

Baptist and Reflector

February 7, 1996

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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Tennesseans train to mentor church planters

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Twenty-five Tennesseans were among 126 Baptists from Tennessee, Georgia, and Illinois trained Jan. 29-31 to serve as mentors in a joint pilot project of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and eight Baptist state conventions.

The meeting was hosted by the Missions Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"We are trying to train a mentor for every new church we expect to start in the next year," said Charles Chaney, vice president for extension at the Home Mission Board.

When a church is started there will be someone who can work with the church planter in the entire process of beginning a new work, Chaney continued.

Those who will serve as mentors will be people who have started a church and have gone through the mentoring training, Chaney emphasized. Many of those who received training in Brentwood will be assigned someone to mentor over the next several months, he added.

In addition to the three states represented at the Brentwood session, other pilot

states include Iowa, Kansas-Nebraska, Colorado, Nevada, and California, he said.

Southern Baptist churches have a high "infant mortality rate," Chaney observed.

"We start 1,200 Southern Baptist churches a year, but only organize about 400. That means we have to start three churches to get one. That's unacceptable," he said.

Mentoring is just one phase of the pilot project, he said, citing four major problems faced in starting new works. The pilot program is designed to address all four areas.

(1) Sometimes people are sent to start churches who are not gifted in that area, Chaney said. We hope to do a better job of assessing church planters to make sure they are suited for the role before they are placed on the field, Chaney said.

(2) Church planters feel they are often set out to start a church and are forgotten, Chaney observed. This is where the mentors will help. "We want someone to meet with church planters on a regular basis who are experienced and trained and will work with them through the whole process," Chaney said.

(3) Church planters feel they have no support group, the HMB vice president continued. Each state convention



PARTICIPATING IN MENTOR TRAINING at the Baptist Center in Brentwood last week were, from left, Jared Roth, Bend, Ore., conference leader; Ken Weathersby and Larry Kirk, TBC Missions Department; and Charles Chaney, Home Mission Board.

will begin creating church planting networks by the middle of 1996, he said, noting church planters will be placed in cluster groups with a convener so they can develop support teams.

(4) The fourth problem faced in starting new churches, he noted, is "we cannot find enough sponsoring churches. Churches don't want to reproduce themselves.

"We struggle to find sponsoring churches. We want to develop a system to help build reproduction into the genetic code of the new churches."

Larry Kirk, director of the

TBC Missions Department, said he is ready to begin implementation.

"In Tennessee we are committed to intentional church starts and putting in a support system that will stop the infant mortality rate of new churches," he said.

Kirk emphasized, "All of us are committed to making it (the pilot program) work. ... Our only desire is to see successful growth to reach the unreached in Tennessee.

"Every time a church fails in an area, it makes it harder to start another one there," he observed. □

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



Volunteers in Missions Team

Attending a Jan. 25 meeting of Volunteers in Missions consultants in Tennessee were, from left, first row, Judy Luck of Lenoir City; Ann Turney of Winchester; Dick German, state coordinator, of Tullahoma; and Frank Robinson of Atwood; second row, Denny Sorah of Rogersville; Harry Espy of Chattanooga; and Roy Thompson of Lawrenceburg. The coordinators met at the Baptist Center in Brentwood with Beverly Smothers of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff.

TBC churches achieve CP record for month

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist churches gave \$3,151,598 through the Cooperative Program in January, a record for one month. Giving eclipsed the previous one-month record set in 1992 by approximately \$6,000 as the calendar month ended "just right."

After the first quarter of the fiscal year, Tennessee Baptists have given \$7,659,342, more than \$1.3 million over the same period last year.

James Porch, executive director, said the giving is very encouraging.

He said, "Tennessee Baptists gave a record amount to the CP in January, a positive sign as we begin implementing Vision 2000, our long range plan for Tennessee Baptists and accept the challenges of opportunities in volunteer missions. Such giving honors our caring, gracious heavenly Father."

The January total will help bolster potential "snow" Sundays. □

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True Love Waits 'Thru the Roof' event to be broadcast nationwide

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Usually commitments of love are proclaimed on Valentine's Day, but this year a national cable network has chosen to feature a responsible aspect of love by broadcasting proclamations of sexual abstinence from teens all over the world.

Trinity Broadcasting Network of Anaheim, Calif., will provide videotaped television coverage of the "True Love Waits — Thru the Roof" Celebration that will take place in Atlanta on Feb. 11 at the Georgia Dome. Part of the Atlanta '96/Youth Ministry National Conference 5, Thru the Roof will include music, challenges from Christian



leaders, and testimonies from teenagers who have taken the True Love Waits pledge to remain abstinent until marriage. True Love Waits commitment cards signed by teens from around the world will be stacked from the floor to and through the roof of the 27-story dome.

TBN will broadcast the event on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, from 8-10 p.m., Eastern Time, and 7-9 p.m., Central Time.

As of late January, cards from all 50 United States and more than 50 foreign countries had been received at First Church, Conyers, Ga., the collection site for the cards. □

Trustees reduce agency's spending

Baptist Press

GATLINBURG — The Brotherhood Commission's trustee executive committee approved a \$290,000 reduction in the agency's planned expenditures for the last eight months of its budget year at their Jan. 27 meeting. Brotherhood Commission President James D. Williams said the move was "an effort to bring expenditures in line with our anticipated revenue."

The approved cuts represent less than 5 percent of the \$6 million in expenditures originally planned for the 1995-96 budget year and have no effect on the salaries and benefits of current agency employees.

Trustee leaders also approved an expansion of the agency's World Changers coed missions involvement option with six projects in 1997 to be opened to youth from non-Southern Baptist evangelical churches for the first time. □

SBC Cooperative Program gifts for January near record

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program gifts for the month of January totaled the second largest in history with \$15,241,892 and almost 10 percent over a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

The January 1996 total is surpassed only by the January 1988 total of \$15,514,367, the largest in CP history for one month.

"These mission gifts from Southern Baptists are a tremendous testimony to our shared vision of reaching the world for Jesus Christ," Chapman said.

The January 1996 total is

\$1,295,728 above the month in 1995, or a 9.29 percent increase. For the four months of the SBC fiscal year — October through January — CP gifts total \$48,216,077, compared to \$48,441,082 during the same period a year ago. The difference is \$225,005, or a decrease of .46 percent.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget,

the year-to-date figures are more than \$1 million above the budget requirement of \$47,209,709. The monthly budget requirement is \$11,802,427.

Designated gifts dropped 14.06 percent during January 1996, compared to the same month a year ago: \$17,249,997 compared to \$20,071,120. For the year-to-date designated gifts are down 5.7 percent. □

Memphis missionaries injured in wreck

For Baptist and Reflector

TRUJILLO, Peru — Southern Baptist missionaries Wade and Nancy Watts and their two sons, Marcus and Joshua, were injured in an automobile accident Feb. 1 in Peru.

Early reports indicated the accident occurred while the family was driving to Huanacayo, a city in the mountains south of the capital city of Lima. The four were airlifted to an Air Force hospital in Lima, where Wade Watts and his two sons were admitted. Watts and 10-year-old Marcus were listed in very critical condition.

Watts and his wife, the former Nancy Tate, both of Memphis, were appointed as

missionaries in 1986 to Peru. They live in Trujillo, where he serves in secondary education and men's work and she is a church and home worker.

At press time on Feb. 5, an FMB spokesman told the Baptist and Reflector that an air ambulance was scheduled to transport Wade and Marcus Watts to a Memphis hospital some time this week.

The Watts' were long-time members of Highland Heights Church, Memphis, before being appointed as FMB missionaries, said Pastor Ray Fowler.

"We were shocked when we heard the news," Fowler said.

The Memphis pastor encourages all Tennessee Baptists to pray for the family. □

Florida church gives \$1 million to CP; Florida convention sends bonus

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Members of First Church, Orlando, Fla., gave \$1 million through the Cooperative Program in 1995, becoming the first in Florida Baptist history and only the third across the convention.

According to Jim Powell of the SBC Stewardship Commission, only First Church, Midland, Texas, (1989 and 1990) and North Phoenix (Ariz.) Church (1989) have reached the \$1 million mark. For the past four years the Orlando church, where SBC President Jim Henry is pastor, has led the convention in CP giving.

"As we began inching toward that mark a few years

ago, I began to realize this was a real possibility," Henry said.

"It is a joy that we could strongly affirm what we're doing to reach our state, nation, and world for Christ," Henry said, adding he tries to visualize it "with the faces of all kinds of people, all races ... smiling as they come to know Jesus personally."

Also in Florida, the state convention recently sent a bonus check of \$155,000 to the SBC Cooperative Program to compensate for a 1 percent 1996 budget decrease.

The additional funds came after Florida Baptist churches gave a record \$24,958,433 through the Cooperative Program in 1995, totaling \$839,029 over basic budget. □

Project HELP: AIDS ingathering Feb. 11

For Baptist and Reflector

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Woman's Missionary Union members across the convention are making final preparations for local efforts in WMU's national "Dare to Care" project.

The national ingathering, set for Feb. 11, is one of the highlights of Project HELP: AIDS, WMU's national ministry project for 1995-96 which has sought to involve WMU members and their church families in sharing the Gospel while meeting the physical needs of those affected by the AIDS epidemic.

