

Baptist and Reflector

May 15, 1996

VOL. 162 ■ NO. 20

STATEWIDE EDITION

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week's
news

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

Brentwood road work sparks challenge

ServanTeam 21 remodeling approved by board

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — In its May 7 meeting here the Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, made three strategic decisions having long range implications on the Executive Board staff, the convention itself, and churches.

Board members approved a staff restructuring plan, a new missions partnership, and dealt with massive intersection changes involving TBC property planned for Maryland Way and Franklin Road, site of the Baptist Center.

There was little discussion about the restructuring, but ramifications of the road work dominated almost two hours of the meeting. Even the city of Brentwood got into the act. Evolving out of the discussions was a recommendation to consider the feasibility of a site relocation.

Coming from overwhelming approval of the major restructuring staff proposal, there will be a distinctive and improved method of ministry as the staff relates to churches.

After about 20 minutes of discussion, the board okayed the plan which has been on the drawing board for several months.

In essence, ServanTeam 21 eliminates Executive Board staff departments and shifts their ministries to seven groups headed by team lead-

ers. The proposal has been spelled out in two recent issues of the *Baptist and Reflector*.

In another historic decision, the Executive Board approved without dissent a Partnership Mission with Costa Rica to begin in 1997 and continue through 1999.

The partnership proposal will be presented to Tennessee Baptist Convention messengers for approval in November at Two Rivers Church, Nashville. The TBC is already joined with Michigan, Poland, and Canada as missions partners. The Executive Committee of the board recommended the partnership, and Costa Rica missionaries Sue Smith and Mark Grumbles were present to explain Costa Rican Baptists' desire to partner with Tennessee Baptists.

Prior to the board meeting, Executive Committee heard a proposal from Brentwood City Manager Mike Walker.

Walker and his associates explained that Brentwood needs additional footage on the Baptist Center's Maryland Way frontage.

The strip of land is required to add a second and longer right turn lane onto Franklin Road, as part of major overhauling of the intersection. It would help alleviate the heavy traffic load.

The master plan also takes land from the Ramparts Office Building across Maryland Way. A bank across Franklin



TBC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR James Porch, right, and Partnership Missions Department Director Terry Sharp, right center, present gifts to Costa Rica missionaries Mark Grumbles and Sue Smith who were at the Executive Board meeting in conjunction with a proposed missions partnership with their country.

Road eventually will be replaced by a shopping mall.

Brentwood is "taking" the strip as public domain for the street restructuring.

As part of the master plan, Brentwood hopes to make the intersection and surrounding area "the center of the city," according to Walker.

In a second part of the design Brentwood would use a portion of Baptist Center green space on the corner of Maryland Way and Franklin Road for a small plaza, or park.

The city would have control of the area and would add stack-stone fences on each side of Maryland Way, appropriate

trees, shrubs, and grass. The city would maintain the area.

The board debated the pros and cons of the plan for about two hours. The main negative factor, according to some board members, was surrendering control of property so close to the building. The beautification plan was soundly defeated.

The Maryland Way footage needed for the turn lane is not negotiable, according to Walker. The city will take it, but offered the board an appraised figure of \$228,100 for loss of property. The figure cannot be reduced, but the board voted to allow the Executive Committee — See ServanTeam, page 2

Share views about family values

BRENTWOOD — Readers are reminded that some design and content changes in the *Baptist and Reflector*, begin with the June 5 issue.

The new look will include a distinct innovation in the front page banner. It will be a more "reflective" concept. Is that enough of a clue?

That is not all. Other design changes will be noted throughout the paper. All changes will be not implemented in the June 5 issue. More will come in future issues. Specific family issues and needs will be explored.

And, the staff wants readers to be involved. For June 5 and subsequent issues, we invite letters about specific topics.

The topic for letters submitted for the first "new look" issue concerns movies and

television shows. Later we will address other topics relating to family values. Tell us why you think programs and movies are trashy or anti-family, anti-Christian?

If you think most are appropriate for family, tell us.

Do movies and television influence families? Are they consistent with the best family values?

Do you think it's all right to view movies and television with a "good" plot and conclusion, even though other aspects are questionable?

What about some opinions on how to change what's happening in this arena, and give some tips on handling trashy programs in the home.

Let's hear from readers on these important family life matters.

Here are some simple rules. Limit your letter (which you may send by fax, (615) 371-2080) to 150 words. We must receive it by May 29. If there are too many letters for that issue, they can have a place in the June 12 issue.

Along with new design for the front page, there also will be other "renovation" of content and layout.

The staff plans to offer a more user-friendly newspaper, more open and readable.

Following the recently approved remodeling of the Executive Board staff, the *Baptist and Reflector* will be your messenger for the transition period.

Tennessee Baptists can depend on their paper to strive to be the best we can be. □
— Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor

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- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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ServanTeam 21 remodeling approved by board ...

— Continued from page 1
to have an appraisal made. Several board members believe the contested strip of TBC property has greater value.

The Executive Board chose to see if another appraisal would prove beneficial. The property strip in question can be taken legally in cases of this sort, the huge traffic flow being the determining factor.

Another reason given by Brentwood was the lack of sufficient routes east and west from the Maryland Way area over to other sectors of Brentwood and surrounding areas.

I-65 and the adjacent railroad complicate an already congested sector, Brentwood officials said.

One of the main reasons the board turned down the beautification idea was that some frontage on Franklin Road would have to be given up. Members said that property was too valuable to give for a plaza or park that would be controlled by Brentwood.

In the discussion of the property surrender it also was mentioned that the present front of the Baptist Center would be less usable if more land was given up in addition to the turn lane that will be taken by the city.

One board member estimated it would devalue the property by at least \$2 million from \$12 million.

The board asked James Porch, Herbert Higdon, and Frank Hawkins to have the appraisal done in an ongoing investigation. The original bid cannot be reduced, but the city could accept the second appraisal.

The Executive Committee's recommendation to the board asked that: "An ongoing investigation including an appraisal be conducted conveying the right-of-way property to the City of Brentwood. If the

difference in the appraisal is an increase of 10 percent or greater than the amount quoted from the City of Brentwood, the executive director-treasurer, president of the Executive Board, and chairman of the Executive Committee be empowered to negotiate and challenge the City of Brentwood's offer, if necessary."

The board approved also a recommendation that money received from Brentwood be placed "in a holding fund to be used for improvement of the building and property necessitated by the reconstruction. Such expenditures would be at the discretion of the Executive Committee."

The final recommendation, which evoked such lengthy discussion only to fail, read: "The Executive Board accept the proposal to grant the easement to the City of Brentwood for the proposed plaza to be constructed and maintained by the City of Brentwood." It failed by about a 3 to 1 vote.

At the conclusion of the property debate, Joe Haynes of Knoxville offered a motion to request the Executive Committee to "institute a feasibility study respective to acquisition of other property and replacing this property."

Efforts to add several at large members to that group failed.

Haynes remarked that although Brentwood had required property from the Executive Board building site twice, and was "okay for now," it would happen again.

"It would be a mistake to leave today and forget about it," he said, adding that a progress report should be made at each Executive Board meeting.

His motion was approved with little discussion. A figure of up to \$25,000 was approved for the feasibility study.

In other actions, the Executive Board:

- approved Golden State Missions Of-

fering allocations (goal) for 1996 to be \$1.3 million.

- approved from the Budget and Program Committee a recommendation that the percentage of CP receipts for budget year 1996-97 be Tennessee Baptist Convention 62.5 percent and SBC 37.5 percent, and the convention begin restructuring the TBC budget with regard to the Preferred Item designation with an initial transfer of 25 percent of the Preferred Item into the TBC budget, and that percent increases for transfer of the PI into the TBC budget continue until all the PI has been included in the TBC budget. This will result in an increase to the SBC portion of the budget.

- okayed a recommendation from the Christian Services Committee that Tennessee Adult Homes' debt ceiling be raised to \$7 million on the condition that TBAH board of directors determine the feasibility of acquiring the proposed [unnamed] facility and votes to purchase it. (Executive Board President Herbert Higdon reported that the facility is in Nashville.)

In the staff remodeling plan, the seven group leaders are: Evangelism/Missions Strategies, Larry Kirk, with Ray Maynard, DOM liaison; Christian Growth Development, Bill Wilson, with Tal Thompson, DOM liaison; Church Staff Leadership, Gary Rickman, with Ray Jones, DOM liaison; Missions Awareness and Involvement, Tim Bearden, with Bennie Creel, DOM liaison; Communication Services, Eleanor Yarborough, with Mike Pearson, DOM liaison; Administrative Services, William Maxwell, with George Hill, DOM liaison; Executive Leadership, James Porch, with Wesley Pitts, DOM liaison; and Carl Bond as DOM liaison with the Ministry Council. □ — Lonnie Wilkey contributed to this article.

