

# Baptist and Reflector

March 13, 1996

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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## Executive Board to consider remodeling plan

By Wm. Fletcher Allen and  
Lonnie Wilkey  
*Baptist and Reflector*

**BRENTWOOD** — A remodeled structure for serving Tennessee Baptist churches will be considered for approval by the TBC Executive Board at its May 7 meeting.

The new structure is named ServanTeam 21. Incorporating the team concept, it should enable the Executive Board staff to respond to church needs quicker and more efficiently.

ServanTeam 21, says James Porch, board executive director, "communicates strongly that we want to respond directly to the churches as a 'one servant' family."

During a recent staff sharing time with state directors of missions, Porch observed that from time to time it is necessary for churches, associations, and conventions "to take a look at its delivery system because what we're about is serving the Lord. ..."

Two questions had to be addressed in the remodeling process, Porch said.

(1) How can we respond more effectively and more efficiently to Tennessee Baptist churches?

(2) How can we coordinate our program emphases, our services, and our plans to the needs of Tennessee Baptist churches?

The new model of Executive Board staff assignments incorporates a group concept, replacing the current departmental structure, Porch explained.

Seven groups will relate to TBC churches and associations, each led by a group leader. The groups also relate to a ministry council, comprised of the seven group leaders.

Porch emphasized the new plan utilizes crossover, so that churches will be able to relate to any staff member for a specific need.

If the Executive Board approves the new organization in May, the staff will operate on both plans until complete implementation Nov. 1. Because the remodeling deals only with Executive Board operations, it does not require approval from messengers at the TBC annual meeting.

The first steps toward "one servant" leadership and the remodeling came during the Executive Board staff retreat in January 1994.

Staffers dialogued with administrative leadership. More studies and planning were done at the January 1995 staff retreat, and by January this year, staffers were able to get a hands-on feel of how the new structure would function if approved in May.

The Executive Board dis-

cussed with staff leaders in December about the plan, and in February directors of missions had the same opportunity. Each of the Executive Board standing committees will look over the plan at their April meetings prior to the entire board session May 7.

The executive office is keeping the board and other leadership informed as the refining process continues.

Porch further explained that the executive staff "has tried hard to involve the staff at pivotal points, and keep them up-to-date." He added that every effort had been made to do the same for the Executive Board and directors of missions.

He stressed that the restructuring will benefit the Executive Board staff as it serves the churches. "The remodeling does not suggest that churches change their ways of relating to us.

"We will continue to do all current 'department' work," he said, "but the remodeling of our methods of service will help us to do the work better."

Porch also emphasized old terminology will not change. Staff will still use terms like Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Brotherhood, Church Music, WMU, etc., and will be able to assist in those areas as they do now, he noted.

But there will be some new

terminology introduced to Tennessee Baptists, Porch said.

Terms such as ministry concept, ministry council, teams and team leaders, state missionaries, and more will become commonplace. See page 3 for a complete glossary of terms designed to help one better understand the process.

The TBC remodeling differs greatly with the restructuring taking place in the Southern Baptist Convention. The proposed remodeling deals only with Executive Board operations and does not include the colleges or institutions. The Executive Board itself will not change; only the way the staff functions will differ.

The SBC faces drastic restructuring beginning this summer if messengers vote in June their second approval. The SBC reorganization eliminated several agencies and combined others.

The stated objectives of the TBC remodeling are fourfold: (1) To implement effective quality ministry through crossover, empowerment, systems thinking, and process development; (2) To provide an effective quality ministry team of state missionaries to respond to the needs of individual Tennessee Baptist churches; (3) To create an atmosphere which nurtures opportunities for effective quality — See Executive, page 3

## New churches join 96 in '96

For *Baptist and Reflector*

The *Baptist and Reflector* welcomes two new churches into its family of subscribers and one to its "Church Page" family.

**Royce Church, Clinton**, took advantage of a 60-day trial plan late last year and joined at the club rate in January.

**Munford Church, Munford**, also took advantage of the paper's club plan, a special rate for less than 50 percent of the church's membership.

Another church, **First Baptist, Kingston**, was already subscribing for a substantial number of its members.

They have begun, however, to print their church newslet-

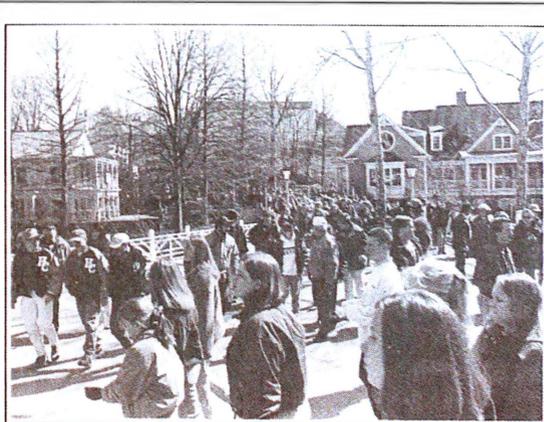
ter on the back page each week. They now receive their church, state, and national Baptist news in one convenient, economical package.

Several other churches are exploring options regarding our 96 in '96 plan which is an effort to gain 96 new churches as subscribers to the *Baptist and Reflector* in one form or another. We have several packages ranging from the Club Plan to the Church Page Plan.

Trial plans also are available.

Church leaders — take the time to explore all the alternatives in order that your congregation can be informed.

For more information, call the office at (615) 371-2003. □



### Opryland bound

Between 18,000-20,000 Tennessee Baptist youth and their sponsors poured into Opryland March 9 for the second day of the State Youth Evangelism Conference. The entire park was 'taken over' by Baptists for the day. This was the first year the TBC has used the park facilities. — Photo by Connie Davis

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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## Foundation to retain high level of trust, Chapman says

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist Foundation, which is to become a corporation of the Executive Committee under the "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention, "will remain a high trust operation," according to Morris H. Chapman, Executive Committee president.

Chapman's statement came in response to inquiries about the future of the Foundation, in light of the Executive Committee's vote in February for a new charter, under which the foundation's trustees would be elected by the Executive Committee, rather than SBC messengers.

"It was the intent of the Program and Structure Study Committee that the foundation's work continue at a quality level," Chapman said. "The highest fiduciary integrity will

continue under the new arrangement."

Hollis Johnson has been president of the foundation for the past 19 and one half years. Chapman said he will recommend that Johnson continue to lead the foundation after the changeover in June 1997, assuming a favorable vote by messengers at this year's annual meeting, June 11-13 in New Orleans, on SBC Bylaw 15's listing of SBC entities and the proposed charter amendment for the foundation.

"Hollis Johnson has built longstanding relationships which will be vital to the foundation's future," Chapman noted.

Johnson said there is absolutely no reason for donors to be anxious about funds invested with the foundation. The trust funds will receive the same careful management in the future as they have in the past, he said. □

## WMU elects Richardson president

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Carol McCall Richardson of Memphis was elected March 9 to lead the 78,000-member organization



RICHARDSON

charged with the responsibility of providing missions education in our churches for preschoolers, children, youth, and adults.

Richardson, along with her husband, Greer Richardson, is a member of First Church, Memphis, where she serves as Acteens leader. She has been Associational WMU director for Shelby County the past four years.

A graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Mrs. Richardson has strong Baptist and mis-

sions roots. Her brother, Tim McCall is a medical missionary in Nigeria; her father, John McCall, was a founding member of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship; and her grandfather is a former president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Richardson succeeds Ruth McNabb who resigned last June when she moved out of state. Other officers also were elected during the meeting held in Gatlinburg.

Vice presidents are: Sue Dowdy, Somerville; Creely Wilson, Nashville; and Peggy Barton, Kingsport.

The recording secretary is Phyllis Finchum of Strawberry Plains.

Promotion directors are Judy Cummings, Ripley; Wilma Hundley, Humboldt; Sharon Lunsford, Nashville; Carol Gilmer, Centerville; Martha Burke, Woodbury; Inez Franks, Cleveland; Bobbye Turner, Knoxville; and Glenda Roach, Rutledge. □

## Christianity's impact on society perceived positive, poll reveals

Associated Baptist Press

GLENDALE, Calif. — Americans view Christianity as having a more positive impact on society than other religious traditions, according to a new poll by the Barna Research Group.

Among those surveyed, 85 percent said they perceive Christianity as exerting a positive influence on society, while only 4 percent said they think Christianity creates a negative influence. Another 6 percent said they didn't know.

The next highest rating was given to Judaism, with 58 percent saying Jews have a positive influence on American society while 15 percent disagreed, saying Jews had a negative impact.

Mormonism ranked third with 43 percent citing a positive influence by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Another 27 percent said Mormons had a negative influence. □

## Atlanta firm to assist SBC restructuring

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Executive Committee has signed a contract with an Atlanta management consultant firm and released the first estimated savings associated with the anticipated restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Representatives of the Implementation Task Force, the SBC Executive Committee-assigned group to oversee the implementation, chose Coopers and Lybrand, LLP, a Professional Services firm, according to ITF member spokesman Ted Warren, chief operating officer of the Baptist Sunday School Board. The Atlanta firm has assisted hundreds of businesses of various sizes, including other Baptist entities, Warren said. "We are not employing Coopers and Lybrand for them to tell us what to do, but to assist us in achieving all the effectiveness we envision."

