

# Baptist and Reflector

March 27, 1996

VOL. 162 ■ NO. 13

STATEWIDE EDITION

■ this  
week's  
news

national —

- Southern Baptists met disaster relief needs well in 1995. — Page 2
- Annuity Board official predicts number of lawsuits against churches will rise in the future. — Page 2
- Southwestern trustees approve plan to aid terminated ministers. — Page 10

state —

- State Evangelism Conference is next week; Tennessee Baptist evangelists to meet beforehand. — Page 2
- What's going on in TBC partnership missions. See 'The Macedonian Call.' — Pages 5-8
- Volunteers give Camp Linden facelift. — Page 10

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

900-00410-0127  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

## Association finds change effective

*Baptist and Reflector*

CROSSVILLE — Leaders of Cumberland Plateau Association took a risk this year. They switched from holding an annual associational evangelism conference to leading a simultaneous revival effort.

It was a risk well taken, reported Roy Davis, director of missions, because "we had a beautiful week."

"We did evangelism rather than talk about it," reported Mike Garrett, evangelism council chairman for the association.

One result was the biggest gathering of Baptists in the association in the 13 years Davis has worked there. A crowd of 605 met for a closing rally to the March 10-14 revivals. Those gathered celebrated the spiritual decisions made by people during the services which included 71 making professions of faith, 239 making rededications, 19 requesting baptism, and 10 joining churches.

A final result was the strengthening of cooperation among the churches. Twenty-

three of the association's 27 churches held the revivals. It was "the best involvement" by churches during his tenure, said Davis.

One reason for the success was the reliance on evangelists who are members of the Fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists. "Utilizing the talent that we have in our state is a good thing," noted Garrett, pastor of Meridian Church, Crossville. Davis said he found the fellowship "to be a group that God is really using and he used them here in a tremendous way."

The evangelists worked in 17 of the churches and agreed to a financial arrangement which allowed small churches to have such evangelists for the first time, said Garrett. The association's churches using the fellowship's evangelists agreed to pool their love offerings and distribute them equally, he explained.

Another advantage to using the state evangelists, said Davis, was that they were coordinated by Charles "Toonie" Cash, president of the fellowship from

Johnson City. Cash did the work to contact the evangelists and make arrangements while the association evangelism council worked with their churches. Members of the council contacted church leaders personally because of the change from the traditionally-held conference, Garrett said.

The change was made since attendance had fallen in recent years and because, Garrett added drolly, "I'm not satisfied with anything that doesn't work and not smart enough not to change it."

Garrett and Davis agree that the association will consider a similar event next year because of the positive feedback they have received.

Those who attended the March 15 rally were especially blessed by the testimony of Marilyn Ford, evangelist of Memphis, who tells how God restored her sight after 12 years of blindness, said Davis.

"It seemed that the Lord moved and led in this direction and blessed it step by step," Davis explained. □ — Connie Davis

## Prayers, God sustain, missionary Nancy Watts says

By Mark Kelly  
For Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — A strong tide of prayer and loving support is helping Nancy Watts weather the worst storm her family has ever endured.

A head-on car wreck on a winding mountain road in Peru Feb. 1 injured Watts and her husband, Wade, and their two sons, Marcus, 9, and Joshua, 7. Seven weeks later, she and Joshua are recuperating. Marcus is fighting back from severe brain injury, while his father remains in a coma in a Memphis hospital.

"God has given me lots of strength and sustained me in ways I never thought possible," said Watts, a Memphis native and Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary to Peru with her husband since 1986.

"Prayer has really helped me through this whole ordeal. So many people have shown love and concern for our family. It has meant so much to know so many people have been praying for me and my family."

The need for prayer and personal support will continue for some time. Although board insurance will cover almost all medical expenses and the family will be put on a year's medical furlough with salary, the



N. WATTS W. WATTS

stresses on Nancy will be intense.

The web of concern spun around the Watts family began with Hector Benavides, pastor of Central Church in Huancayo, Peru. He was one of the first to arrive at the accident scene.

Word of the accident spread quickly among the missionaries.

Missionary colleagues rushed to Lima and Huancayo to help. The Wattses' pastor traveled 14 hours by bus to Huancayo to minister to the family. As one logistical and medical decision after another had to be made, McLaughlin and Phillips stayed in constant contact with Bill Goff, who directs the board's work in Spanish South America, and FMB physician Travis White. Missionaries Mike Wendell and Woody Fletcher stepped in to handle a multitude of practical and legal details.

White notified Randy Sprinkle, the FMB's prayer coordinator, who helped spread word

of the tragedy. During the first weekend, 3,168 callers dialed the board's prayer line to find out how to pray for the family. Within three weeks, the tally of prayer line inquiries would climb to 14,031. Christian radio stations and Southern Baptist state papers picked up the prayer need as well. Computerized prayer networks sped word of the accident around the world by electronic mail.

Five days after the accident, Marcus was finally stable enough to be transported to the United States, and the mission board arranged for a medical evacuation company to airlift him to Memphis, the Wattses' hometown. Nancy, who suffered fractures in her hand, face and back, flew with him. Kathy Phillips had flown there a day earlier with Joshua, whose ankle was broken.

Once in Memphis, another network of Christian concern sprang into action. Members of area churches — among them Highland Heights and Graham Heights churches, the Wattses' home churches — began to call and visit the hospitals, bringing food and offering their help. Earlier, the area churches had raised money to send Wade's mother and brother to his bedside in Peru.

Retired Peru missionaries Marvin and Jean Fitts opened

their home to Joshua and Kathy Phillips. Herschel Wells, a Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission staff member and longtime family friend, helped organize assistance. Bill Geiger, a retired Peru missionary now serving as a chaplain at a Memphis hospital, made pastoral visits to the family. FMB workers checked on the family.

"I've been amazed at how many people have called or sent notes or gifts," Nancy said. "There's no way I could begin to thank everyone in person. I am so grateful for everyone who has helped us during this time."

Nancy asked that people continue to pray for Wade's and Marcus's improvement and for God to give her strength and guidance as she makes difficult decisions about their care. She also asked prayer for Joshua as he adjusts to a new school and new friends in Memphis.

"So many people are praying God's will will be done," she said.

"Sometimes it's hard to accept what God's will might be. Of course, my will is that we will all get well and go back to Peru and serve the Lord as we were. But that might not be God's will. We need strength to accept his will, whatever it is." □

- 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** — Lonnie Wilkey or Connie Davis
- **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- **Board of directors:** Frank Hawkins, chairman; Russ Dunham vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Christine Bess, Hinton Climer, Eugene Cotey, Herbert Higdon, Ken Hubbard, Diane Jordan, Lynn King, Pat Landrum, Paul Medley, Bill Northcott, Charles Parker, Richard Patton, Mike Thrower, Conyer Walker, Gary Watkins, and Ambers Wilson
- **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.



Printed on recycled paper

## Disaster ministry reviews '95 work

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — The national coordinator of Southern Baptists' disaster relief response says he will encourage even broader involvement by volunteers in the year ahead as he released a summary of the ministry's activity for 1995.

Mickey Caison, associate director of the Adults in Missions department of the Brotherhood Commission, said the scope of the ministry, now in its 27th year, can be expanded by encouraging more local churches and associations to get involved.

"In the last year and a half, there have been more than 400 disasters 'numbered' by the American Red Cross, but we have only been involved in a fraction of these," Caison said. "So there are a number of disasters at the local level where churches and states could and would become a part of ministering without even in-

volving the actual movement of a feeding or child care unit. Teams can work in a church kitchen, for example."

Caison said the response by volunteers in emergency situations, providing child care, feeding, temporary repair, and mud-out and clean-up was "very good" during 1995. More than 10,000 volunteers from 22 states responded to 84 disasters.

Volunteers prepared 719,992 meals, cared for 1,870 children at day care units, repaired 726 homes and churches, and cleared 1,027 areas around homes of litter and debris.

**Tennessee Baptists did their share in 1995, according to the Brotherhood Commission.**

Two hundred and six Tennesseans responded to five disaster situations last year. They served 138,000 meals, cared for 914 children, and repaired 12 buildings. □

## Churches 'easy targets' for lawsuits, official warns

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Despite horror stories about churches paying million-dollar judgments, a congregation's chances of being sued are only one in 100, said John Dudley.

The bad news is those odds could mushroom in the next decade, added the vice president of property and casualty for the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

"Attorneys are being trained by the American Bar Association to sue churches," Dudley commented, "and they're finding churches are the worst-run businesses around. They make easy targets. Many are staffed by volunteers and management is very loose."

Dudley was the keynote speaker for "Financial Issues for Ministers and Churches," a series of seminars by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department held across

the state in February.

Dudley observed that "it used to be that people would never sue a church. But that mind-set is changing. There are a lot of frivolous claims that divert church funds and mission money to legal costs."

Some steps may realistically be too complex or time-consuming for smaller churches, he said, yet those congregations need to be aware of the need for public safety on their property.

He outlined five ways for churches to reduce risks:

(1) Incorporate and maintain corporate status. Advantages include removing liability from individuals, allowing the church to buy and sell property and making it easier to obtain loans.

(2) Adopt risk management strategies. Many don't cost a lot, Dudley said; they involve identifying risks like potholes in the parking lot or exposed

inside wiring. Other examples include screening staff members and volunteers to reduce the possibility of child molestation and screening the driving records of people who drive church buses.

