

Baptist and Reflector

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January 3, 1996

STATEWIDE EDITION

■ **this
week's
news**

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

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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Missions and evangelism also were a priority

Meeting TBC budget, LRSC report highlights 1995

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Two events — one with immediate impact and the other with long-range implications — were among the highlights of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1995.

At the end of October Tennessee Baptist churches had given \$26,893,421 to the Cooperative Program, marking the fourth year in a row gifts to the Cooperative Program exceeded the previous year's amount. The amount also exceeded the TBC's budget, the first time that had happened in 11 years.

In November, messengers to the annual meeting in Chattanooga approved the report of the Long-Range Study Committee entitled "Vision 2000: Reaching Tennessee for Christ."

The report "identified and developed six areas crucial to the work of Tennessee Baptists," according to committee chairman Gary Coltharp, pastor of First Church, Jackson.

The report, which culminated a two-year process, dealt with Revival and Spirit-

ual Awakening, Evangelism and Missions, Education, Ministry, Fellowship, and Stewardship. The committee also developed a working mission statement: "The mission of the Tennessee Baptist Convention is to assist churches to evangelize, disciple, teach, and minister in Christ's name."

Another highpoint of 1995 was the involvement of Tennessee Baptists in missions, at home and abroad, and the increase in baptisms from the previous year.

Many Tennesseans participated in the TBC's partnerships in Michigan, Poland, and Canada.

Numerous others participated in missions efforts in other countries such as the Philippines, Venezuela, Haiti, Nigeria, Brazil, Ukraine, and more. In addition many churches and associations participated in local missions projects close to home. All returned with glowing reports about the importance of missions and evangelism and giving to the Cooperative Program.

The TBC Evangelism Department reported that Tennessee Baptist churches

had 23,866 baptisms in 1994, an increase over the previous year. Figures for 1995 are not yet available.

There were many other significant events in the life of Tennessee Baptists in 1995. Among them, in no particular order, were:

- Three TBC institutions gained or elected new leaders in 1995. In April W.L. "Bo" Childs succeeded Earl Wilson as president of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation. In November trustees of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes elected Nashville pastor Kenny Cooper to succeed J.L. "Pete" Ford as executive director, effective Jan. 1. Union University in Jackson elected a new president. David Dockery of Louisville, Ky., will take over as president of Union June 1 following the May 31 retirement of Hyran Barefoot who will become chancellor at that time.

- Tennessee Baptists elected Ken Hubbard of First Church, Smyrna, to be their president during the annual meeting in Chattanooga.

— See Meeting, page 2

Editors rank top SBC stories

Associated Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — A massive restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention topped Baptist news stories in 1995, according to an informal poll of Baptist state paper editors.

The restructuring, the product of an 18-month study by a blue-ribbon committee, includes a mission statement, the first for the nation's largest non-Catholic religious organization. It reduces the number of convention agencies from 19 to 12, the most radical retooling in the convention's history. Twelve of 15 editors responding to the survey by Associated Baptist Press ranked the restructuring as the year's top story.

Despite winning overwhelming approval at the SBC annual meeting in June, the reorganization plan was debated in the denominational press because of its far-reaching scope and the fact it was done with no study of costs or feasibility.

An implementation team was appointed by the SBC Executive Committee in September. Following routine votes on

bylaw changes at this year's annual SBC meeting in New Orleans, full implementation will begin. The new structure is scheduled to be in place by the year 2000.

The second ranked story also came out of the SBC meeting. On the eve of a gala celebration of the convention's 150th anniversary, messengers approved a resolution renouncing the SBC's racist roots. The resolution apologized to African Americans for "racism of which we have been guilty, whether consciously or unconsciously."

Other top stories as selected by the editors were:

- Turmoil at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Carver School of Social Work

- Bombing in Oklahoma City

- WMU's offer of materials to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

- Texas Baptists' decision to decrease funding to SBC

- Death of Herschel Hobbs

- The spread of revival to college and seminary campuses

- Foreign Mission Board's plans to trademark the Lottie Moon Christmas offering (later withdrawn) □

State paper gives readers accurate view of news

Want to stay informed? People want to know all about things in which they are interested. We can help.

If you are not a regular reader or subscriber to the *Baptist and Reflector*, we have news for you. We really do have news for you.

The paper is the only official news publication for Tennessee Baptists. "Official" does not mean the paper is censored or controlled by any person or group. It means that the paper is authentic, viable, reliable, open. The paper's sole purpose is to inform Tennessee Baptists with news coverage as thorough and complete as possible.

As Tennessee Baptists enter the last few years of the 20th century, more than ever there is a need to stay informed. Get on board! January 1996 is a good time to begin.

The staff invites Tennessee Baptists (and other interested Baptists) to join the wide family of readers now. We have a score of churches who choose the *Baptist and Reflector's* back page for their church newsletter.

Many churches include in their budget a line item for subscribing for all church families.

As Tennessee Baptists move forward in ministry, evangelism, and missions, every one of us is needed. You can stay informed and maintain awareness of ways to be involved—by reading the *Baptist and Reflector*.

How do you stay informed? Read the information on page two. You'll find explanations for church and individual subscriptions. Also, you can call or write for information on special subscription plans that can introduce the paper to groups or churches and explain how to enroll.

Call us at (615) 371-2003, or write to P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

Do it now! — Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
- Subscribe to the *Baptist and Reflector* for one year and receive 50 copies. Family or individual subscription - \$7.50, clubs of 10 or more subscriptions - \$7.25, church (more than 50 percent of families) - \$6.50. Send check/money order to address below.
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Tennesseans graduate from SBC seminaries

For Baptist and Reflector

Twenty-three students with Tennessee ties graduated in December from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.; and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Information and photos for graduates were supplied by the seminaries. In some cases photos were not available. Hometowns are listed when names of home churches were not supplied. Other SBC seminary graduates will be printed later.

Master of divinity graduates from Southern Seminary included:

Jeff Andrews, Elizabethton; Paul Chitwood, First Church, Jellico; Don Dyer, pastor, First Church, Bradford; Glenn Johnson, Rogersville; William Johnson, Lewisburg; Mi S. Kim, Nashville; Nina Maples (M.Div., Pastoral Counseling), Signal Mountain; Lequine Lee Lambert, Speedwell; Timothy Noe, Dandridge; Van Smith, Cleveland.

