

Baptist and Reflector

May 22, 1996

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STATEWIDE EDITION

■ this
week's
news

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Via 'Billy Graham World Television Series'

Estimated 2.5 billion hear Gospel message

Baptist Press

MINNEAPOLIS — An estimated audience of 2.5 billion people heard the Gospel message through the "Billy Graham World Television Series," an evangelistic preaching program featuring Graham and offering what one national broadcaster called "a very powerful counterpoint to the daily drudgery that most of mankind faces."

The World Television Series was aired at prime time April 14 on national television networks and international satellite systems in more than 200 countries — including some traditionally opposed to the proclamation of the Gospel. It is likely that more people heard the Gospel message that day than on any previous day in history, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association reported.

"You can't seem to find happiness. You can't seem to find joy and peace and satisfaction. What is it? What is it that you're missing?" Graham, 77, says on a special one-hour "Starting Over" evangelistic telecast, which made up this outreach along with two Billy Graham feature-length films. "Faith in Christ can fill that

void and give you a reason for living. You can start all over."

During the hour-long MTV-style program, Graham's message was enhanced by music performed by acclaimed Christian artists. Visual techniques such as switching between color and black-and-white images and rapidly shifting scenes were meant to reflect people's desperate search for happiness.

Graham's message was supported by testimonies from one-time ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young, Cliff Richard, and Graham's own son, Franklin.

Government officials and television executives in a number of countries have contacted the BGEA to ask it to rebroadcast the program, interpret it into additional languages, or do another next year.

In South Africa, "Starting Over" was the second-most-watched program in the country's history, behind the inauguration of President Nelson Mandela. The director general of the national network said, "This is what we need." Across the nation, an estimated

50,000 home cell groups viewed the telecast, spanning 400 different religious groups.

The program was aired on nearly 170 stations in all of the former Soviet republics — most on national television, including the major Russian channels. In some republics, the placement of these programs took on state importance, requiring approval from the offices of the president or parliament.

The interpretation of the program into 48 languages helped get prime-time exposure in many countries as well as support from church leaders and government officials, said Bob Williams, BGEA director of international ministries.

"This program is not only evangelistic," a national newspaper columnist in Uganda commented, "but it also comes across very well as a kind of moral rehabilitating program, where material help and spiritual help can go hand in hand. This is the kind of program we would want to see on our (television) screens."

Television commentators called "Starting Over" both "innovative and creative — the Gospel presented in an upbeat and relevant way" and "religious programming that will

compete with what our young people are watching."

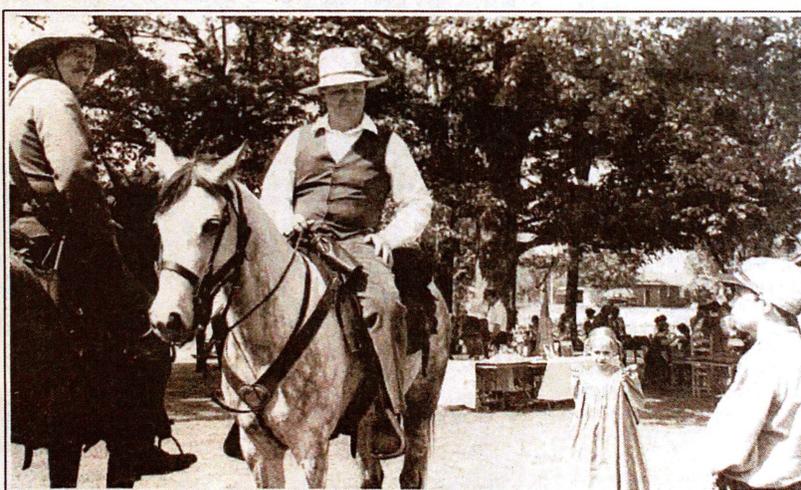
Officials of one channel in Mexico said there had never been so many calls in relation to a program. As a result of the impact of the broadcast, five of the television staff made personal commitments to Christ.

Church leaders similarly welcomed the new format of the World Television Series, which was more than a television program, but actually a worldwide virtual crusade — linking BGEA with one million churches invited to participate in the outreach. Using a program called "Operation Matthew," church members were trained to hold television house parties, offering an international audience the possibility of a new beginning, as they invited friends and relatives to their homes, numbering in the millions, to view the program, and then discuss Graham's message.

