

# Baptist and Reflector

February 21, 1996

VOL. 162 ■ NO. 8

STATEWIDE EDITION

■ *this week's news*

*global* —

■ Injured missionary Wade Watts transported to Memphis. — Page 3

*national* —

■ True Love Waits goes 'thru the roof' of Georgia Dome. — Page 3

■ More than 39,000 ministers attend Promise Keepers clergy meeting. — Page 3

■ Week of Prayer for Home Missions begins March 3. — Page 6

*state* —

■ Leading churches listed in areas of CP giving, baptisms. — Page 4

■ Tennessee native Maurice Graham plans visit to Kuwait. — Page 7

## Brotherhood, baptisms lead 1995 increases

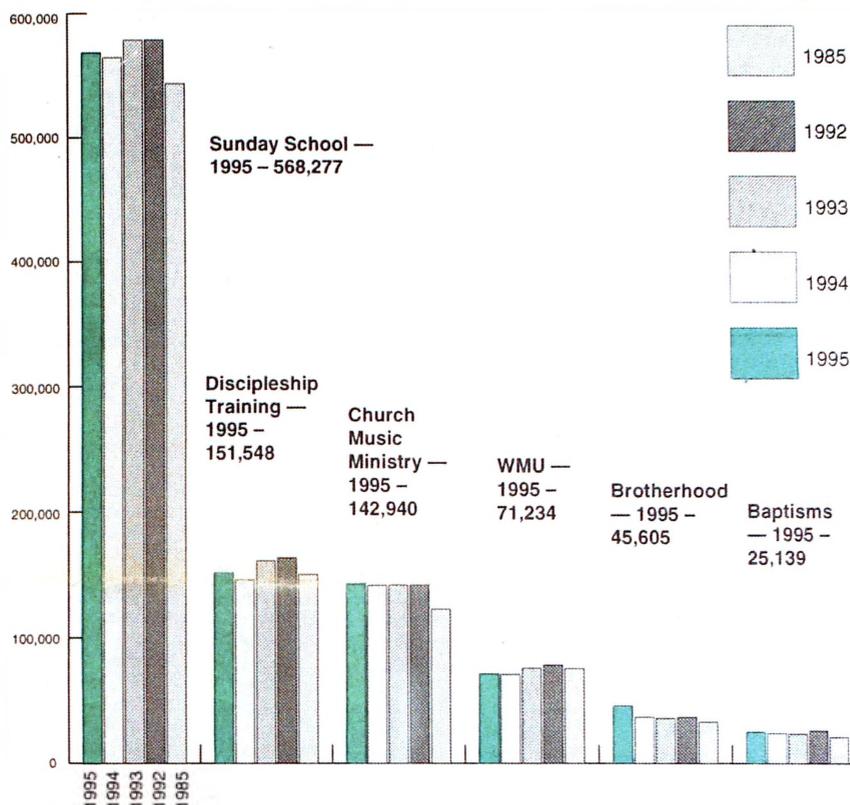
By Connie Davis  
*Baptist and Reflector*

**BRENTWOOD** — During the 1994-95 church year more Tennessee Baptists participated in six areas of church involvement than last year. The report was a part of the 1995 Annual Church Profile just released.

Brotherhood involvement increased by 19 percent, baptisms were up 5.3 percent, and participation in Discipleship Training was up 3.4 percent over the previous year.

Enrollment in Church Music Ministry was up .86 percent, in Sunday School up .73 percent, and in Woman's Missionary Union up .62 percent.

The data is compiled by Information Services of the Tennessee Baptist Convention using information submitted by the state's 2,966 churches to associational offices. Mike Overcash of that office reported that for the first time most of the data was received electronically. To assist associational and church clerks, training on reporting processes will be offered in June and July, he said. Overcash thanked the — See Brotherhood, page 2



## FMB appoints missionaries in Knoxville

Baptist Press

**KNOXVILLE** — Southern Baptist missionaries witnessed a Pentecost harvest of souls every four days during 1995, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees were told during their Feb. 12-14 meeting in Knoxville.

At the meeting, trustees appointed the FMB's first new missionaries of 1996 — 29 candidates headed to 16 countries — in an emotional service at Knoxville's Wallace Memorial Church. The church is named in honor of Bill Wallace, a Southern Baptist missionary doctor tortured to death in a Chinese prison 45 years ago.

Trustees also voted to ask the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee to devote a larger percentage of the convention's receipts to the cause of global missions and to address a crisis in funding for hunger and relief ministries overseas.

"We are in a harvest time, and it's time we give glory to God for all the mighty and wonderful things he is doing around the world," Avery Willis told a capacity crowd in the 1,200-seat sanctuary of Wallace Memorial Church. Willis is FMB senior vice president for overseas operations.

The 287,806 baptisms registered in 1995 by overseas Baptists and their FMB missionary partners was the equivalent of a Pentecost harvest every four days, Willis said. He referred to the event recorded in Acts 2, in which 3,000 people accepted Christ as Savior in one day.

The 2,612 churches started in 1995 represent a 20 percent increase over the previous year and include 367 congregations among "World A" people groups, which have had little or no access to the Gospel, Willis said. One country, with only 65 known believers a few years ago, now has an estimated 200,000 Christians, he said.

"We're seeing that once we take the Gospel into these darkened places where it's never gone, people are responding," Willis said. "It's amazing. We never expected this to happen this quickly."

The appointment service at the church named for the martyred physician, who grew up in Knoxville, coincided with the re-release of a biography on his life. *Bill Wallace of China*, first published in 1963, quickly became a classic and inspired hundreds of young people to consider God's call to overseas mission service.

Ted Warren, executive vice president of

the Baptist Sunday School Board, presented each of the new missionaries with a copy of the book, written by Jesse Fletcher, former director of the FMB's mission support division and now chancellor of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas. The appointees included two physicians and three nurses headed for medical assignments overseas.

During their business session, trustees adopted a proposal asking the SBC Executive Committee to increase the percentage the Foreign Mission Board receives through the Cooperative Program. The convention's unified budget plan. Half of the Cooperative Program basic allocation budget now goes to overseas work, a total of \$68.3 million in 1995.

However, needs and opportunities have far outstripped receipts, said board President Jerry A. Rankin.

"We are grateful for the wonderful support Southern Baptists have given to the cause of world missions," Rankin said. "But God has been calling more and more people to serve him overseas, and we live in a world where 1.7 billion people have never had an opportunity to hear the Gospel.

— See FMB, page 2

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

501 CHURCH ST. SUITE 400  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

# Brotherhood, baptisms lead 1995 ...

— Continued from page 1

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
- **Subscribe to the *Baptist and Reflector*** for one year and receive 50 copies. Family or individual subscription — \$7.50, clubs of 10 or more subscriptions — \$7.25, church (more than 50 percent of families) — \$6.50. Send check/money order to address below.
- **To contribute a news item**, call or write Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen; Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor; or Connie Davis, assistant editor.
- **To advertise** — Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor or editor.
- **For billing and subscription list questions** — Betty Williams, bookkeeper
- **For information about trial subscription plan** for church or association edition — Editor Allen, Lonnie Wilkey, Connie Davis, or Susie Edwards, administrative secretary
- **For information about local church edition** — The Editor, or Mary Nimmo, church pages coordinator
- **For production answers** — Donna M. Wagers, news and production assistant
- **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- **Board of directors:** Frank Hawkins, chairman; Russ Dunham vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Christine Bess, Hinton Climer, Eugene Coley, 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
- **Office** — *Baptist and Reflector*, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027
- **Mailing address** — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- **Phone** — (615) 371-2003. **FAX** — (615) 371-2080
- **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
- **Address changes** — *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- **Postmaster** — Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780)
- **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas and Fourth of July.

clerks for their efforts which made the compilation at the state office easier.

Tim Bearden, Brotherhood director, said the 19 percent increase may be attributed to the inclusion of participants in two new programs. Brotherhood has counted both enrollment and participation for years based on its organization. The World Changers program and EZRA were counted in 1995. World Changers is a short-term coed youth program and EZRA is an easy RA program. Bearden said he would like to see growth in other areas. "With Southern Baptist men's ministries approaches through the Brotherhood Commission, I expect new responsiveness in our men to ministries and missions," he said.

The 5.3 percent increase in baptisms by churches is good, said Jerry King, TBC evangelism director, but he had hoped for a report in the 7.5-8 percent range. The department has a goal for 10 percent increase annually between now and 2000 A.D., he noted. It's possible, because two annual reports in the last 10 years have carried such a report. In 1992 baptisms rose 15 percent, which King attributed to the 1990 Here's Hope simultaneous revivals and to a record number of WIN (Witness Involvement Now) schools held in the state.

"I want to challenge our churches to give priority to intentional evangelism during this year and the years following," said King.

Johnnie Hall, Discipleship Training director, expressed gratitude for the 3.4 percent increase in that area. The increase "shows that there is concern for discipling the believer in the churches," he said. Tennessee Baptists are re-enrolling in one of the popular short-term Life Courses, such as "Experiencing God," he said. Initial response to the Life Courses is the reason for the rise in participation during 1992-93, Hall explained.

Church Music Ministry participants rose almost one percent. Julian Suggs, Church Music director, said he was pleased, but especially pleased for the growth in all six areas. "It is my heart-felt prayer that we see baptisms increase even more."

An increase among Sunday School involvement of .73 percent "is a start back into the plus column for Tennessee churches," said Roy Miller, an associate in the department. He attributed the increases in 1992-93 to the Growth Spiral program. A leveling off will occur after an emphasis, he said, which will be followed by an-

other increase as churches find their own ways to implement the program. Miller hoped enrollment would continue to climb because the goal for Tennessee Sunday School enrollment by the year 2000 is 600,000. Currently enrollment stands at 568,277.

WMU enrollment increased .62 percent which Katharine Bryan, state WMU director, attributed to "churches using their missions education organizations creatively to involve more preschoolers, children, youth, and adults in missions doing, praying, and giving."

The WMU report differs from the other areas in that it is limited to enrollment and does not include participation, said Bryan. She hopes upcoming reports will be higher because the flexibility of the new WMU organizational structure has the potential of involving more participants.

The 1995 Annual Church Profile actually is a measure of data across a church year, which is Oct. 1, 1994, to Sept. 30, 1995. Other areas profiled include Resident Church Members — 819,794, up 1.4 percent; Total Church Members — 1,103,427, down .16 percent; Total Receipts — \$427,386,283, up 6.2 percent; Total Cooperative Program — \$27,284,339, up 5.1 percent; Total Association Missions — \$6,403,951, up 3.8 percent; and Total Mission Expenditures — \$59,298,080, up 6.5 percent.

Top churches in baptisms and Cooperative Program giving are cited on page 4. The Cooperative Program is a unified giving plan for Southern Baptist missions efforts. The TBC Evangelism Department also recognizes 15 associations among the 68 associations with the highest baptisms reported in two categories — resident membership/baptisms and total. They follow.

In resident membership/baptisms (the number of resident members needed to accomplish one person's baptism) — Alpha — 14.4, Stewart County — 18.3, Judson — 18.4, New Duck River — 19.6, Cumberland — 19.9, Cumberland Plateau — 22.7, Riverside — 22.9, Maury — 23.1, Concord — 23.7, Bledsoe — 23.7, Wilson — 24.7, Lawrence County — 25.1, Central — 25.7, Dyer — 25.9, and Duck River — 26.6.