Other SBTS graduates included Michael E. Cantrell, Northside Church, McMinnville, master of arts in Christian education; Ervin H. Gilliam Jr., Clinton, doctor of ministry; and Gary Hicks, Brownsville, master of arts in Christian education.

Tennessee graduates from New Orleans Seminary included:



ANDREWS



ATKINS



BROWN



CANTRELL



CARROLL



CHITWOOD



DYER



HICKS



INMAN



G. JOHNSON



W. JOHNSON



KIM



LAMBERT



MAPLES



McKELVIE



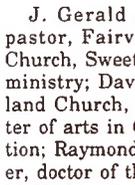
NAVE



NOE



RECTOR



RICKMAN



RINEHART



SMITH



WALKER

J. Gerald Atkins, senior pastor, Fairview Tabernacle Church, Sweetwater, doctor of ministry; David Brown, Eastland Church, Nashville, master of arts in Christian education; Raymond E. Carroll, Dyer, doctor of theology; Michael McKelvie, Balmoral Church, Memphis, master of divinity; and Randy L. Rinehart, Forest Hill Church, Germantown, doctor of ministry.

Master of divinity graduates from Southeastern Seminary were Sherrel Alan Nave, Elizabethton, and Rodney Rector,

Chattanooga. James Inman of Morristown received the M.Div. with languages.

Other Southeastern graduates were Gary Rickman, director of the Church Annuity

Programs Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, earned the doctor of ministry degree; and John Walker of Knoxville, master of arts in Christian education. □

Meeting TBC budget, LRSC report highlight ...

— Continued from page 1

■ The *Baptist and Reflector* joined forces with the TBC Partnership Missions Department to publish "The Macedonian Call," a newsletter containing information primarily about missions efforts in Canada, Poland, and Michigan. The newsletter is published on an ongoing basis.

■ About 26,000 youth from across the state gathered in Nashville last March for the annual Tennessee Youth Evangelism Conference. In 1996 a major change will take place with the conference. The Saturday activities will be held at the Opryland theme park.

■ Tornadoes struck at least three Tennessee Baptist churches in Lawrence and Giles County associations in late May. Two churches — Park Grove, Ethridge, and Liberty Hill, Ethridge, were hard hit.

■ Baptist Homes for Exceptional Persons, a private non-profit organization, opened its second home for mentally handicapped adults at Stoneway Acres in Lebanon. The deed to the new home will be given to Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes when the facility is debt-free.

■ Many TBC churches celebrated significant anniversaries in 1995. The *Baptist and Reflector* also got in on the act, celebrating the paper's 160th anniversary with a special issue in August.

■ Two TBC Executive Board departments gained new leaders last year. Tim Bearden replaced the retired Cameron Byler as head of the Brotherhood Department while Larry Kirk succeeded Jere Phillips as head of the Missions Department. Phillips resigned to become the executive director of West Virginia Baptists.

■ Baptists in Polk County Association and neighboring associations began preparing for ministry during the 1996 Olympics. The Slalom Canoe/Kayak Competition will take place on the Ocoee River July 26-28.

■ Tennesseans dodged the lottery for another year despite attempts by some Senators to amend the state constitution to allow for a lottery. Look for the issue to emerge once again in 1996.

■ Tennessee Royal Ambassador camp staff returned to Appalachia for hands-on missions following summer RA camps.

■ The Golden State Missions Offering surpassed its 1994 goal of \$1,050,000 in 1995 by more than \$50,000.

■ The Foreign Mission Board commissioned 38 missionaries Dec. 12 at Broadmoor Church, Memphis. □ — Lonnie Wilkey

Oklahoma pastor to be nominated for SBC presidency

Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla., will be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention at the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans by Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala.

Wolfe, a nominee for SBC president in 1994 and former chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, said he prayed about the decision to nominate Elliff and "sensed the leadership of the Holy Spirit."

Elliff, a former president of the SBC Pastors' Conference, confirmed he has prayed about Wolfe's initiative and will

serve in the position if elected.

Elliff is a third-generation Southern Baptist pastor. Both his father and grandfather were pastors and directors of associations.

He earned his undergraduate degree at Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and his master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist

theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He has an honorary doctorate from Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.

Elliff's pastoral experience includes churches in Arkansas, Texas, Colorado, and Oklahoma. During his 10 years at Del City, the church has had more than 4,500 baptisms. □

Baptist leaders condemn racism, call for action

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Leaders of the major Baptist conventions in the United States have issued a condemnation of racism and a call for Baptists of all races to work for racial harmony.

In a meeting Dec. 14 at the headquarters of the Baptist World Alliance, leaders from the Southern Baptist Convention, American Baptist Churches, USA, the Progressive National Baptist Convention, and the predominantly African American National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., adopted a statement calling "upon our people to repent of racism, to forgive one another, and to work actively for the

eradication of racism from our churches, schools, and society."

The statement includes a five-part call to action.

(1) "To take concrete actions that demonstrate the authenticity of our repentance.

(2) "To move beyond polite and politically correct language to engage each other in open and frank discussion about the sins of racism and prejudice in our society and in all levels of our church life.

(3) "To disavow race-based economic and political exploitation and call upon Baptist corporate, business, and political leaders to embrace and implement a biblical vision of justice.

(4) "To use the collective influence of Baptist communions

to call America to prayer and repentance for the sins of racism and to seek for spiritual healing in the spirit of Jesus the Christ.

(5) "That the leadership of Baptist communions meet again in the next six months in order to develop specific plans for the implementation of the above actions."

Adoption of the statement followed a four-and-a-half hour meeting in which participants discussed the differing perspectives of both blacks and whites and how racism can be overcome.

Participants described the meeting as historic. BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz, who called the meeting, said he did not believe such a meet-

ing between white and black Baptist leaders had occurred even during the civil rights campaign.

Lotz said he called the meeting after reaction to the trial of O.J. Simpson and the Million Man March "brought to the surface the underlying racism that pervades much of American society."

"I think we made some positive steps today," said SBC President Jim Henry at a news conference after the meeting. "We think in the future we're going to bring some more specific actions that will be more than words."

There were 11 African Americans and seven whites who participated in the summit. □

Association to print Bibles for Kuna Indians in Panama

Baptist Press

MINERAL, Va. — A Baptist association is preparing to take the Gospel to the Kuna Indians in Panama — literally. Goshen Association, encompassing about 40 churches in central Virginia, has voted to pay for the printing of the Gospel of John in the language of the Kuna tribe, then distribute it next July, according to Director of Missions Murphy Terry.

