

Baptist and Reflector

April 10, 1996

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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Tennesseans challenged to 'get out of the huddle'

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Tennessee Baptists were challenged to "get out of the huddle" and return "to the basics" during the 1996 State Evangelism Conference.

Approximately 800 people attended the two-day sessions at First Church, Jackson, to hear a host of speakers address the theme, "People Sharing Jesus."

When people cry out to God, he responds and calls someone to be his answer, said Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, Miss.

"All around us are people who need to know God ... people who are crying out to God," Pollard said.

God's response is, "You Christians — you are my answer."

Pollard, who spoke four times, closed his series of sermons with a football analogy.

The huddle is an important part of a football game because that's where players get their assignments, Pollard said.

"You are not in the game if you are not in the huddle."

Yet, there comes a time to leave the huddle, Pollard challenged. "You and I have our names in the Lamb's book of life because Jesus went out and ran the play. We've got to do that for him."

Conference ventures West

For *Baptist and Reflector*

JACKSON — Tennessee Baptist Convention Evangelism Director Jerry King is satisfied with the State Evangelism Conference's first venture out of Nashville since 1957.

Approximately 800 people attended the two-day sessions at First Church.

"I was pleased with the response," King said.

He noted there are some who feel the conference should remain in Nashville because it is more centrally located. About the same number, however, also feel it is good to move it around, he estimated.

King said the conference would go through a three-year cycle — from west to east, and back to middle — and then be evaluated.

"It's too early to make a clear cut evaluation now," he said.

The state evangelism director said he felt the April date affects attendance more than anything else.

Next year's conference will return to its traditional winter date — Jan. 20-21 at Wallace

Memorial Church, Knoxville, he said.

The TBC evangelism director also was pleased with the special interest conferences held on Tuesday afternoon.

"I feel the conferences were successful in the beginning year. It will take time for them to gain popularity," he noted.

"We need both inspiration and information. Inspiration comes from the large sessions while information comes from the special interest groups."

TBC Executive Director James Porch also was pleased with the 1996 State Evangelism Conference.

"This year's program was one of the strongest we've had. It carried a balance of enthusiasm and evangelistic fervor," the TBC leader noted.

"The speakers were well prepared and contributed effectively and demonstrated their understanding of the essentiality of evangelism to kingdom growth.

"This is especially needed in a state where 50 percent of the people do not know Jesus as Savior," Porch added. □

The assignment for Christians today is to go out and tell the world about Jesus, Pollard said.

"What a sin to stay in the huddle and lose the game by default."

SBC President Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., challenged those in attendance to "get back to the basics" and just "lead people to Jesus one on one when God

gives us the opportunity wherever we are."

The native Tennessean and former pastor of Two Rivers Church, Nashville, encouraged ministers to train their laity.

"The best way to multiply your ministry is to equip your laymen," he observed.

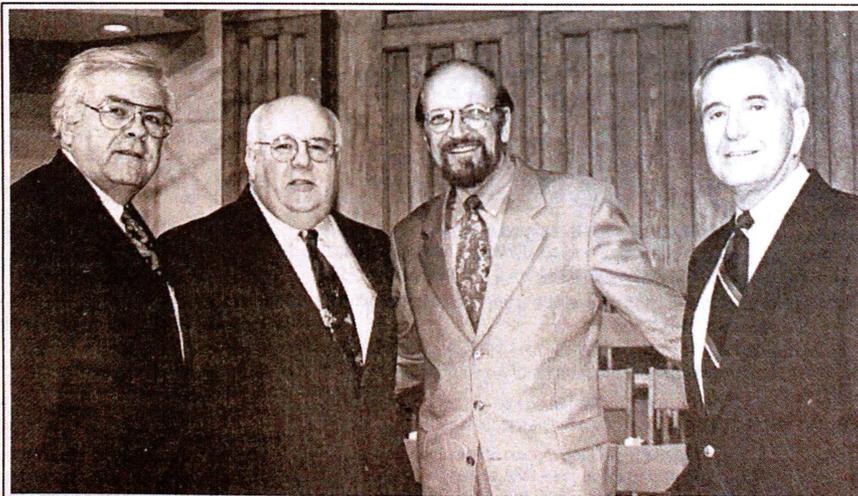
Henry noted that when "you lead someone to Jesus the first time you'll never be more satisfied until you do it again."

Leading people to Jesus "is the work of the church and that's what makes church work wonderful," Henry concluded.

"What could be worse than being lost?" TBC Executive Director James Porch asked.

"It is being lost and convinced that nobody knows you are lost or cares," Porch answered.

— See Tennesseans, page 2



TBC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR James Porch, left, and TBC Evangelism Director Jerry King, left center, welcomed program speakers Calvin Miller, professor of communication and ministry studies and writer-in-residence at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, right center, and Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, Miss., to the State Evangelism Conference at First Church, Jackson.

TBC giving still ahead for year

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists' gifts dipped in March, yet remain ahead of budget for the year.

TBC churches gave \$1,931,517 to the Cooperative Program in March, down from \$2,233,703 given the month before. For the year-to-date Tennessee Baptists have given \$11,824,563, \$471,441 or 4.15 percent more than was given at the same time last year.

"After five months of the fiscal year, we continue to be ahead of budget," said TBC Executive Director James Porch. "This is especially encouraging considering the harsh winter and its effect." □

Tennesseans challenged ...

— Continued from page 1

Relating the parable of the shepherd and the lost sheep, Porch noted that "unless we are willing to go after that lost sheep we won't fulfill the mandate."

And, Porch stressed, the shepherd goes after that lost sheep "until he finds it."

TBC President Ken Hubbard reminded messengers of a forgotten word in today's society — "duty."

"Duty has everything to do with evangelism," said Hubbard, pastor of First Church, Smyrna.

On the other hand, the word "feel" is used too much, he observed. "No one wants to do anything in our churches. They 'don't feel like it.' 'I don't feel like giving.'"

It's time for Southern Baptists to grow up, Hubbard challenged.

"Most of us live off our feeling rather than our duty to Jesus Christ," he said.

Johnson City evangelist Charles "Toonie" Cash reminded conference participants that "we are living in a time when we need to be living in faith. ...

"You may travel this world afar ... but you will never find

anything more concrete to stand on than faith," he said.

A New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary professor summed up evangelism simply.

"If we are not witnessing to the lost, we are out of the will of God," said Robert Hamblin, professor of evangelism at New Orleans Seminary.

SBC Home Mission Board staffer Phil Roberts, director of the interfaith witness department, observed there is a difference "between doing church work and the work of the church."

The work of the church is to do what Jesus "called us to do — take the Gospel and disciple all nations," he said.

Calvin Miller, a professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, shared what it is like to wrestle with God. There is joy in wrestling with God.

"Is the pain worth the glory?" Miller asked. "It always is," he told those in attendance.

Gary Frost, second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Rising Star Church, Youngstown, Ohio, spoke twice during

the two-day meeting.

On Monday, he discussed the perils of impatience.

"Impatience is a childhood disease that plagues us until the day we die," he observed.

The SBC officer also gave the closing challenge of the 1996 State Evangelism Conference by inviting attendees to "the land of nevertheless."

Basing his message on Matthew 26:36-39, Frost noted "God has to work some things out with you privately before you can be effective publicly."

"Jesus had to go to Gethsemane before he went to Calvary," Frost reminded.

The word "nevertheless" is a "hinge," Frost said. "It is a bridge between human will and divine will."

He noted Christ used the word "nevertheless" (verse 39) and "it was the turning point of his mission."

"And, each one of us has been assigned a mission by the Master. If we're going to succeed we eventually are going to have to visit this place," Frost said.

"You can't be excellent until you have visited the place called nevertheless," Frost challenged. □

Quotable Quotes

The following quotes were given in messages delivered at the 1996 State Evangelism Conference held April 1-2 at First Church, Jackson.

"Prayer is the most important thing you and I will ever do." — Frank Pollard

"When you make the wrong choices, you lose your freedom. That's what's happening in our land." — Pollard

"Christianity first and foremost is a personal, dynamic, living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ." — Phil Roberts

"I like losing to God." — Calvin Miller

"Preachers, be yourself with Christ working through you." — Jim Henry

"The way the Holy Spirit speaks is through the way you are." — Henry

"The last time I checked God's bank account it wasn't low. He still owns it all." — Charles "Toonie" Cash

"If you are in the pasture and are not happy, it's because you have chosen to be unhappy." — Ken Hubbard

"Jesus never commands anything you can't do." — Hubbard

"God opens the door and when we go through it, he goes with us." — Robert Hamblin

"I have had to learn there are some things I just can't explain." — Gary Frost

"If you cannot explain it, just proclaim it. The power is in the proclamation, not the explanation." — Frost

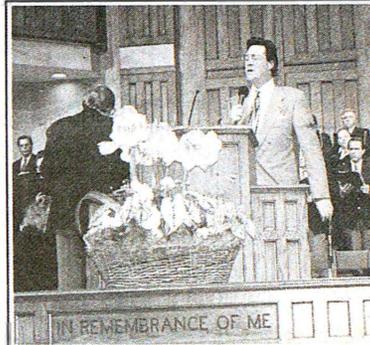
"Patience will bring forth answers to prayer and will supply strength in midst of tribulation." — Frost

"If we are to reach our state for Christ, it will be done by laypersons in the work-a-day world willing to share Christ." — Jerry King

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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WELCOMING SBC OFFICERS Gary Frost and Jim Henry, far left on front row, were a group from First Church, Millington. From left, front row, next to Henry are Terry Waits, Pastor Ray Newcomb, Minister of Children Skip Arnhart; back row, Minister of Youth Tony Bowden, Mike Gill, Jack Jenkins, Ron Webber, and Ernest Owens.



