

# Baptist and Reflector

February 14, 1996

VOL. 162 ■ NO. 7

STATEWIDE EDITION

■ **this week's news**

**national —**

- Volunteers sought for SBC witnessing effort. — Page 2
- NOBTS to vote on Chuck Kelley as new president. — Page 3
- Mega-churches are the exception to the rule in SBC life. — Page 3

**state —**

- Dan Francis resigns Nashville pastorate. — Page 3
- Father, son enjoy working together in Sparta. — Page 4
- Nominations sought for TBC boards, committees. — Page 4
- Carson-Newman College plans for 21st century. — Pages 6-7

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## Rally of concern draws 3,500 supporters

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
*Baptist and Reflector*

BRISTOL — It is not often that thousands of Christians almost spontaneously take a stand on a moral issue, and gather in a major rally of public concern.

But that is precisely what happened a few days ago in the Kingsport, Bristol, and Johnson City area.

A flurry of phone calls to the *Baptist and Reflector* two weeks ago indicated that concerned citizens in the Tri-Cities area had had enough.

A rock music group called White Zombie had leased Freedom Hall, the Johnson City civic center, for a concert on Feb. 4. After meeting with a group of citizens, the city council unanimously overruled the arrangement, and cancelled the concert.

But that wasn't the end of the matter.

Bristol's Viking Hall authorities permitted the controversial rock group to stage the

concert there on Feb. 4.

Concerned citizens were outraged, and immediately started planning a rally to oppose the action. They had had enough.

Their reaction to the entire episode resulted in a mass Rally of Concern five days prior to the scheduled concert, according to Tal Thompson, director of missions for Holston Association.

After the Johnson City council yanked the lease agreement and Bristol opened its doors, a meeting was organized by opponents of White Zombie and similar morally controversial concerts.

The rally took place in Viking Hall Jan. 30, and despite rainy weather, about 3,500 concerned citizens showed up. The Christian community including Baptists from several churches in the surrounding area, and other concern citizens were well-represented.

Preceding the rally, media in the Tri-Cities area covered breaking events thoroughly.



APPROXIMATELY 3,500 people opposed to a rock concert in Bristol held a rally featuring prayer and song at Viking Hall in Bristol. — Photo courtesy of the Kingsport Times-News

Television and radio stations and newspapers scurried to keep up with the events. News items attracted national attention as well.

Freedom of speech became an issue to be reckoned with. While not side-stepping the free speech ideal, leaders were

careful to promote a positive attitude.

Les Bailey, an attorney from Kingsport, told rally participants that Viking Hall did not have to allow the concert. He noted this was not protected speech, according to a U.S. — See Rally, page 2

## Prayers needed for Tennessee missionary family

Baptist Press

TRUJILLO, Peru — Foreign Mission Board officials are asking Southern Baptists to pray for members of a missionary family critically injured in an automobile accident in Peru Feb. 1.

Missionaries Wade and Nancy Watts of Memphis and their two sons, Marcus and Joshua, were on a mountain road outside of Huancayo when the accident occurred.

Watts, 40, and Marcus, 9, have been in comas since the accident and were listed in grave condition Feb. 9. Neither Nancy Watts, 35, nor Joshua, 7, is in a life-threatening situation. Marcus and his mother were airlifted to Memphis Feb. 6. Joshua, who was hurt the least, flew to Memphis later with missionary Kathy Phillips.

Doctors considered the condition of Wade Watts too unstable to risk a lengthy

flight to the United States. He is in a Peruvian Air Force hospital in Lima with injuries to the brain and internal organs. Doctors report no brain wave increase.

Marcus is in intensive care in a Memphis hospital with possible brain damage.

Surgeons in Memphis repaired several fractures in Nancy Watts' face, thumb, and wrist. She was in stable condition Feb. 9 and doctors expect a full recovery for her. □



### Directors of missions welcomed

State directors of missions met at the Baptist Center last week. They received an overview of the remodeling plan for the Executive Board staff from TBC Executive Director James Porch and other TBC staff members. Shown are Robert Gamble, Maury Association; Porch; Ray Woodall, Judson Association; and Malcolm Jones, interim, Bradley County Association. A complete story on the remodeling plan, *ServantTeam 21*, will be forthcoming.

## State paper seeks 96 churches in '96

The *Baptist and Reflector* has placed family values in a special category for emphasis during this year.

The staff is seeking at least 96 new subscriber churches to join current subscribers in promoting and assisting in family values.

That is, 96 in '96.

Several inquiries already have been received. It is not too early to state support for family values in homes and churches.

Call us at (615) 371-2003, or FAX to (615) 371-2080. Letters requesting information should be sent to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728 Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. Our response will be quick. □

# Rally of Concern draws 3,500 supporters ...

— Continued from page 1  
Supreme Court ruling.

In his opening remarks at the Rally of Concern Jan. 30, Thompson said the group was present to "express our sincere concern that White Zombie was offered a contract at Viking Hall after being denied the same opportunity by Johnson City."

He explained that "how we express our concern is of utmost importance. We are not here to bash, hurt or malign anyone, but to share the light of Christ ... to encourage our city government to join hands with us in helping raise our community moral standards."

In discussing the rally, Thompson said he considered it to be a "miracle of God."

He signed a contract for use of Viking Hall and volunteers began getting the word out about the rally.

"It was amazing," Thompson said. "People from all over began expressing interest and asking for information. We had people from all denominations."

"They came from all around the Tri-Cities area and southwest Virginia," he said. It was a conciliatory meeting. There were some Zombie supporters present with signs, but there were no major disturbances.

The night of the rally was rainy, and with little parking available for the huge crowd, there was a huge traffic problem. In spite of that, the rally started on time and ran smoothly.

It was decided to approach the Bristol city council to request a committee to set standards that would protect individual's free speech rights, but also to keep community standards as a guiding force in allowing future permits for use of the facility.

It is likely that the same approach will govern the group's continuing efforts. Baptists from Holston and Sullivan associations in large numbers went to the rally.

Tommy Holtzclaw, director of missions for Sullivan Association which includes

Kingsport and Bristol, lent total support to the rally also.

According to Holtzclaw and Thompson, efforts will be made to put in place regulations that will reflect community moral values for each civic center. "Then we won't have to evaluate each event," they agreed.

"We really made headline news," Thompson said. The public seemed amazed that all this was going on, he added. The amazing thing was that the church groups maintained a high level of conciliation and peaceful decorum.

Holtzclaw and Thompson agreed that this kind of attitude let "outsiders" know the church people "were not a group of protesters set to disturb the peace of the community."

Steve Playl, pastor of Woodlawn Church, and president of the Bristol Ministerial Association, reported that church groups gave Christian tracts to ticket buyers as they waited outside Viking Hall for the rock concert.

Playl said he talked with two teenagers from First Church, Gate City, Va., who witnessed about Christ to a group of fans for an hour.

He said there were others talking one-to-one to ticket buyers.

Playl said, "The Lord put this on the hearts of caring people — to do something about these immoral actions in public facilities."

Concert management reported 3,100 tickets sold for the Feb. 4 event, but observers, including a score of Bristol policemen estimated much lower figures. The hall can seat about three times that number. About 1,000 tickets had been sold for the cancelled Johnson City event.

Police were on hand for emergency situations, and not for general crowd behavior.

Most denominations knew about the Rally of Concern and supported it," Playl said.

"People are very concerned about this kind of garbage."

The rally became a unifying time for Christians and people with moral standards, he added. "It's time to see Christ lifted up." Holtzclaw and Thompson agreed. Holtzclaw said it was "a two-hour worship experience, one of the greatest rallies I have ever attended."

He said the explanation of First Amendment rights by Bailey was especially helpful to him. "We will follow this lead carefully in working with our Kingsport leaders," he said.

A new conference center will be completed in Kingsport in a few months.

Playl, whose church is across the street from Viking Hall, said the rally developed into "a wonderful joint worship hour and God was in it."

Joe Hudson, pastor of Tennessee Avenue Church, Bristol, was one of the leaders of the rally and was master of ceremonies. He was out of his office for several days and could not be reached for comment, but Thompson lauded his leadership.

Wiley Webb, a Bristol Presbyterian businessman, provided leadership in getting concerned community leaders involved.

One of the first followup sessions is scheduled Feb. 21, according to Playl. "We plan to have a breakfast meeting for a cross-section of businessmen and pastors, to plan for action."

"We may try to replace council members who approved of the Zombie concert, and we certainly want to help set up a committee to make decisions on moral standards for all events at places such as Viking Hall."

The Baptist and Reflector will keep in contact with leaders in the Tri-Cities, and will keep readers abreast of the situation as it develops. The people are mobilized, and may provide a model for other Tennessee cities. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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- **Board of directors:** Frank Hawkins, chairman; Russ Dunham vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Christine Bess, Hinton Climer, Eugene Cotey, Herbert Higdon, Ken Hubbard, Diane Jordan, Lynn King, Pat Landrum, Paul Medley, Bill Northcott, Charles Parker, Richard Patton, Mike Thrower, Conyer Walker, Gary Watkins, and Ambers Wilson
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Mailing address — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024  
Phone — (615) 371-2003.  
FAX — (615) 371-2080
- **Membership — Southern Baptist Press Association**
- **Address changes — Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024**
- **Postmaster — Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780)**
- **Frequency of issue — The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas and Fourth of July.**



Printed on recycled paper

## Volunteers needed for pre-SBC witnessing effort in New Orleans

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Volunteers for the June 8 witnessing blitz before this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting should sign up by May 1, said Crossover New Orleans organizers.

People who do not meet the

May 1 deadline can participate, but early registration gives leaders time to match volunteers' interests with local church needs.

Greater New Orleans Baptist Association covers five parishes, or counties, with 1.2 million people, said associational missionary Fred Dyess.

Only 3 percent of the residents are Southern Baptists. Currently the association has more missions (83) than constituted churches (65).

With so many new and small churches, Crossover New Orleans "could really be a boost" to area churches, said Wayne Jenkins, evangelism di-

rector for Louisiana Baptists.