The Kunas have a population of about 70,000, but only approximately 5,000 are Christians. □

Effort begun to monitor 'trashy' TV talks shows

Baptist Press

TUPELO, Miss. — A campaign to monitor "trashy TV talk shows" has been launched by the American Family Association and endorsed by the head of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The monitoring effort was announced in the recent issue of the *AFA Journal*.

"We hope that supporters (of the campaign) will get their friends, family, and members of their churches and School School classes to participate in gathering the needed information," said Donald E. Wildmon, AFA president. The campaign seeks volunteers who will complete forms describing the date, content, and advertisers of talk shows aired in their broadcast markets.

Richard Land, CLC president, praised the campaign and said he hopes the effort will motivate citizens concerned about the state of the nation's media. For more information, call the AFA at (601) 844-5036. □

Seminary professor asks 'Who is your doctor?'

By Joe E. Trull

For Baptist and Reflector

NEW ORLEANS — Has your minister been doctored? The title is common among today's clergy. One church member quipped, "My preacher is dying by degrees."

What kind of doctor is your minister — Th.D., Ph.D., D.Min., or D.D. Do you know the difference?

You may not think it matters. It may not. But in some instances, the title of "Dr." may be sought for the wrong reason or given for less than appropriate preparation and study.

A recent call from a former student revealed a tragic example. His church had just called a pastor, whose "Dr." title was an important consideration. Inquiry revealed the degree was awarded by an unaccredited "seminary" which required no prerequisite degrees and only minimal correspondence lessons. (Some groups of schools also have developed "bogus" accrediting agencies). In about 18 months, for a fee, an applicant could receive a doctor of theology degree.

"Is this not deception?" asked my

friend on the phone. As a teacher of Christian ethics and as a former pastor, to me this practice seems to violate ministerial integrity in three major ways.

First, to obtain a "bogus" mail-order degree and pretend it is on the same level as an accredited doctorate is duplicitous, which the Bible condemns (Acts 5:1-11).

Second, if the motive for obtaining the doctorate, genuine or otherwise, is to impress others, then the minister is guilty of pride. Neither hypocrisy nor vanity belongs in the life of the ordained minister (1 Timothy 3:1-7).

Third, to take educational "shortcuts" in order to avoid the work and discipline of earning an accredited degree is a character flaw which usually shows up in other areas of ministry.

Hard-earned and accredited academic degrees are appropriate preparation for ministers and ministry. Generally they fall into three categories.

(1) Research doctorates, such as the Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) in religion, the Th.D. (Doctor of Theology), and the Ed.D. (Doctor of Education), prepare ministers for teaching, writing, and ad-

ministrative leadership.

(2) Practical doctorates, such as the D.Min. (Doctor of Ministry) degree, are designed to enhance the skills and abilities of church ministers in their calling.

(3) Honorary doctorates, such as the D.D. (Doctor of Divinity), are usually conferred by colleges and seminaries upon outstanding pastors and religious leaders who have rendered extraordinary service in their churches and denominations.

Do ministers need a doctor's degree? No, not really. A basic master's degree from an accredited seminary is generally accepted as adequate preparation for church ministry.

Competency in ministry is important. Churches should encourage their ministers to continue training and development throughout their ministry. Servants of God who make sacrifices to improve their ministerial skills are to be commended. The real reward of education is not human accolades but the blessing of increased service to God and humanity. □ — Trull is professor of Christian ethics at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Kirkland named Courier editor

Baptist Press

GREENVILLE, S.C. — Donald M. Kirkland was elected editor of the *Baptist Courier* by trustees of the South Carolina Baptist newsjournal Dec. 15, to take office March 1 on the retirement of John E. Roberts. Kirkland, 52, has been a member of the *Courier* editorial staff 21 years, first as assistant editor and since 1983 as associate editor.

He was elected by unanimous vote with 14 of 15 directors present.

The editor-elect was born in Columbia, S.C., and spent most of his youth in Lancaster. His father, the late Lewis M. Kirkland, was pastor of High

Point Church for 13 years and later was director of missions in Kershaw Association.

He is a graduate of Anderson (S.C.) College and the University of South Carolina, Columbia, and attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He recently completed his master's degree work at Erskine Seminary in Due West.

Kirkland and his wife, Linda, have two grown children.

Roberts noted Kirkland was "eminently qualified" for the editorship. □



KIRKLAND

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests

January

- 3 — Pray for Bill and Diane Fowler in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where Bill is a pastor. Diane's father died Dec. 8.
- 4 — Pray for Leona Irons, contract secretary to the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists. She has Trigeminal Neuralgia which causes unbearable pain in the nerves of the right side of her face. Pray for healing or relief.
- 5 — Praise God for answering the prayers of many to provide funds for the purchase of a van to use in Poland partnership. Several thousand dollars is still needed, however.
- 6 — Pray for Poland volunteer coordinators Charles and Barbara Layton in their language study.
- 7 — Pray for Sherrie Pridemore, Baptist Center director in Michigan, as she has surgery this month.
- 8 — Pray for the new work in Whitmore Lake, Mich., to be started by John Nyhof.
- 9 — Pray for the financial needs of new seminary students at the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary.

TENNESSEE BAPTIST PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS



CANADA • MICHIGAN • POLAND

Executive Committee selects Merrell as VP

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — William Merrell has been named the new vice president for convention relations for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

Merrell, 52, succeeds Mark Coppenger as the convention's public relations director. Coppenger became president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in August.

Merrell has been a pastor and director of missions in Oklahoma. Since early 1995 he has served as director of communications for the SBC Christian Life Commission in Nashville. □

■ 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. □

Remembers pastors

When I heard about Herschel Hobbs' death, I was reminded of what he said at Ramsey Pollard's funeral as he closed his message, "Ramsey, I'll see you in the morning."

Well, it must have been one glorious morning in heaven, when J.D. Grey, Ramsey Pollard, Howard Kolb, and Herschel Hobbs met.

Dr. Grey was Howard's pastor when Howard surrendered to preach in the First Baptist Church to New Orleans, and remained friends through the years.

Dr. Pollard was one of our closest friends and ate in our home at least twice a week, especially when there was cornbread and vegetable soup.

Dr. Hobbs became Howard's friend when Howard was pastor in Tulsa and served on the Oklahoma Baptist Convention Executive Board.

One might ask, why Howard would be compared to these men, for he was never President of the SBC. That did not make any difference in their friendship.