On Feb. 11, members of local Southern Baptist churches are encouraged to bring items to church needed by local AIDS ministries, plus \$1 per item. While a church may choose an alternate recipient, the project calls for the monetary funds to be sent to support the ministries of House of Hope, an AIDS hospice in Vitoria, Brazil, directed by Southern Baptist missionary Karen Gray.

Churches participating in Dare to Care are asked to report their totals to their state WMU office and WMU, SBC, by March 15. Report forms are available in the Project HELP resource kit and should be mailed to Project HELP: AIDS, WMU, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, Ala., 35283-0010.

Checks for contributions to House of Hope should be made payable to WMU and earmarked "Dare to Care" and sent to the above address. For more information, call Trudy Johnson at (205) 991-4972. □

Knowing what to do until the doctor comes

Henry Adams said that a teacher affects eternity, and, "the teacher can never tell where the influence stops."

What the world needs now is more good teachers and more eager learners.

We could start out by trying to prevent unworkable relationships with some Christ-centered common sense.

Marriage should not be considered as a cure-all. Couples should never marry because "everyone" does. It is a sacred relationship. And this editorial does not imply that single people are out of step. Nor is this a statement against divorce.

Here we are saying that every effort should be made to save a troubled partnership. The right Christian relationships work in marriage and for singles. We must help rather than condemn.

Teachers are vital in this area of the church life, and this also applies to those other than Sunday School teachers. Individuals teach by reacting, acting, and interacting.

How do we teach without the title of teacher? It is a lifestyle, an inescapable virtue of Christian maturity.

In the resolution on homes and families unanimously approved at last November's TBC session, one point commits us to "find ways to help churches deal with broken families, divorce, estrangements, abuse of any family members."

The suggestion pointed to making help available *within the church* by mentoring engaged couples, troubled marriages, and the Marriage Savers plan.

Remember that as all Christians are missionaries, all Christians also can be

teachers. Teaching does affect eternity since the influence may never stop.

Teaching can happen within the church family. We don't always have to wait until the *real* doctor arrives. Within the church body, great things can happen through preventive maintenance and regular checkups.

Helps for teachers, mentors, and group leaders are available in Sunday School Board bookstores and other Christian book shops. One of the best is Michael McManus' classic *Marriage Savers*, which majors on "helping your friends and family stay married."

It is published by Zondervan, and is one of the many excellent helps now available at Baptist Bookstores and other Christian bookstores.

McManus has a syndicated newspaper column called "Ethics and Religion." The book outlines assistance for people who: plan to get married someday, who have gotten married within the past seven years, who have children who are married or will soon be married, who know someone whose marriage is faltering, who have a close friend who is separated, who wonder if their own marriage could be better, who want to see the community's divorce rate drop.

McManus is bold enough to suggest that divorce can become nearly extinct. It is likely that suggestions in the book will help when a friend or family member says their marriage is in trouble.

McManus chides churches for being mere "blessing machines." He comes to

his conclusions after seeing his own marriage at the brink of divorce.

He began to take every facet of marriage seriously. The marriage was saved gloriously when he "came to his senses."

A major premise, which he is able to prove, is that churches should work at saving marriages by offering help and proper teaching and mentoring from the beginning.

The old adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," is true.

Some of his personal "marriage savers" ideas are:

- Avoid a bad marriage before it begins.
- Strengthen existing marriages.
- Save even deeply troubled ones.
- Reform "no fault" divorce laws.
- Inspire Tennessee towns and cities to adopt solid "Community Marriage Policies" like those in Peoria, Ill., where pastors have taken steps to radically reduce the divorce rate among those married in local churches.

McManus offers suggestions to engaged couples on how to know if the marriage will work, and discusses the popular Christian oriented weekend "Marriage Encounter."

It is a book for (not about) families.

Of course this is not the only resource for saving marriages. We have mentioned the Sunday School Board's festivals of marriages. This is an excellent, exciting program for couples of all ages, planned specifically to help marriages.

Get involved, Tennessee Baptists. Are we doing all we can do for strengthening and saving marriages? □

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Valentines and dentists

No doubt children are more erudite now than we were in my generation years ago.

Things that piqued our interests and sometimes caused us great amazement would not stir minor interest in the classroom today.

For example, I think I learned on the first day of school, my very *first* day, that the teacher knew everything and that there were boys who could run faster than I could. Later I learned that some girls could too.

And I encountered bullies for the first time.

In that first year certain "traditions" were learned.

I had always brushed my teeth properly, but not because of fear. Our friendly dentist was one of those early traditions. Not only did he pay regular visits to the classroom, he brought a gigantic "Mr. Tooth," and told us all about cavities. He added the juicy news that he could drill those cavities out of our teeth!

I also found out that all kids did not share my liking for school. Mrs. Onslow, the truant officer, was another tradition. She came by quite often to scare, I mean, check up on the "hooky" players. She had no trouble convincing me that truancy did not pay.

But the third tradition in this trilogy was a wonderful experience.

Our teacher, Miss West, told us about Valentine Day several weeks in advance.

Now, you had to be smart to figure out the signatures on your cards. I had heard of secret codes used by comic strip heroes, but I had not been exposed to the old numbers-instead-of-initials method.

Miss West had a huge, beautifully decorated box on her desk. For days in advance kids had dropped valentines in that box. We were all nervous when the day arrived.

I feared that Miss West would not call my name on Valentine Day. I was wrong. I got my share, even a few sweet ones from girls, and I figured out who they were from. There was even one signed, "I love you. Guess who!"

But the best one was signed, "Miss West." She made sure each kid got one. No one was left out. ☺



ALLEN

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Wife to husband: "Dear, I'm having trouble with the washing machine. Would you take a look at it? You're good at fixing things." Billy to mother: "The last time you asked daddy to fix something, you had to buy a new one." Mother: "You're exactly right."

Take this truth

The direct approach is not always the best one. Sometimes we must be a little more subtle. Always study your customer — or your spouse. Use common sense!

Memorize this Scripture

"He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good" (Proverbs 16:20).

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to keep my integrity at all times, but help me also to be creative in solving my problems." □

A ministry beyond frontiers

By Luis Lopez
For Baptist and Reflector

FINDLAY, Ohio — In January, 1980, I came to Tennessee from Venezuela to go to school.

I am now studying for a MA here in Ohio with my wife and two children. God has blessed me all these years.

I first studied English for six months and then enrolled as a business major student at the University of Tennessee, Martin.

That May I became a born-again Christian through the witness of a friend back at home and several Christian friends I met at the Baptist Student Union Center on campus at Martin.

After I was saved, I got involved in many BSU activities on campus. Bible study groups, mission efforts, discipleship groups, were typical.

Most importantly, the BSU served as a true link between me and the church I attended for my college years.

Many great things happened during those crucial times in my life. My personal relationship with the Lord grew tremendously and I was

able to establish God-inspired goals for my life.

Perhaps I should say that God used this time and BSU ministry to mold and teach me much about his plans for me. Much of this happened through the BSU ministry while I worked on my BA.

I was disciplined by using materials such as Survival Kit, Spiritual Journey, and MasterLife — with the BSU director, Adam Hall and his wife Pat.

This greatly impacted my entire life. In 1983 I served as a summer missionary in Parintís, Brazil, again, through the BSU program. God used this opportunity to speak to me in a special way.

I am an eternal debtor to Adam and Pat, and to BSU, who faithfully have served.

I thank God for the ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention on college campuses. I graduated from UTM in 1984 in business administration with a marketing major.

On the same day I was ordained as a minister by East-side Church in Martin, a call that I had received earlier. In July I returned to Venezuela to work and to help win my home

country for the Lord.

During the past few years, the Lord has provided me with tremendous opportunities to serve him through my church in Caracas and in the Venezuela Baptist Convention. I have been able to work with discipleship groups at the church and national level leading MasterLife workshops.

I worked fulltime for the VBC in administration and also led the statistical work for there for seven years, and served on the executive board.

I am very thankful to God for all these blessings. I see that God has blessed me personally in college years, and he continues to do that for other students in many places.

Some are pastors, some are missionaries, some are former international students who have returned to their homes to help evangelize their own nations.

This is why I say BSU is a ministry without frontiers. □

— Luis Lopez is studying for a MA degree in business administration, and will return to Venezuela after completing the degree. — Editor.

■ 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. □

Pastors and degrees

The article "Seminary professor asks 'Who is your doctor'" in the Jan. 3 issue raises some questions.

Is a degree awarded by an unaccredited seminary any more deceptive than a degree from the top Southern Baptist seminary awarded to a student who did not learn everything that was taught? Have Southern Baptists become as the organized religion of Jesus' day where only the elite and educated have access to God? What happened to our belief in the priesthood of the believer?

In Acts 4:13 the account of

Peter and John preaching and doing the will of God says much about their relationship to God. When Jesus gave us the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) he emphasized his power, our task, and then promised to be with us. We may be filling our pulpits with people who can preach, use words not understood by much of the congregation, and develop programs. However, they cannot relate to people.

I would rather have a pastor who is saved, walks with God, serves where God calls him, wants all Christians to be more Christlike, wants all people to be saved.

I am not opposed to secular or religious education. All education is wasted unless it is used to improve the lives of those we touch.