In total baptisms — Shelby — 2,363, Nashville — 2,177, Knox County — 1,767, Hamilton County — 1,173, Cumberland — 746, Holston — 718, Concord — 707, Chilhowee — 663, Nolachucky — 588, Madison-Chester — 555, Bradley — 547, Sevier County — 521, Wilson — 509, Bledsoe — 461, and McMinn-Meigs — 449. □



THE BOOTHS



THE PIERCES

## FMB appoints missionaries in ...

— Continued from page 1

"Without a dramatic increase in funding, we are looking at having to cut back when we need to be increasing our efforts."

The trustee statement says since "the purpose of restructuring the Southern Baptist Convention was to focus a larger proportion of the denomination's energies and resources on world missions, (we) respectfully urge the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention to budget a dramatic increase in the percentage of Cooperative Program allocated to the Foreign Mission Board so we can continue to provide the funds to send those whom God has called to his service around the world."

The request is to be presented to the program and budget subcommittee of the Executive Committee, which met Feb. 19-21 in Nashville.

Trustees also endorsed a plan to heighten Southern Baptist awareness of critical needs in hunger and relief projects around the world. While ministry opportunities are at an all-time high, funds on hand are so low that projects are only being approved at half the requested level.

The plan, which must be approved by the convention's Christian Life Commission, calls for the Foreign Mission Board to assist in publicizing hunger and relief needs. Human needs projects play a

strategic role in creating opportunities for Christian ministry in countries closed to traditional missionary work.

Of the missionaries appointed two couples had strong Tennessee Baptist ties.

James and Joy Booth were appointed representatives of Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization. They will live in central Asia where they will use their skills in developing CSI-related projects in developing nations.

A native of North Carolina, Booth was singles' minister intern at Bartlett Church, Bartlett and interim youth minister and summer youth minister at First Church, Martin. He is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary, Memphis.

Mark and Elaine Pierce were appointed as missionary associates. The Pierces will live in Uganda where he, a physician, will teach at Makerere University Medical School and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1990 Pierce has been director of the Infectious Disease Clinic and an assistant professor of medicine at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

Pierce and his wife are members of First Church, Franklin.

Another new missionary, Janet Jordan Watkins, is a graduate of Carson-Newman College. □

### Daily Partnership Prayer Requests February

TENNESSEE BAPTIST  
PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS



CANADA • MICHIGAN • POLAND

- 21 — Pray for Muriel and Bill Blackwell of FBC, Nashville, who are teaching courses at the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary from now through May.
- 22 — Pray for three new Baptist Student Ministry directors who are new on the field this semester in Canada.
- 23 — Pray for negotiations between the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists and the SBC regarding the changing of FMB personnel to North American Mission Board staffers.
- 24 — Pray for a van for use in the Poland partnership.
- 25 — Pray for the Baptist Church in Bartoszyce, Poland, which is without a pastor.
- 26 — Pray for the health and safety of the mission team in Poland.
- 27 — Pray for the Tennessee Association in Michigan as they interview a prospective director of missions today.



Printed on  
recycled paper

# True Love Waits goes 'thru the roof;' new effort launched

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Minutes after 18,000 teenagers and youth ministers watched 350,000 True Love Waits cards reach the roof of the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Southern Baptists announced a new campaign to send the abstinence movement to schools.

To the beat of the Christian rock group Newsboys, the commitment cards were hoisted to the roof of the 27-story Georgia Dome as young people lifted their friends above the crowd in a fad known as surfing. Later, a spokesman for the Southern Baptist-sponsored abstinence campaign announced a new goal and theme — "True Love Waits Goes Campus."

"On Valentine's Day, 1997, our goal is to display True Love Waits cards on every school campus in America — all 56,000 schools in the U.S.," Richard Ross, youth ministry consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board, told

those attending the "True Love Waits — Thru the Roof" celebration at the Georgia Dome Feb 11.

The 350,000 cards pulled to the roof of the Georgia Dome were gathered from all 50 states and from 76 countries — with the countries accounting for about half the commitments.

More than 100 youth from First Church, Conyers, Ga., and Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory (where the True Love Waits program was launched by the BSSB in 1993), worked for hours the night before the event stringing the cards onto a 200-foot steel cable which was lifted to the roof of the



**BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD** staffer Richard Ross, who also serves as volunteer youth minister at Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, addresses youth at the recent celebration in Atlanta.

dome by a giant wench and pulley mechanism. An overflow of cards, including some that were delivered the day of the celebration by attending

teens, was added to a second cable.

True Love Waits is an international campaign to challenge teens and college students to remain sexually abstinent until marriage.

With the new campaign, True Love Waits Goes Campus, young people are being asked to take the abstinence message to high school and college campuses, said Paul Turner, international spokesman for the campaign.

"I believe with True Love Waits Goes Campus, we are embarking on the most exciting phase of our abstinence campaign," Turner said. "It will empower students to take the message of Christ and abstinence to their peers at school." Students will be trained this summer to coordinate campaigns on their campuses, he added.

On Valentine's Day, 1997, True Love Waits Goes Campus is expected to culminate with a visible demonstration of commitment cards at the participating schools. □

## Promise Keepers clergy rally rebukes racial, religious barriers

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — More than 39,000 Christian ministers seeking revival — both personal and spiritual — prayed, praised, wept, and worshipped throughout the first Promise Keepers clergy conference, Feb. 13-15.

Under the theme "Fan into Flame," church and parachurch leaders addressed topics of revival and racial and denominational unity. Promise Keepers' Vice President Dale Schlafer billed it as "the largest and most diverse meeting of God's shepherds in the world."

Speakers urged ministers from every state and a dozen countries to trust God, model reconciliation, and lead their

congregations to spiritual revival.

Promise Keepers founder Bill McCartney started the meeting by pleading for an end to racism and denominational strife. "The contention between denominations has gone on long enough," he said. "If the church ever stood together, almighty God would have his way."

Racial inclusion has been among the organization's specific goals. McCartney has traveled to meet with ethnic pastors in more than 50 inner-city areas, said Steven Chavis, Promise Keepers' national media spokesman. "The message has been received with mixed results because of the pain."

In a scene reminiscent of Southern Baptists' 1995 pas-

sage of a resolution on racial reconciliation, representatives of Anglos, African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asians prayed for forgiveness for racism, hatred, and unforgiveness.

Anglo pastors gave a long standing ovation, chanting, "We love you" as black pastors walked to the front of the stage for a show of appreciation. Black pastors responded by chanting, "You are forgiven."

Yelled McCartney: "We love you. We would die for you guys."

Conference speaker and Southern Baptist Henry Blackaby told Baptist Press the conference is another expression of what he's seen God doing to bring revival to America.

"I've really sensed that

there is almost an irresistible movement of God on the hearts of the leadership to move their thinking toward revival," he said.

Blackaby, Home Mission Board director of spiritual awakening, noted spiritual revival will accomplish both Christian unity and an end to racism. "Most of the books I read on reconciliation are man-centered. 'We've got to bring down the barriers.' Well, we can't bring down the barriers," he said.

"We can't bring down the racial walls any more than Joshua could bring down the walls of Jericho. But when they obeyed God, God brought down the walls."

The meeting was significant, Blackaby said, because it

focused on leadership of churches, agencies, and parachurch organizations.

Blackaby spoke to the pastors about the importance of being led by the spirit of God and doing the will of God. "As goes the leaders, so goes the church. Revival is spirit-filled leaders walking in the midst of a church that becomes spirit-filled just like them."

Speakers also touted the meeting as a refreshment for pastors feeling alone and discouraged. "We have many who have taken the field who are beaten and bruised and broken," said Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas. "Many of you have resigned from the clergy long ago, you just haven't informed the board yet." □

## Watts moved to Memphis

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Tennessee missionary Wade Watts of Memphis, critically injured in a Feb. 1 auto accident near Lima, Peru, was brought Feb. 13 by medical evacuation airplane to Baptist Memorial Hospital, Central, in Memphis.

His condition is unchanged: comatose and critical, but stable. His 10-year-old son Marcus continues to show evidence of waking up from his coma — moving his limbs and opening his eyes.

Continued prayer is needed for the entire family, said FMB representative Bill Goff. □

## Editors seek more information on SBC restructuring

Baptist Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — State Baptist paper editors, meeting in annual session, approved a name change, voted associate membership for two news services, and "strongly" encouraged a committee working on the Southern Baptist Convention restructuring to provide more information on its work.

Called the Southern Baptist Press Association for many years the group approved a recommendation from a study group to become the Association of State Baptist Papers. The new name more clearly reflects the group's identity of newspapers and journals of the 37 state conventions and regional fellowships, proponents

of the name change said.

Two news services — Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press — were provided "associate" class membership which allows them to participate as non-voting members. Previously, Baptist Press had regular membership.

The editors voiced displeasure with the lack of news media access to the meetings of the Implementation Task Force. The ITF is a committee appointed by the SBC Executive Committee to begin the process of implementing the "Covenant for a New Century," a plan of reorganization approved by messengers last year to the SBC annual meeting. The restructuring would reduce the number of SBC entities from 19 to 12.

Editors approved a resolution citing the restructuring's "massive changes," requests from pastors and laypersons for news "about the specifics of the proposed" changes, and that a "free flow of information is essential to an informed vote in June." A change in the SBC's bylaw 15, which identifies by name all the entities, requires two consecutive votes by messengers to the SBC annual meeting. The first approval came last year at the Atlanta SBC meeting.

The resolution said SBC executive Committee policies provide for denominational and secular press coverage of EC subcommittees under background rules, with the exception of essential executive sessions. But "neither Baptist

Press nor the (press association) has been allowed to attend any meetings of the ITF" because, the group was advised, "the ITF is dealing with legal and personnel issues that cannot be handled properly in a public forum."

ITF chairman Bob Reccord and Morris Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president, met with the editors prior to the vote on the resolution.

