

# Baptist and Reflector

April 24, 1996

VOL. 162 ■ NO. 17

STATEWIDE EDITION

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## Remodeling allows specialists to keep identity

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
*Baptist and Reflector*

**BRENTWOOD** — Last November, messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention's annual session in Chattanooga, approved ServanTeam 21, a plan "to take the convention into the 21st century and beyond."

An Executive Board staff team has been at work fashioning a remodeling structure to help implement ServanTeam 21.

But first, an important step remains. On May 7 the Executive Board will act on the remodeling plan in its spring meeting here at the Baptist Center.

If the remodeling is approved by the board, some areas of the plan will continue to be implemented. Full implementation then would be expected by Nov. 1, the beginning of the new TBC fiscal year.

Most Baptists know that Executive Board meetings are open to the Baptist public and, as usual, it's likely some will attend on May 7.

As is the case in total reorganizations, questions have been asked by concerned Tennessee Baptists. In the March 13 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, a news story explained much of the remodeling plan. Groups were delineated with names of those assigned to groups.

To help provide answers for additional concerns, the *Baptist and Reflector* last

week talked with James Porch, executive director of the Executive Board, TBC.

Porch said during April each Executive Board committee has been presented an update of the plan and allowed extensive time for discussion of ServanTeam 21.

He reiterated that the new organization is "a ministry remodeling that is the product of many hours of prayer and study, and we trust the leadership of the Lord."

Porch said there will be increased Executive Board committee involvement if the plan is approved. The driving force behind the remodeling, he said, "is to remodel our organization to continue to improve our responses to the needs of Tennessee Baptist churches."

Departments will be replaced by seven work-related groups, headed by group leaders. Each group has a mission statement and definitive strategy. Most of this was explained in the March 13 issue of the paper.

The seven groups: Evangelism/Missions Strategies, Christian Growth Development, Church Staff Leadership, Missions Awareness and Involvement, Communication, Administrative Services, and Executive Leadership.

Here are the groups with leaders and ministry specialists and their group assignment:

Evangelism/Missions Strategies: Larry

Kirk, leader and state director of missions; Jay Austin, youth evangelism; Estriberto Britton, Hispanic catalytic missionary; Bill George, new church extension/association ministries; Tim Hill, language church extension/interfaith witness; Jerry King, evangelism; Beverly Smothers, church and community ministries; and Ken Weathersby, Black church extension;

Christian Growth Development: Bill Wilson, leader and ministry coordinator; Ircel Harrison, student ministries; Don Mauldin, family ministries; Johnnie Hall, Discipleship Training, adults; Cindy Franks, Discipleship Training, church weekday education; Liz Lee, Sunday School, preschool/children; Bruce Edwards, Sunday School, youth; Roy Miller, Sunday School, adults;

Church Staff Leadership: Gary Rickman, leader and ministers financial support; Ray Gilder, bivocational ministers; Janet Harbin, church annuity accounts; Aubrey Hay, church-ministers relations; Julian Suggs, church music/worship; Archer Thorpe, church administration/stewardship;

Missions Awareness and Involvement: Tim Bearden, leader and Brotherhood specialist, adult; Bob Davison, Brotherhood specialist, children/youth; Terry Sharp, partnership specialist; Rodney Wil— See Remodeling allows, page 4

## New church staff orientation planned

For *Baptist and Reflector*

**BRENTWOOD** — A New Church Staff Orientation is scheduled May 13-14 at the Baptist Center.

All new church staff members who have moved into the state during the past year are cordially invited to attend this two-day orientation to Tennessee Baptist life and the various ministries of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Those who desire to attend should contact the Executive Office at (800) 558-2090 for reservations.

The TBC Executive Board provides transportation, housing, and meals for each of those who attend. Directors of missions are encouraged to attend with new staff members from their associations.

The program will include extensive orientation to the Executive Board and TBC institution ministries, a tour of the Baptist Center, and dialogue with Executive Board ministry staff. □



### Church secretaries organization elects officers

The Tennessee Baptist Convention Secretaries Association met at the Baptist Center last week for a time of education, fun, and fellowship. During their business session the secretaries elected officers for the coming year. From left, front row, are Barbara Seabom, Nashville Association, Middle Tennessee representative; Marie Keel, Hopewell Church, Savannah, West Tennessee representative; Susan Gamble, Indian Springs Church, Kingsport, East Tennessee representative; and Sarah Farmer, East Tennessee State University BSU, ex officio; back row, Millie Badgett, Knox County Association, vice president; Pat McGill, South Harriman Church, Harriman, secretary-treasurer; Cathey Williams, Hickory Hollow Church, Nashville, president; and Johnnie Hall, director, TBC Discipleship Training Department, sponsor of the event. Hall was honored by the secretaries for his role in the association.

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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# Severe winds damage Duck River churches

For Baptist and Reflector

MANCHESTER — Three Duck River Association churches were damaged by tornado-like winds April 20.

Boynton Valley Church received the most damage. The front porch was ripped off the building, causing a hole in the roof. Shingles also were blown off and there was some water damage, reported Pastor Eric Hodge.

At press time on Monday, an insurance adjuster had not yet been to the site, so the amount of damage is undetermined.

Hodge said Sunday School was canceled the following day, but worship was held as usual.

A disaster relief team from Concord Association came and prepared meals at the church, Hodge said.

In addition, members of First Church, Manchester, made sandwiches which Boynton Valley members delivered to families in the community.

There was a lot of damage to homes, but no one was killed or severely injured in the Boynton Valley community, Hodge said.

Out of the situation "came a great opportunity to minister," the pastor said.

First Church, Summitville, also lost a porch and some brick work, reported Pastor Thomas George. Members were unable to use the front entrance, but services went on as usual the next day, he said.

Another church — Hillcrest in Manchester — received approximately \$800 worth of damage, said Pastor Jeff Clark.

The church lost vinyl siding and some insulation was pulled out from the walls, he said.

Yet, the damage could have been much greater. About 40 feet from the church property a duplex and three mobile homes were destroyed, he said. □

## Morristown, FBC, pledges \$4.2 million for building; raises CP

For Baptist and Reflector

MORRISTOWN — When First Church, Morristown, decided to ask members to pledge \$3.5 million to enter the first phase of a building program, many at the church thought it would take at least three years. It not only took just one Sunday, but members pledged \$4.2 million and gave \$1,030,000.

Randy Davis, pastor, was especially shocked at the response because the church had not used a fund-raising consultant.

The attitude of members seemed to build on itself, reported Davis. Several weeks later the church overgave its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. The goal was \$40,000, but \$42,000 was given by members. First, Morristown, has about 760 on an average Sunday in Sunday School.

Because of the momentum toward committed action, Davis said he wasn't surprised at the next action of the church. It raised its Cooperative Program giving from 7 percent to 10 percent for 1996, which means an increase from about \$90,000 to \$135,000.

The church had planned to raise CP giving a half of a percent each year until it reached 10 percent.



DAVIS

These actions of the church can be traced to a commitment made by the special committee leading fund-raising, said Davis. The committee, led by Alan Cole, felt the church should avoid debt and be frugal to protect its financial support of missions. This approach led the church to use the talents of its own members rather than hire a fund-raising consultant, which could have cost from \$75,000 to \$125,000, explained Davis. And the church decided to wait until money was available before spending any.

"We didn't want to place a building before what we were giving to the Cooperative Program," said Davis.

He credits a 40-day preparation period for the response. Members were encouraged to share prayer requests which were distributed to members. Then they were encouraged to fast and pray at least one day during the period. About 400 families participated.

No pressure was placed on members to give, added Davis, but they are giving faithfully to meet their pledges.

Members have a "definite vision and direction from the Lord," he said. "This has increased our dependence on the Lord to demonstrate just how awesome he is and that we should be prepared to attempt anything that he leads us to do," said Davis. □ — Connie Davis

## Southern Seminary breaks ground; elects new trustee chairman

Compiled from BP and ABP reports

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary broke ground for the final phase of its Honeycutt Campus Center two hours after an April 16 trustee vote approving its construction.

In other actions, trustees elected new officers and learned the seminary will not pursue legal action against its former faculty journal.

The \$3.9 million building will house a 300-seat cafeteria, private dining and conference rooms, and a 500-capacity banquet hall. It is part of a comprehensive complex that contains the seminary bookstore, health and recreation facilities, post office, and student-related administrative offices. The first two phases of the campus center were completed in the fall of 1990.

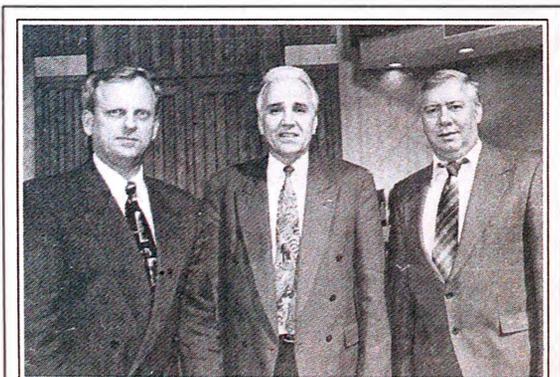
The seminary has \$2.7 million in hand or pledged for the final phase and plans to designate the remaining \$1.2 million from internal funds, said seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. In other financial matters, trustees approved a \$16.6 million budget for fiscal year 1996-97.