To register or to receive more information, write the Louisiana Baptist Convention evangelism office, P.O. Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71309. Include your name, address, phone number, church name, and how you would like to participate. □

### Daily Partnership Prayer Requests February



- 14 — Pray for David and Barbara Wyman of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists who will be on furlough from March to May and for Bob Flagel who will assume their responsibilities during this time.
- 15 — Pray for the Canadian seminary's May graduates.
- 16 — Pray for an experienced pastor for a new mission church in Grand Forks, British Columbia.
- 17 — Pray for missionaries Mark and Tatiana McNeil, as they seek to plant a new church in Bialystok, Poland.
- 18 — Pray for Mark McNeil and the new men's weekly discipleship meeting he has started in Bialystok.
- 19 — Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel with members of an English discussion group at FBC, Warsaw, Poland.
- 20 — Pray for the continued recovery of Sherrie Pridemore, Baptist Center director in Michigan. She had recent surgery.

### Common Ground Conference slated

Tennessee Baptist pastors, music leaders, and worship committee members are registering for a new kind of conference in February.

Common Group Worship Conference is scheduled for Feb. 26-27 at Concord Church, Chattanooga.

Sponsored by the TBC Music and Discipleship Training departments, the event will help participants discover biblical guidelines for praise and worship, learn to use music in new celebrative ways, and offers several other aids in corporate worship.

It is planned to assist church worship teams.

Co-sponsors for the event are the Music Ministries and Church Leadership depart-

ments, Baptist Sunday School Board.

The program begins at 2 p.m. Monday and concludes after the Tuesday evening worship.

Monday evening's worship will be led by Walter Jackson and Dave Briley of Judson Church, Nashville. On Tuesday evening, Gordon Grimes and Rob Perry of the host church will lead.

The faculty also includes nine additional program personalities: Ron Blankenship, Tom Dumser, Johnnie Hall, Frank Lewis, Fred Lodge, James Porch, Ev Robertson, Julian Suggs, and Terry York.

For program and registration information contact the Discipleship Training Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood 37024. □

# BSSB trustees vote to begin conference center campaign

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Trustees of the Baptist Sunday School Board authorized a capital campaign to raise funds for Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist conference centers, pending approval by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee during its Feb. 19-21 meeting.

The recommendation to proceed with a fund-raising effort was approved during the agency's Feb. 5-7 trustee meeting based on a feasibility study, development of program and facilities plans, develop-

ment of a campaign plan, and check-up interviews. Also, a blue-ribbon advisory committee of trustees, pastors, laypersons, and others developed a missions statement for the conference centers.

If the request to conduct a campaign is approved by the Executive Committee, the campaign, with a goal of at least \$20 million, will begin in March and continue through June 1997. Targeted to a limited number of about 500 donors able to make large gifts, the effort will not seek funds from churches or from personal resources that otherwise would

be given to a local church or the Cooperative Program.

Resources obtained through the campaign would provide for needed repairs, upgrading and construction of new facilities required to serve current and future conference center guests into the 21st century, according to T. Michael Arrington, executive director of corporate affairs for the board.

Glorieta and Ridgecrest have histories as places where people have made life-changing decisions as well as places to receive training for service, said BSSB President James T. Draper Jr.

Draper said that while this will be the first time the BSSB has conducted a fund-raising campaign, the action "does not in any way suggest the board plans to raise funds for every ministry or program."

In other matters, trustees learned of the board's intention to provide help to ministers in crisis, received a first-quarter financial report of \$61.4 million in revenues, \$2.3 million above the same period last year, and elected new officers, effective at the close of the meeting. The new chairman is Nick Garland, a pastor from Broken Arrow, Okla. □

## Kelley nominated as NOBTS president

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Charles S. "Chuck" Kelley Jr., a New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary evangelism professor, has been nominated for president of the seminary.



KELLEY

Trustees will meet Feb. 22-23 to vote on the selection, according to Morris Anderson, chairman of the presidential search committee and pastor of First Church, Pigeon Forge.

Kelley, if elected, would be the eighth president of the 80-year-old seminary.

Kelley, 43, has been director of the seminary's Center of Evangelism and Church Growth, since 1993 as well as the Roland Q. Leavell Professor of Evangelism since 1983.

Kelley earned both his master's and doctorate degrees at NOBTS.

Kelley has written five books and numerous evangelism training materials including "The Roman Road" tract. □

# Mega-churches are exception, not rule, HMB study shows

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Despite a few high-profile exceptions, Southern Baptists are not a denomination of mega-churches, according to a study of church starts by the Home Mission Board.

"Pastors of new churches in urban areas need to understand few churches reach mega-church status," wrote Richie Stanley, director of the HMB planning and services research department.

Researchers analyzed the growth of 7,625 churches, con-

stituted between 1972 and 1990, in relationship to the size of their communities.

The report stated in urban areas of 10,000 to 50,000 residents, churches typically have less than 300 members after 22 years, but show no sign of plateauing.

In urban areas of more than 50,000 residents, churches typically have less than 350 members after 22 years, and demonstrate no leveling of growth, the report stated.

And while HMB researchers have no official definition for a "mega-church," Stanley said of

the 39,571 Southern Baptist churches, only 504 have memberships of 2,500 and above. The median Southern Baptist church has 504 members, he added.

Among the report's other findings: Southern Baptists constitute churches in rural areas disproportionately to the population. While 25 percent of Americans live in rural areas, 39 percent of Southern Baptist churches were started there. Also:

(1) Most new churches are growing churches.

(2) The typical new church

has 65 members its first year.

(3) The typical 20-year-old church has 161 members.

(4) Rural churches typically have 47 members after their first year and plateau at 120 members after 17 years.

(5) In small cities, with populations between 2,500 and 10,000, churches began with 53 members and plateau after 18 years at 170 members.

"Pastors and congregations in rural areas and small cities probably need to temper their expectations for growth beyond the church's 20 year," Stanley wrote. □

# Florida missions board takes stance against 'neo-pentecostalism'

Compiled from BP and ABP reports

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Florida Baptist state board of missions has taken steps to deny credentials to three congregations that have been removed or voluntarily withdrawn from the Alachua Baptist Association on issues of Baptist doctrine and practice.

The action related to the three churches was prompted by the Alachua association's unanimous recommendation that fellowship be withdrawn from Citrus Christian Ministries of Homas-

sassa Springs for teaching doctrinal beliefs in opposition to the Baptist Faith and Message. Two other churches subsequently withdrew from the association — Riverside Christian Fellowship, Hernando, and Main Street Church, Inverness.

During the state board of missions' Jan. 26 meeting, John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention, said the three churches were teaching "neo-pentecostalism." Sullivan cited papers the churches had submitted to the association outlining their

doctrinal beliefs. These teachings included recognition of speaking in tongues as a measure of filling of the Holy Spirit, restoration of the office of the apostles, and the "laughing" revival concept. Sullivan urged the board to stand with the association. "You cannot just believe anything or everything and be Baptist."

The board voted to meet with all three churches before recommending the board refuse to receive Cooperative Program funds. If the May meeting proved the complaint was valid, CP

funds would be returned, the motion stated. The churches also would be denied credentials at the convention's annual meeting.

Pastors of two of the churches (Main Street Church and Riverside Christian Fellowship), however, told Associated Baptist Press that Sullivan did not accurately describe their views. They said leaving the association had more to do with personality conflicts than doctrine and that Florida Baptist leaders made no effort to investigate charges before taking action against them. □

## Tennessee Acteens cited by WMU

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Acteens from 16 states, including Tennessee, have been selected by Woman's Missionary Union, to serve on the 1996 National Acteens Panel and as 1996 Top Teens.

The 26 teenagers were selected from nearly 100 teenaged Acteens members nationwide who applied to serve on the national panel.

Among those selected to serve on the six-member national Acteens Panel was Andrea Aldridge of First Church, Waverly.

Twenty Acteens were named 1996 National Acteens Top Teens. Three were from Tennessee — Heather Hornsby, Parkview Church, Jackson, and Mary Bea Skinner and Megan Talliferro, both of Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville.

"These girls represent the best of what the Acteens organization can help girls become," said Jan Turrentine, design editor of *Accent*, the magazine for Acteens.

Acteens panelists will serve as pages during the SBC annual meeting June 11-13 in New Orleans, La. □

## Francis resigns pastorate at historic Nashville church

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Dan Francis announced his resignation Feb. 11 as pastor of First Church, Nashville.

Francis, who has served as pastor of the 176-year-old congregation for four years, will start a "seeker-targeted" church in East Brentwood.

"Hopefully, it will be a church for people who are not presently in any church or do not even have a relationship with Christ.

"The music will be offered in a contemporary setting and a conscious, creative effort will be given to expression of the

claims of Christ in drama and video presentations," Francis said.

He noted First Church, Nashville, "has allowed me the room to nurture this vision and is now sending and empowering me to see it to completion."

Tad Harris, deacon chairman at First Church, said, "We support Dan Francis in his acceptance of this new call and appreciate the work he has done through the Lord at our

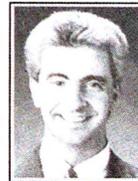
church for the last four years."

Francis will remain at First Church through March 10 before moving full-time into his new ministry in Williamson County.

Harris said the finance committee and deacons at FBC will recommend to the full church that tangible support be shown to Francis by giving him \$16,000 as seed money for his new ministry.

Francis also is seeking support from the Tennessee Baptist Convention and three Baptist churches in Williamson County.

Francis, 43, and his wife, Neva, have two children. □



FRANCIS

## Father, son lead mission effort in Union Association

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

SPARTA — Ralph Benningfield likes to joke that his son, Doug, has wanted to tell him what to do since he was a little boy. Yet, now that he can, Doug rarely does.

Doug Benningfield is pastor of Hickory Valley Church in Sparta, the mother church of a mission congregation where Ralph Benningfield is pastor.

Instances of where a son is pastor of a mission of the church where his dad is pastor are not uncommon. On the other hand, the opposite is quite unusual.

