The new building will house the association's office center.



MEETING AT Memorial Church, Livingston, prior to the evening session Oct. 27, were some of Riverside Association officers. Seated from left, Wayne Godsey, host pastor; Ken McMillen, DOM; Naomi Albright, treasurer; standing, Glenn Patton, vice moderator; Raymond Phillips, moderator; Doug Plumlee, clerk, and Don Cobb, incoming clerk. First day of the meeting was at First Church, Byrdstown. — Photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen

Hillvale Church on the move — in more ways than one

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

CLINTON — Hillvale Church in Midland Association is a church on the move — in more ways than one.

Not only is the church growing and sharing the love of Jesus Christ in its community outside Clinton, the church literally was moved about a year ago.

It all came about when the church called bivocational minister David Crowley as its pastor about three years ago.

"After I arrived at Hillvale the church building was just too crowded," Crowley said. "People would come, look through the door, and then leave. That burdened my heart," Crowley said.

The problem was that the 66-year-old church had no room to expand. The church earlier had bought three acres nearby but not everyone was receptive to the idea of constructing a new building on

that site, Crowley recalled.

"I knew if we left the building there, it would have split the church," he said, noting he prayed and cried over the dilemma.

"Then one Sunday the Lord spoke to me," Crowley affirmed. "He told me to move the building."

At first Crowley thought it was a "farfetched" idea, but after talking it over with the church's building committee, they decided to proceed with that idea.

They literally moved the old facility to the new site and then built a new sanctuary and attached it to the older structure which is being remodeled. Most of the work was either done or supervised by the pastor himself, who is a general contractor.

Moving the building helped some of the older members accept the change, Crowley acknowledged.

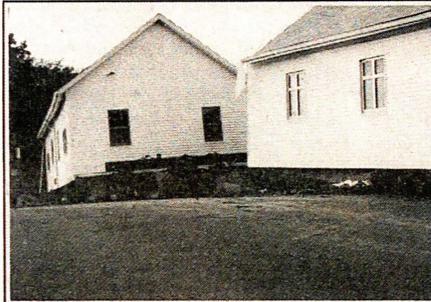
The congregation moved into its new facility on Easter

Sunday in 1994 with about 75 people, Crowley said. Now, the church has about 180 on a typical Sunday morning, he added.

Though Crowley, who also is in his second year of studies at Clear Creek Bible College in Pineville, Ky., has spearheaded the efforts, "the growth of this church cannot be attributed to me," he stressed.

"These are hard working people at Hillvale," Crowley said, noting they especially work hard at outreach.

In addition, the church is benefitting from its location. Several subdivisions have sprung up around the church, he noted.



HILLVALE CHURCH in Midland Association definitely was on the move last year. The church was rolled to its new site near its previous location and a new sanctuary was added as well.



PASTOR DAVID CROWLEY stands outside Hillvale Church near Clinton. The bivocational pastor has been instrumental in leading Hillvale's growth in recent months.

The main reason for the growth, however, is "the Lord's hand is in it," Crowley affirmed.

"The Lord is sending us key, spiritual people committed and sold out to him."

Crowley noted Hillvale has started several new ministries recently. "The Lord is really blessing us," he said.

The minister is pleased with the current state of af-

fairs at Hillvale and is confident about the future.

"This church will continue to grow," he predicted. □

Weakley County Officers

Weakley County Association re-elected officers during its recent fall meeting. From left, are Director of Missions Richard Skidmore; Gertie Sheffield, First Church, Dresden, clerk; Raymon Carneal, Central Church, Martin, moderator; Jerry Seamons, Adams Chapel Church, treasurer; and Jerry Summers, First Church, Sharon, vice moderator.



Daily Partnership Prayer Requests

November



- 15 — Praise God for a Brotherhood volunteer group from FBC, Sevierville, that worked recently in Michigan.
- 16 — Praise God for David and Melissa Roberts. He is the new pastor at Beacon's Field Church in Michigan.
- 17 — Pray for Barbara Wyman as she leads a Discipleship Training workshop today and tomorrow.
- 18 — Pray for Evergreen Church, Cadillac, Mich., as they secure funds to build a new building next summer.
- 19 — Praise God for the contacts made recently in Tarnow, Poland, by the medical team and for Pastor Irek Skoczen there.
- 20 — Pray for the Baptist Seminary of Poland and for volunteers to assist in various campus construction projects.
- 21 — Pray for Bonnie Carlson, a worker in the Canada partnership.

■ death

■ **Wilma Davis**, mother of Cindy Franks of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Discipleship Training Department, died Nov. 3 in Richmond, Va., following an extended bout with cancer.

■ the leaders

■ Central Church, Oak Ridge, has called **Bruce Coyle** as interim pastor, **Tom Lee** as interim administrator/education director, **Mark Williams** as interim youth director, and **George Wadlington** as interim minister of music. (In last week's paper the wrong church name was given inadvertently.)

■ **Mitch Walker** has been called as pastor of Pine Orchard Church, Oakdale, effective Nov. 12. He is the former pastor of Longfield Church, Lake City, and Vaughn Chapel

Church, Lenoir City.

■ **Ken Jordan**, pastor, Volunteer Church, Bristol, for five years, has been called as pastor of Fairview Church, Elizabethton.

■ **J.D. McGee**, pastor of Walnut Grove Church, Bluff City, has resigned, effective Oct. 29.

■ **Keith Whitehead** has been called as interim pastor of Pinecrest Church, Johnson City.

■ the churches

■ **Hillcrest Church, Lebanon**, will host the Mike Speck Trio Nov. 26 at 7 p.m.

■ The Woman's Missionary Union of **Central Point Church, Rutledge**, recently met with Mary Sheddian, missionary to Indonesia.

■ **Adriel Church, Bean Station**, held revival. Jimmy Davidson and Sonny Davis spoke.

■ **Little Hope Church, Clarksville**, held a note burn-



MEMBERS AND GUESTS OF THE FIRST CHINESE CHURCH in metropolitan Nashville — Nashville Chinese Church, Nashville — gather during its constitution service Oct. 29 at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville, its sponsor. The congregation developed from a ministry begun by Belmont Heights Church in 1982, where it will continue to meet. Speakers included James W. Freeman, director of missions, Nashville Association, and Tim Hill of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Both entities have supported the congregation financially.

ing ceremony representing the debt free status of its fellowship hall on Oct. 15.

■ the schools

■ **Belmont University, Nashville**, has named **Howard H. (Butch) Eley**, president of The Ingram Group and former director of the metropolitan office of economic development, to the role of vice president for university relations, effective Jan. 1. The Ingram Group provides government relations, public relations, and corporate strategy for its clients. Eley holds two degrees from Belmont University, including an MBA.



ELEY

■ the regions

■ **The Middle Tennessee Minister's Conference** will meet at Belmont University, Nashville, Nov. 30, from 9 a.m.

to 3 p.m. Kenneth Matthews from Beeson Divinity School, Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., will lead a study of the January Bible Study on the book of Amos. Lunch will be provided by the university.



HONORED FOR SERVING 10 YEARS AS TREASURER of West LaFollette Church, LaFollette, is Cecil Powers, center, with his wife, Kathleen, by Hobert McCreary, pastor. The recognition was held on Oct. 1, as a part of the church's homecoming activities.



PAUSING AFTER PLANTING A TREE to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Tusculum Church, Greeneville, are Dink Sprabery, center, and Bill Runyon, right, who were joined by congregation members. Pastor David Carr, left, speaks to the group which included pastor of the church's mission, Bill Powell.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

All in the family

By Stanley Young Jr., pastor Edgemoor Church, Clinton

The final two months of each calendar year are times when there is a strong sense of family activities and togetherness. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, families are especially eager to be together to share fond memories and renew the growing bonds of love.

These months are also times of great significance for the church family. There are numerous opportunities for dinners, programs, parties, and worship celebration for everyone in the church family. Of course, we place great emphasis on the spirit of thanksgiving and on the celebration of Christ's coming in these months, but also we experience the unique bonding

together as a family in Christ.

During holiday seasons each of us share the great desire that the whole family can be together. This is true in our homes and in our church. Our Father wants everyone to be together in one spirit and bond of love for each special occasion because we truly are all in the family. □

Thanksgiving holiday

By Todd Wilson, pastor Munford Church, Munford

A national day of thanksgiving was first celebrated in 1621 when Plymouth governor William Bradford invited neighboring Indians to join the Pilgrims for a three-day feast and time of recreation in gratitude to God for his protection in the new world and the great harvest which he had

provided for them.

Thanksgiving was officially proclaimed as a national holiday in 1863 by President Lincoln even though it had already become a tradition throughout the New England area. In 1941 the fourth Thursday of November was selected as Thanksgiving day by an act of the Congress of the United States.