The "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring plan, approved by messengers at the 1995 SBC annual meeting in Atlanta, calls for the merging, consolidation, and/or dissolution of several entities and ultimately reducing the number from 19

to 12. A second vote on SBC Bylaw 15, which lists individually the various agencies, is required and is scheduled during the 1996 annual meeting in New Orleans in June.

The cost savings, Warren said, will be substantial, although he emphasized the dollar amounts are early estimates. During the 1996-97 SBC fiscal year (October through September), Warren said the ITF believes a savings of \$289,000 will be achieved from entities being dissolved or modified. Under the restructuring plan, the Education Commission would be dissolved and the functions of the Historical Commission, Stewardship Commission, and Southern Baptist Foundation would be assigned to other agencies, effective June 1997. During fiscal 1997-98, Warren said, the ITF expects a savings of \$1.1 million. In addition, there should be several million dollars saved in the "efficiencies gained in the revamped structure."

Warren noted that while "significant savings is expected," the primary goal of the restructuring is to "increase effectiveness in how we assist churches accomplish their mission here and abroad." □

## For SBC annual meeting

### Childcare registration underway

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Registration is being accepted for on-site care of preschool children of out-of-town messengers to the June 11-13 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans.

Registration forms may be obtained by writing to Kim Craig, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70216. Included in the return mailing will be a list of sessions

when childcare will be available and a medical form.

Childcare fees will be \$12 per session. Each registration form must be accompanied by a nonrefundable deposit of 50 percent of the anticipated cost.

Parents are advised to register promptly. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

The convention meetings and preschool childcare will be in the Superdome in New Orleans. □

## Retired TBC staffer Bill Harbin dies

BRENTWOOD — J. William Harbin, 73, retired director of the Church Minister's Relations Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, died of a heart attack March 9 at his home in Brentwood.

Harbin, a Southern Baptist minister for 50 years, had been serving as pastor of West End Church, Columbia.

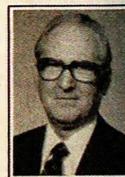
A native of South Carolina, Harbin held degrees from Furman University, Greenville, S.C., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He served as pastor of churches in Kentucky, Indi-

ana, South Carolina, and Mississippi in addition to Tennessee. He was pastor of First Church, Maryville, from 1960-76. At that time he joined the staff of the TBC and served there until he retired.

Harbin served as a trustee of several boards and on committees at both the state and SBC levels.

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, and two sons. □



HARBIN

# Executive Board to consider remodeling ...

—Continued from page 1  
ministry; and, (4) To manage resources for effective quality ministry with systematic procedures and effective administrative functions.

A breakdown of the seven groups follows:

**Evangelism/Mission Strategies, Larry Kirk, leader.**

**Christian Growth Development, Bill Wilson, leader.**

**Church Staff Leadership, Gary Rickman, leader.**

**Missions Awareness and Involvement, Tim Bearden, leader.**

**Communication Services, Eleanor Yarborough, leader.**

**Administrative Services, William Maxwell, leader.**

**Executive Leadership, James Porch, leader.**

There are several ministry specialists and ministry assistants in each group. See page 4 for specifics on each group and the staff for each.

Each group has a specific mission with assigned functions. Woman's Missionary Union chose to participate with the Missions Awareness and Involvement Group, but its organization remains un-

## Who does what?

Wondering who to contact at the TBC for information? Don't worry. If the plan is approved by the TBC Executive Board in May, churches will continue to contact departments as usual through October.

To help in the transition, an in-depth directory, complete with photos, biographical information, and specific assignment of each ministry specialist, will be sent free of charge to every church later this year. It will let churches know who to contact for specific needs. □

changed with their elected leadership. (See page 4.)

The *Baptist and Reflector* is not involved in the remodeling, continuing to answer to its own board of directors.

Group leaders will function primarily as "player-coaches," and not directors, Porch said.

While each group leader will have a speciality area, individual Baptists are expected to go straight to the person in the group to address their specific need. Ministry specialists in each group will have a speciality area. Groups also will be able to "crossover" as needed.

The new organizational plan also has a ministry council which relates to the groups

through executive leadership (Porch), ministry coordinator (Wilson), and administrative director (Maxwell). Included in the council are Porch, Rickman, Wilson, Maxwell, Kirk, Bearden, and Yarborough. Programming decisions will be decentralized and there will be more coordination developed through the Ministry Council, Porch observed.

The TBC executive director emphasized "there is absolutely no employee job loss. All current employees are included in the remodeling."

He also observed the remodeling plan will allow for increased opportunities. There will be increased Executive

Board committee involvement, and in addition, each group will have a director of missions liaison. This person will serve for one year and will be expected to participate in basic quality training, he noted.

Porch said he is excited also because of the empowerment which allows individuals and groups to perform best.

"We have the opportunity to turn people loose and allow them to do the job. The scary part is that it may take a long time to get enough resources for them.

"We have the staff that is absolutely phenomenal because they have been empowered to do the Kingdom work."

He added that "they are ready to move; new energy is being released. They really 'get with it' in meetings."

Porch emphasized that churches won't have to change the way they relate to the Executive Board staff. And, he said, ServanTeam 21 will enhance and amplify what is done through Vision 2000, the long range ministry plan approved by the TBC messengers last November. □

## Glossary

The following is a list of terms related to the remodeling plan for the TBC. The plan must be approved by TBC Executive Board members at their May 7 meeting.

★ **Administrative Director:** A person responsible for Executive Board business operations and serves as counsel in administrative activities to the Executive Director.

★ **Function:** The natural act of a thing.

★ **Group:** Assigned ministry specialists with compatible skills which accomplish the ministry concept.

★ **Group Leader:** Assigned position to coordinate the work of the ministry group and serve on the ministry council.

★ **Ministry Concept:** The natural grouping of functions within the scope of the mission statement.

★ **Ministry Council:** A body composed of the executive director and six group leaders who determine ministry strategy and administrative procedures.

★ **Ministry Coordinator:** A person responsible for the coordination of the Executive Board ministry activities and serves as counsel in mission strategy development to the Executive Director.

★ **Ministry Specialist:** A person who combines calling and gifts for service through the Executive Board to churches.

★ **Mission:** Determines the scope of action.

★ **State Missionary:** A general description for an Executive Board employee.

★ **Team:** A sub-group of ministry specialists who accomplish a specific task.

★ **Team Leader:** An assigned position for specific ministry task. □

## State Baptist leaders respond to proposed remodeling

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Two leaders of the TBC Executive Board along with the president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention have endorsed the proposed remodeling plan of the Executive Board staff.

"What I like about the proposed plan is that it is a functional complement for the Vision 2000 plan approved by messengers at the 1995 TBC annual meeting," said Frank Hawkins, pastor of First Church, Kingsport. Hawkins is chairman of the Executive Board's Executive Committee and was TBC president when Vision 2000 was adopted.

"Both plans are focused toward local churches and both seek to assist churches toward quality ministry for our Lord into the 21st century," Hawkins said.

He noted ServanTeam 21 will take the "giftedness" of the Executive Board staff and make it available to churches utilizing a team concept.

"Both plans point to the convention as a servant of the churches and not the other way around," he added. "The two plans were meant for each other."

TBC Executive Board President Herbert Higdon, retired director of missions for Madison/Chester and Crockett associations, said he has no problem with the remodeling plan.

He noted, however, it will have more effect on the staff than it will the churches.

"I don't think it will have any negative impact and it may make the state convention people more accessible. That seems to be the idea behind it and I think it probably will work."

"Speaking as president of the Executive Board, it has my approval," he said.

Tennessee Baptist Convention President Ken Hubbard, pastor of First Church, Smyrna, also said he feels real positive about the remodeling.

"It is going to turn the old ship of Zion into a modern spiritual battleship, using the technique of creating more unity in our state," he added.

"The emphasis of our staff is not directors, but missionaries with definite mission objectives as goals," Hubbard said. "We are placing into the hands of state leaders the way to carry out effectively the hopes and dreams of Tennessee Baptists."

"From what I have learned," he said, "We have one leader wrapped about with advisors. This is an ancient Biblical concept. Many will share the load." □

## Tennessee Baptists asked to join in effort to ease hunger in North Korea

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD —Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union and the Tennessee Baptist Convention Brotherhood Department have joined forces to participate in a Southern Baptist Convention-wide food relief project.

The TBC, through WMU and Brotherhood, have committed to provide one container (500 boxes of food) to help relieve hunger in North Korea caused by a flood-induced famine.

The effort is in response to a request from Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid agency.

CSI asked the SBC Woman's Missionary Union and SBC Brotherhood Commission to coordinate collection of foodstuffs provided by SBC churches. CSI has offered to arrange for overseas shipping to North Korea from the U.S. West Coast.

TBC Brotherhood Director Tim Bearden said a container will be located at the TBC building in Brentwood for loading.

Bearden noted that churches wishing to join in the effort must follow these CSI-provided instructions.

(1) Use only a small U-Haul "small box" product "sm" 16 and 3/8 by 12 and 5/8 by 12

and 5/8 (1.5 cubic feet). Line box with a kitchen trash can liner. Pack the items by quantity listed. The remaining air space can be filled with loose rice or beans then tie the can liner and tape the box. A diagram on how to pack the box can be obtained from the TBC Brotherhood Department. Call (615) 371-2025.