Reccord told the editors a progress report would be given during the Executive Committee's Feb. 19-21 meeting in Nashville. He asked them to encourage people to have "patience" with the ITF and that what happens would be a "positive process." He said he would take under advisement the editors' request. □

## Top Cooperative Program Giving for 1994-95

Rank	Church	Amount
1	Bellevue Church, Cordova	\$627,310.00
2	Germantown Church, Germantown	\$287,425.09
3	First Church, Concord	\$232,610.31
4	Brentwood Church, Brentwood	\$220,583.95
5	First Church, Nashville	\$212,570.82
6	First Church, Athens	\$209,708.97
7	Central Church, Hixson	\$185,266.90
8	Red Bank Church, Chattanooga	\$177,117.72
9	First Church, Collierville	\$175,551.27
10	First Church, Clarksville	\$173,602.42
11	Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville	\$172,534.68
12	Westwood Church, Cleveland	\$152,931.57
13	Broadmoor Church, Memphis	\$143,908.00
14	Calvary Church, Knoxville	\$140,837.91
15	First Church, Cleveland	\$138,011.73
16	Central Bearden Church, Knoxville	\$132,053.66
17	First Church, Hendersonville	\$131,200.56
18	Brainerd Church, Chattanooga	\$129,438.01
19	Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville	\$127,721.03
20	First Church, Franklin	\$125,375.00
21	First Church, Donelson	\$125,091.51
22	First Church, Millington	\$122,927.29
23	Two Rivers Church, Nashville	\$122,554.57
24	Ridgeway Church, Memphis	\$122,571.13
25	Leawood Church, Memphis	\$121,600.02

Rank	Church	Amount
1	Bethel Church, Greenbrier	\$233.32
2	Eastanallee Church, Riceville	\$166.35
3	Samburg Church, Samburg	\$158.51
4	Calvary Bible Church, Nashville	\$152.80
5	Oak Grove Church, Mt. Carmel	\$143.07
6	Bethel Church, Greenfield	\$142.77
7	Signal Hill Church, Chattanooga	\$138.89
8	Tri-Cities Church, Kingsport	\$137.61
9	First Church, Athens	\$135.89
10	First Church, Franklin	\$133.21
11	First Church, Erwin	\$131.58
12	First Church, Dandridge	\$124.97
13	First Church, Paris	\$113.89
14	Ridgedale Church, Chattanooga	\$112.05
15	Allen Church, Brownsville	\$111.53
16	Triune Church, Triune	\$111.27
17	Calvary - Rutherford Church, Rutherford	\$110.54
18	First Church, Tullahoma	\$109.76
19	Brunswick Church, Brunswick	\$108.13
20	Brentwood Church, Brentwood	\$107.33
21	Trinity Church, Manchester	\$107.20
22	First Church, Shelbyville	\$106.94
23	Antioch Church, Sevierville	\$106.67
24	Indian Springs Church, Kingsport	\$106.59
25	Mount Lebanon Church, Maryville	\$104.34

Rank	Church	Percentage
1	New Hope Church, Bon Aqua	35.99
2	French Broad Church, Dandridge	31.37
3	Eastanallee Church, Riceville	31.19
4	Kelley's Chapel Church, Waynesboro	31.09
5	Oak Grove Church, Mount Carmel	30.80
6	Brighton Church, Brighton	30.00
7	Grove Hill Church, Knoxville	25.89
8	First Church, Cookeville	25.19
9	Oak Grove, Covington	24.93
10	First Church, Dandridge	24.60
11	Stock Creek Church, Knoxville	23.50
12	Caney Creek Church, Rogersville	23.10
13	Mount Lebanon Church, Maryville	22.64
14	Hickman Church, Hickman	21.86
15	Bangham Heights Church, Cookeville	21.56
16	First Church, Calhoun	21.17
17	McPheeters Bend Church, Church Hill	21.12
18	Carthage Road Church, Carthage	21.01
19	New Home Church, Smithville	21.00
20	First Church, Fayetteville	20.94
21	Bells Camp Ground Church, Powell	20.89
22	Shiloh Church, Kingston	20.78
23	Indian Springs Church, Kingsport	20.64
24	Pine Grove Church, Wildersville	20.45
25	White Hall Church, Trenton	20.42

## Top Reported Baptisms for 1994-95

Church	Ratios	Resident Members	Resident Members/Baptisms
Germantown Korean Church, Germantown		58	1.0
Hanvit Korean Church, Nashville		80	1.1
Calvary Church, Spring Hill		51	1.8
Mooring Church, Ridgely		26	2.2
New Song Church, Memphis		27	2.3
Greater Hope Church, Jackson		95	2.3
Nick's Creek Church, Huntsville		26	2.4
Hermitage Springs Church, Red Boiling Springs		36	3.0
Primera Iglesia, Nashville		77	3.2
Fairview Church, Tellico Plains		55	3.2
Rocky Creek Church, Castalian Springs		20	3.3
Brace Church, Summertown		116	3.4
Puncheon Camp Church, Washburn		58	3.4
Cumberland View Church, Crossville		70	3.5
Denton Church, Cosby		134	3.5
Stateline Church, Iron City		64	3.6
Wrigley Church, Lyles		50	3.6
Macedonia Church, Waverly		18	3.6
First Church, Normandy		80	3.6
Garrett Church, Hohenwald		52	3.7
Burns Church, Burns		75	3.8
Bethel Church, Palmyra		200	3.8
Antioch Church, Portland		61	3.8
Hillcrest Church, Manchester		99	4.0
Old Bethel Church, Palmersville		48	4.0
Circle of Faith Church, Petros		32	4.0
West Cheatham Church, Ashland City		21	4.2
Five Rivers Church, Talbott		47	4.3
First Church, Louisville		22	4.4
New Hope Church, Hohenwald		49	4.5
Hickory Valley Church, Chattanooga		260	4.5
Beech Grove Church No. 2, Eidson		18	4.5
Cherokee Mountain Church, Jonesborough		46	4.6
Cumberland Church, Beersheba Springs		65	4.6
House of Prayer Church, Columbia		19	4.8
Sherwood Church, Memphis		101	4.8
Omega Church, White Pine		44	4.9
Friendship Church, Sevierville		54	4.9

The Resident Member/Baptism ratio represents the number of resident members required to win one person represented in the baptism column. Statewide resident membership to baptism ratio is 32.61 to 1.

Church	Resident Members	Total Baptisms
Bellevue Church, Cordova	18,059	710
Central Church, Hixson	4,442	202
First Church, Millington	1,738	185
Higher Ground Church, Kingsport	1,804	180
Two Rivers Church, Nashville	4,493	158
First Church, Hendersonville	3,780	154
First Church, Concord, Knoxville	2,771	122
First Church, Sevierville	1,972	121
Grace Church, Knoxville	1,987	121
Sevier Heights Church, Knoxville	2,983	120
Hilldale Church, Clarksville	2,350	115
Kirby Woods Church, Memphis	1,786	112
First Church, Clarksville	3,330	101
First Church, Cleveland	2,661	100
Immanuel Church, Lebanon	2,006	98
Alpha Church, Morristown	965	95
First Church, Smyrna	1,472	95
Germantown Church, Germantown	4,691	95
Green Hill Church, Mount Juliet	1,145	92
First Church, Franklin	1,847	89
College Heights Church, Gallatin	1,439	86
First Church, Mount Juliet	1,645	86
Calvary Church, Oak Ridge	1,180	85
Third Church, Murfreesboro	1,417	81
New Vision Church, Murfreesboro	460	80
Beaver Dam Church, Knoxville	2,046	79
First Church, Shelbyville	998	78
First Church, Collierville	1,957	76
Hanvit Korean Church, Nashville	80	72
Hillcrest Church, Lebanon	842	72
Leawood Church, Memphis	2,679	72
Brentwood Church, Brentwood	2,131	70
Westwood Church, Cleveland	2,533	69
Shelbyville Mills Church, Shelbyville	590	68
Bayside Church, Harrison	1,969	68
Thompson Station Church, Thompson Station	367	67
Hickory Ridge Church, Memphis	451	63
Little West Fork Church, Clarksville	481	63
Englewood Church, Jackson	1,384	63
Peace and Good Will Church, Knoxville	300	60
Pleasant Hill Church, Lenoir City	335	60
First Church, Lenoir City	1,734	60
Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville	2,566	60

# TBC colleges rank high among academia

Last week's feature story about Carson-Newman College was intended as a brief report, representative of Tennessee Baptists' long, strong, and dedicated support of Christian higher education.

It was written to coincide with February 18, last Sunday. Across the Southern Baptist Convention, Baptists honored state Baptist colleges and schools, as well as their six seminaries.

As a part of this recognition, the SBC's Education Commission published a new directory of the educational institutions. A comprehensive description of each is contained in the new directory, and a short sketch of each introduces the description.

**Belmont University:** The Nashville school focuses on academic excellence and continuous improvement with vision to be a premier teaching university, bringing together the best of liberal arts and professional education in a consistently caring environment.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

A student-centered mission provides diverse backgrounds an academically challenging education in a Christian community.

**Carson-Newman College:** Recognized as one of the best schools in the region for its strong commitment to teaching, the school encourages relationships and talents to flourish. The Jefferson City campus is large enough to offer world-wide opportunities, yet small enough to focus on personal, intellectual

and spiritual growth.

Outstanding resources include access to the Internet through the campus computer network and an award-winning Student Activities Center.

**Union University:** The only university in the southeastern United States named to *Peterson's Competitive Colleges* and *Peterson's Choose a Christian College*, Union fosters an atmosphere where Christianity and academics complement rather than compete. Located in Jackson, Union combines challenging academic programs with a Christ-centered campus life while remaining one of the

country's most affordable liberal arts schools.

The three colleges are important to Tennessee Baptists and others who value their programs. Each has a distinct role in Tennessee Baptist life, programs and curricula to offer, and all provide Christian distinctives to excellence in higher education. Harrison-Chilhowee Academy provides a viable choice for students in the lower grades, including high school. The academy is again providing a sound education.

Our schools are valuable assets, providing the best in education. □

## Baptist education, the best option

Where will I go to college? Thousands of high school students and adults considering college ask that question daily.

This month, the Southern Baptist Convention calendar highlights the 68 seminaries, universities, colleges, Bible colleges, and academies whose roots are in Southern Baptist history.

Every year 120,000 full-time students enroll in one of our Baptist institutions. Another 80,000 take some courses, often in off-campus settings.

Our colleges and universities run the gamut from small liberal arts institutions located in small towns in rural America to full scale universities with graduate programs in urban centers. Whether one is interested in history, medicine, law, religion, journalism, chemistry, or dozens of other majors, there is a Baptist college of choice for you.

While most of the colleges relate to state Baptist conventions, any one of the

50 schools in 16 states has students from most of the United States and several foreign countries.

The one thing they have in common is a commitment to excellent academics taught with an integration of Christian faith on the part of dedicated and academically solid faculty members. Every single campus emphasizes individual attention, and opportunities for leadership development are abundant.

It is not unusual for 80 percent of the students on a Baptist college or university campus to receive financial aid often from both the federal government and the college itself. Do not settle for a large public institution based only on cost differences until you have given a Baptist college an opportunity to work with you on financial aid.

Baptist education — try it. You will like it. □ — *Stephen P. Carleton, executive director, Education Commission, SBC*

## one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

### History tells the story

From California to Florida, and from Washington to New England, Southern Baptists place much of their faith in getting accurate news by reading one of about 40 state Baptist papers.

Our readers often tell us they read the entire paper, from cover to cover.

We appreciate the generosity of those readers and admire their enthusiasm. But staff members of most of the papers realize that the well-intended complement often stretches the truth.



ALLEN

Few really do read every page — including the front and back.

However, we are grateful for the many readers who view their state paper as the only authentic source for Baptist news in Tennessee.

I returned Friday from the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Press Association. At that February meeting each year I gain new insights and applications to the work we are assigned.

And I regain the enthusiasm and fervor we all need to maintain the spiritual depth and kindred spirit that urges us upward and onward.

One of our workshop leaders asked for a show of hands to indicate seminary education. He wanted to know us better. More than half the editors have seminary training, but not necessarily in journalism. It was surprising to learn also that most of us were educated at Baptist colleges.

I believe that kind of education gives editors (and others) a keener insight into the area of religion in which we work.

I also know from experience that my Baptist college education equipped me to appreciate Baptist history.