Howard played a part in the life of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He served many years on the Executive Board of the convention. In fact, he was a part of buying up the property where the Tennessee building now stands in Brentwood.

He worked hard for the colleges and children's homes of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

His death was a shock a year ago on Dec. 12, 1994. We miss him greatly, but know he is in a better place.

*Frances Kolb
Memphis 38120*

Thanks for privilege

Leaving Nashville, arriving 34 hours later in Dakar, Senegal, not knowing really what to expect, three Tennesseans and three Alabamians exited the Sebena Airlines Aircraft and entered the Dakar Air Terminal not really prepared for what we would see. It was quite a cultural shock for myself, Ted Sadler of Smyrna, Ken McKnight of Athens, and Jim Glass, Brian Bierman, and Michael McDaniel all of Alexander City, Alabama.

Our first experience with the Sengelese was with 10 young men who volunteered to carry my two pieces of luggage. At this point, thank the Lord, we were rescued by missionar-

ies Dirk Pierce and Larry and Ann Erlander.

On the first day we were very excited to see our project and left early in the morning to see where and what we would be doing for the next 10 days. My first impression went to the Scripture Matthew 9:36-38.

My second thought was I don't think we will survive the traffic to even make it to the job site. But with Kirk Pierce's expert driving ability and a lot of help from the Lord we made the five-mile trip safely.

How God blessed as the folks back home prayed and he opened up many opportunities to share Jesus. Even in a foreign land and not knowing the language we shared our faith in the distribution of tracts and New Testaments, both in French. We were blessed so many times.

After working on the remodeling at the center during the day we were blessed by being able to participate in an evangelism campaign. The films "Jesus," "Combat," "Salvation," and "The Ransom" were shown in the evening. Testimonies were given. Hearts were blessed and as the invitation went out on the roof top where the films were being shown many stayed at the end of the service to ask questions about Jesus. Most having heard of Jesus as a prophet but never as Savior.

At the end of the six-day crusade approximately 80 to 100 came to Christ in an area of several hundred thousand previously without one known Christian. On the way back to the mission I thanked the Heavenly Father for the determination and steadfastness of the missionaries that God called and our Foreign Mission Board sent to a very difficult 90 percent Muslim country.

We were reminded every day

that Satan was well and happy as we were awakened at 5 a.m. by the chanting that came from the mosk a block away.

God is true to his promises as we saw the Holy Spirit work in the hearts of many. How my heart was blessed and spiritual life strengthened from the fellowship of committed missionaries Dick Pearce, Al and Karen Hodges, Larry and Ann Erlander, Dave and Patricia Brown, and Tim and Julie Kline.

As our plane lifted off the runway on the return trip, I said a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the privilege of sharing his son in a land that so desperately needs to know him.

*John R. Seals
Murfreesboro 37129*

Truly a giant

Thank you for the excellent editorial about Herschel Hobbs in the Dec. 6 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*.

He was a dear friend of many years. I had been at Oklahoma City, First, for two years as minister of music when he came as pastor in 1949. We had six great years together, and sweet fellowship in the last 40 years.

I am grateful indeed for your kind and true words. He was truly a giant among Southern Baptists.

*William J. Reynolds
Fort Worth, Texas 76122*

Compliment, concern

My letter is to share some compliments and concerns. First, I want to compliment our past TBC president, Frank Hawkins, for his very fine leadership this past year. I was very pleased with the manner of his presiding at the convention. He was gracious to the messengers and fair in his

rulings.

My concern is about the undue amount of time we are giving to resolutions. I was extremely frustrated with this annual occurrence. Really, of what importance are the resolutions? Resolutions are not binding, nor do they express the sentiment of Tennessee Baptists. It only expresses the voice of those present and voting, and that happens only after a lot of "wrangling over words" and the expenditure of wasted time. To me, it is an exercise in futility.

What's the solution? Let's do as another state convention has reportedly done, do away with resolutions. That sounds like progress!

*Robert C. Elliott
Kingston 37763*

Enters new field

Dr. H. Thomas Hight recently resigned his position as professor of practical theology at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary to enter the field of full-time evangelism and Bible conferences.

For nearly 20 years Dr. Hight has served as department chairman of practical theology and taught courses in New Testament intensives, pastoral counseling, pastoral ministries, sermon building and delivery, history of preaching, and Southern Baptist preaching.

He says, "This decision has not come hastily or thoughtlessly. It has been a dream of my lifetime."

Dr. Hight is a native of Columbia where he graduated from Central High School. He attended Carson-Newman College and holds a B.A. degree from Cumberland University at Lebanon.

*Kirk Kilpatrick
Mid-America Seminary
Memphis 38173*

Tennessee coordinator issues call for senior adult volunteers

Throughout our nation there is an ever increasing need for Volunteers in Mission. The "natural disasters" resulting from earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and other forces of nature, create the homelessness, hunger, economic loss, health needs, hurting people, and hopelessness.

In addition to the needs created by natural disaster, there are even greater needs imposed upon humanity by "man-made disasters:" illiteracy, company downsizing, unemployment, divorce, drug and alcohol abuse, unwanted pregnancies and abortion, AIDS, and other diseases. These result in limited job skills, job loss, medical loss, family break-up, declining morality, crime, loss of self-worth, and fear for what tomorrow holds.

Praise God for the thousands of God's people who are responding to his call and are making a difference by

ministering to our hurting humanity in Christ's name. In Tennessee, we have surpassed our previous goal of 10,000 volunteers enlisted for mission projects and ministry. To meet the ever increasing need and demand for Volunteers in Missions, a new goal has been set by the TBC Missions Department . . . — "20,000 by 2,000," to e n l i s t 20,000 volunteers by the year 2,000.

In Tennessee, we have over 808,646 resident SBC church members. Of this number, senior adults 65 years of age and older number over 105,000 (or approximately 13 percent). By the year 2,000, it is estimated that the number of senior adults will grow to over

110,000 because of the aging "baby boomer" generation. Senior adults are our greatest growing resource for volunteer missions service as we move rapidly into the Mission Opportunities for Senior Adults — Senior Adults should be considered as — "People with Potential," instead of "People with Problems!" They prefer interaction and activity to stagnation and disengagement.