(3) Carry adequate insurance. This varies by property and equipment owned, but policies should be the "all risk" type. "We find all the time that churches are underinsured," Dudley said. "They're doing it because the premiums are lower." Churches should also carry a minimum \$1 million liability policy, workers' compensation insurance, and professional malpractice insurance, he suggested.

(4) Develop operating policies and practices. He noted that if a church develops written procedures, it must follow them or it can be charged with discrimination.

(5) Respond publicly when something bad happens. □

## TBC evangelists hold meeting prior to state conference

For Baptist and Reflector

The Fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists will hold their annual pre-conference meeting prior to the Tennessee Evangelism Conference April 1 at First Church, Jackson.

Charles "Toonie" Cash, president of the fellowship from Johnson City, said the meeting is open to anyone who would like to attend and will feature evangelists Terry Wilkerson of Hendersonville, Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld of Gleason, and Ronnie Owens of Clinton.

Music evangelists also will perform beginning at 9:30 p.m. and during the meeting which will be held from 10 a.m. to noon. □

## State Evangelism Conference set for next week

For Baptist and Reflector

The annual State Evangelism Conference will begin at 2 p.m. April 1 at First Church, Jackson. Sessions will be held that afternoon and evening and all day on April 2.

Speakers include SBC officers Jim Henry and Gary Frost, Mississippi pastor Frank Pollard, noted author and educator Calvin Miller, and TBC President Ken Hubbard.

The emergency phone number is (901) 423-3056. □

## IRS gets complaint about Houston church

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A Washington-based church-state organization has asked the Internal Revenue Service to investigate one of the Southern Baptist Convention's largest churches, Second Baptist, Houston, for what it described as recent political campaigning in violation of the tax code.

The alleged violation cited in Americans United for Separation of Church and State's complaint was the action of a church member who did not have approval, a spokesman for Second Church said.

In a formal complaint filed March 19, AUSCS Executive Director Barry Lynn said materials provided to his organization "indicate that (Second Church) as a tax-exempt organization, is engaging in political campaigning in violation of the prohibitions" in the IRS code. He asked the IRS to apply "appropriate penalties including revocation of the

church's tax-exempt status," if the church is found to be in violation.

Neither the church, which has 22,000 members, or its staff approved the documents, said Judy Craig, the church's director of ministries network.

She said the materials were placed on the information desk in the church lobby by member Doug Elliott. He did not have permission, Craig said.

"We're kind of shocked by this. We are bipartisan. We do not endorse candidates. We would not tell people how to vote or who to vote for or what to do."

Elliott told a Houston newspaper he acted on his own.

Pastor Ed Young told the Houston Chronicle in its March 21 edition the Americans United charge is "an attempt by the left wing of our society to attack those of us who are trying simply — certainly to stay inside the laws of this land — but also to make a difference." □



## TBCH staffer honored

A. Dwyte Winningham, center, senior vice president for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, received the Taylor Daniel Award of Merit from the Southern Baptist Business Officers Conference March 18 in Dallas. Winningham has been on the staff of TBCH since 1985. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Financial Planner. Winningham was presented with a framed citation, a statuette, and a cash grant during an awards banquet sponsored by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board. With Winningham is SBC President Jim Henry, left, banquet speaker, and Tom Miller, Annuity Board senior vice president.

# Assembly faces commandments, evolution

It's not good to generalize about people, but it is amusing to observe politicians at work during an election year. They seem to operate with more than usual concern about morality, especially with proposed legislation.

Among the many bills generated this session by the Tennessee state legislature, three are of more than moderate moral concern.

They deal with the Ten Commandments, the theory of evolution, and marriages of the same sex.

The three have drawn undue attention from news media here and nationally. The first two probably will come up for debate, perhaps for a vote. Both have attracted interest from news media. Tennesseans have been characterized as "out of touch," etc., but that's not new.

SJR-328 is about the Ten Commandments. Before this joint bill is voted on, it may be strengthened or weakened. The bill SJR-328: "Encourages all citizens to observe the Ten Commandments, a tenet of Judaism and Christianity; makes no provision for Tennesseans who follow Buddhism, Hinduism, or other faiths." It may be voted on this week.

Even if approved, the bill itself could be ruled unconstitutional. We could argue positively the merits of the Biblical commandments, and still admit it may favor certain faiths.

More basic than passing the bill is whether the commandments are being practiced in everyday life. That cannot be legislated for believers or anyone else.

The Ten Commandments given on Mount Sinai by God to Moses for all the people are early warning signals. They include basic "you shall nots" as well as blessings for those who are obedient.

The commandments instruct people how we must relate to God, to our families and others, and how we respond to live as people of God. We should post them in our hearts rather than on the walls. Then we will see them clearly with spiritual eyes.

The first commandments deal with our duty to God, and the others concern our relationships (duty) with each other.

For moral people, the commandments are at least guidelines for life; for Christians, they are commands from God — as well as perfect guidelines.

The fact remains, however, that some

people would be offended by passage of SJR-328. And we are not referring necessarily to atheists.

SB-3229 and HB-2972 read simply: "Prohibits teaching of theory of evolution except as scientific theory."

The evolution idea is flawed. We see it as no more than a theory, notwithstanding years and years of learned people trying to put together something factual.

It seems logical that if it is taught as fact, the Biblical truth of creation would be taught also.

As for the bill that would prohibit marriages of the same sex, bravo! We concur.

Bills dealing with prayer in schools probably won't come up for a vote, and a lottery bill can yet be brought up. It is an interesting legislative year. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

## First ride on the train

I was about ten when my oldest sister, Jane, married. It was the first wedding for the siblings, and I was curious about the whole affair.

The courtship had lasted forever, so it seemed to me. Ed became family from the outset. I liked him because he worked for the railroad company.

He brought the trains closer to me. On summer evenings after bedtime, the rumbling of

distant trains and plaintive whistles blowing at crossings, wafted in through our open windows.



ALLEN

And this railroad man, this engineer

promoted from fireman, this pilot of the big steam locomotives, was now my brother!

A couple of years later, brother Fred cooked up the idea for his little brother to visit him at his Army base in middle Alabama.

Let me telescope this yarn. The cost of a round-trip ticket from Hamlet, North Carolina, to Wellington, Alabama, was only \$18.75. The family could swing that easily.

I boarded the train early one July morning, headed for Wellington with a stop in Atlanta, a long, long trip for a 12-year-old country boy who had never been on a train.

Sister Jane packed a tasty lunch for me and I pretended not to get misty-eyed as they reassured me that Fred was waiting for me in Wellington.

Ed gave me all the advice I needed, I'm sure, but somehow I didn't hear him say anything about bathrooms.

It was an all-day trip. I was very anxious, to put it mildly, as the train pulled into my getting-off place at dusk.

I survived, barely, and had a great time that week with Fred. There was a tremendous Independence Day celebration on base. And I looked at Fred's shiny silver bars with admiration that only a kid brother can own. (He told me about the bathrooms.)

We talk about that event occasionally. More important than that trip is the journey of our lives. Jane is a prayer partner. All my sisters and brothers have helped me stay prepared for the longest journey, with proper instructions from God's Word for The Trip.

They have made a difference in my life. □

## Yes, families really are important

Families are important.

Ruth Bell Graham said, "If I cannot give my children a perfect mother I can at least give them more of the one they've got — and make that one more loving. I will be available. I will take more time to listen, time to play, time to be home when they arrive from school, time to counsel and encourage." (*Living Quotations for Christians*, Wirt and Beckstrom, published by Harper and Row.)

Well said, and her advice is applicable to fathers as well as mothers, and for each relationship with a family group.

The strength of the family is related to love and undergirding care. It has the sweet smell of affirmation and encouragement. It relies also on acceptance and forgiveness. The family is strongest when

each member puts the welfare of other members before their own.

Families that are struggling need help. Families that are in a rut need help. Families that apparently are without problems need help.

We pledged to make families high priority this year. If the church is to survive in the world, and thrive despite moral decay all around us, we must keep our families strong in the Lord.

So what is your church doing to strengthen, affirm, and undergird families? What is your family doing that might help other families?

We encourage churches to contact us if you are doing something unusual, or want to share some news about building families. We will pass on the news to others. □

## Parenting with teenagers

The focus of the days we live in is on parenting skills, but it seems the focus is out of focus

when the need for parenting adolescents and teenagers is overlooked or ignored.

I will use two columns to discuss this need, so the second "chapter" will come next week.

The formative years of preschool are very important, but we cannot afford to overlook the necessity of right parenting for adolescents.

Let's use PARENT to form an acrostic: Presence, Awareness, Responsibility, Empathy, Nurture, and Toughness.

**Presence:** I am amazed at the number of parents who are not aware of the importance of being with their teenage children. It may be more important that being with preschool children.

When the children's choirs sing or the children's basketball teams play, the walls usually are lined with adults with video cameras to capture the budding artists and athletes.

Yet those same parents often are too busy to go to that youth choir performance or high

### families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

school basketball game. I am the father of three, and two of them are teenagers. I know how important it is to them that their parents participate in their lives.

Studies show that most teenagers adopt the moral and ethical values of their parents. These values more often are caught than taught. Despite our lectures, it is our lives in the presence of our teenagers that will have the most impact.

I remember a story about a boy who was being scolded by his mother. He was playing marbles "for keeps," when they used to do such things.

She explained to him how wrong it was to gamble for things that one did not earn.

He looked at her and said, "Then I suppose you want me to return that vase you 'won' at Mrs. Smith's party."

Our presence instills values, but we must be careful that

they instill the right values.

My wife is a teacher of high school English. Her

students continually ask her to be sure to attend their school events so they will have someone they know present to support them.