SQUIRE PARSONS sings his well known song "Beulah Land" with the Tennessee Baptist Chorale under the direction of Julian Suggs. The popular music evangelist provided special music throughout the two-day State Evangelism Conference.

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests April



- 10 — Pray for the Lord's Spirit to call out Tennessee volunteers to serve in the 39 unfilled partnership missions projects already approved for 1996.
- 11 — Pray for Jim Searls Jr. who is attempting to begin a new congregation in North Farmington Hills/West Bloomfield, Mich., in late spring. Pray for the gathering of a core group.
- 12 — Pray for Scott Hanson who will be gathering a core group for West Novi, Mich.
- 13 — Pray for World Missions Conferences being held in four associations throughout the months of April and May.
- 14 — PRAISE! Thank God for Tennessee churches' willingness to be involved in missions activities in Oakland Association.
- 15 — Pray for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan as they begin working in migrant areas of the state.
- 16 — Give thanks for three workshops in Michigan tutoring children and adults in literacy.

National CP gifts dip in March

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program gifts for the month of March were down slightly compared to the previous year, as were designated gifts, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

The March 1996 total of \$12,652,229 compared with last year's \$12,798,612, a difference of \$146,382, or 1.14 percent.

For the SBC fiscal year, since Oct. 1, 1995, CP gifts totaled \$72,971,906 compared to the same six-months total the previous fiscal year of \$73,676,952, a difference of \$705,046, or .96 percent.

Designated gifts for March were down 3.43 percent with \$17,507,489, compared to \$18,128,922 the previous year's month.

For the year designated gifts were still above last year by more than \$5 million — \$87,087,489 compared to \$81,995,342 the previous year. For the SBC's Program Allocation Budget, the first six months show CP gifts more than \$2 million above the six-months budget requirement of \$70,814,563.

The SBC Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions, and fellowships for distribution according to the 1996 CP Allocation Budget. □



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Restructuring consultant audits Texas lottery

By Herb Hollinger
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention officials have expressed concern after learning that the Executive Committee consultant for restructuring the SBC also performs an auditing function for the Texas lottery.

"We regret that there is the connection, however minimal, between Coopers & Lybrand and the lottery, and we regret that we did not know about it when the contract was signed," said David E. Hankins, Executive Committee vice president for convention policy and staff liaison with the Implementation Task Force.

Coopers & Lybrand, a large international firm hired by the Executive Committee to provide assistance during the restructuring of the denomination, was the auditor for the Texas lottery from 1992-94. Presently the firm attests the accuracy of lottery drawings, Hankins said, which is the reason the firm's name appears on television when lottery results are announced.

Ted Warren, executive vice president and chief operating officer for the Baptist Sunday School Board, who led the consultant interview process for the ITF, said, "We checked numerous references on Coopers & Lybrand, including Baptist institutions and found they

have an excellent record." Warren indicated the ITF dealt with Coopers & Lybrand's consulting division, not the auditing division in Texas which apparently performs the attesting function.

In a response to an inquiry this week, the firm has assured the Executive Committee, Hankins said, they do not endorse participation in the lottery and they have not functioned in any way in managing or promoting the lottery. The role they fill is required by law as a guard against error or abuse.

When informed of the matter, Morris H. Chapman, president of the Executive Committee, said, "In no way do we excuse, justify or defend any business relationship with the lottery. The Executive Committee and Southern Baptists remain staunchly opposed to all forms of gambling, illegal or legal. In a perfect world this issue would not have arisen. Practicing 'being in the world and not of the world' is often a precarious journey as our contract with Coopers & Lybrand demonstrates.

"Although we anticipate the same outstanding performance they have given other Baptist clients, it is still disappointing to learn of their association with the lottery." He added that the Executive Committee would not intentionally support gambling interests. □

Possibility of state lottery grows

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The possibility of a statewide lottery moved closer than ever after the Tennessee Senate approved on April 4 and April 8 a bill setting in motion a statewide referendum, by identical votes, 17-14.

However, the bill must gain approval a third time this month, possibly April 11, by at least 17 votes. A third positive vote would send it back to the 99-member House of Representatives, where it must gain a majority vote.

The House, generally considered more sympathetic toward gambling issues, approved last year a bill allowing a referendum.

Tennesseans still have opportunity to contact their state senators on the issue. They must act quickly, however, since a final vote could be taken this week.

The road to lottery approval is a long one, necessarily difficult since it would require a change in the state constitution.

If approved in this session, the new General Assembly, elected this fall, would have to approve by a two-thirds vote in 1997 or 1998 the same resolution in order to put it on the ballot in November 1998.

This fall's elections preface a new General

Assembly which first meets next January. If efforts this term fail to approve a referendum, any efforts toward a lottery would have to begin from scratch. The next opportunity for a referendum then would come November 1998.

The referendum, if allowed, would consider whether to change the state constitution and make lotteries legal. The issue has confronted Tennesseans since 1984.

Voting for a referendum to change the state's venerable 1834 constitution to allow a lottery April 4 were: Senators Cohen (sponsor), Cooper, Crowe, Crutchfield, Dixon, Ford, Gilbert, Harper, Haun, Haynes, Kyle, Miller, O'Brien, Rice, Rochelle, Springer, and Wright

At press time the *Baptist and Reflector* learned that Danny Wallace voted "yes" on the second vote and Carol Rice abstained.

Another bill (SB 0569) that proposes submitting to voters the question of calling a constitutional convention to do away with prohibition on lotteries is set to be voted on Thursday, according to TBC Public Affairs Consultant Bill Bates. This bill failed in the Senate last year by a vote of 15-16-2, Bates said. Because the vote was so close last year, it could be brought up again this year, he noted. □ — Wm. Fletcher Allen

Assisted suicide rulings open way to euthanasia

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The latest federal appeals court ruling striking down a law against physician-assisted suicide, coupled with a similar opinion less than a month earlier, opens "wider the door which leads to active euthanasia," a Southern Baptist ethicist warned.

A three-judge panel of the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down April 1 a

New York law prohibiting physician-assisted suicide. In his opinion, Judge Roger Miner said there was no difference between the prescribing of drugs for a suicide than the withdrawal of artificial life support.

Since earlier decisions upheld the right of surrogate decision-makers to act on behalf of the patient, "there is no legal reason why even patients in a coma or patients who are mentally incompetent may not

have a 'right' to lethal medications," said Ben Mitchell, consultant on biomedical and life issues for the SBC Christian Life Commission.

Miner's opinion "rejected the long-held rule that the state has an interest in preserving life at all times.

"Now, the state may be an accomplice in medicalized self-murder. Ultimately, active non-voluntary euthanasia is certain to follow," Mitchell predicted. □

Food shipped to North Korea

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The first shipment of Southern Baptist food aid for North Koreans suffering from flood-induced famine is crossing the Pacific. Others will follow.

A load of 690 boxes of food from North Carolina is to arrive by ship in South Korea around April 11 for repacking and shipment north. Two more shipments, from Texas Baptists, are to reach North Korea by May 1.

So far, churches in 13 states, including Tennessee, have promised up to 45 large shipping containers. At an estimated value of \$15,000 per container, the aid pledged could amount to \$675,000.

Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid agency, hopes to send at least 100 containers packed with food staples. □

New Orleans casino ad on SBC housing reply form

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Some Southern Baptists who reserved rooms in New Orleans in June for the SBC annual meeting got a shock recently when they received confirmation or cancellation form notices with an advertisement for a casino on the back from the New Orleans housing bureau.

Jack Wilkerson, convention manager and vice president for business and finance for the SBC Executive Committee, said he understands the concern of people

over the forms which also included an ad for the airport shuttle.

Noting, however, that it is a pre-printed form used by the New Orleans housing bureau, Wilkerson said, "It is one of those forms where a machine types information on the outside of the form and it prints the information on blocks inside the form." Although it reads "SBC Housing Bureau" on the return address, he said, it comes from the New Orleans Housing Bureau and has a New Orleans city and street address.

"It simply was whether we wanted to

have a custom-printed form, without the casino advertising, and pay a thousand additional Cooperative Program dollars to do so. With the rising costs of the annual meeting, we elected not to have a custom form for the SBC," Wilkerson said.

He noted the SBC has long opposed gambling in any form and opposes the gambling in the new casinos in New Orleans. "For our meeting we will spend several thousand dollars to cover objectional signs hanging in the Superdome," Wilkerson said. □

Georgia church apologizes for requesting buried infant be moved

Baptist Press

THOMASVILLE, Ga. — A request to move the body of a mixed-race infant from a previously all-white cemetery has brought national attention and widespread criticism to a small Georgia Baptist church near the Florida state line.