You may wonder why I have reminded you of the history of this holiday which has become such a special time in our nation. It is true that this is the season of thanksgiving — that time when we get together with family and friends and pig out on turkey and then veg out on the pigskin. I fear we run the risk of allowing some of our traditions to obscure the heart of thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving didn't really begin with a legislative act. It began with a

Scriptural command: "O, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing Psalms to him; talk of his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the Lord (Psalm 105:1-3).

Thanksgiving is nothing more than the spontaneous overflow of the heart with gratitude for the mercy and grace of the Lord. You cannot legislate that! He owes us nothing — he gives us all things. Oh, we have so much for which to give him thanks! □

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

Tennessee BSU students well represented at CrossRoads '95

For Baptist and Reflector

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The timeless challenge of "In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?" was presented to more than 2,000 college and university students at CrossRoads '95 on the campus of Samford University Oct. 27-29.

Tennessee students comprised about one-fourth (500) of that number, including participants from 30 campuses and 12 church groups.

The first Tri-State Baptist Student Convention was sponsored by the Student Ministry Departments of the Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee Baptist state conventions.

The four general sessions were held in Wright Auditorium at Samford. Leading the music in each session were Kyle and Susan Matthews, musical artists and worship leaders from Nashville. Matt and Darlene Tullos, also of Nashville, presented theme-related sketches. Saturday evening's session featured a concert by contemporary Christian artists Phillips,



STATE BSU PRESIDENT Kim Huff presides over a state BSU meeting held in Birmingham.

Craig, and Dean.

Each session featured a different speaker. On Oct. 27 Herb Brisbane of the Home Mission Board and a former Tennessee Baptist from Memphis, spoke to students on "Ministry in His Steps." He reminded them to "make the main thing the main thing" and to keep a Christian witness at the base of a hands-on ministry to human needs. He offered "snapshots" of Jesus' ministry to hurting people in the Gospels.

The next morning Bill O'Brien, director of the Global

Center at Samford's Beeson Divinity School, looked at "Evangelism in His Steps." He warned of "the danger of racism just below the surface" of world cultures which can destroy true evangelism.

Esther Burroughs, assistant director of the Church Growth and Associational Evangelism Department of the Home Mission Board reminded students during the Oct. 28 evening session that "the college age group is largely a people group lost without Christ."

Burroughs challenged the students to see their campuses as a mission field and to change their campuses in such a way that they could exclaim to believers and non-believers alike, "God did it!"

Fifty seminar leaders led sessions on diverse topics including dating relationships, leadership,

missions, ethical decision making, and Baptist heritage. More than 600 students were involved in mission projects on Oct. 28, one of which included working on a Habitat for Humanity house. The Saturday night missions offering of \$5,000 was given to the Birmingham Habitat chapter.

Tennessee students led the closing session on Sunday morning, Oct. 29, led by state Baptist Student Union President Kim Huff of First Church, Sevierville, and a student at

Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville.

Worship features were provided by the University of Tennessee-Knoxville BSU's AGAPE drama team. Stacy Michael, a student at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, presented a summer missionary testimony.

During a state meeting the night before Tennessee students were presented a report of their 1994-95 missions program which had a total budget of \$100,000. They adopted a program for the coming year which includes opportunities for students to be involved in Tennessee's partnerships with Poland, western Canada, and Michigan.

"The whole conference was remarkable," said BSU President Kim Huff. "We had tremendous opportunities to fellowship with other students and learn from other BSUs in the process." □ — Reported by Stephanie Wyatt, a student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with Ircel Harrison, TBC Student Ministries Department

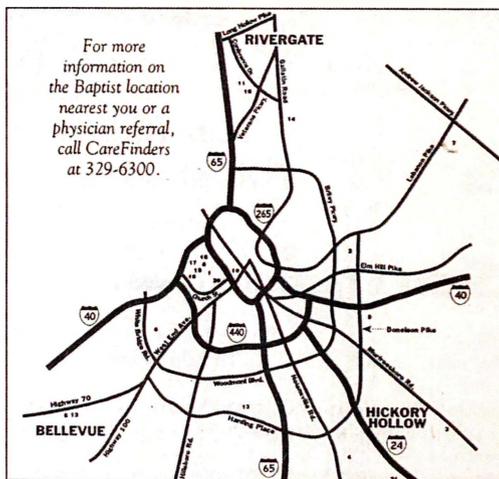


CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS Steve Roper, left, BSU director, Cleveland State Community College, and Mike Mallet, minister of students at Waterville Church, Cleveland, discuss the meeting during a dinner break.

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Youth evangelism associate answers questions about 1996 YEC

By Jay Austin
For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — After a 26-year heritage, the 1996 Youth Evangelism Conference will see a dramatic change in format. This is not news to most of you.

Everyone has heard that Youth Reach '96 will be held at Vanderbilt Gymnasium on Friday night, March 8, and then reconvene on the grounds of Opryland Theme Park on Saturday, March 9. The changes to the Youth Evangelism Conference have generated a great amount of excitement and a number of questions.

(1) Why has the format changed?

About a week and a half after the 1995 YEC, Jerry King, director of the TBC Evangelism Department, and I were evaluating the meeting. During the conversation, Jerry shared his eight-year desire to utilize Opryland for part of the Youth Evangelism Conference. He said that all attempts in the past had failed due to Opryland's operating schedule.

It had been three years since any contact with Opryland had been made so we decided to call and see if there was any possibility of using the park.

Slightly over an hour after

our conversation, we received an unsolicited phone call from Teresa Yingling, senior manager of specialty sales for Opryland U.S.A.

When I asked how she knew of the Evangelism Department's interest, Yingling confirmed that no contact had been made. We set up a preliminary meeting the following week to discuss the possibility of using the park.

Jerry suggested I tell Bill Wilson, director of the Convention Ministries division about the preliminary meeting. I went to his office and as I was waiting for him to finish a telephone conversation, I observed a single book on a table. The title of the book was *I Planned for Life and Look What Happened: Keeping Your Faith in Times of Change*.

As I flipped through the

book, I became interested in knowing who the author was. When I turned it over to see, I was shocked to discover that it was the same Teresa Yingling that had called from Opryland.

I inquired as to where the book came from, but no one seemed to know. I have since learned that Teresa served on a summer student evangelism team in North Carolina during the time Jerry King was a pastor in the state and that she actually served in Jerry's church several years ago.

God has been very much in control of the circumstances surrounding the format changes in the Youth Evangelism Conference.

(2) Who all will be in the park?

The 1996 Tennessee Youth Evangelism Conference will be the only thing taking place in the park on March 9. No one else will be in the park!

(3) Is the day at Opryland just a fun day?

NO! Although the rides will be in operation, the goal of the 1996 Youth Evangelism Con-

ference is to transform Opryland into a wholistic evangelism experience. The stages will be filled with evangelistic conferences, a leadership conference, and Christian music artists of all types (Gospel through contemporary).

The streets of Opryland will become a place where the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be shared freely through drama and music.

There will be individuals passing through the lines for the rides sharing the Gospel in a personal way. A section of the park will be used for an all-day, drop-in prayer vigil, praying for the lost youth in the park and across the state.

The day will be packed full of encouragement, fun, and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

(4) How do I get information about registration?

A packet of information was sent several weeks ago to all TBC churches. If for some reason you did not receive your packet, please request one from the Evangelism Department (615) 371-2058.

Everyone must be pre-registered for this conference. The deadline is Jan. 19, 1996. ☐ — Austin is program associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Evangelism Department.



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Associations conduct business at meetings

Churches added

William Carey Association accepted Maranatha Church, Fayetteville, into its fellowship. Edward Johnson is the pastor.

Sullivan Association voted to add Blessed Hope Church, Kingsport, where Stanley Sims, is pastor, into the fellowship.

Chilhowee Association voted to receive Grace Church, Seymour, where Mike Underwood is pastor, into the fellowship.

Business

Tennessee Valley Association celebrated its centennial anniversary at the annual meeting. Nine churches were recognized. They were the only charter members of the association and all have remained active churches for 100 years.

Watauga Association heard a report on plans for a new building for Hale Community Ministries.

Sullivan Association voted to start a fund for an office building.

New Duck River Association celebrated its 50th anniversary. Paul Tabor of Springfield, the first associational missionary or director of missions, spoke on its history. He led the association to buy a home, the first state association to do so. Bob Mizell, another former director, and Paul Hall, interim director from Brentwood, spoke. Other features of the celebration were a monologue by Terry Chitwood, music director, First Church, Lewisburg; presentation by Jeff Walters, music director, Smyrna Church, Smyrna; and music by the choirs of Shelbyville Mills Church and First Church, Shelbyville. Also Harold Smith, current director of missions, spoke about future goals of the association.