And, according to James L. Sullivan's definition of history, I know where Baptists have come from and where they are today — because I swam in that channel of education.

Along with me, many of my frontline comrades are where we are today, not necessarily by personal choice, but because we answered God's call to a certain kind of ministry.

The preparation provided by Baptist schools is not mandatory, but it bridges a gap and strengthens us.

## Stress within the family

We have many time-saving and labor-saving devices today, but we seem to have less time and energy.

Families are faced by a menacing villain called stress. This villain is somewhat of a chameleon in that he is able to change his appearance to blend with every crisis and problem.

We do not easily recognize him. For most of us, even if we do recognize him, we are not exactly sure that anything can be done about him.

Let's look at what stress is, then we will see who is most likely to be bothered by stress, what kinds of activities are more likely to produce stress, where we are most likely to get stressed, and what we can do about stress when we experience it.

Let's start by defining stress, and by giving some of the details about stress in our lives. Stress has been defined as a process by which we perceive and respond to certain events, called stressors, that we appraise as threatening

### families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

or challenging.

We should note that not all stress is bad. There is a need for good stress in our lives, a stress that motivates us to move from the complacency which keeps us from moving forward in our lives.

Stress, by the nature of what it is, creates a certain amount of discomfort. The goal in dealing with stress is to make it work for us by motivating positive behavior and to keep it from harming us by motivating destructive or negative behavior.

In an attempt to describe stress I remember what Jeremiah said concerning the children of Israel in his day. "You said, woe is me! The Lord has added sorrow to my pain; I am worn out with groaning and find no rest" (Jeremiah 45:3).

The children of Israel per-

ceived the situation to be threatening and challenging.

Stress comes when we feel that outside forces are

blocking our path toward some goal or desire. It can be expressed as anger or hopelessness. Jeremiah expressed stress in terms of physical exhaustion (worn out and no rest).

There are many ways that we describe the basic problems of stress in our lives.

I have a simple example of stress in the life of the family. A friend shared this, and it is not new, but it illustrates the cause and consequences of stress.

A man's wife did not feel appreciated. He wanted to do something positive, so he took home a dozen roses. She had had a terrible day, and when she saw the roses, she began to cry. She tells him about her day and then says, "And now you come home drunk!"

Stress causes many problems in the family. They are



BARKLEY

### just for today

By Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis

#### Smile this smile

Mother: "Son, I have bad news for you. I washed your white shirt, but you left a red crayon in the pocket and it melted all over your shirt."

Son: "That's all right, Mom. I have another crayon."

#### Take this truth

What is most important in your life? If you found a big of diamonds, would you throw away the bag or the gems? Which would you keep?

#### Memorize this Scripture

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

#### Pray this prayer

Lord, teach me not only the difference between the bad and the good things, but also between the good and the best. □

## Home missions theme traced back to former HMB president

By David Winfrey  
For Baptist and Reflector

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — This year's theme for the Season of Home Missions can be traced to the desk of former Home Mission Board President Arthur Rutledge.

Rutledge was at a bank when he noticed a paperweight reading "People Count," according to Ruth McKinney, former executive secretary to the president. He made a comment to the bank employee who located and gave one to Rutledge. He kept it on his desk for all to see.

The book *The Rutledge Era* quotes the president as saying, "It sits there as a reminder to me. ... Unless everything I do, somewhere or other, contributes to touching people for Christ, then it doesn't have real value."

The "People Count" paperweight didn't exclusively target the lost, adds McKinney. It referred to anyone, she said, including home missionaries and Southern Baptists calling for information.

Today, the Home Mission Board



**Week of Prayer for Home Missions**  
March 3-10

**Home Missions Day in Sunday School**  
March 10

**Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**  
National Goal:  
\$42,000,000

Tennessee Goal:  
\$3,325,000

helps Southern Baptists tell people they count through church starting, evangelism, and ministry.

Last year, HMB President Larry Lewis reminded a home missions conference, "We have to ask continually, 'Do I really care about the unsaved?'"

Throughout America, 440 counties still have no Southern Baptist church. While Bold Mission Thrust goals in-

clude having 50,000 congregations by the year 2000, Lewis noted that is not Southern Baptists' primary aim. "Our goal is to evangelize America."

Darrell Robinson, HMB vice president for evangelism, lauds the People Count theme to help promote personal evangelism. "Because people count, the evangelism section has developed People Sharing Jesus, a Christ-centered,

person-centered approach to witnessing."

That witnessing plan helps believers see people as God sees them and shows how to apply the love of Christ to a person's greatest need," Robinson said. "People count with Jesus and they count with those who are walking with Jesus."

People also count because they are important to Christian ministries, said Don Hammonds, HMB interim vice president of ministry.

"People count because God loves them," Hammonds said. "People count because we need them. We need for them to share the gifts God has given them. The gifts of creativity, caring relationships, and concern for others."

Chaplains, who are endorsed through the Home Mission Board, are the feature of this year's home missions study (being held this week in many churches). Chaplains demonstrate that people count by ministering to all kinds of people, said Huey Perry, HMB chaplaincy division director. "Chaplains go where the church cannot and sometimes will not go," he added. □

## Home missionary breaks down barriers in West Tennessee town

Editor's Note: Tennessee home missionary Richard Lee is one of the missionaries featured by the Home Mission Board during the Week of Prayer for Home Missions held March 3-10.

By Bob Carey  
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Home Mission Board church planter Richard Lee and his wife, Lucille, faced culture shock when they first moved to Jackson from Kansas City, Mo.

They quickly found out that life often moves at a slower pace in the South.

"I had to remember that I was in the South. Everything is laid back and slower than it was in Kansas City. It took some time to adjust to the pace," Lee says.

"Sometimes I think it has crossed over to the church. We just aren't in a hurry to share the Gospel. We forget about evangelism when we sit too long. I hope that my church will not forget and lose that zeal for souls."

Lee is in a hurry to instill in his congregation a sense of urgency. Each Sunday evening his church holds an outreach program at Lincoln and Parkview Courts, a low-income, multi-housing complex on the east side of Jackson. Visiting with church members and anyone he comes in contact with, brings results. Recently, a visit resulted in four people coming to Christ.

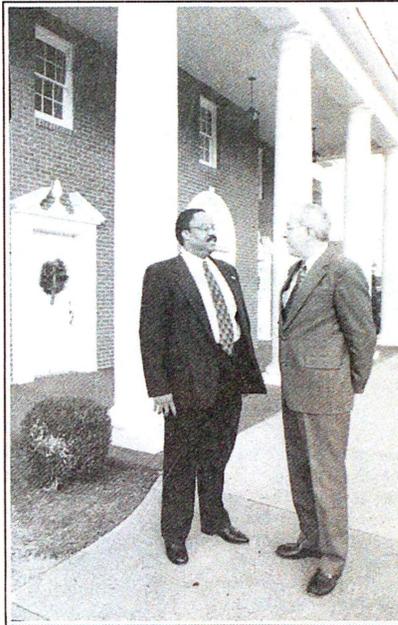
Evangelism and ministry is at the heart of Lee's work as a church planter in Jackson.

A native of Milwaukee, Wis., Lee began his ministry in Jackson in 1994 shortly after graduating from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City. His efforts to start a church on the city's east side has been full of challenges.

Lee says that people in north Jackson see the east Jackson neighborhood as the tough part of the city. The impression is that all the crime is there. What they don't realize is that crime is everywhere, he points out.

Many of the people in the complexes feel abandoned, he explains. They need hope. When Lee was searching for a name for the new church, he asked residents which of the names they liked best. It was no surprise to Lee that they settled on Greater Hope Baptist Church.

"Everyone has abandoned east Jackson. We're trying to



**HOME MISSIONARY** Richard Lee, left, visits with Phil Jett, pastor of Englewood Church, Jackson.

give them hope through Christ. We don't plan on leaving," Lee says.

One of the biggest problems Lee faces is the transient nature of apartment complexes. People move out of the complexes as soon as finances allow.

Lee elaborates, "Not too long ago I baptized a family of five and now they've moved to another apartment in a better area of town."

The only way Lee feels that Southern Baptists are going to reach lost people is to start new churches. Jackson is part of the Madison-Chester Association where almost all the new additions last year were by letter. It is for that reason Lee believes that starting new churches is an important strategy. "In our church almost all our members are new converts," Lee says.

Planting churches has come natural for Lee. He began Emmanuel Church in Kansas City after hosting a Bible study. He was a member of a traditional church. From the Bible study the Lord laid a burden on his heart and he began his studies at Midwestern Seminary.

Two weeks before finishing seminary Lee had three calls to start churches — one in Columbia, S.C.; one in Big Rapids, Mich.; and the one where God led him — in Jackson.

When the Southern Baptist Convention offered an apology to African-Americans last summer for their beginnings based on slavery, many African-American congregations said it came too late and was not sincere. To Lee, that was not the case. He believes Southern Baptists must move forward and put the past behind.

"Jesus said forgive, forgive, forgive. Unfortunately, there is prejudice on both sides. We need to work on unity, forget black and white," Lee says.

Lee says that Anglos need

to pray and show sincere love to their African-American brothers and sisters.

Many people send money and materials to the mission churches to remove a guilty feeling, Lee observes.

"Really get involved in our ministry. We don't believe in black and white. Don't just get involved by sending funds; really become part of our ministry," the home missionary invites. □

### Annie Armstrong offering national goal is \$42 million

For Baptist and Reflector

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — The 1996 goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions is \$42 million.

Tennessee Baptists have set a goal of \$3,325,000.

Easter offering gifts in 1995 exceeded \$38 million for the first time. The previous record of \$37.6 million was given in 1992.

All Easter offering gifts support home missionaries and mission projects, not the staff or the building at the HMB national office in Alpharetta.

"We don't get our money in millions of dollars. We get our dollars in little gifts ... and much of the time it's sacrificial gifts," says Ernest Kelley, HMB staffer. □

## Will participate in dedication of new embassy

# Tennessee native and former hostage plans visit to Kuwait

By Erich Bridges  
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Maurice Graham, a native of Shelbyville, plans to return to Kuwait City in March, his first visit there since Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein allowed him and five other American hostages to leave the U.S. Embassy five years ago.

The former Southern Baptist worker in Kuwait, now associate pastor of Bon Air Church, Richmond, has been invited to participate in the dedication of a new embassy March 23. He will also take part in a eulogy for the old embassy compound, which will be torn down.

"It was our home when we were held hostage," he explained. "I guess that's my ministerial background. When something is laid to rest, you say a eulogy."

The building will become history, but the spiritual truths Graham learned while stranded there will live on in his heart. The experience still affects his life and the lives of his wife, Laurie, and sons Peter, 18, and Aaron, 15.

"It influences everything from how I see my children to how I interact with people in crisis," he reflected. "It's become a part of who I am."

The Grahams, Southern Baptists' first and only workers in Kuwait, had been in the country less than three months when Iraq invaded Aug. 2, 1990. No strangers to turmoil, they had just transferred from ministry in Liberia, then being devastated by civil

war. They came to work at the National Evangelical Church in Kuwait City, an international church that was — and still is — ministering to 30 language groups.