Yet, Doug Benningfield does not "pull rank." He knows he does not have to. After all, he says, "if you can't trust your dad, who can you trust?"

For Ralph Benningfield coming to "work" for his son is a dream come true.

Benningfield, a native of Kentucky, was director of missions for Union Association from 1973-76 before returning to his home state first as a pastor and then for 12 years as director of missions for Little River Association in Cadiz.

Upon retiring in 1993 Benningfield and his wife, Norma,

wanted to return to Sparta to be near their sons, Doug and Mark, who is a deacon at First Church, Sparta.

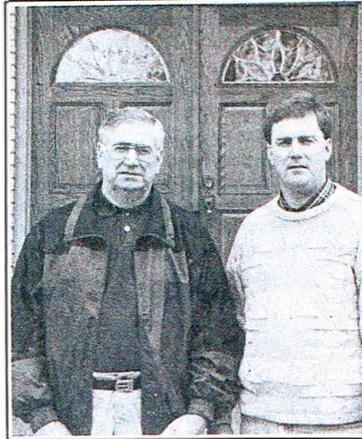
When Union DOM Ray Maynard learned Benningfield was returning to Sparta, he asked him if he would be interested in serving as pastor of Laurel Hill, a mission that began on Easter Sunday of 1992. Maynard, who was instrumental in helping to start the mission along with Hickory Valley, had been serving as interim pastor.

One thing led to another and Benningfield and his wife joined the Laurel Hill congregation in December 1993.

"The mission work has been a spiritual lifesaver for me," said Ralph Benningfield. "To retire and not have a regular place to serve would leave a hole inside that couldn't be filled," he added.

How the mission came into being is a story in itself, the two men noted.

"Ray (Maynard) is special in sensing where a mission is needed and getting it started," Ralph Benningfield said. "He has done a super job in smelling out areas where missions are needed and challenging people to do something



DOUG BENNINGFIELD, right, visits with his dad, Ralph, at Laurel Hill Mission.

about it."

Maynard had a vision for starting a church in the facility left by a Pentecostal congregation which relocated at another site, his son recounted.

The church had put the building and property up for sale and had been asking between \$120,000 and \$130,000 for the land and building.

After some talk with a local realtor Doug Benningfield discovered they could buy the building and property for

\$55,000.

So Hickory Valley, a small rural congregation with an average attendance of between 60-75, agreed to be the sponsoring church.

"We didn't have any debt and we felt like we ought to do something," Doug said.

He noted the congregation moved cautiously at first, but when then realized they could buy the property at such a reasonable price, they knew "it had to be of the Lord," Doug added.

With the assistance of a grant and loan from the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the church bought the facility and property and held work days to get it ready for the new mission.

The step of faith has paid off as Hickory Valley with financial support from the mission completely erased the debt in about three years.

And, slowly but surely the mission has begun to grow. Several families with Baptist

backgrounds have joined the church in recent months, giving the congregation some qualified workers, Ralph Benningfield said.

In addition, the church, located in a resort area between Sparta and Smithville, is beginning to gain a good reputation in the community, the elder Benningfield said. "The word is out we are here to do ministry," he added.

"There is a spirit of oneness here. Visitors feel accepted," Ralph said.

Laurel Hill, though still a mission, is free to conduct its affairs. It sets its own budget and gives 5 percent of its income to the Cooperative Program and 6 percent to Union Association, Ralph said.

"For the people to feel it is their church they need freedom and control. We bought the building to start the congregation, but it is their congregation," Doug said.

Although Hickory Valley granted Laurel Hill the freedom before Ralph came on board, Doug rests easier knowing his dad is there.

"I know we don't have to worry about how things are done (at the mission). Dad has 40-plus years of experience." □

## Tennessee Baptists encouraged to send nominations for boards, committees

Shown at right are the forms which have been developed for Tennessee Baptists to use to make nominations for people to serve on TBC boards or committees.

The forms to the side are smaller replicas of the original forms which are being sent to every Tennessee Baptist church and to directors of missions of all 68 associations in the state.

Individual Tennessee Baptists desiring to recommend persons to a board or committee position should use these forms. Forms may be duplicated. Recommendations for the Committee on Boards and Committees should be mailed no later than March 15 to the address on the forms. Forms can also be faxed to (615) 371-2093. □

RECOMMENDATION FORM		
Convention Committees - Tennessee Baptist Convention		
Nominee's Association _____ West _____ Middle _____ East		
Please use this form to recommend resident members of Tennessee Baptist churches to the <i>Committee on Committees</i> . A separate form should be used for each <i>committee recommendation</i> . Mail all recommendations to Chairman, <i>Committees on Committees</i> , Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. All recommendations will be considered by the <i>Committee on Committees</i> . However, no person submitting a recommendation should assume his recommendation will automatically be submitted to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The deadline for recommendations is March 15.		
I recommend _____ for the _____ committee.		
Choose One Committee on Audit Historical Committee	Committee on Arrangements Committee on Resolutions Committee on Constitution & Bylaws	Committee on Credentials Committee on Boards
Address _____ Telephone (Home) _____		
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ (Business)		
Approximate Age _____ Sex: M _____ F _____ Ordained Minister _____ Lay Person _____		
Church Membership _____ Association _____		
Address _____		
Average Sunday School Attendance: 0-250 _____ 250-500 _____ 500-1000 _____ >1000 _____		
Church Staff Member? Yes _____ No _____ Title _____		
Please respond to the following questions.		
1. Do you have the nominee's permission to submit this recommendation? Yes _____ No _____		
2. List the nominee's present and/or past experiences on any TBC Board(s)/Committee(s) and dates of service		
3. Indicate the amount of the nominee's church's mission gifts given through Tennessee Baptist causes in 1995.		
4. Indicate the nominee's occupation (former occupation, if retired). Please be specific.		
5. Is the nominee willing to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Board/Committee for which he is being recommended?		
6. What gifts, abilities or experience does the nominee possess that qualifies him/her for consideration on a Tennessee Baptist Board/Committee?		
7. Describe the nominee's involvement and activity in his/her local church		
Name _____ Address _____ Phone ( ) _____ Person Submitting Recommendation Area Code		

RECOMMENDATION FORM			
Executive Board/Boards of Trust, Committee on Committees			
Nominee's Association _____ West _____ Middle _____ East			
Please use this form to recommend resident members of Tennessee Baptist churches to the <i>Committee on Boards</i> . A separate form should be used for each <i>committee recommendation</i> . Mail all recommendations to Chairman, <i>Committees on Boards</i> , Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. All recommendations will be considered by the <i>Committee on Boards</i> . However, no person submitting a recommendation should assume his recommendation will automatically be submitted to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The deadline for recommendations is March 15.			
I recommend _____ for the _____ Board/Committee.			
Choose One Belmont University Tennessee Baptist Foundation Baptist Health System, Nashville	Executive Board Union University Baptist Health System, Memphis	Children's Home Carson-Newman College Committee on Committees	Adult Homes Harrison-Chilhowee Acad. Baptist Health System, East Tennessee
Address _____ Telephone (Home) _____			
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ (Business)			
Approximate Age _____ Sex: M _____ F _____ Ordained Minister _____ Lay Person _____			
Church Membership _____ Association _____			
Address _____			
Average Sunday School Attendance: 0-250 _____ 250-500 _____ 500-1000 _____ >1000 _____			
Church Staff Member? Yes _____ No _____ Title _____			
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3. Indicate the amount of the nominee's church's mission gifts given through Tennessee Baptist causes in 1995.			
4. Indicate the nominee's occupation (former occupation, if retired). Please be specific.			
5. Is the nominee willing to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Board/Committee for which he is being recommended?			
6. What gifts, abilities or experience does the nominee possess that qualifies him/her for consideration on a Tennessee Baptist Board/Committee?			
7. Describe the nominee's involvement and activity in his/her local church			
Name _____ Address _____ Phone ( ) _____ Person Submitting Recommendation Area Code			

# 'The outer fringe of his works, the whisper'

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
editor

This is another chapter in our quest for restoring and strengthening family values in America. Subsequently we want to present concrete plans and aids — many of which are provided by Sunday School Board publications, Christian authors, and counselors.

To assist in this venture, we already have asked for 96 new subscribing churches in 1996.

Go to God's Word and look at Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Joseph, David, Elijah, Deborah, and all the others. Add to this list New Testament giants such as Peter, Paul, John, and all the apostles.

*Listen, even these pale when compared to Jesus Christ, God's very own Son. He must be the center, and the foundation of our families and all our plans.*

And his Holy Spirit is who and what we need for a great and real spiritual awakening in our land. For the families.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention is breaking out with Vision 2000, an auspicious and bold plan to reach people and to serve Christ as we move toward the 21st century. The Executive Board staff has equally bold remodeling plans for ser-vanthood. We must be bold in ministry.

*None of this will reach full growth or depth unless our state, our people, are broken spiritually in the manner of II Chronicles 7:14. Here is the oldest and best formula for being and doing all that God has designed for us. Here is the model, the perfect realization of world evangelism. Here we find the foundation for the awakening that can crush Sa-*

tan's opposition just as surely as a glacier smashes a seedling or pebble.

Yes, even the gates of hell will not, cannot, shall not be able to withstand the force of a II Chronicles 7:14 awakening. Revival and repentance must come before we can be totally successful with any plan, no matter how well designed.

Each church can, should, must contribute its best and brightest prayers and thoughts to spiritual awakening.

How? Adult literacy, prison ministry, teaching families how to have daily devotions for parents and children, witnessing to family members, restoring the virtues of parental leadership and children's obedience, developing a sense of values that transcends gutter talk, teaching how to make all decisions based on spiritual values, enhancing stewardship as a lifestyle, developing personal quiet times, establishing a family altar.

We believe God's heart longs for his people to turn back toward family life that blesses a nation, a world. People long for it. What do we need to do? Here are two ideas.

First, we recognize that a weekly newspaper designed for reporting and interpreting news and features, cannot provide all that is needed to spark the fires of awakening. But we can help.