A five-year strategy planning report was adopted by **Wilson County Association**.

A church advisory committee was established by **Clinton Association**.

Fayette Association adopted guidelines for use of its new mission center.

To assist an African-American congregation, **Beulah Association** adopted a budget including \$5,000 to assist the congregation and a \$5,000 challenge goal for it.

An area crusade was planned by **Big Hatchie Association** for October 1996. Kelly Green will speak. The association also began a New Work and Church Growth Fund. The trust will be managed by Tennessee Baptist Foundation. An initial investment of \$39,465 was presented to Bo Childs of the foundation based in Brentwood.

Polk County Association celebrated its 75th anniversary.

Bradley Association heard the announcement of its director of missions, Raleigh Brady, of his intention to retire Dec. 31, after serving the association 20 years.

Missions

Bradley Association established a missions development council.

"Missions USA Live," a creative arts team from the Home Mission Board which is based in Atlanta, Ga., performed during the two evening sessions of **Lawrence County Association**.

Hardeman County Association emphasized missions through featuring praise reports from the churches, a missions fair, and speaker Bill Peacock of the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

Wade Adkins, missionary to Brazil, spoke to **Sullivan Association** about his work.

Tennessee Valley Association heard reports on a group who served in Chile and 15 members of Salem Church, Dayton, who worked in Saskatchewan, Canada, to support the Canada/Tennessee Baptist Partnership. The association also heard plans for a World Changers group, which

sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission, to work there during the summer of next year.

Chilhowee Association voted to send a special gift to Jim Ponder Ministries to assist missions work in the Ukraine.

Hamilton County Association heard reports from Wayne Parker of Woodland Association in Michigan on the Michigan/Tennessee Baptist Partnership and Kids Across Chattanooga, an inner city camp help by the association this year.

Recognitions

Fifty years ago Haven Lowe brought the annual sermon to **Watauga Association** and this year he preached the annual sermon once again.

Lola Byrd was honored by **Clinton Association** for 10 years of service as Woman's Missionary Union director of the association.

Nolachucky Association honored four treasurers who are retiring from their church positions — Harry Bible, 40 years at Beulah Church, Mohawk; R.G. Smith, 33 years at Montvue Church, Morristown; Aileen Mills, 20 years at Enterprise Church, Morristown; and Roy Lee Wice, 13 years at Leadvale Church, White Pine. The association also honored S.D. Rhodes, pastor, Holt's Church, Morristown, for serving 60 years in the ministry. The association's meeting was dedicated to him.

Roger D. Agee, director of missions, **Wilson County Association**, announced his planned retirement for Jan. 31, 1996, after 15 years of service. Agee was recognized by the dedication of the minutes to him.

Frank Hawkins, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and pastor, First Church, Kingsport, was recognized by **Sullivan Association** for his service as president. The association also honored Jack Parrott, pastor, **Sunside Church**, Kingsport, and his wife, for their volunteer

work and his service as a member of the Foreign Mission Board.

New River Association heard a report from Bethlehem Church, Oneida, which started a youth and prayer ministry during the past year.

Resolutions

Hardeman County Association thanked educators of youth in public schools, universities, academies, churches, and homes.

Beulah Association affirmed the association of a masculine gender to God and Christ; resolved to protect educational institutions from leaders who would "compromise the truth of biblical inerrancy and divine inspiration;" to fight gambling, drugs, abortion on demand, homosexuality, pornography, promotion of "safe sex," increasing incidence of children born out of wedlock, and work toward a justice system which punishes prisoners rather than coddling them.

In response to an effort to adopt liquor by the drink and the availability of packaged liquor in the city of Clinton, **Clinton Association**

adopted a resolution opposing these actions.

Western District Association passed three resolutions. One condemned the resolution of the National Education Association promoting gay and lesbian month in the public schools, to express its desire to educate its children about sexual issues rather than as an expression against homosexuals. The resolution was distributed to public school principals in Henry, Benton, and Stewart counties. The second urged the Tennessee General Assembly to stand firm against all legislative proposals which would give homosexuals preferred status or treatment or that would lead the lifestyle to be emulated in light of the fact that the United States Supreme Court has directed the state of Hawaii to give reason why it should disallow same sex marriages. The third resolution was passed in light of the fact that a local agency regulating sale and distribution of alcoholic beverage has been petitioned to extend such hours. The association acted against such an extension. □



READING A NEW ISSUE OF THE BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR which was just delivered to the Weakley County Association meeting Oct. 24 are, from left, Lyndel Littleton, Central Church, Martin; Don McCulley, First Church, Dresden; Bill Wolfe, Mack's Grove Church, Palmersville; Ronnie Maxie, Bethel Church, Greenfield; and Jerry Summers, First Church, Sharon.



PAUSING AFTER BEING HONORED at the Knox County Association meeting Oct. 17 is Johnnie Hall, center, Tennessee Baptist Convention Discipleship Training director, who was honored for 36 years of service to the convention. He was recognized by Bill Mynatt, left, associational Discipleship Training director, and Joe Chandler, associate director of missions.



NEW OFFICERS OF STONE ASSOCIATION elected during the Oct. 23-24 meeting are, from left, Anna Lee Wiles, University Heights Church, Cookeville, clerk; Gary Harvey, minister of education, First Church, Cookeville, assistant moderator; Gerald Padgett, pastor, Verble Church, Monterey, moderator; DeWitt Sampley, retired pastor, Sand Springs Church, Monterey, outgoing moderator; and Michael Prowse, director of missions.

Big Emory DOM designs growth plan for small churches

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

HARRIMAN — Big Emory Association Director of Missions J. William Bargiol has seen numerous church growth plans during his 40 years of ministry including the last 20 years as a director of missions.

Most of those programs, however, while good are geared directly toward bigger churches, Bargiol said.

And, though they can be "adapted" for smaller churches, Bargiol felt there was a void.

There needed to be a program specifically geared to smaller churches of less than 150 people, he noted.

To fill the void, Bargiol has published *Church Alive: Creating a New Dream*, a simplified planning process for the small church.

The skeleton for formatting the ma-

terials was taken in large part from the book *To Dream Again*, written by Robert Dale and published by Broadman Press in 1981, Bargiol said.

Added to that were "bits and pieces" from a mass of printed materials, conferences, workshops, training events, and retreats "which span the years," the DOM added.

The "Church Alive" program is a simple four-night (two hours per night) program that works most effectively in a small church, though it can be adapted for a larger congregation, Bargiol said. The key to the program is its simplicity, he stressed. "It requires no extensive professional training and produces immediate results."

"The program has proven to be especially useful in the older small and medium size congregations which make up the bulk of Southern Baptist life," Bargiol observed.

After church members go through the four-night program, they have in hand ministry needs which they have cited, Bargiol said. Those needs, he noted, are

prioritized by the members and grouped into four time frames: six months, one year, two years, and three years.

"The intent of the program is to enable a congregation to focus on their present situation and circumstances and make deliberate plans and commitments for the next one to three years," Bargiol stressed.

Bargiol summarized six strengths of his program:

(1) It is simple and easy to understand.

(2) The program is flexible and can be used in churches of any size and circumstance.

(3) It is inexpensive. There are no costly books and other materials to purchase.

(4) The program is short and quick.

(5) The program produces results directly related to the needs of the church.

(6) The program is spiritually grounded and is rooted in the biblical concept of the church.

Bargiol stressed the program is not "designed to sell large numbers of his manual; rather it is intended to create new life in

and a new vision for small churches."

Bargiol's "Church Alive" program is a good plan for a small church to do some strategy planning, affirmed Ray Gilder, bivocational ministries director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention and bivocational pastor of Gath Church, McMinnville. His church recently went through the program, Gilder said.

The plan presents an "opportunity to involve more people in doing things," Gilder said. "It has great potential and I'm encouraging directors of missions to use it as a tool to help small churches do strategic planning," he added.

A pastor in Big Emory Association whose church has been in the program for one year (see story below) is high on the "Church Alive" method.

"The program, while simple and focused, is the best thing I know to create a new vitality and life in a small, stagnated church," said Mark Caldwell, pastor of Union Church, Wartburg.

Persons interested in obtaining more information about Bargiol's program can call him at (423) 882-6446. □



BARGIOL

Union Church in Wartburg 'comes alive' after using growth plan

For Baptist and Reflector

WARTBURG — Mark Caldwell, pastor of Union Church in Wartburg, is a firm believer in Bill Bargiol's "Church Alive: Creating a New Dream" program.

In one year Caldwell has seen remarkable progress at the 149-year-old Big Emory Association church which voted to begin the program at about the same time he accepted the pastorate last year.