Mutual apologies were extended March 29 by leaders of the 130-member Barnetts Creek Church and the family involved, but the family says they still have concerns that some of the

apologies were insincere and legal action remains a possibility.

The incident began with the death of Whitney Elaine Johnson on March 19, only 19 hours after she was born with only a partially formed skull. She was the daughter of Jamie Wireman, 18, and Jeffrey "Bubba" Johnson, 25, who is African American.

The church allowed the infant to be buried between the plots of her great-grandfather and great-grandmother, who is still alive and is an active mem-

ber of the church.

After the funeral and burial March 22, church leaders discovered the child was biracial. It was a first for the cemetery in a section of the country where racial segregation historically meant separate cemeteries for whites and blacks.

The deacons met March 24, but recollections of what church leaders actually decided to do about the situation differ. The day after the meeting one deacon called the family and said the deacons had voted unani-

mously to ask the family to allow the body to be moved.

Though at first the family gave tentative approval to moving the body, they later decided they did not want the grave disturbed.

Pastor Leon VanLandingham, however, said the deacons were concerned primarily that the funeral home did not inform them of the race of the child. There was discussion of moving the baby "simply because of the deception," but no action was taken, he said. □

■ 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. □

Best resources

I tried to buy Hillary Clinton's book, *It Takes a Village*, from the Baptist Book Store in Nashville and was told they did not have it and wouldn't be carrying it.

I got the book from Cokesbury Book Store. It is a well-written book with good insight to the needs of children today. It is a book that should be read by everyone interested in children and family values.

Last week, I received an invitation from the Baptist Book Store to an autograph party for Marilyn Quayle. Her book is a political murder mystery. One wonders why a political murder mystery is seen as more helpful than a book which addresses the genuine, pressing problems of children and families today.

I don't see how this fits into the goal of our Baptist Book Stores to provide the best Christian resources that are available. Does one's political label automatically exclude or include their books from our bookstore shelves? If politics does play a part, I regret to see our Sunday School Board getting caught up in such maneuvering.

Susi Lockard
Brentwood 37027

Remodeling plans

It disturbs me greatly to see the criticism that has been in our paper and by many of our high leaders in our state conventions about the study com-

mittee of the Southern Baptist Convention for doing the work of the convention in secrecy (I also feel that more input should have been asked for) and at the same time we say nothing about a committee in our own state convention that does the same thing.

At a meeting of the Executive Board I attended last May the SBC committee was really criticized by members of our Executive Board and resolutions were passed and published concerning the reorganization.

The reorganization that is taking place in our state has been done in secrecy and not like the SBC, our executive director tells us that we are not going to get a chance to vote on it as we did on the SBC study recommendation. This is a big change that we are making and I feel that Tennessee Baptists deserve a chance to either vote it up or down.

Kenneth McMillen, DOM
Riverside Association
Livingston 38570

Historically, organizational changes within the Executive Board staff organizational structure are approved only by the board itself. — Editor

Baptist rights

I wish all Baptist state papers would take up your cry made in our paper March 13 about the right to know.

Well said, Baptists have a right to know. Baptist meetings should be open to the Bap-

tist public. Yes! They should, and they were prior to that dark day in St. Louis in 1980 when knaves in the SBC booed our great and godly patriarch, Herschel Hobbs, and drove him from the pulpit. That scene shall live in infamy until Jesus comes.

On that sad day the door was slammed shut. And openness and respect for differing opinions and interpretations, which had always been great pillars of our Baptist heritage, were bulldozed to make room for the closed Word, the closed mind, and the closed meeting.

Yes, the closed meeting of the ITF kept me from expressing my opinion about spending \$495,000 for a consulting firm, of the world, to fix that which is not even worn, much less broken. I was shut out, and so were you.

Tennessee guarantees open meetings because it recognizes the right of its citizens to know and be heard. Baptist leaders

Sullivan speaks against persecution

For Baptist and Reflector

The executive committee of Sullivan Association has spoken out against persecution of Christians around the world.

In an official letter March 29 the committee, representing 29 churches, addressed a letter of protest to President Bill Clinton, Senators Frist, Thompson, Warner, and Robb, and Reps. Quillen and Boucher. The letter referred to an article in a recent issue of the magazine *Christianity Today*. The article noted several places in the world today where Christians are persecuted for their beliefs.

In particular, the Sullivan letter asked government leaders to reform policies of the Immigration and Naturalization Service which have "often denied asylum to victims of religious terrorism and anti-Christian persecution."

The letter requests immediate action and a response. □

think they know better, and so they deny this right to Baptist laity when they meet behind closed doors.

Baptists, wake up. It is getting very late.

Leonard W. Riley
Memphis 38115

Volunteer missions reunion cancelled

"There hasn't been enough response," said Terry Sharp, Partnership Missions director, so a 15th year missions reunion has been cancelled.

The Partnership Missions get-together was scheduled at the Baptist Center, Brentwood, April 20.

"We deeply regret having to cancel the event," Sharp said, "but we just have not had sufficient advance registration."

The reunion would have brought together volunteers from all the TBC partnerships, beginning with Michigan. □

Do Tennesseans need lottery promoted, run by government?

By Roger Freeman
For Baptist and Reflector

Is a state-run lottery sensible? Think about it. I don't believe it is sensible.

I am listing only seven reasons why a state-run lottery is not sensible, right, or good business.

1. **Lotteries hurt the poor most.** "Whosoever mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker." (Proverbs 17:5).

It is the poor who spend their food money on lottery tickets, not the wealthy. The rich can afford \$10 a week on lottery tickets; the person on welfare cannot.

In Chicago, it is a fact that the city borough which purchased the most per capita lottery tickets also was the highest in food stamps. Is that taking care of the poor? A lottery is a false hope.

I have observed first hand while serving in Louisiana the effects of a state-run lottery. Education was never improved by lottery money. Education funding fell behind more and more each year, despite hundreds of millions annually spent on the lottery. The Louisiana lottery only hurt the poor.

A grocery store chain's advertisement in a California newspaper shows that the owners feel it is wrong to offer customers the opportunity to gamble with food dollars, and ceased selling California State Lottery tickets.

2. **Lotteries make money the highest good in life.** "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (I Timothy 6:10)

A Tennessee lottery is supposedly justified by its proponents on its alleged ability to make money.

This "end justifies the means" philosophy is as old as Marxism and Communism. As long as something produces money, is it morally defensible?

A lottery is wrong because it makes money more important than character. Is this what we want to teach our children?

3. **Lotteries violate the Tenth Commandment against coveting.** "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor anything that is thy neighbor's." (Exodus 20: 17)

A lottery is covetousness; desiring the possessions of another without deserving them or working to attain them. The ancient rabbis taught that coveting is also a violation of the other nine commandments.

A lottery does not produce income. It only transfers income, and produces no product. A lottery is dependent on everyone else losing.

4. **A lottery diminishes people's work ethic.** "Do you see a man diligent

in his business? He shall stand before kings and not before average men." (Proverbs 22: 29)

The Bible and history confirm that the diligent worker is rewarded. An expert gambler and an expert worker are mutually exclusive.

A worker depends on himself and hard labor. A gambler depends on "luck," which is the opposite of work.

5. **A lottery is the wrong way to run a government and does not generate promised revenue.** "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people." (Proverbs 14:34)

Should a government be dependent on gambling or on right living? Righteousness made America great. Is it true that a lottery will raise the money promised anyway?

In Missouri, our sister state with two very large cities, the lottery raised exactly zero for the state government.

In Virginia, a legislator discovered that only 45 percent or less of the money spent by citizens on a lottery would make it to the state government offices.

6. **A lottery increases gambling addiction and illegal gambling.** "Sin abounds...Be sure your sin will find you out." (Romans 5:20; Numbers 32:23).

No sin stays little. A lottery will increase sin and illegal book-makings. The book-makers go into the communities where the betting on numbers is

high and try to make their own illegal deals with the bettors and gamblers.

The argument is persuasive and enticing. The incessant advertising by the state that betting on numbers is legal and okay lays the foundation for the illegal bookmakers to move in. Where gambling is, the Mafia is present also.

7. **A lottery violates the Spirit of Christ.** "If any man does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." (Romans 8:9)

The life of Christ is the greatest example for moral principles. Satan hoped to change the course of Jesus' life. "Gamble. Roll the dice. Go for the big shot."

Christ answered that he would not gamble since God sent him here with a plan. Life should not be a gamble. Lotteries and gambling violate the very spirit of Jesus Christ. The sure road is the well-ordered, responsible life of faith in God and hard work by man. Don't gamble with life. It's too serious.

Every elected official of local and state government in Tennessee is urged to oppose a state-run lottery. We must employ moral responsibility as fiscal reform is considered. □

This information was taken from a pamphlet written last year by Roger Freeman, pastor, First Church, Clarksville. — Editor

Looking at the world with 20/20 vision

We don't know how many Tennessee Baptists are involved in gambling, if any. We don't know how Tennessee Baptists or other citizens would respond if allowed to vote whether the Volunteer State should have a lottery.