From their apartment in the church, the family heard gunfire and exploding bombs that terrible August day. They watched Iraqi forces storm Kuwait's national assembly building across the street. Then Iraqi soldiers entered their apartment four times, threatened them, and began to ransack the church.

That's when the Grahams and their two sons, then 13 and 10, sought refuge at an American official's home and then the embassy. Graham became an unofficial chaplain to other Americans who fled to the compound. The couple helped start a nightly prayer service, a tiny oasis of calm in the chaos that raged around the embassy. They encouraged others (including Kuwait church members they counseled by phone), reassured their children — and waited.

In early September, Laurie and the boys left Kuwait as part of a general exodus of foreign women and children allowed by Saddam Hussein. Graham and other men in the embassy were forced to remain behind, along with hundreds of other foreigners in Kuwait and Iraq — pawns in Saddam's high-stakes game with U.S.-allied powers.

As war loomed in late 1990, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission

Board launched a prayer and letter-writing campaign for the release of Graham and other foreigners in Kuwait and Iraq. Within days, Hussein pledged to release his foreign "guests." By Dec. 9, Graham was on his way to Tennessee with more than 300 other Western hostages. Five weeks later, U.S.-led planes began bombing Iraq — the beginning of the end of Iraq's adventure in Kuwait.

A decision by Hussein to hold on to the Western hostages in Iraq and Kuwait would have made an attack on him much more difficult. While watching recent TV news coverage marking the fifth anniversary of the war, Graham saw reporters ask former President George Bush why the hostages were freed.

Graham described Bush's basic response: "I don't have any idea. It doesn't make sense. It made my job a lot easier."

"He was right," Graham agreed. "It didn't make sense. But from a spiritual standpoint, I have no question in my mind that God changed the mind of Saddam Hussein to release us."

While in the embassy awaiting the unknown, Graham recorded a regular audio diary of events. He still listens to the tapes occasionally, and hears more in the tone of his voice than in the words themselves.

"Some days I would feel like ... I most likely would die," he recalled. "Other days I would think God has always been faithful to me and any day now I'll get out of here. Other days I would wonder how I would survive as a

long-term hostage like Terry Anderson in Lebanon. Over four months you have a roller coaster of emotions, from being very hopeful ... to total despair."

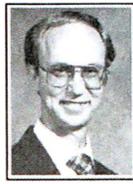
Immediately after his release and reunion with his family, he recorded an additional 10-hour reflection on the experience for his family. It sits in a safe deposit box. Someday he, or perhaps one of the Graham sons, may develop the story more fully for public consumption. But the Grahams remain reluctant to talk about those days in great detail.

"It was sacred," Graham explained. "I don't know how else to say it. When it is ready to come out, if it ever is, then God will reveal it to me."

In the aftermath of the Kuwait ordeal, one of Graham's sons experienced significant symptoms of post-traumatic stress. Both boys had spent weeks stranded in Kuwait, followed by months of wondering if they would ever see their father again. For that and other family reasons, the Grahams opted not to return overseas. But once both boys are in college, the parents are open to follow wherever God may lead.

"Over the last five years, people have said to me, 'Boy, I bet you'll never go back to the Middle East,'" he said. "Most of the time I don't respond, but in my gut I feel just the opposite."

"I do want to go back, and even if I get in a situation like that again, God will be with me. When you've been through something that powerful, the sense of God's presence and love is overwhelming," he said. □



GRAHAM

# Kingsport congregation to observe centennial throughout the year

For Baptist and Reflector

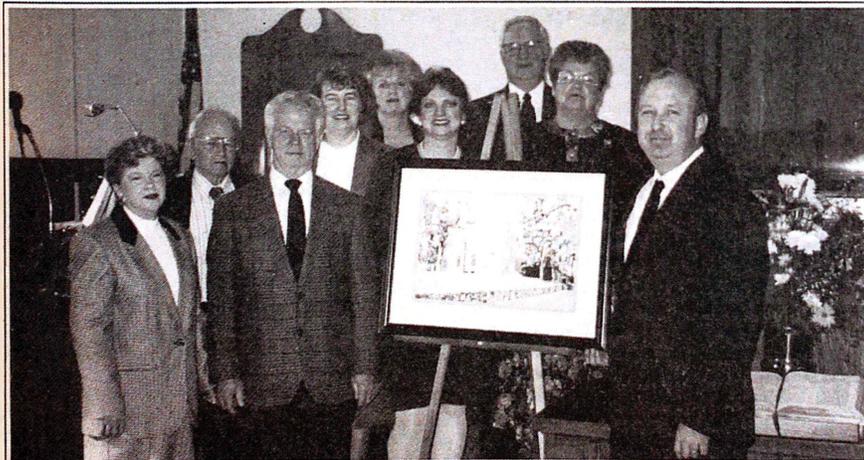
KINGSPORT — Members of Beulah Church are looking forward to marking their 100th anniversary this year. Jan. 10 marked the anniversary

of the church that was organized on a wintry day in 1896 with 10 dedicated Christians gathering in the home of W.K. Cox. The church has grown to a current membership of 400.

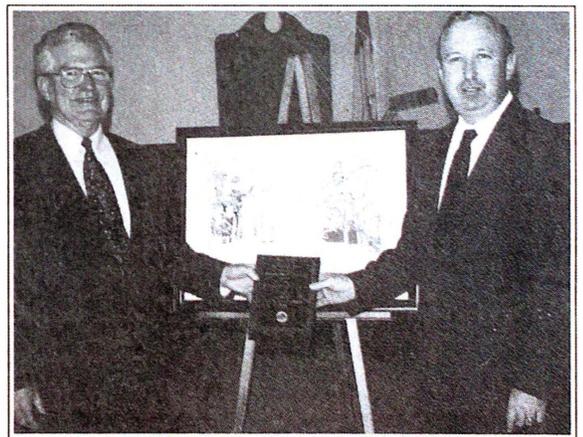
Church members began reflecting on Beulah's history on Jan. 28 when Tal Thompson, director of missions for Holston Association, presented a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society.

The centennial committee also made a presentation to the church and pastor of an original ink drawing of the church by a local artist. The worship and commemoration service ended with a church-

wide luncheon. Centennial activities are planned throughout the year. Trees will be planted in March to commemorate the anniversary, and a spring revival will begin April 28, led by former pastors. □



PRESENTING A DRAWING of the church to the congregation and Pastor Al South, right, were, from left, Shirley Gothard, Everette Sells, Bill Gothard, Carol Wallace, JoAnn Coffman, Becky Shrum, Hugh Coffman, and Sue Strickler.



NOTING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY of Beulah Church, Holston Association Director of Missions Tal Thompson, left, presents a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to Pastor Al South.

## Youth counseling requires variety of ministry skills

By Charles Willis  
For Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The growing need for counseling with teenagers means youth ministers may do more counseling than other church staff persons, a Southern Baptist psychologist and counselor told participants in Youth Ministry National Conference 5, Feb. 9-13 in Atlanta.

Youth problems, in fact, will only escalate in the next few years, according to Joe Richardson of Nacogdoches, Texas, because of the nature of life and society.

Child sexual abuse affects approximately 30 percent of youth, with abuse in many instances beginning long before adolescence, he said.

Also, he said, professional literature indicates 1 percent of today's youth have transient psychological disorders, 6 percent are neurotic, 3 percent have attention deficit disorders, and another 1 percent have eating disorders.

Psychophysiological disorders, such as colitis, affect 11 percent; 1 percent are psychotic; 2 percent have a character disorder, such as compulsive lying; 4 percent are alcoholics or drug abusers; 2 percent are mentally retarded; 4 percent have a developmental disorder;

and 1 percent are bedwetters. The possible percentage of teenagers with such problems in any church youth group can be formidable for a youth minister who may need to address those needs.

"We've got a huge problem, and the sad thing is our think-

ing when the youth minister is too emotionally involved to counsel, a referral is in order, he said.

"Just because there is the word 'Christian' or a related word in the title of a business doesn't always mean competency or morality," Richardson

said. Counseling requires skill in accurate empathy, being able to understand what youth are feeling when they talk to the youth minister, he noted. The word "bored," for example, may actually mean "depressed," he noted.

Other requirements of counseling are the ability to respect the youth as a person, the quality of genuineness on the part of the counselor, and an element of self-disclosure — "transparency that shows who you are," Richardson said. Counselors must exhibit concreteness, the ability to say what they feel and mean, as well as confrontation, the ability to face a problem after the counseling relationship has been established, he said.

Richardson concluded that counseling "is not about what you say to youth. It's more about the way you listen, the compassion you show. In the process of getting everything out, it's amazing the number of times youth reach a reasonable conclusion for themselves." □

**If you are not a psychotherapist, don't get into long-term counseling with youth. ...**

— Joe Richardson

ing is, 'But that's not my youth group,' Richardson observed. "We had better broaden our thinking, because kids have bigger problems than we think."

Youth ministers should counsel teenagers when there is an expressed need, a crisis, changes in the youth's behavior, or family problems, Richardson said.

In contrast, there are times when counseling should be done by someone else with specialized expertise and less personal involvement, he added. In situations of sexual abuse, psychotic or neurotic behavior,

the service is non-Christian or incompetent."

He encouraged youth ministers to interview local counselors about areas of experience and to learn their academic credentials before making referrals.

"If you are not a psychotherapist," he added, "don't get into long-term counseling with youth. Don't get involved in situations with lengthy counseling. When it begins to hurt you (emotionally), get out. You are in a perfect position to insist they get the help they need."

Warning signs that indicate

## Prof: Troubled marriage may harm teens more than divorce

By Terri Lackey  
For Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Moms and dads living in troubled marriages sometimes can have a more detrimental effect on teens than parents who go ahead and get a divorce, according to a faculty member who teaches youth education at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Some youth will say "they would rather have (their parents) divorced than living in conflict," Allen Jackson, assistant professor at the seminary, told youth ministers attending Youth Ministry National Conference 5.

Marital conflict seems to contribute to the stress young people experience even more than divorce, he said, adding that teens who live in a home with a troubled marriage may show signs of depression, anxiety, and lower levels of physical health.

Twenty-five percent of recently surveyed young people who have experienced the divorce of their parents say the end of the marriage was a positive change, Jackson said. Further, other studies confirm "adolescents prefer the eventual divorce to the conflict-ridden marriage of their parents. Once the divorce goes through, a feeling of personal control is returned to the teenager, Jackson said.

Jackson, however, said he does not discount the trouble divorce can cause to children and teens.

"Kids of divorced parents have been shown to have lower self-esteem, a higher incidence of at-risk behavior, and less mature coping strategies (than those in healthy households)," he said.

Of 100 young people, more than half have lived at least some part of their lives in a single household, he said. Since 1972, one million children have gone through the divorce of their parents.

Jackson listed four major family styles, three of which he said have the potential for creating a troubled home life. They are: the traditional family, the frightened family, the fighting family, and the healthy family.

In what he termed the traditional family, Jackson said fathers are usually emotionally separated from their children, relating to them through the mother. The father is the absolute authority of the family, and affection is shown only by the mother. Fun is considered unnecessary.

Youth who come from this type of family background "make excellent students because they tend to be obedient."

Because of the lack of communication between the children and the father, dysfunctional relationships can develop, ultimately causing a troubled marriage and home life, he said.