The church did a self-analysis, Caldwell said. They looked at themselves and did a brainstorming and prioritizing process and produced a printed list covering a three-year period, the pastor noted.

Union's priority list included 40 ministry needs, of which they felt 22 could be done in the first year, Caldwell said.

At the end of the first year, they went over the list and found they had actually accomplished 23 projects. What's more the members accomplished many other things not on the original list as well, Caldwell said.

One example, Caldwell cited, was a parking lot. At first the church didn't see they needed one, but when more people began coming, they responded and added more parking spaces.

Projects ranged from simple

but important needs such as controlling fan noise to improving the nursery/preschool area and making plans to build a family life/educational building.

Also, during the past year the church began a tape ministry for shut ins and developed an extensive outreach program through individual Sunday School classes.

"Outreach for Vacation Bible School resulted in an increase from 53 last year to 191 at this year's school.

"Sunday School enrollment

the pastor or Bill Bargiol, Caldwell stressed.

Caldwell cited his experience at the bank which had goals and purposes. Union did not have that. The congregation came three times a week for church, he recounted.

What's more the congregation discovered it had "plateaued," Caldwell added.

The program gave the church a new vision and a "common goal we could all see," he said.

One of the most important benefits of the program "has been the number of people involved. We have had people working in the church, volunteering for positions or jobs that have never served in church before. And, God has blessed us through each one, Caldwell affirmed.

Caldwell noted Union does not have committees. Instead they have "dream teams." They usually have about four to five operating at once, he said.

"Our people got excited when they saw something accomplished from start to finish.

"As they worked, they made dreams come true, and God has blessed," he emphasized.

There are some problems connected with the "Church Alive" program, Caldwell admitted.

One is administration. "Someone has to administer it for it to work," said Caldwell,

who has served in that role for Union.

Big Emory Association Director of Missions J. William Bargiol, who developed the program, recommends that someone other than the pastor serve as administrator.

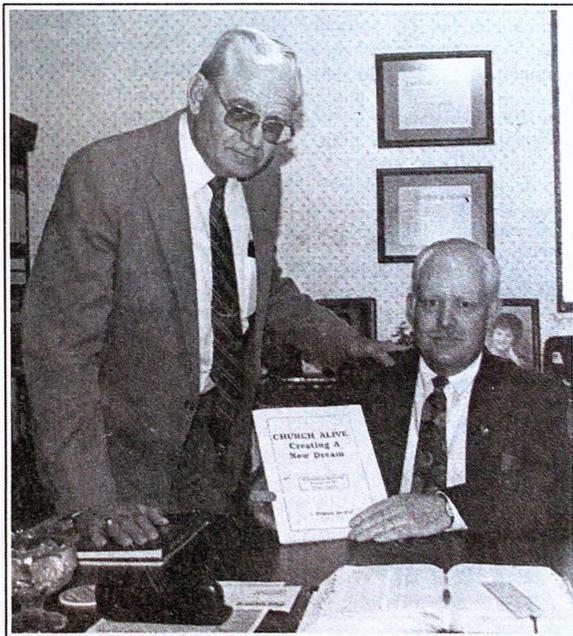
Another real problem, although it has been a pleasant one, Caldwell said, has been rapid growth.

"We've had so much growth that we do not have enough

teachers. We're trying to train new teachers as fast as we can," he said.

Caldwell, in reviewing the year for the congregation, took note of all they had accomplished but noted they are not finished. "In the coming year many of these dreams will continue and many more dreams will come about as long as we focus on the work that God has called us to do — sharing the Gospel with the world." □

6 Our people got excited when they saw something accomplished from start to finish.



MARK CALDWELL, seated, holds a copy of 'Church Alive: Creating a New Dream,' a simplified planning process for small churches developed by J. William Bargiol, standing, director of missions for Big Emory Association.

What works on television is preaching, says Cordova pastor

By C.C. Risenhoover
For Baptist Press

CORDOVA — The first time Adrian Rogers ever broke into the clear and raced toward a touchdown with the defense in hot pursuit, he was so anxious to score that he dived across what he thought was the goal line.

It was, instead, the 5-yard line.

That episode during a high school football game was probably the last time Rogers ever stopped himself short of a goal.



ROGERS

Rogers eventually accepted God's call to preach. Preaching was then, and still is, his all-consuming passion.

Rogers is senior pastor of Bellevue Church, Cordova one of the world's largest congregations with a membership of more than 25,000 and a sanctuary that seats 7,000.

But those who attend Bellevue represent only a small number of the people who hear him preach every week. Rogers is founder and president of "Love Worth Finding" Ministries, a nationally syndicated television and radio ministry that reaches millions of people every week.

Bill Skelton, vice president of the ministry, said, "We're currently on 428 television broadcast stations, three satellite networks, and 14,734 local cable TV systems. We're also on more than 400 radio stations."

In the U.S. alone, "Love Worth Finding" reaches a potential weekly audience of

more than 120 million people. The TV version reaches much of the Middle East — Israel, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. The radio version reaches much of the South Pacific, India, Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, and South Africa. Five days a week on radio or Sunday on TV, "Love Worth Finding" reaches into more than 50 countries.

Though he had been on radio early in his ministry, he was not on TV until he went to Bellevue as pastor in 1972.

"Bellevue has been involved in television since the early '50s," he said. "The church has been broadcasting on WHBQ in Memphis for more than 40 years. And, I think Bellevue may have been the first church in the nation to own and operate its own TV equipment. The people here have been very innovative in the use of media."

The pastor said it is an insult to God, who made technology, not to use it to proclaim the Gospel.

Christians must, however, use wisdom in using the media, Rogers said. "There's nothing magic about the media," he said. "Some churches think that all their problems can be solved by being on television. Some of them simply advertise their ineptitude. If you're going to broadcast, you need something worth broadcasting."

And that something, Rogers continued, is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He has no pa-

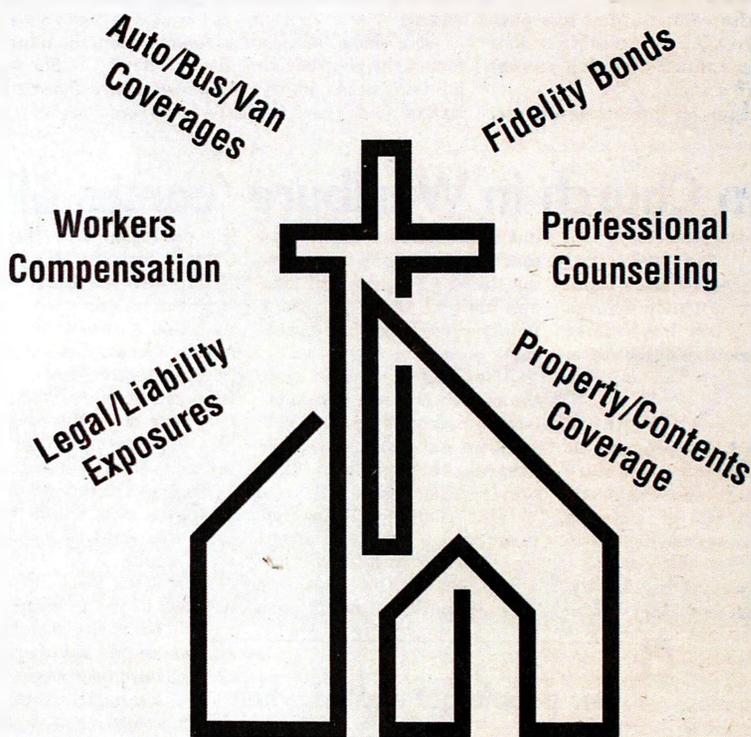
tiency with subtle, "sneak up on them" so-called religious programming that is apologetic to the Gospel.

"When we're moved by pragmatism instead of truth, we've

just about lost it. When we truncate truth to fill a sanctuary or build ratings for a TV program, we're merchandising instead of preaching the Gospel."

Rogers is not a fence straddler as to the type radio and TV programming he thinks Southern Baptists should emphasize. "What works for us is preaching," he affirmed. □

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Grubb retires after 25 years at Maryville church

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

MARYVILLE — A recent big catch of small-mouthed bass on a fishing trip is just a glimpse of God's goodness to "an old preacher," said Glenn Grubb, who has just retired as pastor of Madison Avenue Church, Maryville, after 25 years of service.

He's enjoying this aspect of retirement, said Grubb, though he will miss his work. He decided to retire just before his 68th birthday, he explained, to spend time with his wife, Kathleen, and to pursue the one thing that has given him more joy than anything else in his work — foreign missions work.