For too long secular media has been allowed to shape family values. Like a trusted family member, media members have pushed their values, or lack of the same, into homes. Most often, these values override Scriptural family values. No doubt media can support family values. Instead, too often this "trusted"

family friend has earned our mistrust.

However, before we get wild-eyed with accusations, we need to remember who holds the key.

Are you ready for the answer? *In most cases, parents hold the key!*

Second, our schools need help. If we continue to berate and demoralize our public schools, heaping criticism and scorn on administrators, board members, and teachers, the schools will never reach our expectations.

We send our children to school and church, often expecting these institutions to transform them into instant angels. And we forget our adult examples.

More suggestions will come, but we can assess these two. We can help media change to family-oriented patterns if we help them to see the need.

And we can do great things for schools if we spend more time in prayer and positive support and less time in hand-wringing, whining, and accusing.

For solutions to both situations, the answer is, *get in there and do something!*

In all of this, we must remember that spiritual awakening will not happen in the blink of an eye. But what a glorious thing we can do in Jesus' name if we submit to his will.

Job talks about God's omnipotence in Job 26:14: *"And these are but the outer fringe of his works; how faint the whisper we hear of him!"* God will provide all we need for the awakening and renewal.

To all Tennessee Baptist churches, including the additional 96 churches subscribing in '96, we are pledged to discovering some of the answers. We must work together and help each other. Doing so, we make a difference. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

## My friend, the library

Robert Frost wrote that good fences make good neighbors. I would say to Robert, good books are friends also, and libraries do their part.

When I first saw the Darlington County Library, and was told that books there were free for the borrowing, I knew I had just received a rare gift.

For a seven-year-old, it was one of life's great blessings.

Our school bus carried pupils of all grades, and we younger ones had an hour's wait until the high school was over. I quickly learned how to use that time. The library!

The county library, a couple of blocks away, became my best friend. I honestly don't remember what my sister Elsie did while I devoured books, but I know she was there as protector and friend.

There in those enticing halls I built lifelong friendships with the boys from *A Green Field for Courage*, *West End Wildcats*, and became acquainted with Walser and his frontier family in *Bears of Blue River*.

And beginning with *Lad, a Dog*, I read all of Terhune's dog books. I found other friends in books about adventuresome twins by Lucy Perkins. Joseph Altsheller's stories of Civil War battles, and Jack London's Alaskan tales.

By fourth or fifth grade I was notorious with the "library ladies" because there was nothing left for me except adult books.

In the summers, those ladies each week put books in a small renovated vehicle which was painted an easily recognized olive drab; we called it the library truck.

They visited isolated farm homes and were always welcome. Sometimes they brought a few new books — and of course they ordered them just for me!

In a line from "Casablanca," Humphrey Bogart says, "I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship." I understand that because the library befriended me. Those were halcyon days.

There have been other libraries, and other books. But, oh those days after school!

Books are good friends, the right books, a stairway to learning and enjoying life. □



ALLEN

## ■ just for today

By Fred Wood  
pastor emeritus  
Eudora Church, Memphis

### Start with a smile

Bill: "Where does Jill get her good looks?" Bob: "From her father, of course." Bill: "Well, he's not so good looking." Bob: "I know that, but he's a plastic surgeon."

### Take this truth

How much genetics play in the development of our bodies still is a question that has not yet been answered. However, one thing is certain. We develop character and achieve our destiny by our moral and spiritual choices. □

### Memorize this Scripture

"Choose today whom you will serve" (Joshua 24:15 Mof-fatt).

### Pray this prayer

"Lord, no one can make my choices for me. Help me to realize that, and to accept personal responsibility for all of them." □

# Ten suggestions for successful diet

Dieting is always popular. Let's look at some good ways to diet.

### 1. Do it for the right reason.

Do it because you are somebody, not in order to become the person you dream about. Come to see yourself as the person of worth for whom Jesus was willing to die.

### 2. Make a determined decision,

a commitment which is so strong that you cannot even consider straying from it. Accept no excuses for not following your plan.

### 3. Accept accountability.

Many try to shift blame for their decision to eat too much. We preachers often excuse our eating the pie because the hostess prepared for us. We blame events (parties, celebrations, etc.) for our inability to stick with our plan.

### 4. Seek support.

Ask your family and friends to help you stay with your program. Those who love and care for us will stand with us in any constructive plan for our lives.

### 5. Chart your choices.

Take a serious look at your

## ■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

food habits over the past couple of weeks. Is there a particular item that you usually cave in to your appetite for food? Do certain situations cause you to lose your determination not to eat? Avoid these.

### 6. Look at labels.

Most people will be surprised how many calories and fat grams they can avoid by simply reading the labels of the food they choose to eat. Substitute a food that will be as satisfying, but which would have less calories or fat grams.

### 7. Burn the calories!

For most people, the problem is not that they eat too much. It is that they exercise too little. Our sedentary life style is the biggest culprit in extra weight.

### 8. Correct your course.

Weigh daily or at least weekly. Some weight loss counselors used to counsel against this. I recently saw a statement on

this that made a great deal of sense. Pilots don't get upset and turn back when their instruments tell them they're off course — they make the corrections, and continue on.

### 9. Visualize victory.

Picture in your mind stepping on the scale to find that you weigh your target weight. See yourself slipping into clothes that are too tight. Run this video through your mind often. When you are faced with a temptation, run the video and remember thin feels better than fat tastes.



BARKLEY

### 10. Set your pace.

Remind yourself this won't be forever, but just today. Remember that the outcome is important. I hate to drive. I have to drive from Memphis to Nashville and Knoxville often. Rather than dread the entire trip, I cut the trip into little sections. You don't have to lose all the weight today. Concentrate on the eating and exercise plan that you need to do today. □

# Plans at Carson-Newman lead into 21st century

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
Baptist and Reflector

*Editor's note: This is another in an ongoing series about Tennessee Baptist Convention institutions and Executive Board departments.*

Baptist colleges around the Southern Baptist Convention probably stay busy answering questions from interested friends and alumni.

The main question may be, "What about the future, plans for the next century?"

Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, is Tennessee Baptists' center of learning in the east. If you put that question to Cordell Maddox, school president for almost 20 years, you will get a straight answer.

"For the next century," Maddox says, "we want Carson-Newman to be a strong, Christian, and viable liberal arts college. We want it to be strong academically, and to serve with integrity."

Then with a twinkle in his eyes he expresses pride in the two highly developed strategic plans that have prepared the school for the 21st century. He adds, "the school will need a stronger endowment. Affordability is the biggest challenge for us."

Carson-Newman began as Mossy Creek in 1851 by a group of East Tennessee Baptists. They were committed to train leaders for churches and society.

Now there are about 2,000 undergraduate students enrolled, along with about 100 graduate students. They come from 37 states and nine foreign countries. Fifty-six percent are women.

The college has a student/faculty ratio of 13 to 1. There are nine varsity sports for men, seven for women.

Organizations for students include student government, publications, theatre, music, departmental clubs, service

clubs, and honor societies.

If you have a couple of hours to listen to Cordell Maddox, he will explain the plans for an endowment campaign, just approved by the convention. He says it will be the college's launching pad for "what we need, coming at the perfect time, for the 21st century."

In 1994, the Tennessee Baptist Convention approved plans for its three institutions of higher education to plan and execute an endowment program. Each of the three schools will be beneficiaries, Carson-Newman College, Belmont University, and Union University.

As Maddox says, with costs rapidly escalating for quality education at quality institutions, a solid endowment is necessary.

"This is a great old school," he says, "and we have a great history and heritage. And we mean to be prepared for a great future."

Maddox believes the endowment program will enable young Tennesseans, and others, to attend the three colleges.

"We have good trustees," he adds, "and our strategic planning gives us a lift for the next century."

"We have tried to develop programs to assist churches, families, pastors, in addition to fulfilling our task to educate students."

Maddox remarks that the college maintains a good relationship with Tennessee Baptists. Noting that the three colleges are strategically located, he points out that Carson-Newman's mission is to serve East Tennessee churches. That relationship remains very strong, and has mutual benefits.

The college ranks high nationally in academics, economically, and faculty excellence.

Not only do students have the opportunity to get an acad-

emically sound education, there is also ongoing emphasis to prepare them for Christian service in business, religious, and community life.

A purpose statement from the administration says:

"Carson-Newman was founded with this purpose: We serve to educate, and we educate to serve."

Underscoring this idea are some "extras."

Evidence of the fulfillment of this purpose is readily ap-

parent. National recognition was given to Carson-Newman by the Templeton Foundation as one of the best colleges in America for instilling values and ethics into its graduates. Because of the school's philosophy, success standards are recognizably different.

The academic program has been listed among the best in the region in the 1995 edition of the America's Best Colleges Guide. And Carson-Newman was commended recently as one of the best colleges in the region for demonstrated commitment to undergraduate teaching.

The school last year was listed as fifth on the list of Best Values in the region. However, it is clear that Carson-Newman does its best to provide an affordable and student-focused educational environment.

Through the years, the college has graduated a great number of students who provide leadership in their communities as teachers, missionaries, counselors, ministers.

President Maddox verifies that the school has an endowment of about \$20 million, and an annual budget of \$28 million. In thinking of

the future, the school will need about \$58 million in endowment.

Most of the campus buildings have been built since 1960. After World War II, there was a movement to put the campus in Morristown, but it failed. The urgent need for buildings overshadowed the long range need for endowment.

This kind of financial pinch always hits hardest among denominational schools.

The school's primary identity is academic and educational, Garner says, but adds, "The graduates go back into the communities and work place as different people, better prepared, we hope, to practice their faith."

He says the professors "try to be reflective counselors" as the large number of students who go on to graduate work choose their seminary. There usually are about 100 students majoring in religion.

One of the main goals of the religion department, Garner says, is to see that "we don't lose this generation, keep them in touch with

**6 The Carson-Newman purpose: We serve to educate, and we educate to serve.**

— Cordell Maddox, president

**Telling the story**

While Carson-Newman offers a thorough, well-founded liberal arts education, there is a strong emphasis on a religious education as well.