Carl Clark
Smyrna 37167

Lover of people

David, in lamenting the death of Saul, Israel's first king stated, "How are the mighty fallen!" Shelby Baptists could well say the same of one of our recently "called Home" pastors.

In his ministry, Lewis Ferrell pastored with some of the Southern Baptist Convention stalwarts. We served Shelby Baptist Association through the ministry of our churches. Here was silver-tongued R.G. Lee, intellectual giant Paul Caudill, and the ever-affable Ramsey Pollard — among others. There was never a Pastors' Conference like Shelby's.

Lewis had a comradeship with such men, and did his part where he served the great Whitehaven Church which continues to this day in supporting all SBC causes.

Lewis had a classical wit about him. When C.C. Warren, SBC president, proposed and promoted the 30,000 plan, Whitehaven Church was sub-

urbia, the southern flank of Shelby County's work. Memphis had yet to awaken the possibilities all over the county. The work was then almost confined within the "Parkway." Lewis said at Pastors' Conference one Monday, "I know the SBC wants us to start 30,000 new churches, but I do not think God meant to put them all in Whitehaven." Congregations had begun their movement from midtown and it seemed the logical direction was Whitehaven.

He had a love of people that carried him from the military chaplaincy to the local church. He pastored smaller congregations as interim until his death. Among many others, I loved Lewis Ferrell and thank the Lord for the joy of serving with him. "How are the mighty fallen?"

Clint Oakley
Memphis 38127

A great prince

As the only surviving member of the pastor search committee who recommended Dr. Lewis Ferrell as pastor of Ridgedale Church, Chattanooga, in the early 50s, I want to offer a few words of tribute.

Dr. Ferrell was promoted to heaven a few days ago. Upon learning of his death I was reminded of II Samuel 3:38: "Do you not know that a great prince has fallen in Israel today?"

He served as a chaplain during WW II, and comforted many wounded and dying soldiers on the battlefield. He was pastor of Ridgedale Church, and Germantown Church, Memphis, during periods of great growth. We would have little trouble in reaching our Bold Mission Thrust goals if more of us were like him. He leaves a wonderful legacy for us to cherish and an example to emulate.

He fought a good fight; he

finished the course; he kept the faith. May God give us grace to do the same. Condolences to wife, Helen; daughter, Jo Ann; and son, Lewis.

Claibourne Henry
Chattanooga 37405

Speaking out

On the news there were comments from different people concerning the recent execution of a convicted criminal.

I was hoping to hear someone speak out against the cruelty being legally committed against innocent pre-born babies. No one spoke out, though members of the clergy were present.

There is much rhetoric being spouted by the higher-ups about concern for children. However, care for the pre-born is conspicuously absent. It seems that those speaking these sweet-sounding words may be those who have not opposed what some call the murder of pre-born children.

It is my understanding that when the senate recently passed a bill to stop the cruel method of partial-birth abortion, it was shelved because the President said he would veto the bill.

Actions speak louder than words. Let us look at what is being done rather than said.

I appreciate the stand that Southern Baptists have taken against abortion, and hope that many were enlightened by the Sunday School lesson Jan. 21, Sanctity of Life Sunday.

Norma Cox
Holladay 38341

Pen pals needed

This is to inform readers, especially college students and anyone working with youth in grades 7-12 about a challenging missions opportunity.

It involves becoming a pen pal with Chinese students who

study English. These students and their teachers are looking for American students to whom they can write, thus practicing their English. We would like for the responders to be Christians. They will have opportunity to be a Christian influence and perhaps share their faith in Christ with new friends.

The National Fellowship of Baptist Educators began the project last year at the request of some Chinese English teachers. More than 2,400 pairs of pen pals wrote to each other. We now have requests from China for more than 5,000 names.

We need someone in each church and college to contact and recruit the volunteer corresponders and send the information about each one to us.

Groups or individuals are acceptable. Direct correspondence or calls to me at National Fellowship of Baptist Educators, Samford University Box 2305, Birmingham, Ala. 35229. Tel. (205) 822-4106. Guidelines will be sent.

The plan is sponsored by the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

John T. Carter
Birmingham, Ala. 35229

Volunteers needed to assist rebuilding

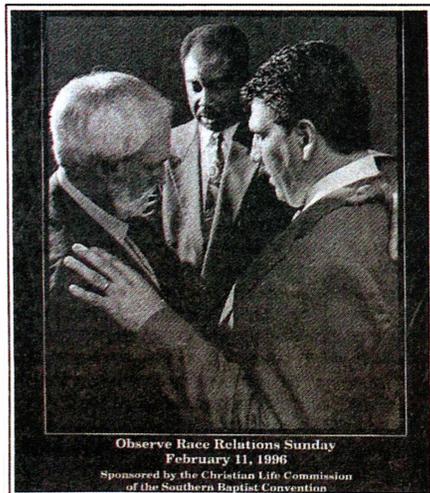
Greater Hope Church, Jackson, needs some construction help for its day care program.

The church, a mission of Englewood Church, must bring the building up to fire and state codes.

Workers are needed to install some 2,100 sq. ft. of new ceiling tile, to install eight fire-rated doors, and to build a 10 ft. dry wall to enclose the kitchen area.

Volunteers can contact Pastor Richard Lee at (901) 423-6290, or (901) 668-1094 (Englewood). □

Race Relations Sunday: 'Hath not one God created us?' (Malachi: 2:10)



Observe Race Relations Sunday
February 11, 1996
Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention

By Gary Frost
For Christian Life Commission

"Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?" (Malachi 2:10)

Malachi is listed as one of the minor prophets; however, we know there is nothing minor about his message. His was the last Old Testament voice crying in the wilderness before another Voice joined the chorus some 400 years later.

Though little is known about Malachi, we know he was burdened to see integrity in the midst of God's people. He lived in a time of religious hypocrisy,

and longed to see genuine spiritual passion replace lifeless ceremonial form.

Malachi's words were not addressed to the world in general, but to the children of God in particular and to the leaders specifically. He wrote to Israel, the chosen of God, to verbally chastise them for mistreating their fellow Jews. He appealed to the covenant made with Abraham as a basis for their commitment to God and their concern for their brothers.

This passage obviously applies to our contemporary situation. Those who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ are now the beneficiaries of a better covenant and are now members of God's great household. Peter wrote that we are "a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God ..." (1 Peter 2:9, NIV). We should no longer see our pri-

mary identity as Negroid, or Caucoid, or Mongoloid, but now, in becoming partakers of the divine nature, we can identify with a new race of people; we are "Regenezoid."

Some would suggest that God's agenda is to "homogenize" the church and to blend us all together into one bland expression of uniformity. But God's plan is not uniformity; it is unity. Unity speaks of oneness of purpose and commonality of character. It does not speak of identical expression and regimentation of behavior.

A refreshing wind is blowing across our land as believers in Jesus Christ surmount cultural differences and "endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). We see God bringing his family together. □ — Frost, an Ohio pastor, is second vice president of the SBC.



Partnership Missions NEWSLETTER

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

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

From the director

By Terry Sharp, director
Partnership Missions Office

Another year, another chance to take a mission trip. Every year you have said, "this year I want to go on a mission trip." Why not make 1996 the year you stop talking and go?

Many opportunities exist for going to Poland, Canada or Michigan as a volunteer in the Tennessee Partnership. Why not allow God to use you this year?

Some trips require construction work. A person to help build a rustic camp in Poland, another to help build sidewalks at the Baptist Seminary outside of Warsaw. People are needed to help at camps, teach English, and lead Vacation Bible School. Still others are needed to use their sports skills to share the gospel with young people.



SHARP

Yes, taking a mission trip will cost you. It will cost you time and money, but those who go will never be the same again. God will do a good work in your lives and you will look back at 1996 and be glad you decided to make this year the year to go on a mission trip. □

Health care workers treat Polish in Baptist church

By Carol Spurlin
Partnership Missions Office

A team of eight Tennessee health care workers traveled to Tarnow, Poland, where they treated more than 200 children during the week of Oct. 14-23.

The team worked with Irek Skozcen, pastor of Tarnow Baptist Church. During the week, the church in Tarnow was transformed into a medical clinic.

"We each entered this week with some concerns and uncertainty about what we would do in Poland," said Larry Rodgers, a pediatrician from Knoxville. "But as always, God remained in control and I truly believe placed us where he wanted us at his time."

The Tennesseans — two dentists, a dental assistant, a pediatrician, a pediatric nurse, a pharmacist, and a minister — had no idea what to expect, since a medical project of this nature had never been done in the area. The team found that medical care is quite good in Tarnow, but not affordable for the people.

Besides seeing patients they had opportunities to visit a hospital in Tarnow and visit with doctors in the area.

The team met an ophthalmologist who attends the church in Tarnow. Due to family pressures, she also attends the Catholic church. She told them about a nurse who gave her a *Good News Bible*, but she had to leave the Bible in Kuwait when she fled from there. The group visited with her in her home and had the opportunity to pray with her. They gave this new friend a *Good News Bible* before they left.

During their stay the team ran into situations that could have slowed or stopped their

work, but God enabled them, they said.

"I had many uncertain moments in preparation for our medical/dental trip to Poland," said Nita Williams, a dental assistant from Goodlettsville. "Since it was the first trip of this type, there was very little information about what we would be doing and how we would be received," she explained. "However, the Lord always has a plan for us when we leave it up to him. Not only did we learn a great deal about a diverse culture we knew little about, but we were blessed in serving God."