In his report to trustees, Mohler said he had ruled out the possibility of legal action to try to recover the *Review & Expositor*, which until recently was the theological journal of the seminary faculty. The journal's board announced in March it will be moved from the campus and aligned with a consortium of moderate Baptist seminaries.

"The seminary could demonstrate that the journal functioned as a defacto subsidiary of the seminary for nine decades," Mohler said. "Nevertheless, on the basis of 1 Corinthians 6:1-7, we have considered legal action to be wrongful."

Mohler said the seminary would start another theological journal. Trustee officers issued a statement to the full board calling the removal of the *Review & Expositor* "an act of dishonor." The officers endorsed Mohler's plan for a new journal.

Trustees elected Colorado pastor Jerry Johnson as chairman. Johnson gained national attention in 1990 when he accused now retired President Roy Honeycutt of not believing the Bible in a 16-page paper called, "The Cover-up at Southern Seminary." Johnson succeeds Rick White, pastor of First Church, Franklin. □



### Evangelists elect officers

Charles 'Toonie' Cash, right, of Johnson City, outgoing president of the Fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists, recently welcomed Floyd 'Lammie' Lammersfeld, center, of Gleason, president, and Terry Wilkerson of Hendersonville, vice president, as new officers of the group. They were elected along with music coordinators Amy and Timothy Wuester of Gallatin during a recent meeting in Jackson.

## Campbellsville may get Carver school

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has set the process in motion to phase out its Carver School of Church Social work and transfer it to another institution.

The trustee committee studying the Carver school announced April 16 the Southern administration and Campbellsville University (formerly

Campbellsville College), had "agreed in principle" to transfer the Carver school to Campbellsville, a Kentucky Baptist Convention-affiliated school.

The 1,300-student school offers a bachelor's degree program in social work and with the acquisition of the Carver school will implement a master's program. The action comes after several months of negotiation between the two institutions. □

# Legislature continues gymnastics on lottery proposal

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Shenanigans continue in the Tennessee General Assembly.

Surprise! Last-minute legislative maneuvering continues, and the move to allow a public vote on a lottery proposal might squeak by this time.

A last minute move by House leaders tacked onto an already crowded agenda, a Monday night session (April 22). The move was made to allow the House to vote on the lottery resolution and quickly take it back to the Senate for approval there.

The Senate, by adding a day to its two final days of its 1996 sessions, would then have time to give the necessary three votes of approval.

One observer remarked that the last minute lottery ef-

fort involved some great planning or some desperate maneuvering.

Senate bill SJR-4 was to have been presented to the House Monday night (April 22).

The House would have to amend its measure (approved last term), to agree with SJR-4, but some members objected to the proviso of having all the state's portion of lottery income go to education.

They said it was tantamount to bribing the House to approve SJR-4.

At any rate the two bills were to have been reconciled and the amended bill sent back to the Senate, all on Monday night.

Senate bills of this nature require three votes of at least 17, to be taken on separate days.

By adding Monday to the calendar, the Senate could have the three days this week before the legislature closes its 1995-96 session.

If the amended SJR-4 passes the Senate three times, it would be voted on again by both houses in 1997, with a two-thirds vote required for passage.

At press time, the Baptist and Reflector learned of the possibility that enough senators were prepared to change their previous "yes" votes to "no."

If that were to happen on any of the three votes this week, the lottery issue is dead, and efforts would have to begin from scratch in 1997.

Legislative leaders added the April 29 session at the close of the April 22 session, in a surprise move.

Before that happened, the lottery plan seemed doomed for this 1996 session.

Senators David Fowler, Douglas Henry, Jim Holcomb, Wayne Ritchie, and Ronald Ramsey, asked State Attorney General Charles Burson for a ruling on the specificity of SJR-

4. Their April 16 letter of inquiry was answered by Burson the same day.

SJR-4 would remove the prohibition of lotteries from the Tennessee State Constitution.

In effect, it would remove the word "lottery" from the wording.

Much of the legislative debate concerned only the proposed state-sponsored lottery, and the resolution itself, SJR-4, did not exclude other types of gambling.

Burson ruled that if SJR-4 (as it read April 16 and were not amended) passed and was ultimately approved by Tennessee voters, casinos, slot machines, and other types of gambling would also be made legal.

He said that the only prohibition contained in SJR-4 is that "the legislature is barred from authorizing and regulating casinos or slot machines."

It is a confusing issue to many citizens, but the time for

debating and voting the lottery resolution to omit lotteries from constitutional prohibition is almost over for this session.

Citizens who are opposed to a lottery still have time to contact their local senator and/or representative. Calls should be made early this week.

However, even if SJR-4 passes, citizens can be prepared for the 1997-98 session next January.

In other moral concerns before the legislature, the House was scheduled to vote April 23 on a bill to prohibit marriages by two persons of the same sex, and a bill favorable to the Ten Commandments.

These have taken a "back seat" while the lottery resolution rages. Another possible vote could be taken that would allow simul-casting outside horse races to a site in Memphis where betting would be allowed (HB-1625 and SB-0927). □

## HMB directors object to NAMB presidential search plan

By David Winfrey  
For Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors supported the use of 13 "incorporators" to establish a new missions agency but objected to authorizing that group to nominate the new agency's president and board officers.

At their April 17 meeting, HMB trustees offered their own proposal for a presidential search committee which would double HMB representation in selecting the North American Mission Board's first leader. Board members also elected Mississippi pastor Greg Martin as chairman and other new officers.

The Southern Baptist Convention restructuring, approved by messengers at last year's SBC sesquicentennial meeting in Atlanta, calls for dissolving the Home Mission Board, the Brotherhood Commission, and the Radio & Television Commission and assigning their duties to a newly created North American Mission Board.

The SBC Executive Committee's Implementation Task Force (ITF) pro-

posed naming 13 "incorporators" (including two HMB representatives) to help establish the North American Mission Board, nominate a president, and propose officers for the agency's board of directors.

Outgoing HMB chairman Steve Swofford praised ITF members for their attitude during meetings with Home Mission Board leadership. "We have been very, very well received by the ITF," he said after the board meeting. "But nobody likes change, and when change is brought about in strange and new ways, it's very hard for us to deal with."

The task force asked HMB board members to ratify a resolution that would have positioned them as supporting nomination powers for the incorporators. Instead, directors passed three resolutions related to restructuring, including one that proposed an alternative structure for a president search committee.

"I think they're frustrated," said Swofford, pastor of First Church, Rockwall, Texas, of the HMB trustees' action. "They just to some degree have felt left out of the process."

The first resolution affirmed using incorporators, but added "we do not endorse the incorporators serving as a presidential search committee or as a nominating committee for the board of officers."

The second resolution appointed board members John Avant, a Brownwood, Texas, pastor, and Charles Fuller, a Roanoke, Va., pastor, as the two HMB representatives to the incorporators.

The third resolution, proposed by Billy Bissell, pastor of Boston Avenue Church, Muskogee, Okla., recommended forming a presidential search committee separate from the incorporators.

That committee would be composed of board members who serve the three agencies being eliminated (four per agency) and who will serve as directors for North American Mission Board. One representative would also come from the Implementation Task Force.

Board member and Houston attorney Walt Carpenter said the resolution better represents the intent of SBC messengers who voted to restructure the denomination "than the interpretation of the Executive Committee."

Avant encouraged board members to pursue "positive diplomacy" rather than the motion. The North American Mission Board trustees can reject any candidate the incorporators recommend, he added.

Also during the meeting, directors voted to close the HMB Caribbean office and to eliminate the office's position of executive director.

The closing represents a shift in the board's strategy to evangelize and congregationalize that area, which includes Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, said Ernest Kelley, HMB executive vice president for planning and finance. "This will minimize administrative responsibilities and maximize field work."

Missionaries in that region will be categorized as national missionaries, reporting to their respective HMB office, after the office closes June 30, he said.

In board elections, all five positions were filled without contest. Martin, pastor of Commission Road Church, Long Beach, Miss., served as the board's first vice chairman before being elected chairman. □

### Prayer, fasting set for Tibetans

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Southern Baptists have set aside a 24-hour period beginning at 6 p.m. May 24 to pray for the people of Tibet, the region of Asia famous for its rugged Himalaya Mountains and home to the highest peaks in the world.

Each spring, Southern Baptists and other Great Commission Christians devote one day to prayer for a specific group of people who have little or no access to hearing the good news of Jesus Christ. The 1996 Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization focuses on the nearly five million Tibetans worldwide. A resource kit to support the prayer emphasis is available free of charge from the Foreign Mission Board. To order, call (800) 866-3621. Allow two weeks for delivery. □

### Andy Stanley's church not Southern Baptist for now

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Andy Stanley, son of former Southern Baptist Convention President Charles Stanley, said the church he is helping start in north Atlanta will not be Southern Baptist, at least for now.