Frightened families are ones in which the members feel it is them against the world. "They turn inward, and they are very dependent on each other. No one is al-

lowed to make a decision apart from the whole group."

The fighting family, Jackson said, is one where mothers and fathers tower over the children. "There is a great deal of fighting between the dad and mom. In this family, it's every man for himself. Everybody makes his own decision."

Finally, the healthy family, Jackson said, is "all for one and one for all."

"There is shared decision-making, but with parental veto possible. Victories and defeats are shared within such a family, and communication is common."

Jackson suggested ways youth ministers can help if they are nearly certain a teen is experiencing a troubled home life:

(1) Attempt to make contact with each parent, individually and then together.

(2) Think multigenerational. "If your first line of defense doesn't work, and a troubled family is totally out of hand, maybe the extended family could help."

(3) Honesty should be a priority. "Let's help our parents tell it like it is. If moms and dads are having problems, let's not make the teen suspect it by listening to their fights at the top of the stairs."

(4) Resist making promises you can't keep as a minister. "Don't say, 'If you can't get this worked out, you can come live with us.'"

(5) Encourage and assist young people to continue to grow as individuals.

(6) Know when to hand off the problem. □

## To get youth into church, be relational

By Charles Willis  
For Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Getting 1990s youth interested in church requires more than a 1970s approach of building campfires and singing songs, a youth minister told his peers during Youth Ministry National Conference 5 in Atlanta.

"If you want to go where they are, if you want them to come where you are, you have to build relationships," said Juan Sanchez Jr., minister of youth at First Church, Eastman, Ga.

Southern Baptist youth ministry, Sanchez maintained, has been aimed at the middle and upper economic classes.

"After all," he illustrated, "who else can afford to go to a summer camp that costs \$200?"

Youth ministers must evaluate their ministries and ask themselves if they are going where God is working or if they are providing an "entertainment service" for the middle-class families of their churches.

Apologetics, a defense of the faith, is as important as relationships in reaching today's youth, Sanchez said. A balance of good theology, good biblical teaching, and positive relationships is essential for youth ministers, he said.

"You can't do just one thing to reach everyone," he observed. "Today's youth fall into three categories as they relate to church — lookers, learners, and leaders.

"Lookers" are youth who have little interest in church or the things of God, Sanchez said. They come to look around during the fun activities, but leave if they are not constantly entertained.

"Learners" have an interest in things of God and the church. He said they have a genuine desire to learn and constantly ask questions.

"Leaders" not only have an interest in God and the church, but also an interest in letting others know about God.

The challenge for youth ministers, Sanchez said, is "how to bring in lookers, get them to become learners, and develop them into leaders." □

## ■ the churches

■ Tennessee Gov. Don Sundquist has asked Tennessee churches to pray that Tennessee will enter its third century with a vision for the state. He asks churches to pray that families will be strengthened and that there will be increased unity among all God's people. March 10 has been set aside for this special time of prayer.

■ **Minor Hill Church, Minor Hill**, recently burned the note on its Christian Fellowship Center, representing its debt-free status.

■ **Richland Church, Lynnville**, will break ground for its new sanctuary in April. Volunteers from Alabama will help members build it.

■ **Second Church, Memphis**, will host The Vance Duo of Memphis March 24 at 6 p.m. Howard Vance will play the guitar and Beverly will play the flute. The program is the first of the church's 1996 Mary Rose Hardin Concert Series to honor Hardin, a long-time member and organist.

■ **Alta Loma Church, Madison**, will hold a one day revival March 3. Harold Hunter, evangelist from Hermitage, will speak.

■ **Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville**, will host the Seminary Choir of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. The concert is part of a five-state winter tour.

■ **Adriel Church, Bean Station**, will hold its centennial celebration March 31. It also is building a new fellowship hall.

## ■ the associations

■ **Cumberland Association** will hold its first simultaneous revivals in recent history March 10-15. The revivals are being held instead of an evangelism conference. Twenty-three of the association's 27 churches are participating and most are being led by Tennessee Baptist evangelists. On March 15 a Victory Rally will be held at Central Church, Crossville. Evangelists Toonie Cash of Johnson City, Marilyn Ford of Memphis, and Anita Cole of Oneida will lead it. An associational choir also will perform.

■ **Fayette Association** will hold a "People Sharing Jesus Conference" Feb. 26 at the Fayette Baptist Mission Center from 7-9 p.m. Darrel Robinson will speak. About 400 attended its evangelism conference Jan. 14. Benny Jackson spoke.

## ■ the leaders

■ **Fred Steelman**, pastor, Red Bank Church, Red Bank, has celebrated his 22nd anniversary of service there.

■ **Bethel Church, Cunningham**, near Clarksville, has called **Corey Holloway** as associate pastor. He is a student at Covington Theological Seminary, Rossville, Ga.

■ **Carl Mowdy** is serving as director of student ministries, Liberty Church, Bristol.

■ **Gary Vacca** has resigned as minister of music of New Hope Church, Hermitage, after seven years to spend full time on his ministry, Powerful

Christian Living.

■ **Shallow Ford Church, Erwin**, has called **Justin Hendren**, a recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., as pastor. **Preston Holley** has been called as minister of music.

■ **First Church, Jonesborough**, has called **Russell Naron** as interim pastor.

■ **Otto Giles** is serving as pastor of Oak Dale Church, Afton.

■ **Fred Jackson** has been called as pastor of Lovelace Church, Fall Branch.

■ **Bill Duncan** has been called as pastor of Clark Street Church, Johnson City.

■ **Minister of youth and recreation** at First Church, Humboldt, **Jeff Nowakowski**, has resigned effective Jan. 21 after two years of service. He will work towards a doctor's degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **French Broad Church, Dandridge**, has called **Kenny Haun** as pastor. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

■ **Scott Andrews**, minister of music, First Church, Sevierville, for the last seven years, has been called as minister of music, Trinity Church, Southaven, Miss, effective Feb. 14.

■ **Richard J. Blalock**, pastor, Apison Church, Apison, for 11 years, will retire March 31. He has been pastor of Stuart Heights Church, Chattanooga, where he served for nine years; and in Ohio. A re-



**BREAKING GROUND** on Jan. 14 are leaders of Hillcrest Church, Clarksville, for its new 750-seat worship center. The leaders are, from left, Don Keener, construction manager; Norma Sharp; Mary Carter; Jim Coleman; Larry G. Mulberry, pastor; Bryan Edgin; Wesley Pitts, director of missions, Cumberland Association; Richard Hunley; and Dorris Owen.

ception to honor him will be March 31 from 2-4 p.m.

■ **Ken Altom**, pastor, First Church, Cookeville, has resigned, effective Feb. 11.

■ **Jeff Greene** of Barnard's Grove Church, Bean Station, will work in Belize beginning Feb. 24. He will be doing construction work and leading Vacation Bible Schools.

■ **Pope Avenue Church, Athens**, has called **Dean Futate** as pastor.

## ■ the people

■ **Joyce Rogers**, a member of Bellevue Church, Cordova, is among 80 contributors of *The Woman's Study Bible*, published recently by Thomas Nelson Bibles. It is the first study Bible created completely by women, for women, addressing issues of interest to women.

■ **Danny Eades** was licensed to preach by Bethel Church, Cunningham, near

Clarksville, Feb. 11.

## ■ the schools

■ **Belmont University, Nashville**, will offer the first and only master of science in occupational therapy in the state beginning in the fall of 1996. Scott D. McPhee has been named chair of the department, which is in the School of Sciences. McPhee has been a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Medical Specialist Corps for 21 years, a clinic director at the Ireland Army Hospital in Fort Knox, Ky., and program director of the Occupational Therapy Specialist School, Academy of Health Sciences at Fort Sam in Houston, Texas.

■ **Martha Kelley**, former director of quality systems at Belmont University, has been promoted to assistant vice president for administration and planning.

# Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

## Examining LOVE

By David Pittman, director of church services  
Hamilton County Association

During February we celebrate Valentine's Day. This is the time that we think of love and expressing it to those we are closest to. I would like to take this opportunity to use the acronym LOVE to make a point.

The **L** in love is to remind us of how much God loves us. He loves us enough to send Jesus into the world to die for us so that we may have eternal life.

The **O** in love is to remind us of the outreach that we should be involved in to tell others about the love of God.

The **V** in love is to remind us that this is very important. We are the method that God has chosen to communicate this love to a lost person.

The **E** in love is to remind us that this for everyone. The love of God is

for everyone regardless of age, race, height, weight, color of hair, or anything else.

If we as Southern Baptists take our Bold Mission Thrust (to take the Gospel to the entire world) seriously, we must begin at home. There is no better place to begin than here. There is no better time to begin than now. □

## Following Wal-Mart's example

By Ken Marler, member  
First Church, Franklin

My grandfather is 94 years old and acts 60 — unbelievable health and uncontrollably active lifestyle. He gardens year around, doesn't miss carport sales, drives to town regularly, and loves to talk. My grandmother is almost as active at 88 years of age. My grandfather lives in It, Miss. Yes, It.

Every Thursday my grandfather

drives about 20 miles to Hazelhurst to the Wal-Mart. It is Senior Adult Day and they get free coffee. He doesn't miss that day.

When I develop a picture in my mind of my grandfather going to Wal-Mart I can see him making sure everyone knows he is in the building. After all, when you are 94 you want everyone to know it. (I guess only 94-year-olds understand this.)

In fact, I am convinced that if I did some of the things my grandfather did I would be arrested. For example, I asked my grandfather why he would drive 40 miles round trip for a free cup of coffee. His response, "Well, I like the free coffee and I also like the way the clerks hug on me." If I said that about myself, I'm in jail.

A couple years ago my grandfather went into the Wal-Mart as was his Thursday routine and it just happened to be the week of his birthday. As he entered the door, Wal-Mart employees

give him a birthday party. Cake, candles, balloons, ice cream, and the newspaper photographer were all there. (Of course, there was free coffee also.)

Wal-Mart knows my grandfather ... his name ... his birthday ... free coffee ... cake ... ice cream ... candles ... balloons and hugs — lots of hugs.

Now it is very interesting that my grandfather does not go to church. He is a Christian and my grandmother doesn't miss church, but granddad doesn't go.

Why? Because what he gets at Wal-Mart he doesn't get at church — hugs, people knowing his name, birthdays, a sense of belonging and being appreciated.

You see, it doesn't matter if you are 4 or 94, you like all of these things. Age is not an issue, what is an issue is belonging — feeling a part of what is going on.

If my grandfather were to be in your church, would he get the Wal-Mart reception? □

# Tennessee Baptists cite progress in 1996 ACP software

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Tennesseans who tried out the 1996 Annual Church Profile software recently in a demonstration at the Baptist Sunday School Board agreed it is easier to use and represents a significant improvement over 1995.

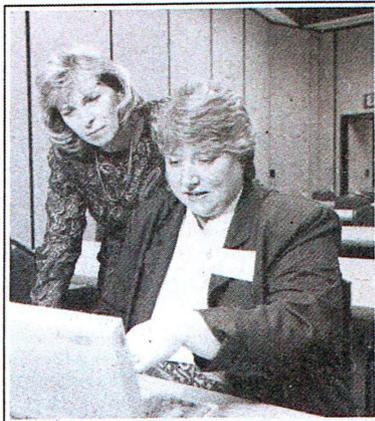
Mike Overcash, information systems manager for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood; Ray Maynard, director of missions, Union Association, Sparta; and Debbie Love, secretary at Chapel Hill Church, Smyrna, were part of the group of about 20 who participated in the four-hour briefing.