"It's so hard to get somebody here (in the United States) to accept Christ, but in other countries they will kiss your shoestrings for telling them about Jesus," said Grubb.

He plans to work in other countries two to four times a year. The expense is no problem, he added, because friends and others perceive that he is genuine, he said, so they assist him with funding.

Grubb also is genuine about his ministry — genuinely proud and humble. He served Unity Church in Maryville for 10 years while he continued his education at Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour, and Carson-Newman

College, Jefferson City. He saw the church grow from about 20 members to the point that it needed to build a new building. Another church which needed to grow in Turlock, Calif., asked him for help and he accepted. The church had about 30 members, recalled Grubb. After five years there, during which he earned his degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., the congregation also needed to build a new building.

Then he did something most common wisdom argues against, said Grubb, noting even Jesus said a man wouldn't be accepted at his place of origin. Nevertheless, he returned to within five miles of his former work to serve as pastor of Madison Avenue Church. "In my case, it was the greatest thing I ever did," he added.

The church has grown from about 300 members to 2,000 and from a budget of \$27,000 to \$650,000.

He thinks one of the reasons for growth in the churches he has served is his emphasis on

evangelism in his preaching. The other reason is "just hard work," he said. "You can't build a church without hard work. If you're lazy, you're just not going to get the work done." He's also developed a good staff, he added.

Another measure of the church of which he is especially proud is its support of foreign missions.

It all began in 1984 when he was invited by the Foreign Mission Board to work in



GRUBB

Brazil. While there he worked in a church building which was built from prefabricated materials. He learned that the cost was low and the buildings could be completed by eight men in five days.

Since then Grubb has led Madison Avenue Church and other Tennessee Baptists to complete 24 such chapels in Brazil, the last two just 30 days before he retired on Oct. 8. That trip involved members from

Madison Avenue, Memorial Church, Maryville, and Higher Ground Church, Kingsport.

Each year an average of 10 members of Madison Avenue have worked in Brazil, he said. The church funded half of each person's expenses and paid for many of the buildings, which cost from \$5,000-7,500 each. In addition to construction work, the Tennesseans have done evangelism work and led Vacation Bible Schools. Grubb's wife, Kathleen, has led many of these. As a result of these efforts, hundreds of people have made spiritual commitments.

"I just felt God wanted me to do this and my church was behind me," he explained.

Grubb became so well known in Brazil he was asked by Brazilian Baptists to stay 30 days after the last construction project to lead services in five cities and he plans to lead a similar project next year.

"I do it because God called me to preach and I promised him to go wherever he led," he added. Grubb also has worked in Africa, France, and Russia, where he also plans to return next year. □

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Dr. Reed Wright, President

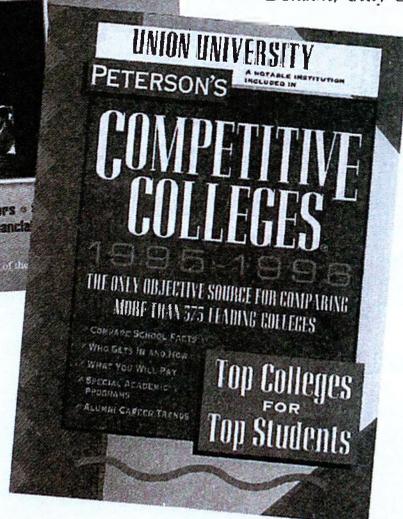
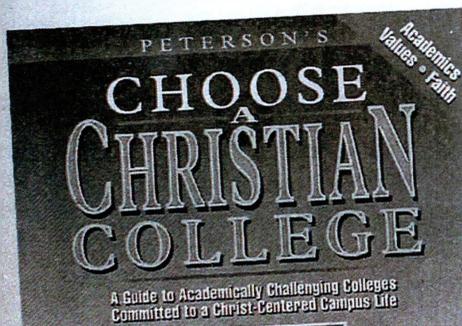
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T.W. Hunt tells story behind 'The Mind of Christ' study

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Like Moses, T.W. Hunt once said, "But I'm not a good public speaker! That was a few hundred conferences ago."

Hunt was a professor who truly enjoyed being a professor, he told students at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary during a recent chapel service. He was on campus Oct. 23-27 to present his "The Mind of Christ" study during a Chautaugua conference for senior adults, sponsored by the Baptist Sunday

School Board.

"It was very surprising to me," Hunt said, since he wasn't "some flashy, high-pressure speaker," that God might want him to publicly present his study on spiritual truths found in Philippians 2:5-11.

It all began with a prayer Hunt had asked several years before: "Lord, can a finite man have the mind of Christ?"

From that prayer came a Bible study that has benefited the entire Southern Baptist Convention as thousands of laypersons and ministers have

gone through the course, studied the book, or seen the video titled "The Mind of Christ."

Through the years, as he had searched the Scriptures and "as I had prayed and thought, I found God was changing the structure of my thought life," he said. After

mentioning these developments to a friend, he was asked to share some of his Bible study and Scriptural truths and insights at that friend's church. Many other requests to share his presentation followed.

"It was all very surprising

to me since I am a teacher and not a preacher," Hunt said, "but God wants to do things exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think."

Hunt also told students how God provided all the funds he needed to originally self-publish his materials. □

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Union missionaries-in-residence still think about Malaysia

By Shawn Hendricks
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — More than 7,000 miles away from their Asian friends, Ian and Sherri Buntain continue to embrace their ties with Malaysia.

"A year is a long time to be away from your ministry," Buntain said.

Following four years of mission work in Malaysia, the Buntains and their sons, Leighton, 13; Robert, 9; and Brendon, 5, are adjusting to their new responsibilities and

a new environment as missionaries-in-residence at Union University.

During their stay at Union, Buntain maintains designated office hours in the office of religious affairs while Sherri is taking courses to finish her degree in sociology. Their sons attend public schools in the Jackson area, a new experience for them.

On the mission field they were taught by Sherri at home because non-Asians are not allowed to attend public school in Malaysia, she said. The

Buntains adjusted to other cultural differences while on the mission field and enjoy sharing their experiences with others.

For the fourth consecutive year Union is using the missionary-in-residence program to introduce area churches, students, and faculty to worldwide missions. "We want to help them get a feel for the culture," Buntain said.

He noted the missionary-in-residence program is important because it informs churches of how their gifts to the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions are used. "When we go into any group, we prepare to explain to them what their investment is doing around the world in our particular context," Buntain said, adding that he is impressed with how receptive West Tennessee churches have been to their message.

"I was really, honestly not prepared for the level of emotion that I encountered from people in the pews," he said. "I've really been impressed with the passion for missions



IAN BUNTAIN, right, missionary-in-residence at Union University, visits with students Jeff Edmunds, left, of Jackson, Mo., and Cliff Kelley of Huntingdon.

that there is here."

During their stay at Union, missionaries are expected to speak in area churches, teach a course in missions, counsel students interested in vocational missions, speak in chapel, hold daily office hours, and assist with the annual missions emphasis week.

Missionaries-in-residence also are responsible for fulfilling duties assigned by the Foreign Mission Board as well. This includes participating in

World Mission Conferences.

"The missionaries-in-residence stay busy, to say the least," said John Adams, Union's vice president for religious affairs.

The Buntains' calendar is filled through February 1996, but they are available for churches from March until mid-May. Churches that would like to have the Buntains visit to teach and promote missions can contact Buntain at (901) 661-5242. □

Thank You Tennessee Baptists!



Evangelist
Phil Glisson
of Memphis

This coming January, I will begin my 26th year of preaching revivals and crusades. I have had the privilege of being in all parts of our state in just about every association. Thank you Tennessee Baptists for giving me the opportunity to serve the Lord and His churches. To God be the glory for the great things He has done over these past 25 years.

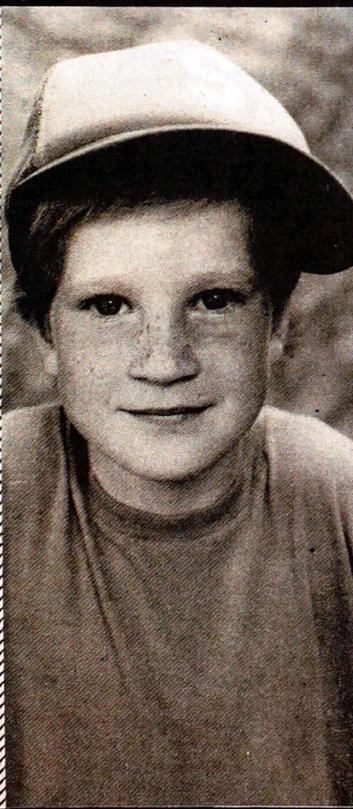
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Accident reinforces importance of freedom, advocacy, prayer

Editor's Note: On Saturday, Oct. 14, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary Stanley Stamps of Prentiss, Miss., was driving from Santa Rita to El Progreso, Honduras, when his car struck and killed a pedestrian. Stamps drove to the police station and then spent the weekend in jail while an investigation cleared him of wrongdoing. In the following first-person account, Stamps recalls the horror of the accident, the uncertainties of being jailed, and the way God used the situation to draw people closer to himself.