The new church, North Point Community Church, has yet to accept members, purchase land, or meet weekly. About 1,600 people attend Sunday evening worship ser-

vices held twice a month.

Worshippers currently meet in a conference center in the neighboring county to where leaders hope to build. Stanley said the decision was a difficult one, based on the church's vision and mission.

The decision is not a criticism of the SBC, he said, adding two-thirds of the leadership come from Southern Baptist backgrounds. "I'm very grateful for the convention and we will support financially

Southern Baptist causes."

The younger Stanley, a former staff member at First Church, Atlanta, where his father is pastor, said FBC was criticized because members didn't use Southern Baptist literature, didn't send students to Southern Baptist seminaries, and didn't "support the Cooperative Program that much."

"I felt like we would sort of fall into that same category," 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. □

### Thanks for conference

A special thanks to all who were involved in this year's Evangelism Conference. The preaching and singing on the program blessed my soul. I left the session with a new zeal to do more for my Lord and with a fresh desire to be a better witness to the unsaved.

Thank you Bro. Jerry King and staff for your insight, preparing the special interest conferences. This is the kind of help that I can really use.

James Adams, pastor  
Belmont Church  
Mt. Carmel 37645

### Trust and respect

We are writing in response to an article published in the April 3 issue, titled "Awareness is a key factor" by Paul Barkley. We believe some of Mr. Barkley's ideas regarding teenager upbringing are off target. Being college students, we have grown up as teenagers in the nineties.

We understand teen life. While parents do have a "right and a responsibility to know WHO, WHERE, WHAT your children are doing," there should be a certain amount of trust involved. Parents need to

instill proper values in their children at an early age, and then trust their children to make responsible and wise decisions as young adults.

When parents smother their children by insisting on always knowing "where their children are, who they are with, and what they are doing," the child often feels trapped, insecure.

When this child reaches college, he or she is exposed to a new world and new decisions. Some decisions were discussed in Barkley's article: who to hang out with, where to go, what to do, etc. Issues of sex and alcohol become more prevalent. No longer does the child have his or her parent to make the decision.

The student must now decide what the proper choices are. If the parent has instilled proper values in the child, rather than also deciding for him or her, the student is more likely to adapt well and make right choices.

Dane Blankenship  
Phil Barnes  
Samford University  
Birmingham, Ala. 35229

### Good memories

I wish to thank Tennessee Baptists for your prayers and

support through my 32 years of service as Director of Youth Work in the Discipleship Training Department. You and your churches made my work easy and enjoyable. I also wish to especially thank the campers from Discipleship Training Camps for their marvelous offering which purchased my 25" TV and VCR. Every time I look at them I remember you.

Mary Allen  
Brentwood 37024

### Understands care

Mother's Day is also a time that Tennessee Baptists are called to remember the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes with our offering. I am a social worker for Tennessee, primarily with children in foster care, including several children that have been placed at the Children's Home in Chattanooga. I have a different perspective than most Tennessee Baptists.

Since becoming associated with TBCH on a professional level 11 years ago, I have been impressed with the quality of care the children receive. But, until Labor Day weekend 1995, I had not realized the

depth of love and care from the staff to the children. One of the children whom I placed at the Chattanooga campus developed appendicitis. The appendix later ruptured. He was taken to the hospital by a houseparent and the bookkeeper. Their tender, loving-kindness is describable as "Christ-like." They held and comforted him.

The child was in the hospital several days. The staff at the Chattanooga campus took turns sitting with him — he was never alone. Burl McMillan, director of the campus, was on vacation, but he visited the child regularly. The houseparents were on leave, but they came to the hospital as soon as possible. All came with gifts they purchased.

I now know more clearly why a Mother's Day offering is taken. The love which the staff demonstrates to all children placed in their care is both "motherly" and "Christ-like." Tennessee Baptists can be proud that they are the sole supporters of their children's homes because TBCH accepts no government funds. Please pray for the staff of all the homes and give sacrificially to this ministry.

Glenda B. Burris  
Cleveland 37053

## Remodeling allows TBC specialists to keep identity ...

— Continued from page 1

son, student missions/collegiate; Katharine Bryan, executive director, WMU; Carrol Kelly, Amanda Day, and Vicki Anderson, WMU associates; Glenda Palmer, WMU assistant.

Communication: Eleanor Yarborough, leader; David McDonald, computer systems manager; Mike Overcash, information systems manager; Barbara Owen, news, information, and internal communication representative.

Administrative Services: William Maxwell, leader and administrative director; Garnette Hogan, human resources manager; Debbie Taylor, accounting manager; Tommy Strong and Keith McKinney, retreat managers; Roger Johnson, property maintenance manager.

Executive Leadership: James Porch, leader and executive director/treasurer; Phyllis Bates, executive assistant, Executive Board; Pat Mulloy, coordinator, convention; Greer

Ruble, executive assistant, special events.

A ministry council also will be formed, comprised of the group leaders.

Here are answers to some questions that have been or could be asked about the remodeling proposal:

■ Programming decisions are decentralized, and more coordination is developed through the ministry council.

■ There will be significant crossover continuously among groups. Specific assignments

will be handled through crossover teams.

■ The Executive Board will not be reorganized.

■ A director of missions liaison will be included in each group.

■ If the plan is adopted, a directory will be published, identifying each ministry specialist and the specific assignment.

■ There is no employee job loss. On the occasion of Executive Board approved positions, retirement, or attrition, or res-

ignation, such will be evaluated as it relates to needs of the churches. There are now vacancies in Sunday School, Worship, Cooperative Program, and Discipleship Training.

■ There is an ongoing commitment to Student Ministry. Questions about Student Ministry in the future will be handled by an Executive Board Committee Team 2000 which will report at board meetings.

Executive Board President Herbert Higdon of Jackson will preside at the meeting. □

## CML State Convention begins next weekend

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Registration remains open for the 1996 Church Media Library State Convention set for May 3-4 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

The theme for the convention, the first in five years, is "Strength for Ministry."

More authors and guest speakers have been invited to this year's convention to allow for greater opportunities for fellowship with colleagues, said Eleanor Yarborough, TBC Church Media Library Department director.

Two workshop sessions also will be provided with a wide array of conferences on a variety of interesting and relevant



GADDY



KRAMP



HERLONG



MILLSAPS

topics, she added.

Keynote speakers include John Kramp, author of *Out of Their Faces and Into Their Shoes*; Bryant Millsaps, former Secretary of State for Tennessee; Welton Gaddy, author of *A Love Affair With God*; Dennis Cuniff, director of the church media library program at the Baptist Sunday School Board; Peg Rankin, author of several books including *Take*

*Care of the Whole World and Still Take Care of Yourself*; and Jane Jenkins Herlong of Columbia, S.C. A former Miss South Carolina, she will be the Friday evening banquet speaker.

For information on registration and costs, call the TBC Church Media Library Department at (615) 371-2033. Registration also will be accepted at the door. □

### Daily Partnership Prayer Requests April



- 24 — Continue to pray for Midwest Association as they seek a DOM.
- 25 — Pray for the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists and Ontario Southern Baptist Association as they search for a catalytic missionary for the Toronto area.
- 26 — Pray for Canadian seminary and university students as they complete this school year.
- 27 — Pray for Canadian foreign missionaries Maurice and Nancy Tenkink as their furlough from Nigeria draws to an end.
- 28 — Praise! Calgary BSU director Mel Cruikshank's Crohn's disease has arrested. Continue to pray for further recovery.
- 29 — Pray for people considering volunteer roles in partnership missions.
- 30 — Pray for the Canadian seminary as Dwayne Garrett leaves to pursue other career options and Jimmy Cobb comes to teach theology and ethics. Pray also for their families as they adjust to new places and ministries.

# If you believe in strong families, read on

■ one word more  
By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
editor

Regular readers will remember that we pledged back in January to make 1996 a year of emphasis on family.

Now that is a sterling goal, but easier to say than it is to accomplish.

May 12 is Mothers' Day across America. Fathers' Day is set for June 16. May 5 through May 12 is noted as Christian Home Week on the denominational calendar. Christians in general and Baptists in particular should jump at the opportunity to major on family during these particular weeks. Everything is in place for a successful occasion.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Remember when Christian Home Week was one of the highlights of the church year? Various aspects of growing and developing Christian families were discussed in churches.

Speakers, even experts came to lead discussions about being good fathers, good mothers, having a family altar, developing relationships inside and outside family.

But have they gone the way of the dinosaur and the Edsel, good only as objects of conjecture and puzzlement?

Southern Baptists once were known as the denomination that protected and nurtured family life. We were known as people who took God's leadership and admonitions seriously. We agreed totally with Joshua's courageous pledge, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

And we agreed we would "put away the strange gods that were among us."