More than 450 million pieces of literature were required in 48 languages for follow-up by mail, telephone counseling, and in-home Bible studies. Many churches are reprinting follow-up literature, having already depleted their supply. □ — Compiled by Art Toalston



GRAHAM



Celebrating a Centennial of Ministry in Cash Point

Participating in reenactment activities of Cash Point Church, Cash Point, on May 4 to celebrate the church's centennial are, from left, J.D. Randolph; Tony Hardiman, minister of music; Blaire Hardiman; and Marc Rice. See more on the celebration on page 4. — Photo by Connie Davis

ITF prepares SBC report

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The task force coordinating the restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention met May 14-15 here to work on its report to the SBC in New Orleans in June. The report will include a generalized cost analysis of the restructuring.

The 10-member Implementation Task Force also said the report will contain an "updated timeline" for implementation of "Covenant for a New Century," approved by the SBC last year in Atlanta.

The report will be given to the SBC Executive Committee at its preconvention meeting June 8. Copies will be available to SBC messengers. □

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SBC leaders say restructuring won't lessen disaster work

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — There will be no change in Southern Baptist Convention-related ministry to victims of hurricanes, floods, and other disasters under the "Covenant for a New Century," SBC leaders noted in statements released May 17.

Further, the SBC leaders described as "unilateral" and "not necessary" the creation of a new Association of State Brotherhood Leadership by those leaders, whose work involves, in part, disaster relief coordination in their states.

"This unilateral action of the state Brotherhood leaders is certainly unexpected and surprising. I hope they will re-evaluate their intentions and decide to continue working with (the new North American Mission Board being created under the re-

structuring) in the same relationship of cooperation which has existed for a long time with the Brotherhood Commission," said Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

Robert Record, chairman of the Implementation Task Force overseeing the restructuring, said the ITF "is thoroughly supportive of the convention's disaster relief program.

The Covenant for a New Century restructuring plan, adopted by SBC messengers last year, places the disaster relief ministry with the NAMB. The Brotherhood Commission, which currently handles the assignment, along with the current Home Mission Board and Radio and Television Commission, will merge into one agency under the plan.

According to the Covenant the NAMB

will "assist churches in relief ministries to victims of disaster."

"It would certainly have been beneficial for all concerned had the state Brotherhood leadership communicated their concerns and intentions with the ITF," Record said. "I think they would have agreed that the new association was not necessary."

The new Association of State Brotherhood Leadership was created during the annual Brotherhood Commission-sponsored Disaster Relief Round Table held in early May at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. TBC Brotherhood Department Director Tim Bearden was on the four-member study committee which brought the report recommending the formation of the association which will hold its first meeting in Dallas in December. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Kentucky Baptists may reduce CP

Baptist Press

CEDARMOORE, Ky. — A proposal to reduce Cooperative Program gifts channeled to the Southern Baptist Convention from Kentucky by 2 percent, from 37 to 35 percent, has been approved by the state convention's executive board.

Messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention will be asked to approve the proposal, with the change beginning in 1997.

The proposal reported financial projections made in the late 1970s and 1980s related to Bold Mission Thrust were "unrealistically ambitious" and have not come close to being met by KBC churches. Additional ministries in the state also were cited as a reason. □

New bill would limit alcohol promotion

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Expansive legislation to restrict alcoholic beverage advertising and promotion, especially when directed toward young people, has been introduced in Congress.

Rep. Joseph Kennedy, D-Mass., announced May 16 his introduction of the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse Prevention Act. The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and a variety of religious, consumer, and health organizations have endorsed the legislation.

The legislation actually is a package of six bills which goes beyond measures introduced in previous sessions by Kennedy and Sen. Strom Thurman, R-S.C. Those measures required health-and-safety warnings in alcohol advertisements but

never reached the floor of the Senate or House for a vote.

Among its proposals, Kennedy's new legislation would restrict alcohol advertising on television between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. to only a picture of the product with a voice-over; prohibit alcohol promotion on audio and video tapes, compact discs, computer games, and movies; limit alcohol advertising in publications read by young people; require health-and-safety warnings in print, radio, and television advertisements; prohibit alcohol promotion campaigns on college campuses, and more.

Passage of the legislation will not be easily attainable, Kennedy admitted.

"Anytime you take on" the television networks, beer companies, professional sports, and others, "it might be kind of a long-term project," he said at

a Capitol Hill news conference. "It really requires a groundswell of the American people saying that 'this is something we're in support of.'"

He is willing to break up the bills in the package and attach them to other pieces of legislation in order to gain their adoption, Kennedy said.

The legislation is needed especially because of the alcohol companies' disregard of their advertising's impact on young people and children, he said.