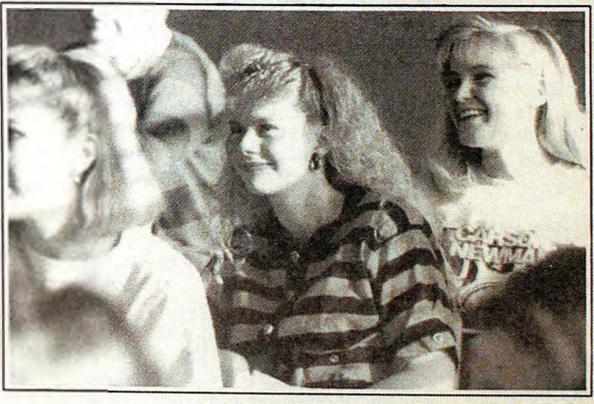
Don Garner, chairman of the department of religion, says, "We tell the students in our department just who we are on the very first day of classes. We let them know we are here to serve the churches by serving the students, putting them back into the pews with an awareness of history and background of the Bible and ministry."

Baptist heritage." And with that in mind, the school is committed to produce strong leaders for churches, in the pews and pulpits. He cites the unique course in Baptist history. And, at Carson-Newman, a student can major in Biblical languages, such as Greek and Hebrew.

Last September, the school registered its highest enrollment, 2,207. Cordell Maddox says the main reason is that schools like C-N stress customer satisfaction, with special attention to each student and quality education. □



INDOOR POOL at Student Activities Center.



# Past is prologue to future

## ... preparing students for Christian citizenship

The strongest part of Carson-Newman's overall program is the campus ministry, President Cordell Maddox believes.

He stressed he was not overlooking an excellent academic emphasis, nor the emphasis on religion or any other curriculum or program.

"The depth of what we try to do for students outside the classroom, in a Christian sense, is at the heart of our purpose," he says.

The college also serves Tennessee Baptists in unique ways by stretching into churches and communities to help meet special needs.

A few of the programs and other major interests:

**Norton Institute for Denominational Service:** An off campus program designed to provide training for vocational or bi-vocational ministers, church staff members, persons who have interest in ministry.

**An Associate of Arts Degree in Christian Ministries.**

**Professional programs:** engineering, medical technology, pharmacy, physician assistant.

**Pre-professional transfer:** dentistry, law, health information management, medicine, veterinary medicine, optometry, physical therapy.

**Undergraduate degrees:** Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

**Masters Degrees:** Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Arts in Teaching English as a Second Language, Master of Education, Master

of Education in School Counseling PreK-12.

**Major studies:** Offered in 48 areas.

**Library:** Equipped with almost 200,000 volumes.

**Christian service:** Each year approximately 550-600 students are involved in missions activities. Very active Baptist Student Union on campus.

**Summer programs and activities:** Brings several thousand adults and teens to the campus, including several hundred for the BSSB Centrifuge annually.

**East Tennessee Preachers' School:** Now in 66th year.

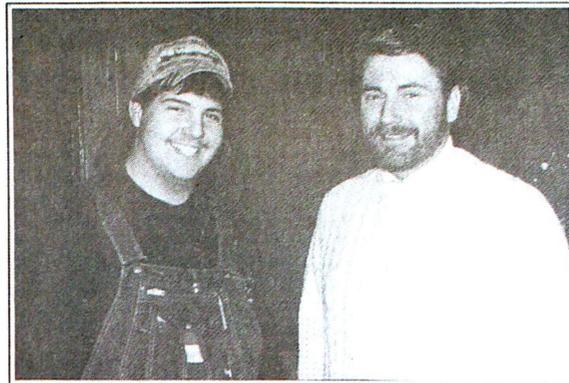
**Campus intramurals:** Program ranks in top three among seniors in satisfaction gained for 35 different activities.

**Laboratory for Learning:** Under Pugh Foundation, provides activities to bring class actions to bear outside classroom, and to build community. Won regional award.

**Samaritan House:** Near to campus, provides shelter for homeless families where they can stay together for 45 days while in job and housing search, etc.

**Appalachian Outreach:** For 11 years has provided poverty assistance with clothing and other needs.

Through BSU ministry. □

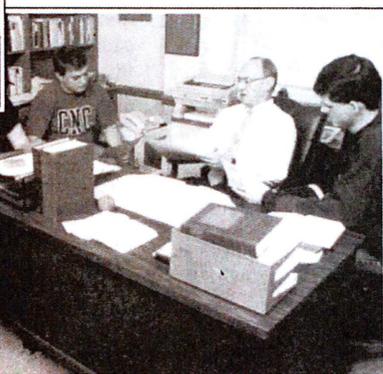


STEVE FRY, right, director of Samaritan House, a program for homeless families, and John Kiser, sophomore. Kiser is resident manager of the house.

### Honor Tennessee Baptist schools

February 18 is recognized in the Southern Baptist Convention as Baptist Seminaries, Colleges, and Schools Day. Tennessee Baptists honor Union University, Belmont University, Carson-Newman College, and Harrison-Chilhowee academy.

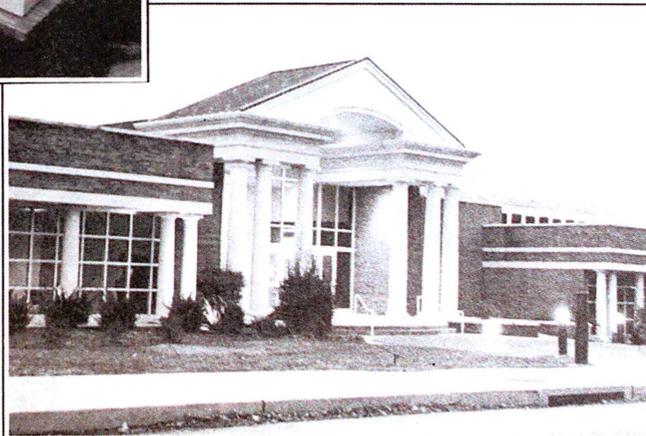
Many Tennessee Baptist churches will salute these schools on their special day. □



▼ STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER, a state-of-the-art facility.



◀ PRESIDENT CORDELL MADDOX



## Two missionaries named to roles

For Baptist and Reflector

**BRENTWOOD** — Ray Woodall has been named director of missions of Judson Association and Malcolm A. Jones as interim director of missions of Bradley County Association.

Woodall succeeds Jerry Reynolds and Jones follows Raleigh Brady, who retired.

Woodall was named Jan. 20. He is a former United States Army chaplain, who served 25 years in that role and almost 30 years in the Army, retiring in 1991 with a rank of Lt. Col. He served in 1968 in Vietnam during the war. He also served



JONES



WOODALL

in Korea and Germany.

The native of Mississippi served for 10 years as a pastor in Mississippi and Louisiana before entering military service. He lives in Dickson.

Malcolm Jones was named to the interim role in Bradley County Association Feb. 1. He

has served as pastor of Lee-burg Church, Leeburg, Miss.; Richland Church, Florence, Miss.; Gulf Gardens Church, Gulfport, Miss.; First Church, Houston, Miss.; Monaghan Church, Greenville, S.C.; Shel-bourne Church, Baltimore Md.; Viers Mill Church, Silver Springs, Md.; and Colonial Church, Baltimore, Md.

Jones also served as direc-tor of missions for Western Connecticut Association for seven years.

He is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theologi-cal Seminary. □



**West Jackson Church leaders break ground**

Breaking ground Jan. 28 for construction at the church's new site are, from left, Kenneth Leathers, Patrick Carrington, Dexter Tankersley, Harvey Lee Curlin, Joyce Barefoot, James C. (Pete) Wilson, and Jerry N. Tidwell, pastor. The new site is 50 acres and is debt-free. The new facility will cost \$8.4 million and include a 1,600-seat sanctuary which will be expanded to 2,000 in the second phase of building. Other space in the new facility will house educational space, a gym/fellowship hall, music suite, and administration area.

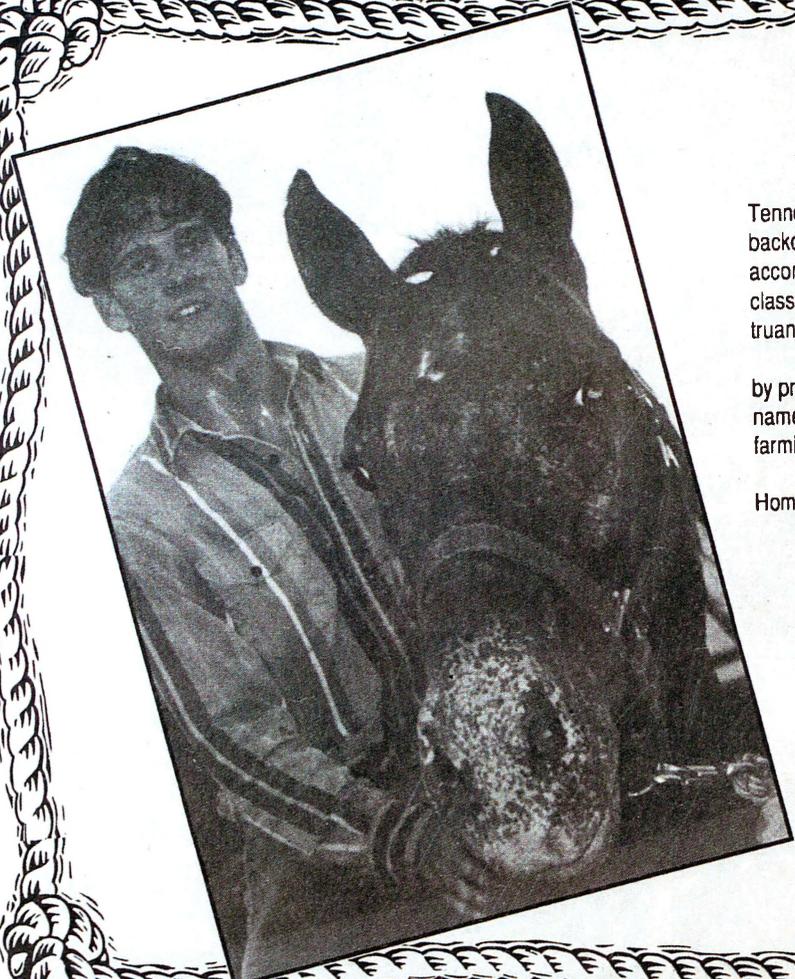
## Career Day for youth, adults, set at Union March 23

For Baptist and Reflector

**BRENTWOOD** — The Tennessee Baptist Convention; Union University, Jackson; and Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; are sponsoring a Career Day for youth and adults March 23 at Union's campus.