The Senior Adult Summer Mission program initiated in 1994 by the TBC Missions Department provides many opportunities for senior adults to serve 6 to 10 weeks on a mission project or ministry. Requests for senior adult volunteers to serve as summer missionar-

ies have already been received for 1996. Even if you can serve only a short time, there are many opportunities to serve. The opportunities received include resort ministries, Baptist camp ministries, construction, truckers ministries, chaplain assistance, prayer ministry, Mississippi River Ministry, Ocoee River "Whitewater/Olympics" ministry, and a variety of ministries in our Baptist centers across the state. Further information regarding these opportunities can be obtained by contacting either Beverly Smothers, TBC Missions Department (615) 371-2031 or Dick German, State Volunteer Coordinator (615) 455-5584.

Will you be one of "Tennessee 20,000 by 2,000?" God is calling all of us to be on mission for him.

*Dick German
State Volunteer Coordinator
Tullahoma 37388*

Praise God for the thousands of God's people who are responding to his call . . .

— Dick German

Striking a balance: continuity for open doors

This is the week after Christmas, and there has not yet been a heavy snowfall. We live this week in a special time zone between December 25 and January 1.

It is only seven days on the calendar, a brief interlude between closing out the old and bringing in the new. It has a proper place in our priorities.

A heavy snowfall can cover the world with a whiteness that comes only from God's planbook. Beautiful, spotless, almost blinding white. Isaiah the Prophet says the cleansing that comes from God is likened to the purity of white snow.

The carpet of snow hides, but it also reveals. Taking a hike down a trail freshly covered with snow is a renewing action. But we also leave our own trail, the tracks follow us until we stop, or until covered by even fresher snow.

We've left very few tracks for 1996, very few. Many people, including Baptists, are still reeling from overeating, overspending, overindulging in a life-pace faster than "breathless."

Some good advice is needed: slow down, and let body, mind, soul prepare for a new year. Already it is upon us. This paper is dated January 3, and the door is opening on grand opportunities.

Funny thing about those tracks. They are not effective for long. Wind whips across the path and erases them. The new snow falls and fills in the crunched footprints. We are soon left with nothing more than a vague memory of where we thought we went — yesterday.

When we remember with the heart, those things we learned from the past become landmarks for living.

Even so it is not too late to strike a balance between past, present, and future. Doors of opportunity are opening. *What is out there?*

The past? No, the past is out there only in memory. Of course, memory is one of God's greatest gifts to us. But we must not be bogged down with defeats or victories of the past.

We recall the path we followed and where it led. Was it successful in the abundant life offered by Christ? Were we faithful servants in showing others the way?

It is too late to unravel the difficulties, the mistakes, the negatives of yesterday. But as tough as some of those yesterdays were, use them as building blocks, road signs, and markers for today and tomorrow. *What is out there?*

The present? Did we wait too long to turn the page for a rebirth, a new beginning, a time to put into practice those plans of yesterday? There is danger in the complacency that permits self-pride or false security to dictate strategy.

The only living we do is present tense. What was done yesterday is over; plans for the future are subject to pratfalls on the stage of life. *What is out there?*

The future? Yes, the future is out there. However, the future, though it is filled with blank pages, is not a faceless, senseless void of undetermined finality.

The future is bright with promise,

pregnant with possibilities, and a fertile field for bold strokes of missions and evangelism. The future is not filled with doom and gloom, eager to swallow any attempt to make order out of chaos or raw materials.

For Tennessee Baptists, the future is now. Let there be no hand-wringing about 1995. Let there be no "what ifs" about statistics. Whining has no place in imaginative plans and implementation.

Open wide the doors of 1996 as though God were saying again, *"Let there be light!"*

This present future? It is *now* and *only now* that is ours.

Articles on pages one and two of this issue record some major events in Tennessee Baptist life and Southern Baptist life in 1995.

Those events are marked in history. In some ways they will help shape the present and the future.

But it is important to remember that God's people are not helpless puppets as that future becomes the present.

His plans for us are always bold, strong, irrefutable, perfect, imaginative, and redemptive.

Our role? When we put ourselves in God's hands completely, we take part in accomplishing success for *his* plans.

So let past and present provide authentic and zealous continuity for the open doors of 1996. "Vision 2000: Reaching Tennessee for Christ" is the lofty goal before us. Let's help God do it. We make our own tracks in the snow, but we follow the One who made the snow. □

■ one
word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Christmas cobwebs

A friend greeted me with "Happy New Year" a few days early.

I answered, "Wait a minute, you're jumping into 1996 too quickly." He replied that it was just a foregone conclusion.

I guess both of us are right and wrong.

Sometimes adults tend to be like children. We want to toss out the Christmas tree almost before the day is over, and gather all the wasted

wrappings and put them outside for the trash truck.

You know what happens all too frequently.

We forgot to make that

photo of the family posed by the tree. Or in our haste we put into the trash some needed directions for a new appliance or toy. We might have discarded a priceless present housed in a small box.

Time was when our family tradition prevented us from taking down the tree or removing any of the decorations until a week or so past New Year's Day.

So what if some "experts" claimed it was bad luck to leave them up that long.

Before anyone shouts "Bah, humbug" with a January tone of voice, I will put in a good word for keeping the decorations and tree long enough to bid a fond and nostalgic farewell to 1995.

The new year comes quickly enough, almost a foregone conclusion. However, the in-between-week allows sufficient time to remove our personal Christmas cobwebs.

These Christmas cobwebs really have nothing to do with the celebration of Christ's human birth. But they have everything to do with what we add to Christmas.

I'm referring to the many quirks which we think are cute and handy. The things that look alright on the surface, but which in fact detract from Christmas.

On the list, you might include haste, overlooking the lonely and needy, selfishness, combining holy music with elves and gifts.

I vote for a few days to clear away the cobwebs from Christmas. What about you? □



ALLEN

By Wm.
Fletcher
Allen,
editor

■ just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Skinny Susie to Chubby Charlotte: "Honey, you'd look a whole lot better if you'd lose some weight." CC to SS: "Only those who 'don't need to' tell others 'you ought to.'"

Take this truth

Have you noticed something else about "perpetual advice givers?" They usually have a "blind spot" in another area where they are giving free advice to someone else?

Memorize this Scripture

"Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see properly how to take the splinter out of your brother's eye" (Matthew 7:5 Moffatt).

Pray this prayer

Lord, keep me from being a perpetual advice giver. Help me clean up 'my own mistakes' before I try to correct those of others. □

A backward glance at events of 1995

What happened in Southern Baptist life in 1995? Who and what events made top headlines?