(2) Provide the following items in these sizes and quantity: dried beans, 4 lb. bag, 3 bags; corn meal, 5 lb. bag, 3 bags; flour, 5 lb. bag, 3 bags; spaghetti, 5 lb. pack, 2 packs; rice, 5 lb. bag, 3 bags; and powdered milk, 20 qt. box, 1 box.

An option, Bearden said, is to buy the items in bulk and

re-package using zip-lock storage bags to match the specs above. This option will save on cost of items but requires more labor, Bearden noted.

He said the estimated cost for a box of food is \$33.75. Churches also are asked to provide \$20 per box to help defray expenses of the container and shipping costs.

Checks should be made to Tennessee Baptist Convention, designated for North Korea Relief Project.

Bearden said churches should not place the checks in the boxes; rather they should send them to Brotherhood or WMU at P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. Boxes

shipped to the TBC from other parts of the state will need to have the street address: 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027.

Bearden stressed that CSI is asking churches not to include tracts, Bibles, or other printed materials in shipments. North Korea is fearful of religion and Christianity in particular.

By including such materials the small opening to work in North Korea would likely be closed, according to CSI officials.

(3) All boxes must be delivered to the Baptist Center to be included in the container by April 10. □

## Proposed remodeling introduces seven group assignments

### TBC Ministry Council

James Porch, Bill Wilson, William Maxwell, Tim Bearden, Larry Kirk, Eleanor Yarborough, Gary Rickman

### Evangelism/Mission Strategies

**Mission:** To assist churches in focused missions and evangelism which facilitates statewide missions and evangelism strategies.

**Functions:**

- (1) New Church Starts: Develop and lead in strategies which assist churches and associations in starting new churches and missions.
- (2) Evangelism Strategy Development: Equip individuals, churches, and associations with evangelism strategies and tools for reaching the lost.
- (3) Associational Missions Ministry: Assist associations in strategy and resource development to accomplish local mission ministries.

**Staff:**

Group Leader: Larry Kirk  
 Ministry Specialists: Jay Austin, Estiberto Britton, Tim Hill, Jerry King, Beverly Smothers, Ken Weathersby  
 Ministry Assistants: Melanie Allen, Linda Estey, Elizabeth Farmer, Polly Lucht, Marcia Knox, Gail Parrish, Fran Terry

### Church Staff Leadership

**Mission:** To assist church staffs toward focused ministry which enhances leadership.

**Functions:**

- (1) Worship Skills Development: Strengthen worship by enhancing church staff leadership skills.
- (2) Administrative Skills Development: Enhance church administration by providing training, information, and services.
- (3) Relationship Development: Encourage quality relationships among church staff and congregations.
- (4) Career Development: Provide opportunities for Christian vocational enhancement.
- (5) Personal Development: Offer opportunities for church staff enrichment.

**Staff:**

Group Leader: Gary Rickman  
 Ministry Specialists: Ray Gilder, Janet Harbin, Aubrey Hay, Julian Suggs, Archer Thorpe  
 Ministry Assistants: Joy Blankenship, Sandra Garner, Pat Poindexter, Penny Verble, Donna Wagers

### Communication Services

**Mission:** To assist churches and state missionary personnel in focused communications which facilitates effective teamwork.

**Functions:**

- (1) Internal Communications: Provide an internal information system which enhances state missionary personnel ministries.
- (2) External Communications and Promotion: Utilize a systematic network to communicate the ministries of the Executive Board.
- (3) Research/Information Services: Discover relevant information which enhances the ministries of state missionary personnel and churches.

**Staff:**

Group Leader: Eleanor Yarborough  
 Ministry Specialists: David McDonald, Mike Overcash, Barbara Owen  
 Ministry Assistants: Daniel Brown, Doris Clark, Felton Clark, Dan Ferrell, David Gerald, Bettie Lackie, Jill Peek, Garland Petty, Denise Scott, Kandee Veridal, Renate Wilson

### Christian Growth Development

**Mission:** To assist churches in focused development and nurture of New Testament Christians.

**Functions:**

- (1) Leadership Training: Provide training for church leaders which enhances the effectiveness of the local church.
- (2) Believer Development: Equip individual church members to discover and apply their spiritual gifts.
- (3) Relationship Building: Encourage churches in the development of nurturing ministries.

**Staff:**

Group Leader: Bill Wilson  
 Ministry Specialists: Mary Allen, Bruce Edwards, Cindy Franks, Johnnie Hall, Ircel Harrison, Liz Lee, Don Mauldin, Roy Miller  
 Ministry Assistants: Linda Baker, Glenda Daniel, Darlene Johnson, Amanda Patton, Jennifer Peery, Leanne Robbins, Doris Jean Standerfer

### Missions Awareness and Involvement

**Mission:** To assist individuals and churches in focused response to missions awareness and ministry opportunities locally and globally.

**Functions:**

- (1) Ministry Opportunity Development: Respond to state-initiated partnerships and church and associational requests for volunteer ministry opportunities.
- (2) Leadership Training: Provide training and resources for missions education.
- (3) Network Development: Build and maintain a network of ministry volunteers.
- (4) Volunteer Training: Provide Training and resources for ministry projects.
- (5) Prayer Support System: Provide resources for church, associational, and statewide prayer networks.

**Staff:**

Group Leader: Tim Bearden  
 Ministry Specialists: Vickie Anderson, Katharine Bryan, Bob Davison, Amanda Day, Bill George, Carrol Kelley, Glenda Palmer, Terry Sharp, Rodney Wilson  
 Ministry Assistants: Carol Davidson, Carol Growden, Christie Hendricks, Dianna Hughes, Gayle Ingram, Andrea Lake, Dene Mashburn, Bernie Morgan

### Administrative Services

**Mission:** To assist churches and Executive Board staff through focused administration of state missionary personnel and resources.

**Functions:**

- (1) Business Administration: Administer the business functions for the Executive Board and convention.
- (2) Property Development and Maintenance: Maintain facilities, resources, and other assets for use by state missionary personnel in the performance of their duties.
- (3) Operational Support Services: Provide the operational support services necessary for the successful accomplishment of state missionary personnel's work.
- (4) Human Resources Services: Foster an environment which promotes quality and excellence among state missionary personnel through administering and facilitating human resources processing.
- (5) Accounting Services: Account for the financial resources of the Executive Board and the Tennessee Baptist Convention.
- (6) Retreat Services: Develop and maintain retreat facilities and services for Tennessee Baptists.

**Staff:**

Group Leader: William Maxwell  
 Ministry Specialists: Garnette Hogan, Roger Johnson, Keith McKinney, Tommy Strong, Debbie Taylor  
 Ministry Assistants: Rene Bradford, Brenda Carr, John Coblentz, Grace Darden, Jamie Fennel, Andy Gunn, Jearl Ann Johnson, Larry Lindsay, Valerie McElhaney, Dorrie McKinney, Denise Nelson, Shirley Strong, Kim Young

### Executive Leadership

**Mission:** To assist churches by providing focused leadership for Executive Board state missionary personnel and TBC institutions.

**Functions:**

- (1) Convention Coordination: Maintain and honor the structure of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.
- (2) Convention Accountability: Exercise fiduciary and legal responsibilities to the Tennessee Baptist Convention.
- (3) Executive Board Leadership: Provide leadership for the Executive Board State Missionary Personnel.
- (4) Executive Board Management: Implement the policies and procedures of the Executive Board.
- (5) Cooperative Program Promotion and Development: Encourage the development and giving of financial resources for the work of the convention through the Cooperative Program.

**Staff:**

Group Leader: James Porch  
 Ministry Specialists: Phyllis Bates, Pat Mulloy, Greer Ruble  
 Ministry Assistants: Jane Garvin, Carole Hayner, Martha Norris

## What about WMU & B&R?

Though not departments, Woman's Missionary Union and Baptist and Reflector are considered Executive Board entities. Many people are wondering how the remodeling affects them.

"Tennessee WMU staff is participating as a part of the Missions Awareness and Involvement group. The auxiliary status has not changed," said Executive Director Katharine Bryan. "Our relationship with associations and churches has not changed."

When the TBC structure has been approved by the TBC Executive Board, the appropriate WMU committee will study structure and WMU staff assignments, she said. Any new relationships within the TBC which affect WMU staff will be brought to the WMU Executive Board in November for approval, Bryan added.

The Baptist and Reflector will continue to relate to its own board of directors, said Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen. □

# Home missions: foundation of Good News

Most folks have been victimized by a tough problem, toy, or piece of furniture.

We have tried to find the answer or assemble the product — without first reading the directions.

It is comparable to forgetting to tie a string on your finger to help you remember something important. Or perhaps forgetting why the string was put there.

The best way to get started correctly, is to read the directions first.

Is there any special formula for becoming a competent church member, a concerned Christian, a participating Baptist? Missions, ministry, Bible study, discipleship, all are part of the plan.

The 1996 SBC goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions is \$42 million.

That is a bold step, moving up from last year's record-breaking \$38 million.

Missions-minded Baptists will want to be a part of achieving another record goal. For Tennessee Baptists, the goal is \$3,250,000.

All Easter offering gifts support home missionaries and mission projects, and not the staff or building at the Home Mission Board national office.

"Southern Baptist support is how we keep the center open," says Sherrie Pridmore, home missionary serving at a mission center which reaches more than 110 families in inner city Detroit.