It is really painful for teenagers to look around and not find their parents or any family member.

Even though this is a time in life when they want to spend a lot of time with their peers, they still value the presence of their families at those really important events.

A parent is wise, then, if he or she will make an effort to be involved in the teenager's life. Many times the acting out of a rebellious teenager is simply to gain the attention of a disinterested parent.

Each of the next few weeks we will spend some time on each of the other topics in parenting teenagers: awareness, responsibility, empathy, nurture, and toughness. □



BARKLEY

### just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

#### Start with a smile

Man (to waitress in restaurant): "Do you serve crabs here?" Waitress: "We serve anybody, mister, sit down."

#### Take this truth

Getting along with people doesn't mean giving up our individuality. It is just following the words of Christ. In this world, we must get along with everybody. We may not like it, but we must do it. The sooner we learn it the better off we'll be — and the happier we'll be too.

#### Memorize this Scripture

The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans, "If it be possible ... live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18).

#### Pray this prayer

We need to help those people we meet in every situation. "Lord, help me to live today in such a way as to help those I meet be better people." □

## ■ about letters to the editor

- Make it concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length.
- Name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Include address and phone number.
- Avoid personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone.
- Send original copy. Form letters and "open" letters will not be published.
- Only one letter in a three-months period per writer will be published.
- If letter does not conform, it will be returned.
- Opinions and ideas expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the *Baptist and Reflector* and its staff. □

### Gratitude

We at Country and Town Church of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the men and women of the Ten-

nessee Disaster Relief Team who came here willingly to work in the extreme cold of January. The members of the Baptist Disaster Relief Team from Tennessee provided a service in cooperation with the Red Cross which was far above and beyond what could have been expected of anyone. They worked diligently for long hours and with much care to provide thousands of meals to those who were forced from their homes by the flooding of the area rivers and streams following the blizzard of 1996.

With a smile and willing hands they exhibited the true spirit of Jesus Christ by serving others tirelessly without regard for themselves. They will surely be remembered by the people in Pennsylvania for years to come.

J. Frank Chambers  
Brotherhood Director  
Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17055

### State Congress

I write concerning last year's Royal Ambassador and Challenger State Congress. I would like to thank all those who gave of their heart soul, time, and talents to make that event happen. It is a tremendous ministry for the young men of the state of Tennessee.

I know that in the last few years leaders have enforced the standard of dress code set especially for Speak Out. I am grateful they have done so. The world has a higher stan-

dard for us than we realize. And too often we dress and act so much like the world that we can't win them to Christ because our lives just don't demonstrate the difference Christ makes. Speak Out is directed in helping prepare young men for ministry. The standard is needed.

Everywhere you look these days what used to be a standard isn't anymore. Although it never is easy we believers must uphold the higher standards because whether we accept it or not the world expects it of us.

I hope those involved took this as an important lesson from the Lord. Often these days people seem to prefer to fight and argue instead of allowing God to humble us and teach us.

Michael Thelen  
Maryville 37804

### Misunderstanding

A letter from Dr. Joe Stacke informed me of his intent to submit a letter to the *Baptist and Reflector* regarding reports of communication I have had with Dr. Jeff Iorg, executive director of the Northwest Baptist Convention. I would like to inform your readers of my communication with Dr. Iorg.

I did not state that the Northwest Baptist Convention had no right to give money to the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary or anyone

else it chooses. I did affirm the historic principle of "the autonomy of the state convention in determining how the state convention's portion of the Cooperative Program budget is allocated, and the autonomy of the SBC in determining how the portion of the CP assigned to the SBC for world-wide causes is allocated."

Based on that principle, I informed Dr. Iorg that the SBC Executive Committee would report the Northwest Baptist Convention's distribution of the CP as 72.1 percent state and 27.9 percent SBC instead of 69 percent state and 31 percent SBC as they reported. That is because \$50,000 of the "SBC-Worldwide Causes" portion of their budget was designated for Golden Gate and would not come to the Executive Committee for distribution according to the SBC CP Allocation Budget.

Dr. Iorg had informed me that the action of the Northwest Baptist Convention in allocating \$50,000 to Golden Gate was to express disapproval over how the SBC CP Allocation Budget distributes dollars among the six seminaries.

That disapproval can best be expressed in discussion with the Seminaries Workgroup of the SBC Executive Committee. I regret our friends in the Northwest Baptist Convention did not take that approach. The Seminary Funding Formula is always

subject to review.

Final decisions about the SBC CP Allocation Budget are made by messengers to annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention. The SBC Executive Committee is assigned responsibility to present recommendations to that body which serves as a forum for consideration and approval or disapproval.

Morris H. Chapman  
President and CEO  
Executive Committee, SBC  
Nashville 37203

### Teaching English

I again present to your readers a great opportunity. It is the privilege of serving this summer in China teaching English for five weeks.

I have been a volunteer teacher through Cooperative Services International (CSI), FMB for the past five summers in communist China. As a teacher I (and you) have the chance to develop relationships that can result in sharing your faith.

CSI is seeking 80 Christian teachers and China has its doors open to all of them! The Foreign Mission Board is getting assistance from the WMU, SBC, in recruiting for this project. Call 1-800-345-7437 and ask for Trudy Johnson, volunteer coordinator, to officially volunteer. Do it soon.

Ann Wilson  
4312 Congress St.  
Midland, Mich. 48642

## Guinness, Mims to lead April Holston church growth meeting

For *Baptist and Reflector*

JOHNSON CITY — Holston Association will hold a conference on "Growing a Church in a Cultural Wasteland," April 22-23 at the Holiday Inn in Johnson City.

Called "a different kind of church growth conference" by Tal Thompson, director of missions, the two-day session is co-sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

A point and counterpoint session will feature Gene Mims, vice president, Church Growth Group, BSSB; and Os Guinness, senior fellow, Trinity Forum, Washington D.C.

Guinness is the son of medical missionaries to China. A keen observer and critic of the modern church growth movement, Guinness has a healthy perspective of the movement which, according to some, "is less concerned with the Word and more concerned with the world."

He addresses this topic in his book *Dining with the Devil: the Mega-church Movement*



GUINNESS



MIMS

*Flirts with Modernity.*

Guinness stresses the dangers of "modernity," and that it is the key to the crisis in America and the crisis within the church.

Mims has authored two books, including, *Kingdom Principles for Church Growth.*

In addition to the point/counterpoint segment, several speciality conferences include Single/Staff Church, Worship/Music Leader, Multi-Staff Church, and Laypersons. They will be led by BSSB personnel.

Registration cost is \$70 and includes two meals/breaks, books, and program costs. For more information, call the association office at (423) 929-1196. □

## Tennessee chaplain shares 'success' story

I know that many Southern Baptist churches have been presenting materials regarding chaplaincy and the various ministries of chaplains. It is my privilege to serve as chaplain in an institutional setting to incarcerated juveniles. Recently I gave one of our students the opportunity to speak to a high school group about his experiences in the juvenile court system, his incarceration, and what he has learned from the program. I thought *Baptist and Reflector* readers might want to read this young man's story. A portion of what he shared with the group follows:

"My name is Mandrell and I am 17 years of age. I started becoming involved in criminal activities at age 11. There was a lot of peer pressure around me, much violence, gangs, and drug users. As I grew older, I saw many of my friends living in luxury because of the money they made selling drugs. My friends influenced me to work for them. As I made more and more money selling drugs, I moved to bigger and bigger things. By that I mean, I began to sell LSD, heroin, and cocaine.

"What I did not know was God had a plan for me. My mom raised me attending church. Once I got to the age that I wanted to make my own decisions I didn't want to be in church. I would often start an argument so as to get out of attending a church service.

"As I look back at my crimes and the places I went, I know that I had many brushes with death. I also know that escaping death those many times was not luck. My many trips to juvenile court and several juvenile facilities gave

me a bad reputation. After my last burglary, the court sent me to John Wilder Youth Center.

"Upon my arrival I quickly discovered that I had both friends and enemies already there. I got into fights, attempted to escape, and was regarded as a trouble maker. I was placed in maximum lockdown. But I also got into fights in that unit.

"As a result, I spent a lot of time in my cell. There were no newspapers or magazines in my cell. The only reading material I found was a Holy Bible. It didn't take me long to get into the Word of God. As I did, I noticed my circumstances began to work out for the good. Chaplain Whitley would come by to see me often and would talk to me about Christ. At first I was afraid to think about being saved; but I knew I didn't want to go to hell.

"I soon started attending chapel services and read the Scriptures daily. I must tell you that it has been a wonderful experience for me to learn many of the truths of God's Word.

"In the past I have always had to prove things to people, and it usually made things worse. But when I accepted Jesus Christ into my life, no one tested me. Like the chaplain says, "Jesus knows your heart." I have now been saved four months, and my heart is at peace. If all of us would take the time to read the Bible and believe his promises, this world would be a better place."

Jim Whitley, chaplain  
John Wilder Youth Center  
Somerville 38068



# Partnership Missions NEWSLETTER

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

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

## From the director

By Terry Sharp, director  
Partnership Missions Office

God has made it possible to do today what we could only have dreamed of just a few short years ago. The doors of mission opportunity are wide open. Now it is possible to get on a plane this afternoon and be in Warsaw, Poland, tomorrow afternoon even with the time change.

Our Polish brethren have issued the Macedonian Call to come to Poland. We have prayed for our brethren and we have prayed with them. Now we have the opportunity to go and work along side of them and learn from one another.