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in June approved a vast overhaul of the convention's structure. Jim Henry was re-elected SBC president without opposition. In November Herschel Hobbs, one of our greatest spiritual giants died.

After 12 months of history-making, how do we rank the importance of each item?

Editors of Baptist state papers were polled recently and their combined views are on page one. The SBC restructuring was rated the top news event.

The *Baptist and Reflector* participated in that poll, differing slightly:

1. Death of Herschel Hobbs. Perhaps some would argue that the death of one person is not the top Baptist news item for 1995. However, Hobbs was a spiritual giant, a leader of rare ability, a man whose Biblical insights shaped the SBC in many ways.

■ SBC newsmakers

By Baptist and Reflector news staff

2. Massive SBC restructuring. Reducing the number of agencies from 19 to 12, this is a radical surgery, the most far-reaching in SBC history.

3. Carver School of Social Work dean fired, placing the school's future at deep risk. The final word is yet unknown, but the outlook is grave.

4. WMU's offer of materials to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the resulting spat with the FMB and others.

5. Recognition and celebration of the SBC's 150th anniversary—and a coinciding SBC resolution denouncing the convention's guilt of racism.

6. Retirement and other changes in Baptist state papers' leadership: Texas, Prensall Wood succeeded by Toby Druin; Missouri, Bob Terry named editor in Alabama, succeeded by Illinois' Bill Webb; Gary Ledbetter leaves Indiana for Midwestern Seminary; John Roberts to retire in South Carolina, succeeded by Don

Kirkland.

7. Texas Baptist budget calls for a CP percentage cut for SBC. Though easily passed in convention, this caused a furor in Texas and around the SBC.

8. Several top SBC leaders opposed the nomination of Henry Foster as US surgeon general. Foster in December was named Nashvillian of the Year.

9. The quiet attempt of FMB to acquire trademark rights on the Lottie Moon missions offering. It was later dropped after much discussion.

10. Assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. This makes the list because of tenuous peace negotiations in Israel and the presence of Baptist workers there.

Other top news items include Baptist World Congress efforts for worldwide unity, bombing of federal building in Oklahoma City and resulting events, Midwestern Seminary gets new president, Billy Graham speaks to SBC, SBC leaders remove signatures from Catholic-evangelical paper. □

Jackson pastor Elzie Danley resigns to lead school system

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — At first glance it may seem that Elzie Danley, pastor of Malesus Church, Jackson, for the past seven years, decided to "get out" of the ministry.

That's not so, however, insisted Danley, who became superintendent of Jackson/Madison County Schools in early November.



DANLEY

"I see this as a ministry," Danley emphasized. "I feel deep inside this is where God would have me to be or I wouldn't be here," said Danley, a trustee and former chairman of the board at Union University.

Danley was a former school

superintendent and professor of education administration for 25 years at Memphis State University (now University of Memphis) before retiring seven years ago when he moved to Malesus Church and Jackson. He had been a bivocational pastor for a number of years. Yet, despite his experience he had not even thought about the position that had been open for several months.

Danley related that the city, county, and Board of Education had not found a suitable candidate to fill the position.

The chairman of the Board of Education approached Danley and asked him if he would be interested in the job.

Danley finally agreed to be interviewed by the entire board and the board unanimously agreed to offer him a three-year contract to direct the school sys-

tem which has nearly 14,000 students and 23 schools.

He noted the public support has been overwhelming as has the support from his congregation, which he resigned after the appointment, and fellow ministers in Madison-Chester Association. One pastor told me this would be the greatest ministry I could ever engage in and the largest congregation I would ever speak to, Danley said.

He noted that on the day the

board voted for him, the association's Pastors Conference had special prayer for him. "I told them later I appreciated their prayers and not to stop now," Danley related.

Danley said he and his wife, Dottie, also prayed extensively about the move. "We believe this

is where we belong."

Danley said he will continue to preach whenever he has an opportunity. "My ministry call is still there. I just stepped out of the pastorate to do another job.

"I feel God will use me to provide some healing in our community," he said. □

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**Life and Work Series
for January 7
Focal Passages:
Matthew 5:1-12**

Blessed by God

By Charles Parker

Our study this quarter will be of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5-7. Although he began his message in response to multitudes flocking to hear him (Matthew 4:25-5:1), it is well to remember that he ended his sermon to the great astonishment of his listeners (ch. 7:28). Along the way Jesus took them spiritually to places that only his true followers, can experience.

Material possessions do not ensure happiness. Americans have never had more while enjoying it less. Government cannot secure happiness, despite Jefferson's premise in the Declaration of Independence that we have a right to pursue it. Instead, Jesus promises spiritual joy or blessedness as he begins his Sermon on the Mount.

The size of the crowds that came to Jesus made it necessary for him to teach outside, "up a mountain" of uncertain location. Jewish teachers of that time usually sat to teach, so when he sat, it meant he was ready to start teaching. He taught his disciples. While others of the multitude may have been present, all the material of Matthew 5-7 in some sense was for those who follow him as serious learners (vv. 1-2).

Jesus makes nine statements in verses 3-11 which we commonly call "the Beatitudes." They begin with a word translated "blessed" in the King James version. Modern versions often translate it "how happy" or in some way connect it to "happiness." This word neglects some of the spiritual meaning of the term, which is rooted in God's grace and goodness, not anything we can do or the circumstances of our lives.

How can someone who is poor, mournful, meek, hungry, and thirsty be happy (vv. 3-6)? One outline describes three aspects of God's blessings.

God blesses his needy people — vv. 3-6

People are more apt to come to the Lord in faith when they realize their spiritual poverty; thus those who realize they have no spiritual resources will declare total dependence upon God. Mourners are especially those who are grief-stricken for their sins. "Meekness" is not a synonym for weakness, but persons are meek whose strengths have been brought under control by submitting their wills to the will of God. People alone who are starved and thirst for righteousness will be filled.

God blesses his servant people — vv. 7-9

As God's followers express their relationship to others, after it has been established out of spiritual need, there are further blessings. We are called to show mercy and promised mercy. We are called to purity of heart and promised a vision of God (see Psalm 24:3-5). We are called to be peacemakers, an emphasis on reconciliation, and promised recognition as God's children.

God blesses his persecuted people — vv. 10-12

Not all Christians who suffer are being persecuted, but there are special blessing for those who are, notably possessing the kingdom of heaven now and future reward in heaven as well.