All across the United States, and in other places assigned to the HMB, Southern Baptist missionaries serve in

places where most of us will never go and meet needs that no one else will meet.

Perhaps the best part of the Easter Offering is that through giving, people reach into those places of unmet needs.

March 3-10 was suggested for the Week of Prayer for Home Missions. The

prayer support is as vital as the missions offering. Many churches have a different week for emphasis, but total support is the main ingredient.

The home base for missions must be kept strong, viable. The stronger we are at home, the more resources we can contribute. It's the source. □

## Just the facts, that's all we need

It is more than idle curiosity that makes Baptists want to know what's happening. This is particularly true when it is Baptist business.

Baptists have a right to know. Baptist meetings should be open to the Baptist public. Sometimes they are not.

When the Southern Baptist Convention meets in June to conduct its annual business session, messengers will vote whether to approve a change in Bylaw 15 which will finalize the massive restructuring of the convention. Nineteen SBC entities will be pared down to 12.

Let's cut to the core of the matter. Much of the planning which led to initial approval last June, and the subsequent planning for implementing the restructuring has been behind closed doors, by a small group of SBC leaders.

The Implementation Task Force, headed by Bob Reccord, pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va., has been meeting for several months. When Reccord spoke with Southern Baptist state paper editors last month, he appeared conciliatory about the lack of open meetings, citing personnel and financial concerns.

The editors group passed a resolution

deploring the closed sessions, and encouraging the task force to allow news coverage. Baptists want to know.

The chairman said there had not been anything to report. Just a week later, the ITF asked the SBC Executive Committee, to whom it answers, for \$495,000 for a consulting firm. Was that significant?

The intentions of the ITF and its chairman may be the best. But the truth remains. Southern Baptists want and need to know more about the implementation of the convention-changing plan.

The Executive Committee and the ITF can ill afford more closed meetings.

The editors, representing Southern Baptists in their own states, reminded the ITF that a free flow of news is necessary to inform those Southern Baptists long before they vote in June.

If access to the news is not forthcoming, there will be a repeat of last year's session. Messengers at that time voted on the restructuring with very little opportunity for debate or dialogue.

Trust the Lord, of course, but please, folks, let's trust the people also. Trust is a two-way street, and we don't need traffic directors. □

■ one word more  
By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
editor

### Making spirits bright

One of the best cures for the doldrums, or several other maladies, is yard work.

It has been cold in Tennessee; we have been setting records. You know what I mean.

Most of us have been wishing for the warm zephyrs of spring to waft our way. If you planned well, you have been able to study those delicious and delightful seed catalogs even while dreaming of springtime.

I have been a gardener since childhood. I willingly worked beside my mother in her flower beds. She taught me the whys and wherefores, and even gave me a little spot for my very own. It didn't flourish like hers, but she let me share the glory of the zinnias, marigolds, cosmos, larkspur, gladiolus, and all the rest.

When Betty and I first established our home, I took to the yard with zest and glee, and lasted well. I suppose the ultimate challenge came when we lived in Maryland.

The yard was immense, on a hillside, and definitely difficult to manage.

Grass cutting took most of the time. But we managed to keep it manicured. Sunflowers joined our brigade of annuals, and we forged ahead with some bright spots of beauty.

For the past few years, Betty has been the manager. She transformed a barren yard into a haven for birds and people. We thoroughly enjoy it, and so do our animal friends.

But alas, now that it is a reality, she has informed me that I will be in charge. It is as if she is saying, "Let's see if you can improve on that!"

Not really. I suspect we will work together. We have an ample supply of seeds to begin with. I'm willing to do some digging and hoeing to get things started. She will supervise, I am sure, and that is good news.

We agree that we will give our best efforts, planting, and tending. But we know that God gives the increase.

From him comes the sun's power, the early and late rains, the cool nights and hot days.

All together, that is a formula for success. Now, where did I leave that liniment? □



ALLEN

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

■ just for today  
By Fred Wood  
pastor emeritus  
Eudora Church, Memphis

## Conditions causing stress

We have discussed the definition of stress. We are all aware of the unsettling feelings

■ families matter  
By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

of apprehension and anxiety which are produced by situations and individuals that we find challenging and threatening. We also have looked at the inflexible, intense, idealistic, insecure, and illusionary personality which is more susceptible to stress.

Last week we looked at some of the culprits of stress in the activities of our world: contact with large numbers of people, continuous exposure to the same old routine, compulsive expectation to complete tasks by deadlines, callous lack of appreciation, and continuing-confounding interruptions.

Now, let's focus on the conditions in our environment which contribute to the atmosphere that causes stress. Noisy, crowded, or uncomfortable conditions, responsibility without decision-making authority; unchallenging work; and inadequate feedback about performance are all typical of the conditions that contribute to stress.

The home and the family are prime places where we experience noisy, crowded and sometimes uncomfortable conditions. The mother of preschool children certainly knows the experience of a noisy environment. Even though most of us in America live in comfortable homes, we still know the feeling, at times, of not having enough "space" at home with everyone "in our face." The uncomfortableness that I refer to does not come from physical discomfort as much as from emotional discomfort when we are at odds with family members over unsettled conflicts.

One of the most common conditions that causes stress in the workplace is responsibility without decision-making authority. This kind of stress comes home for the wife who does not feel that she has any say about the money in her food budget with the expecta-

tion that it has to be enough. The teenager who is struggling with the decision-making growth of adolescence is sometimes faced with the dilemma where he is under stress because there are expectations of him that he had no choice or voice in making.

The monotony and routine of unchallenging work also causes stress at times in the home. There are certain jobs that must be done, redone, and done again (washing dishes, etc.) which seem at times to consume us.

Another of the conditions in the workplace that causes stress is inadequate feedback about job performance. When was the last time that you told your wife, husband, child, or parent how much you appreciated some of the small things they do around the house? It is easy to get stressed out when we feel that no one knows and no one cares what we do.

Next week we will look at ways to disarm stress in our lives. □



BARKLEY

### Start with a smile

Wife: "Did we get the dentist's bill for your root canal?" Husband: "I'm afraid so." Wife: "Was it expensive?" Husband: "Well, let's put it this way. I didn't know my mouth contained the Suez Canal!"

### Take this truth

We all have more within us than we think. Some educators contend few people use more than 5 percent of their potential brain power. How much of yours do you estimate that you use? How much of the difference lies in our dedication?

### Memorize this Scripture

"Since we have gifts that differ ... let each exercise them accordingly" (Romans 12:6 NASV).

### Pray this prayer

Lord, please help me to remember that I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. □

# Youth Reach '96 draws 29,000, leads abo

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Despite freezing temperatures which put a chill on part of Youth Reach '96 — that which was held at Opryland Amusement Park — about 29,000 youth attended the annual state evangelism event last weekend. More than 1,000 made spiritual decisions.

Meeting at Vanderbilt University Gymnasium on Friday night in repeated sessions because of the size of the crowd, youth heard messages and music, including Christian music videos broadcast on two huge screens. They also heard the experiences of Mike Gill of First Church, Millington, who started a daily prayer service at his high school, and Joel Engle of Irving, Texas, who led part of the music.

Dawson McAllister, a youth communicator from Columbia, called the youth to be more than casual Christians. "Either you are really living for Christ or

you're being flushed down Satan's toilet of death," he declared.

"You'll find it's easy for us to do just the opposite of what God wants us to do," he said.

Referring to Isaiah 35:5-6, McAllister said Jesus paid the price for our sin and offers peace. However, many teens don't know him.

"Some of you don't know Jesus from diddly squat."

The result is a lot of pain, he said. Each year three million teenagers run away from home and half of those are "pushed out," he said. Annually, some one million girls get pregnant and about one-half get abortions. One of every three girls and one of every six boys are sexually active. And one out of five teens attacks his or her parents with a gun, knife, or fist, he cited.

Teens have sought popularity, money, sex, sports, ease, M-TV, and movies more than God, he claimed. However, whether they are victims or victimizers, "God says I can heal you."

"This is not rocket science. God is talking to you right now and he does not stutter."

In both sessions, teens moved to the stage in the gymnasium indicating their spiritual decisions.

### At Opryland

On Saturday, church vans converged on the popular amusement park which was open only to Youth Reach '96 participants for the first time.

They chose from venues premiering — because of the Baptist approach to the day — Christian artists, speakers, a prayer and counseling area, Christian music broadcast on-site by a local radio station, and a Baptist book store. The crowd also enjoyed the park's regular attractions although most avoided the rides in which riders get wet because of the temperatures.

Many attended a conference on sexuality led by Kevin Shrum and Joel Engle several times during the day. The morning session, held in the Opry House because of the cold weather, drew several thousand.

Shrum, pastor of Inglewood Church, Nashville, told the teens sexual appetites are God-given but need guidance. "Young peo-

ple, I tell you right now, unless you bring those God-given gifts to the cross of Christ, they will mess your life up."

Teens sin when they "prostitute themselves to the altar of the immediate," said Shrum.

In doing so, they make themselves vulnerable to more than 30 sexually-transmitted diseases, some of which, like AIDS, can kill them. Just as harmful as STDs are spiritually-transmitted diseases, he added.

"God did not equip you to have multiple sexual partners," but "that's the way sin is, it takes you where you didn't intend to go."

Most teens don't plan to sin sexually, but "that's the way sin is, it takes you where you didn't intend to go."