State Brotherhood leaders form new association

Associated Baptist Press

BRENTWOOD — Brotherhood leaders from 20 states have formed their own association, they say, to ensure that ongoing disaster relief projects and other men's ministries don't suffer during a planned restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Twenty-six leaders, mostly Brotherhood directors employed by Baptist state conventions, voted unanimously to form the Association of State Brotherhood Leadership at an annual disaster relief roundtable held at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

The new association creates for the first time an identity for state Baptist men's groups separate from the SBC Brotherhood Commission, which is slated to be dissolved in a massive denominational restructuring approved last year. The Brotherhood will be a part of the new North American Mission Board to be located in Atlanta.

The group of state Brotherhood leaders cited recent growth in Southern Baptist men's ministries and expressed concern "that the momentum of these ministries

not be lost during the days of transition," according to a news release written by Will Pollard, editor of the *Ohio Baptist Messenger* and Brotherhood director for Ohio Baptists.

One key concern voiced by state Brotherhood workers is the close working relationship they have developed with American Red Cross for disaster relief. Ten years ago, the presidents of American Red Cross and Brotherhood Commission signed a statement of understanding that outlined the roles of the respective agencies.

While the group's immediate concern is ensuring no break in ministries during the period of transition in SBC agency life, Texas Baptist Men Executive Director Bob Dixon predicted a continuing role for the organization.

"I believe in the future, state conventions are going to be doing more and more to direct their own destinies, picking and choosing from national agencies in their relationships," Dixon said.

Brotherhood Commission President James Williams said the state leaders formed the new association because "they

want to be proactive and make sure our ministries are in no way lost."

He noted this group "in our January leadership meeting,



WILLIAMS

expressed concern that the future of missions and missions education for men and boys might be impaired (by the restructuring).

"I'm glad they feel strongly enough about this to do it," Williams added.

He acknowledged that the group's objectives perhaps could be accomplished through the existing denominational structure without forming a new organization, but the group's formation "reflects some anxiety for the future."

Williams said the move does not represent a break away from the SBC structure.

But he added: "More and more people are questioning the efficacy of mediating structures." If the SBC doesn't "remain in a servant role" it will lose its effectiveness," he warned. □

New FMB video to target children

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will introduce in June a new video, titled "Kids on Mission."

The eight-minute video, produced by the board's electronic media department, is geared to grade-school children and can be used by Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, and other children's groups in local churches.

The new video is one element in a three-part monthly package, "On Mission With God," to begin in June, replacing "Foreign Missions Update," which the board has produced monthly since 1980.

"A huge need exists for quality Christian children's programming," said FMB President Jerry Rankin. "This program fills a void by creating awareness of and enthusiasm for God's Great Commission."

A subscription to the new video costs \$3.95 a month. To order call (800) 866-FMB1. □

Church has family role, Garland tells Texas CLC

By Ken Camp
For Baptist Press

DALLAS — The adopted family, not the nuclear family, is the New Testament model, according to Diana Garland, who recently resigned from the Carver School of Social Work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

"It is the job of the church to cut across boundaries of blood and marriage and define family the way the Bible defines it, not as culture does," she told the governing board of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Garland led members of the Texas CLC in an examination

of Jesus' teachings on the family at their quarterly meeting in April. At that meeting, the commission adopted a comprehensive proposal to enhance family life in Texas (see page 10).

"All of God's children need family. We are created not to be alone. Jesus linked the people he loved into family in a new way," she said.

Garland took Jesus' words from the cross commending his mother to the care of the apostle John and his special relationship with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus as examples of family formation.

"Jesus did not sit down on the hillside and talk to us about how to be family. Some-

times I wish he had. But what he did was model it for us. And that is more powerful."

Shared faith creates stronger family ties than bloodlines, Garland said. Pointing to Jesus' words in Matthew 12 regarding his own mother and siblings and the wider family of God, she noted, "Jesus doesn't paint them out. He's widening the circle, breaking the bounds. He is saying that family is not limited to biological and legal kinfolk."

"The New Testament model is not the nuclear family. It is the adopted family. In God's kingdom, nobody has to be alone. Family transcends kinship for us."

Strengthening families is central to the church's task in evangelism and ministry, Garland said.

Specifically, Garland said churches should:

(1) Foster "family" relationships among groups of 15 to 20 people within the larger family of faith.

(2) "Strengthen families by building community around them," she said. "We need to be about the task of making sure there is nobody alone."

(3) Find ways to recognize and celebrate family ties as they are biblically defined.

(4) Give families the tools for facing conflict and life's struggles together. □

SBC Cooperative Program giving increases in April

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program gifts for the month of April were up 3.66 percent over a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

The total for the month was \$13,117,325, \$463,400 more than the amount given last April.

For the SBC fiscal year to date, October through April, the 1995-96 total of \$86,089,231 shows a .28 percent or \$241,645 over the same time last year.

In designated gifts, the April 1996 total of \$9,449,413 was 10.51 percent below April 1995, but for the year to date, designated gifts were nearly \$4 million ahead of the previous year.

For the SBC CP Allocation Budget, the \$13.1 million for April was \$1.3 million more than the required monthly budget of \$11.8 million. For the seven months of the SBC fiscal year, the \$86 million in CP receipts is \$3.5 million above the budget amount required at this date of \$82.6 million or a 4.2 percent increase. □

FMB appointment service to break 4,200 mark

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Southern Baptists' overseas missions force will reach the 4,200 mark for the first time when their Foreign Mission Board appoints about 50 new missionaries June 12 during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans.

The appointments are projected to bring the total number of Southern Baptist missionaries to 4,219.

Focusing on the theme, "A World of Need," the appointment service will highlight urgent needs for Christian witness across the world. Baptists from around the world will describe the need for missionaries in their areas. In return, new missionaries will tell how they are re-

sponding to a needy world's cry to "come over and help us."

The appointment service will crown the Wednesday evening session of the June 11-13 convention, which is expected to draw 19,000 people to the Louisiana Superdome. The evening session will begin at 6 p.m. with music by the choir and orchestra of First Church, Jackson, Miss. Reports from the Home Mission Board and Baptist World Alliance will precede the foreign board report at 7:20 p.m. The appointment service will conclude the evening.

"It's appropriate to appoint missionaries at the annual meeting since sending out missionaries is what the Southern Baptist Convention is all about," said FMB President Jerry Rankin, himself a

former missionary in southern Asia and the Pacific. "These new missionaries were called out of our churches. They'll be supported by the cooperative giving and sustained by the prayers of SBC churches."

"This is a wonderful opportunity for messengers to the convention and churches from the area to participate in the most exciting thing Southern Baptists do."

The parade of brightly colored flags — an appointment service tradition — will include somber gray banners representing 2,161 "Last Frontier" people groups that have little or no access to the Gospel.

The service also will feature Rwanda missionary Marlene Lee and a drama presentation by members of The Company from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. □



TBC employees recognized for service

Tennessee Baptist employees were honored for service in increments of five years during the May 7 meeting of the Executive Board at the Baptist Center. Among those receiving recognition were, from left, seated, James Alexander, BSU director, Austin Peay State University, 20 years; Jamie Fennell, Central Administrative Division, 5 years; Dianna Hughes, Brotherhood, 15 years; Darlene Johnson, Sunday School, 5 years; Mary Nimmo, Baptist and Reflector, 5 years; David McDonald, Information Services, 20 years; standing, Bob Davison, Brotherhood, 10 years; Charles Nored, BSU director, Middle Tennessee State University, 15 years; Don Mauldin, Discipleship Training, 20 years; Tommy Strong, Camp Linden, 15 years; and Jerry King, Evangelism, 10 years. Not pictured are Terry Sharp, Partnership Missions, 5 years; Dane Anthony, BSU director, Belmont University, 10 years; and Glenda Palmer, Woman's Missionary Union, 10 years.

Government should keep hands out of 'collection plate,' court rules

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Religious groups hailed a May 6 ruling by a federal appeals court that tithes given to a church cannot be seized to pay the debts of donors who later declare bankruptcy.

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed lower-court rulings that ordered Crystal Evangelical Free Church to turn over \$13,450 given by Bruce and Nancy Young during the year before they filed for bankruptcy.

The appeals court, in a 2-1 decision, said confiscation of the Minnesota couple's gifts would violate their free exercise rights. The appeals court found no "compelling reason" to restrict the couple's religious exercise and said the lower-court ruling "substantially burdens" their exercise of religion, thus violating the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Religious leaders hailed the appeals court decision.

"Paying debts is important, but keeping the government's hand out of the offering plate is even more important," said Steven McFarland, director of the Christian Legal Society's Center for Law and Religious Freedom.

McFarland's organization filed three briefs in support of the church. Among those joining the CLS brief at the appeals court level were the Baptist Joint Committee, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, and the National Association of Evangelicals.

Southern Baptist spokesman Will Dodson called the decision "a victory for religious liberty."

The decision "certainly reduces the potential for government to interfere with the operations of a church," said Dodson, director of governmental relations and legal counsel for the CLC.

BJC General Counsel Brent Walker said the court "applied RFRA the way it should have, boldly, and with teeth." □

■ 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. □

A word of testimony

In April 1990 I was called to serve as minister of education and youth at First Church, Lake City. We cherish the fond memories we have of our time there.