We are being told through a steady barrage of trumpeting by those who want to play with other folks' money, that a huge majority of Tennesseans favor a lottery.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Some state legislators are openly in favor of having a state lottery and are voting for it.

Others say they are personally against gambling in general and lotteries in particular, but that they think "the people should vote on this issue."

There is no way of proving that a majority of Tennesseans want a lottery short of having a statewide vote. We rather believe that many, if not most, Tennesseans want their legislators to be strong on this issue, and vote for what it best for all citizens, not just for those who want to play with fire. Most Tennesseans are not sufficiently affluent to gamble on a lottery, or for gambling in any other way.

And those same citizens are not rich enough to support tax increases to care for those who lose everything and thus become dependent on the state for upkeep.

Nor are most citizens rich enough to pay for increases in crime, homelessness, bankruptcy, drug addiction, and alcohol impairment.

Now is the time for all of us to look at the world with 20/20 vision. Secular me-

dia seems to favor a lottery. If this is true, it is probably because of increased revenue in advertising.

Newspapers such as the *Baptist and Reflector* are portrayed accurately when pictured as strong opponents of gambling. The paper, we hope, represents the views of most Tennessee Baptists on this issue. At any rate, we are not ashamed of this stance.

We oppose any kind of gambling. It is wrong to gamble. It is wrong also for a

state government to permit gambling in the hope of gaining income. How preposterous it is to sell souls and physical well-being of people just for the thrill of chance and the tenuous hope of getting rich without honorably earning it.

This week can be history-making. Will the senate approve a lottery bill? Or will the door to the ills of gambling be slammed shut again by senators who believe that gambling harms people.

Call your senator now! □

Do you have a donut, or is it a hole?

Mr. Micawber didn't seem to be an offensive character. He appeared in Charles Dickens' classic, *David Copperfield*.

He tried desperately to be successful at something, preferably at something which he liked to do and which paid handsomely.

But he was a whiner. Never able to keep a decent job nor to earn enough to support a family which was used to the best, he continued to say, "Something will turn up." He meant that someday, someone would pay him well for doing practically nothing.

Young Copperfield treated his friend well. Even though Micawber was forever borrowing and finagling, Copperfield thought the best of him. Why?

Even when he wound up in Debtor's Prison, Copperfield stood by his old friend.

David was kind to the older man because Micawber had been kind to him when he needed a friend.

Too often we find it easy to whine and shift the blame to others when we think

life isn't treating us well enough.

We see the employer as someone who doesn't recognize our talents. We see the neighbors as folks who turn away from us.

We see our friends and family as not understanding us.

We see those who succeed as being "lucky" or knowing someone with "pull."

And we may see our own failures as being unfair, someone "had it in for me."

If you want to be unhappy, look for the hole instead of the donut, shift the blame.

It is a common practice in politics now to call attention to the mistakes of others, and even to exaggerate those errors.

Television and pulp magazines and papers are primary producers of this negativism. The talk shows on TV and radio constantly thrive on smut and negativism.

So what do Christians do? It is simple, walk the walk and talk the talk. Jesus Christ lived positively. He still leads. The only way to live the abundant life is to follow him. Don't shift the blame. □

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Oh, for a sponsor

Life must have been easy for painters, writers, musicians, astronomers, and bishops, in the years before "modern" times.

Reading in history books and other sources of ancient life, we can safely surmise that there were enough rich and affluent people to supply the needs for countless aspiring proletarian geniuses.

This must be true, I thought for years as I planned to write the great American novel — or a book to change the world.

I knew I would require such a patron if I were to be successful. There may have been a certain amount of envy as I learned of more and more aspirants who found their patrons.

Let's not suggest that those who achieved were lazy or allergic to hard work.

It is a matter of simple logic. You can work with your gifts with more industry and dedication if you don't have to bring home hard money along with blisters and headaches and tired bodies and minds.

What, you don't believe that? You have put my theory to Michelangelo, to Plato, to Hemingway? I don't agree with that theory either.

Though it would be a relief for most of us if we could make it completely on our own, it usually doesn't work out that way.

There were some patrons in the years of enlightenment. And, to some extent, we are beneficiaries — just as we are beneficiaries of the completed dream, the task.

Does it matter, then, that we can't all be geniuses?

We all do have patrons, you know, we do. There is someone who pushes, someone who helps each of us reach beyond our longest previous stretch.

They are friends, family, teachers, pastors, even a stranger who sees the worth of each magnificent creation from each amateur. You, me.

I really do have a patron, and so do you. Jesus the Christ, creator and sustainer, he is the patron behind each good deed, each shining, golden moment. ☺



ALLEN

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

Start with a smile

New Groom: "Honey, now that we are married, you don't mind if I tell you a few of your defects, do you?" New Bride: "Of course not. They're what kept me from marrying a better man."

Take this truth

Someone has said, "Life is a process of 'swap offs.' We give a little, take a little. Do not drive too hard a bargain. If you're on top of the situation, be generous. You might be in the reverse role with this same person some day."

Memorize this Scripture

"All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them" (Matthew 7:12).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to realize negotiating and compromising are not the same. Help me to negotiate non-essentials but never compromise principles. Teach me the difference. □

Responsibility in parenting

Focusing too much on those things to which I am entitled, I may not spend enough time looking at my responsibilities. Does that sound familiar?

For several weeks we have focused on parenting teenagers, using the acrostic PARENT. The letters remind us of Presence, Awareness, Responsibility, Empathy, Nurture, and Toughness.

Today let's consider the responsibilities of parenting teenagers. I begin with a tough question. Who is responsible for your teenager? If he or she doesn't make good grades in school, whose fault is it?

If he or she is picked up by the police on a drug charge, who is responsible? If your teenage daughter becomes pregnant, who is responsible?

Immediately we think of moral and financial responsibility. The courts ultimately will decide the financial matter, but we parents must wrestle with the morality question.

I think parents are responsible for raising responsible children. Parents cannot do that if they always make excuses for

■ families matter
By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

the children. I read of an incident that illustrates this point dramatically.

The class had been given an assignment to write a term paper that would comprise an entire six-weeks' grade. Credit would be given for a certain number of bibliography cards, a certain number of subject cards, an outline of the paper with a thesis sentence, a rough draft, and the final product.

One child simply turned in a paper with no bibliography cards, subject cards, outline, or rough draft. When told that the teacher could not accept the paper, the parent complained to the school about the unfairness of the teacher.

The parent said the child would quit school, that it was the teacher's fault since she had treated him unfairly. This child is not passing any other subject either.

The process of helping chil-

dren learn there are consequences to behavior should be begun early in life. But the attitude of the adolescent makes it imperative that it is enforced during teen years.

The teenager is trying to figure out who he is and settle the identity issue.

This in itself causes a type of tunnel vision that often fails to take others and circumstances into account.

In order to help teenagers become well-rounded, responsible human beings, parents must help them take responsibility for their own lives.

The failure to do this part of parenting properly will produce a self-centered, selfish young adult who finds it difficult to accept responsibility for life.

It is not his fault he was fired, you see; he had a dumb supervisor.

It is not his fault he couldn't pay for his car; he lost his job.

It is not his fault the parent has to take him to get his food stamps; he lost his car. Parents are responsible for teaching their children responsibility. □



BARKLEY

Sequatchie Valley churches rally around Russian orphan

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

DUNLAP — A 13-year-old Russian girl living in Dunlap has experienced enough personal tragedy in the last few months to last a lifetime.

Fortunately, Olga Polyakova also has seen the love of Christ at work thanks to members of several Sequatchie Valley Association churches and the community at large who have rallied around her.

Earlier this year Olga's father was killed in an automobile accident in Georgia.

After the accident, Olga and her mother, Marianna, moved to the United States because that had been a wish of her father. She went to work for a cleaning company and was assigned to Dunlap. The two

moved to the area and, though neither spoke English, began attending First Church, said Pastor Tom Gholson.

The two were beginning to get settled. Olga had been placed in a fourth grade class at Griffith Elementary School so she could begin to learn the English language.

Three weeks ago, however, the family fell victim to tragedy once again.

On March 14, Marianna was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver, leaving Olga in a foreign land with no family.

She did have friends, however. The community has surrounded Olga and enveloped her with love, Gholson said.

"The town has really responded from the heart. We have been moved and saddened by this."

Area residents financed Marianna's funeral which was held at a local funeral home.

Approximately 200 people attended the funeral though most did not know Marianna, said Gholson, who along with Ronnie Grooms, pastor of Cartwright Church, assisted with the funeral which was conducted by a Greek Orthodox minister from Chattanooga. The Polyakovas had attended an Orthodox church in Russia.

The funeral crowd included several Russian families from Cleveland, Chattanooga, and Dalton, Ga., who heard about the tragedy and attended the funeral even though they did not know the family either, Gholson said. A meal was served at the church following the funeral.

Gholson noted some of the Russians seemed shocked at the outpouring of love to Olga. "That made an impression on the Russians from other parts of the state."

Since the tragedy members from First Church, Ewtonville Church, and Cartwright, along with others in the community, have helped financially and spiritually.