Williams reported the people of Poland had some pre-conceived ideas about Americans that the team quickly dispelled. The team built relationships that can assist future teams to Tarnow.

"I thank God for the privilege of working with the pastor and members of the Baptist church in Tarnow. They have a great vision there and are putting God first in their lives. I pray that we as U.S. citizens can be as dedicated as they are," she said.

Each team member had a special experience as they served in Poland and each of them took home a part of Poland in their hearts.

"We left Poland with a new sense of direction and purpose and many new friends in Christ," concluded Rodgers.

Team members included Denny Brinkman and Larry Rodgers, First Church, Concord, Knoxville; Kenneth and Bettye Mattox, Springfield Church, Springfield, Tenn.; Ken and Nita Williams, Parkway Church, Goodlettsville; and Shelly Collins and Dale Hooker, Knoxville. □



Two programs for Michigan announced

The Tennessee Baptist Convention has launched two new facets of our partnership with the Michigan Baptist Convention. New Beginnings is an endeavor to start 14 new churches this year. The Sister Church Program will link up churches in each state for support.

The Sister Church Program introduces churches in each state who can support each other. New Beginnings' objective is to start 14 congregations in Michigan communities which have no Southern Baptist congregation.

Each new church start will include six phases. These phases include summer missionaries, introduction teams, children's ministry teams, crusade teams, follow-up teams, and prayer emphases. The program might involve 20-50 people from each church.

The Sister Church Program will continue through the year 2000. The partners will work together in revivals, VBS, surveys, and other endeavors. The program's intent is to bring churches together for one-on-one ministries.

For more information on these efforts, please contact the Partnership Missions office. □

Special Partnership Needs

Wanted: Missions Opportunity — June 30 – July 3

Bob Galey, pastor of Oakland Woods Baptist Church in Michigan, has a team of 20 people eager to participate in their very first mission trip. These volunteers can do puppets, BYBC, surveying, and revivals. If you need a team to help you this summer, call Rev. Galey at (810) 625-7557 or the Partnership Missions department.

Vans

The Michigan Baptist Convention needs vans to transport students from Southern Seminary who pastor churches in the state. The Michigan Baptist Convention will provide letters for tax purposes. For more information, contact the Partnership Missions department.



Handbells for church

East Gate Baptist Church in Burton, Mich., is hoping to start a handbell choir as part of their music ministry. Call Wendell Wood with any information on handbells for sale or donation at (810) 742-5410.

Invitation to April 20 Reunion

The Tennessee Baptist Convention will host a Partnership Missions Reunion April 20 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Baptist Center in Brentwood to celebrate 15 years of partnership ministries which began with Michigan.

The reunion will include missionaries, pastors, and laypersons from various missions sites and a Foreign Mission Board staff member.

Rooms will be set up for the viewing of memorabilia from Michigan, Burkina Faso, the Philippines, Chile, Venezuela, Canada, and Poland. An update on work at these sites also will be given.

Lunch will be provided at a cost of \$7. Registration fee is non-refundable after April 10. □

For reservations, please fill out and return to our office: Tennessee Baptist Convention, Partnership Missions Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024, or call at (615) 371-2021.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Church _____
Partnership in which you served _____
Year(s) you served _____



Canada

Construction

Date: June 8-15
Project: Painting and minor repairs/BYBC/Evangelism
Place: Muskoday Reserve, Saskatchewan
Team Needed: 8-10
Project #: PM11996618

Evangelism

Date: Late June
Project: Youth Choir/Evangelism
Place: Winnipeg, Manitoba
Team Needed: Open
Project #: PM11996618

Date: July/August
Project: Children's Ministry — Dixie Baptist Church requests a team of volunteers to lead in children's ministry any time between July 5 and Aug. 31, 1996. The church, located in a heavily populated multi-ethnic area, would like the team to do VBS and some puppet performances.
Place: Mississauga, Ontario
Team Needed: 5-25
Project #: PM11996616

Date: July/August 1996 or Spring 1997
Project: Summer Outreach/VBS/Drama/Spring Revival/Music/Drama/Puppets
Place: Enderby, British Columbia (Mountain View Church)
Team Needed: Open
Project #: PM11996613

Date: July/August
Project: Street and Coffee Bar Evangelism
Place: Richmond, BC (Chinese Baptist Church)
Team Needed: 3-5

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

Date: Aug. 6-9
Project: VBS
Place: Richmond, BC (Chinese Baptist Church)
Team Needed: 2-3

Date: Between February and April
Project: Children's Festival — Cambrian Heights Baptist Church would like a special ministry team to minister to the children of church families through music, drama, puppets, teaching and

preaching. The church is using a festival or carnival theme to attract families with young children.
Place: Calgary, AB (Cambrian Heights Church)
Team Needed: 3-5
Project #: PM11996620

New Church Start/Church Development

Date: August
Project: Concerts/Choir Workshops
Place: Calgary, AB (Filipino Fellowship)
Team Needed: Open

Date: Spring/Summer
Project: New Church Start
Place: Winnipeg, Manitoba
Team Needed: Open
Project #: PM11996619

Date: Summer 1997
Project: Church Planting
Place: Winnipeg
Team Needed: Open
Project #: FP1VS96601

Date: Open
Project: Prayer Partner Church
Place: Edmonton, AB
Project #: PM11996611

Date: Open
Project: Partner for ethnic church plant
Place: North Vancouver

Projects With Calgary Church Deaf Fellowship

Date: Open
Project: Search for Significance Workshop
Place: Cochrane, AB
Team Needed: Open

Date: Open
Project: Experiencing God
Place: Cochrane, AB
Team Needed: Open

Date: Oct. 18-20
Project: Revival
Place: Cochrane, AB
Team Needed: 1-2
Project #: PM11996607

Vacation Bible School/Backyard Bible School

Date: July 15-19
Project: VBS
Place: Cochrane, AB
Team Needed: Open
Project #: PM11996605

Poland

Construction

Note: Several projects require the team to raise funds to purchase construction materials.

Date: Spring
Project: Engineering Inspection and study
Place: Warsaw
Team Needed: 1-2

Date: April 15-30
Project: Church Renovations
Place: Szcztyno
Team Needed: 2-4

Date: June 30 — July 13
Project: Construction/Evangelism
Place: Warsaw
Team Needed: 10-12
Project #: PM11996478
 The church needs \$10,000 to purchase materials.

Seminary Projects

The new Baptist seminary in Poland needs several Tennessee teams to come and assist with the completion of the seminary.

Date: February
Project: Interior Painting
Place: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw
Team Needed: 4

The project consists of painting the halls in the basement and second floor and installing vinyl wall covering on the first floor where classrooms and administrative offices are located. Seminary needs \$800 for paint and related materials.

Date: Winter/Spring
Project: Laying floor and wall tile
Place: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw
Team Needed: 3
Project #: PM11996484
 Team will install 600 square meters of ceramic floor tile. The seminary needs \$9,000 for materials.

Date: Open
Project: Landscaping
Place: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw
Team Needed: Open
Project #: PM11995402
 The seminary needs \$4,000 for materials.

Date: Open
Project: Construct Sidewalk System
Place: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw
Team Needed: 6-8

Project #: PM11995403
 The seminary needs \$8,000 for materials.

Date: Open
Project: Install Electrical Fixtures
Place: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw
Team Needed: 2
 The seminary needs \$2,800 for materials.

Date: Late Spring/Early Summer
Project: Paint exterior trim (seminary housing)
Place: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw
Team Needed: Open
Project #: PM11996489
 The seminary needs \$4,000 for materials.

Evangelism

Date: Spring
Project: Evangelism
Place: Warsaw
Team Needed: 6-10
Project #: PM11996481

Date: April 14-25 or May 12-22
Project: Youth Evangelism — The Baptist church in Poznan requests a team to do street evangelism and high school evangelism. Team must be able to relate to young people. The pastor at the church is open to suggestions from the team
Place: Poznan
Team Needed: 4-6

Date: June 23 — July 2
Project: ESL/Evangelism — A team of six is needed to teach a five day course of English as a Second Language and lead evangelistic services in the evenings.
Place: Podlaski
Team Needed: 6

Date: Sept. 20-26
Project: Crusade
Place: Szcztyno
Team Needed: Open

Date: Open
Project: Business Seminars/Evangelism
Place: Warsaw
Team Needed: 1-2
Project #: PM11995464

Miscellaneous

Date: June 24 — July 7
Project: Youth camp trip — The Baptist Christian church of Szcztyno is planning a youth camping trip. They expect 30-40 youth and their sponsors to participate. They

need a team that will help lead the camp. There will be a canoe trip on lakes and rivers. The team will lead worship in the evenings with singing and testimonies. The team will also be teaching English. Volunteers should be in good physical condition and between the ages of 18 and 25.
Place: Szcztyno
Team Needed: 2-4

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

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

Date: Sept. 1 — Dec. 15
Project: ESL/Bible Study
Place: Bialystok
Team Needed: Open
Project #: PM11996486

Date: Open
Project: Teaching English as a Second Language course
Place: Konin
Team Needed: Open

Computer

A used computer is needed for Charles and Barbara Layton, Partnership Missions coordinators in Poland. If you have a used computer you would like to donate please contact the Partnership Missions office at (615) 371-2021.

Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids Needed

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



Michigan

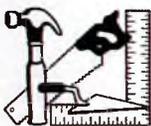


Construction

Date: Early Spring
Project: Construction (roofing)
Place: Flint (Lincoln Park Church)
Team Needed: 4
Project #: G-2

Date: Early June
Project: Construction (new building)
Place: Flint (Outreach Baptist Church)
Team Needed: Open
Project #: G-4

Date: Summer
Project: Construction (new roof)
Place: Clio (First Baptist Church)
Team Needed: Open
Project #: G-1



Date: Aug. 11-16
Project: Construction (new building)
Place: Clinton Township (Central Baptist Church)
Team Needed: Open
Project #: M-6 A-1

Evangelism

Date: June 15-20 or June 22-29
Project: Evangelism/BYBC/Revival — North Bay Baptist Church requests a team to assist in the growth of the church through BYBC, revival services, survey work, puppets and evangelism. Pinconning is a small town located on the shore of Saginaw Bay.
Place: Pinconning
Team Needed: 8-10
Project #: B-2

Date: July 15-21
Project: Revival Team
Place: Manton (Greenwood Bible Church)
Team Needed: 7
Project #: N-5

Date: July — August
Project: Beach Ministry
Place: St. Joseph (Niles Avenue Church)
Team Needed: Open
Project #: SW-2



Date: Open
Project: Survey Work
Place: Berrien Springs (First Baptist Church)

Team Needed: Open
Project #: SW-1

Date: Open
Project: Music/Drama Team (semester)
Place: Marquette (First Baptist Church)
Team Needed: 1-2
Project #: UP-1

Date: Open
Project: Evangelism/Outreach
Place: Charlevoix (Safe Harbor Church)
Team Needed: Open
Project #: N-1

Date: Open
Project: Children's Work, Music
Place: Sanford (First Baptist Church)
Team Needed: 2
Project #: B-1A

Vacation Bible School/Backyard Bible School

Date: June 22-29
Project: VBS
Place: Detroit (First Spanish Church)
Team Needed: 10-15
Project #: GD-2A

Date: July 15-19
Project: VBS
Place: Wyoming (Huntington Woods Church)
Team Needed: 10
Project #: W-5

Date: July or August
Project: BYBC/Survey
Place: Birch Run
Team Needed: Open
Project #: B-3

Date: July (one week)
Project: VBS
Place: Madison Heights
Team Needed: Open
Project #: O-2

Date: July
Project: VBS
Place: Tecumseh (Missionary Church)
Team Needed: 1-2
Project #: L-1B

Date: Summer
Project: Survey/BYBC/Evangelism
Place: Detroit

Team Needed: 2
Project #: GD-4

Date: Summer
Project: VBS/BYBC
Place: Battle Creek
Team Needed: 10-15
Project #: SC-3

Summer Missionaries

Date: June 3 — Aug. 9
Project: Summer Missionary (VBS/Puppets/Music)
Place: Flint (Genessee Association)
Team Needed: 2
Project #: G-3

Date: June 3 — Aug. 9
Project: Summer Missionary (BYBC/Survey/Church Planting activities)
Place: Big Rapids
Team Needed: 2 (prefer male)
Project #: W-1

Date: June 3 — Aug. 9
Project: Summer Missionary (VBS/Puppets/Clothing/Drama/Evangelism/Music)
Place: Roscommon (Northland Association)
Team Needed: 4
Project #: N-6

Date: June 3 — Aug. 9
Project: Summer Missionary (lifeguard, nurse)
Place: Bambi Lake (Bambi Lake Baptist Retreat and Conference Center)
Team Needed: 4 (2 married couples)
Project #: N-7

Date: June 3 — Aug. 9
Project: Summer Missionary (VBS/BYBC/Puppets/Clothing/Church Planting activities)
Place: Detroit
Team Needed: 4
Project #: GD-3

New Church Start/Church Development

Date: Open
Project: Church Sponsor for New Church
Place: Mt. Clemens
Team Needed: Open
Project #: M-2

Date: Open
Project: Start New Work
Place: Northland Association
Team Needed: Open
Project #: N-2
Date: Open
Project: Church Development
Place: Mt. Clemens

Team Needed: Open
Project #: M-3

Date: Open
Project: New Work Sponsor
Place: Drayton Plains (Southern Oaks Mission Church)
Team Needed: Open
Project #: O-3

Date: Open
Project: Sister Church
Place: Roscommon (Roscommon Baptist Church)
Team Needed: Open
Project #: N-4

Miscellaneous

Date: Feb. 5-25
Project: Phone Campaign — Level Park Baptist Church is conducting a phone campaign to develop prospects for a follow-up mailing. Volunteers need to be able to read scripted material with expression over the telephone and able to complete data cards.
Place: Battle Creek
Team Needed: 1-10
Project #: SC-4



Date: Spring (1-5 days)
Project: Golf Pro (lead golf clinics)
Place: Mt. Clemens
Team Needed: 1-2
Project #: M-4

Date: July 27 — Aug. 3
Project: Auto and Home Maintenance
Place: Detroit (First Spanish Church)
Team Needed: 5
Project #: GD-2B

Date: August
Project: Leadership Training
Place: Marquette (First Baptist Church)
Team Needed: Open
Project #: UP-2

Music Minister Needed

Cornerstone Baptist Church in Melvindale, Mich., is looking for a full-time Minister of Music. If you are a college student working on a music degree and would be willing to re-locate and study in Michigan, this would be good experience. Perhaps you are a retired Minister of Music and looking for a place of service. Call the Partnership Missions office at (615) 371-2021 if interested in this opportunity.

Costa Rica

(Relationship with Costa Rica is short-term project status until 1997, when it may be adopted as an official partnership.)

Date: April or May for two weeks
Project: Construction
Team Needed: 2 teams of 7 each
Place: San Jose
 The San Juan de Dios Baptist Church needs help to build its sanctuary. It has the downstairs walls, columns, and overhead steel beams in place.

Sound Equipment Needed

The Baptist Seminary in Poland has a musical ensemble that performs at churches and for various functions as part of the ministry of the seminary. The following items would greatly increase the success of this ministry.

- Carvin stereo/multi-track 1000 watt sound system
- DX1642 16 Channel
- One FET 1000 high powered 1000 watt power amp
- Two 993 15" high powered 3 way 800 watt speaker
- Two XLR8 input cables
- Two XP50 high current 50' speaker cables
- Stereo/multi-track 500 watt sound system
- DX162P 16 channel 500 watt powered stereo mixer
- Two 942 2-way 300 watt speakers
- Two XP50 high current 50' speaker cables
- Mixer snake cables
- 6 Carvin CM68, CM67, CM90E (or SHURE SM58)
- Two 722 12 monitors
- Two XP50 speaker cables
- FET 401 monitor power amp
- 6 microphone stands
- 6 microphone cables
- Stereo tape

Instruments

- Acoustic guitar-Yamaha FG441CE MAB/TBS
- Bass guitar-Carvin LB 75F
- Keyboard-Korg X-3 or T-3, T-2
- Drums

'Ordinary women, mothers' serve in Poland

By Laura Bagwell
First Church, Smyrna

When I was at a Baptist Young Women's meeting almost two years ago, we discussed the possibility of some from our group going on a mission trip. I had never given much thought to doing missions. I admire people who give their lives so willingly to God, but I couldn't see how I could do it.

I am a stay-at-home mom with two young children; and where was the money going to come from? That night, as we were told how our lives would be blessed and what a difference it would make in others' lives, a seed was planted. Through prayer and Bible study, that seed started to grow.

That year in Vacation Bible School our children were told the story of Amy Carmichael. She was a young woman all alone in a foreign land and God used her to change many children as they learned about our Savior. The seed that was planted months before started to grow.

Our team, which consisted of four mothers, three of them mothers of

preschoolers and stay-at-home moms like myself, started to train in January. By this time, we were all very sure God wanted us in Poland. We trained together and alone through a daily devotion time. In my devotion time, I learned that God uses ordinary people just like me to do his work.

Through fund raisers and private donations, all of the needed expenses were raised. By this time, we were all very excited. Leaving our families for two weeks was emotional, but the joy we had in our hearts to be doing God's work made leaving easier.

When we arrived in Poland, we were greeted with such warmth and eagerness that we were immediately put at ease. On our first full day in Warsaw, we were able to visit the beautiful new seminary and do a little sightseeing. We began to work on the second day. We traveled to four cities, over 1,200 miles, by van.

In each city we visited, the second day was scheduled for our women's ministry. In one city, Elbag, the pastor told us the men of the church had been calling all day to ask if

they could come also.

It was hard to decide who enjoyed our visit more, the children, the adults, or us. It was such a joy to see the happiness on everyone's faces as our clown troupe performed.

The people in Poland are so worshipful. It is such a privilege for them to be in God's house to worship him. In the United States, we have so many freedoms and we have had them for so long, we tend to take them for granted. If we could be more like the people in Poland, our churches would double in size.

When it was time to come home, I was excited to see my children and husband, but I was so sad to leave all of the wonderful, godly people I had met in Poland.