We claim all the virtues that one particular group has taken and used: family

values, honesty, purity, faith in worship and in life, care of the children, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. And all that without a lengthy Christian heritage!

Have we become shallow? God offers second chances. Tennessee Baptists have a Christian heritage worthy of emulation.

During Christian Home Week, and the days between May 5 and June 16, we are given a perfect time for majoring again on Christian homes.

Perhaps some churches still maintain that emphasis from the past. Like that old time religion, if it was good enough for those who walked before us, it can also be good for us. Opportunities are limitless.

## 'Let them eat cake,' she said; we will

On being told that her people had no bread, Queen Marie-Antoinette of France is reported to have said, "Let them eat cake." She was out of touch and her sarcasm was certainly out of place. The French Revolution soon ensued, and royalty was ended.

The queen was wrong, dead wrong. Editors and staffers of newspapers and magazines, if they are smart, pay attention to the needs of their constituency.

Here at the *Baptist and Reflector*, we are no different. Our plans always place readers first. But the elements of time, circumstance, and finances may force delays.

We think we have worked through, over, around, and under those obstacles. In a few weeks, June 5 to be exact, we plan to show you, our readers, a new look for a respected old newspaper.

Now calm down. The different design and appearance will be an improvement,

This challenge goes to all Tennessee Baptists. Make the most of opportunities to strengthen families in the faith. Even more, make the opportunities happen. Each church will be better for having done so. We don't have to please the world.

Plan small groups for these days. Discover Biblical principles for home life. Discover the joy of renewed relationships. Widen your family circle. Start family devotions. Read good books. Eat meals together. Go for a picnic. Visit shut-ins. Do it for Christ and the family.

We want to give status to families just as God does, before they are placed on the endangered species list. □

we believe, and will not be drastic.

It has been several years since we have done this, and we want to stay on the cutting edge, doing all we can to please readers with excellence in news presentation, wrapped in a sparkling package.

So we are offering, with this new look, some cake, some bread, and some meat and vegetables. It won't cost more.

We think our readers will receive the changes as positive. You will recognize your venerable friend, the *Baptist and Reflector*. Some of the innovations will be subtle, others will be prominent.

We hope to provide some tools for Baptists of varying ages and interests. It will not be done all at once, but the June 5 issue will have a different look in style.

The changes that follow will be aimed at meeting needs and answering interests. But we pledge to continue to be the dependable paper you need and want. □

### For a good reason

Justin Martyr, native of Shechem in Samaria, lived during the days of the early church. From the time of his conversion in 132, he became a vigorous and enthusiastic defender of Christianity.

He was intent on finding satisfaction through intellectual peace when he had a conversation with an elder. He found Christianity to be the "one sure worthy philosophy."



ALLEN

He began to proclaim his new found faith, teaching in many leading cities around his world. We call him a Christian apologist;

he was one of a group who grappled with the task of defending the faith against ridicule and misrepresentation.

Martyr was not above explaining Christianity to the Roman emperor and other leaders. In one of his letters, he wrote this way:

"It is not our task to argue people into the kingdom, nor to use methods of persuasion favored by the world. Christ taught us how to lead people gently and patiently from the love of evil to the love of God.

"You must have seen this method in action — I expect many of you yourselves were drawn to him in this way. You were violent, perhaps, or inconsistent, or dishonest, or bent on revenge if you were wronged.

"But you noticed Christians had different attitudes. Their lives were consistent and reliable in all circumstances. When there were defrauded or wronged, they accepted it with amazing calmness...

"And it was that that convinced you, wasn't it? The sheer quality of the lives they lived as your neighbors..?"

Justin Martyr and his friends eventually were arrested for refusing to sacrifice to an idol. He testified, "We believe in the Christian God, the one God who has existed from the beginning, and we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ..."

They were beheaded. It did not occur to him that he was doing exactly what he had described in his letter about Christian example: "They had what you admired, and what they had came from Christ."

The little band of believers became *martyrs*. ■

## ■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

### Start with a smile

Lawyer to witness: "Mrs. Jones, have you ever been a witness in a suit like this one?" Mrs. Jones: "No sir. The last time I wore a cute little blue suit with a fur collar."

### Take this truth

Substance is more important than external appearances or mere rhetoric. Have you heard about the lady who wanted some books for the den in her new home. She didn't care what subject matter they contained. Her only requirement was they have must brown bindings so as to fit the color scheme!

### Memorize this Scripture

"Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (I Samuel 16:7).

### Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to avoid being 20 miles long, 20 miles wide, and two inches deep. □

## Nurturing for teenagers

We continue looking at some factors involved in parenting teenagers. We have been using in

this series, an acrostic of "parent" to remind us of Presence, Awareness, Responsibility, Empathy, Nurture, and Toughness.

This week's focus is on the importance of understanding and doing good nurture with teenagers.

Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:4 that we are not to provoke our children to wrath; but to "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

The word "nurture" has taken on a rather weak and syrupy sweet meaning.

It is a good, positive term that means parents should care for their children's needs (spiritual, physical, emotional, and social) in the same manner which our loving Heavenly Father meets our needs.

This does not necessarily mean that we do everything the child wants us to do for them, nor do we give the child everything he wants.

I have seen parents who buckle under the strain and

## ■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

give in to the teenager because they are afraid the child will think they don't love him if he doesn't get his way or his desires.

The nurturing parent must be rugged in the face of our free and easy society that would offer our children things that would be detrimental to them.

We recently had prom night at our son's high school. As usual, many youth made fun of the Prom Promise, but the most alarming development is that many parents allowed their children to rent hotel rooms after the prom.

The usual reason is that, at least they won't be driving drunk. For me this is just short of parental neglect.

Most of us would agree that parents should give adequate food, clothing, and shelter in order to provide nurture.

Let's consider that the law states that a parent can be guilty of abuse and neglect

when the parent does not provide adequate supervision and guidance for the child.

The nurturing of adolescents includes helping them to make decisions that they are not cognitively, emotionally, and socially capable of making.

A child may be biologically able to produce a child at age 13 or 14, but he is not financially, emotionally, or cognitively able to parent yet.

Finally, the term "nurture" came from the background of providing nourishment or food.

As parents we are responsible for what we are feeding our children spiritually as well as physically.

Many parents who would not dream of letting their children starve physically are providing little in any spiritual nourishment in the home.

The church cannot provide all the spiritual nourishment your child needs anymore than the cafeteria at school can provide all the physical nourishment he or she needs. Parents really have to care. □



BARKLEY

## Baptist Student Spring Conference features 'living proof'

By Ircel Harrison  
For Baptist and Reflector

**MURFREESBORO** — More than 300 college students from across Tennessee met at First Church, Murfreesboro, April 12-13 for their annual Baptist



**JOHN BILLINGTON** was recognized for 38 years of ministry with college students. He has served on five campuses including three in Tennessee. He has been at the University of Tennessee-Memphis, for the last 24 years.

Student Spring Conference.

Students heard speakers challenge them to provide "Living Proof" of the Gospel through their lives. In addition Baptist Student Union summer missionaries and other workers were commissioned, officers were elected for the coming year, and a retiring director of ministries was honored.

Major speakers for the weekend were Mark Gregory, pastor of the host church; Milt Hughes, retired consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board and member of Hope Church, Nashville; and Hal Burke, state director of student ministries for the Georgia Baptist Convention. Re:Creation, the drama team of Charles and Rebecca Reese from First Church, Maryville, and Mike Friday, musician and associate pastor at Candies Creek Church, Cleveland,

led in the worship times.

With an emphasis on personal evangelism, the conference speakers urged the students to understand the need for Christ in the world today, the content of the Gospel, and the opportunity to share their faith.

Gregory reminded students "to make the main thing the main thing" by presenting an uncompromised Christian witness.

Hughes presented the content of the message of salvation and Burke closed the meeting by challenging students to be "living letters," testifying to the power of Christ to change lives.

Students also participated in seminars related to personal evangelism, ministry, and leadership development led by area pastors, church leaders, and BSU directors.

Twenty BSU summer missionaries were commissioned in a service led by students from Tennessee Technical University, Cookeville. The students will serve in Canada and Mali, as well as Tennessee and six other states (see list below). Financial support for the student missions program is provided by the 40 BSUs across the state.

John Billington was honored for his 24 years of service as director of Baptist Student ministries at the University of Tennessee-Memphis. He will retire June 30. Before coming to Memphis, Billington served four other campuses, including Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and University of Tennessee-Martin. Bill Noah, a Murfreesboro physician and member of Belle Aire Church, Murfreesboro, highlighted the recognition by expressing appreciation for Billington's ministry to him while he was a



**THE DRAMA TEAM** from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville led in worship Saturday evening at the conference and on Sunday morning at First Church, Murfreesboro.

medical student.

Ashley Mofield of Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, was elected to succeed Kim Huff as state BSU president. Scott Link of Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, will serve as vice president.