It is important to remember that those qualities are not the result of human effort, as though a person could pull himself into the kingdom by lifting his own bootstraps, but are an evidence of the grace of God at work in a person's life. To be in relationship to Christ is the biblical way of success. □ — Charles Parker is pastor of First Church, Jacksboro.

The servant's call

By Kim Allen

**Convention Uniform Series
for January 7
Focal Passage:
Isaiah 42:1-9**

The earlier chapters of Isaiah deal with prophecies of the Messiah. In the later chapters there are several passages dealing with the prophecies of the Servant of the Lord. In several of these Israel is identified as the servant of the Lord. Isaiah 42:1-4 is quoted in Matthew 12:17-21 showing the fulfillment of Jesus in his ministry.

This week as we look at these nine verses, let us describe the Servant's call.

Introducing the servant — vv. 1-4

The servant of the Lord (v. 1) — The first word behold occurs also in ch. 41:24, 29. It serves to connect the two passages and to emphasize the contrast between the idols chosen by people and the servants chosen by God.

Verse 1 is similar to ch. 41:8-10 as a direct quotation of the words of the Lord. Both are concerned with the Lord's servant; both describe the servant as being chosen by the Lord; both show that the Lord will uphold his servants. The spirit of the Lord is placed on the servant to equip him for his ministry.

The mission of the servant "is to bring forth justice to the nations." This lends itself to a conqueror-king description of the servant who by peaceful means will conquer the world and subdue the nations.

The servant's ministry — vv. 2-4

Verse two lets us know this servant is different; he is not Lord or condemnatory like earlier prophets, but works peaceably and gently to accomplish his mission.

Verses 3-4 finish the description of the servant's mission. He will not destroy or discourage those who are

attempting a goal of righteousness no matter how feeble their attempt is. Neither will he fail or be discouraged until he has established justice on earth.

Commissioning the servant — vv. 5-9

Creator and Sustainer of life (v. 5) — God is presented in verse 5 as the creator of earth and the one who gives life to all who dwell upon it. Isaiah attempts to strengthen Israel's faith by saying if God's power is great enough to create the heavens and the earth surely he could be trusted to sustain his people in every crisis.

Called for missions — vv. 6-7

In these two verses Israel is seen as the servant and benefactor of the nations. God has appointed her to be "a covenant to the people" (v. 8) "and a light to the nations" (v. 6). People and nations are parallel expressions. Israel is seen as the instrument that will bring sight to the people and liberty to the prisoners.

The true and living God — vv. 8-9

Verse 8 is a reminder, as is verse 5, of the one who spoke these words. The Lord God is the only true and living God. He is absolutely intolerable of all rivals. An indication of his superiority over idols is his ability to make predictions, to declare new things before they spring forth.

Verse nine was a reminder that God's past promises had been seen by all. In the same vein all the new promises to and about the servant for the future would surely come to pass. We have seen the fulfillment of much of what the Lord promised in the coming Christ. We have confidence that all his promises will come to pass in God's own time and in his own way! □ — Kim Allen is pastor of Little West Fork Church, Clarksville.

The supremacy of Christ

By Phil Lovelace

**Bible Book Series for January 7
Focal Passages: Colossians 1:9-23a**

Many people today, like the false prophets of Colosse, will give Jesus Christ a place of eminence; but, they will not give him his rightful place of pre-eminence. Jesus is not a "great man among men;" he is God's son, pre-eminent over all (everything, everyone). In this first chapter, the apostle declares Christ's pre-eminence in several ways.

Pre-eminent in the Gospel message — vv. 9-12

The false teachers had a message, but their message had no power to it. They taught about angels, "emanations" from God, legalistic rules, bodily disciplines, etc.; but their message had no power to transform lives. In these verses Paul reviews the effect the Gospel of Christ had on the Colossians.

(1.) How they were saved. Epaphras apparently had heard the Gospel of Christ from Paul at Ephesus, and had taken this life-changing message back to Colosse (v. 7). Witnessing ought to begin at home (Mark 5:19). Epaphras gave them "the word of the truth of the Gospel" (v. 5) in contrast to the lies of the Gnostic false teachers.

(2.) The evidence of their salvation. These evidences were faith, hope, and love (vv. 4,5,8). Only Jesus Christ can give a man faith, change his selfish heart into a heart of love, and give him a blessed hope for the future. The Word brought forth fruit in their lives (v. 6); fruit is always the evidence of true salvation (Matthew 13:23).

(3.) Paul's prayer for their growth (vv. 9-12). Since salvation is a personal experience with Jesus Christ, and not merely the acceptance of a set of doctrines, there can be daily growth and development. The heretics taught a mystical "fullness" for their followers; but here Paul states that every believer in Christ can be filled.

Note the requests that he makes: (1) that you might know his will; (2) walk so as to please God; (3) work to bear fruit; (4) understand the Word better and; (5) know his glorious power. These things the heretics promised their followers, but these blessings can be found only in Christ. He is pre-eminent!

Pre-eminent in the cross — vv. 13-14

It is his cross that causes Jesus Christ to stand out head and shoulders above any other person in history. Religious leaders have died, but only Christ, God's son died on the cross for the sins of the world.

Pre-eminent in creation — vv. 15-17

The Gnostic teachers claimed that God made the worlds through a series of "emanations" from himself, and that Christ was one of these emanations. Paul asserts that Christ is not an emanation from God but God himself! "Image" means "the exact reproduction." Christ is not one of God's creatures, but the highest (firstborn) of all creation. The term "firstborn" does not

refer to time (as though Christ were the first thing God created; firstborn refers to Christ's position).

Pre-eminent in the church — vv. 18-23

The church is his body, and he is the head of his body (the church). The church is the New Creation, and he is "The Beginning," that is, the origination of the New Creation. His resurrection gives him title to the throne of Pre-eminence, for he is "firstborn" from the dead, that is, first to rise from the dead and never to die again. Note the repetition of "all" in this chapter, showing the universal rule of Jesus Christ over everything that exists.

The meaning of "the body" is given in Ephesians 2:11ff, how Christ made peace between Jews and Gentiles and reconciled both into the one body — the church. But his cross not only reconciled Jews and Gentiles; it made possible the reconciliation of "all things" — the entire universe! Paul applies this to the believers personally (vv. 21-23), reminding them that Christ has completely changed their lives and reconciled them to God.

Jesus Lord of all/ over all — Jesus! There is a name that's above every name, that at the sound of that name, every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess — that Jesus Christ is Lord of all. □ — Phil Lovelace is pastor of First Church, Somerville.