He warned them about their appearance which might communicate messages they don't intend, and noted that our society puts too much emphasis on appearance.

"It's OK to be a virgin; virgin's not a four-letter word," he said, adding that teens who had been sexually active could receive God's forgiveness.

At the end of the conference, teens stood to commit themselves to sexual purity.

Phil Wilson, minister to students, Two Rivers Church, Nashville, led a conference at Opryland entitled, "Inhabiting vs. Inhibiting."

When he was a teenager, said Wilson, he came to this conference and got "fired up" in his faith. That would last a few months and then fade, he explained.

Youth can stay fired up if they do one thing — worship God. They should worship personally, follow up by obeying God, and worship corporately.

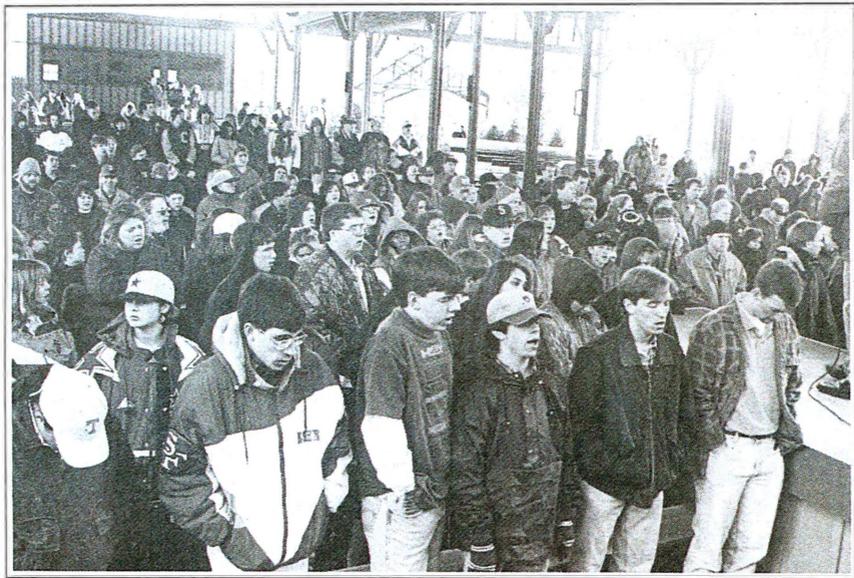
The biggest problem of students is not peer pressure but lack of knowledge of the truth, said Wilson. When God speaks to them, they must obey him, whether that means breaking

up with a non-Christian they are dating or asking forgiveness of parents for attitudes or God for sexual immorality.

"God wants you to live a strong, healthy, abundant life so you've got to obey him."

In corporate worship, teens should show their involvement by moving to the front row and taking notes rather than passing notes, added Wilson.

"Stand up and be counted," he concluded. □



SINGING WITH TRAVIS COTTRELL, musician of Nashville, are teens attending a conference at an Opryland pavillion. Cottrell is a member of Two Rivers Church.



PREPARED for the cold was James Fitzgibbon of Leawood Church, Memphis.



PERFORMING SKITS in the park were, bottom, Christie Campbell; second row, from left, Brandy Keith and Crystal Hall; and top, Chris Barnes. The Union University students are members of the school's Baptist Student Union Vision Clown Team.



ATTENDING A SATURDAY CONFERENCE at the Opry House, teens and their sponsors motion and sing a song led by musician Joel Engle and Brian Sims, minister to the deaf, Brentwood Church, Brentwood, who is signing the song. The conference was on sexuality.

# Tennessee features

## out 1,000 teens to make spiritual decisions



**PRAYING DURING** a conference in the Opry House are, from left, Amy Poseley, Bethel Church, Spring City; Jessica Thompson, Victory Church, Spring City; and Lakeda Grasham, Bethel Church. Conference leader Kevin Shrum asked the youth to pray that God would bless the Saturday events of Youth Reach '96.



**CARRYING THE STUFFED** bull he won is B.J. Bolyard of Hornsby Church, Hornsby.



**CALLING FOR THE CROWD** to turn to God after his performance is Vernard Johnson, saxophonist of Dallas, Texas.



**GETTING READY** for a ride on Opryland's roller coaster, "Rock 'n Roller," are, front seat, from left, David Brown and Mandy Shaw; and second seat, Lauren Burrus and Eric Mason, all of Temple Church, Memphis.



**POSING FOR THE CARICATURE** being drawn by Opryland employee Mike Larimore is Amos Dixon of Bells Campground Church, Powell.



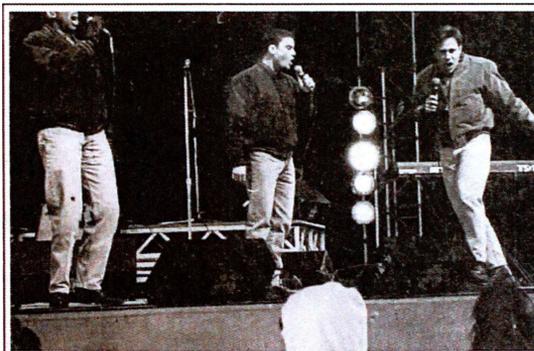
**REMOVING** prayer requests so they can be delivered to the prayer vigil are Terri Porch of Tullahoma and her father, James Porch, TBC executive director. The requests were attached to three crosses installed at Opryland.

Sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention Evangelism Department.

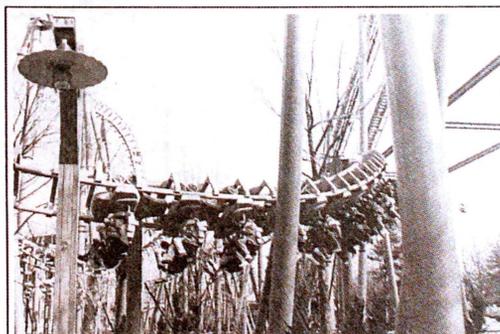
# Youth Reach '96



**ENJOYING SOME** cotton candy are Danielle Jett, left, and Tamra Gerth of New Hopewell Church, Knoxville.



**BEYOND THE BLUE** performs at Opryland. The group, based in Nashville, has the current top selling debut album/CD in Christian music.



**RIDING 'THE HANGMAN'** was only accomplished after waiting at least an hour. Without regular seats, the ride leaves peoples' feet dangling.

## 'Spirit of Excellence' theme of 1996 Tennessee Baptist Dramatic Arts Festival

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The 1996 Tennessee Baptist Dramatic Arts Festival is set for March 29-30 at First Church, Nashville.

The theme for the two-day meeting is "Spirit of Excellence." "The '96 festival will be incredibly beneficial to your church long after it's over," said Eleanor Yarborough, director of the TBC Church Recreation Department.

"With this valuable training and up-to-date resources at your command, we guarantee you'll leave better equipped to do what God has called you to do, resulting in a more focused and productive ministry. God cares about your effectiveness and so do we," she said.

Yarborough noted that whether participants are involved in drama, puppetry, clowning, mime, interpretive movement, recreation, or even a specialty such as banner ministry or sign language, the "1996 festival promises to be a rewarding and inspirational training extravaganza."

Festival highlights include a pre-festival adult symposium (additional registration required), a pre-festival youth mini-camp (additional registration required), a First-Timer's Orientation, night owl extras, and featured exhibits and vendors.

The festival begins March 29 with the youth mini-camp and adult symposium. Other activities begin at 6 p.m., followed by a creative worship service at 7 p.m. On Saturday activities begin at 8 a.m. and go through 4:30 p.m.

The festival also features a host of conferences led by trained faculty members.

To preregister or to get more information about costs, call (615) 371-2033. □

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## Union restructures religion department

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Union University's department of religion and philosophy is undergoing a name and curriculum change.

The department will be known as the department of Christian studies.

In an effort to freshen the curriculum and better equip young ministers, the department has revamped existing majors and added several new courses of study.

"The department's name change represents a two-fold purpose," said George Guthrie, department chairman.

"First, the new name is more descriptive of what we teach. While religion and philosophy are worthy disciplines, the specific topics we teach are

addressed from a Christian world view.

"Second, 'Christian studies' is more user-friendly to new students. It does not sound as intimidating on the front end," he said.

The curriculum changes, the department's first extensive revisions since 1970, offer more diverse and specialized options for Christian studies majors.

"In the past three years, the number of religion majors at Union has grown from 75 to 150," Guthrie said. "In addition, the number of students involved in Greek studies has risen from 30 to 80 in that same period of time.

"In order to better equip

these students in their Christian lives and ministries, we made the department's majors more directive."

In a related move, David P. Gushee, a Christian ethics professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will join the department's faculty this fall. Gushee is regarded as one of the nation's premier scholars in the field of Christian ethics.