By Stanley Stamps
For Baptist Press

EL PROGRESO, Honduras — Each time I pass by that spot on the highway, images of what happened there flash through my mind.

I remember my headlights picking up the vague form of a man walking along the highway's center stripe. I hit the brakes. He staggered into my lane. He was so close I couldn't avoid striking him. I remember a dull thud as he flew into my windshield. The car screeched to a halt, and the motor died. I saw his body sprawled in the middle of the highway.

Stunned, I got out of my car. The man was dead. My car was badly dented and the windshield cracked. The last two passing vehicles ignored my appeals for help. It was late and the highway was abandoned.

What was I to do? Many in Honduras would have driven on, and the newspapers would



STAMPS

have reported a hit-and-run death. In the daylight, a driver might be killed by infuriated family or neighbors. The thought of jail was frightening. If I turned myself in, what would the authorities do? How would my friends and acquaintances react? I fought the urge to run. Suddenly, I felt calm. I knew the Lord was beside me, and I knew I had to report the accident.

After pulling the body to the side of the road, I drove to the police station. The officer on duty was reading a Bible. I explained what had happened, and he had me to drive him to alert the coroner and judge, and we went to the scene of the accident. The body was where I had left it. When the investigation was complete, they loaded the body in my car and had me drive it to the morgue.

The victim, a 65-year-old widower, was a "campesino" (peasant farmer) who lived with his only surviving son in a community near El Progreso. Later I learned the man had been spotted by someone else earlier the same night staggering — apparently drunk — down the middle of the road.

Back at the police station, I was placed in detention and called my wife, Glenna. My quarters was a conference room where another man was being detained for similar reasons. My bed was a bench made out of wooden slats. Although outwardly composed, my nerves were shattered.

Early the next morning, Glenna called a couple of missionary colleagues to activate our prayer chain, then brought me breakfast. (Honduran jails don't provide meals.) Then she went on to Santa Rita for Sunday School. Later that morning a friend who is a retired police captain came to visit and assured me the problem would be solved in a day or two. I had an opportunity to give New Testaments to my "cellmate" and his wife and watched as he read God's Word for the very first time.

Several church groups and missionaries came to visit that afternoon including a large delegation from the Santa Rita church. They told me the incident had caused them to reflect on the "Experiencing God" lesson about the body of Christ we had studied together the Saturday before the accident.

What had impressed them most, however, was that I had turned myself in to the police. Everyone of them knew most people would have driven away from the accident. The fact I had done the right thing said more to them than any number of sermons or lessons could have.

Monday morning the other detainee and I were taken to court in a pickup truck. While we waited, a group of men — members of the dead man's family — came in. My lawyer brought them over to me, and I explained the circumstances of the accident. They seemed satisfied when I told them my car was insured for cases like this and accepted my offer of New Testaments. I was relieved, because many times accidents like this lead to perpetual vendettas and vengeance killings.

After a long wait I walked out of the court at 3 p.m. a free man. I had a greater appreciation for what it means to be free. I also had a better understanding of what it means to have an advocate. My lawyer

friend has been by my side and intervened for me at every turn of events.

All that afternoon and the next day the telephone rang with calls from concerned colleagues and friends, both local and overseas. The prayer networks had been alerted at the

FMB and in my home state of Mississippi. Later, letters from numerous friends and prayer supporters began stacking up.

I am profoundly grateful for the extensive network of prayer partners who pray daily for foreign missionaries. I know from personal experience

what it means to be the object of concern in someone's prayers. Those prayers are not in vain. I am deeply grateful to everyone for holding me up in prayer. I am grateful to God for his deliverance from evil and for his constant, strengthening presence. □

Transformed and Renewed...

THE LIFE OF THE MIND AND SPIRIT

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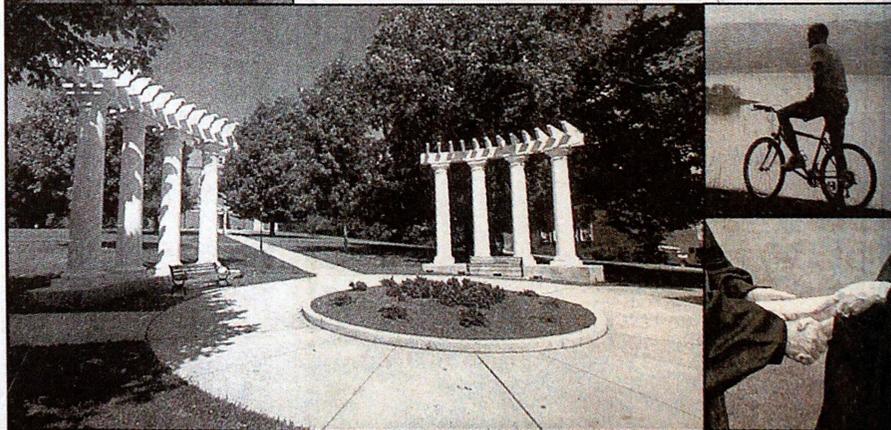
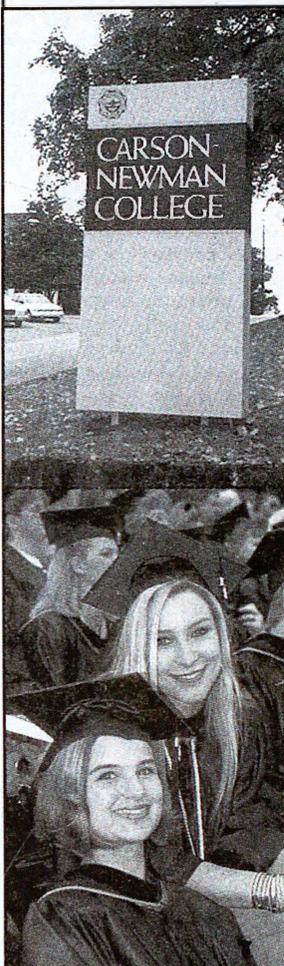
Christian higher education inspires the heart, instructs the mind, and embraces the spirit. Carson-Newman College helps growing Christian scholars transform and renew their minds by offering a demonstrated combination of resources, people and commitments.

Founded by and for Baptists, today's students keep the vision of its founders alive by leading the nation in numbers of students participating in missions and service. Students and faculty served in China, Haiti, Rwanda, Canada, Pakistan and around the U.S. last year.

C-N won a national award by the Templeton Foundation for instilling values and ethics into graduates. The commitment of students is demonstrated through many programs. The Bonner Scholars of C-N touch the heart of the community, with more than 100,000 hours spent serving others. Appalachian Outreach student and church volunteers celebrated ten years of repairing homes and rebuilding lives. Student volunteers at Samaritan House help feed the hungry mouths and souls of families in need.

Through the support of those who believe in the importance of Christian higher education, Carson-Newman is establishing itself as a premiere college. C-N was listed in 1995 *America's Best Colleges Guide* as #10 in Region, #5 Best Values, and #4 Spending Per Student. *U.S. News & World Report* commended Carson-Newman as one of the best schools for commitment to undergraduate teaching.

As we step forward into another year in His service, we give special thanks to the churches of East Tennessee who have supported young students through their scholarship programs and to the *Baptist and Reflector* for its support of Christian higher education throughout 160 years. Through the partnership between all agencies of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, we keep the vision alive.



CARSON-NEWMAN COLLEGE

Jefferson City, Tennessee

Arkansas Baptists elect Horne

Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, was elected president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Nov. 1 by a vote of 482 to 398. He defeated Stephen Davis, pastor of First Church, Russellville, and a trustee of the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

Horne and his congregation gained national attention during the 1993 SBC annual meeting when a messenger challenged Immanuel's credentials because the congregation is the home church of President Bill Clinton. A messenger charged the members of Immanuel were "by their silence, supporting Bill

Clinton's endorsement of the homosexual lifestyle."

Immanuel was found to be in friendly cooperation with the SBC by the SBC Credentials Committee. The church has led Arkansas Baptists in Cooperative Program giving for more than 30 years and was ranked 13th nationally in total CP giving last year among all Southern Baptist churches.