She was placed in temporary foster care with Frank and Pamela Ryle who are members of First Church. She is now living with her teacher, Pam Kiper, a member of Ewtonville Church.

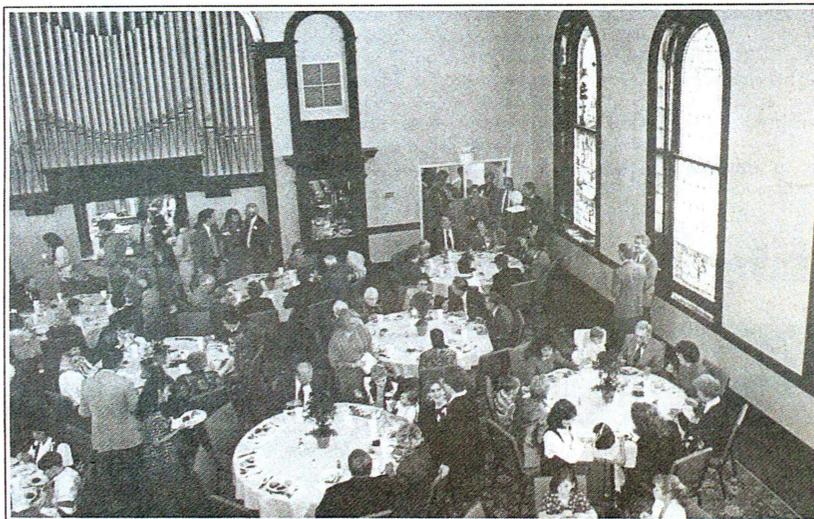
The pastor noted many people have wanted to help but simply did not know what to do so they have given money and moral support. A fund for Olga was established at a local bank.

Olga, who turned 13 just 15 days after her mother's death, has continued to attend church.

Her future in Dunlap, however, is uncertain, Gholson said. There is a possibility she could be adopted by a local family or she may be placed with a Russian family in another area. The Department of Human Services will make that decision, Gholson said.

Despite her young age, Olga is well aware of what has happened, the pastor observed. "At the funeral it tugged at your heart to see what this 13-year-old is facing — losing two parents in a land where she is alone without family. Just to see that look of sadness on her face was overwhelming," Gholson said. □

FBC, Trenton, gets new use from old facility



FIRST CHURCH, TRENTON, closed out Celebration Week April 3 with a luncheon in its renovated fellowship hall. The church had homecoming and concluded a week of revival emphasis. The church has been undergoing renovation in several areas, including the older sanctuary which was transformed into a spacious fellowship hall (photo above). The hall is a reminder of the church's history since the stain glass windows, organ pipes, and other fixtures were kept. **PHOTO BELOW:** Pastor Billy Hammonds with his wife Patricia, left, with Audie and Wyndell Jones, who served the church 1964-72, when the present sanctuary was built. Jones, who preached the homecoming service, is executive director of the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship. He held several TBC leadership positions while in the state, including leadership of the Executive Board. — Photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen.



Church media library state convention set for May 3-4

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — "Strength for Ministry" will be the theme of the 1996 Church Media Library State Convention May 3-4 at the Baptist Center here.

The convention is designed to provide training, inspiration, resources, and fellowship for persons involved in church media library work in Tennessee, according to Eleanor Yarborough, director of the TBC Church Media Library Department.

Guest speakers include John Kramp, associate director of discipleship and family ministries, Baptist Sunday

School Board; Bryant Millsaps, former Secretary of State and member of Two Rivers Church, Nashville; Jane Jenkins Herlong of Columbia, S.C., a former Miss South Carolina; and Virelle Kidder of Albany, N.Y.

Due to facility and space considerations, registration is limited to the first 250 registrants. Registration is now being accepted.

The convention program begins May 3 with lunch at 11:30 a.m. and concludes the following day at 2:30 p.m.

For costs and more information about the convention, call the Church Media Library Department at (615) 371-2033. □



Eagle Award winner

Gary Jared, left, pastor, Stuart Heights Church, Chattanooga, receives the Eagle Award from Roy Miller of the TBC Sunday School Department for the church's accomplishments in the Growth Spiral program. The church's average morning worship attendance has grown from 40 in 1990 to 240 currently. Also it duplicates morning programs because of its limited space and is planning a building program.

■ Tennessee features

TBC Dramatic Arts Festival exemplifies 'spirit of excellence'

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The 16th annual Tennessee Baptist Dramatic Arts Festival theme "Spirit of Excellence" was an apt description of this year's training/performing extravaganza, said Eleanor Yarborough, festival director.

"The goal of the 1996 festival was to model excellence in every facet of the event," said Yarborough, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Media Library and Church Recreation Department.

"From faculty to conferences to guest performing artists, the steering committee sought to provide the highest quality educational and inspirational experiences possible for those called to minister through the performing arts.

"Without a doubt, our goal was achieved," she said.

More than 1,000 people from eight states attended the March 29-30 event at First Church, Nashville.

This year's festival, which is the largest of its kind in the SBC, provided the most exten-

sive faculty and selection of training conferences ever, Yarborough said.

There were 128 conferences offered in five divisions.

Participants also witnessed an array of Christian dramatists who performed throughout the festival program.

Among this year's highlights was the presentation of a Spirit of Excellence Award to a team in each of the four performing divisions whom the faculty judged to exemplify an outstanding overall ministry.

Winners were: church drama — Crosspoint Company of Bellevue Church, Cordova, Susan Glover, director; Christian clowning — Pine Eden Clowns, Pine Eden Church, Crossville, Lisa Russell, director; mime and interpretive movement — All the World's A Stage mime troupe of Calvary Chapel, Nashville, Greg Paskal, director; and puppetry — Columbia Church, Falls Church, Va., Suzanne Wilson, director.

"The Tennessee Baptist Dramatic Arts Festival is a two-day event which takes a year of praying, planning, and working to produce," Yarborough said.

"Our team is dedicated to constantly improving and expanding the festival experience so that it benefits and meets the ministry needs of the local church long after the festival is history. We are convinced anything we can do to enhance or strengthen a church's effectiveness and its outreach to the lost and unchurched is worth it," she concluded. □



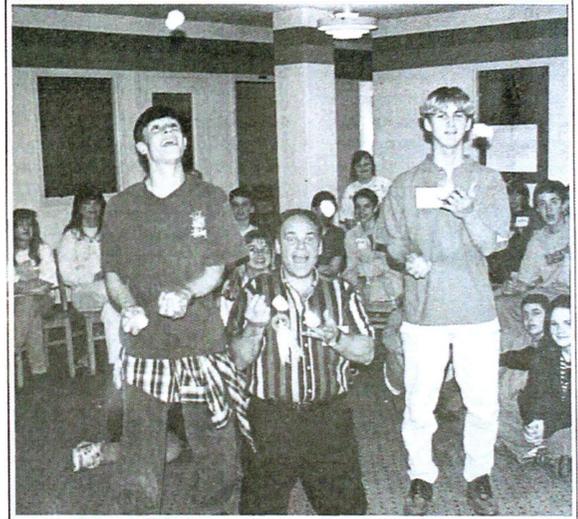
ELEANOR YARBOROUGH, center, director of the TBC Church Media Library/Church Recreation Department, is flanked by program participants Greg and Cheri Cagle, left; Tom Smoot, right center; and Kyle and Susan Matthews, right.



KYLE AND SUSAN MATTHEWS of Creevewood Church, Nashville, served as guest performing artists.



TERESA GARRETT, a professional clown from Waterloo, S.C., recites 'The Clown's 23rd Psalm' during the creative worship service.



BARRY MTICHELL, center, a professional entertainer and member of First Church, Sevierville, juggles with conference participants Justin Creel, right of Pine Eden Church, Crossville, and Jeff Hammond, left, of Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville.



PUPPETEERS and their leaders from First Church, Philadelphia, included, from left, front row, Kacy Moore, Keeko Moore, Paige Moore, and Lindsey Hill; back row, Jamie Allmon, Glynnis Moore, Tammi Longworth, and Rick Moore.

Lay share testimonies at State Evangelism Conference

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — What does a Belmont University student from the Ukraine and a Fayetteville dentist have in common?

They both gave their testimonies during "Laymen's Night" at the State Evangelism Conference April 2 at First Church, Jackson.

Hola Onishko, a Ukrainian student attending Belmont, shared about life in the Ukraine and how hard it was for a Christian to be accepted.

She gave credit for her conversion and also the conversion of her four sisters and brother to their mother "who brought us to Christ."



COLBERT



ONISHKO

Onishko met Gary and Dixie Hines of Nashville while they were on a mission trip and they invited her to live with them while she gets her education.

She noted she may not have gone to college if she stayed in the Ukraine because she was a Christian.

"God can do so much more than we ask or imagine. We have to trust in him and be

faithful to him," she said.

Jim Colbert, a deacon and Sunday School director at First Church, Fayetteville, shared experiences from two trips to New Orleans where he, along with others from First Church, witnessed during Mardi Gras.

Pastors can't do the job of telling others about Christ alone, Colbert said.

"There are men in your churches who are much better Christians than I am. You just have to challenge them to go out and witness," the Fayetteville dentist said.