Something that really hit me when I returned to the states is that there is so much that can be done right here in Tennessee. I was eager to continue with missions and because of that two of the other sisters and I who went to Poland were able to help a young family.

The father had lost his job because he had taken off so much time trying

to take care of his young daughter and wife, who suffered from Lupus. They had no food, so we took food to them.

When we first met them, Cathy, the wife and mother, was lying on the couch. Every move she took was extremely painful. We learned that they were new to the area with no other family nearby. They hadn't found a church home yet because Cathy had been so sick. They were Christians and were so excited to hear about our work in Poland. As we were telling them about how so many of the Polish people had financial hardships, Cathy said, "we just don't know how blessed we are."

Cathy passed away in August. I know she is so happy now. I just hope she knows she blessed my life. I don't think I would have met this precious couple if I had not been so aware that God can use us anywhere.

My life has truly been changed this past year. I cannot imagine not going back to Poland or anywhere else God may want me to go. Partnership Missions really is for everyone — busy mothers of preschoolers and you. □

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests

February

- 7 — Pray for a new Vietnamese congregation started in Surrey, British Columbia.
- 8 — Pray for Roy Spannagel, former missionary for Midwest Baptist Association in Alberta, and his wife, Weida. Roy has been named director of evangelism for the Alaska Baptist Convention.
- 9 — Pray for qualified English teachers to work in Poland teaching English. There are many requests for such teachers.
- 10 — Pray for the church and new pastor, Tim Williams, in Krynica, Poland, and the ministries they seek to start.
- 11 — Pray for Rob and Barbara Springle, new missionaries from North Carolina, who are trying to start an English-speaking congregation in Warsaw. They began offering services at the church Feb. 4.
- 12 — Pray for women's and men's retreats being held in Michigan.
- 13 — Pray for the Midwest Baptist Association, which is without leadership and has recently divided into three regions because of its size.



Be a Prayer Partner

Will you commit to pray daily for our partnerships with Poland, Canada, and Michigan? As a prayer partner you will receive monthly prayer requests and a quarterly newsletter just for prayer partners. Please complete the form below and return it to the Partnership Missions Department, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024, or FAX it to (615) 371-2014.

Prayer Partner

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ FAX _____

Church _____

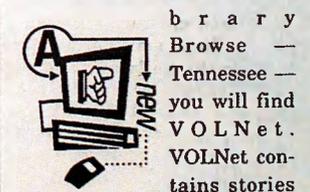
Association _____

Partners can access info in cyberspace

Information regarding Tennessee partnerships and partnership projects can be found through SBCNet, a Southern Baptist Convention computer service using the CompuServe on-line service.

If not currently an SBCNet user, the Tennessee Baptist Convention will provide free SBCNet kits. Request a free kit by calling Mike Overcash at (615) 371-2007. Be prepared to tell him which format you need, DOS for Windows or Macintosh.

To access partnership information, go under State Convention Forum. In Li-



brary Browse — Tennessee — you will find VOLNet. VOLNet contains stories

from *The Macedonian Call*, volunteer requests, and special partnership needs. SBCNet costs \$18 a month which will provide you with unlimited use on SBCNet and five hours a month on CompuServe. □

1996 Volunteer Interest Form

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ FAX _____

Church _____ Association _____

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

Canada Michigan Poland

Type of project you would like to be involved in _____

Date you would like to serve _____

Estimated number on team _____

■ the leaders

■ **Paul and Peggy Grossman**, missionaries to Burkina Faso, Africa, have retired after 29 years of service in Africa. They are living at the home of Woodmont Church, Nashville, and can be reached at 3401 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville, Tenn., 37215, (615) 269-4032.

■ **Alfred E. Smith**, pastor, Marbledale Church, Knoxville, for 20 years, is retiring. He and his wife, Louise, will complete their service there Feb. 25.

■ **Bob Peek**, chaplain of Baptist Hospital of Roane County in Rockwood for five years, has retired. Prior to serving as chaplain he was pastor of churches in Tennessee for 35 years.

Watson enters full-time evangelism

For Baptist and Reflector

GATLINBURG — Dean Watson, pastor of Roaring Fork Church, Gatlinburg, has resigned to enter full-time evangelism.

Watson will use chalk-talk art in his preaching. He has been active in evangelism ministry for several years, using art. He has limited use of his right arm, and has written his biography describing how he learned to use his left hand after suffering an injury in a hunting accident.

He learned to paint after his accident and also gained college and seminary degrees. He and his wife have a ministry of counseling and retreats. He can be contacted at Comfort Touch Ministries, Box 352, Gatlinburg, 37738. □

■ **James Thompson** has been called as pastor of Friendship Church, Waynesboro.

■ **Charles Anderson**, pastor, Oakwood Church, Milan, has been called as pastor of Broadmoor Church, Nashville, effective March 3.

■ **Michael L. Glenn**, pastor, Brentwood Church, Brentwood, was the Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Lecturer during Spiritual Emphasis Week at Belmont University, Nashville, Jan. 31 – Feb. 2.

■ **Ashley Ray**, a student at Union University, Jackson, has been called as pastor at Union Grove Church, Beech Bluff, effective Jan. 7.

■ **Jim Hawkins** has resigned as minister of music, Bellevue Church, Nashville.

■ **Albert Sidney Waits**, pastor, Rugby Hills Church, Memphis, celebrated 50 years of ministry in December. A surprise reception was given by the church. Waits has served on denominational boards and committees, led revivals in 14 states, and been pastor of Woodbine Church, Nashville, 1958-68; Hickory Hills Church, Memphis, 1968-87; and Walnut Grove Church, Bolivar, 1987-89.

■ **Bible Hill Church**, Beech River, called **Danny Raye** as pastor on Dec. 17.

■ **Rosemark Church**, Millington, has called **Bill Alexander**, pastor, Mount Vernon Church, Halls, as pastor. Alexander, who also served as pastor of Eastside Church, Camden, is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and Union University, Jackson.

■ **Danny Birkner Jr.**, has been called as full-time minis-

ter of students and missions, Grace Church, Elizabethton. He was a school teacher and minister of youth at the church for the past three years. The graduate of Clearwater (Fla.) Christian College has served as a counselor at Camp Ta-Pa-Win-Go in Watauga.

■ the people

■ **Andrew Thompson**, a member of the Gideon Class of First Church, Memphis, was honored recently for perfect Sunday School attendance for the past 11 years.

■ **Waterville Church**, Cleveland, ordained **Doyle McNabb** to the ministry Jan. 28. McNabb has been called as pastor of Bethel Church, Cleveland. **Luther Eslinger**, pastor of Ridgeview Church, Cleveland, delivered the charge to McNabb and **Roger Hobbs**, pastor, Waterville Church, gave the charge to the church.

■ the associations

■ **Carroll-Benton Association** is hosting an AIDS Conference Feb. 12 at Hillhaven Convalescent Center, Huntingdon, at 7 p.m. **Mack Land**, physician at Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, and **Mike Davis**, chaplain, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, will speak. The conference is being sponsored by the Memphis hospital, Huntingdon Ministerial Association, Woman's Missionary Union of the association, and the convalescent center. For more information call (901) 986-8818.

■ **Hale Community Ministries of Watauga Associa-**



GATHERED TO HONOR James L. Harney, pastor, Hickory Grove Church, Huntland, are the congregation and guests attending a special service. Harney, who served the church for eight years, also served as pastor of Huntland Church, Huntland; Maxwell Church, Belvidere; First Church, Lawrenceburg; First Church, Waverly; and Union Hill Church. He retired after the death of Deaurelle Harney, his wife, last year.

tion reported 42 families received Christmas assistance which included 113 children. The association was assisted by **Gordon Furniture**, a home demonstration club, and **Hampton Elementary School**. The Baptist Center also is raising funds for a van.

■ **Robertson County Association** will hold its Evangelism Rally Feb. 27 at First Church, Greenbrier. **Robert Hamlin** of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary will speak and **Bucky Phillips** of Clarksville will lead the music.

■ **Beech River Association** is holding its annual Pastors' Retreat Feb. 16-17 at Camp Linden.

■ the churches

■ **Ray's Chapel Church**, Waynesboro, has completed a

new auditorium.

■ **West Jackson Church, Jackson**, held a groundbreaking on new church property Jan. 28.

■ The winter Bible study of **New Zion Church, Pulaski**, will be Feb. 18-21 and will be led by **Elmer Fowler**, director of missions, Muscle Shoals Baptist Association in Alabama.

■ **First Church, Knoxville**, celebrated its 153rd anniversary Jan. 14.

■ the schools

■ **Union University, Jackson**, will host "Lunch and Learn," a time of food and fellowship for senior adults Feb. 13. **J.G. Wise**, pastor, Woodland Church, Brownsville, will present a dramatic monologue. For more information, call (901) 661-5160.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

The blessing of children

By Jerry W. Massey, pastor
First Church, Paris

Children are such a blessing to the church. Their smiling, carefree faces light up the hallways and spirits of everyone around them. Their innocence sometimes tells us more than we want to know and their deep theological questions can cause us to drop to our knees seeking godly wisdom for answers. They are precious and keep a church people humble and young, and for this we are most thankful!

The following are stories from a child's point of view.

"Daddy, I want to ask you a question," said Jared after Sunday School. "The teacher was reading the Bible to us — all about the children of Israel crossing the Red Sea, the children of Is-

rael building a temple, the children of Israel making sacrifices. Didn't the grownups do anything?"