Other officers elected were Carey Hall, Carson-Newman College, east region representative; Amy Ghorley, Hiwassee College, Hiwassee, east region member-at-large; Jeff Gibson, Tennessee Tech, middle region representative;

Jessica Grooms, Middle Tennessee State, middle re-

gion member-at-large; Jim Collins, Union University, Jackson, west region representative; and Brandon Norton, Jackson State Community College, Jackson, west region member-at-large.

Three campuses led worship in several Concord Association churches on Sunday morning. East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, was at Southeast Church; University of Tennessee-Knoxville was at First Church, Murfreesboro; and Union was at Belle Aire and Third churches. □ — Harrison is director of the TBC Student Ministries Department.

### 1996 BSU Summer Missionaries

#### Foreign

##### Africa, Mali

Darrin Crockett, Tennessee Tech  
Marty Hollingshead, Pellissippi State  
Paul McClelland, Carson-Newman

##### Canada

Stephanie Blake, Tennessee Tech  
Ryan Hill, Tennessee Tech

#### Home

##### Tahoe City, Calif.

Melissa Johnson, Tennessee Tech

##### Parker, Colo.

Natalie Price, Middle Tennessee State

##### Washington, D.C.

Sara Shelton, East Tennessee State

##### Flint, Mich.

Danielle Harris, Cumberland

##### South Heart, N.D.

Ivy Dixon, UT-Martin

##### Lexington, S.C.

Jeff Gibson, Tennessee Tech

#### State

##### Creative Ministries Missions Team (Exalt)

Laurel Burrough, Union

Jason Combs, Carson-Newman

Kerry Cobb, Middle Tennessee State

Marc Sebes, Vanderbilt

##### Gatlinburg

Dennis Carver, East Tennessee State

Britnee Slaughter, Cleveland State

##### Knoxville

Natasha Lindley, Belmont

Bethanie Pilkinton, Columbia State

##### Millington, TBCH

Joel Bernard, UT-Knoxville



**COMPRISING** the 1996-97 State Student Council are, from left, Ashley Mofield, Jim Collins, Jeff Gibson, Carey Hall, Brandon Norton, Jessica Grooms, and Scott Link.



**STUDENT SUMMER MISSIONARIES** for 1996 include, from left, front row, Sara Shelton, Danielle Harris, Natasha Lindley, Dennis Carver, Britnee Slaughter, Natalie Price, Kerry Cobb, Stephanie Blake, Melissa Johnson; back row, Jason Combs, Laurel Burrough, Marc Sebes, Bethanie Pilkinton, Ivy Dixon, Paul McClelland, Marty Hollingshead, Darrin Crockett, Ryan Hill, and Jeff Gibson.

# Mary Allen leads youth in state for 31 years

By Connie Davis  
For Baptist and Reflector



MARY ALLEN

BRENTWOOD — Mary Allen is a Tennessee Baptist version of Minnie Pearl. When she's leading those she loves — youth and their leaders — she's raucous in a self-deprecating way.

For 31 years Allen has used humor at Tennessee camps, Bible drills, speakers tournaments, and in leadership training to spread her message — youth need God and the experience can be fun.

She's modeled that philosophy though she admitted her responsibilities in the Tennessee Baptist Convention Discipleship Training Department have required a lot of hard work.

At camp she has been known for the "rooster song," which awakened campers each morning. Allen did impersonations of Minnie Pearl and Tammy Wynette. And her repartee with Johnnie Hall was like a Gracie Allen and George Burns routine at times. She and Hall, director of Discipleship Training, began working together 31 years ago when Charles Norton was Training Union (now Discipleship Training) director.

She did it all for the youth, she said.

31. She has seen youth she led return as adults to lead camp and other activities.

Just one example of Allen's long-term impact on people is Brenda Parsons. She responded to God's call to ministry at Discipleship Training camp. Now she is a pastor's wife at Calvary Church, Covington. And Parson's son has responded to God's call to ministry.

Allen admitted she has focused on youth, whom she loves for their enthusiasm, unpredictability, and receptivity, sometimes at the expense of adults. For example, she moved Bible drillers and speakers from stages and platforms to floor-levels during

competition even though the audience had more trouble viewing them. She felt the fear of the youth would be lessened, she said, and the experience would be more enjoyable.

Her philosophy that the Christian life includes fun spilled over into her training. "I tried to make learning fun and enjoyable and to help them know that they could

train the kids and they would have fun too."

The events that drew Allen to Tennessee were unusual and thus, must have been in God's plan, said Allen. While serving as a minister to youth at First Church, West Monroe, La., she was asked to lead training for leaders. Not only was the request just prior to the event, but it was to train leaders of juniors (grades 4-6) rather than youth, at that time termed intermediates.

Nevertheless, Allen agreed and at the conference met Nita Wedel of Nashville, who recommended her to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Allen also served as youth

been the Discipleship Training staff, she said. She has traveled many miles with them to convention events. She fondly remembered such trips with retired workers Helen Kennedy of Nashville, Mary Anderson of Nashville, Sammie Meek of Jackson, and the late Charles Norton.

Allen has been overcome by the response of Tennessee Baptists to her retirement. From campers attending the 1995 DT camps, she received a television and VCR. Youth attending the State Youth Evangelism Conference signed a huge banner for her along with those attending her retirement dinner.

She also has received hundreds of cards, many of which included gifts. She thanked the givers along with the Executive Board and staff for the gifts.

As she continues to serve as a consultant for the DT staff, Allen summed up the reason for her work. "You never know what you mean to one person, and then they touch another person, and that's how it should go." □

**You never know what you mean to one person, and then they touch another person, and that's how it should go.**

— Mary Allen, retired program associate, TBC

worker on the staff of Cherokee Church, Memphis, after graduating from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Her family, besides her mother, Elsie, who is 97, has

# West Tennesseans work in St. Thomas repairing a church

For Baptist and Reflector

UNION CITY — A 13-member team coordinated by Sunswept Church, Union City, worked Feb. 24 - March 2 with members of St. Paul Church in St. Thomas on its church building, which was damaged by a hurricane in September.

The Tennesseans helped local Baptists demolish a portion of the building so the rest could be repaired.

The team included nine members of

Sunswept Church, two members of Pleasant Hill Church, Rives, and two members of other local churches.

The Tennesseans enjoyed the beautiful Caribbean island, but saw blue tarps on the hillsides which were being used as makeshift roofs for homes damaged by Hurricane Marilyn. They learned they were seeing a part of the island not often seen by tourists who visit on cruise ships.

The beauty also was found in the people. "It didn't take us long to discover

there is only one thing on the island warmer than the temperature — the people," reported Chris Menees, a member of Sunswept Church and a reporter for *The Daily Messenger* in Union City. The members of St. Paul Church may have lost part of their building, but they didn't lose their faith that God would provide what they needed, she reported in the newspaper.

One member who lives in a room in the church told her about the hurricane. She said she found the strength to push a mattress over windows and then sought cover in

a corner behind a dresser, where she stayed for five hours reading Psalm 71 by flashlight and praying.

The congregation still meets in the building in very crowded quarters or outside.

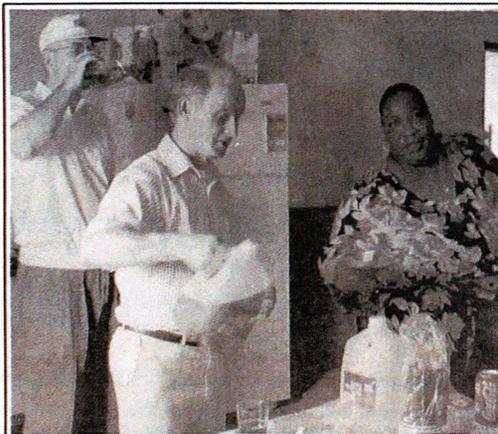
To thank the team, the islanders held a dinner complete with spicy native foods and an outdoor worship service.

Sunswept Church is planning a return trip in November to begin building at a new site for the church on the other side of the island.

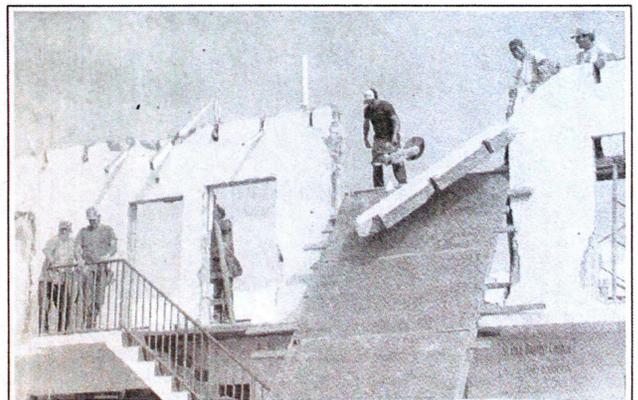
"And we'll be praying for them," said Menees. □



PEELING POTATOES for an evening meal is Eleanor Kinsey of Sunswept Church, Union City. — Photos by Chris and Tom Menees, reprinted from *The Daily Messenger* of Union City.



GETTING SOME REFRESHMENTS are, from left, Lynn Reagan, and James Kinsey, pastor, Sunswept Church, Union City, with the help of islander Blondina Freeman.