Kennedy cited a recent study which showed 73 percent of children 9 to 11 years old recalled the slogan of the frogs in the Budweiser beer ads, surpassing the slogans identified with Tony the Tiger for Frost-Ed Flakes, 57 percent, and Smokey Bear, 43 percent.

Alcohol also is the No. 1 killer of people under age 24, Kennedy pointed out. □

Baptist leaders urge no change in pro-life plank

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Southern Baptist megachurch pastor Adrian Rogers of Bellevue Church, Cordova, and Christian Life Commission Executive Director Richard Land have joined 10 other pro-life/pro-family leaders in calling on the Republican Party to readopt without change the pro-life plank in its platform.

The statement was drafted in the wake of comments attributed to Christian Coalition Executive Director Ralph Reed by *The New York Times* which indicated a willingness to liberalize the platform language. Reed later labeled the report "totally inaccurate" and said he opposed such changes.

The statement signed by Rogers and Land supports readoption of the GOP pro-life plank from past platforms without any change. □

New church staffers attend orientation in Brentwood

Approximately 85 people attended a New Church Staff Orientation May 13-14 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. New staffers had the opportunity to learn more about the Tennessee Baptist Convention and its ministries and meet the staff at the Baptist Center. Time was given for dialogue with the Baptist Center staff and Executive Director James Porch, who also led a session on 'Baptist Distinctives.' Church staff members and their spouses also visited booths set up by representatives of TBC institutions and the Baptist and Reflector. Below, left, Assistant Editor Connie Davis explains the Church Page Plan to Clark and Lori Moody of First Church, Tullahoma. Below right, Walter Grubb, right, president of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, visits with John Hamilton, pastor of Berclair Church, Memphis, and his wife, Cheryl.



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Need is desperate, families are in trouble

There are enough wounded Tennessee Baptist families to warrant constructive and powerful help with family values.

We all have had personal experience or know of sad situations among friends or family members where something has gone wrong.

Adages won't help. For example, just saying that families that pray together stay together is useless. *But when families really pray together, they are much more likely to stay together.*

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Staying together spiritually is more vital than being together physically.

Christians who spend time whining and hand-wringing about the failure of so many families can become part of the problem, when they could be helping.

Do something! Involve your church.

We must go beyond planning and organizing, studying and philosophizing, arguing and despairing.

Parents blame the church and the school, society blames everyone else, and nobody seems willing to accept the blame for the plummeting sense of high Christian standards and Biblical family values.

Constant emphasis on affluency and dodging personal sacrifice pave the way to loss of direction. If we care at all about our nation's spiritual wellbeing, we will get busy. Individuals, churches, associations, conventions, listen: *needs of families are much more urgent than constantly talking about it. Do something for families.*

Perhaps it is time to put a hold on anything less important than families.

Bravery must replace whimpering, courage must be added to boldness.

This thought is worth reading again:

Frederich Buechner, in *Whistling in the Dark*, said, "A family is a web so delicately woven that it takes almost nothing to set the whole thing shuddering or even to tear it to pieces. Yet the thread it is woven of is as strong as anything on earth."

"It is within the fragile yet formidable walls of our own family that you learn, or do not learn, what the phrase Human Family means."

Most of us have been there, But we never get through with family. Whether

we have a home full of babies or teenagers, whether we are single or grandparents, whether there is compassion and love or severe abuse and acrimony, we never finish with family.

Put God first, then family, even before self. Put Christ in control of your family. Don't take shortcuts. Pray, pray, pray. Look out for danger signals. Don't give in to the banalities of life. Protect children from wrong influences. Be together with them. *Always love.* Family life is as much or as little as we invest in it.

These days between Mother's Day and Father's Day are family prime time. □

Baptist chaplains at work worldwide

Southern Baptist chaplains are busy around the world, literally, because they serve in many unique places, including the United States Army, Navy, and Air Force.

May is the month set aside by Southern Baptists to honor these important people and the ministry they perform.

Last year, 2,412 Southern Baptists served as chaplains and pastoral counselors, and a large number of them worked in Tennessee.

In 1995 179 new chaplains were endorsed by the Home Mission Board's Chaplains Commission. The commission is a group composed of HMB directors.

The ministry they perform as servants is incomparable. They stand by military families and parents of innocent victims. They are ready to affirm law enforcement personnel and prisoners in jails and prisons. They are knowledgeable and caring, understanding and willingness to share

the pain of sorrow, guilt, and disappointment, and the joy of overcoming.