"I feel the addition of Dr. Gushee will give our department a major boost," Guthrie said, noting he is an "outstanding and prolific scholar." □

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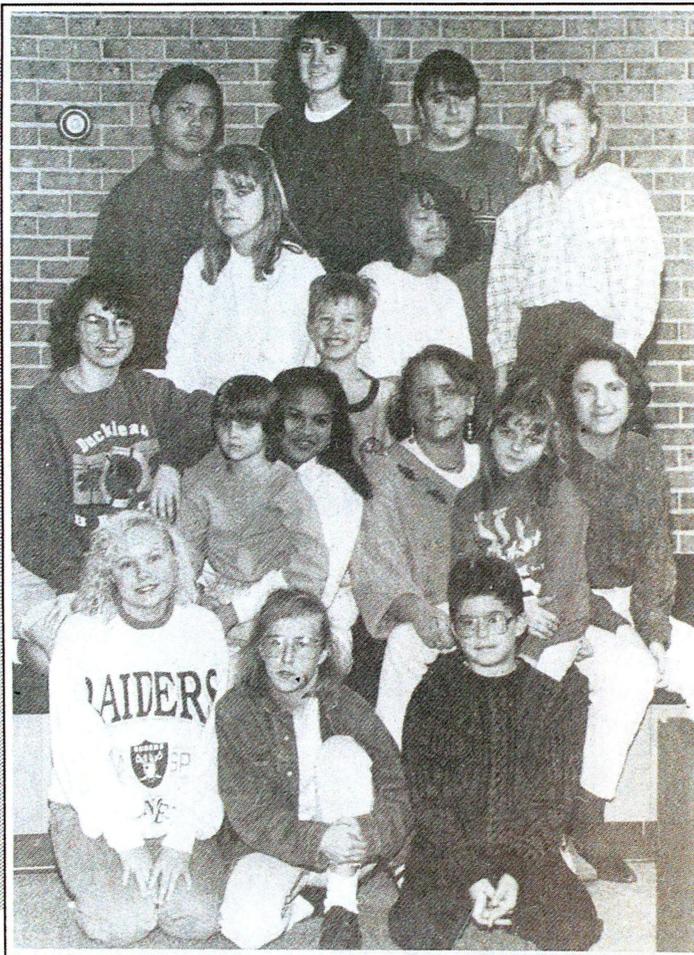


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## ■ the associations

■ **Holston Association** has called Debi Laurendeau as interim church-community ministries director. She is a member of Southwestern Church, Johnson City. The association also hosts Student Praise '96 March 16 at Boone Trail Church, Gray. Phil Hoskins will speak and Steve Davis will lead worship.

■ **Shelby Association** is sponsoring a conference, "Experiencing God: Toward the Next Great Awakening," March 21-23. It will be led by Henry Blackaby of the Home Mission Board. The conference will be held at Germantown

Church, Germantown. It is free.

■ **Haywood Association** will hold a Youth Evangelism Rally March 28 at Union City Civic Auditorium. Eddie Middleton and the music group, In Harmony, are on the program.

## ■ the schools

■ Enrollment for the spring semester at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, set a record for the semester at 2,109. It marks the seventh consecutive semester of record enrollment.

## ■ the churches

■ **Woodbine Church**, Nashville, will hold revival April 28 - May 1. Ken Polk, pastor, Northside Church, Murfreesboro, and Bucky Phillips of Clarksville, will be leading the services.

■ **First Church, Old Hickory**, will hold revival March 24-27. Benny Jackson will speak and Tim Wuester will lead the music.

■ **Woodland Park Church, Chattanooga**, is planning missions work in Honduras and Albania and during the Olympics.

■ **Woodmont Church**, Nashville, will hold a conference, "The Many Hats Women Wear," April 13. Jane Jones, owner of Jane Jones Enterprises, Inc., Tennessee's largest independent supplier of temporary help, will speak. Sessions include "Women and Their Finances," "Women and Their Health," "The Superwoman Syndrome," "The Creative Woman," "Working Women," and "Women and Their Sexuality." For more information call (615) 297-5303.

■ **Nolichucky Church**, Jonesborough, will hold a re-

vival March 29-31. Brian Webster will speak.

■ **Bethel Church, Henderson**, will hold revival April 21-24. Pat Kough will speak and Bryan Powers will lead the music.

■ **Long Heights Church, McKenzie**, held a revival which resulted in 15 people making professions of faith. Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld, evangelist of Gleason, spoke.

■ **Westwood Church, Nashville**, will hold revival March 17-20. John Sullivan, executive director, Florida Baptist Convention, and Bucky Phillips, evangelist of Clarksville, are the leaders.

## ■ the people

■ **First Church, Whiteville**, ordained Jack Freeland and Orlin Henson as deacons on March 3.

■ **Steven Douglas**, minister of music and youth, Calvary Church, Brownsville, was ordained during a joint service held with First Church, Union City.

■ **Woodland Park Church, Chattanooga**, ordained **Erik Christensen** to the ministry on Feb. 28.

## ■ the leaders

■ **Steve Fultz** of Harrogate has been called as part-time minister of youth and families at WestLake Church, Knoxville. Fultz is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He is currently studying counseling at the University of Tennessee.

■ **Daniel Brown**, minister of youth, First Church, Whiteville, has been called as



**VISITING THE BAPTIST CENTER** in Brentwood Feb. 28 while in the U.S. for a conference for physicians doing missions work are, from left, first row, Orest and Lila Hnidec of Poland; Bobbie Dunn of Woodmont Church, Nashville; Magbis Ramirez of Venezuela; back row, Dewey Dunn, physician of Woodmont Church; Piotr Klimiuk of Poland; Wladyslaw Tolopilo of Poland; and Terry Sharp of the TBC

graphic arts specialist of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood. The church has called **David Sutherland**, a student at Union University, Jackson, as minister of youth. The church's minister of music, **J.D. Haggard**, and his wife have resigned to do missions work in Tanzania, Africa. The couple's daughter and son-in-law, Carol and Mike Haggard Ewing, are missionaries there.

■ **Michael Bates**, minister of youth, Trinity Church, Jonesborough, was ordained by the church Jan. 21. Bates is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and is studying at Emmanuel School of Religion.

■ **John E. Jolly**, minister of music, Cherokee Church, Memphis, for 17 years, will retire April 7. He was minister of music at East Park Church (now Briarwood Church) in Memphis. He will direct Joy Ministries in Memphis.

■ **Memorial Church, Hixson**, honored **Dallas G. Roscoe**, director of senior adults at the church and special consultant for senior adults, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. The church named him pastor emeritus.

Roscoe served as the church's first pastor from 1955-59.

■ **Grassland Heights Church**, Franklin, has called **Cal Cooper** as associate pastor for pastoral care.

■ **Greg Baker**, youth director, Harmony Church, Whiteville, has resigned effective March 3.

■ **Central Emmanuel Church**, Cookeville, has called **Gerald Padgett**, pastor, Verble Church, Verble, as pastor.

■ **Eric D. Jackson** has been called as minister to youth, Madison Heights Church, Madison, effective Feb. 29

■ **Blaine Shoun** has resigned as pastor of Nolichucky Church, Jonesborough.

■ **Hulen Church**, Erwin, ordained **Ferrell Peterson**, who has been called as pastor.

■ **Mike Weston** has been called as youth minister, New Life Church, Bluff City.

■ **Darryl Riden** has been called as minister of youth and children at Sullivan Church, Kingsport. Riden has served churches in Knoxville, Alcoa, and Maryville.

## Bill George named TBC associate

For Baptist and Reflector

**BRENTWOOD** — The Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department has named Bill George, director of missions, Beulah Association, as program associate for church extension.

George, a native of Wynnburg, is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville.

He led Beulah Association for six years. George also was state director and associate director of Sunday School for the Michigan Baptist Convention for six years.



GEORGE

He has served as pastor of Leclair Church, Memphis; Northside Church, Milan; First Church, Troy; Maple Street Church, Cleveland; Milton Church, Milton; Hornbeak Church, Hornbeak; Fairview Church, Obion; and Antioch Church, Hornbeak. □

## Daily Partnership Prayer Requests

### March

- 13 — Continue to pray for the need for permanent student ministry directors in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
- 14 — Praise God for the funds provided by Tennessee Baptists to buy a new van for the Tennessee/Poland Partnership.
- 15 — Continue to pray for Rob and Barbara Springle as they start an English speaking church in Warsaw, Poland. The first service on Feb. 4 drew more than 40 people.
- 16 — Pray that English speaking churches will start in other Polish cities that have expressed needs.
- 17 — Pray that more churches in Oakland Association, Michigan, will become involved in associational activities.
- 18 — Pray for the following Michigan churches seeking pastors: First Church, Menominee; Rapid River Chapel; Tahquamenon Church, and Faith Church.
- 19 — Pray for the pastor at Harvey Church in Michigan that he will be able to sell his house and move to the area.



## Association's evangelism conference draws 1,300 to Harriman church

For Baptist and Reflector

**HARRIMAN** — The annual Evangelism Conference of Big Emory Baptist Association drew the second largest audience of any event held by the association, reported Bill Bargiol, director of missions. More than 1,300 people packed South Harriman Church, Harriman, including an overflow room with televised proceedings. Some people stood during the entire service and some had to leave for lack of room, said Bargiol. And the event resulted in the largest number of people making professions of faith at an event in 20 years — 23.

He traced the success to the Sunday evening time slot. Churches had to cancel evening services on March 3, but most in the association did that, noted Bargiol.

Another aspect of the success was the program personalities — the Baddour Miracle Choir from Senatobia, Miss., made up of mentally handicapped people, and Bailey Smith, evangelist. The choir received a standing ovation.

Paul Lloyd, pastor, Shiloh Church, Kingston, who is the association's chairman of evangelism, directed the event.