TENNESSEANS, from left, Tom Cary, Jerry Warren, Lloyd Davidson, Ray Taylor, Rick Brown, and Billy Vaughn watch as a piece of concrete drops.

# 'Dead' church in Cosby now showing signs of new life

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Ministry today can't be done the same as it was years ago, says bivocational pastor Jerry Nash of Newport.

Nash led a special interest conference on effective evangelism and outreach in a bivocational setting during the recent State Evangelism Conference held in Jackson.

"The people we minister to today are different than those 15 years ago, said Nash, pastor of Denton Church, Cosby, for the past seven years.



PASTOR JERRY NASH and his wife, Doris, pause during a break at the State Evangelism Conference in Jackson.

Nash described the church a few years ago as "dead." "We were keeping the routine."

Finally, the question had to be asked and answered, "Do you really want to grow?" Nash said.

A year and a half ago, the church had 30-35 in Sunday School. It has been averaging around 90 with 100-110 in worship the past few Sundays, Nash reported. During the last year the church had 46 additions, including 38 by baptism.

"We are reaching unchurched people," Nash said.

Nash said the new Christians are told there are high expectations of them to grow and to tithe. "We can take new Christians and grow and disciple them," the pastor observed.

Efforts are paying off. Nash noted giving has doubled in the last year and a half. "The new Christians learn from the beginning that stewardship is part of the Christian life," he said.

In addition, the church sometimes attracts between 90-100 people on Wednesday nights. "They don't know they're not supposed to be there," Nash joked, noting that "we get them before they become traditionalized."

Many of the members also have gone through the *Experiencing God* study and this has particularly benefitted the younger adults, Nash observed.

All has taken place at Denton Church while Nash has been bivocational. He has an evangelistic ministry and operates Jeremiah's Place, a retreat setting provided "to restore the weary and give rest to those who are constantly on the firing line for the Lord."

He said the congregation has known from the beginning he is bivocational. As a result he continually tells his people "to find your place of service."

Nash related he is "trying to restore responsibility to the laity."

The pastor is not supposed to do everything. Instead he should equip his congregation to do ministry, he said.

Nash is a firm believer that God calls bivocational pastors. "It is in the context of equipping and making better laymen" and is "an object lesson

in equipping saints for the ministry."

He is aided in his ministry at Denton Church by a 12-member church council which covers virtually every area of the church. A deacon is included on the council as well. The church council at Denton "is like having a full-time staff at

a mega church," he said.

During his conference, Nash was quick to point out the growth did not happen overnight at Denton and that it helps to have a long tenure at a pastorate.

"You need to develop a trust factor and it takes several years to develop trust,"

Nash observed.

Growth also brings problems, some of which are good.

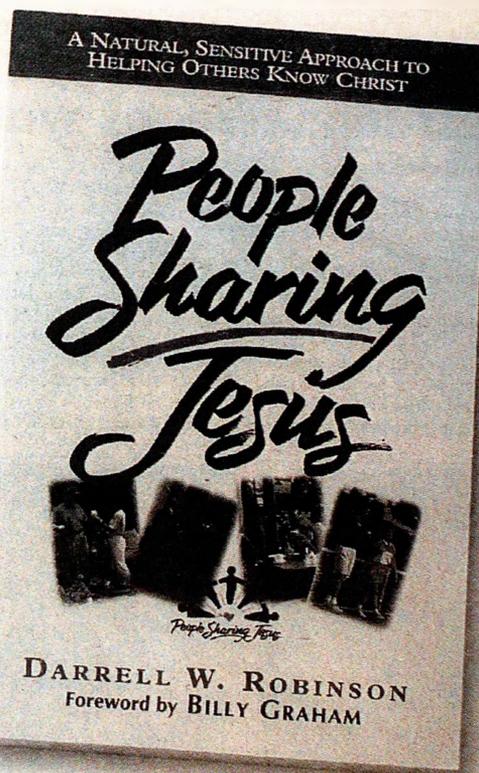
At Denton the church is landlocked and has nowhere to expand. The church has appointed a committee to consider relocation and disposition of the present building along with a finance plan, Nash said. □

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Now you can make sharing Jesus part of your everyday life. Naturally. Effectively. Simply. Sensitive. Right where you live, work, and play.

*People Sharing Jesus* is a breakthrough process by Darrell W. Robinson, head of evangelism for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention since 1989. *People Sharing Jesus* isn't about gimmicks or manipulation. It's about sharing the joy and faith you've found in Christ. Without guilt, anxiety, or awkwardness.

*People Sharing Jesus* is available at your local Christian bookstore in book form, abridged audio tapes, audio seminar, dramatized video, leader's guide, and special New Testament edition. It's everything you and your church need to build confidence, knowledge, and inspiration for sharing Christ. Just as your Father intended.



Available now at your local Baptist Book Store or any Christian bookstore.



### Childs to lead Foundation association

Leaders of the Association of Baptist Foundations at its recent annual meeting included W.L. "Bo" Childs, far left, president of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation who is president-elect of the organization. With Childs are, from left, George Borders, Florida; Robert L. Ross, Oklahoma; Hal Fisher, Mississippi; Stephen Mathis, Missouri; and Lyle Garlow, part-time administrator for the association.

"Darrell Robinson, whose pastor's heart is clear and resounding, has expressed most helpfully in this book the basic features of a spontaneous witness for our living Lord. I recommend *People Sharing Jesus* to all who are experiencing God, and have an inner desire to bear witness to others."

— Henry T. Blackaby, Author, *Experiencing God*

## ■ the churches

■ **Colonial Heights Church, Kingsport**, will celebrate its 40th anniversary April 28. An April 24-26 revival will be held in conjunction with the anniversary. Three men who grew up in the church and are now

pastors will lead it — Jimmy Hunt, Ryan Wagers, and Mark Johnson. Activities include a Saturday evening event and a luncheon.

■ **First Church, Nashville**, has extra tickets for the May 24-25 Promise Keepers meeting in Atlanta. Contact Rus Roach at (615) 664-

6000 if interested.

## ■ the leaders

■ **John McCall**, minister of music, First Church, Tullahoma, has been called to serve on the staff of First Church, Long Beach, Miss.

■ **Harvest View Church, Kittrell**, a mission of Southeast Church, Murfreesboro, has called **Brian Harrell** as pastor. Harrell, a public school teacher, was ordained in February by Mount Hermon Church, Murfreesboro. The congregation, which began meeting in October, gathers at the Kittrell Elementary School cafeteria.

■ **Providence Church, Sevierville**, has called **Glenn Franklin** as pastor.

■ **Don Givens** recently retired after almost 27 years as pastor of St. Elmo Church, Chattanooga. Givens is a former member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board and currently is second vice president of the state convention.



GIVENS

■ **Malesus Church, Jackson**, has called **Randy Rinehart** as pastor, effective April 14. He was pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, New Albany, Miss., for six years. Rinehart also has served churches as a youth director and associate pastor. He is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, from which he holds a doctor of ministry degree.



RINEHART

tor **Katharine Bryan**, died April 17. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to the Second Century Fund, WMU, P.O. Box 11346, Birmingham, Ala. 35202-1346.

■ **Lana Hall Chilton**, 50, of Shelbyville, died April 17 in Nashville. She was the wife of Ron Chilton, pastor, Southside Church, Shelbyville, and former children's director of Park Avenue Church, Nashville.

## ■ the work

■ **Terry Mitchell**, an evangelist from White House, is in need of a Spanish interpreter for Gospel meetings in Nashville on a regular basis. Call (615) 672-9509.

■ **Blessed Church, Antioch**, is in need of seven church pews for their worship center. To assist the church, please contact Il Hyun Whang at the church, 1931 Murfreesboro Road, Nashville, 37217, or call (615) 831-0143 (church) or 399-3344 (home).

■ **Youth of Raleigh Church, Memphis**, will work in Raleigh, N.C., July 26 - Aug. 4 as a part of World Changers, which is sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis.

## ■ the schools

■ **The Jack C. Massey Graduate School of Business at Belmont University, Nashville**, will hold an informational open house for the master of business administration and the master of accountancy degree programs on May 1. A reception in the Belmont Mansion begins at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (615) 386-4574.

## ■ deaths

■ **Velma Bryan**, 90, mother of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union Executive Direc-



**LEADERS OF TUMBLING CREEK CHURCH, GLEASON**, pose during a March 10 service in which a note was burned representing the church's debt on its auditorium/education building. Leaders are, from left, first row, Charlene Snider, Ann Phelps Wright, and Dan Brooks; second row, Jeff Crutchfield, Gary Doster, Charles McCullar, and Gene Price; and third row, Glen Arnold. The \$320,000 new building was built on the site of the former auditorium. The congregation met for nine months in the cramped quarters of the fellowship hall until the building was completed in December, 1993.