One of our fondest memories was brought to light when we recently received word that a great warrior of God was called home to heaven. David Hill and his wife, Joan, were a great inspiration and encouragement to our family in our tenure. Whether it was working with the RA boys, teaching Sunday School, or their love for the Word of God, they set a standard for all of us to strive toward.

But what impressed me more than anything was their love for children lovingly known as the fairground kids. David and Joan were constant and consistent in their ministry to these children and their parents. David truly showed this preacher what a burden for people, especially children, was all about. Their unselfish Christ-centered lifestyle is one that my family and I daily strive to emulate.

I know that David will sorely be missed at the church and the Lake City community.

Yet, even in his death I have heard that people are recognizing their need for Christ and being saved. I also believe God has been preparing someone to continue the work he started through David and Joan.

We are now serving as missionary associates at Resurrection Church in Montpelier, Vt. Pray for our work as we try to teach and show our church and community the love of Christ.

Bob, Sharon, and Aaron Finch
Montpelier, Vt. 05602

MK fellowship

Missionary kids (MKs) for the most part enjoy the best of two worlds. Steeped in the culture and language of the country where their parents serve, plus the benefits of travel and occasional visits to the USA, they usually thrive. However, there can be problems, hang-ups, and just plain homesickness.

Among those are the casual way of life in America, the "slot-machine" approach to cokes and candy, relatives they do not know, and the list goes on and on.

It helps to get with other MKs and talk it out or even to

talk with people who have been there. The MK needs the fellowship and to touch "home-base" and they may have been denied.

The International MK Fellowship Inc. decided to do something about it. "Mission Meeting '96" will take place July 26-31 in Hawaii. Steve Solesbee (MK-Philippines) is spearheading the effort to locate thousands of MKs around the world. SBC Woman's Missionary Union is handling the registration. The five-day conference will feature inspiration, information, break-out sessions, and time for fun and fellowship. For a brochure call (800) 419-0561.

Guy Henderson
Baptist Record
Jackson, Miss. 39205

Miss Di stories

Diana Gabhart was our oldest daughter. She never married, but devoted her personal career to working with children. She died two years ago at 48, losing a battle with cancer. At the time of her death, she had served 11 years as minister of childhood education at First Church, Decatur, Ga.

At the suggestion of her pastor, Peter Rhea Jones, some

of her Sunday morning worship stories for children have been published. We have mailed out many to pastors and friends who could use them. It is called *Miss Di Tells Her Stories*.

Friends who underwrote the publication costs, and her parents, would like for the rest of the books to be given to those who want them and will use them in their work with preschoolers and children. Approximately 1,000 have been sold. The rest have been purchased by her parents to give to workers. Money from the purchase will benefit the Diana Ruth Gabhart Scholarship Fund at Belmont University to assist young persons who are planning to work with children.

You may have as many copies free as workers can use. The only cost is postage. Upon receipt of money for postage, the books will be mailed. Or you may call (615) 385-6790 for postage costs and other information.

Costs are 1-2 books, \$1.75; 3-4, \$2.75; 5-6, \$3.50; 7-8, \$5; and 10, \$6.

Herbert C. Gabhart
Belmont University
1900 Belmont Boulevard
Nashville 37212

Pre-registration available for SBC day camp

For *Baptist and Reflector*

NEW ORLEANS — A missions day camp will be provided at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting for boys and girls who have completed grades 1-6 this year.

The day camp is sponsored by the SBC Brotherhood Commission's Children/Royal Am-

bassador department.

The camp provides a missions education program for children of messengers during all daytime sessions of the convention: Tuesday, June 11, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wednesday, June 12, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; and Thursday, June 13, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (or earlier if the convention adjourns early). Among

the activities planned will be an opportunity for children to speak to home and foreign missionaries.

Pre-registration is essential and the deadline has been extended to May 24.

To pre-register, call the SBC Brotherhood Commission at (901) 272-2461 and request a registration packet. □

Union University to host SBC dinner

For *Baptist and Reflector*

JACKSON — Union University's annual alumni and friends dinner will be held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention meeting June 11 at 5 p.m. in the Jazz/Dixie Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Downtown/Superdome, New Orleans.

David Dockery, Union's 15th president (as of June 1) will be featured on the program.

Cost of the prime rib dinner is \$14 per person. Tickets are available from the university's office of alumni affairs by calling (901) 661-5208 or by visiting Union's SBC exhibit area. □

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests May



- 15 — Pray for Allen Schmidt, executive director for the CCSB, health concerns.
- 16 — Pray for the preparation of churches for Vacation Bible Schools all across Canada. Pray that they truly will be evangelistic events.
- 17 — Pray for Wayne and Joanne Holmes and their children, Amber and Owen, as they are returning to White Horse, Yukon. He will serve as pastor of First Church again.
- 18 — Pray for seminary graduates in Canada.
- 19 — Pray for the preparation of the annual meeting of the CCSB in July. Organization and planning are gearing up this month.
- 20 — Pray for Cooperative Program giving in Canada as it relates to the preparation of the 1997 budget. Pray that Canadian Baptists will be able to do all that God has planned for them.
- 21 — Pray for Betty Wiseman and the group of Belmont basketball players volunteering their time to work with youth in Poland. May their travels and experiences bring them many blessings.



Tennesseans reunite at Brotherhood trustees meeting

Gathered for the April 26-27 Brotherhood Commission trustees meeting, which included a reunion for former trustees, were, from left, first row, Jack Knox of Germantown, who served from 75-83; Mark Lassiter of Ohio, formerly of Germantown, current trustee; Tom Daniels of Germantown, 85-93; back row, Wendell Crews, Athens, 76-84; Gerald Arnold, Humboldt, 72-82; and James Smith, past president of the commission who is pastor of Speedway Terrace Church, Memphis. If the SBC reorganization plan is accepted at its annual meeting, the commission will become part of the North American Mission Board in Atlanta in June 1997.

Living up to standards best for all concerned

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Tom Elliff, an Oklahoma pastor. That's the name of the only person so far identified as a nominee for the Southern Baptist presidency.

Elliff is pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City. He probably won't be opposed, but a second candidate would invoke some interest.

The presidential post, though called an honorary position, is far more than that.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

An honorary position is that of a president in a country where the prime minister has all the power.

Any Southern Baptist pastor can tell you the SBC president has power to change somewhat the face and fabric of the convention which elected him. If there are any doubters,

look at history. Decisions and choices through the years prove the point.

Once elected, the president makes appointments to the Committee on Committees and nominations for the Committee on Nominations. That is "power." It's the mountain stream that becomes Victoria Falls, or in the Baptist world, the historic surge of change, one way or another.

To the extent that leaders allow Southern Baptists to have meaningful participation in the appointment and nominating process, we learn whether they believe in the individual Baptist and have faith in the cooperative spirit.

Usually the appointments and nominations are reflections of the president's persona. That's been true for a long time, sort of a tradition.

Elliff already has given his four stan-

dards by which appointments and nominations will be made. The nominees must know Christ and have a daily walk with him, must be clearly committed to the Southern Baptist view that the Bible is the inerrant and infallible Word of God, must have a Christian walk and commitment acknowledged by his or her peers, must see the appointment as a place of service rather than a place of 'positional glory.' Those are good standards.

Elliff may not realize it, but there probably are several thousand Southern Baptists that fit this description. However, if there is a more narrow criterion yet to be announced, the number is lower. Unless

an elite group with other qualifications is sought, he will have plenty of eligible candidates.

The Christian must always be on the road to maturity in Christ. Paul tells us we must advance from milk to meat in that maturing process. Living daily in Christ and his Word is our impetus. Learning to trust brothers and sisters, and earning their trust is a good standard.

Looking back, we realize that even presidents can err. Prayer all around can pave the way to right choices. The man who would be president should believe that. If so, it must be true that we are emerging toward the light. □

Graham challenges national leaders

Billy and Ruth Graham were in Washington recently to see the President and other national leaders.

It was not an ordinary trip for touring and sightseeing sights around the nation's capital. They were there by invitation.

We reported last week about the Grahams receiving the nation's highest award to civilians, the Congressional Gold Medal, for "outstanding and lasting contributions to morality, racial equity, family, philanthropy, and religion."

The Grahams are known worldwide as preachers and teachers of God's Word and the saving power of Jesus Christ. They are also known as advocates of family values relevance to national welfare.

A large crowd included political leaders as well as religious leaders and nearly all their five children, 19 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Billy Graham was extolled as one of the

five or ten most influential leaders in the 20th century. He is, and more.

Graham, from his heart, sermonized that America is in moral decline. The nation has lost sight of the moral and spiritual principles on which it was established, Graham said. He added, "The solution lies in individuals repenting, committing their lives to God and turning that commitment into action in homes, neighborhoods, and the society." He invited the audience to make that commitment.

He said America has gone too long down the wrong road, and must turn around and go back and change roads. "If we ever needed God's help," he said, "we need it now."

Illustrative of the award's importance, this is the first time it has been awarded to a clergyman, and the third time for a couple. This is a high honor for a couple who have lived out Christ's imperative. □

Are you cleared?

In one of those rare moments, I was inspired to straighten up my sock drawer.

When I completed that delightful task, I was so inspired, I ventured to the next drawer to do some "house-cleaning" there.