A Vocational Guidance Test, which regis-trants will receive, will be interpreted at the

conference. Personnel include Donna Gandy of the BSSB, Pat Hood, minister of youth, First Church, Smyrna; Ramona Mercer, retired mis-sionary to Japan; Leonard Markham, pastor, Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville; and Chuck Maxwell, minister of music, Northbrook Church, Jackson. For more information, contact the TBC Discipleship Training office at (615) 371-2053. Deadline for reservations is March 15. □



## BB Double B Boys Ranch

Opened in 1988, the Double B Boys Ranch is a ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes with a country setting as it's backdrop. The beautiful 224-acre farm in northwest Shelby County accommodates 24 boys who been removed from their homes and classified as status offenders. These young men have become truant, unruly or broken the law as juveniles.

The program is designed to build strong, Christian character by providing spiritual, emotional, physical, and social healing in the name of Jesus. It is an activity packed lifestyle of ranching and farming that is balanced with adventure and love.

For more information contact the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes at 1-800-624-8591.

**Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc.**  
P. O. Box 728 • 5001 Maryland Way (37027)  
Brentwood, TN 37024 • 1-800-624-8591  
Dr. Gerald L. Stow, pres./treas.



## ■ the associations

■ **Lawrence County Association** will hold a Missions Volunteers Banquet Feb. 23 at Leoma Church, Leoma. Dinner will be provided. The association also has scheduled a Spiritual Awakening Conference March 22-23 at Deerfield Church, Lawrenceburg.

■ **Haywood Association** is holding a World Missions Conference Feb. 17-19. The conference will be preceded by a Missions Fair Feb. 17 at Holly Grove Church, Bells hosted by the Woman's Missionary Union. Additionally, the association has an Evangelism Rally and training scheduled for March 6 at Brownsville Church, Brownsville. Richard Harris of the Home Mission Board will speak.

■ **Sweetwater Association** is hosting an area-wide Youth Crusade Feb. 15 at Bethlehem Church, Madisonville. Chad Sparks, Scott Dawson, and Doug Hopper will speak.

■ **Big Emory Association** will hold an Evangelism Conference March 3 at South Harriman Church, Harriman. Bailey E. Smith will speak. The Baddour Miracle Choir of Baddour Memorial Center, Senatobia, Miss., will sing.

## ■ the churches

■ For the third year **Cumberland Drive Church**, Clarksville, will hold an Easter Marketplace walk-through portraying the life of Jesus. Last year over 700 people visited the event. It will be March 30-31 from 1-5 p.m. each day. For more information call the church at (615) 647-9699.

■ **First Church, Michie**, will hold revival Feb. 19-23. Kara Blackard, pastor, Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, Miss., will speak.

■ **Royce Church, Oak Ridge**, broke ground Jan. 21 for a new church building.

■ **The Acteens of Calvary Church, Kingsport**, will offer "Kiss-o-grams" to support the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. What is delivered is a chocolate candy in exchange for gifts to the offering.

■ **Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville**, will hold revival March 17-20. David Hull, pastor, First Church, Knoxville, will speak.

■ **First Church, Lawrenceburg**, began using its new Christian Life Center Jan. 21.

## ■ the people

■ **First Church, Woodbury**, ordained Douglas Jennings as a deacon Feb. 4.

■ **Wynsburg Church, Wynnburg**, ordained **Jamie Deason** to the ministry Jan. 7.

■ **Merton Avenue Church, Memphis**, honored **Marilyn Fitch Taylor** for serving nearly 30 years as pianist at the church. She retired Dec. 31.

■ **Calvary Church, Crossville**, has ordained **Mike Reagan** to the ministry. He has been called as interim pastor of Mayland Church, Crossville.

## ■ death

■ **Lewis D. Ferrell**, 81, retired pastor, Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, Miss., died Jan. 21 in Memphis. He

was pastor of Whitehaven Church, Memphis, from 1959-79, and other churches in Texas, Kentucky, and Arkansas. He was elected vice president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Ferrell was a chaplain during World War II earning the rank of major. He served as a board member of the Brotherhood Commission, Memphis; Union University, Jackson; Southern (now Williams) Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark.; Bethel Baptist College in Kentucky; and Tennessee Baptist Children Homes, Inc., Brentwood. Ferrell was a graduate of Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour; Union University; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He also studied at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., and Oxford and Manchester universities in England.

## ■ the leaders

■ **Short Creek Church** in Athens has called **DeWayne Howard** as pastor. He is the former pastor of Pond Grove Church in Rockwood.

■ Three members of **Central Church, Johnson City**, are planning missions work. **Marc Aiken** will do health care work in Adjud, Romania, and **George and Mary Karnes** will do dental work north of Monterrey, Mexico.

■ **First Church, LaFollette**, has called **Carroll Golden** as pastor.

■ The 50th anniversary of service of **L. D. Kennedy**, pastor emeritus of Macedonia Church, Ripley, will be celebrated March 3 from 2-4 p.m. at the church. Kennedy also is associate professor emeritus of



**PRESENTING A GIFT** during the Jan. 21 opening of the Family Life Center of First Church, Huntingdon, is Fred Ward, pastor, to Carlene Kelley, left, and Ad Hilliard, co-chairmen of the building committee. The center includes a basketball court, kitchen, classrooms, indoor walking track, conference room, and offices. The building program was begun in 1994.

Campbellsville College, Campbellsville, Ky., where he taught for 22 years. He has served in Brazil, Mexico, and Israel. Kennedy is a graduate of Union University, Jackson; Memphis State University, Memphis; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **First Church, Martin**, has called **Ken Bush** as minister of education and administration.

■ **David Phillips** has been called as interim pastor of First Church, Crump.

■ **Center Hill Church, Coonce**, has called **Lauren Locke** as interim pastor.

■ **First Church, Jefferson City**, has called **Joyce Funk** as interim director, preschool and children's ministries.

■ **Dripping Springs Church, Seymour**, has called **Joe Shamblin** as pastor.

■ **Millican Grove Church, Sevierville**, called **Dallas Moore**, as pastor, effective Jan. 21. He was former pastor of Gists Creek Church,

Sevierville.

■ **B. Douglas Turner** of First Church, Pinetop, Ariz., has been called as pastor of Fairfield Glade Church, Fairfield Glade, effective March 1.

■ **Emmanuel Church, Crossville**, has called **Thomas Farmer** as pastor.

■ **Marty Lively**, minister of youth at Beaver Dam Church, Knoxville, was called as minister to students at Bay-side Church, Harrison, effective Jan. 3. He has served on the staff of churches in Alabama, Texas, and Tennessee. Lively is a graduate of Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Ala., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **Jo Allison and Mary Lu Smith** of Brook Hollow Church, Nashville, worked Feb. 2-16 in St. Vincent, West Indies, on a medical/education team.

■ **Summertown Church, Summertown**, has called **Wayne Godsey**, pastor, Memorial Church, Livingston, as pastor, effective Feb. 18.

# Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

## Helping student from Uganda

By Randy C. Davis, pastor  
First Church, Morristown

Susan Kitakufe is a Ugandan student attending Walters State Community College. Another church in our area paid the expenses for Susan to come to the United States. Spring Weaver, a First Baptist member, is providing room and board for Susan while she gains her education here in the states.

The problem has been that Susan has no sponsor for her education. In addition to being a Christian educator, she is a very intelligent young lady who plans to go back to Uganda and begin an orphanage. If Susan could not have found a sponsor, then she would have been deported by the end of this month.

She needed \$2,000 to pay for this semester at Walters State College.

At the end of the service I shared with you her need. As she stood at the altar, you came by and placed almost \$4,000 in her hands.

Our church has sent a check to Walters State. The amount you graciously and spontaneously gave will nearly pay for Susan's first year in college. I am so very thankful to be pastor of a generous, visionary, obedient fellowship. □

## Doves in a violent society

By Calvin S. Metcalf, pastor  
Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville

In many ways we live in a violent society. We never know when some innocent, peaceful place will be invaded by

drug-crazed folk or ruthless thieves. Last week it was the business in Far-ragut. Before that it was a pizza place and the burning of the inner city church. We never know where it will happen next or who will be the victims of some unnecessary horror.

Since we are all potential candidates for some kind of violence, we all need to do our part to discourage it. As church people we need to use our personal influence to eliminate violence as a form of entertainment. We must educate ourselves and our children that we live in a dangerous environment where we need to be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

We need to learn and re-learn that our hope for eternal life as well as a peaceful earthly life is in Jesus Christ. Whatever skills we have in promoting peace let us share with the people we

love and with whom we live and work.

No single person can solve the problem alone. But all of us together can be salt for our tasteless society and light where the darkness of evil prevails. Let us never underestimate the Christian witness wherever and whenever we can say a good word and do a good deed. The power of our prayers comes from working with other decent folk to help build a more decent community. □

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

# Haywood Baptist volunteers spread Gospel among Filipinos

By Charles Pratt  
For Baptist and Reflector

BROWNSVILLE — Eleven missions volunteers from Haywood Association have returned home from serving with 15 churches in Eastern Pangasinan Baptist Association in the Philippines during the last two weeks of January.