"It's something that's not hard to do. Go home and tell your men and women in your churches that they can do it," Colbert challenged. □

Annuity Board, consultant to help participants choose investments

Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has teamed with Frank Russell Company as a consultant to assist participants in its retirement plans to make savings and investment decisions.

A proprietary educational program called LifePoints has been customized for the Annuity Board and licensed for use only by the Annuity Board and its plan participants.

A new 13-fund investment structure will soon replace the Annuity Board's four current retirement investment funds. To help each participant select an investment strategy appropriate for him or her, every participant will receive the LifePoints investment educa-

tion program.

A free investment education seminar, which will include a walk-through of the LifePoints program, is scheduled in every geographic area of the country and at institutional and agency places of employment. Participants who cannot attend a seminar will receive a LifePoints kit by mail in late summer.

Curtis D. Sharp, vice president in fiduciary services at the Annuity Board, is spearheading the communications effort. Officers and staffs in the member services and fiduciary services division, state annuity representatives, and others trained by the Annuity Board will conduct dozens of seminars.

"The educational seminars will help participants select an

investment strategy that they feel is right for them," Sharp said.

As current supplies of printed materials are depleted, they will be replaced by new standardized designs. Among new materials participants will receive is the "LifePoints Savings & Investment Program for In-

dividuals, a booklet which will be the centerpiece for the seminars which will be held.

Another new printed piece is a 34-page booklet, "Investment Funds," that describes in detail the 13 investment funds to be available Jan. 1, 1997. Each participant can use these two publications to make a de-

cision by Nov. 1 where to place his or her investments, effective Jan. 1, 1997.

A publication, "Changes '96," is being distributed to all participants on an as-needed schedule to keep readers informed about new retirement plan products and enhanced services. □

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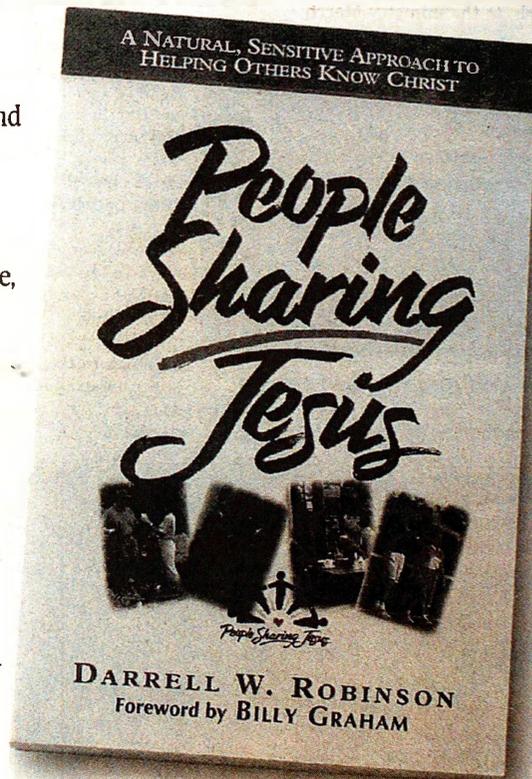
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■ the people

■ **First Church, Jamestown**, ordained **Mark Clapp** and **Bobby Canaster** as deacons March 24.

■ **Lyons Park Church, Church Hill**, ordained **Ed Winegar** and **Mark Skelton** as deacons.

■ **Ron Cassidy** was ordained to the ministry Feb. 11 by **Lyons Park Church, Church Hill**.

■ the leaders

■ **Calvary Hill Church, Dyersburg**, has called **Gary Doughten** of **Union City** as interim pastor.

■ **Tony Bowden**, minister of youth, **First Church, Millington**, has resigned effective April 15 to serve a church in **Jennings, La.**

■ **Ridgeview Church, Church Hill**, ordained **Mike Baird**, minister of youth at the church, to the ministry Feb. 18.

■ **West View Church, Rogersville**, and **East Rogersville Church, Rogersville**, ordained **Lawrence Smith**, interim pastor of **West View Church**, to the ministry March 3.

■ **Fisher's Creek Church, Rogersville**, ordained **Ed Johnson** to the ministry March 24. **Johnson** has been called as pastor of the church.

■ **First Church, Calhoun**, honored its pastor, **Ron So-rah**, March 3 on his 25th anniversary. The church gave **So-rah** and his wife a cruise near **Alaska** sponsored by a **Christian group**.

■ **Derrell Billingsley** has been called as minister of music of **Bellevue Church, Nashville**, effective March 24.

■ **Greg Baker**, minister to youth and children, **Harmony Church, Whiteville**, has resigned after two years of service to attend **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas**.

■ **Loyd Morrow**, a member of **First Church, Kingston**, worked recently in the **Philippines**. He was part of a 56-member team of volunteers led by evangelist **Gene Williams** of **Jacksonville, Fla.** There were 22,200 professions of faith recorded during the trip.

■ the churches

■ **North Cleveland Church, Cleveland**, will

work in **Michigan** June 29 - July 7 to support the **Michigan/Tennessee Baptist Partnership**.

■ **Sharon Church, Knoxville**, celebrated its 125th anniversary March 21. Featured guests were **James Porch**, executive director, **Tennessee Baptist Convention**; **David Davis** and **Bob Knisley**.

■ **Mercy Jeyaraja Rao**, president of the **Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance**, spoke recently at **First Church, Knoxville**.

■ **Acteens of First Church Adamsville**, have collected items for the **McNairy County Home for the Abused**.

■ **First Church, Parsons**, will hold revival May 19-23. **Phil Glisson**, evangelist of **Memphis**, will speak.

■ To celebrate its 120th anniversary **Third Church, Nashville**, will hold a homecoming May 19. Activities will include a music program prior to the morning worship service, a luncheon, and afternoon service beginning at 1:30 p.m.

■ **Bartlebaugh Church, Chattanooga**, will hold revival April 14-17. **Donald Bouldin**, a pastor in **Atlanta, Ga.**, will speak.

■ **Short Creek Church, Athens**, will hold revival April 21-26. **Doug Jones** will speak.

■ **Second Church, Clinton**, will hold revival April 21-24. **Phil Glisson**, evangelist of **Memphis**, will speak.

■ **First Church, Bolivar**, will hold revival April 14-17. **C.R. Stahl**, pastor, **First Church, Boerne, Texas**, will speak. **Gordon Alford**, minister of music, **First Church, Van Cleave, Miss.**, will lead the music.

■ **Cumberland Home-stands Church, Crossville**, will hold a youth-sponsored revival April 12-14. **Dave Edwards**, who has spoken at the **SonRise Conference** at **Ridgecrest**, and **Jim Justice**, minister of music, **Springfield Church, Springfield**, will lead it.

■ **Allen Buhler** and **Anthony O'Neal** will lead the revival of **Calvary Church, Shelbyville**, April 14-19.

■ **Lookout Valley Church, Chattanooga**, held revival March 24-27. **Henry Linginfelter**, evangelist, and **Dick Barrett** led it. Twenty-three people made professions of faith and 29 people made other decisions.

■ **Shady Grove Church, Paris**, will hold revival April 17-19. **Mike Stawski** will speak.



STEVE NELSON, right, pastor, **First Church, Lafayette**, is congratulated by **Morris Chapman**, president, **SBC Executive Committee** based in **Nashville**, during **Pastor Appreciation Day Feb. 18**. **Nelson** has served the church about five years. Other activities also were held.

■ the associations

■ **Tennessee Valley Association** will hold a **World Missions Conference** April 27 - May 1.

■ **Dyer Association** churches holding revivals follow: **Parrish Chapel Church, Dyersburg**, April 1-13, led by **Jody Grimison**; **Southside Church, Dyersburg**, April 12-14, **Tommy Pirtle**; **Fowlkes Church, Fowlkes**, April 14-17, **John Coleman**; **Westside Church, Halls**, April 14-18, **Bill Oakley**; **Hillcrest Church, Dyersburg**, April 21-26, **Sid Peterson**; and **Bogota Church, Bogota**, May 1-3.

■ **Riverside Association** will hold **Missions Rallies** April 15 at **Pine Haven Church, Jamestown**, and April 16 at **Memorial Church, Livingston**. **Mike Pennington**, former mis-

sionary to **Argentina** and director of **missions, Bledsoe Association**, will speak.

■ events

■ Under the theme, "Volunteers for Freedom," the **Tennessee Cooperative Fellowship** will convene in **Knoxville's First Church** April 12-13, for its annual **General Assembly**. Featured speaker is **Cecil Sherman**, soon-to-retire coordinator for the national **CBF** organization. Other speakers include **Catherine Allen**, world missions leader and former **WMU** executive; **William Hill**, provost at **Samford University** and **New Testament scholar**; and **Moncrief and Diane Jordan**, recent scholars-in-residence at the **Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs**. It begins at 6 p.m. and ends at noon.

Mike Powers, missionary, dies

For *Baptist and Reflector*

Mike Powers, 51, **Southern Baptist home missionary** in **Ripley**, died **March 31** in a **Jackson hospital** after a short illness. He had been pastor of the **First Indian Church, Ripley**, for 28 years.