This little drawer is special because it contains many treasures, useless perhaps, but treasures nonetheless.

As my fingers scrambled around, moving treasures here and there, they recovered a folded, tattered sheet of paper, tucked away in a yellowed envelope.

I had almost forgotten the privileged status to which I had climbed while serving in the United States Army.

There it was, official proof that Lt. Allen had been cleared to handle matters rated as SECRET!

The national agency check for military authorities found "no information reflecting adversely upon the loyalty, character, or discretion" of the subject under scrutiny.

I was cleared to handle secret information, cleared to send and receive coded messages, cleared for access to all matters rated secret!

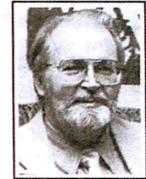
Well, I was impressed then, because previously I could only deal with "confidential" stuff. The last sentence on the notification of clearance said that this would be placed in military records, and passed on to civilian records when I was honorably discharged.

Here's a thought. I suppose this clears me for attendance at all the secret meetings Baptists hold. I can go behind closed doors. I can stay when others are sent from the room because of "executive session."

And why not? Is there any doubt that the United States Army has the ability to conduct satisfactory clearance investigations?

What's that? I haven't been cleared for TOP SECRET? Oh, that's true. I suppose that is the reason. Anyway, I figure it isn't healthy for a person to know too much secret and top secret information.

More importantly, I can't keep secrets from the Lord, and he will share with me all I need to know. Still, secret is secret, isn't it? □



ALLEN



BARKLEY

The real need for intimacy

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

We live in a world that is crowded and full of people. Yet most of us still know the feeling of being very lonely in the middle of a crowd.

When God created mankind, he saw that it was not good for man to be alone, so he created woman to be his companion and help-meat.

Some said that God created the world, including man, in six days and rested. Then he created woman and neither he nor man has rested since.

After all the bad jokes have been laid aside, I still find one of the most common causes of dysfunction in the family and divorce in marriage is the need for and inability to attain intimacy.

Intimacy is best described in that mystical biblical relationship where the two become one flesh.

The real reason we can be lonely in a crowd is that in those superficial relationships there is no intimacy.

Those people only touch lives in points. True intimacy is the total joining of two people.

Sometimes when I ask cou-

ples what the other spouse thinks about a certain issue, or what that person does with specific time blocks, I get the response, "I don't know."

Many couples are surprised at how little they know about each other.

There are other kinds of people who confuse involvement with intimacy.

They assume that because they are involved in common church, social, and civic activities they have intimacy.

But intimacy is not accidentally achieved. It is always intentional.

Howard and Charlotte Clinebell help us understand another facet of intimacy.

They state, "Intimacy on the horizontal, person-to-person plane and intimacy on the vertical or spiritual plane complement and reinforce each other." And I agree with them.

They also say, "Growth-pro-

ducing intimacy is difficult if not impossible without a spiritual center and source."

All of us know non-Christian couples who are happy, contented, and successful in marriage.

But while I am willing to acknowledge that non-Christian couples can have good marriages, it is still my contention that even those marriages would be better with a spiritual dimension.

As the marriage partners grow closer to God and more intimate with him, that develops their ability to be more intimate with each other because they are becoming more alike as they become more like Christ.

One of the main obstacles to intimacy is fear, and specifically the fear of vulnerability.

As we grow closer to God in Christ and experience that kind of love, we find that his love does indeed "cast out all fear."

We become more willing to risk intimacy, and that makes all the difference. □

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

Start with a smile

Sunday School teacher (out fishing late one afternoon): "I just thought about something, this is Wednesday. We should have been home by now so we could go to prayer meeting." Friend: "Yeah, but on second thought, it doesn't matter. I couldn't have gone anyway. My wife is sick."

Take this thought

Most of us do what we want to do. If we really want to do it, we'll find the time. If we don't want to do it, we can also manufacture a reason for not doing it.

Memorize this Scripture

"I must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; the night comes, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me do what you want me to do when you want me to do it. □

Nashville Baptist develops ministry to inner-city children

By Daniel LaFloy Johnson
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Question: What do two Nashville Baptist churches, an "evangelical, conservative" American Baptist church, a Chicago record company, a devoted wife and mother, a vibrant, inner-city ministry, and four or five dozen neighborhood kids have in common?

Answer: The story of Thom Shumate.

Each element of the question is vital to Shumate's story, because each links together to make Shumate the person he is today — a dedicated husband and father of three and a Christian pop singer/songwriter who not only sings about his faith but also puts it into practice as the head of a unique inner-city ministry called "Cottage Cove."

Most recently, Shumate's music career has gotten a boost from Questar/Mission Records, a Chicago-based record company. His first record for the label, "Promise of Love," was released in mid-April and distributed through Warner Christian Distribution.

Shumate's story begins in Marion, Ohio, where he was

born into the home of a musical family. His father's love for bluegrass and country music inspired Shumate at an early age. Later, his dad helped him form several rock bands during his school years.

At age 16, Shumate's own love for music led him to Trinity Baptist Church, an American Baptist church in his hometown, where he was persuaded by a friend to play guitar in a youth cantata. That experience started Shumate's three-year journey toward salvation.

"I was raised in a moral home; so, I was uncomfortable with the world," Shumate said. "After three years of being around the Christian young people in my church, it became a real logical decision for me to accept the Lord, and I made a very innocent step forward."

Although his salvation was intact, his walk with the Lord did not solidify until the sudden death of his beloved mentor and father. "I was devastated," he said. "I sank to my knees and gave God complete control of my life."

Shumate began to travel, performing with bands and as a solo act at concerts in churches throughout the country. It was at one of these con-

certs that Shumate met Kim Pitts, a rebellious, drug-driven young woman who was practically dragged to a Shumate concert. "I didn't want to be around a Christian nerd," she later would laugh.

Shumate had a different perspective. "I remember going to my room and praying, 'If she becomes a Christian, can I have her?'" he said. "I think he (God) let me see everything he saw in her. It's like he said, 'She's a great person.'"

After seven weeks of intense telephone conversations, Shumate led Kim to the Lord. Six months later, they were married. After their marriage, Shumate continued his music ministry but also added another responsibility to his life, becoming Trinity's youth pastor. While serving there, the Shumates became committed to doing inner-city ministry after taking the youth of their church on a couple of mission trips.

After serving at Trinity for several years, Shumate and his family moved to Nashville in 1989. "I admit, I had star dust in my eyes," he said. "I saw (contemporary artists), and I said, 'I can do that.'"

But, "doing" wasn't easy. "When we moved, we cut our

income in half and doubled our expenses," Shumate said. While Kim helped to ease their financial woes by working as a part-time nurse, Shumate began exploring the Nashville music community, eventually working as an associate writer for the Benson Music Group and later as a staff writer for Warner Alliance.

In 1994, after much prayer and soul-searching, the Shumates started Cottage Cove, an inner-city ministry offering Bible studies, free tutoring, and educational opportunities in musical training, art, home-making, child care, and basic health needs.

Kim said they wanted to provide a place and an atmosphere that would lead kids and teenagers to the Lord. "By helping these kids, we are saying to them, 'This is where you are; but, this is what you can be; and the gap is Jesus.'"

The ministry, a result of Shumate's commitment to inner-city ministry, was begun when he approached Judson Church in Nashville about the possibility of using a vacant building the church owned to give children in a mixed neighborhood a safe place to congregate and learn after school and on summer afternoons. The

church agreed to lease the Shumates the building for a nominal fee.

The Shumates then approached another Nashville church; Two Rivers — where Shumate was ordained to the ministry in 1994 and where he now serves as a Sunday School teacher and Kim works with GAs — about the possibility of helping with financial support. The church embraced the ministry and has helped with several love offerings and by hosting a recent benefit concert by Steve Green.

The ministry is having an impact on the neighborhood children. "It's something positive to do with my life," said 15-year-old Bobby Putnam, a ninth-grade student. "It's better than going out and selling drugs."

Another ministry which the Shumates began, Music City Missions, gives youth groups from across the United States an opportunity to participate in inner-city missions by being volunteers at Cottage Cove. Two Rivers houses the youth when they are in Nashville. "I'd love to see more Baptist youth groups come and participate in our program," Shumate said. □ — Johnson is a freelance journalist in Nashville.

Memphis church houses families who are homeless temporarily

For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — During the week of April 14, Second Church, Memphis, through the Memphis Interfaith Hospitality Network (MIHN), opened its doors to three families who needed shelter each night.

The three guest families had a total of seven children. MIHN is the only shelter in Memphis that doesn't separate husband and wife. Instead, it tries to keep families together. Some shelters won't accept children once they've reached a certain age.

The effects of this program offering housing are easily seen.

One family that Second hosted included a mother, father, and two preschoolers. During that week the father found a job as a cook and the mother had a job lined up to begin the next week.

All was not easy and perfect during the week, though. Frank Huffman, MIHN coordinator for Second Church explained. "One of the children was a special needs child. The scariest thing was he got out one evening and a motorist found him. The police brought him back," said Huffman. Although the families were being housed in the church, they stayed together and parents were responsible for their own children.