The team, led by Director of Missions Charles Pratt, reported 2,602 professions of faith, plus 245 other decisions for a total of more than 2,800. This was the sixth mission team from Haywood that has served

in the Philippines since 1989 when the country was in a foreign missions partnership with Tennessee.

Two team members worked with Filipino Baptists to construct a church in the town of Urdaneta with a population of over 120,000. It is only the second Baptist church in the town. The construction team also spoke in churches on Sundays and at crusades during the week. It was the seventh building Haywood Baptists have constructed in the last seven years.

"The people at Grace Baptist Church in Urdaneta had been praying for three years that the Lord would give them a building," said team member Jerry Foster of Zion Church, Brownsville. "The Lord allowed our team to be the answer to their prayers," he said.

Other team members led in church services and crusades. Church services were always packed with people. Several team members spoke in high schools and other locations where the people had never seen an American in person.

"I am impressed with the openness of the people to the Gospel and the dedication of the believers was very inspiring," said Ken Culver, pastor of Calvary Church, Brownsville.

Mark Conway, pastor of Zion Church, defined the people as "the most gracious people that I have ever worked with and they possess a deep thirst and hunger for the Word of God."

Second-time team member Allen Watts of Brownsville Church, reported "the first trip was great, but I was more effective this time and could interact better." Watts worked with fellow church member

John Hayes, a medical doctor, who observed the trip "has caused me to re-evaluate my priorities."

Jason Pratt, a student at Union University and member of Holly Grove Church near Bells, said the trip "was an eye-opening experience to see how the people live and how open they are to the Gospel."

Other team members included David Garland and Bill Presley, Brownsville Church; Randy Crews, First Church, Rutherford; and Thomas Odle of Fowikes Church, near Dyersburg. □

## ESL workshops to be held in March

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Two workshops for people interested in training to teach English as a Second Language will be held across the state in March.

Workshop participants will learn to organize a conversational English ministry, test students for placement, prepare a lesson plan and teach lessons on four levels, help students with pronunciation (accent reduction), and witness to internationals.

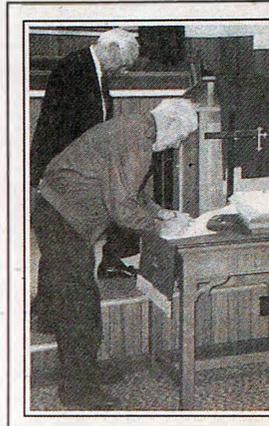
Enrollment is limited to 19

persons per workshop and participants are required to attend all sessions to receive certification.

The first workshop will be held at the Baptist Center in Brentwood on March 9 and 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nancy Stephens and Judy Dalton, literacy mission associates of the Home Mission Board will be the leaders. Cost of the workshop is \$20 and fee covers registration materials. Deadline for registration is Feb. 23. To make reservations, call Gail

Parrish in the TBC Missions Department at (615) 371-2031.

Another workshop is set for March 22-24 at the Nolachucky Association office in Morristown. Times are Friday, 6-10 p.m.; Saturday, 8-5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-6 p.m. Caroline Kirschner is workshop leader. Registration fee is \$24 and covers materials and food. Deadline for registration for this workshop is March 8. To make reservations, call Carroll Webb at (423) 691-0858. □



### Managing trust

Tennessee Baptist Foundation President W.L. "Bo" Childs, left, watches as Trustee Irvin McMahan of Battle Creek Church, Springfield, signs papers placing \$290,000 in trust with the Foundation. The Foundation will manage the money left to the 150-year-old church from the estate of McMahan's brother and sister-in-law, Effie and W.C. McMahan. The church received an additional \$100,000 they are investing in a local bank. The church will use the interest income as a mission tool.

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**Life and Work Series  
for February 18  
Focal Passage: Matthew  
6:1-8, 16-18**

## Motives are important

By Charles Parker

Someone said that a person can do right, right; or right, wrong. Or he can do wrong, right; or wrong, wrong. Motives are a complex matter. Jesus speaks clearly about doing right things we do from right motives and not for show. Jesus says that Christians are to carry out their acts of religious devotion based on right motives.

### A warning against wrong motives — v. 1

In Matthew 5:20 Jesus declares that the disciples' righteousness must exceed that of the most religious people of his day. An example of exceeding their style of righteousness is doing "alms" for the right motives. Religious souls may be phonies, but there is a better way.

The best Greek manuscripts use two different words for "alms" in verses 1 and 2. In verse 1 it is the word "righteousness," or "conduct in keeping the will of God" (Robert Guelich). In verse 2 it refers to acts of mercy or giving.

From the first a person must understand that rewards are given only once by the Father. Those who do good deeds only because they want other people to approve will only receive others' approval or rewards. They have already cashed in; they will receive nothing from God.

### Motives for giving — vv. 2-4

Giving to the poor was expected to be a standard part of Jewish conduct (see Deuteronomy 15:11; Proverbs 31:20). Building on Jewish foundations, the early Christians had extensive benevolent ministries (Acts 6:1; 9:36; Ephesians 4:28; James 2:14-17; I John 3:17).

Jesus tells his audience not to make a loud fanfare about charitable giving. There are recorded instances of a rich man buying up the water seller's supplies and sounding a trumpet to announce his gift of the water to the poor. Such a hypocrite receives only human rewards. The Greek root of "hypocrite" described an actor who would wear a different mask for each role.

Jesus says his disciples are to give without any thought of recognition. This is grace in action.

### Motives for praying — vv. 5-8

Do we pray to have fellowship with God or to impress other people? Perhaps the temptation for the righteous Jew was greater than for them than it is for us today. In Western society public prayer is rare. Jewish society in Jesus' day was much like Moslem society today, with regular hours of prayer when everyone was supposed to stop everything else and pray out loud. The key issue is motive. For example, why do we pray the blessing in a restaurant?

Jesus offers private prayer as a corrective to any false motives. He condemns praying so others can see us, not praying in front of others. But always remember that only God can answer our prayers, not people.

### Motives for fasting — vv. 16-18

With many Christians today re-discovering the ancient discipline of fasting, these words acquire new freshness. While Leviticus 16:29 commanded a fast only one day per year, by Jesus' time most pious Jews were fasting at least twice a week. If the focus is on people instead of on God, the one fasting is out of focus and might as well give it up. Motive is the key.

So — on with the show — but remember that God is the audience, not the people around us! □ — Charles Parker is pastor of First Church, Jacksboro.

## The loyalty of Ruth

By Kim Allen

The book of Ruth is a love story; the love between Ruth and Naomi and the love between Ruth and Boaz. We need to learn from this letter the expressions of love and loyalty between Ruth and Naomi. Ruth is a Moabite, not an Israelite, so the challenge is to include the Gentiles not to exclude them.

### In Moab — vv. 1-18

Sojourning in Moab (vv. 1-12) — This book is set in the time of the judges and we find a story of one family from Bethlehem in Judah. A famine forced Elimelech to "sojourn" with his family in Moab. Moab was just on the other side of the Dead Sea. Originally descended from Lot, they now worshiped idols not the God of Abraham.

Tragedy strikes (vv. 3-5) — During this time, a woman's only support and status depended on her father as a young woman, then her husband and if he died, her sons were to take care of her. This is Naomi's situation and the fact her two sons had married gave the promise of grandsons to continue her care, but both her sons died in a short time.

Naomi's love for her daughters-in-law (vv. 6-13) — Naomi, after her loss, headed home upon hearing the famine was ended in Judah. Orpha and Ruth were with her, but probably at the border she stopped and instructed them to return to their homes. Verse nine now makes it clear why she did this: they were young enough to remarry and find security in the house of a husband. In verse eight she tells them to return to their "mother's house."

Naomi prayed for the Lord God to "deal kindly" with them as she told them to go, showing their mutual love to each other. Both Orpha and Ruth rejected her advice to return home; both said they would return with her to

**Convention Uniform Series  
for February 11  
Focal Passages:  
Ruth 1:1-8, 16-18**

her people.

Verses 11-13 give a description of levirate marriages. A man was expected to marry his brother's widow if she was childless so that his name might continue. Naomi, knowing that she was

too old to remarry and have children (sons), knew also that Orpha and Ruth were too old to wait for other sons of Naomi to grow up.

Different choices (vv. 14-18) — In verses 14 and 15 we see them crying and Orpha returning to her home and Ruth clinging to Naomi.

Verses 16 and 17 are the most famous verses in the book. No other words could express the love, loyalty, and commitment of one person to another. Ruth knew in her heart she would be better off in her own country for remarrying but she felt Naomi would need her help. Ruth displayed the kind of unselfishness that marks true love.

Ruth very clearly offers, in this writer's opinion, her confession of faith in the Lord God of Israel. In her vow she uses the personal name of the Lord of Hebrews. When she declared her intention to go with Naomi, she showed her determination to serve Naomi's God.

### Return to Bethlehem — vv. 19-22

Naomi's bitterness (vv. 19-22) — In verses 19-21, Naomi and Ruth return to Bethlehem where she is recognized and she asked people to change her name from Naomi which means "pleasant" to "Mara" which means "bitter." She felt she had left full but returned empty because the Lord had afflicted her.

Glimmer of a new beginning (v. 22) — By returning at the beginning of the barley harvest there is hope for better days ahead. □ — Kim Allen is pastor of Little West Fork Church, Clarksville.

## Qualifications for church leaders

By Phil Lovelace

Though the church is an organism, a living and growing body united to Christ, the church is also an organization. In fact, every organism has to be organized or it would destroy itself! To do its task effectively, the church must have leadership, and this implies organization.

### The New Testament pastor — ch. 3:1-7

The terms pastor, elder, and bishop refer to the same office. See Acts 20:17 and 28, and Titus 1:5 and 7. Elder is a translation of the Greek word presbuteros, and simply means an older, mature person. The Jewish elders (Luke 22:66) were the leading adult men, recognized for their maturity. In the early church, pastors were chosen from mature men of the fellowship. Philippians 1:1 gives the make up of the New Testament church: saints, bishops, deacons, etc.