The apostle Paul voices it well for us in 1 Corinthians 16:9a. A great door of effective work has been opened for me, and one great and promising door is open awaiting YOU to enter.

Paul continues, saying that there are many adversaries. What keeps you from entering the open door of mission opportunities in Poland?

You will find many great projects available in this issue of our newsletter.

If you find a project and you have a question, or if you need to take more people than those requested, or if you can go but at a time other than the requested dates, call us. We will try to help fit your needs.

The Macedonian Call comes also from Canada and Michigan. Our volunteer spirit will answer, I'm sure.

Will you pray about going to one of these partnership sites and share the love of Jesus? There are opportunities available in every area of work.

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing where God is leading you to work this summer.



SHARP

## Costa Rican partnership explored

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
Baptist and Reflector

If a team venture to the south results in favorable votes by the appropriate bodies, Tennessee Baptists will add a partnership missions flag to their current three.

An advance team visited with Costa Rican Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries the first week in March.

We were impressed by the open attitude of the missionaries and the Costa Rican Baptists. After an hour with the leaders, Jorge Arias, president of the Nacional Union de Iglesias Bautista (UNIB), told us, "We already have approved a partnership with you."

Arias, who is a missions volunteer himself, emphasized to us that spiritual awakening is the greatest need and a desire of the Baptist churches. Missionary leadership had expressed to our group that renewal was high priority for the mission members.

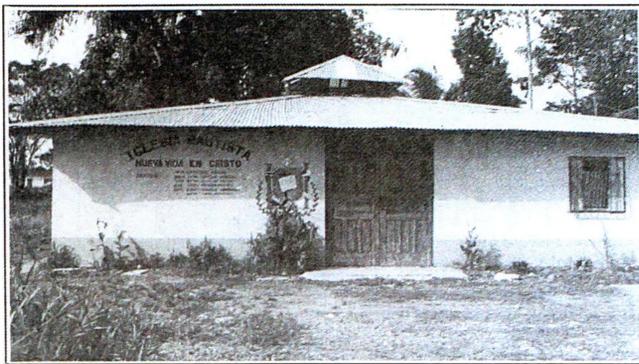
In fact, in an earlier meeting, mission leaders had expressed to us their "impression/direction" for 1997-99: "To serve as leaven (change agent) which God uses to bring spiritual revival/awakening among Baptists and Baptist work of Costa Rica." They said the statement will be refined in more specific form in the next few weeks.

"We need to set our course, find our direction as we minister," the leadership group had said. And so, our Tennessee advance team heartily agreed with both bodies, "We join you in that prayer and need."

The team was made up of James Porch, executive director; Terry Sharp, partnership missions director; Ken Hubbard, TBC president; Herbert Higdon, Executive Board president; Bill Wilson, Convention Ministries Division director; and Wm. Fletcher Allen, Baptist and Reflector editor.

Approval by the Convention Ministries Committee and the Executive Board will send the new partnership recommendation on to the Tennessee Baptist Convention in November.

Tennessee Baptist volunteers in January 1997 would begin serving with the Nation-



THE ADVANCE TEAM journeyed from San Jose to visit church sites, including Balan, above, between Siquirres and Matina, not many miles from the Caribbean. Missionary Ben Argil, church planter, helped start the mission.

pastors. Each one either preached or gave a personal salvation testimony.

On Sunday night, we all attended one church service to experience an ordinary worship time (without gringos on the program).

Here's how we dispersed on Sunday morning:

Higdon: International Church, San Jose, Frank Lay, pastor; Sharp: La Guacima Church, Heredia;

Hubbard: Jesucristo es el Senor Church, Cartago, Victor Guzman; Allen: Centro de Estudios Biblicos en Tres Rios,

Tres Rios, Luis Chavarria; Porch: San Juan de Dios Church, San Jose, Jorge Arias;

Bill Wilson: Villas de Ayarco Church, San Jose, Adolfo Alvarado.

There are 34 Foreign Mission Board missionaries in Costa Rica.

The Baptist Mission's administrative committee includes Mark Grumbles, chairman; Gary Tufts, Sue Smith, Ben Argil, Larry Hendricks, and Rick Lane. Auxiliary members are Don Redmon, Greg Smith, Russell Kyzar.

Sue Smith is volunteer coordinator, and is eager to work with Tennessee Baptists. □

## Spiritual awakening is what we pray for.

— Jorge Arias, UNIB president

al Union of Baptist Churches and possibly some other Costa Rican Baptist churches.

During the week of exploration, the advance team had sessions with the missionaries, visited in churches, saw sites for potential evangelism and construction work, met with Costa Rican Baptist leaders, and saw some of the countryside and cities.

On Sunday, March 3, the six went to different churches, hosted by missionaries and

## Poland opportunities:

### Work, witness in Europe

Volunteers!

Study on page 6 the list of opportunities for work and witness in Poland. Pray.

Read Terry Sharp's message on this page.

I think you will see quickly that serving as a missions volunteer in Poland is a rare opportunity, one that may not pass our way again.

We are in our second year of this three-year partnership, and this is the first missions partner Tennessee has had with a European nation.

Polish Baptists are a part of a great heritage, a heritage that is hundreds of years old. Poland has played a vital role in the development of Europe as a distinct sphere of influence on the rest of the world. Polish people have a strong

feeling of patriotism and respect for their heritage.

Polish Baptists have asked us to work with them as they try to shape the spiritual structure of the nation.

They are small in number, but they are strong in spiritual fervor.

I was with volunteer teams in Poland on two occasions. Both times, I met some extraordinary leaders and laity. I became friends with pastors whose intensity for the Lord is second to none.

We can help. We have been called to help. There are enough projects to fit with any time and any spiritual gift.

If not Poland, there are other partners. Look at the lists. Pray. Volunteer. Go! □ — Wm. Fletcher Allen



GETTING ACQUAINTED with Terry Sharp, right, TBC Partnership Missions director are Clive Buttemere, missionary, and Jorge Arias, National Union of Costa Rica Baptist Churches president.

## Canada



Place: Grande Prairie, AB  
Team: 1

Date: July 29-Aug. 2  
Project: Children's Camp  
Place: Grande Prairie, AB  
Team: 6

### New Church Start/Church Development

Date: Open  
Project: Partner for a church plant  
Place: North Vancouver  
Team: Open  
Project #: PM11996633

Date: August  
Project: Concerts/Choir workshops  
Place: Cochrane, AB (Filipino Fellowship)  
Team Needed: Open  
Project #: PM11996623

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

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

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

Date: Open  
Project: Partner for ethnic church plant  
Place: North Vancouver  
Project #: PM11996636

### Projects with Calgary Church Deaf Fellowship

Date: Open  
Project: Search for Significance Workshop  
Place: Cochrane, AB  
Team Needed: Open  
Project #: PM11996627

Date: Open  
Project: Experiencing God  
Place: Cochrane, AB  
Team Needed: Open  
Project #: PM11996626

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

### Vacation Bible Schools/ Backyard Bible Clubs

Date: July 15-19  
Project: VBS workers are needed  
Place: Grande Prairie, AB  
Team: 3 and up

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

### Miscellaneous

Date: Fall '96  
Project: Revival  
Place: Charlottetown PEI  
Team: 3  
Project #: FP1VS96603

Date: 1-6 months (dates are open)  
Project: ESL Teacher  
Place: Vancouver  
Team: 1-2  
Project #: PM11996629

### Construction

Date: June 3-10  
Project: Landscaping  
Place: Cochrane, AB  
Team: 5-10  
Project #:

Date: June/July  
Project: Construct a playing field  
Place: Cochrane, AB (Seminary)  
Team: 10-20

Date: June-August  
Project: Repair, Painting, and Build Equipment Shed and Fence  
Place: Cochrane, AB (Seminary)  
Team: Open

### Evangelism

Date: June or July  
Project: Community Survey and Visitation  
Place: Charlottetown, PEI  
Team: Open  
Project #: PM11996632

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

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

Date: July/August  
Project: Street and Coffee Bar Evangelism  
Place: Richmond, BC (Chinese Church)  
Team Needed: 3-5  
Project #: PM11996625

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

Date: Aug. 6-9  
Project: VBS  
Place: Richmond, BC (Chinese Church)  
Team Needed: 2-3  
Project #: PM11996624

Date: Between February and April  
Project: Children's Festival  
Cambrian Heights Church would like a special ministry team to minister to the children of church families through music, drama, puppets, teaching and preaching. The church is using a festival or carnival theme to attract families with young children.  
Place: Calgary, AB (Cambrian Heights Church)  
Team Needed: 3-5  
Project #: PM11996620

### Camp Ministry

Date: July 1-5  
Project: Family Camp Pastor

## Poland



### Construction

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

Date: July 20-Aug. 2  
Project: Construction of church building and outdoor work on grounds  
Place: Krynica  
Team: 4-10  
Project #: 11996408

Date: Spring/Summer  
Project: Installing Septic Tank  
Place: Warsaw  
Team: 2  
Project #: 11996407

Date: Spring  
Project: Engineering Inspection and study  
Place: Warsaw  
Team Needed: 1-2  
Project #: 11996415

Date: Summer  
Project: Church Renovation  
Place: Poznan  
Team: Open  
Project #: 11996411

Date: July 1-Aug. 31  
Project: Bartoszyce  
Place: Bartoszyce  
Team: 4-6  
Project #: 11996406

Date: Summer  
Project: Construction  
Place: Chociwel  
Team: 3-4  
This team will be installing a new snow guard during the day and doing evangelistic work in the evenings.