The network is able to offer the families shelter, food, clothing, job search counseling, home search counseling, and help with locat-

ing schools for their children. The church members are able to meet another need.

"The churches not only offer shelter, food, and those types of things, but also demonstrates Christ's love for the people," said Joey Clifton, associate minister of education for the church.

Second will host three more weeks during 1996. "It's a lot of work ..., but the benefits far outweigh that. It's nice helping the families and seeing our own people understand," said Clifton. A committee is currently evaluating the first week in order to make the next time even better.

Huffman said he would like to see other churches become involved in MIHN. "A lot of people are concerned about homelessness, but don't know what to do. It's good for the church and families involved." There are 18 churches involved in MIHN — three are Baptist. In addition to Second, Brinkley Heights Church also serves as a host church. First Church, Memphis, serves as a day site for families.

"Second has a tradition of involvement in service ministries, and this was consistent with Christ's admonition to visit the hungry and tend to the sick," said Huffman. About 75 church members made the ministry possible.

Interfaith Hospital Network is a national organization which began in New Jersey. MIHN is maintained with private funds. □ — Adapted from a story by Lisa Creswell Busby of Second Church

Baptist to carry Olympic torch through Oak Ridge

For Baptist and Reflector

OAK RIDGE — The Olympic flame is coming through Oak Ridge in June and Brenda Wentworth, church secretary of Edgemoor Church, Clinton, is one of those chosen to carry the torch in the Oak Ridge area. She was nominated by area friends who wrote letters citing reasons she should be selected to carry the torch.

The Olympic torch will be carried through 285 Southern cities en route to Atlanta, according to report. The torch relay leaves Los Angeles April 27 and is set to arrive in Atlanta July 19 for the 1996 Olympic opening ceremonies.

Wentworth, a longtime area resident who now lives in Claxton, has been children's department director of Edgemoor Church for more than 20 years.

She is a volunteer at Knoxville Rescue Mission, Western Heights Baptist Center in Knoxville, and in a local multi-family housing ministry

of her church. Wentworth also is a member of Woman's Missionary Union group at the church.

In 1992 Wentworth had a life-saving liver transplant operation at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville. A woman of great faith, she feels her Lord saw her through this serious operation, and she is thankful for good health and the productive life she is enjoying.

Wentworth still enjoys good health as evidenced by all of her activities. She worked during April and May in the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean with a mission team from Edgemoor Church. They did construction work on a church building in a village there. The effort was the Oak Ridge church's second trip to the Dominican Republic. It was a follow-up to needs found by another group from the church.

In addition to the above, she enjoys bowling, running, and participating in an exercise class. □ — Adapted from a story by Lola Byrd, *The Oak Ridger*

Church media librarians focus on 'strength for ministry'

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — "Strength for Ministry" was the theme of the first Church Media Library State Convention in five years held May 3-4 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

Approximately 150 people from more than 50 churches heard talks on various aspects of church media library work and met several Broadman & Holman authors who shared their testimonies and thanked the church media librarians for being on the "front lines"



AUTHORS Peg Rankin and Welton Gaddy, seated, were among several writers who signed books and visited with participants at the recent Church Media Library State Convention in Brentwood. With them are, from left, Ann and Charles Nored, First Church, Murfreesboro, and Debbie Walker, Clingan Ridge Church, Cleveland.

of ministry in their libraries.

Two workshop sessions provided a diverse selection of classes geared to the unique needs of church librarians.

"The goal for our 1996 convention was to encourage and challenge those called to serve through the media library ministry of their church or association to gain renewed strength for ministry," said Eleanor Yarborough, director of the Church Media Library/Church Recreation Department which sponsored the convention.

"Today's churches are called to meet an unprecedented array of needs. We've discovered that an up-to-date, service-oriented media library ministry is vitally linked to a church's ability to be relevant in today's world and to meet the expanding needs of people. Every church with a library has a resource center for teacher improvement, family enrichment, spiritual growth, and social development," she said. She noted the state media library organization administrative council worked hard with her to provide a program that would be an "educationally and spiritually rewarding experience."

Two church media librarians received special recognition — Helen Brown, First Church, Murfreesboro, Excellence in Ministry Award, and Janelle Houchins, Springfield Church, Springfield, recipient of the Wayne E. Todd Memorial Scholarship Fund. □



TWO CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY directors were honored at the recent Church Media Library State Convention. Helen Brown, left center, First Church, Murfreesboro, received the Ministry in Excellence Award. Janelle Houchins, Springfield Church, Springfield, second from right, was named the recipient of the 1996 Wayne E. Todd Memorial Scholarship Fund. With them are Richard Boyd, Fifth Avenue Church, Knoxville, and president of the state organization, and Eleanor Yarborough of the TBC Church Media Library Department.



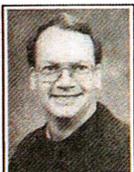
RUTH ROSE, far left, who is working to help begin a church media library at Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, gets pointers from three veteran church media librarians. From left, Dwain Colyer, First Church, Kingston; Edith Baxter, Robertsville Church, Oak Ridge; and Brenda Henderson, Second Church, Clinton.

Tent revival recharges Carson-Newman campus

For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — "It was a sense of God in the community that made it happen," said Jim Wilson, campus minister at Carson-Newman College.

Wilson was speaking not only to the founding of Carson-Newman 145 years ago, but also of a recent campus event which he feels has revitalized the spirit of many students, faculty, and staff members.



WILSON

A recent tent revival was held on campus. An average of 450 students attended each service, Wilson estimated.

Services were led by David Guinn, founder and head of the Georgia-based Action Discipleship Ministries.

"It's incredible to see what students can do when they ac-

cept the challenge to live boldly for Christ," Wilson said.

He noted Guinn's messages were powerful but he "did not use any pressure or guilt-ridden messages that sometimes accompany revival meetings. They were solid challenges to personal commitment."

Three of the services lasted several hours as students continued to share what Christ was doing in their lives and on the campus of Carson-Newman, Wilson said.

Wilson estimated approximately 300 students responded to calls for personal commitment at the revival's five services, and roughly 150 stood silently for a few minutes in the school cafeteria following the final service, praying that revival would continue. "We have students who are facing tremendous problems. This revival has brought much relief and direction to students who have felt hopeless, depressed, and alone in their problems," he said. □

Youth Evangelism Conference inspires teenagers

Lynnville students turn to prayer after tragedy

For Baptist and Reflector

LYNNVILLE — Last November tragedy struck Richland High School when a student took a gun to school and began firing, killing a student and a teacher.

With the memory of that event still etched in their minds, some students at the high school are turning to prayer and trusting in the healing power of God three times a week.

One of the organizers of the group — Shaunda Parsons, a member of New Zion Church Giles County Association — was inspired to begin the group after returning from the Tennessee Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference in March.

Parsons, 17, felt bad the day of the shooting and arrived at school one hour late, after the event occurred.

"By then everybody was leaving. I believe the Lord kept me safe for a reason that morning. This might be the reason," the Giles County teen said of her efforts to organize the prayer group at school.

After the YEC, Parsons went home, called some friends, and the next day 10 students gathered around the flag pole and prayed. The numbers have grown since then with about 50 students who gather at the pole three days a week at 7:45 a.m., before classes start. For about 10 minutes they hold hands, read Scripture, and pray.

She heard a high schooler tell how he and his girl friend had started a prayer group at their school in Memphis. "I saw how God was really working in their lives, and I wanted to see how a prayer group would do here. I think that's what God wanted me to do," Parsons related.

No one is pressured to read aloud or pray and from time to time a teacher or two has come by and participated, she added.

"I don't know that anything has changed in our lives yet because of what we're doing, but I'm sure it will," she said.

Richland Principal Wayne Hobbs said the prayer group is a "great" idea and says he knows of no rule the students are violating because it is strictly a voluntary effort and the students are doing it on their own.

"We don't have any kind of rules that would prohibit that. For those that want to participate and take part, we think it's a great thing," the principal said.

Sam Wallace, pastor of New Zion where Parsons and Cassie Newton, another of the organizers, attend, calls both girls outstanding Christians "who live their beliefs."

Parsons, however, refuses to take credit for the new program at Richland. "I don't want to be taking the glory for it. I give the glory to God," she said. □ — Adapted from a story written by Charlie Appleton in the April 11 issue of the Nashville Banner.

Elliff lists standards for SBC appointments

Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Tom Elliff, the only known nominee for Southern Baptist Convention president to date, listed "four standards" he will use, if elected, for selecting members of key SBC committees.

Elliff, pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla., listed the standards in an interview with John Yeats, editor of

the *Indiana Baptist*, in the newsjournal's May 7 issue.

Election of the SBC president is scheduled for the opening day of the June 11-13 SBC annual meeting in New Orleans.

The SBC president, although an honorary position, has influential appointive powers. The president appoints the Committee on Committees which in turn appoints the Committee

on Nominations.