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and suddenly turned into a pillar of salt. "My mother looked back once while she was driving," contributed Heather, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

Sir John Bowring said it well: "A happy family is but an earlier heaven." I am most thankful for our preschoolers and children. They make for us a happy church family. It is a special delight for me to see them in worship. I know it is not always easy for them to sit so long, but God will use the parents' patience and the child's presence for his glory in that child's life to come.

As one youngster put it, "I love the music but the commercial sure was long." □

Joys, disappointments of snow storms

By Jimmy Gentry, pastor
Springfield Church, Springfield

It's a disappointment to have to cancel worship and study times because of a snow storm. It is important for God's people to gather for worship and study on the Lord's Day — especially in the morning. Spending quality time together as faith partners in the Lord is a necessity that I cannot overestimate. But the weather can change our plans.

Even in this disappointment there was joy. It came in watching my children and the neighbor gang play in the snow. Our front yard was the midway point of an alpine slope for sledding. Jackie and I even ventured out to demonstrate our expertise on sled, to-

boggan, and pasteboard. The exhaustion I felt did not affect my gaze of Emily and Nicholas. Yes, I had to get on to them, telling them to come in to get warm and dry from time to time. I sometimes forget that they are only little once, so I'm letting those snowy memories melt into the reservoir of my heart.

I am reminded that God is present in both disappointments and joys. I was frustrated by our inability to gather with saints, but I was stimulated by the opportunity to celebrate my calling as a parent and husband on the Lord's Day.

This is what resurrection life concerns. The cross was a disappointment to many. But think of the overwhelming joy it brought. After disappointment there is joy and even in disappointment there is joy. The joy of the Lord is our strength, even when we experience disappointment. □

Baptist college enrollment up again

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Enrollment at the 50 Southern Baptist-related colleges and universities reached 108,146 students, a less than 1 percent increase over the previous year, according to figures released to the SBC Education Commission.

The increase though slight, however, marked the 14th consecutive year of enrollment increases. Two of Tennessee Baptists' three schools report-

ed increases for the 1995 fall semester — Belmont University, 3,009, up 1.7 percent and Carson-Newman College, 2,207, up 2 percent. □

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**Life and Work Series
for February 11
Focal Passage: Matthew
5:38-48**

Dealing with difficult people

By Charles Parker

"Now the shoe's on the other foot!" Have you ever heard or thought that? The desire for evening the score seems to be a part of our human nature. Jesus quotes two statements of the Mosaic law, Exodus 21:23-25 and a fragment of Leviticus 19:18. While the law cannot require us to love those who wrong us, a new relationship to Christ opens the door to the immense force of God-like love.

How we act when we are wronged

While a first reading of verse 38 sounds harsh to 20th century ears, it is well to remember that Moses had led the Hebrews to take a progressive step in limiting revenge to a proportional response. Often before the law was given the revenge would be greater than the act revenged. In fact, people today still have trouble with their level of revenge.

Mark Twain relates how Huckleberry Finn asked, "What's a feud, Buck?" "Why, where was you raised Huck? Don't you know what a feud is? A feud is this way: A man has a quarrel with another and kills him; then that other man's brother kills him; then the other brothers, on both sides, goes for one another; then the cousins chip in — and by and by everybody's killed off, and there ain't no more feud."

Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia, and even gang warfare in our own state remind us that this spirit in human nature is not dead. A more subtle version can operate in our offices, factories, schools, and families, where the feuding is limited to character assassination and political maneuvering. The tragedy is that everybody has to be "killed off" before the feud is over. Jesus gives such examples as insults (v. 39), lawsuits (v. 40), and exploitation (v. 41) to illustrate how people still act. We are still tempted to love people like us and to hate our enemies, people unlike us or who rub us the wrong way.

How God acts when he is wronged

The key pattern for our behavior is found in verses 45 and 48, which describe how God acts when he is wronged (sinned against). God does not immediately strike back with vengeance. Judgment is coming, for he is the just judge, but because he loves his enemies (us!). He demonstrates his perfection by sending sunshine and rain on good and evil alike. The Greek word translated "perfect" in verse 48 really means "complete, mature, sufficient." For Christians it means as grown up as it is possible for humans to be.

Someone has observed that unlimited retaliation is babyish, limited retaliation is childish, limited love is adolescent, but unlimited love is adult (and divine!). The fact that the teacher and speaker of these words is Jesus, a lover of his enemies willing to die for them on the cross, lends weight to the words.

Opening the door to love

How do we move to this perfection? We become strong in order to become meek (see ch. 5:5). We do what we do not have to do (going the second mile). We act as individuals, recognizing that the greatest power is spiritual, but also that there is a need in this church age for police and armies to give some measure of human justice. We trust God for miracles, but we also get ready to be crucified. Difficult people will always be with us, but in Christ we have won the victory. □ — Charles Parker is pastor of First Church, Jacksboro.

God shows mercy

By Kim Allen

Reflective in Jonah's life was the predominant attitude of Israel toward its missionary calling. God was exclusive unto them and the Gentile world was left wanting. In Isaiah Israel's mission was spelled out time and time again. The theme of God's love for all people and Israel's reluctance to share it is emphasized in Jonah. We need to understand why Jonah was angry when God spared Ninevah and the lesson for the angry prophet.

Jonah's preaching and Ninevah's repentance

After being spewed upon dry ground by the fish the Lord spoke to Jonah (ch. 3:1-2). The difference in this call and the first call is that God brought out Ninevah's wickedness and emphasized that Jonah was to speak what the Lord told him.

Verse three shows the prophet being obedient to carrying out the message of repentance to Ninevah, a city that took three days journey to travel although possibly as long as 60 miles in length. Verse four gives us God's message. Repent or be "overthrown," the same word used for Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19:29, was called for in 40 days time.

We saw the response in chapter 1:16, where the heathen sailors worshiped God after the calming of the storm (vv. 5-9). Now all of Ninevah believed in God and repented of their sins. Although there was no mention of the city being spared, they fasted and cried unto God to turn from his purpose to destroy the city.

Two things happened in verse ten. Ninevah turned from its "evil" ways and, "God repented of the evil" he was going to do. God is not evil, but when people repent, God turns from his judgment.

Jonah's anger and God's response — ch. 4:1-11

Any minister would rejoice if when preaching a

**Convention Uniform Series
for February 11
Focal Passages:
Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 4:1-5, 11**

revival a whole city would repent, but we find Jonah seething with anger (vv. 1-3). In verse two Jonah's words explain his anger; he knew God was a merciful God who forgave repentant sinners. Jonah, being an Israelite,

feared that God's love would be extended to the Ninevites and because of this fear he tried to flee from God's call.

Verse three shows Jonah being so angry he prayed to die. To live as a brother to a Ninevite was so distasteful to him he would rather die. Verse four is simplistic in God's response. He asked Jonah if he had any right to be angry. In response, to use an athletic analogy, Jonah went to the 50-yard line, took a seat, and waited for God to change his mind.

Jonah had not learned a complete lesson so God prepared a gourd vine, prepared a worm to destroy the vine, then sent a scorching east wind. It became so hot Jonah again prayed to die (vv. 6-8). God asked Jonah if he had a right to be angry about the vine and he said he did (v. 9).

Jonah was concerned about the vine; didn't God have a right to be concerned about multitudes of people (vv. 10-11)? Jonah wanted 120,000 adults to die, but he wanted a plant to live. Jonah continued to show no concern for the Ninevites. The question God raises becomes an invitation to Jonah and all of Israel to change their attitudes and accept that God's love is for all people.

As we see Jonah, God's prophet, unbending to accept others, so today we continue to see God's people reject those who legitimately receive Christ as Lord and Savior because they are different in some way. "To know love is to know God." To know God we then must love all others. □ — Kim Allen is pastor of Little West Fork Church, Clarksville.

Prayer and godly behavior

By Phil Lovelace

In chapters 2-3, Paul discusses the public ministry of the church and the roles that different members ought to play. Chapter 1 dealt with the ministry of the Word, and in this chapter the emphasis is on prayer (Acts 6:4). It is sad to see most churches today robbing their pastor of their important ministries by keeping him "busy" promoting a program, pleasing people, and practicing church politics. If the churches would simplify their organization and purify their motives, the pastors would be able to do a spiritual work for the glory of the Lord.

It is important that the church have a balanced ministry of the Word of God and prayer. The church that has an abundance of Bible teaching, but little prayer, will be orthodox but frozen! The other extreme is the church that has much prayer and religious enthusiasm, but little teaching from the Word — producing a group of people with zeal, but no knowledge.

The place of prayer in the local church — I Timothy 2:1-8

■ It's importance — Paul lists prayer "first of all." The local church does not pray because it is the expected thing to do; prayer is vital to the life of the local church. The Holy Spirit works in the church through prayer and the Word of God (I Thessalonians 2:13; Ephesians 3:20-21). Note how the believers in Acts turned to prayer and overcame their enemies. Paul

**Bible Book Series for February 11
Focal Passage: I Timothy 2:1-15**

exhorts us to pray.