## "Mending Broken Hearts"

Remember the CHILDREN on Mother's Day, May 12

Most of the children at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes suffer from broken hearts. They know the pain of separation and of being physically, emotionally or sexually abused, often by someone they love and trust. Some have even felt the anguish of hunger, abandonment, and neglect.

Our primary goal is to serve children and their families and point them to Jesus Christ. We labor to ease the burdens of these children, help them sort out their confusion, lead them to restore faith in themselves and in others, and encourage them that life is going to get better. But above all, in each child, we seek to build a lasting faith in our Lord Jesus.



We have many success stories. Like Bart, who seldom speaks but chose to express himself following devotion one day. Struggling he said, "This is a nice place. My brother and sister are safe here and I am safe." When asked why he likes it, he replied, "It's pretty, the house smells good, they make real good food, and someone talks about Jesus every day."

The TBCH Mother's Day Offering is an opportunity to get involved in the lives of these hurting children. Please remember the children as you give. Each is searching for someone to love and someone to love them. Help us mend broken hearts!

Statewide Goal \$1,215,000



Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc.  
Dr. Gerald L. Stow,  
President/Treasurer  
5001 Maryland Way  
P.O. Box 728  
Brentwood, TN 37024  
1-800-624-8591

# Diana Garland resigns from faculty of Southern Seminary

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE — Diana R. Garland has submitted her resignation from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's faculty, effective July 31.

Garland has been a social work faculty member since 1983 and was dean of the seminary's Carver School of Church Social Work from 1993 until March 1995 when she was dismissed from the position by seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. in a dispute over the hiring of a new faculty member. Trustees have voted to close the school in May 1997.

Garland distributed a letter April 15 informing fellow faculty members of her decision.

In the letter, she stated: "... given faculty and administrative losses and the institutional constraints we are currently experiencing, the Carver

School cannot continue to offer quality graduate social work education an additional year, regardless of my efforts. I recognize that others may disagree with me, but I must make decisions based on my best judgment. At this point, I fear my continued presence on the faculty will engender false hope that the school can continue to offer quality social work education an additional year and hinder the transfer of remaining students to social work degree programs in other institutions."

Garland did not list any career opportunities at the moment: "I am seeking God's direction for the future," she wrote to fellow faculty members, "and I hope you will pray for me."

Mohler issued a two-sentence statement April 15 regarding Garland's resignation. The first sentence acknowl-

edged the resignation; the second said, "I sincerely wish for Dr. Garland success and fulfillment in future endeavors in ministry."

Southern Seminary's board of trustees voted in October to close the program, following a special trustee study committee's conclusion that it would

"not be feasible" to offer the M.S.W. degree "in light of the expressed mission and purpose of the seminary." The committee reported "considerable differences exist in the structures, processes, and issues of social work education and theological studies.

Presently, the seminary is

recruiting an interim dean and faculty in order to satisfy accreditation standards through May 1997.

As of July 31, the seminary will lose both Garland and Janet Spessart, acting dean of the Carver school and assistant social work professor, who is going to another school. □

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I Thessalonians 4:1-12**

## Right direction

By L. Joseph Rosas III

Perhaps you saw the spectacle of a number of men in the Philippines who flayed their backs and have themselves nailed to a cross every year in memory of Jesus' death. How do we please God? Is it by having ourselves nailed to a cross? Is it by self-flagellation? Is it by giving, praying, Bible reading, or serving?

**Continue improving your conduct (vv. 1-2).** Paul says "finally," indicating he is shifting emphasis from belief to behavior, and goes on for two full chapters! He reminds the church, "We instructed you how to live in order to please God." He is commending their obedience and urges them to "do this more and more." The basic principle of the Christian life is daily obedience. Mark Twain once observed that his problem was not with the part of the Bible he didn't understand, it was with that which he understood but did not do. What we believe will be reflected in the way we behave.

**Live holy lives (vv. 3-8).** "It is God's will that you should be sanctified" reminds us that we have been saved for a purpose, that we might reflect the honor, glory, and purposes of God. Weak excuses do not exempt us from this command. Would to God that we had the same fear of sin that we sometimes do of holiness. Holiness is reflected through self-control, the avoidance of lust, and a right relationship with brothers in Christ. Through justification God delivers from the penalty of sin, through sanctification God delivers from the power of sin and through glorification God will deliver from the presence of sin. Because we know God punishes sin, wants us to be holy, and lives in us by his spirit, to reject this instruction is to reject God.

**Love other Christians (vv. 9-10).** The church had been "taught by God" that they were to respond to one another in love. In Paul's extended discussion of spirituality he refers to love as "the most excellent way." Love, not giftedness, is the mark and measure of spirituality. Indeed, love is the first fruit of the spirit. Love is the most talked about and least applied virtue in our culture. Perhaps you have heard the ditty, "to dwell above with those we love, now that will be such glory; but to live below with those we know, not that's another story." True unconditional love is the ultimate manifestation that we are indeed disciples of Jesus. Our love toward each other is to be a visible demonstration of how much God has loved us in Christ.

**Earn unbelievers' respect (vv. 11-12).** Another way we can please God is to earn the respect of unbelievers. Apparently some in the congregation had gotten so caught up in the hope of Christ's return they were neglecting the routine of daily life. Paul said, "make it your ambition to lead a quiet life." In other words, don't unnecessarily stir up trouble. Second, he admonished them to "mind their own business." Nobody likes a spiritual busy body. Third, they are instructed to "work" with their own hands. It is God's will that we give an honest day's work for a day's pay. Paul's goal was their testimony in the world might remain intact. This dignifies work and is the practical way material needs are to be met.

How do we please God? Is it by getting ourselves crucified? No, it is by quietly living holy lives, loving other Christians, and earning unbelievers' respect that we please and honor God. □  
— L. Joseph Rosas III is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis.

## The True Vine

By Kevin Goza

People place great value on being properly connected. Knowing the right people can make or break a business enterprise. Jesus also places high priority on being properly connected. However, the vital connection that concerns him is not secular, but spiritual. Jesus is the True Vine, and it is vital to be properly connected to him in a loving relationship.

A connected relationship with God is vital to spiritual productivity. In the natural world, it would be ludicrous to expect a branch from a tree to continue to grow and flourish if it were severed from the tree. In the same way, it is ridiculous to think that a Christian could ever truly serve a living God apart from remaining vitally connected with him. We must remember that we are branches only, and have no power on our own to produce spiritual life in any form. It is God who brings any increase we might witness.

What are the consequences for a life that does not remain vitally connected with Christ? Jesus describes their fate. They are picked up, thrown into the fire, and burned. They are still branches, but they are dead branches. James talks about the state of faith without works. It is a corpse. Dead. When the Christian refuses to abide in Christ, he becomes a dead symbol of what might have been.

Next, we see that the connected relationship with God is vital to effective prayer. Powerful praying is

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Focal Passage:  
John 15:1-17**

done by people who not only understand the need to walk in a vital relationship with God, but who exercise the power of that relationship by bold petition. Weak prayers are offered by weak Christians. The deeper you

grow in your walk with God, the more weight you will place on prayer. You will begin to ask God to do some things that are miraculous. The foundation for bold praying is a strong relationship with the one who is able to do immeasurably more than one could ever ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

Finally, the connected relationship with God is vital to personal relationships.

The Christian enjoys a love-love relationship with God. So strong is the love relationship we have with our heavenly Father that we are commanded to love one another with the same strong bonds of love. Great love is always displayed by great sacrifice (v. 13). Interestingly, friendship with God is granted to those who are obedient to his commands, in particular, the command to love. In maintaining this love relationship with God and his people, we are granted access to the great truths of the Christian life (v. 15). The depth and commitment of God's love for us is expressed in his sovereign choice of us to love him and be fruitful in service to him (v. 16).

Jesus' summary words provide a proper conclusion to this study: "This is my command. Love each other." □ — Kevin Goza is pastor of First Church, Lebanon.

## Importance of pure worship

By Tom Moncrief

The people of Israel had made a covenant with God but that gave no assurance they would be faithful and surely none that God would ignore unfaithfulness and disobedience. In fact, they had slipped into indifference and disobedience along with impure worship.

**Impure worship — ch. 1:4-6**

Zephaniah was concerned with Judah's allegiance to multiple gods. They attempted to mix worship of the Lord with others. Reference to "the host of heaven" related to the worship of stars while Malcham evidently refers to some who practiced human sacrifice. These priests claimed to be true priests of the Lord, yet they polluted the worship of God by seeking to combine it with worship of pagan gods.

Even as people of Zephaniah's day made this serious mistake, so do many today. Our God's absolute sovereignty is contained in the teachings of these verses. He demands and deserves undiluted allegiance and worship.

**Call to seek the Lord — ch. 2:1-3**

After declaring that God's judgment is imminent, the prophet extends God's call for repentance. Judah is addressed as "O nation not desired" which may also be "O shameless nation." A last call to repent is given Judah. The "humble of the land" are exhorted to seek God and righteousness. Anything short of repentance is sure to bring on the impending disaster. God shows his mercy by giving a last chance for seeking him. Those who do can find safety and a hiding place of security in him. It seems that God's message of judgment has a note of lovingkindness running

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Focal Passage:  
Zephaniah 1:4-6; 2:1-3; 3:1-4, 9-12**

through it. Even in judgment his desire is to draw people to a proper response to his mercy.