Date: Summer  
Project: Window Replacement in church building  
Place: Koszalin  
Team: 3-5  
There will be light maintenance/construction type work with this project the bulk of which will be replacing windows in the church.

### Seminary Projects

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

Date: Open  
Project: Interior Painting  
Place: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw  
Team Needed: 4  
Project #: 11996483

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

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

Date: Open  
Project: Install Electrical Fixtures  
Place: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw  
Team Needed: 2  
Project #: 11996494  
The seminary needs \$2,800 for materials.

Date: Late Spring/Early Summer  
Project: Paint exterior trim (seminary housing)  
Place: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw  
Team Needed: Open  
Project #: PM11996489

The seminary needs \$4,000 for materials.

Date: Open  
Project: Assemble Desks  
Place: Warsaw  
Team: Open  
Project #: 11996480

### Evangelism

Date: Sept. 1 - Dec. 15  
Project: ESL/Bible Study  
Place: Bialystok  
Team: 6-8  
Project #: 11996486

Date: Open  
Project: Concert Evangelism  
Place: Tarnow  
Team: Open

Date: Sept. 1 - Dec. 15  
Project: Teaching English and Assisting the Pastor  
Place: Wroclaw  
Team: 2

Date: July - September  
Project: Evangelism and Drama  
Place: Ostroleka  
Team: 3-4

Date: July - September  
Project: Evangelism and teaching English courses  
Place: Ostroleka  
Team: 2-3

Date: July 30-Aug. 8  
Project: Youth Evangelism  
The Baptist church in Poznan requests a team to do street evangelism and high school evangelism. Team must be able to relate to young people. The pastor at the church is open to suggestions from the team  
Place: Poznan  
Team Needed: 4-6  
Project #: 11996484

Date: June 23-July 2  
Project: ESL/Evangelism  
A team of six is needed to teach a five-day course of English as a Second Language and lead evangelistic services in the evenings.  
Place: Podlaski  
Team Needed: 6  
Project #: 11996496

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

### Miscellaneous

Date: Open  
Project: The church in Tarnow needs a team to donate Music Recording equipment that is either used or new and train a person or persons in the church to use the equipment.  
Place: Tarnow  
Team: 1-2

Date: June 24-July 7  
Project: Youth camp trip  
The Baptist Christian church of Szczytno is planning a youth camping trip. They expect 30-40 youth and their sponsors to participate. They need a team that will help lead the camp. There will be a canoe trip on lakes and rivers. The team will lead worship in the evenings with singing and testimonies. The team will also be teaching English. Volunteers should be in good physical condition and between the ages of 18 and 25.

Place: Szczytno  
Team Needed: 2-4  
Project #: 11996401

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

Date: September/October  
Project: Assist local church  
Place: Gizyko  
Team Needed: 1-2  
Project #: 11996498

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

Date: Open  
Project: Teaching English as a Second Language course  
Place: Konin  
Team Needed: Open  
Project #: 11996497

### Camp Ministry

Date: June 8-23  
Project: Camp Assistants  
Location: Krynica  
Team: 10-20  
Project #: 11996413

Date: July 1-14  
Project: Children's Day Camp  
Location: Bialystok  
Project #: 11996485

Date: June 26-July 9  
Project: Children's Camp  
This project will serve 30 local children. If \$1,600 dollars can be raised the camp will also be able to include 20 orphan children.  
Location: Chociwel

Date: July 10-24  
Project: Young Adults Camp  
This project will serve approximately 15 couples. It has been suggested that Marriage Enrichment materials or Experiencing God material might be used.

## Thank You

A big thank you to Woman's Missionary Union for your wonderful response in providing the kitchen items for the Baptist seminary in Poland and for your contributions to buy the dry erase boards for the seminary

class rooms.

A big thank you to Lloyd King for responding to our request for a computer for our Volunteer Coordinators in Poland. Your gift will be very appreciated!

## Michigan

### Construction

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

Date: Open  
Project: Construction  
Place: Newaygo  
Team Needed: Open  
Project #:

Date: Late July - September  
Project: Roofing  
Place: Battle Creek  
Team Needed: 6-12  
Project #: SC-5

Date: Open  
Project: Roofing  
Place: Muskegon  
Team Needed: Open  
Project #: W-2

Date: Open  
Project: Remodeling Sanctuary/New Addition  
Place: Torrey Road Church, Fenton  
Team Needed: Open  
Project #: G-5

Date: Summer  
Project: Remodeling  
Place: Flint  
Team Needed: open  
Project #: G-6

Date: June-August  
Project: Construction (new building)  
Place: Clinton Township (Central Church)  
Team Needed: Open  
Project #: M-6 A-1

### Evangelism

Date: Open  
Project: Evangelism  
Place: Commerce Pines, Walled Lake  
Team Needed: Open  
Project #: O-8

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

Date: Sept. or Oct.

Project: Revival Preacher  
Place: Tecumseh  
Team: 1  
Project #: L-1A

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

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

Date: Open  
Project: Survey Work  
Place: Berrien Springs (FBC)  
Team Needed: Open  
Project #: SW-1

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

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

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

### Vacation Bible School/ Backyard Bible Clubs

Date: Open  
Project: VBS/Puppets/Inner City Ministries  
Place: Greater Detroit  
Team Needed: Open  
Project #: GD-7

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

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

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

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

Date: Summer  
Project: Survey/BYBC/Evangelism  
Place: Detroit  
Team Needed: 2  
Project #: GD-4

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

### New Church Start/Church Development

Date: Summer  
Project: Church Planting  
Place: White Lake  
Team Needed: Open  
Project #: O-4

Date: Summer  
Project: Church Planting  
Place: Berkley  
Team Needed: Open  
Project #: O-5

Date: Summer  
Project: Church Planting  
Place: SE Highland Township  
Team Needed: Open  
Project #: O-7

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

Date: Open  
Project: Start New Work  
Place: Northland Association  
Team Needed: Open  
Project #: N-2

Date: Open  
Project: Church Development  
Place: Mt. Clemens  
Team Needed: Open  
Project #: M-3

Date: Open  
Project: New Work Sponsor  
Place: Drayton Plains (Southern Oaks Mission Church)

Team Needed: Open  
Project #: O-3

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

### Miscellaneous

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

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

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

### Music Minister Needed

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

### Special Request

The Michigan Baptist Convention needs vans for transporting students from Southern Seminary who come up on the weekends to pastor churches. If anyone has a van they would like to donate, please contact the Partnership Missions office at (615) 371-2021. The Michigan Baptist Convention will provide letters for tax purposes.



## Costa Rica

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

### Construction

Date: Sept. 14-28  
Project: Construction  
Team needed: 1 team of 8-12  
Place: Alajuela, Costa Rica  
The Baptist Camp needs a team to provide necessary annual maintenance. This will include painting cabins, dining hall, canteen, etc. Repair of doors, screens, windows, bunks, benches, tables, etc.

Date: Oct. 3-14  
Project: Crafts  
Team Needed: 1 team of 5-6  
Place: Various areas in Costa Rica  
The purpose of this project is to provide crafts classes in various areas of the Central Valley area, and possibly expanding into an outlying area as well.

## Eyeglasses and hearing aids needed

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

## Equipment Needed

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

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

### Instruments

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

## Invitation to April 20 Reunion

Help celebrate 15 years of partnership missions work. Volunteers to Michigan, Burkina Faso, the Philippines, Chile, Venezuela, Canada, and Poland are welcome. The reunion will be at the Baptist Center in Brentwood from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

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

## Partners can access info in cyberspace

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

If not currently an SBCNet user, the Tennessee Baptist Convention will provide free SBCNet kits. To access partnership information, go under State Convention Forum. In Library Browse — Tennessee — you will find VOLNet. VOLNet contains stories from *The Macedonian Call*, volunteer requests, and special needs.

SBCNet costs \$18 a month. Call Mike Overcash at (615) 371-2007 for information. ☐

# ■ The Macedonian Call

## Poland is people, places, and prayer

**JAMES PORCH**, TBC executive director, and **Irek Skoczen**, pastor of Tarnow Church, Poland, discuss plans for partnership.



Now in its second year, the Partnership Mission with Poland has many varied projects for Tennessee volunteers. Projects include evangelism, construction work, recreation needs, workshops, and ground and building work at the Baptist Seminary.



**BEAUTY OF** square in Old Town, Warsaw, Poland's capital city. The old blends with the new all across the countryside.



**ELK CHURCH** in northeastern city of Elk, Poland, has a growing number of members. The church is evangelistic and missions-minded, and has sent out a missionary to another European nation. — Photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen

### From the office

"Partnership Missions, this is Christie!"

If you have called the Partnership Missions office lately you have heard my voice with this response. Yes, I am new in the department of Partnership Missions. I began my work here Feb. 26, and I am enjoying the many opportunities.

This is an exciting and busy place to work. Tennessee Baptists have the ability to participate in mission projects with three very worthy partnerships. In fact as we work this summer, exciting events in Costa Rica may result in Tennessee volunteers sharing their talents with the people of Costa Rica.

Now is the time to get involved in Partnership Missions. You may choose to participate in one of the many mission opportunities available to us through our partnerships. If travel is not for you, please don't hesitate to become a Partnership Missions prayer partner, or you may help someone else go.

I look forward to meeting and helping the many volunteers who will take the challenge to serve in Poland, Canada, and Michigan. So don't hesitate to call. I am eager to hear from you.