During the same session in which Horne was elected, messengers adopted resolutions opposing homosexuality and affirming the sanctity of human life. Horne has frequently shared his views on those subjects noting he has "long supported the sanctity of human life" and believes homosexuality is a sin. □

Missouri Baptists debate CP, BJC, Bible

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — In business sessions marked by intense debate and close votes, Missouri Baptist Convention messengers opted to retain current Cooperative Program allocation percentages, membership requirements, and convention display policies.

Messengers approved by only a seven-vote margin a motion to limit, for the time being, any increase in the percentage of Cooperative Program funds forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention from Missouri.

The motion offered by Robert L. Reading of Second Church, Liberty, proposed there be no attempt to raise the percentage of CP funds

given to the SBC until more definite information is available about the impact of the SBC restructuring plan, adopted earlier this year.

The current percentages are 58.25 percent for MBC causes; 37.75 for SBC causes; and 6 percent for joint causes.

Messengers defeated in a raised ballot vote a motion offered by Roger Moran of First Church, O'Fallon, "that the Missouri Baptist Convention rescind the exhibit privileges of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs."

The SBC ceased funding the BJC in 1991 and formally severed its ties with the religious liberty watchdog organization in 1992. A 1991 attempt to include the BJC in the MBC budget was defeated by mes-

sengers. The BJC continues to have a booth in the exhibit hall at the MBC annual meeting.

Another motion considered by messengers would have amended the MBC bylaws to require that "members of convention committees, boards of any agencies, and commissions shall be persons who believe and affirm that God inspired the writers of the Bible so that they were kept free from writing any kind of error."

On a raised-ballot vote, the motion, made by Robert L. Garringer, pastor of First Church, Memphis, Mo., failed to gain the two-thirds majority needed to amend the bylaws.

Messengers elected Doyle Sager, pastor of First Church, Sedalia, president of the convention over Jeff Barnes, pastor of First Church, Blue Springs.

The next day Barnes was elected first vice president over Springfield layman Arthur Mallory, who later was elected second vice president. □

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**Life and Work Series
for November 19**
Focal Passages:
Job 1:8-12, 20-22; 2:3-4; 6:29; 27:3-6

Integrity in crises

By Charles Parker

This text describes Job in terms of integrity rather than patience or perseverance. Surely integrity is desired in the Christian and is possible when Christ is in the heart.

We derive our English word integrity from the same Latin root as integral and integrate. The basic meaning has to do with "wholeness" or "entire." A person of integrity has a single focus, heart, and purpose (see Matthew 6:22). In contrast, a person without integrity is out of focus and fragmented. Jesus alone can bring wholeness into a life. Job demonstrates wholeness, even as he faces terrific trials.

Expect trials — ch. 1:8-12

Job's character is described with the use of four terms. (1) He is "perfect" or "blameless," not in the sense of sinlessness as Jesus was sinless but as one who is well-rounded or complete in moral behavior. (2) He is "upright" which means straight, correct, or proper. (3) He "fears God" continually, holding him in awe, honor, and worship. (4) He "shuns evil" or turns away from it. It is possible that the first two terms and the second pair are parallels.

Job's character is tested by suffering. A widely accepted idea in Job's time is represented by the four men who visit him in chapter 3 and the rest of the book — Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, and Elihu. Despite minor variations in theme, they all seemed to agree that Job's suffering was a result of wrongs he had done. In fact, it is well to remember as we read verses 6-12 that we are being given information that Job never had. His disasters must have seemed to him to come out of nowhere. While he may actually have suffered because he was righteous rather than because he was a sinner, Job did not know that God was affirming him (v. 8) or that Satan was challenging him (vv. 9-11).

Turn to God when trials come — vv. 20-22

With startling rapidity Job lost everything — except his reverence for God. Although Satan had predicted that he would curse God (v. 11) and his wife urged him to do so later (ch. 2:9), Job blessed God instead. Verse 21 reveals his deep trust in a God whose ways we cannot fathom, but whose trustworthiness is unshakable. Instead of becoming bitter, Job became better.

Trials can grow greater — ch. 2:3-4

"Cheer up! It could be worse." For Job, it did. We can almost always think of someone who is worse off than we are. "I complained because I had no shoes, until I met a man who had no feet." To the loss of family and property, Satan added a horrible sickness. "Skin for skin" is an obscure expression; perhaps it means Job will give up anything else to preserve his own skin. Yet even physical pain did not break Job or cause him to lose his integrity.

Endure trials with integrity — ch. 6:29; 27:3-6

So far in this study the Hebrew text has been in prose, as is the concluding section of the book at the close of chapter 42. But the main part of the book of Job (ch. 3:1-42:6) is written in Hebrew poetry. Several long speeches explore various angles of the questions related to suffering and faith. To the charge of Eliphaz that he suffered because he sinned, Job said "reconsider" and claimed to be still upright (ch. 6:29) and maintained he would be so long as he lived (ch. 27:6). □ — Charles Parker is pastor of First Church, Jacksboro.

Gospel unhindered by geography

By Kim Allen

**Convention Uniform Series
for November 19**
Focal Passages: Acts 16:9-10, 13-15, 25-34

The Jerusalem Council marked the end of the first missionary journey setting the stage for the second Pauline journey. The second journey was needed to explain the Apostolic letter of the Jerusalem Council to the churches in Asia Minor. If Paul really needed a reason he had it in this letter. Let us try to explain why Paul went to Philippi and the events while there.

Paul and Barnabas disagree — ch. 15:36-41

Paul (v. 36) asks Barnabas to go back to visit the churches he had started but Barnabas wanted to take Mark. All Paul could remember was Mark's desertion earlier which caused Barnabas to take Mark and go to Cyprus as Paul taps Silas to go with him through Syria and Cilicia.

Following the Lord's directions — ch. 16:1-12

They revisited Denbe and Lystra where Paul added Timothy to his mission team. As they shared the Jerusalem letter, the churches continued to grow in faith and in numbers as people were converted.

Paul is found seeking the spirit's direction. The spirit forbade Paul to go to Asia. They went to Mysia but were prevented by the spirit from entering Bithynia and (v. 7) ended up at Troas.

Paul answers the Macedonian call. While waiting on the spirit in Troas, Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia. He, with other leaders, concluded that this was God saying to go to Macedonia. Along the way Luke apparently joins the missionary team of Paul, Silas, and Timothy. Beginning in verse 10, the description of the team went from "they" to "we." They sailed to Neapolis and then went to Philippi, a Roman colony (vv. 11-12).

The mission work in Philippi — vv. 13-40

We see something unique here — there were not enough men to form a synagogue, which had always been Paul's first point of contact. On the Sabbath he found a group of women on the river bank praying, so he preached to them and one called Lydia listened and

was converted that day. In verse 15, she is baptized. Verse 25 says that "she was baptized and her household," causing some to state a case for infant baptism. Instead, her household, family and servants, heard the Word and responded. Lydia extends (in v. 15) an invitation for the hospitality of her home along with verse 40 indicating that the Philippian church met in her house.

A slave girl declared that "These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation" (vv. 16-17). After many days of doing this, Paul cast the spirit out of her (v. 18).

Paul and Silas are accused, beaten, and imprisoned because the owners of the slave girl lost their income. The magistrates ordered them beaten and imprisoned. The jailer put them in stocks in the inner prison.

These verses give us a Prayer and Praise Fest at midnight interrupted by an earthquake where all the doors and bands were loosed from the prisoners. Verses 27-28 deal with the jailer responsible for them. Knowing he would be disgraced and punished for the prisoners escaping prepared to kill himself rather than suffer that fate. Paul called out to him to prevent him from taking his life.

Verses 29-34 deal with the jailer's salvation; the removal of Paul and Silas from prison to his home where his household, as did Lydia's, heard the Word, were saved, then baptized within the hour.

Verses 35-40 find the magistrates setting Paul and Silas free, ordering them to leave Philippi. Paul pled his and Silas' case as Roman citizens of being punished without a trial. He would not leave quietly, demanding the magistrates escort them out of town. Finding Paul and Silas were Roman citizens terrified them enough for them to go and ask Paul and Silas to leave. Before they left they went to Lydia's house to encourage the church of Philippi. □ — Kim Allen is pastor of Little West Fork Church, Clarksville.

God's law leads to repentance

By Phil Lovelace

Bible Book Series for November 19
Focal Passages: Nehemiah 8:8-10; 9:2-3, 36-38; 10:30-32

Introduction: The walls were completed on the 25th day of the sixth month (ch. 6:15). This second half of the book begins in the first day of the seventh month (ch. 8:2), and the emphasis is on the people of the city and their dedication to God. The material building was over; it was now time to begin to build the people spiritually.