**Pattern of defiance — ch. 3:1-4**

In spite of God's blessings, his love and mercy were ignored. The people refused to hear or trust in the Lord. Jerusalem was "filthy" in their rebellious defiance of God and judgment was inevitable. The leadership was corrupted. This was true of religious leaders as well as governmental leaders. With the "sacred" leaders defiled the situation became hopeless. The message of accusation against the prophets was indeed severe.

It is still true that decayed leadership produces undesirable results. People do not rise above their leadership. Actions of a decayed people disregard the steadfast faithfulness of God as shown by the rising sun each morning.

**Note of hope — vv. 9-12**

There will be a time when God gathers the faithful of all nations

who "call upon the name of the Lord." He will give a pure language to them and they will serve him with one accord. The haughty and proud spirits will be removed and the humble and submissive will remain to worship and serve the Lord. How remarkable that the Lord always has a faithful remnant remaining true to him. The only refuge is "in the name of the Lord."

Genuine worship is the most important activity of Christians and for churches. God in his holiness and majesty is the focus of spirits who reach out to experience him. Communing with him is the need of every heart. His presence and power cleanse from sin and empower for service those who trust him and surrender to him. This lesson serves as a reminder to be humble and submissive to the God of eternity and to worship only him. Worship is not complete until it is revealed in service. □ — Tom Moncrief is a member of First Church, Cleveland.



**Observe  
National  
Day of Prayer  
May 2**

## Southern Baptists add 1,458 congregations

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Southern Baptists added 1,458 congregations last year, according to reports by state church-starting leaders.

Of the additions, 1,314 were new missions and 144 were existing congregations affiliated for the first time with the Southern Baptist Convention, said Joe Hernandez, assistant vice president of the SBC Home Mission Board's extension section.

That is the second-highest number of new congregations recorded in recent history. In 1993, Southern Baptists added 1,500 congregations. The total is just shy of the board's goal of 1,500 starts annually.

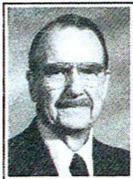
It brings the total number of SBC congregations to 45,836 which includes 40,120 churches and 5,716 missions. □

## Former European missions leader dies

Baptist Press

BROWNWOOD, Texas — John Allen Moore, an architect of post-World War II Southern Baptist mission work in Europe, died April 5. He was 83.

During his 40-year career as a SBC Foreign Mission Board missionary, Moore helped start seminaries in Yugoslavia and



MOORE

Switzerland and started the European Baptist Press Service. He built inroads into newly communist Eastern Europe and, for seven years, worked as field representative for board work throughout Europe.

A Tupelo, Miss., native, Moore was appointed in 1938 as the first Southern Baptist missionary to Yugoslavia. He is survived by his wife, Pauline, and two children. □

## BWA cancels trip planned for Liberia

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The fighting by rival militias in Liberia caused the Baptist World Alliance to postpone an April 22-24 evangelism conference in Liberia.

The BWA trip was changed after Emile D.E. Sam-Peal, general secretary of the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Education Convention Inc., confirmed the news that it was

too dangerous to come to his country.

Sam-Peal, who lives in Monrovia, risked his life and walked two miles to a phone at the compound of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and spoke to BWA leaders April 10.

"Please ask the world to pray for us," Sam-Peal said tearfully as he described what was happening in his country. While he and his family are safe thus far, they do not know what will happen.

"We prayed with him and told him we will come to Liberia as soon as possible," said Tony Cupit, BWA director of evangelism and education who planned to take a 14-member group to Liberia. □

## Pioneer professor dies after bout with cancer

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Polly Hargis Dillard, the first woman to teach Christian education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, died April 11 following a bout with cancer. She was 79.

Dillard joined the faculty in 1954 as an assistant professor of elementary education. Dillard's two female predecessors on the faculty had served in the school of church music. She remained there until 1958 when she married Badgett Dillard, a seminary administrator. At the time, seminary policy prohibited two members of a family from serving on its staff. She later worked with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Badgett Dillard was executive vice president of the seminary when he died in 1986.

She is survived by two children. □

## BSSB launches publishing medium on SBCNet

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — In what they described as "a historic event," leaders of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Bible teaching-reaching division have announced the launch of a new publishing medium which will allow customers to purchase and download Christian education resources electronically via their computers.

Carrying the new imprint "WORData," the electronic files will be available for purchase in a new area on SBCNet, Southern Baptists' private forum on CompuServe. "The SBCNet Resource Cen-

## 11-year-old completes CWT training

Baptist Press

GOWENSVILLE, S.C. — Eleven-year-old Stephen Gosnell recently completed the evangelism training course, Continuing Witness Training, becoming the youngest person in South Carolina — and perhaps the Southern Baptist Convention — to have completed the course.

But Stephen, a quiet, well-mannered boy, didn't take CWT to impress anyone.

"I wanted to learn how to be a bolder witness," said the fifth grader, who made a profession of faith and was baptized when he was 7. "I'm kind of shy, so when I heard about CWT, I thought it would be a good way to learn how to share my faith."

CWT is a memory-intensive evangelism course. Students, called "apprentices," are required to memorize a five-page Gospel presentation — word for word. Each apprentice is paired with another apprentice and an equip-

per, someone who has completed the course previously. The 13-week course involves daily homework on various aspects of witnessing, including the role of the Holy Spirit, visitation procedures, presenting the Gospel, and answering questions about the Gospel — along with church visitation one hour each week.

CWT is designed for adults 18 years and older, said Mary Ellen Anderson of the SBC Home Mission Board. "While we don't keep records of the ages of people who complete the course, I've never heard of anyone younger than 14 or 15 taking it," she said.

Stephen's pastor, David Hayes of First Church, Gowensville, didn't see any problem with a pre-teen like Stephen taking the adult version of CWT.

"I knew Stephen and I knew he could do it," Hayes said. "In fact, a lot of times it was helpful to have a young person with us, especially when we visited families with children," the pastor said. □

ter" opened to the public April 15. Products will be offered in different formats, including text-only documents or files with graphics and illustrations.

Prices for the electronic products will vary with charges being billed to a customer's CompuServe account only after the successful completion of a download, according to David Haywood, SBCNet coordinator. There is no charge for download time, he added. □

## Church to pay \$7 million in deal with bondholders

Baptist Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Bondholders for Great Hills Church here will get about half what they are owed, according to a plan worked out by the church and the bondholders, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

The details were worked out in late March during a 16-hour meeting between the church's finance committee, a committee representing bondholders, attorneys, and a court-appointed mediator, Great Hills pastor Harold O'Chester reported in his church newsletter.

Great Hills filed for bankruptcy protection in early January to avoid foreclosure on its property. That step came eight years after the church fell behind on its payments. The new agreement calls for Great Hills to pay \$7 million of its almost \$15 million debt by March 31, 1998, the newspaper reported.

Great Hills will be allowed to operate its school and other local ministries while paying off its debt, the paper said. □

## CLC's Ben Mitchell joins SBTS faculty

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — C. Ben Mitchell has been named a visiting professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mitchell, a former Tennessee Baptist pastor in Hixson, also will continue in his role as a consultant on biomedical and life issues for



MITCHELL

the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. He has served with the Nashville-based agency since 1992. His appointment at Southern is effective Aug. 1.

Mitchell is a candidate for the Ph.D. degree in medical ethics at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He anticipates receiving his doctorate in May 1997. He will be named assistant professor of Christian ethics upon completion of his doctorate, seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr., told the school's trustees April 16. □

## Samford University elects new provost

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — James S. Netherton, Baylor University's second-ranking administrator as vice president and chief operating officer, has been named provost of Samford University.

Netherton, who directs day-to-day operations at Baylor, will become Samford's chief academic officer June 1.

He succeeds William E. Hull, who retires as provost May 31. Hull will continue in his role as university professor and will teach courses in New Testament preaching and other subjects.

Netherton, a native of Jackson, Miss., is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and holds a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Virginia. □

## Stop the presses! Baylor sponsors dance

Associated Baptist Press

WACO, Texas — The once unthinkable is happening: Baylor University sponsored a dance.

Two months after President Robert Sloan rocked the world with the news that the world's largest Baptist university would drop its traditional ban against dancing, an outdoor dance was held April 18 in the center of the campus.

While there has never been a written policy banning dancing on campus, it traditionally was not allowed. However, the school has always allowed theater productions containing dancing and cheerleaders at sporting events have also danced. "In that regard, we've been a little hypocritical," he said. "We should either have dancing or ban ..."

Baptists traditionally have thought that dancing is a sin, though that message is not sounded much from church pulpits today. While many Baptists no longer are offended by dancing, Sloan said he understands opposition to it.

He noted, however, that people usually were against things associated with dancing rather than dancing itself. □