Software and paper forms will be released on schedule the first week in April by the board's strategic information unit.

"The 1996 software was rewritten from the ground up," said Tom Carringer, strategic information specialist. "We feel we have made great progress to correct the problems experienced in 1995," he said.

Problems with the 1995 software caused delays in distribution and difficulties with use, Carringer acknowledged.

After apologizing in the fall of 1995, the goal for 1996 has



**DEBBIE LOVE**, right, secretary at Chapel Hill Church, Smyrna, gets hands-on experience with the 1996 Annual Church Profile software during a recent meeting at the Baptist Sunday School Board. Providing assistance is Cheryl Moore of the board's strategic information unit.

been to release materials on time, address problems experienced last year, and position the ACP for maximum effectiveness in the future, he said.

Overcash said the 1996 software is "so much easier and user friendly. I think we scared a lot of people last year (with the software problems). I hope we can get them back. If they'll give it a chance, I think it'll be good."

Maynard said the materials are a "whole lot clearer." Materials prepared by the association for ACP also can be used other ways by the association.

He praised the partnership among associations, state conventions, and the BSSB.

Love will be preparing her first ACP in 1996. After trying out the software she said she believes it will be easy to use.

"I don't think I'll have any problems on the congregational end," Love said. "I'm looking forward to using it."

During the meeting several suggestions were offered for improvements. Carringer pledged to

consider what could be done to address each concern.

Materials are being introduced to state convention statistical representatives March 8-9 in New Orleans.

Materials being released to state conventions include 1996 ACP booklets, electronic forms for churches in DOS, associational clerk's booklets, and processors for associations. States then distribute them on varying schedules to associations.

In Tennessee, the items will be distributed prior to associational clerk training which is scheduled for June and July, Overcash said.

He noted training is set for all regions in the state. There will be two sessions at each site beginning at 2:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Individuals can go to ei-

ther session, Overcash said.

Dates and sites are:  
Northeast: June 17, Holston Association office, Johnson City

East: June 18, Clinton Association office, Clinton

North Central: June 20, Westview Church, Cookeville

Southeast: June 24, Hamilton County Association, Chattanooga

South Central: June 25, Maury Association, Columbia  
Central: June 27, Baptist Center, Brentwood

Southwest: July 15, Haywood Association, Brownsville

Northwest: July 16, Gibson County Association, Trenton

Sessions will be led by Overcash and David McDonald of the TBC Information Services office. For more information, call (615) 371-2007. □

## Classified

**CHURCH BUS SEATS:** Brown/Tan, solid vinyl trim, very good condition; selling 22 seats; one bench seat across rear for four adults; consider selling part; \$40 each; call Earl Maddox at (615) 526-1964.

## WANTED

I am looking for wedding stories — unusual, touching, funny — for publication in book. Send to P.O. Box 7, Boaz, KY 42027.

## Exciting Career in Christian Retailing

Excellent salary and benefit package available. Qualifications must include: four-year college degree or comparable business experience, outstanding leadership, computer skills, strong vision for the future, and an active role in a Southern Baptist church.

Send resume or fax to:  
Book Store Manager Search  
Human Resources Dept.  
127 Ninth Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37234-0121  
Fax: (615) 251-5017

BAPTIST BOOK STORES  
LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN STORES

owned and operated by the  
Sunday School Board of the  
Southern Baptist Convention

## Children's Minister

Full-time position. Send resume to Debbie Brown, Children's Minister Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 1901 North Pierce Street, Little Rock, AR 72207

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, steeples, chairs, tables, lighting, stained glass, folding doors, carpet

## VAN WINKLE CHURCH FURNISHINGS & PEW UPHOLSTERY

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843  
In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627  
Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

Call for free BROCHURE

**BAPTISTRIES**  
HEATERS, PUMPS  
FACTORY DIRECT  
TOL. FREE NATIONWIDE  
1-800-251-0678

FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.  
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

**A & O CHURCH FURNITURE**  
4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053  
JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282

SOLID OAK PEWS —  
PEW UPHOLSTERY / REFINISHING  
BAPTISTRIES STEEPLES  
EDUCATIONAL FURNITURE  
1-800-523-9058  
NC 1-(800)-222-7895

**EDUCATION MINISTER WANTED**  
Conservative SBC in Alexandria, VA  
with Day Care oversight.  
Send resumes to:  
Search Committee  
16753 Anglia Loop  
Dumfries, VA 22026

Don't manage your music programs without it!

**Church Music Master for Windows**

• Plan Worship  
• Cross 17 hymn/chorus books  
• Track music personnel equipment, publishers, recordings, much more!  
• Nobody Compares!

Only \$149... \$5.50/yr. (MS members add 7% sales tax)  
Credit Card orders only!  
Free demo, information please

To pay by Check or M.O. send \$149 + \$5.50/yr. (MS residents add 7% sales tax) orders may be placed or submitted to us. Please add an additional \$5 for CD's.

Also Available: School Music Master for Windows \$129  
**COMPOSER'S MANUSCRIPT PRESS**  
P.O. Box 2461 • Shawnee, OK 74901  
E-mail: cmpp101@netnet.net, Fax: 405-273-6594  
WWW: http://www.godwin.net/cmpp101/cmpp.html  
Now providing WWW Authoring and Consulting. Contact us for more info.  
Don't Wait! Order your copy today!

Call toll-free anytime ... 1-800-473-6688  
We're built on a strong foundation of over 3800 churches.

**Church Interiors of Nashville**  
New PEWS REFINISHING UPHOLSTERY  
Stained Glass Steeples Baptistries Loose Reversible Cushions  
Lighting and Complete Renovations

Free Estimates and Interior Design Consultation

## See The Best of ISRAEL

10-day deluxe tour  
Individuals Only \$1699.00 Groups

(All Inclusive - includes taxes, tips, breakfast & dinner in Israel)  
See:

Nazareth - Jordan River - Mount of Olives - Garden of Gethsemane  
Bethlehem - Masada - Mount of Beatitudes - Sea of Galilee - Dead Sea  
Garden Tomb - Western (Wailing) Wall...much more!



Call for brochure:  
817-267-9502



## 20' to 33' Buses By CHAMPION MOTOR COACH INC.

## Church Buses

- 12 to 38 adult capacity
- Over 20 used buses for sale
- Rental buses available
- Guaranteed Buy Back Program
- We Buy Used Buses

## Carpenter Bus Sales

P.O. Box 2126  
Brentwood, Tenn., 37024-2126

Call Henry Headden today:

1 (800) 370-6180  
1 (615) 371-6180

"Ask about our Rental Bus Program."



Crusader: 15-Passenger (No CDL Required)  
(13 with Rear Storage Compartment)

# Sunday School lesson commentary

**Life and Work Series  
for February 25  
Focal Passage: Matthew  
6:9-15**

## A model prayer

By Charles Parker

Someone recalled "seeing photographs of toddler John F. Kennedy Jr., playing in the oval office under his father's desk and around his feet. There sat the president of the United States managing crises, holding meetings with high officials, and leading the nation. There sat John-John playing with toys, oblivious to world events, and telling his father the concerns of his little world. That's how it should be between us and our heavenly Father. He who runs the world and manages everything in it wants us to know that every aspect of our lives is important and is to be brought to him in prayer."

Indeed, prayer is such an important part of the disciple's life that Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount interrupts the balanced flow of his illustrations about the right motives in the spiritual life to teach about prayer with a model, "a small sample of the real thing." And he will again return to the theme of prayer in Matthew 7:7-12. It would be helpful to compare this treatment with Luke's version in Luke 11:1-4. These words are perhaps more "the Lord's Prayer" because the Lord Jesus taught them because he used them to word his own prayers.

### Prayer emphasizes God's glory — vv. 9b-10

The "Our Father" shows it is the prayer of the church of Christ united. I cannot rightly pray "My Father" if I do not recognize he is your Father, too. And it is an harmonious whole; I cannot rightly pray "Our Father" if I harbor in my heart unforgiven sin toward a brother or sister (vv. 14-15). The words "which art in heaven" do not distance God from our needs, but rather emphasizes his sovereignty and ability to help us with our needs, and our reverence before him. They connote our realization that beyond this world is an unseen world, a heavenly one, the goal and home of the soul.

He is furthermore "hallowed," that is "holy" in his "name" or essence. We are praying that he "make himself known that others on earth will recognize his holiness." His sovereign rule, his "kingdom come," must be our heart's desire and my will must be in the process of being molded here on earth to his heavenly, divine will.

### Prayer focuses of human needs — vv. 11-13

Three petitions relate to our needs. "Bread" refers to food in particular, but it further connotes all our physical, earthly needs. We need enough each day to strengthen us to do his will. We trust him to provide it in response to our work and ability. "Forgive us our debts" will not work at the earthly bank, but in the heavenly bank it is our only hope. More spiritual than the previous petition, it is a plea for God's grace. "As we forgive" implies that the Christian cannot harbor love for God along with bad feelings toward others in the heart.

The third petition is a prayer to be kept from the temptations and evils that make forgiveness necessary, although some scholars feel it points mainly to the final Tribulation. It could be deliverance from evil deeds or from Satan. The doxology or benediction in verse 13b is not in the best or most ancient Bible manuscripts.

### Prayer involves responsibility to forgive others — vv. 14-15

The only petition in the Model Prayer that Jesus elaborated on is the one about forgiveness. Perhaps this points both to its importance to God and to its difficulty for us. Forgiveness is a sure mark of God's grace. The more forgiving we are, the more like God we show ourselves to be (see Matthew 5:7). □ — Charles Parker is pastor of First Church, Jacksboro.

## The kindness of Boaz

By Kim Allen

**Convention Uniform Series  
for February 25  
Focal Passages:  
Ruth 2:1, 8-12; 4:13-17**

In this story we see God using human actions and circumstances to work out his good purposes. Our aim this week is to explain the circumstances and significance of Ruth's marriage to Boaz.

### Gleaning in the field of Boaz — ch. 2:1-13

(1) Boaz notices Ruth — The key point with Boaz is he was a kinsman of Elimelech. This is important due to Jewish law regarding the role of a kinsman towards related widows.

Gleaning was the practice of allowing the poor to pick fruit or grain left by harvesters. This was one way the community provided for widows. In verses 2-3, Ruth is in the field gleaning. Boaz notices Ruth and finds she is a Moabitess related to Naomi.

(2) Boaz showed kindness to Ruth and she fell on her face to ask why he was taking notice of her.

Boaz, being a man of faith, felt God would reward such a commitment as Ruth showed, and felt he could be part of God's instrument in providing the reward.

Boaz has her eat lunch with his servants and he ordered them to leave grain for her which amounted to about an ephah of barley at the end of the day.

(3) Ruth went to Naomi and she invoked a blessing upon Boaz and saw a gleam of light for the future. She instructed Ruth to continue to glean as Boaz had told her.