May the Lord guide and protect you,  
Christie Hendricks

## Be a Prayer Partner

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

### Prayer Partner

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Association \_\_\_\_\_

## Daily Partnership Prayer Requests



### March and April

- 27 — Pray for weak, struggling churches in Michigan.
- 28 — Pray that people will follow through with commitments made during the Canada Evangelism Conferences in January and February.
- 29 — Pray for Scarborough Church, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, as it works through the logistical issues related to the "adoption" of a Bosnian family. Pray for the church's ministry to the Bosnian immigrants living in Prince Albert.
- 30 — Pray for good health and physical strength for Charles and Barbara Layton, volunteer coordinators, as they prepare for the busy months ahead as they work with volunteers in Poland.
- 31 — Pray for Tennessee volunteers as they make preparations for their trip to Poland.
- 1 — Pray for the church in Zielona Gora, Poland. It needs three people to volunteer to teach English for a 10-month period beginning in September.
- 2 — Pray for Gary and Dixie Hines from Nashville who will be leading an evangelistic campaign with First Church in Warsaw May 2-15.

## 1996 Volunteer Interest Form

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please check ONE of the following areas where you could serve:  
 Canada  Michigan  Poland  
 Type of project you would like to be involved in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date you would like to serve \_\_\_\_\_  
 Estimated number on team \_\_\_\_\_

# TenneScene ■ the people, their work

## ■ the leaders

■ **Morris Hill Church**, Chattanooga, has called **Rick Markum** as minister of music and youth, effective March 25. Markum is a graduate of Covington Theological Seminary in Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. He has served on the staff of First Church, Dayton; First Church, Whitwell; and East Chattanooga Church.

■ **Cornerstone Church**, Jasper, has called **David Gris-ham**, pastor, Chester Church, Ackerman, Miss., as pastor, effective Jan. 3.

■ **Larry J. Martin**, minister of music, College Heights Church, Gallatin, has been called as minister of music at Hilldale Church, Clarksville, effective Feb. 11.

■ **First Church**, Dover, has called **James Stokes** as minister of youth and education. He has served on the staff of

churches in North and South Carolina.

■ **Mike Satcher** has been called as minister of youth, Gravel Hill Church, Ramer. Satcher is a student at Blue Mountain (Miss.) College.

■ **Thurman Neal** and **Carolyn Penick** of Pleasant Hill No. 1 Church, Martin, worked in Guadalajara, Mexico, Jan. 1 - March 21. They worked on 11 projects helping with construction of churches and repairing three homes of missionaries.

■ **Bloomington Church**, Kingsport, will honor its pastor, **Joe W. Byrd**, on his 45th anniversary March 31.

## ■ the churches

■ **Trinity Church**, Cordova, will conduct a Good Friday "Tenebrae Service" at 7 p.m., April 5, at the Cordova

Community Center where it meets. The congregation plans to enter its new building in June. The service is built around the seven last words of Christ and will include choral anthems and hymns.

■ **Easter activities** at **Charlotte Road Church**, Nashville, include a program of music March 31 at 6:30 p.m. On Easter, April 7, a Sunrise Service will be held at 6 a.m., followed by breakfast and regular activities.

■ **Grandview Church**, Nashville, will hold a Celebration of Praise May 5-8. On May 5 Ted Ingram, pastor, Lincoln Park Church, Knoxville, will speak at the morning service and a Christian Song Writers' Night will be held that evening. Leading other services are the Praise Team of Haywood Hills Church, Nashville, and Ron Blakenship, pastor; the Praise Team of Riverside Church, Nashville, and Larry McEwen, pastor, and Rob Howard; and the Contemporary Baptist Praise Team with John Ledford.

■ **First Church**, Maryville, will celebrate its 125th anniversary March 29-31.

■ **Hillcrest Church**, Nashville, will host a Christian Life Conference April 20 featuring Richard Land, president, Southern Baptist Convention Christian Life Commission,

Nashville. It will be from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information, call (615) 256-4539.

■ **Bethel View Church**, Bristol, held a revival March 17-20. Aaron Rayburn, a student at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, spoke. Twenty people made professions of faith and services drew a record attendance each night.

■ **Youth of North Cleveland Church**, Cleveland, will work in Michigan June 29 - July 7 to support the Michigan/Tennessee Baptist Partnership.

■ **Southside Church**, Lebanon, will hold revival April 7-14. Michael Combs, recording artist, will perform during the Easter Sunday morning service following a Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. and breakfast. The Reggie Saddler Family, Steve Gouge, and Bob Curtis, pastor, Southside, also will lead services.

■ **First Church**, Concord, will hold a women's conference entitled "More Hours in My Day" on May 4. Emilie Barnes, author of 12 books, will speak and Patti Cato will present music. For more information, call the church at (423) 966-9791.

■ **Calvary Hill Church**, Ripley, met its high attendance goal March 24. It had 156 in Sunday School, which is

99 more than last year, and above 170 in worship, reported Wayne Rowan, pastor. The record high attendance was reached following a Sunday School Growth Revival led by Hoyt Wilson, pastor, First Church, Lexington.

■ **Dalewood Church**, Nashville, will hold revival April 28 - May 2. Gary Smith, pastor, Fielder Road Church, Arlington, Texas, and Ken and Lois Holland, evangelists of Franklin, will lead the services.

## ■ the schools

■ The Tennessee Alumni Association of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary have elected Bob Davison of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Brotherhood Department, as president; Roy Graves, pastor of First Church, McKenzie, as vice president; and Carol Growden of the TBC Woman's Missionary Union of office as secretary.

## ■ death

■ **Wilton Locke**, 81, retired pastor of Slate Springs Church, Crossville, for 19 years died Feb. 23. He also was pastor of Isolone Church, Crossville, and Vandever Church.

## The Many Hats Women Wear

Saturday, April 13 - 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville

Featured Speakers - Betty Jo Herring an inspirational speaker from Oklahoma and Jane Jones of Jane Jones Enterprises Inc. of Nashville

Breakout Classes - "Women and Their Finances," "Women and Their Health," "The Superwoman Syndrome," "The Creative Woman," "Working Women," and "Women and Their Sexuality."

Spaces are limited, so register early! Conference includes a continental breakfast and catered lunch. Cost is \$12 and deadline is April 10.

For more information, call the church at (615) 297-5303.

## HIGHER EDUCATION WITH A HIGHER PURPOSE.



We call it "higher education with a higher purpose." You'll call it an open door to a successful career in health care. Earn a baccalaureate degree in Nursing, Radiological Sciences, or Respiratory Care Technology at Baptist Memorial College of Health Sciences. What you'll receive at our specialized college is a quality professional education built on solid Christian principles, as well as a strong liberal arts foundation. The best part is, we're accepting applications now for summer and fall. To receive a brochure and application, or plan a campus visit, call us at 901-227-4301 or 1-800-796-7171.



BAPTIST MEMORIAL  
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Baptist Memorial College of Health Sciences admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

## Summer Camp Staff Opportunities

Camp Operations Staff opportunities are available at both Camp Linden (Linden, TN) and Camp Carson (Newport, TN) for 1996. If you are interested in a position of cook, lifeguard, lawn and maintenance worker, kitchen helper, dining room server, canteen/gift shop operator, or office staff at either camp, please contact the Human Resources Office, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728 for an application, or phone (615) 371-2013.

## Are your Sunday School teachers prepared?

ARE YOUR TEACHERS...

...tired and discouraged?

...just stressed out?

...ready to call it quits?

YOU CAN HELP THEM!



Central  
Video Lessons  
by Dr. Ron Phillips  
will bring back  
their zest for  
teaching.



Dr. Ron Phillips  
Senior Pastor - Central Baptist Hixson

Available in  
Life & Work or Bible Book  
CALL TODAY - (423) 877-6462  
or order from  
Ron Phillips Ministries  
P.O. Box 563 • Hixson, TN 37343

## Volunteers aid Camp Linden

For Baptist and Reflector

LINDEN — Camp Linden Baptist Assembly has undergone some recent improvements thanks to the help of 36 volunteers from three churches, according to camp director Tommy Strong.

Volunteers who worked March 1-2 made 38 pairs of curtains, washed windows, remodeled rooms, painted woodwork in lodges, cut down trees, cleared brush, and installed new showers. The workers came from Cedar Hill Church, Baxter; Mt. Olivet Church, Mt. Juliet; and First Church, Lexington.

There's still additional work that can be done by volunteers, Strong said.

For more information, call (615) 589-2622. □

SEE THE GREAT PASSION PLAY in Eureka Springs, Ark! \$31 Group package includes the Best (\$13) tickets, plus fun, lodging & meals! Where One Call Does It All: KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT, (501) 253-8418.

**BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES**  
Manufacturers of Bowling Lights, Baptistries, Signs  
TOLL FREE  
1-800-446-7400  
FAX: 804-822-2210 Steeples  
P.O. Box 2250 • Danville, VA 24541

Call for free  
**BAPTISTRIES**  
HEATERS, PUMPS  
FACTORY DIRECT  
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE  
1-800-251-0679  
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO  
3511 HUSCHMAN PIKE • CHARLOTTE, NC 27415

**A & O CHURCH FURNITURE**  
4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053  
JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282  
— PEW —  
UPHOLSTERING  
1 (800) 523-9058  
NC 1 (800) 222-7895  
REFINISHING

### SS Openings

The Sunday School Department, South Carolina Baptist Convention, has two openings for associates. Position for associate: adults/youth is open April 31. Position for associate: preschool/weekday education is open Sept. 1. Resume and photo for both are requested by mail, postmarked by April 12. Send to Robert Grant, director, Sunday School Department, 190 Stoneridge Drive, Columbia, S.C. 29210.