Elliff said appointees must "clearly be an individual who knows Christ and has a daily walk with him," be clearly committed to the "Southern Baptist view that the Bible is the inerrant and infallible Word of God," have a "Christian walk and commitment," and see the appointment as "a place of service rather than a place of 'positional glory.'" □



Humphreys honored

James E. Humphreys, right, retired director of missions for Carroll-Benton Association, and Tennessee coordinator of the Retired Ministers' Support Corps of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board was recently recognized in Dallas by Annuity Board President Paul W. Powell who presented him with a plaque recognizing his efforts in raising awareness of the Adopt an Annuity Program that provides an extra \$50 each month to retired ministers or their widows who have inadequate retirement incomes.

Women pastors not permitted, Coppenger says

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Bible clearly prohibits women from serving in the role of pastor, said Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Mark T. Coppenger.

"You crash and burn when you defy the clear teaching of the Word of God," he warned.

Coppenger's remarks came during a seminary chapel service originally intended as a panel discussion on women in ministry. He said it provided "the opportunity to show the leadership of Midwestern Seminary on this issue in no uncertain terms. The national office of Baptist Women in Ministry has recently relocated to CBF-supported Central Baptist Seminary here in Kansas City and I welcome the clear distinction between our institutions."

In his chapel message based on I Timothy 2:11-15, Coppenger expressed concern

about the advocacy of women as pastors.

Paul gave three reasons, according to Coppenger, women should not have teaching authority over men: It's an affront to the creation order, to home and family, and to women themselves.

Women pastors also are "an affront to holy Scripture," Coppenger said. Experience-based and culture-based Christians, as opposed to "Word-based Christians," are susceptible to rejecting the biblical prohibitions on women as pastors, according to Coppenger.

Although some churches and denominations embrace women pastors, Southern Baptists traditionally have opposed women as pastors, Coppenger said, citing A.T. Robert-

son, John A. Broadus, and B.H. Carroll.

Coppenger expressed regret that a female student chose to drop his evangelism class following the chapel message. The student "expressed dismay at my anger," Coppenger reported. "I told her it seemed to me that Scripture-twisting and rampant feminism were just cause for passion if anything is." □

Classified

YOUTH/RECREATION: FBC, Joelton, seeks a full-time Minister of Youth and Recreation. The church, near Nashville, has a youth group of about 75 and a SS attendance of 500. Send resumes to FBC, P.O. Box 86, Joelton, TN 37080. Attn: Dean Anderson

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TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the people

■ **Mark A. James** of Knoxville, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, has been named an All-American Collegiate Scholar. To earn this honor, students must hold a grade point average of 3.3 or higher and be nominated by school officials. He plans to graduate in a few weeks.

■ the leaders

■ **Rodney Collins** of First Church, Bean Station, will do missions work in Australia.

■ Westside Church, Halls, honored **Stan Anderson** for 10 years of service as pastor April 28.

■ the churches

■ A Ladies Day at **Wartrace Church, Wartrace**, will be held May 18. It is led by the church's Woman's Missionary Union. Conferences will include "Using Time Wisely," "Being Financially Sound," "Being Physically Fit," "Being Spiritually Fit," and "Giving of Self." It will be from 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. The day will in-

clude a luncheon. For more information call Ruth Neese at (615) 389-6328 or the church at (615) 389-6604.

■ **Baptist Men of Pleasant Hill Church No. 1, Martin**, removed a tree from the Baptist Student Union cite at the University of Tennessee - Martin. A student, Scott Penick, who is a tree removal specialist, also helped.

■ **First Church, Deer Lodge**, will hold revival beginning May 20. Mason Goodman, pastor of Riverside Church will lead the services.

■ **Two Rivers Church, Nashville**, will hold a Divorce-Care seminar May 18. The meeting will cover subjects such as "What's Happening to Me?" "Facing Your Anger," and "The Road to Healing/Finding Help." It begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. Cost is \$25 and childcare is available by reservation. For more information, call (615) 889-5282.

■ **Stones River Church, Smyrna**, will hold revival May 19-22. Darrel Whaley, pastor, First Church, Walter Hill, will speak and G. Ross Maroney Jr., minister of music, First Church, Lavergne, will lead the music.

■ **Little Mulberry Church, Sneedville**, will mark its 120th anniversary with a



HONORED FOR 25 YEARS of ministry by the directors of their evangelistic association recently are **Charles 'Toonie' Cash**, evangelist, and his wife, **Judy**, of Gray. Cash, who is president of the Fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists, served as pastor of Green Pine Church before beginning full-time work as an evangelist in 1972.

Homecoming Day May 26. Worship is at 11 a.m., which will be followed by a luncheon and music and time for fellowship.

■ **Powder Springs Church, Powder Springs**, will hold its 175th anniversary celebration May 19. David Tydings, director of missions, Grainger County Association, will speak.

■ **First Church, Livingston**, will hold Youth Sunday May 19. Jay Austin of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Evangelism Department will speak and Michelle Austin, his wife, will sing.

■ The Woman's Missionary Union of **Narrow Valley Church, Rutledge**, sent items needed for athletes for an Olympics ministry.

■ **Barnard's Grove Church, Bean Station**, has bought five acres of land for future growth.

■ **First Church, Gleason**, will hold a May 26-30 revival. Scott Smith, staff evangelist,



LEADING THE VOLUNTEERS IN MISSIONS Banquet of Lawrence County Association held recently, are, from left, **Tommy Stevens**, pastor, Meadow View Church, Lawrenceburg, and moderator of the association; **Dick German**, TBC Volunteers in Missions (VIM) coordinator of Tullahoma; **Ann Turney**, volunteer in Winchester; **Terry Sharp** of the TBC; **J.C. Carpenter**, director of missions of the association; and **Roy Thompson**, a VIM regional coordinator of Lawrenceburg.

Roebuck Park Church, Birmingham, Ala., will speak and **Scarlett Smith**, staff evangelist of the Birmingham church, will lead the music.

■ **Concord Church, Chattanooga**, will hold its annual homecoming in conjunction with a celebration of its 148th anniversary May 26. Activities include a luncheon, historical exhibit, and an afternoon music program.

■ death

■ **Delbert Payne**, 82, of Clinton, died April 27. He served as pastor of Black Oak Church, Clinton for 21 years. He also served as interim pastor of several other churches. He worked for about 23 years as a coal miner in Saxton, Ky., and Anthrus. He is survived by his wife, **Laura Payne** of Clinton, three daughters, and one son.

■ the hospitals

■ Construction of the Baptist Medical Plaza at Tennessee Christian Medical Center in Madison is on schedule for opening in October. The building is part of a partnership between **Baptist Hospital, Nashville**, and **TCMC**. The agreement also includes a plan for the hospital to manage TCMC's departments of obstetrics and surgery. TCMC is a not-for-profit institution owned by Adventist Health System Sunbelt, Inc., which also is a not-for-profit corporation.

■ the schools

■ An on-line information service for Baptist educators has been developed by **Union University, Jackson**, on the internet. The Baptist Educators Clearinghouse (<http://www.uu.edu/library/bec.htm>) was established to encourage communication and resource-sharing among Baptist educators. It also includes an e-mail service and subscription to the BEC mailing list.



RECEIVING A PLAQUE commemorating the centennial anniversary of **First Church, Lawrenceburg**, is **Charles Dinkins**, right, interim pastor, from **J.C. Carpenter**, director of missions, **Lawrence County Association**.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Lesson from movie

By **Scott Paris**, minister of youth First Church, Tullahoma

Recently my father-in-law rented Walt Disney's "The Lion King" for us to watch with Samuel. I got home in time to catch most of it. What a wonderful movie, full of symbolism and good lessons to be learned.

I was particularly captured by one scene with Timon and Pumba — Simba's new friends. Simba (the lion) was going home to be the new king of Pride Rock. Leaving their home in the lush green jungle with streams and waterfalls, they chase Simba all the way across the desert to catch up with him.

When they catch him and look out

over his homeland, they are not impressed. The land has become barren. The rivers have dried up. The land is cracking open. Trees stand naked and scorched. Wildlife no longer runs on the plain. All is dead, lifeless. They look out over the land and make this profound statement: "You came back for this? Oh well, if it's important to you, we're with you!"

We could learn a lot about friendship from Timon and Pumba. □

Message from sign

By **Larry Fields**, pastor Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville

While returning to Knoxville after conducting a funeral in Nashville, I noticed a bus approaching. I usually

glance at the sign over the windshield to observe the destination. Several buses have a sign that states Charter. You know that is a private group on a designated trip.

The driver of this particular bus either had a keen sense of humor or is one of the most honest men around, because the sign above the windshield was simply, "I'm lost."

I chuckled as I drove by. It reminded me of the lady who remarked that one of the reasons Moses and the men who were leaders in Israel wandered for 40 years in the wilderness was because men didn't ask for directions in those days either.

I don't know what the motive of the bus driver was, but it sure caused me to laugh.

Don't you agree it would make our

task of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ much easier if people without him as Savior would simply wear a sign that stated, "I'm lost?" We would immediately desire to find an appropriate and tactful way to share the Gospel facts or give our testimony.

Yet, it is obvious that people will not wear a sign. We need to get to know them in the neighborhood, the office, the school, etc. We need to find the appropriate time to share our faith and spiritual things. It will not take long before we know if they are lost without Christ or a struggling believer who needs renewed vision and hope.