Powers was a **bivocational pastor** who was principal of **Andrew Jackson Elementary School** in **Jackson**, where he had served for almost 12 years. His **missionary work** was funded by the **Home Mission Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention**, and **Big Hatchie Association**.

He was a graduate of **Union University, Jackson**, and the **University of Memphis**. He had taught public school in **Jackson** from 1974-84 and in **Brownsville** from 1970-74.

Powers is survived by his wife, **Linda**, of **Jackson**, and three sons of the home.

Memorials may be given to **First Indian Church** through **Big Hatchie Association, P.O. Box 646, Covington, Tenn., 38019**, or to the **Andrew Jackson Elementary School** for computers at **211 Old Hickory Blvd., Jackson, Tenn., 38305**. □



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Gambling foes applaud Supreme Court ruling on Indian gaming

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Gambling opponents hailed a March 27 Supreme Court decision barring federal lawsuits against states in disputes over Indian reservation gambling.

In a case pitting the Seminole tribe against the state of Florida, the court ruled that Congress cannot authorize lawsuits against states over federal policies.

The Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision, ruled that Congress cannot try to resolve disputes between Indian tribes and states over on-reservation gambling by making the states and their elected officials targets of federal lawsuits.

Writing for the majority, Chief Justice William Rehnquist stated that the Eleventh Amendment prevents Congress from making any state capable of being sued in federal court.

"The ruling puts the brakes on a runaway train without derailling the train or destroying the track," said Weston Ware,

associate director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

In 1987, the court had ruled that a state cannot ban gambling on Indian reservations within its borders unless it outlaws that same kind of gambling elsewhere.

Congress responded with the National Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988. It required tribes to negotiate with states before starting any type of gambling on reservations. It also required states to negotiate with tribes in good faith.

Since Congress passed NIGRA, Indian gambling has expanded as states that allowed some legalized gambling — such as charitable casino nights for nonprofit organizations — agreed to on-reservation casinos, fearing federal lawsuits. And, the casino industry has been the winner, Ware said.

"Since 1988, a number of states have succumbed to the pressure of outside money fund-

ing tribes in their efforts to secure agreements allowing major casinos on reservations," he said.

Nationally, 126 Indian tribes in nearly two dozen states have on-reservation gambling.

The March 27 ruling struck down the provision allowing tribes to sue a state in federal

court if they felt the state failed to negotiate in good faith. Federal law still allows tribes to appeal to the secretary of interior as the sole federal arbiter if negotiations with states stall. They also have the right to sue in state court.

Ware praised the decision as protecting the rights of Indian

tribes while at the same time making the state "more of an equal partner" in decision-making about what occurs within its borders. "We wish the Indian tribes no ill will. But we've been concerned that NIGRA has allowed the expansion of gambling in spite of citizen protests," Ware said. □

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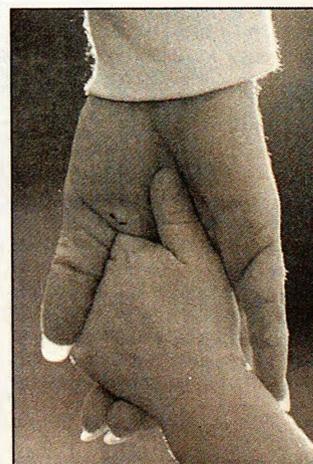
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Sunday School lesson commentary

**Life and Work Series
for April 14
Focal Passage:
I Thessalonians 1**

Thank God for you

By L. Joseph Fosas III

This lesson marks the beginning of a new unit focusing on "encouragement" based upon Paul's letters to the church at Thessalonica. These letters are full of references to the return of Christ. These letters also provide a glimpse of the gracious and powerful work of God in the lives of these relatively new believers and should remind us of our potential in Christ.

The church at Thessalonica (modern Salonika, Greece) was established on Paul's second missionary journey. First and Second Thessalonians are generally regarded as the earliest of Paul's extant writings and probably penned within two decades of the resurrection. Paul, Silas, and Timothy had all visited Thessalonica together, hence Paul's reference to all three of his mission party. "Grace and peace," a standard salutation, is significant in that God's grace is the basis for our wholeness (peace) in Christ. The first chapter is an extended word of thanksgiving for the reality of their faith.

Paul cites as evidence of spiritual growth (vv. 2-3) their "work produced by faith," "labor prompted by love" and "endurance inspired by hope." Although salvation is by grace alone through faith, genuine faith produces good works. Love motivated them beyond mere good works, their labor was a difficult toil accompanied by weariness. "Hope" for the Christian is more than wishful thinking, it is a confidence for the future based upon God's past activity. The resurrection power of God on display in the Lord Jesus Christ is the basis for this hope.

The power of the Gospel (vv. 4-5) is also on display in the life of the church. The doctrine of "election" is frequently a word of assurance for an oppressed minority. In spite of any external and circumstantial evidence to the contrary, such as persecution and suffering, it is a reminder that the believer is the object of God's love and favor. God takes the initiative in our salvation. Further, we are saved for a purpose, that we might be the people of God. God has chosen the means to accomplish this through the word of the Gospel and the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit which alone can produce deep conviction.

The only proper response to the Gospel message is to become a follower. Note that Paul was so sure of his faith and walk with the Lord he could commend the Thessalonians for their imitation of him. Further evidence of their faith was they had suffered affliction with joy. The word for affliction refers to pressure brought to bear on an object, like a nut in a nutcracker. These fledgling Christians had to endure various difficulties because of their faith and witness.

The result of their response to the Gospel (vv. 7-10) was so profound that this fledgling church became an example to the entire region. The good news reverberated from them like music off of a piano sounding board or a trumpet blast. Their faith in God preceded Paul and Silas with such force that their testimony became common knowledge without the apostle having to say a word. They had truly repented, turning from false idols to serve the living and true God.

Notice their waiting on the return of the Lord is not a substitute for faithful living, it is the impetus and inspiration of continued faithfulness. Any emphasis on the second coming of Christ that has us more interested in the "signs and seasons" than in faithful daily discipleship is misplaced.

We are to live in such a way that others can't help but take notice of the difference Christ has made in our lives. As Peter said, "Live such good lives among the pagans that ... they may see your good deeds and glorify God." □ — L. Joseph Fosas III is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis.

The loving God

By Kevin Goza

**Convention Uniform Series
for April 14
Focal Passage:
Luke 15:1-10**

"I once was lost, but now I'm found. God's banner over us is love!" How appropriate these words are to this week's lesson. God actively seeks that which is lost. Sinners who respond to his message, coming to him in repentance, are brought into fellowship with the loving God.

A contempt for the lost — vv. 1-2

Jesus ended his teaching in Luke 14 with a powerful statement: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (v. 35b). In Luke 15:1, we are told that the tax collectors and sinners, the least respected citizens of the day, came to hear what Jesus had to say. Those who were lost were attracted to the loving God.

The "religious" were not attracted, but were critical. The Bible says they "muttered," a continuous, negative commentary on Jesus' activity that went throughout the community. It is nevertheless interesting that even the critics were right in their assessment of the situation: Jesus welcomed sinners. The Jews always believed that God would welcome sinners, but they never expected God to seek out their company! This was the approach of Jesus. He was concerned for those who were lost to the point that he actively sought them out.

A search for the lost — vv. 3-10

In order to explain his position, Jesus shared three parables about being lost and found. We will treat the first two of these parables, focusing on their similarities.

First, we have something lost. In both cases, those who suffered the loss had plenty of other items that were readily available. Regardless, the focus is on that which cannot be found.

Then, we have an intense search. In both parables, the phrase "until he/she finds it" is present. Their searches were relentless. The man leaves ninety-nine sheep to find one gone astray. The woman sweeps and seeks, turning her house inside out, to find one coin separated from the nine.

And finally, when the find is made, there is great celebration. They call their friends and neighbors to share the good news that what was once lost has been found. There is shared joy in the community.

A concern for the lost — vv. 7, 10

In these two verses, Jesus shares a compelling truth. When a lost sinner repents of their sin and presents themselves to a loving God for forgiveness, that sinner is found. They are lost no more. Consequently, there is rejoicing in heaven and among the angels of heaven. All over one lost sinner who repents.

How we need to model these parables in today's church. If the joy of heaven erupts over the salvation of one lost sinner, what should be our priority in ministry? The greatest offering we can present to God in worship is the life of a person who has been won to faith in Christ, and is now ready to serve the Savior.

God actively seeks the lost. Heaven rejoices over their salvation. So should we. □ — Kevin Goza is pastor of First Church, Lebanon.

Proud nation brought down

By Tom Moncrief

**Bible Book Series for April 14
Focal Passage:
Obadiah 1-4, 8-10, 13-17**

Pride overtakes a person without announcing its presence. It is rather deceitful. One is prone to rationalize proud attitudes by thinking he is just acknowledging the facts. We are told that "pride goes before destruction" (Proverbs 16:18). As individuals become proud, so does the nation of which those individuals are citizens and leaders.