Available in 20' to 33' models  
(12 to 38 Passenger, New and Used)

### Church Buses

- We rent new buses!
  - We buy used buses!
  - Guaranteed buy back!
- Call Henry Hadden  
Carpenter Bus Sales  
Brentwood, Tenn.

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

# SWBTS trustees approve minister restoration plan

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Approval of a minister restoration plan and adoption of a \$22.9 million budget for the 1996-97 fiscal year topped the spring meeting for trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary March 11-13.

The Antioch Affection, a program to assist and restore pastors and church staff who have been terminated or are facing termination, was proposed by trustee Bob Anderson, a Baton Rouge, La., pastor who has operated a similar plan there for

20 years.

Anderson noted surveys reveal that of those who graduate from seminary, one-half are out of the ministry after 10 years.

The program is designed not only to help ministers and church staffers, but also "to advance the seminary as a major player in the role of pastor/staff

reclamation," said Jack D. Terry Jr., vice president for institutional advancement.

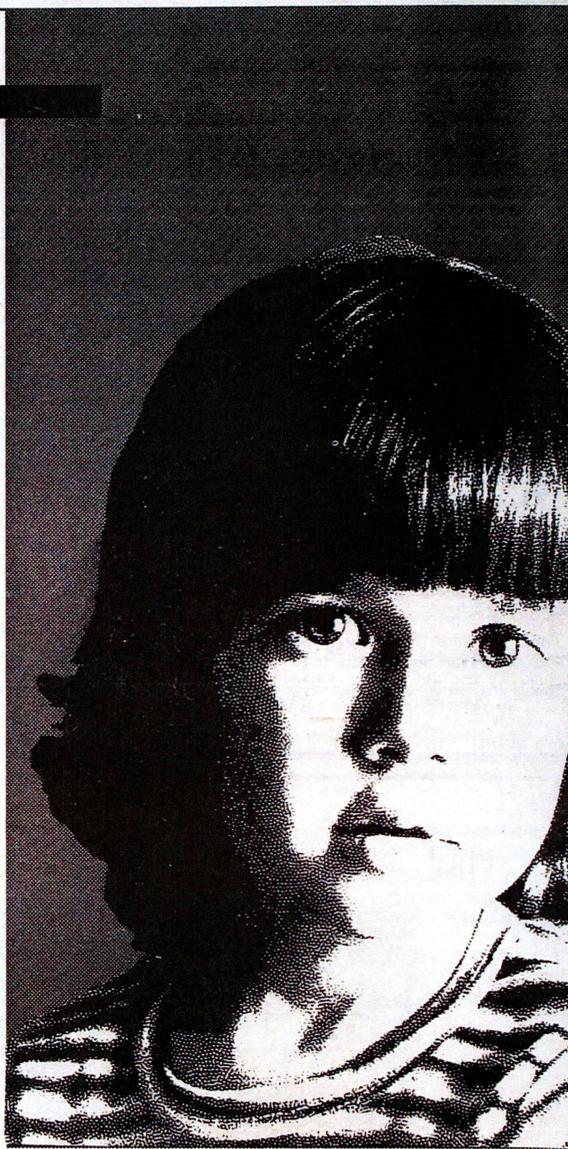
The plan involves "refugee churches," in which someone facing termination is brought on board as a staff member. The person will then be expected to build a Sunday School class from a prospect list and at the

same time attend classes through Southwestern's office of continuing education designed to help deal with specific problems such as communication skills.

To raise funds and publicize the program, "cardiology crusades" will be held in various cities across the SBC. □

## HELP

For A  
Needy  
Child Is  
Only A  
Phone  
Call  
Away.



Call today to find out  
how you or your church  
group can be of  
assistance.

1-800-624-8591

## TENNESSEE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES, INC.

with 30 homes on three main campuses in Chattanooga, Franklin, and Memphis. There are residential group homes in Kingsport, Johnson City, and Oakdale, a Boys Ranch in Millington, and alternative homes for unwed mothers in Greeneville and Clarksville.



CENTRAL OFFICE  
5001 Maryland Way • P. O. Box 728  
Brentwood, TN 37024  
1-800-624-8591 • 371-2000

Dr. Gerald L. Stow, pres./treas.

**Life and Work Series  
for March 31  
Focal Passage: Matthew  
7:24-29**

## Firm foundation

By Charles Parker

Several years ago as a pastor passed a building in the middle of a large city, he saw a man gently caressing its brick. "What are you doing?" the curious pastor asked. The man answered: "Just checking them out to see if they are in order; you see, it was I who laid these bricks over 50 years ago. I set them and as you can see I did a pretty good job. I used good material and took my time. Today this building is in as good a shape as when it was brand new." How are your bricks? On what foundation is your life built? These days prior to Easter are good ones to check out our spiritual lives and see what shape we are in. How are we building?

Jesus Christ invites people to build their lives on the only foundation that is secure. He is talking about piety and practice, attending worship and obeying the word, action as well as amazement and admiration. Everyone must choose to hear the message of Jesus' kingdom and reject it, praise it, or build it.

### Everyone builds — vv. 24, 26, 29

The image in Jesus' parable is of building a life or a character. We have no choice about whether to build, only how we build. Each person either "hears and does" or "hears and does not." It is best to emphasize our responsibility and the danger to our souls of loads of sermons and lessons heard and unheeded.

Some people build on rock. Jesus' words of blessing, promise, command, and warning are rock. They are not mere sounds, but sounds of authority. Soon, according to Matthew's account in chapter 8, it will be shown that Jesus is no mere man. His words are God's words. The divine Son of God, he will die as Savior (ch. 26-27), rise from the dead (ch. 28), and speak a final command to them (ch. 28:16-20). Of course, even in his human experience, Jesus as a carpenter knew that life needs a foundation. No matter how beautiful the superstructure, a building without a foundation has problems.

Some people build on sand, unfortunately. There are sands of selfishness, a life without sacrifice; sands of materialism, not as solid as they appear; sands of personal strength, but all persons have fatal weaknesses without God; sands of others' good will, but imperfect people will inevitably let us down; sands of religion, but as the scribes and Pharisees prove, one can be religious and lost. It is easier to build on sand, but it is foolish.

### Storms fall on every house — vv. 25, 27

This foolishness becomes all too evident when the storms come, as they surely must. The words to describe the storms in these two verses are identical. It is a misconception that when a person becomes a Christian, suffering and trouble and problems cease. Storms still fall, and may increase. Then will there be what Landrum Leavell calls "the crash of collapsing character" or a life that stands?

Whether a life stands or falls does not depend on the nature of the storm but on the quality of the foundation. Has a person built on sand or rock? Wayne Dehoney likes to tell about the farm worker hired for the summer. He answered all questions about his abilities with "I can sleep on a stormy night," then proved it by having everything in order on the first stormy night.

### Everyone chooses — v. 28

Astonishment is not enough when we have heard the words of Jesus. If Jesus' audience was wise, they would choose to build on him and his words, the firm foundation. □ — Charles Parker is pastor of First Church, Jacksboro.

# Parable of the great feast

By Kim Allen

**Convention Uniform Series  
for March 31  
Focal Passage:  
Luke 14:15-24**

Luke records a parable about an invitation to a great feast. This week we aim to explain why some people use excuses to avoid accepting God's invitation.

### Miracle and teachings at a Sabbath meal — vv. 1-14

When Jesus went to supper with the Pharisee he was watched closely. A man with dropsy came in during the meal; Jesus asked if it was permissible to heal on the Sabbath; hearing no answer from them, Jesus healed the man. Jesus asked another question: Would you not pull your animals out of the pit on the Sabbath? Again, no response was given.

He looked on the gathering as people postured for positions of importance at the table, and taught the parable of the wedding feast in that they should not seek places of honor but the low places. "Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Jesus told the host not to invite his relations or rich friends but rather have the poor, crippled, blind, and lame in to dine because they could not repay him. God would reward such generosity at the resurrection of the just.

### Parable of the great feast — vv. 15-24

This pious remark can probably be attributed to a Pharisee in describing the future life as being like a great feast, but he was wrong in assuming that he and others like him would be among those who would partake of the heavenly feast.

An invitation to a feast was given in two parts. The invitation was given for a future date; then when the feast was ready the people who had accepted the invitation were summoned to the meal. Jesus was describ-

ing God's invitation to share in the joys of his kingdom.

People make excuses in refusing to accept God's invitation to life and joy. Keep in mind all of the people spoken of in this parable had accepted the original

invitation. Jesus gave three excuses that are typical. The first two are laughable... who buys a field without seeing it first or oxen he has not tried out? These are lame excuses used to avoid going to the feast.

The third felt he had a reason, not an excuse. He didn't ask to be excused. He simply announced because of his recent marriage he couldn't come. Old Testament law excused the recently married for one year from business or military service, but it did not extend to social occasions. He could have gone but chose not to go.

When we accept God's invitation we have a hard time understanding those who resist God.

The same group of people that Jesus mentioned in verse 13, the "street people" of Jesus' day, were then invited. They included all the outcast of society whom the Pharisees despised and hated.

In verse 21 the people were in the city; in verse 23, outside the city. In verse 21 are the Jewish outcasts; in verse 23, the Gentiles.

Although it seems the inclusions of these people are an after thought by the master, God's plan included them all the time.

Jesus gave the grim warning of the parable. Some like the Pharisee expecting to be at the wedding feast would actually find themselves being turned away because they refused God's gracious invitation.