The largest attendance at a Big Emory event was at a tent crusade last summer. □

# Beware of allegiance to party, politicians, CLC speakers warn

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The church needs to influence American public life in a righteous manner, but Christians need to beware of offering unwavering support to any politician or political party in the process, speakers warned frequently at the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's national seminar March 4-6.

The theme of the CLC's 29th annual seminar, held at a Capitol Hill hotel, was "Christians in the Public Square: Faith in Practice?" The speakers — who included leaders of public policy advocacy organizations, Southern Baptist pastors, and seminary ethics professors — exhorted those in attendance to live out a biblical faith in the public arena while keeping their priorities in line.

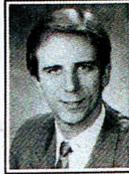
"We must never sell the birthright of our second birth to any political leader, any human movement, to any political party," said Richard Land, CLC president. "Our loyalty and allegiance belongs to Jesus Christ."

Southern Baptist pastors should base their positions on moral issues on God's Word and not "hitch (their) pulpit to a political candidate's star" or take a position because of its popularity among members of a group with which they want to be identified, said Charles Fuller, pastor of First Church, Roanoke, Va.

"If it's right, it's biblically right. If it's wrong, it's biblically wrong," Fuller said. "Moral issues for God's people are not political credentials and passkeys; they are moral issues."

The failure of most Chris-

tians in pre-World War II Germany to practice their faith properly should be a lesson to believers today. The church's inadequate theology led to the rise to power of Adolf Hitler and eventually the Holocaust, said David Gushee, professor of ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Gushee will join the faculty of Union University in Jackson next fall. "They failed to embrace important biblical, moral norms," Gushee said.



GUSHEE

"Too frequently we pick a cluster of values and baptize them as Christian. We are especially enthusiastic about those who skillfully baptize those values in a Christian vo-

cabulary. Then we offer these politicians our uncritical and unquestioning support."

Gary Bauer, president of the Family Research Council, applied such a warning to the 1996 presidential race.

"We ought to stand and call (a candidate) to task, even if inadvertently it will help a president that many of us don't like," Bauer said.

I don't think we should get into the business of picking the lesser of two evils. We need to hold out a standard to say what it is we believe and what America needs, and if the candidates are not willing to rally to that standard, then I don't think we need to worry about what will happen to them on election day."

The church needs to experience change before it is able to exert the proper influence, some speakers said.

"We should not blame politicians for the moral collapse of America," said O.S. Hawkins, pastor of First Church, Dallas.

"We need to put it where it belongs, at the feet of the church. Biblical, moral standards are forgotten in an attempt to appease an immoral culture and in some ways to market the church to a secular world.

"America's biggest problem is an apathetic church who has lost her first love. And in losing that first love, we have lost our influence," Hawkins said.

Among issues which the church needs to be more faithful to address, speakers said, are abortion, homosexuality, pornography, drugs, and poverty.

Total attendance at the Christian Life Commission seminar was 179, with 101 paid registrants. □

## Court ruling rocks sanctity of life proponents

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court ruling in San Francisco shocked sanctity of life advocates March 6.

The ruling perhaps opens the door to making physician-assisted suicide a legal reality across the United States.

The 8-3 ruling by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco overturned a Washington state law which had held doctor-aided suicides a felony, indicating the law was a denial of due process of law under the 14th amendment to the Constitution.

The court maintained that a mentally-competent, terminally-ill adult had a constitutional right to request a physician to aid in taking his life.

Christian Life Commission consultant Ben Mitchell decried the decision, attributing it to a society obsessed with self. □

## According to AFA

# Violence on TV down; sex and profanity up

Baptist Press

TUPELO, Miss. — Recent monitoring done by American Family Association shows that television violence was down by 30 percent compared to six months earlier, but sex was up by 31 percent and profanity was up by 26 percent. The study of prime-time programming was done from Oct. 29-Nov. 25 of last year.

Benckiser (Calgon and Jovan and Stetson toiletries),

MCI, Sony, and Revlon were the top sponsors of violence, sex, and profanity, according to the study. Other top sponsors included UPS, IBM, Nestle, Abbott Labs, Timex, MGM, Bayer, and Bristol-Myers Squibb. MCI and Bristol-Myers Squibb were listed on the top sponsors list six months earlier.

The monitoring showed that 94 percent of all prime-time programs contained violence,

sex, and/or profanity. Eighty-eight percent of all sex presented on the programs was depicted outside marriage.

Fox led the networks with an average violence, sex, and profanity incidents at 17.57 per hour. They were followed by NBC at 13.9; CBS, 13.76; and ABC, 7.8.

Results projected over a

year would have the networks airing 16,822 sex incidents, 26,195 profanity incidents, and 9,412 violent incidents. The total combined violent, sex, and profanity incidents projected over a year of prime-time programming was 52,429. □

## Classified

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**PART-TIME ORGANIST:** Southeast Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, is looking for a part-time organist. For more information, call Chris Bailey at (615) 896-0940.

### Position Open at Southern Seminary

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is seeking to fill a full-time position to teach missions in the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth. Applicants must have field experience as a missionary. Teaching experience desired, but not required.

Applicants should have a PhD or ThD in Missiology and should be able to affirm the seminary's statement of faith. All candidates must be members of a Baptist congregation and emphasize conservative-evangelical theology. Candidates will have the opportunity to teach in professional and doctoral programs and must have a strong commitment to prepare people for Christian ministry. Rank and salary dependent on prior experience.

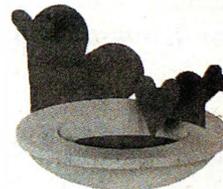
Send biographical information to Search Committee Dean, Office of the Vice President for Academic Administration, Box 319, 2825, Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280. The position will begin Aug. 1, 1996. Nominations and applications will be accepted until the appointment is made. The seminary reserves the right to pursue the search as long as necessary to find the right person for this important assignment.

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# ■ Sunday School lesson commentary

**Life and Work Series  
for March 17  
Focal Passage: Matthew  
7:1-12**

## Relating to others

By Charles Parker

The life of the kingdom of God is a daily, ongoing relationship with God and with people around us. Because of how God relates to us, we Christians are to relate to others in grace, sensitivity, and generosity. Matthew 6 is a celebration of God's wonderful grace in providing for our needs and freeing us from the burden of worry. Such a joyful existence calls us to want to share. Our happiness spills over because it is hard to contain. After all, "Gospel" means "good news," and we have a tendency to want everyone to know our good news. So Matthew 7 begins with several counsels about how we relate to others and share our new quality of life.

### Sharing in a critical spirit — vv. 1-5

In both English and Greek "judge" has a wide range of meanings, from "evaluate" to "condemn." We are to understand Jesus' use of judge as the haughty condemnation of others as if we had not also sinned. Such was common behavior among the scribes and Pharisees. It surely includes any attempt to share our faith in a censorious, holier-than-thou, or self-righteous way.

Perhaps some of us avoid bearing a verbal witness because we associate witnessing with a loud, persistent presentation that embarrasses the ones being talked to and totally turns them off to the message being communicated. Recently a cartoon by Joe McKeever portrayed this as a young man with perhaps more zeal than wisdom approaches a fellow sitting in the mall. Trying to give the prospect a tract, the young man says: "Sir, while your wife finishes her shopping, perhaps you would like to get ready to die."

Jesus gives three reasons judgmentalism is a bad stance for the Christian. First, God is the final judge (v. 1). Clarence Jordan urged us to put away our "folding judgment seats." Second, we are judged by others to have the same sort of attitudes as we show to them (v. 2). Finally, we are not qualified to judge others (vv. 3-5). With a humorous twist of speech, Jesus explains that a "speck of straw" in their eye is more than balanced by the "building beam" in our eye.

### Sharing in an undiscriminating spirit — v. 6

Using what was apparently a proverb common to their experience or one he coined, Jesus urges us to use proper judgment or discrimination. We must evaluate what is holy in life, the "pearls" about God we have experienced, and not cast it before people who will not understand them or be able to accept them. Also, the timing of our sharing is crucial. The "dogs" and "hogs" of the world sometimes wake up to their latent humanity and become ready to receive.

### Sharing with God — vv. 7-11

These verses are apparently here as a reminder that we cannot share rightly without seeking God's wisdom through prayer. If we are to exercise the discernment called for by Jesus, we must surely be in right relationship with the Heavenly Father. All these words for prayer describe a continuous activity, as "keep on asking ... seeking ... knocking." God's answers demonstrate his goodness and desire to bless. The essence of our religion is a relationship with one who loves us, whom we too love.

### Sharing in a positive spirit — v. 12

W.A. Criswell spoke of witnessing in a "sympathetic spirit." To put ourselves in another's shoes would keep us from talking down to, embarrassing, ridiculing, or otherwise condemning that person in the name of our God. No wonder we call it "The Golden Rule." □ — Charles Parker is pastor of First Church, Jacksboro.

## The unforgiving servant

By Kim Allen

The common practice was to hire day laborers to do seasonal work, but the way in which the vineyard owner paid them, in this parable taught by Jesus, caught people by surprise.

### A question and answers about rewards — ch. 19:27-30

Peter asked the question immediately after the rich young ruler refused to follow Jesus. We have forsaken all, "what shall we have therefore?"

Jesus assured the apostles they would be the judges over the 12 tribes of Israel in the coming regeneration of all things. In verse 29 Jesus broadened the reward to all who made sacrifices to follow him would be rewarded a hundredfold as well as inherit eternal life. In verse 30, Jesus said this: "But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first."