Edom became proud and arrogant from a false sense of security. Because of being situated in mountain cliffs they regarded it as impossible for enemies to penetrate and overtake them. They forgot that true security is in God's power and that God would not bless their ungodly activities and attitudes. So, they depended entirely upon themselves and physical situations.

Obadiah received a vision (supernatural revelation) from God regarding Edom. God would use other nations joining together to bring down Edom. They would realize that they were not impregnable although they thought their location was unreachable like the eagle's nest. The length of God's arm is never too short to accomplish his purpose.

Just as the proverb (ch. 16:18) says, Edom's pride preceded destruction. In verse 2, the message is so certain that the downfall is regarded as already performed. Then, the destruction is further described by word that the wise men are to be destroyed. Probably, part of Edom's pride and boasting was based on the many wise men of whom they were extremely proud. In addition to them, the mighty men

would also fall.

In verse 10 the reason for God's judgment is stated as Edom's violence against Jacob (Judah). Enmity had long existed between the Edomites and Judah — descendants of Esau and Jacob. It is possible that several times were referred to by this violence with the latest being the attack and fall of Jerusalem in 587 B.C. Edom stood with Judah's enemy and even participated in the attack. As if that were not enough, they then stopped those of Judah who tried to escape.

Now, Edom was to face God's judgment. He gives word through Obadiah that Edom should not have been so violent, especially against their own kinsmen. The judgment was to be complete and was associated with the "day of the Lord" which would be a judgment from God upon all nations.

"The day of the Lord" was longed for by God's people with eager anticipation. They expected relief from oppression and exaltation by the Lord on that day. God's righteous

judgment would, they thought, produce complete destruction upon the oppressors of his people. This is what God promises to Edom in Obadiah's message. They are to receive what they had caused others to experience. Edom helped destroy Jerusalem and now Edom would be destroyed. God rules over all nations and his righteous standards are required of all. All nations must give account unto God. As Israel had done, so now must Edom face a time of reckoning.

God's grace would be experienced by his people (v. 17) as he promised deliverance to them. A remnant of people, because of their faith, would be delivered and he would work out his holy character and purposes. There would be restoration of Israel's possessions and his original purpose to his people. He is still working to change individuals who trust him into his obedient servants and holding them responsible to him. □ — Tom Moncrief is a member of First Church, Cleveland.

**Share Christ's Love Through
the Cooperative Program.**

April 21 is Cooperative Program Day!

Georgia's 'Barnabas Ministry' to aid displaced ministers

By William Neal
For Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Georgia Baptists have begun efforts to address the needs of displaced ministers through the work of a special committee created last year in response to the growing number of terminated clergy.

"With over 100 pastors (not including other staff positions) being forcibly terminated each year in Georgia, the needs are staggering and this type of ministry is critically needed," said Allen Hughes, committee chairman.

When the "Committee to Study Assistance for Displaced Ministers" made its preliminary report to the Georgia Baptist Convention executive committee in mid-March, it informed the larger group it was dealing with five primary areas of concern: counseling, housing, food, insurance, and temporary employment.

The convention's executive committee, in creating the special study committee, initially charged it with dealing with the housing issue. But as its members began to study the situation, they quickly discovered ministers cut off from their ministry positions and often from any immediate source of income were needing not only temporary housing but other assistance as well. The committee thus was given permission by the executive com-

mittee to enlarge the scope of the assignment last September.

The subsequent program now being implemented is named "The Barnabas Ministry ... Georgia Baptists Caring for the Hurt of Ministers and Their Families in Crisis."

Among its initiatives:

(1) Since many pastors live in church-owned pastoriums, they often find it difficult to find temporary housing once they have been terminated. The committee, utilizing a statewide survey, has found 30 to 35 homes located throughout Georgia possibly available through local churches or other Baptist entities as temporary residences for displaced ministers. The convention's church-minister's relations department will be utilized to coordinate the effort to match ministers in need with available housing.

(2) While the minister is waiting to be called to another place of ministry, he may need temporary work to help him support his family. A networking effort is being initiated whereby ministers would be put in touch with potential employers willing to hire them on a temporary basis. A survey letter is being sent to Baptist pastors in the state asking them to assist in developing this job bank.

(3) Many ministers have insurance through the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, but when they lose their jobs they

TERMINATED!

A Baptist state convention and an SBC seminary are exploring ways to help pastors and church staff members forced to leave their ministries.

may no longer be able to make payments to keep their health policies from lapsing. Adequate medical insurance then becomes a big concern during the interim period and there may be a major question whether they will qualify for reinstatement at a later date. The Roy Hinchey Memorial Fund (named for the first director of the church-ministers relations department) has been designated as a vehicle through which the convention hopes to continue payment of insurance premiums for displaced ministers. There is a need to eventually raise the endowment in that fund to at least \$6 million in order to meet such insurance needs.

Other plans call for the church-ministers relations department to discreetly provide free food to needy ministerial families through associational food banks and other sources already in place and to provide

counseling services for ministers and their families through the pastoral ministries program of Georgia Baptist Medical Center. The convention will help displaced ministers with, career assessment, resume services, emergency financial aid, and even a complimentary subscription to Georgia Baptists' newsjournal, *The Christian Index*.

Hughes said the committee sought input from other state conventions but found none were providing this type of safety net for ministers.

"What this committee puts together will become a prototype for all other state conventions," he said. "This accentuates the importance of the final outcome of our work."

Hughes also noted the committee has no intention of getting involved in church conflicts by taking sides or placing judgments upon the right or wrong in a particular termi-

nating situation. "This ministry will seek to minister according to needs, not judgments," he said.

Leonard Dupree, director of the church-minister relations department, said the convention has done this type of ministry for more than 20 years, but "now, the work of this special committee is heightening the awareness of the growing need, as well as greatly facilitating and expanding this ministry to hurting ministers and their families."

Convention Executive Director J. Robert White, who has met with the special committee throughout its work, said the "termination of ministers is at an epidemic stage. The pain felt by both the church and minister's family is severe. The efforts of this special committee have been remarkable and will place Georgia Baptists on the leading edge of this ministry."

White also said the church-minister relations department, under Dupree's leadership, has continued to provide assistance to churches in crisis. The assistance is offered only upon the invitation of the church, he said.

The church-minister relations office will become the clearinghouse for all these services. Ministers can be assured of strict confidentiality and courteous assistance, Dupree said. □

Terminated ministers' plight impetus for 'Antioch Affection'

By Brian Smith
For Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — When a pastor or church staff member gets in trouble or faces conflict — through his or her own doing or not — where can he or she turn? Often the solution is termination or resignation, even if the minister feels called to remain at that place of service.

Offering an alternative, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's board of trustees approved implementation of "The Antioch Affection" during their mid-March meeting. The minister restoration plan was proposed by trustee Bob Anderson, pastor of Parkview Church, Baton Rouge, La.

"Surveys tell us of those who graduated from seminary, one-half are out of the ministry in 10 years," Anderson told the board. "That is a shocking discovery."

The program involves "refuge churches," in which a minister or staff member facing termination is brought on as an associate pastor or other staff member.

"A refuge church is what we have been for 23 years at Parkview — taking those ministers in, putting them on our staff, working with them," Anderson said. "Our people have grown to love them."

The "offended church," as Anderson called the congregation forcing the minister to resign, would agree to pay the minister's or staff person's salary for six months while he attends the program at Southwestern.

"We've not been turned down by any church" once the value of the program has been described to the church, Anderson said.

Parkview has brought more than 250 church staff members in for restoration — about half of whom are pastors, he said.

"We've played Barnabas and Paul with them, helping them to come back to good mental, spiritual, and physical health," Anderson said, noting 107 of the pastors are back in service.

But he emphasized the refuge churches are not replacements for local associational assistance programs. "If (the ministers) can't work it out work-

ing with the DOM or others, then we bring them to a refuge church."

One of their primary assignments at the refuge church would be to take a "paper class" from a prospect list and build a Sunday School class using Flake's Formula, an effective Baptist Sunday School Board plan for accomplishing church growth through Sunday School.

"We're asking a refuge church to take 10 ministers," Anderson said. "We're going to teach them how to go out and enroll enough Sunday School members to average 30 in each Sunday School class. We know they can do that through training."

The minister or staff member also will take courses through Southwestern and the seminary's center for continuing education in such areas as conflict management, personal communication skills, and husband/wife relationship issues. Housing for the minister and his family would be provided at Southwestern.

While the minister's salary would be paid by the offended church, additional funding for the program will be accom-

plished through "cardiology crusades" and the refuge church.

"We are asking the refuge churches to put a line item in their budget to help that minister as long as he's there at the refuge church," Anderson said.

Preliminary planning for 10 crusades in cities throughout the Southern Baptist Convention has been done, said Jack D. Terry Jr., vice president for institutional advancement at Southwestern.

Roy Davis, an associate pastor at Parkview, endorsed the program. He noted he came from a church where he inherited "a bad staff problem." He eventually was asked to leave by the personnel committee though he had support from the congregation.

"Until now there has been no plan to resolve these differences in such a way that is beneficial to both the minister and the congregation," Davis told Southwestern trustees.

He noted the Antioch Affection is a perfect solution for terminated ministers because "the offended church wins, the staff member wins, and the refuge church wins." □