They don't wear signs, but they are out there. And we have the light and truth. My admonition is to simply do what a popular athletic shoe company advertises: Just do it! □

Texas CLC family proposal awaits BGCT's OK, funding

Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission endorsed a comprehensive proposal to enhance family life in Texas during its April meeting.

Pledging to "boldly go where no state convention has gone before" in the area of family life, the CLC approved a broad-based family ministry proposal that could result in Texas Baptists helping 5,000 families get off welfare and providing parenting mentors to 29,000 at-risk families for one month when their children are born.

Implementing the plan would require \$200,000 in its first year, with the amount increasing each of the following four years. The proposal will be submitted to the BGCT administrative committee for consideration in planning for the 1997 budget. The CLC also will explore possible foundation grants and other funding

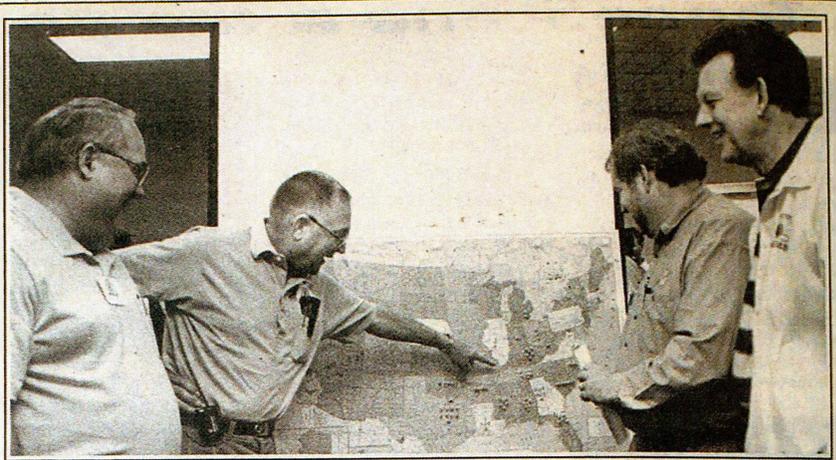
sources. Key aspects of the proposed plan are creating a group of up to 100 certified family minister trainers, enlisting and equipping a 1,000-member "Family Ministry Corps" around the state, and launching Family Training Centers.

Goals include:

(1) Providing infant care information and the offer of mentoring parents for one month to at least half of the at-risk parents in Texas by the year 2000.

(2) Encouraging each Texas Baptist church to adopt one family on welfare and to help them become self-sufficient.

(3) Conducting in 1998 a major "Senior Adult Summit" to focus on the needs and opportunities of senior citizens. □



Disaster Relief Roundtable

The Baptist Center was the site of the 1996 Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief Roundtable. Approximately 75 disaster relief workers from around the country, including Home Mission Board and American Red Cross, attended the meeting in Brentwood. Mickey Caison, far left, national disaster relief coordinator, joined Curtis Fowler, left center, a Tennessee Baptist disaster relief on-site coordinator; Tim Bearden, TBC Brotherhood Department director; and James Williams, SBC Brotherhood Commission president, in looking at a map depicting locations of disaster relief units nationwide.

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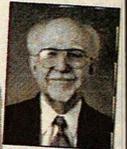
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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

**Life and Work Series
for May 19**

**Focal Passage:
II Thessalonians 2:1-5,
13-17**

Faithfulness

By L. Joseph Rosas III

A redesigned \$100 bill is now in circulation. Ben Franklin's head is larger and slightly off center. Small threads in the paper make counterfeiting much more difficult. The experts say the best way to avoid a fake is to recognize the characteristics of the genuine bill. Physical persecution was one of the things disturbing the peace of the Thessalonian church. False teachers had launched an intellectual assault of the message of Christ's return. Paul identified the nature of the error before giving a full exposition of appropriate truth. He expressed continued confidence in the Thessalonians' stability.

Refuse to be shaken (vv. 1-5). In I Thessalonians, Paul countered their concern that the return of Christ had not come quickly enough. Now their fears had gone to the other extreme. False teachers were indicating the "day of the Lord" had already occurred. Paul said, "we ask you ... not to become easily unsettled or alarmed." The word unsettled translates a phrase meaning shaken from your mind or convictions. Paul said, "Don't let anyone deceive you." A certain event must take place and a certain person must appear before the day of the Lord. The event is the rebellion or the falling away. This probably refers to an increased hostility toward God by those who have not believed the truth. The lawless one is the person that must also be revealed. John referred to him as Antichrist.

Recognize God's Word (vv. 13-14). Paul moved from a discussion of the end time to a positive word about the present based upon his understanding of God's work in their behalf. The end of that work, "God choose you from the beginning to be saved." Paul's confidence in the stability of these believers is due entirely to his confidence in the stability of God's loving purpose for them. The means by which God will accomplish this is through the sanctification of the Spirit. God has taken the initiative in salvation. The hosts of hell may be arrayed against us but God can be trusted to complete the work that he has begun.

Recommit yourself to faithfulness (v. 15). Because God and his purposes are stable, Paul exhorts, "stand firm" and "hold to." The doctrines of grace should never be used as an excuse for lackadaisical or inconsistent Christian living. The believer is able to stand firm only as he holds on to the teachings. We have the advantages of this apostolic witness in the New Testament energized by the Holy Spirit. Paul's appeal is addressed to brothers. In other words, we need each other. The church is the fellowship of faith where we are encouraged. The great truth of the priesthood of all believers is that we are inseparably related to God and to one another.

Remember to look to God for strength (vv. 16-17). The Son and the Father are united in that they as one both loved and gave. The gifts are eternal encouragement and good hope. Paul prays two things: that God will (a) encourage your hearts fortifying them inwardly and (b) strengthen or establish in every good deed and word which is the outward and public evidence of the inward strength. A genuine hope is manifested in a genuine life.

What is it that binds together Paul's thanksgiving, exhortation, and prayer? It is the love of God. The consistency of God's love is the basis for both his call and our completion in Christ. □ — L. Joseph Rosas III is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis.

Riches and anxiety

By Kevin Goza

How appropriate is the title for this week's Bible study. Riches and anxiety always seem to go together. How grateful we should be that Jesus had a lot to say about money and our relationship to possessions.

About riches — vv. 19-21, 24

Jesus began by commanding his followers not to prioritize the accumulation of wealth they did not plan to use for his work (vv. 19-21). He pointed out that wealth accumulated for selfish purposes would not endure. The destructive power of moths and rust were commonly understood in Jesus' day. The only way our wealth can endure is when it is used to make investments in eternal purposes, such as evangelism and missions. In fact, if we really believe in these two priorities of the Great Commission, we will invest heavily in these and other things that bear eternal dividends. You reveal the priorities of your life by where you invest your earthly resources (v. 21).

When Christians attempt to serve the god of money (mammon), they find an inherent conflict. Those who come to Christ become his servants, and our God is a jealous master. Verse 24 refers to the relationship between a slave and his master. In such a relationship, divided loyalties are impossible. Such is the way of the follower of Jesus. It is impossible to be divided. You either walk with him, or you do not.

About anxiety — vv. 25-34

When Jesus says, "Take no thought ..." he is not making a case for a life without future plans. Rather, he is making a case against worrying about the future.

**Convention Uniform Series
for May 19
Focal Passage:
Matthew 6:19-21, 24-34**

In doing so, he uses three illustrations.

First, Jesus talks about food. No one would dispute that every living thing needs food. The birds to which Jesus refers are industrious creatures. However, in spite

of their hard work, they are still subject to nature. But notice that nature is God's way of providing for the birds. Through the totality of his creation, God feeds the birds. Should there be any doubt that God will provide for man, those who are created in his image?

Then, Jesus talked about clothing. Those who were concerned about clothing were called upon to note that Solomon, the wealthiest man in their nation's history, could not clothe himself with the same splendor as God had clothed a simple wildflower.

Finally, Jesus pointed out the futility of a pagan-like obsession with the physical. The child of God is marked by a total dependence upon God. Those who walked the road of anxiety did not reveal the presence of a caring and providing God. Rather, they showed signs of a worldly preoccupation characteristic of people who had never trusted God with their lives.

If God loves his creation so much that he is willing to give it his best, it follows that he would care even more for the crowning glory of his creation — man. When priorities regarding treasures on earth are correct, God will provide for basic human needs.

The final admonition: Make God first in your life (v. 33). Seek him above all other pursuits. He will take care of the rest. □ — Kevin Goza is pastor of First Church, Lebanon.

Call for genuine worship

By Tom Moncrief

People are most often concerned about appearance — how things are done and if they are on schedule. God is more concerned with the motive of people's actions.

For 70 years the people of Zechariah's day had faithfully observed certain fasts and ceremonies. According to God's message through the prophet, however, they had not focused upon God in doing so. Their hearts were empty so their actions brought pleasure to themselves but none to the Lord. This amounted to empty, insincere forms of empty worship. The priests were addressed along with the people because priests were responsible for teaching the meaning of the ritual as well as performing it.