■ It's nature — Paul tells Timothy that the church's praying ought to include: **supplication**, which means asking for needs; **prayers**, suggesting worship and adoration; **intercessions**, meaning requests on the behalf of others; and **thanksgiving**, or appreciation for what God has done. See Philippians 4:6 and Daniel 6:10-11.

■ It's aim — Verse 2 suggests that prayer helps to maintain the peace of society. As Christians pray for rulers, God overrules and protects his church from wicked men. Verse 3 indicates that, above all else, prayer pleases God and glorifies Christ. If we pray only to have our needs met, we have a low view of prayer. Of course, we ought to pray for the salvation of the lost (v. 4-7).

■ It's condition — Verse 8 lays down three conditions for public praying in the local church: (a) being "without wrath" — loving one another; (2) having holy hands, that is, clean lives; and (3) having faith. Read Mark 11:20-21 for a parallel to this.

The place of women in the local church — I Timothy 2:9-15

Christianity, like no other religious faith, elevated the position of women and children. Paul gives us the characteristics of the ideal Christian woman in the church:

Modesty (v. 9) — Paul is not saying that the Christian woman must wear old clothes and be out of style! But extreme fashions only point to the body and make the Christian look worldly. See I Peter 3:1-5. Purity — She "professes godliness." See ch. 2:2, 10; 3:16; 4:7-8; 6:3, 5, 6, 11; II Timothy 3:5; Titus 1:1. Industry — She practices good works (v. 10). Later in this letter (ch. 5:11-14) Paul warns about idle women who wander from house to house and give Satan opportunity to lead them into sin.

Humility — In I Corinthians 14:34-40, Paul amplifies this commandment. Teaching (v. 12) — Christian women enjoyed more freedom to learn than either Jewish or Greek women of the day. It's possible Paul decided that permitting women to learn was revolutionary. Headship (v. 13) — This is written into the very course of nature; and when man violates this principle, chaos is the result. Deception (v. 14) — Adam's choice was between his wife and God. He chose his wife. Childbearing (v. 15) — The thought here suggests that the women of the church would be less susceptible to false teaching if they were involved in the care of their families. □ — Phil Lovelace is pastor of First Church, Somerville.

House honors Grahams with congressional medal

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives voted Jan. 23 to award the Congressional Gold Medal to evangelist Billy Graham and his wife, Ruth.

Rep. Charles Taylor, R.-N.C., was primary sponsor of the bill commissioning the honor. The measure passed the House 403-2.

Congressmen noted Graham's preaching ministry — which has reached more than 100 million people in person and two billion people through television — as well as his record of concern for the poor.

Democrats and Republicans alike praised the Grahams for their work and committed service to the country. They noted Graham has been a spiritual advisor and confidant to 10 presidents.

A congressional spokesman said fewer than 100 such awards have been given. Among previous recipients were George Washington, Thomas Edison, the Wright brothers, and Winston Churchill. □

Religious educators to meet in Louisville

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Southern Baptist Religious Education Association will explore "Racing Into the Future" during its annual meeting, Feb. 15-17 here.

Three keynote addresses

will be given by Edwin McManus, president of Global Impact and senior pastor of The Church on Brady, a Southern Baptist congregation in Los Angeles.

The SBREA's distinguished service awards will be presented to Merle T. Basden, who has served on church staffs in several states including Tennessee; J. Russell Comer; and William E. Young, retired Baptist Sunday School Board staffer.

Registration is \$40 for members, \$20 for retirees, and free for students. SBREA's mailing address is P.O. Box 330369, Fort Worth, TX 76163. □

Brazilian Baptists homeless from floods

Baptist Press

FLORIANOPOLIS, Brazil — Baptist families were among about 28,000 people left homeless by flooding in the southern Brazilian states of Rio Grande do Sul, Minas Gerais, and Santa Catarina in late December.

At least 44 people died in the flooding and landslides that followed.

The flood also destroyed furnishings owned by missionaries Jerry and Karen Cowin who had recently transferred out of the country to Antigua.

Most of the Cowins' household furnishings had been stored in Brazil while they worked to overcome delays in government paper work. Ironically, a hurricane destroyed the household goods the Cowins took with them to Antigua five months earlier. They had only taken a few essentials for housekeeping until their shipment could arrive.

Unfazed by the news of his latest loss, Cowin remarked, "The Lord's going to take care of us. We're where he wants us to be." □



GRAHAM

SS quarterly helps woman find, share Jesus Christ

Baptist Press

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. — Terri Putman-Hair took home two things from her first visit to an adult Sunday School class at Remount Church here — the memory of a teacher's welcoming smile and a copy of *Life and Work Pursuits*, a Bible study quarterly published by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

At first, she really didn't look at the quarterly much, except on Sunday morning during Bible study. But she kept coming back.

Later, she joined a Christian aerobics class and a Christ-centered health program called "First Place."

After experiencing fellowship with the women's group, she decided to "really look" at her Bible study quarterly. "What I found was the answer to my problem. For on the inside front cover are instructions on 'How to Become a Christian.' I couldn't believe it."

Putman-Hair prayed to accept Christ and committed to serve him in any way she was led.

She didn't have to wait long. On a recent two-week annual tour with the U.S. Air Force Reserves, she roomed with a woman with a long history of emotional outbursts often related to drinking.

The lady watched Putman-Hair read her Bible study book and "commented on how she had noticed that I had really changed lately, and that she envied that change."

Later the woman asked Putman-Hair "how to start" becoming a Christian.

"I simply gave her my (study book) and showed her the inside front cover," she said, adding she later slipped a card in the woman's bag letting her know she cared and God cared.

Putman-Hair returned home and resumed her civilian life. About 10 days later she received a thank-you letter from the woman.

"She wrote that she had been to an AA meeting, picked up a white chip, and had not had a drink for seven days. She also began reading her Bible daily. I cried with joy." □

World A Resource Center opens at N.C. Baptist university

Baptist Press

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. — "The impact will be phenomenal," Roy Smith said when asked about a new missions resource center to serve the one-fourth of the world's population that has never been exposed to the Gospel.

Smith, executive director of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, was one of 200 people on hand for the Jan. 16 opening and dedication of the World A Resource Center at Gardner-Webb University.

World A is a term that describes the least-evangelized area of the world, predominantly in Asia, 10,000 miles across, 4,000 miles deep.

The World A Center was created to be a link between

churches, organizations, and individuals to mission opportunities and needs around the globe.

Under the direction of Cathy Ollis, formerly of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, the center will utilize computer databases and networks to keep abreast of the changing needs and issues confronting the target areas and populations of World A, Ollis said. □

BWA protests delay in Bulgarian building

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Baptist World Alliance has written to the new mayor of Sofia, Bulgaria, Stephan Sofiansky and expressed concern that months after the government gave the Union of Baptist Churches in Bulgaria permission to build a combination church/orphan-

age, the Baptists there still do not have the required documents and cannot proceed.

"We continue to have problems with our Baptist project in Sofia," said Theodor Angelov, president of the union and president of the European Baptist Federation.

"The Sofia municipality does not want to give us the documents we need to continue the building work," he said.

"We went to court and they offered all kinds of objections why the Baptists should not be allowed to build an orphanage. I am very much troubled by this situation."

The Baptist project is the first new building for Baptists in Bulgaria since the fall of communism. After many appeals by Baptists around the world for help, the Sofia government approved the building plans last September for a church and orphanage. There are 50 churches in the Bulgarian Baptist Union. □

'Country Crossroads' producer undergirds show's credibility

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Eddie Reed, the songwriter, recently received a royalty check for \$4.46.

Reed, who is well-known in the country music industry, obviously does not depend on such royalty checks for a living. His bread and butter comes from being producer of "Country Crossroads," the popular weekly 30-minute radio program produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. At last report, the program was aired by 884 stations nationwide.

Reed began working with "Country Crossroads" on a part-time basis in 1979 and six years later became producer of the program.

"One of the things that really helped me over the years is that I've never been a person who was star-struck," Reed said. "People are people and I've always tried to treat everyone the same way."

"What's more, because it has been on the air since 1969, everybody in Nashville knows "Country Crossroads," who sponsors it, and what it's all about. Because the show is Christian some artists avoid us. There's a certain element of celebrity who thinks anything Christian is a detriment to their career, but even they respect the program."

Reed said many artists have given candid interviews about their Christian faith. One of the artists most outspoken about his faith is Marty Raybon of the

group Shenandoah.

"All the members of the band are Christian," Reed said. "Marty's faith has been tried hard, but he's hung in there. He's a powerful individual who will tell you up front that his purpose in life is to take the kingdom of God to people. I'm more impressed with Marty than anyone I've run into."

Reed said Ricky Skaggs also is a strong Christian and that Kathy Mattea is one of the most genuine people he has met.

The popularity of the radio show can be linked to the program's most recognizable leaders.

Reed said Bill Mack, host of "Country Crossroads," and country comedian Jerry Clower, who does vignettes for

the program are institutions in country music and that Derwood Rowell, who does many of the interviews on the program, is equally respected in Music City.

"When I've been to The Nashville Network with Bill Mack, everyone there knew him and wanted to shake his hand," Reed said. "And just about every publicist in Nashville says the people they represent would rather do an interview with Derwood Rowell than with anyone else in the business."

"These men are responsible for the credibility of "Country Crossroads" with secular radio stations across the country, why the program is always accurate in determining the trends of country music." □