How can anyone refuse such a gracious invitation? □ — Kim Allen is pastor of Little West Fork Church, Clarksville.

# Role of grace in Christian living

By Phil Lovelace

**Bible Book Series for March 31  
Focal Passage:  
Titus 2:1-8, 11-14; 3:3-7**

### The aged saints — ch. 2:1-3

The church at Crete may have been the result of Peter's ministry at Pentecost in which case there would be older saints in the fellowship.

The aged men are to be sober, grave, temperate, and sound in the faith. Spiritual health is more important than physical health! Their love and patience should be an example to all — and how difficult it is for some "senior saints" to be patient with the younger folks!

The aged women should be reverent in their behavior, not gossips nor drunkards. They have the wonderful opportunity of teaching the younger women in the church, both by precept and example.

### Young men and women — vv. 4-8

Paul speaks of the young women first and encourages them to listen to the older women and learn from them how to be godly wives and mothers. Here we have a description of what God expects of the young Christian wife.

Love is vital to a happy home, so Paul reminds them to love both their husbands and their children. Read Ephesians 5:22-23 for details on this love between man and wife.

Since Titus was a young man, Paul uses him as an example of what young men in the church ought to be. "Be a pattern of good works that all may follow" is his exhortation. Be clean, sincere, seri-

ous; these statements summarize Paul's admonition. In verse 8 he reminds him that his speech must be Christian, lest the enemy find something to criticize.

### Grace in Christian living — vv. 11-14

The grace of God was an abused doctrine in Crete, so Paul pauses now to undergird his admonitions with a doctrinal foundation. There are some who would turn grace into license, teaching that the Christian can live in sin since he is no longer under law.

God's grace not only redeems us, it also reforms us and rewards us. "Teaching" in verse 12 is the word for training or disciplining. The believer who honestly understands the grace of God is not going to want to live a sinful life.

There is no greater incentive for Christian living than the second coming of Jesus Christ. "Looking for that blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God ..." is a more accurate translation. God's glory dwelt here on earth in the person of Christ, but went back to heaven when he ascended. His glory now abides in the life of the believer.

Christ gave himself for us; the least we can do is give ourselves to

him and live Christ-honoring lives until he comes. "Redeem" means to purchase out of slavery. We are his "peculiar people": that is, we are his special treasure.

### Description of salvation — ch. 3:3-7

This chapter continues Paul's exhortation to Titus concerning the ministry of the local churches. He has discussed the aged saints, young men and women, and servants. Now he gives a description of salvation.

In verses 3-7, Paul reminds them of the motive for honest living — the grace of God. This is the emphasis in this letter: that God's grace not only saves us, it also controls our daily lives and makes us more like Christ.

Paul makes it clear that our salvation is not by works, although it results in good works. The Spirit has been "poured out" upon all believers, and the tense of the verb here indicates once-and-for-all, that is, the pouring out of the Spirit in his baptism of believers at Pentecost. The believer is justified by grace and is an heir of God. What a blessed position we have in Christ. □ — Phil Lovelace is pastor of First Church, Somerville.

## Response to Gospel up in Middle East, N. Africa, workers say

Baptist Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Increasing response to the Gospel in the Middle East and North Africa is leaving Southern Baptist workers thrilled, but, in some case, struggling with a new problem.

Responses are still counted each year by twos and threes in some places and a few dozen in others, numbers that would hardly be considered a great revival most places in the world. But in this overwhelmingly Muslim region, the increased response has Southern Baptist workers optimistic that revival may be on the way.

"Our personnel are experiencing an increasing openness and responsiveness to their Gospel witness from all segments of society," said Dale Thorne, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's director for the area.

Yet, the increased response has suffered a new problem: "We are now seeing people coming to Christ, and they are under persecution. We don't

know how to deal with this," said one worker from a sensitive Middle Eastern country that cannot be identified.

Muslims who become Christians often are rejected by their family, a particularly painful punishment for family-oriented Middle Easterners. They also face jail terms, other punishments, or even death at the hands of Muslim governments. □

## SBC ministers more politically active, survey reveals

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Southern Baptist ministers have become increasingly active in political and public policy activism since 1980, according to a recently published survey in the March/April issue of *Books and Culture*, published by *Christianity Today*.

The article and results are based on surveys of Southern Baptist ministers conducted by political science professor James Guth of Furman University, Greenville, S.C.

From 1980 to 1992, the number of ministers who said they would like to be "more

personally involved in social and political action" nearly doubled, from 25 to 48 percent.

The percentage of SBC ministers who reported some campaign activity, in addition to voting, in the presidential election increased from 37 percent in 1988 to 59 percent in 1992.

As an aspect of this trend, Southern Baptist ministers have become more willing to endorse political candidates. In 1992, 81 percent of Southern Baptist ministers surveyed said they had publicly endorsed a political candidate at least once, even though only 12 percent said they had done so from the pulpit. In 1980, only 53 percent said they had made a public endorsement, with 4 percent of those from the pulpit. □

## Starving N. Korean children get food from Texas Baptists

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Starving school children in North Korea should soon receive about eight tons of dehydrated soup, thanks to Korean Texas Baptists.

More than a dozen volunteers from First Church, Lub-

bock, joined representatives of the Korean Baptist Fellowship of Texas and Texas Baptist Men in loading the North Korea-bound container at a High Plains dehydration plant on March 14.

The container will provide more than a half-million servings of vegetable soup for children in the famine-stricken country, according to Bob Dixon, executive director of Texas Baptist Men.

Korean Baptist churches around the state raised money to buy food for the container. □

## 300 volunteers sought for Sweden project

Baptist Press

ABILENE, Texas — Swedish Baptists have faxed an urgent request for 300 Southern Baptist volunteers in October, tripling the number originally sought.

"It would be tragic for us to neglect such a great need ...," said W.H. "Dub" Jackson, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's volunteer coordinator for partnership evangelism projects in Western Europe.

For more information, call Jackson at (915) 677-2500. □

## Global leaders grasp evangelistic goal

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Baptist leaders on every continent have embraced the evangelistic goal of Nilson do Amaral Fanini, president of the Baptist World Alliance, for each Baptist to seek to win one person to Jesus Christ and each church plant another church by the year 2000.

They also promised to help in prayer and follow-up with the evangelistic meetings Fanini plans to hold for Baptists around the world, emphasizing worldwide evangelism and missions with the theme of "Jesus Christ, the Hope of the World." □

## FamilyNet to telecast Easter sunrise service

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The 20th annual Sea World Easter Sunrise Service in Orlando, Fla., scheduled to begin at 6 a.m. (ET) April 7, will be telecast "live" by FamilyNet, the broadcast television service of the SBC Radio and Television Commission. □

## It's no mystery on how to save dollars at your church! The Baptist and Reflector Church Page Plan may be your solution.



Do what several church leaders have done in the past few months. Sharpen that pencil and go to work. Take the amount you spend for postage and add to that the amount spent for printing your newsletter. If you print the newsletter on your own copy machine, take into account the costs for paper, toner, and wear and tear on the machine. Assign a dollar amount to the amount of time it takes for your secretary to prepare and print the newsletter, fold, and then put labels on and mail the newsletters.

Here's what you will discover. Your postage per piece is probably greater than the 12.25 cents per copy it costs to mail the *Baptist and Reflector* with your church newsletter. The non-profit bulk mail rate ranges from 12 cents (the size of a number 10 envelope) to 17 cents.

You'll also probably discover that when you add up the printing costs along with the amount of time your secretary spends each week on the newsletter, it is more than the \$65 weekly charge for the back page of the paper. And, the *Baptist and Reflector* pays the return postage on undeliverable papers due to address changes. Consider the *Baptist and Reflector* for your church news. Give your members their news and news about Tennessee and Southern Baptists in one convenient package.

Write today for more information!

Mail form to: *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024

\_\_\_\_ Please send information about the Church Page Plan to:

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Attention: \_\_\_\_\_

## Fire department chaplain still fired up for ministry at age 87

Baptist Press

Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Ten minutes into Ray Branscum's Bible study on tithing, all six of his pupils rushed out of his class.

Undaunted, he patiently closed his Bible and waited for them to return. It happens often when you are chaplain for the Little Rock Fire Department.

It was not the subject of tithing that drove the firefighters from their weekly study at the Little Rock National Airport Fire Station, but a report of smoke and power loss in the airport's baggage area. Within seconds, three massive green fire trucks raced to answer the call.

Thirty minutes later, after discovering no danger at the terminal, each firefighter returned to his seat and Branscum, dressed in the navy uniform of the department, resumed his lesson. "This is typical and you have to be flexible," he explained.

Branscum, 87, has served since 1989 as the LRFD's first chaplain. The position started after fire chief Ruben Webb saw "something missing" in

the department.

Webb said his conception of a chaplain's duties included leading "an annual prayer breakfast and someone to visit with the men occasionally." With that idea, he began searching for a chaplain.

Branscum heard of the need and responded. Serving in a position the chief originally envisioned as "occasional," Branscum transformed it to pastoral, setting up regular Bible studies, making hospital and fire station visits, and providing counseling.

"He's gone a lot further and has put in a lot more time than I had originally perceived," Webb acknowledged. "He moved on in and set up the Bible studies every Sunday. How he can go out and recruit volunteers to go to 20 fire stations every Sunday is an accomplishment in itself."

Webb noted a concern was "how we could make a chaplaincy program work and encompass all of the different religions without causing dissension." Yet, he said, most of the firefighters attend Bible studies, regardless of denomination, and it's "gone over real well." □