Fasting is an indication of abstaining from food as a sign of deep inner involvement in praying for help and repentance. Mourning was for the loss of the Temple which stood for God's presence with blessings and leadership. Zechariah was aware that worship can become self-serving. True worship is directed toward God rather than self-centered. In answer to their question (v. 3) it really did not matter if they fast or feast at a banquet so long as either was done for self.

Call for justice, mercy, and compassion — ch. 7:8-10

Genuine worship leads to genuine living. The people were called upon to act in compliance with covenant laws. True justice expressed in kindness and mercy should characterize God's people. Such actions express

**Bible Book Series for May 19
Focal Passage:
Zechariah 7:4-6, 8-10; 8:16-23**

results of truly worshiping the holy God. Worship is expressed more out of the service than in the house of worship. It leads to appropriate attitude and actions toward all people. The final test is the motive or intention "in your heart" (v. 10).

Elements of genuine worship — ch. 8:16-19

Emphasis is given to ethical behavior as the very highest form of worship. There should be truth in everyday life and judgment that is factual which makes for peace. Mutual personal conspiracies should be ended. Honesty and faithfulness in worship and all other phases of life are to be expressed. God's presence among his people calls for bringing all of life into line with what pleases him. Attention should be given to eliminating from life whatever God hates.

The fasts they had observed were in memory of the Temple and city being destroyed. The people were returning and rebuilding the Temple. Those fasts could be abolished and replaced with seasons of joy and gladness. These new festivals should promote love of truth and love of peace. As such, they could fulfill covenant requirements.

Drawing others to God — vv. 20-23

Zechariah speaks that genuine worship will so adorn God's people

that others will be drawn. It also leads to evangelistic and missionary zeal expressed in going to others with a message to seek God and pray to him. God's people will actually attract others by the integrity of their faith. The basis of attracting others is "we have heard that God is with you" (v. 23).

Worship is experiencing the presence and power of God in one's life. His presence leads to the faithful life described by God through Zechariah. Really a miracle takes place as the eternal God comes to one's heart and life in response to a submissive spirit reaching out to him. How wonderful that he actually comes to us and through us touches others. □ — Tom Moncrief is a member of First Church, Cleveland.

THEREFORE GO AND
MAKE DISCIPLES
OF ALL NATIONS,
BAPTIZING THEM
IN THE NAME OF THE
FATHER & OF
THE SON & OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT...

MATTHEW
28:19



Texas Baptists to provide refuge to fired ministers

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Texas Baptists are preparing a place of refuge for ministers fired by their churches.

The state's first Refuge House for ministers and their families is being built at Big Country Encampment in Lueders, said Dick Maples, minister/church relations coordinator for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The BGCT has provided a grant to help fund the project, and volunteers are renovating a dormitory into a home for displaced pastors and their families. □

Jimmy Allen's book to remain on market

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Random House's recent decision to cast off Moorings, its Christian publishing branch, should not

adversely affect former Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy Allen's book, *Burden of a Secret: A Story of Truth and Mercy in the Face of AIDS*.

The book, published under the Moorings imprint, tells how one of Allen's sons, Scott, lost his wife, and two children to AIDS following a tainted blood transfusion. Another son, Skip, is HIV-positive.

Allen's literary agent, Barbara Jenkins, said the book was one of a number of titles being absorbed under the Random House label.

Allen is slated to appear on "20/20," the ABC-TV newsmagazine, June 7 for an interview related to the book. □

Draper launches tour of state conventions

Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. commenced a tour to all 35 state Baptist convention offices April 29 when he met with leaders of the Missouri Baptist

Third World countries need obsolete film equipment

By Ken Camp
For Baptist Press

DALLAS — Film projectors gathering dust in church closets could improve the quality of life in developing countries and provide an avenue for Christian witness, according to Baptist layman Bob Sloan of Waco, Texas.

Sloan, vice president of Amigos Internacionales, is soliciting outdated audiovisual equipment to help media libraries in Third World countries. And as vice president for Texas Baptist Men's educational fellowship, he hopes to enlist Baptist teachers as volunteer trainers in educational technology around the globe.

Amigos Internacionales is a nonprofit

agency devoted to Third World development.

Video, CD-ROM, and computer-generated graphics are making 16 mm film obsolete in the United States, Sloan said. But the old-fashioned projectors are cutting-edge technology in developing nations.

Sloan, a 38-year veteran in educational technology, began collecting discontinued films and outmoded equipment about 18 months ago from public school service centers. Already, he has secured more than \$1.5 million worth of resources.

Churches wishing to donate audiovisual equipment or films may call Texas Baptist Men at (214) 828-5357 or send them directly to Amigos Internacionales, 9001 Oakdale, Waco, Texas, 76712. □

Convention at the Baptist Building in Jefferson City.

Draper met in a question-and-answer setting with several state leaders who communicate directly with the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Draper plans to meet with state convention leaders in their work places, rather than in Nashville or at a conference center. His purpose is to strengthen the relationships that often are diluted by changes in Baptist life. □

nations intended for the Mississippi Baptist-affiliated school.

"There's no question about acceptance of responsibility," the 70-year-old Nobles said in a loud, strong voice as he stood before U.S. District Judge William Barbour.

Acting on Nobles' Jan. 17 guilty plea to five counts of a 20-count federal indictment that included charges of wire fraud, mail fraud, money laundering, and income tax evasion, Barbour imposed prison terms for each count and then ordered that the terms run concurrently.

Nobles will in effect serve a sentence of seven years and three months, with automatic credit for the year and three months he was held in federal custody without bail.

Federal law does not provide for parole. □

City to subpoena church records only as last resort

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — The city of St. Louis has agreed to issue subpoenas of church records only as a last resort in seeking to establish the residency of city employees. A group of St Louis pastors had protested the practice in a letter to Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr.

Seven pastors wrote the letter, objecting the action on the grounds subpoenas were a violation of churches' rights under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

City counselor Tyrone A. Taborn, in a letter, said he did not consider such an action a violation of a city employee's constitutional right of freedom of religion. But he agreed his office would not make a habit of issuing such subpoenas.

"I am sorry for any distress this action has caused you or your colleagues," Taborn wrote. "You can be assured that, in the future, the City Counselor's Office will use church records as evidence only as a last resort." □

Terminally ill need care, not assisted suicide, panel told

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Terminally ill Americans need adequate care as they approach death rather than a right to physician-assisted suicide, a congressional subcommittee was told in an April 29 hearing.

Witnesses both opposed to and in favor of physician-assisted suicide testified at the hearing before the Constitution Subcommittee of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee. □

Wingfield elected Kentucky editor

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Mark Wingfield has been elected editor of the *Western Recorder*, the weekly newspaper affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Wingfield, 34, was nominated for the post by the paper's board of directors April 2. Under terms of a covenant agreement between the paper and the state convention, the state convention's executive board retains the right to elect the editor upon the *Recorder* board's nomination.

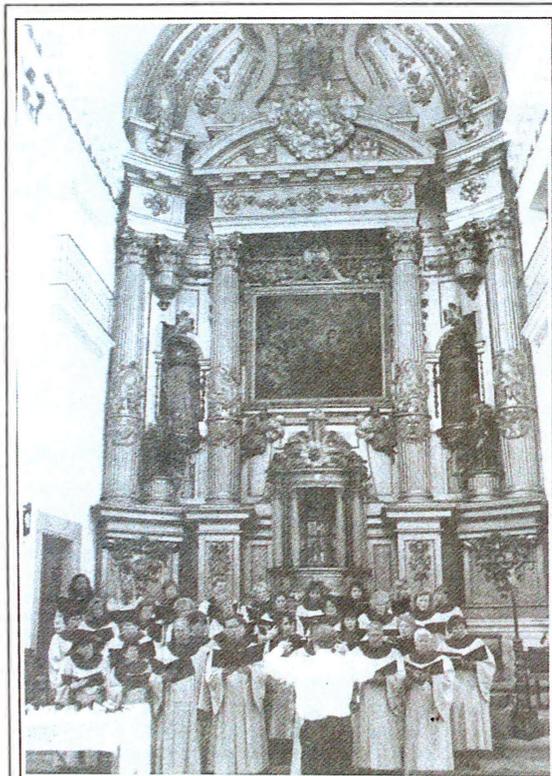
Wingfield received three negative votes out of 102 cast. There was no debate.

Wingfield joined the paper's staff in 1991 as news director and has been interim editor since December when Marv Knox resigned to become associate editor of the *Texas Baptist Standard*. □

Nobles sentenced for diverting money

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Former Mississippi College President Lewis Nobles was sentenced May 2 in Jackson to more than seven years in federal prison after he pled guilty to stealing more than \$2.8 million in do-



Catholics open door to Baptist choir

When a choir from First Church, Mineral Wells, Texas, offered to visit Caceres, Spain, at Easter time, leaders in the staunchly Roman Catholic city not only offered to let them sing in an historic 18th century chapel — they even gave Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary David Borgan the key. Fervent prayer and gestures of goodwill helped win over skeptical civic leaders and gave thousands an opportunity to hear a Gospel witness in music. — Photo by Mike Creswell