■ the people

■ Ward's Grove Church, Milton, ordained **Randy Poole** as a deacon Dec. 3.

■ the leaders

■ Hinds Creek Church, Clinton, has called **Paul Beeler** as pastor.

■ **Bill Duncan**, interim pastor, Clark Street Church, Johnson City, for a year, has been called as pastor. He has served as pastor of Clifton View Church, Johnson City, and Lynn Valley Church, Elizabethton. Duncan is a graduate of Covington Theological Seminary, where he earned his doctor's degree.

■ Lyle Lane Church, Nashville, has called **Jim Day** as

bivocational pastor, effective Jan. 7.

■ Friendship Church, Knoxville, has ordained **E. Lee Wortham** to the ministry and called him as associate pastor.

■ On Dec. 13 **Larry Burch**, a student at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, was called as minister of youth of Ward's Grove Church, Milton.

■ Howard's View Church, Sevierville, has called **Doug Clabo** as pastor.

■ the churches

■ The Sanctuary Choir of **First Church, Humboldt**, did several performances of its Christmas music. One was for needy people, which included a meal and gifts of toys for children.

■ **First Church, Jackson**, has set up the **Bill Moss Jr.**, Fund. Moss has a nervous system disease. Donations can be sent to Friends For Bill Moss Jr., Union Planters Bank, P.O. Box 189, Jackson, Tenn. 38302-0189.

■ **Central Church, Johnson City**, reported 2,500 people attended the five performances of its Living Christmas Tree. Several people made first-time professions of faith as a result.

■ **Choirs of Brownsville Church, Brownsville**, performed Christmas music at the Mall of Memphis.

■ **Woodland Park Church, Chattanooga**, will participate in the Pocket Testament League working in Atlanta during the 1996 Olympics.

■ The Acteens of **First Church, Lenoir City**, sponsored a mitten tree during Christmas for Montgomery Village Baptist Center. Mittens and other small items of cold weather apparel were collected.

■ The **Sanctuary Choir of Rocky Hill Church, Knoxville**, performed Christmas music at Dollywood amusement park in Sevierville. And its youth led a Christmas party at a nursing home.



HOLDING A CAKE which was used to celebrate 100 years of Discipleship Training in Wilson County Association are, from left, **Don Mauldin**, Tennessee Baptist Convention DT Department; **Robert Agee**, director of missions; **Pauline Midgett**; **Byron Barnes**; and **Timothy Crosby**, pastor, First Church, Watertown, and associational DT director. The observance was a part of the association's annual DT rally which was Nov. 28 at First Church, Watertown.

■ the associations

■ **Sweetwater Association** has raised \$5,000 of the \$10,000 needed for a chapel in Brazil. The association will lead a team of volunteers there Feb. 22 - March 5 to build the chapel and do evangelism work.

■ **Concord Association** held its annual Christmas Store Dec. 1-2 spearheaded by the association's Woman's Missionary Union. The ministry targeted residents of multi-housing units in Rutherford County. The association holds Bible studies for adults and children in four units. The store helped 102 families representing about 260 children. Thirteen people made professions of faith.

■ Woman's Missionary Union members of **Cumberland Plateau Association** donated 75 Christmas gift bags for inmates of Southeastern Regional Correction Facility in Pikeville.

■ death

■ **Mary Christian**, 96, retired editor of Broadman Press, now known as Broadman & Holman Publishers, a division of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, died Dec. 14 in Elberton, Ga. Christian, who retired in 1965 after eight years at the board, also worked for Woman's Missionary Union, SBC; Georgia WMU; and Alabama WMU. Additionally, she was an author.



NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes are joined by **Gerald Stow**, president/treasurer, and include, from left, **Ron Galyon**, Pulaski; **Jim Lindsay**, Elizabethton; **Stow**; **M.E. Pryor**, Greeneville; **Donald Turner**, Lebanon; **Howard Houston**, Ripley; **C.E. Harris**, Knoxville; and **Jim Joyner**, Chattanooga. They were elected at a Dec. 4-5 board meeting.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Reflection on holiday

By David B. Lay, pastor
North Knoxville Church, Knoxville

"I Have Seen the Light"

As I pause in introspection
At this holy time of year,
I'm reminded of your goodness
And the things that I hold dear.
So I bow my head in worship
And I raise my voice in praise,
To the One who gives life meaning
And who brightens all my days.

I confess that I'm not worthy
Of the things you've done for me.
You took all my sin and failure
To the Cross of Calvary.
Now a man who walked in darkness
Can bear witness of your light.
Love and grace both overwhelm me
On this holy night of nights.

Jesus, brightest star of heaven,
Shining in the darkest night,
Reach to all who do not know you,
Let them feel your love tonight.
As for me, I'll try to serve you,
And to turn men to the right.
All my days, my lips shall praise you,
I'm so glad that I have seen the light!
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Memory building for children

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The younger we are, the more profoundly memories affect us. We all have childhood memories, good and bad, that have had powerful effects on us. Naturally, the more good memories we have, the better.

Let's talk about giving our children good memories. First, how does a child's memory work? We must remember that a child is much more emotion-

al than cognitive. He, therefore, remembers feelings much more readily than facts. A child can remember how they felt in a particular situation much easier than they can remember the details of what went on. For example, a child in a Sunday School class will remember exactly how they felt long after they forget what was said or taught.

So, in some ways, whether a child's experience was pleasant or unpleasant is much more important than the details of what a teacher or parent taught. By pleasant, I do not mean catering to a child's desire for fun and frolic. I mean treating a child with respect, kindness, and concern. Make them feel good about themselves. Do not criticize, humiliate, or otherwise put them down.

Naturally, what a child is taught is extremely important, but if it is a degrading or boring experience for a child, they are likely to reject even the

very best teaching, especially if morality and ethics are involved. It is from this type of situation that a child develops a bias against religious matters, and tends to consider church people as hypocrites. This attitude is difficult to rectify and can continue with them for a lifetime. On the other hand, if the learning experience is a pleasant one, a child's memories of spiritual teaching will be pleasant and can then be incorporated into a child's own personality.

We can learn from the holiday season that emotionality and spirituality are not entirely separate entities. One is quite related to and dependent upon the other. For this reason, if we want to help a child spiritually, we must care for them first emotionally.

Because a child remembers feelings much more easily than facts, there must be a series of pleasant memories upon which to accumulate the facts, especially spiritual facts. □