Proclamation of the Word — ch. 8:8-10

Ezra returned to Jerusalem to assist Nehemiah in the dedication of the walls and the sanctifying of the people. Do not confuse this scene with that in Ezra 3. It is significant that they gathered at the water gate, since this gate symbolizes the Word of God (ch. 3:26). The people had an appetite for the Word, for they asked Ezra to bring the book and preach it. The first day of the seventh month marked the Feast of the Trumpets; the 10th day would be the Day of Atonement; and the 15th to 22nd days, the Feast of the Tabernacles (see Leviticus 23:23-44). Ezra read the Word and explained it for many hours, assisted of course, by the Levites. Verse 8 describes a perfect church gathering: the people all assembled to listen, the Word was exalted high, the preacher read and explained the Word so that men could understand it. The people wept at hearing the Word, overcome, no doubt, with

grief for their sins. But this was to be a day of rejoicing. They would weep on the Day of Atonement! Ezra commanded them to feast and rejoice; see Ecclesiastes 3:4.

The next day, the leaders met with Ezra and discovered the law concerning the Feast of Tabernacles. They proclaimed this law throughout the land, and as the people obeyed, there was "very great gladness" (v. 17). There is joy in hearing the Word, but great joy at obeying it. The result of this "Bible conference" (which was held daily for a week, v. 18) was a great convocation of convicted people on the 24th day of the month. Ezra and the Levites taught the Word for three hours, then led the people in confession and prayer for three hours, and so on throughout the day.

The prayer in chapter 9 is a summary of the Old Testament history of the Jews: creation (v. 6), call of Abraham in Genesis (vv. 7-8), Exodus (vv. 9-14), wilderness experiences and sins (vv. 15-23), conquering the land (vv. 24-25), the period of Judges (vv. 26-29), period of prophets up to captivity (vv. 30-31). "Now, therefore ..." (v. 32) brings us up to Ezra's day and the

need of the nations to repent and confess sin. Note in verse 36 that the Jews admit "deliverance prophecies" in Isaiah and Jeremiah did not apply to their return from captivity! They will apply at a future date when God gathers Israel again to Palestine.

Chapter 10 gives the names of the brave and godly people who entered into the covenant with God that day. Little did they realize that their names would be recorded eternally in the Word. In verses 28-39, we see the people applying the Word to their every day lives. It is one thing to pray and sign a covenant; it is another thing to separate from evil, straighten out their homes (vv. 28-30), honor the Sabbath (v. 31), contribute to the house of God (vv. 32-33), and serve God with tithes and offerings (vv. 34-35).

Too many "Bible conferences" end with the people stirred and blessed, but not obeying what they heard!

Application: I'm so tired of being stirred and not changed. Lord, stir me to change — to obedience!

The study of God's Word leads to repentance and obedience. Amen and Amen! □ — Phil Lovelace is pastor of First Church, Somerville.

Evangelism effort brings revival to Spain

Baptist Press

MADRID, Spain — More than 100 people committed their lives to Christ during a 13-day evangelism campaign in Spain involving 105 Southern Baptist volunteers from several states.

That number is more significant than it first appears in a country where "many of our churches for months don't see one hand raised of a person accepting Christ," said Jos Carmet, director of missions and evangelism for the Spanish Baptist Union.

The campaign, which ended Oct. 23, also left Spanish Baptist churches with an increased zeal for evangelism.

"We had revival in most of the churches and some 100 to 150 professions of faith," said Larry Henry, the missionary who administers Foreign Mission Board work in Spain. "The team members, Spanish churches, pastors, and missionaries are very satisfied with the results."

Carmet estimated from 3,000 to 4,000 people heard the Gospel for the first time. In addition between 260,000 and 300,000 tracts were passed out and along with 26,000 Gospels and 1,000 Bibles, he added. □

Kansas-Nebraska Baptists celebrate

Baptist Press

DERBY, Kan. — The Kansas-Nebraska Convention

of Southern Baptists celebrated its 50th anniversary while recognizing the need to continue planting churches in every people group in the two states.

The convention had 490 registered messengers although about 975 people attended the final celebration on Oct. 17.

KNCSB began in November 1945 when four churches met to form the Kansas Southern Baptist Fellowship. In March 1946 the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists was formed. The new convention petitioned the SBC for membership in 1947.

After much debate, the Kansas convention became a cooperating constituency of the SBC in 1948. This action broke the comity agreement with Northern Baptists in which Southern Baptists basically agreed to work below the Mason-Dixon line. Acceptance of the Kansas convention opened the door for the SBC to become a national, instead of a regional denomination. The Kansas convention added Nebraska to its name in 1973.

In other business, messengers adopted a new budget of \$3,767,940 and elected Neal Alford, pastor of First Church, Douglass, Kan., as new president. □

Nobles competent to stand trial: judge

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Former Mississippi College President Lewis Nobles is competent to stand trial on charges he diverted at least \$1.7 million in

donations intended for the Baptist-affiliated college in Clinton, U.S. District Judge William Barbour ruled Oct. 31 in Jackson.

Barbour earlier this year ordered a competency evaluation for Nobles, 70, after he failed to appear for a pre-trial hearing in Jackson on Jan. 26. Nobles faces a 20-count federal indictment.

FBI agents tracked Nobles to San Francisco. Court testimony has indicated he swallowed cyanide as the agents closed in on him.

Nobles was rushed to a nearby hospital, where two emergency surgeries saved his life. However, he apparently suffered a brain disfunction during recovery from the surgeries.

Robert L. Denney, a clinical psychologist and neuropsychologist at the federal prison in Missouri where Nobles later was transferred, testified he originally was pessimistic about Nobles' competency when he first evaluated him March 2.

A battery of psychological tests, however, indicated Nobles suffered less brain damage than originally estimated, Denney reported.

"He has the ability to assist in his defense," Denney said. He noted.

In addition to finding Nobles competent to stand trial, Barbour discharged him from the Missouri prison hospital and ordered attorneys to consult with the court on a trial date.

Attorneys said Nobles is not expected to stand trial before March 1996. □

FMB selects Poores as correspondents

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Wally and Betty Poor, 27-year veterans of Southern Baptist missions in Latin America, have been named the Foreign Mission Board's first overseas correspondents for the Americas.

The Poores, journalists who have been missionaries to Uruguay since 1968, will report firsthand on Southern Baptist mission work in 36 countries in Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Canada.

The couple will join the FMB's overseas correspondent system, launched in 1985 to place professionally trained journalists in each major region of the world.

The Poores will move Nov. 16 to their new base in Hollywood, Fla., site of the Caribbean Baptist Communications Centre. Other FMB missionaries there produce audiovisual materials and publications used by Caribbean Baptists.

Both hold journalism degrees from the University of Missouri in Columbia and have extensive secular experience having worked for various papers before joining the FMB. Mrs. Poor is a former reporter for the *Harriman Record*. □



W. POOR



B. POOR

man Leon Wilson has been named the SBC Home Mission Board's first regional consultant for bivocational ministries. In that post, Wilson said he will encourage Southern Baptist churches to intentionally use bivocational ministers.

He also will encourage college students preparing for the ministry to develop marketable skills which would help them minister in pioneer and inner city areas. □

Nevada Baptists honor first church to surpass 1,000 in SS

Baptist Press

RENO, Nev. — Messengers at the Nevada Baptist Convention annual meeting experienced more of a celebration of faith than a business meeting Oct. 24-25.

Michael Rochelle, pastor of West Oakey Church, was given a plaque from the convention's historical committee, recognizing West Oakey for being the first church in the convention's history to have more than 1,000 people in Sunday School.

A total of 168 messengers and 60 visitors registered for the 17th annual meeting of the convention. □

Unreached don't have a chance ... unless, Willis tells students

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — "They don't have a church. They don't have a Bible. They don't know who Jesus is. They don't know a Christian. They don't have a chance."

Avery Willis, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board vice president for overseas operations, was reminding a seminary audience Oct. 31 of the 2,466 people groups who have never heard of Christ. His address followed a parade of flags by missionaries from around the world as Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary kicked off its Global Missions Week (GMW).

GMW, held every three years, is a cooperative effort of the seminary and the FMB. Its purpose is to provide global missions awareness to assess urgent needs, highlight current opportunities, and challenge students to consider the missionary dimensions of their callings.

The five-day international missions emphasis featured 46 foreign missionaries and 46 FMB staff involved in a variety of activities. □

Texas Baptists set new record for SS attendance

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Texas Baptists set a new Sunday School attendance record on Oct. 29 with 751,893 participating in the 22nd annual "Great Day in the Morning" high attendance day emphasis.

Churches that day recorded about 149,000 more in Bible study than on an average Sunday and broke the goal of 750,000, said Bob G. Fuston, a Sunday School/Discipleship consultant for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. □

HMB names regional bivocational consultant

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Oklahoma pastor and business-

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