### A generous employer and his workers — ch. 20:1-16

The householder was master of a large vineyard. The vineyard was so large he had to hire day laborers from the market place. The owner went early in the morning so the workers could get an early start. He agreed to pay them a denarius, or a penny a day.

The third hour might roughly be between 8 and 9 a.m. Those that could not find work or chose not to work would congregate in the market place. In verse 4, the employer promises "whatever is right" and no figure is set. He goes out again about noon and 3 p.m. then at 5 p.m. Jesus does not explain why the man didn't hire all the workers he needed in the morning.

Two things are evident about those other workers. (1) The word "idle" does not mean lazy, but unemployed. (2) Nothing was agreed upon about specific

**Convention Uniform Series  
for March 17  
Focal Passage:  
Matthew 20:1-16**

pay. The employer simply promised to pay what was right.

The Old Testament book of Leviticus and Deuteronomy state the worker is to be paid each day. "Beginning with the last," might be better translated "including the last." In verse 9, the employer is thinking of the workman's need. If they go home with wages for only a single hour, their families cannot be fed.

Watching the later hired workers receive a full days pay for a few hours work gave them cause in their minds to reason they would be paid more or receive a bonus. When they received only a denarius they began to murmur against the employer. They felt he was unfair; after all, they had borne the heat of the day.

The vineyard owner addressed himself to one of the complainers. The employer addressed the complaint that he had not paid the early workers enough. He said, "Friend, I do thee no wrong. We agreed on a denarius, I paid a denarius." He advised them to take their pay and go on their way.

Verse 15 may be translated: "Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money?" Jesus did not intend this to be a model to the employer, but to teach something about how God deals with people.

In verse 16 we see the same reply again given to Peter's question in Matthew 19:20, with a twist the last shall become first. Jesus said all who leave all to follow him will receive far more than they ever give up. Then Jesus reminded the apostles that all rewards are actually gifts of God's grace.

No matter when we come to Jesus, we receive more than we deserve. □ — Kim Allen is pastor of Little West Fork Church, Clarksville.

## Charge by a faithful servant

By Phil Lovelace

This chapter is his prophetic appeal to Timothy, his charge in the light of the future of the church.

### An example from the past — ch. 3:10-12

Paul is our best example for the work of the Lord. Timothy knew Paul's doctrine, his manner of life, the purpose that motivated his life, the faith that sustained him in trial, the longsuffering, love, and endurance that he showed, even when persecuted, and the wonderful way God took care of him through it all. Paul had been a divine object lesson to young Timothy and we ought to be examples to others.

### An exhortation to the present — vv. 14-17

Continue in the Word of God. The only answer to Satan's lies is God's truth. If every local church would get back to the Word of God, and if every pastor and Sunday School teacher would teach the Word of God, the churches would grow and Satan's disciples would be defeated.

Timothy's relationship to the Bible is outlined in these verses. It began when he was a child; he undoubtedly learned the Old Testament Scriptures from his mother and grandmother. They did not merely teach him the facts of the Bible, they gave him assurance and spiritual understanding. Timothy knew for himself the truth of the Word, he did not depend on

**Bible Book Series for March 17  
Focal Passage:  
II Timothy 3:10-4:8**

others to defend the Word for him. This Word imparted faith to him and this faith in Christ brought salvation.

What is the purpose of the Bible? Of course, salvation is the first purpose, but Christian living is also included. The Word is profitable for teaching, conviction, setting right, and discipline. It enables the child of God to become a man of God, mature in the things of the Lord. Perfect does not mean sinless; it means mature. And thoroughly furnished means fully equipped. So, the Bible takes the child of verse 15 and makes him a man; it takes the saint and equips him to be a servant. It is fine for Christians to take study courses and learn methods of service but the best way to equip yourself to serve God is to study and practice the Word of God. Study books tell us how, but the Bible gives us the motivation and power to live what we learn.

In the fourth chapter is the final message from Paul. Shortly after these words were dictated, Paul was martyred for the cause of Christ. There are four admonitions in this chapter and we will discuss the first two.

### Preach the Word — ch. 4:1-4

Preach the Word implies knowing the Word, rightly dividing it,

and making it understandable and applicable to the lives of people. The great Bible expositor G. Campbell Morgan once said, "Our first business is to impart knowledge, and then our purpose must be to lead those whom we teach to obedience." He also said, "Preaching is not the proclamation of a theory, or the discussion of a doubt ... Preaching is the proclamation of the Word, the truth as the truth has been revealed."

### Fulfill your ministry — vv. 5-8

Paul was about to finish his course, but Timothy's life and ministry still lay before him. Make full proof means fulfill, accomplish the purpose. How wonderful it is that God has a specific ministry for each of his children. Our task is to find his will and do it all our lives.

Paul's argument is clear: he is now about to leave the scene, and somebody must take his place. He has no regrets as he faces eternity. He looked forward to receiving that crown from the Lord. What was it that kept him going during more than 30 years of toil and suffering? The motivation of his life was "The love of Christ constraineth me." □ — Phil Lovelace is pastor of First Church, Somerville.

## SBC agencies launch 'Start Something New' Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Seeking to launch a new wave of growth through churches large and small, Southern Baptist agencies unveiled the "Start Something New" campaign in Birmingham Feb. 22-24.

The two-year emphasis is designed to encourage Southern Baptist churches to start new churches and new initiatives in their own churches.

From a lunchtime Bible study in Springdale, Ark., to a mobile home worship service in Colorado, a variety of models were showcased to more than 700 church and state convention leaders from across America.

"There are thousands of different ways that you could start something new," said Charles Chaney, HMB vice president for extension. In addition to starting churches other possibilities include adding another worship service, birthing a language outreach, or creating a new Bible study, he said.

Other speakers included

HMB President Larry Lewis and Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr.

A materials package for the campaign, including 21 how-to models for new units, is being mailed to every Southern Baptist church. □

## Poll shows teens are pro-marriage

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A recent Gallop poll has found that the majority of U.S. teenagers want very traditional marriages and child-rearing situations.

In fact, 94 percent of all Protestant and 96 percent of all Catholic teens surveyed plan to be married at some point.

The survey also indicated teens hope to see their marriages last rather than end in divorce. Seventy-two percent of all church-going teens surveyed said divorce is not something they plan to consider.

The results also revealed that 93 percent of the teens in the survey said they would like to have children at some point in the future. □

## SBC ministers' wives luncheon to feature Jeanette Henry

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — The 1996 Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference will feature Jeanette Henry and Gwen Williams during the annual June meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans.

With the theme "Stepping in the Light," the 41st annual luncheon will be at noon Tuesday, June 11, at the Hyatt Regency (convention hotel), according to Betty Baggott, conference president.

Henry, wife of SBC president Jim Henry, has been a minister's wife for 35 years. Williams refers to herself as a "music messenger" and has been ministering through music since the 1970s.

Tickets ordered by May 20 are \$18 per person. For tickets, send check and self-addressed stamped envelope to the group's recording secretary, Betty Jean Billingsley, Sheridan Hills Church, Hollywood, FL 33021. After May 20, tickets will be \$20 each. □

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Teachers to China is a project of the Foreign Mission Board, The Brotherhood Commission, SBC, is recruiting volunteers.

## Seminary president's inauguration features Rogers, Henry

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Cordova pastor Adrian Rogers of Bellevue Church and noted theologian Carl F.H. Henry will be the featured speakers at the April 20-22 inauguration of Mark T. Coppenger as president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Rogers will preach at a community-wide rally to be held on the seminary campus April 21 while Henry will bring the inaugural address the following day.

Coppenger became Midwestern's third president last August, succeeding retiring president Milton Ferguson. □

## Proposal would gut ban on gruesome abortion procedure

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton has said the only way he will sign a bill outlawing a gruesome, late-term abortion procedure is if the leg-

islation is amended to include an exception which the measure's supporters say would make it meaningless.

In a Feb. 28 letter to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, the president said he would sign the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act, H.R. 1833, if it is amended by Congress to allow the procedure when it is "necessary to preserve the life of the woman or avert serious adverse health consequences to the woman." Otherwise, he would veto it because he does not believe the bill meets the "constitutional requirements" set forth by the Supreme Court in the 1973 Roe v. Wade opinion and other decisions, Clinton said.

An exception for health reasons would have the effect of allowing abortions for a wide range of reasons, thereby gutting the bill, said supporters of the legislation.

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., in a letter to the president asked him to reconsider and to sign the bill.

Dole noted the measure already includes an exception for a "mother whose life is endangered by a physical disorder, illness, or injury." A broader exception would defeat the purpose of the bill, Dole said. □



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## Quarterly leads to salvation of Buddhist man in Nashville

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A burmese immigrant now living here accepted Christ recently after reading the plan of salvation in a Bible study quarterly published by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

U-Nyunt Shwe, who comes from a Buddhist background, became a Christian after studying an article titled "How to Become a Christian," in an adult Life & Work SS quarterly. "He is learning English so he had to use a dictionary to work through the material," said O.J. Finley, an adult Sunday School teacher at Judson Church where Shwe visited.

The man expressed an interest in Finley in "learning more about Jesus," and Finley was able to share with him and lead him in the prayer of salvation. He later obtained a Burmese Bible from the American Bible Society to give to the new convert. □