### At the threshing floor of Boaz — ch. 3:1-18

(1) In verses 1-9 a plan is put into place to bring to Boaz's attention his duty as a kinsman and during the night on the threshing floor the plan was put into action.

(2) Boaz is pleased that Ruth chose him over a younger man and agrees to do as she asks but

reminds her there is a closer kinsman whom he will confront. Boaz sent her away with grain before others awoke to prevent gossip.

**Boaz at the city gate —  
ch. 4:1-12**

(1) Outside the city gate

Boaz confronted the kinsman with 10 elders to witness the transaction and informed him that Naomi had family property to sell. Boaz asked if he would purchase it and he said yes. Boaz told him when he did he also would need to claim Ruth as his wife. He then refused because that would have affected his inheritance. He told Boaz to act as kinsman redeemer.

(2) Boaz called upon the elders to witness the redeeming of the land of Elimelech and to declare publicly he would act as redeemer kinsman by marrying Ruth. The elders publicly declared they were witnesses and asked the Lord to bless Ruth with children as he did Rachel and Leah and Tamar.

### Joy in the birth of a son — vv. 13-22

(1) God answered their prayer and a son was born. He was considered a descendant to Mahlon but his lineage later lists Boaz also indicating he may have been Boaz's only son.

(2) The women of Bethlehem praised God and asked God to make the name of Boaz famous in Israel for redeeming Ruth. In verse 15, "he" the child is prayed for to restore life and hope to Naomi since the lineage of Elimelech and Mahlon was continued in his birth.

(3) Naomi was full of joy as she held "Obed" which means servant because by the Levirate law he was her grandson. Obed was the father of Jesse the father of Israel's King David. This fact gives strong affirmation of the Gentiles to share in God's love. □ — Kim Allen is pastor of Little West Fork Church, Clarksville.

## Relationships in the church

By Phil Lovelace

**Bible Book Series for February 25  
Focal Passage: I Timothy 5:1-12,  
17-21**

These final two chapters (5 and 6) deal with the church and its ministry to at least 7 kinds of people.

### To older saints — vv. 1-2

Being a young man, Timothy had to be careful not to "lord it over" the older believers in the church. The word "elders" here refers to age, not office. The pastor is not to rebuke older saints, but exhort and encourage them. The church needs to recognize and help meet the needs and problems of the older believers. They are important to the church.

### To widows — vv. 3-12

The early church cared for needy widows. The word "honor" in verse 3 means "to fix the value," as in our word "honorarium," a price paid to a speaker for services. Timothy had to be careful not to misuse the church funds by giving money to unworthy widows. But note that verse 4 says that the family has the first responsibility! Children and grandchildren are to repay (requite) their parents and grandparents, and not expect the church to put them on charity. Any Christian who does not take care of his own is worse than an unbeliever (v. 8)!

Paul gives the requirements for widows being "enrolled." First, they must be true widows, without earthly support or care. She must be a godly woman, given to praying and serving others. It is likely that these widows, who were supported by the church served the church in many

ways, perhaps as Dorcas did. She must be 60 years old or older, and not divorced and remarried. She must have a good testimony (v. 10).

### To church leaders — vv. 17-21

Timothy had apparently been having trouble with some of his officers. Part of the problem was that he had chosen and ordained some of them too quickly. Another factor was that he had misjudged some of them and made some hasty decisions. Pastors make mistakes, even if their hearts are right! But the officers make mistakes, too!

As Paul's personal representative in Ephesus, Timothy was to oversee the work of the various elders in the area. These men were paid by the church, since God's command is that those who teach the Word should live off the Word (I Corinthians 9:1-14). Elders who were faithful to do their work well should receive doubly pay. Paul supports this principle of Christians paying their church servants by quoting Deuteronomy 25:4 and referring to what Christ said in Luke 10:7.

But what about church leaders that cause trouble? First of all, get the facts. Every accusation must be supported by at least two witnesses. The matter must be given honest appraisal, and there must not be

any partiality shown. Where the accusation is found to be true, and the witnesses and facts point to conviction, then the offending officers must be dealt with publicly. The suggestion here is that the offender confesses his sins and asks forgiveness.

Verse 23 has aroused a great deal of interest! Paul was urging Timothy to take care of his body. The wine that Paul prescribed would help Timothy's stomach; it was medicine, not a social beverage. Paul prayed for Timothy, but he also suggested a practical remedy for his needs. It is likely that Timothy was being swayed by the false teachers who taught bodily discipline, asceticism, etc., and this had affected Timothy's health. Healthy doctrine will not only make a Christian healthy spiritually, but also physically!

Church officers and leaders are important, because they help the pastor to carry the load. But the pastor must always be the shepherd of the flock. The best thing a church officer can do is to make it possible for the pastor to exercise his spiritual gifts and ministries without hindrance or distraction. Then the church will grow! □ — Phil Lovelace is pastor of First Church, Somerville.

## FamilyNet, ACTS to air Dove Awards

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The 27th annual Dove Awards will be telecast live April 25 from 9-11 p.m. Eastern Time by FamilyNet, the broadcast television service of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and on the Faith & Values Channel as a presentation of the ACTS Network.

ACTS and FamilyNet also have scheduled a pre-show special to feature backstage interviews and music video clips from many of the artists nominated for the Dove Awards. It will air from 8-9 p.m. Eastern Time.

The nationally telecast program will be held at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville and will be hosted by contemporary Christian musician Michael W. Smith. □

## Saddleback baptisms surpass 1,300 in '95

Baptist Press

LAKE FOREST, Calif. — Saddleback Valley Community Church baptized 1,365 new converts in 1995, including a 91-year-old woman and 79 others on the last day of the year.

First Church, Dallas, and its missions recorded 1,313 baptisms in 1995.

Among other churches which have recorded 1,300-plus baptisms in past years are First Southern Church, Del City, Okla., 2,028 in 1980, and First Church, Houston, 1,669 in 1971.

Saddleback, which has started 27 missions, does not include its mission baptisms in its count. If the missions were

included the baptism total would top 2,000 for 1995.

Worship attendance at the Lake Forest church averages nearly 12,000 each weekend. The church was cited recently by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as "Key Church of the Year" for 1995. □

## Louisiana leader sets retirement

Baptist Press

ALEXANDRIA, La. — Mark Short, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention since 1987, has announced his retirement, effective Dec. 31.

Short, 67, came to the helm of the state convention from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where he was a professor of church administration. He followed Robert L. Lee who held the post of LBC executive director for 33 years.

During Short's tenure the number of churches and missions in the state have increased from 1,447 in 1987 to 1,629. Resident membership has increased from 395,617 to 410,333. □

## Southeastern's Rogers dies after long illness

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary lost a longtime standard-bearer Feb. 12 when Max Rogers, professor of Old Testament at the seminary since 1961, died after an extended illness. He was 63.

Rogers was "a respected scholar, a brilliant thinker, and an excellent teacher," according to Steve Andrews, assistant professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Southeastern. Andrews earned his Th.M. at Southeastern and studied under Rogers.

Rogers, a native of Richmond, Va., held degrees from Duke University, Durham, N.C., and Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He did postdoctoral work at the University of Munster in West Germany. □

## Texas Baptist Men to build student housing at SWBTS

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Texas Baptist Men and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary soon will benefit from each other's ministries.

One of Southwestern's most popular housing alternatives for families will be expanded beginning in March. Texas Baptist Men, an organization of volunteer builders affiliated with the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, will live in travel trailers while they build two new town houses in the J. Howard Williams Student Village on the seminary campus.

For 24 years Texas Baptist Men has volunteered in various building projects around the country. Southwestern's new units — containing 12 apartments — are scheduled for completion in late April.

"We have planned on building these units since 1991, but we haven't been able to because of funding," said Terry Caywood, SWBTS director of business services.

Now, with the help of Texas



## BSSB trustee officers

Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. (second from left) congratulates new officers of the board's trustees. From left are Sid Nichols, Dothan, Ala., recording secretary; Draper; Nick Garland, Broken Arrow, Okla., chairman; and Gary MacManamy, Midwest City, Okla., vice chairman.

Baptist Men, he added, the seminary, which will provide the building supplies, can complete the project. □

## Ministry with children, families topic of WMU conference in April

Woman's Missionary Union

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Meeting the needs of children through ministries sponsored by the church will be the focal point of Children and the Church II, set for April 24-26 in Birmingham.

The conference, sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, is designed as a forum for individuals who minister with children and their families in the name of the church, whether in local congregations or in agencies supported by churches.

Among the conference's keynote speakers are Marian Wright Edelman, president of

the Children's Defense Fund; Diana Garland, Gheens professor of Christian family ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and Richard Land, president of the SBC Christian Life Commission.

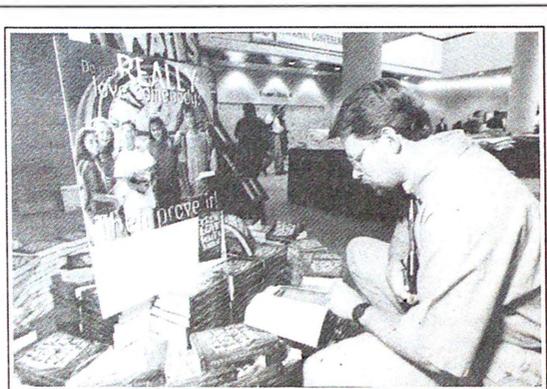
In addition to general sessions, more than 30 workshops, covering a wide spectrum of topics will be offered during the two-day gathering. Topics include preaching on child/family issues, global issues related to children, caring for chronically ill children and their families, victory over violence, child abuse and neglect, and more. The meeting begins at 1 p.m. on April 24 and ends with lunch and a general session on April 26.

The fee for the conference is \$90 before March 15; \$100 after that date. Reservations must be made by April 1.

To register or obtain additional information about the meeting, call (800) 968-7301. □



SHORT



## New Bible

Tony Rodgers, minister of youth and education at Yellow Creek Church, Owensboro, Ky., examines the new True Love Waits Bible, published by Broadman & Holman Publishers and unveiled during Youth Ministry National Conference 5 in Atlanta Feb. 9-13.

## Williams tells Brotherhood leaders

# Vision needed for both NAMB, BC

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — State convention Brotherhood leaders were urged to support the proposal for a new North American Mission Board while continuing their commitment to ongoing Brotherhood Commission efforts at their annual meeting earlier this month.

"We must champion the vision for a brand new organization," said James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president, referring to the proposed merger of the Brotherhood Commission with the SBC Home Mission Board and Radio and Television Commis-

sion. "If we withhold our support, doubt and fear will take hold. But we must also keep our own vision alive — promote it, sell it, and give it drama and excitement.

"To do that we need the help of all state leadership. I call on you to build on that wonderful teamwork that has always characterized our work together," Williams said.

In the meantime "full steam ahead" will characterize the Brotherhood Commission's ap-



WILLIAMS

proach to its ongoing ministries and programs, according to Douglas Beggs, the agency's vice president of program services.

"We're going to continue to do what we do well and we will continue to partner with you," Beggs said, pointing to the recent expansion of the Royal Ambassador program with the "EZRA" option and the resulting updates on materials, the enrichment of leadership materials for Men's Ministries and Challengers programs, and the unveiling this summer of MissionKids, a coeducational missions education program for children. □