### His personal qualifications — vv. 2-3

"Blameless" does not mean sinless rather it means "without reproach." Literally, the word means "that cannot be laid hold of"; that is, there is nothing in his life that the enemy can lay hold of to hinder the work or ruin the witness. Since moral laxness was a serious problem in those days, the pastor was required to have but one wife; that is, there must be no question as to his marriage standards. "Vigilant" means "temperate," referring to sober judgment and action. "Sober" indicates seriousness of purpose and self-control. "Good behavior" should be translated "orderly"; it suggests a well-ordered

**Bible Book Series for February 18  
Focal Passage: I Timothy 3:1-13;  
4:12-16**

life and testimony. He should be a real gentleman! While total abstinence is not explicitly taught in the Bible, modern problems demand that the church take a stand against alcohol in any form. This was not the case in New Testament days, but it was emphasized that the pastor not be an excessive drinker. The pastor must not be money-hungry; he must have patience toward the sheep; he must not be contentious and he puts Christ and the church first.

### His family qualification — vv. 4-5

The pastor should be the head of the household, and he should have his children under control. They will respect the Lord and their parents.

### His church qualifications — vv. 6-7

He must not be a new convert. It is dangerous to trust new converts into Christian service. He must have good testimony even among the unsaved, lest a bad reputation tear down the witness of the church.

### The New Testament deacon — vv. 8-13

God has equally important standards for the deacon, for he is to work with the pastor in guiding the affairs of the church. "Grave" means "held in high respect." A "double-tongued" person is a tale-bearer, a gossip. Church officers must be men of their word. They should be men of clean conscience, living what they profess.

Some translate verse 11 as "deaconesses"; but the word is simply "wives." Note that pastors and deacons are to be proved before given the office, that is, allowed to exercise their gifts in other ways. Church officers who are faithful will acquire a good standing (degree) before God and men, and thus are able to further the work of Christ.

### The Godly growing minister — ch. 4:12-16

Practicing the Word — The Christian, and especially the pastor, must practice the Word of God and be known for godliness (godlikeness). This may mean carrying burdens and bearing suffering.

Progressing the Word — "That thy profiting (progress, advancement spiritually) may appeal to all" is the goal Paul sets in verse 15. A growing pastor means a growing church.

Paul expected Timothy to build his church on the Bible — to preach it, teach it, and practice it. The Bible is to be his own personal food and guide, as well as the food for the church. A pastor must have opportunity to study and pray. Pray for him daily. Pay attention when he preaches. Church members should provide the means needed to build the work of the church. This means faithful stewardship, bringing tithes and offerings to the Lord's house on the Lord's Day. □ — Phil Lovelace is pastor of First Church, Somerville.

**Zambia promises work permits for FMB missionaries**  
Baptist Press

LUSAKA, Zambia — Zambia has promised to provide long-sought work permits for Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries who have decided to help a new breakaway group of Baptists there.

Immigration workers for the southern African nation had withheld permits at the direction of the Baptist Convention of Zambia since 1993. Since then some missionaries have transferred to other countries or resigned, while others are reapplying every 30 days to stay in the country.

But during a Feb. 2 meeting in Lusaka, the country's chief immigration officer promised to renew permits that expired in February for two missionaries. The meeting included the executive secretary of the newly formed Baptist Fellowship of Zambia, which registered with the government in December and in January asked missionaries to help its member churches spread the Gospel. □

**HMB appoints first missionaries affiliated with foreign agency**  
Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — A Brazilian couple working among Portuguese-speaking people in New York City are the first home missionaries jointly appointed by the Home Mission Board and Baptists in another country.

Sebastian and Ieda Baptista were appointed Feb. 6 by the HMB executive committee. They also served with the Brazilian Baptist Convention's

World Mission Board. They are financially supported by Brazil's WMB, the HMB, and the Baptist convention of New York.

Joint appointments will help Southern Baptists reach more of the ethnic community in the United States, said Russell Begaye, HMB director of language church starting. Southern Baptists have yet to reach 3 percent of any ethnic group in the nation, he said. □

**Retired missionary nurse dies at age 93**  
Baptist Press

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — Eva Mildred Sanders, a retired Southern Baptist missionary nurse who was honored by the British government during her 37 years in Nigeria, died Jan. 28 in Newport News. She was 93.



SANDERS

Sanders, who started the Baptist Welfare Center and its midwifery school in Ire, Nigeria, delivered more than 14,000 babies during her career. The center specialized in maternity cases and child health and was sometimes referred to as "the baby factory."

In 1954 England's Queen Elizabeth noted her contribution to Nigeria, then a British protectorate, by naming her an honorary member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. □

**Radio report falsely accuses missionary**  
Baptist Press

NAIROBI, KENYA — Radio reports broadcast across Tanzania have falsely accused

Southern Baptist missionary doctor Bill Harrington of fleeing Tanzania with money embezzled from a government hospital in Kigoma.

Tanzanian authorities do not appear to take the charges seriously, and Harrington is not worried about arrest or imprisonment. However, he is concerned about possible damage to the Baptist witness in Kigoma and the impact on his family. His wife and daughter were kidnapped, robbed, drugged, and abandoned — and miraculously rescued — in the Tanzanian outback just this past August.

Harrington of Richmond, Va., has faced a constant barrage of difficulties while he has been working to reopen the former government hospital at Kigoma. Most recently, two disgruntled former employees filed labor grievances against him. "We've been in a situation of spiritual warfare for several months, since the kidnapping in August," Harrington said.

"We've got the intention of opening a hospital that will serve people spiritually and physically, and there are forces working against us at every turn that are preventing it." □

**Floyd to be nominated to lead pastors' group**  
Baptist Press

EULESS, Texas — Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, Ark., will be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, which meets June 9-10 in New Orleans prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Claude Thomas, pastor of First Church, Eules, Texas, announced Jan. 25 he will nominate Floyd, who is also chairman of the SBC Executive Committee. □

**One-fifth of new churches lost to SBC within 14 years**  
Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — One-fifth of all Southern Baptist church starts are gone from the convention's records before their 14th birthday, according to a study by the Home Mission Board's research division.

The study, designed to learn more about the early stages of church life cycles, discovered the first seven years are the most critical period for losing churches through disbanding, reverting to mission status, merging with another congregation, or breaking away from the convention.

Researchers analyzed the records of 7,625 churches constituted between 1972 and 1990. An average 359 churches were constituted annually, reported Richie Stanley, director of the HMB planning and services research department.

Of those studied, 16 percent were gone from the SBC roll by 1993. Of churches 14 years and older in that group, 20 percent were gone, Stanley wrote in the study.

HMB vice president Charles Chaney noted Southern Baptists are not very different from most Christian denominations, which lose 0.8 percent of existing churches annually. □

**Southern names two new vice presidents**  
Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Daniel L. Akin has been named vice president for academic administration and dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, effective June 1.

Seminary President R. Al-

bert Mohler Jr. announced his appointment of Akin, a professor and administrator at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary during a Feb. 6 chapel service.

At the same time, Mohler said Douglas C. Walker III, the seminary's dean of students and vice president for student services since 1993, will become the school's vice president for institutional advancement effective immediately.

Akin has been dean of students and associate professor of theology at Southeastern since 1992. He previously taught at Criswell College in Dallas from 1986-92. At Southern Akin will oversee the seminary's entire academic program and give direct leadership to the school of theology, the largest and oldest of Southern's five graduate schools. □

**Wake Forest to launch divinity school by 2000**  
Associated Baptist Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Wake Forest University will open its planned divinity school within four years, officials announced Feb. 2.

The divinity school will open no later than the fall of 2000 and is expected to open with 45 students, said Wake Forest President Thomas E. Hearn. □

**Retired missionary dies**  
Baptist Press

CHERRY GROVE, Ore. — Mildred E. Lovegren, a retired Foreign Mission Board missionary who worked in ministry to the Chinese for 41 years, died Feb. 6.

Lovegren, 76, served one term in China before the communist revolution. The balance of her career was spent in Hong Kong and Macao. □

**Law professor warns of IRS action for church political activity**

By Charles Willis  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — While churches and religious leaders have been involved in political issues for hundreds of years, such involvement in 1996 could jeopardize a church's tax-exempt status if U.S. Internal Revenue Service guidelines are ignored.

Bill Townsend, assistant dean at the Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson, acknowledged during a Jan. 29-31 legal issues seminar at the Baptist Sunday School Board that societal issues compel Christians to be involved in political processes. But, he told pastors and church staff persons, to protect the church's federal tax-exempt status, "do not use tax-exempt funds to lobby

or to conduct a political campaign."

Two prohibitions from IRS apply to church status, he continued: "Absolutely no involvement in political campaigns and no substantial involvement in legislative lobbying."

Southern Baptist polity plays a significant role in whether one speaks for a church or for themselves as a private citizen, he observed, in contrast to denominations with a hierarchy. Using church stationery to send a letter of political endorsement, for example, violates both denominational polity and IRS codes.

In general, lobbying includes any effort to influence legislation by attempting to affect the opinions of the general public or any segment of the public, or communications with members to di-

rectly encourage them to lobby or to encourage them to encourage others to lobby.

Flagrant violations are most likely to attract the unfavorable attention of the IRS, he said, in contrast to a church staff person who writes an occasional letter about a political issue.

In the matter of campaigning prohibitions, tax-exempt organizations have "an absolute bar" against their participation or intervention in a campaign for or against any candidate for any public office, Townsend said.

"You can do everything possible to divorce yourself from an organization in making a political statement, but everyone knows who you are and what you do," he said, and "sometimes issues are closely linked with candidates."

Voter report cards, sometimes distributed to church members, can be clearly designed to move persons toward a candidate or group of candidates. To avoid problems with such material, he suggested, list all the candidates, include a range of issues and evaluate whether the cards are directed toward the general public rather than only to church members.

Individuals, he said, are free to fully participate in campaigning and lobbying. Churches may encourage members to participate as citizens in the political and legislative process.

"The rules are in place and should be carefully considered before committing one's church to a path that could jeopardize its exemption," Townsend concluded. □