The largest number of the 2,412 minister among military people, including national guard and civil air patrol — 1,001.

Healthcare, including programs for mentally retarded and terminally ill, involves 823 chaplains.

There are 315 assigned to prisons, local jails, and nursing homes.

Law enforcement and fire protection professionals includes 268 chaplains.

But here is the greatest news: in 1995, Southern Baptist chaplains reported 27,246 professions of faith, conducted 47,193 worship services, led 39,387 Bible studies and prayer groups, sponsored 8,151 Sunday Schools, made 1,939,017 visits in work areas, homes, and recreation sites. They provided 269,278 individual counseling sessions.

The numbers are impressive, but this group is impressive. Let's honor them. □

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Ultimate challenge

Mount Everest is the ultimate challenge for mountain climbers.

Positioned between Nepal and Tibet in the Himalayas, it vaults 29,028 feet into the clouds. Everest looks down on the rest of Planet Earth.

People die up there. Still, it is an obsession for many. Though it costs a small fortune and may cost your life, Everest grudgingly has yielded to a few footprints.

Two weeks ago eight people died on Everest's high slopes, most of them on the way down. An unexpected snow storm, not severe, but quick, blasted the climbers even as they fought their way downward.



ALLEN

I heard an interview with a surviving guide who had lost a close friend to death. "Life is fragile up there," he said, "and perhaps the worst time is when you're descending."

"You're celebrating that you made it to the top," he said, "and it's euphoric."

The great danger, he said, is that you have used up all your reserve just making it to the top. And there is no room for even a slight mistake.

He told how his friend Rob died on the descent. Rob was a strong, experienced climber, brave and prepared. He was the small group's sweeper.

A sweeper follows the weaker and less-experienced mountaineers, making certain they follow the leader and keep close. He makes sure no one is left behind. He is like a shepherd, this sweeper.

But Rob, in helping and protecting those weaker climbers, was victim to the sudden storm. He didn't make it down. His body still lies by the seldom-traveled "path," high on the frozen ramparts.

The ultimate challenge, said the friend, costs some people their life, and they must be prepared mentally for that when they tackle Everest.

And some who are veterans, like Rob, the sweeper, lose their lives too. Not because they are unprepared; they strengthen the weak ones.

That is also the definition of the Good Shepherd.

Some folk might say it's foolhardy to tackle Everest. Perhaps, but everyone needs a sweeper, a shepherd. □

■ just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

The preacher noticed a young man coming into the church. Not recognizing him, he asked: "Young man, tell me, are you seeking salvation?"

The young man answered the preacher: "No sir, I'm seeking my girl friend, Susan. Have you seen her?"

Take this thought

So much in life depends on what we are looking for. Two men looked through prison bars. One saw mud, the other man saw stars.

Memorize this Scripture

"What did you go out into the wilderness to see?" (Matthew 11:7).

Pray this prayer

Lord, please help me to look for the right things in the right places at the right times, always. Amen. □

Attributes of a healthy family

This week I'm beginning a series that will look at seven attributes of a healthy family. With much

emphasis on family therapy and treatment, we might overlook one of the most beneficial approaches to family systems health: prevention.

In our technical age we tend to look at the problems rather than the healthy model.

Benjamin Franklin stated an old adage in *Poor Richard's Almanac*, "A stitch in time saves nine." If your first stitch with needle and thread is prompt, you won't have to make nine others in repair.

To produce a healthy family it is better to practice prevention rather than to become proficient in treating symptoms.

For example, a car cannot function as a car if each part does not function properly. One might have a perfect car except for the fuel pump. If the fuel pump is not working the car will not run even with a full tank of gas.

In systems theory, the family is the sum of its parts. This means that each member is inter-related and inter-dependent

■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

upon all the others. As we think about these seven attributes of the healthy family, each member must realize his or her vital role in producing a healthy family. No one is exempt.

Let's consider these seven areas of family functioning and need: experiencing autonomy, expressing acceptance, expecting adaptability, exercising attending skills, exerting attention, extending alliance, and equalizing associations within the family.

In healthy families each member experiences autonomy through individualization. He or she is free to be who they are without fear of reprisal or rejection.

Healthy families also enable individual members to express acceptance. A most obvious need is intimacy, closeness, and emotional attachment.

Healthy families expect adaptability. Members must be

flexible in crisis and conflict situations.

Attending skills is another important aspect of healthy families. Intentional listening and clear perception are important in good communication.

Exerting attention in communication is another characteristic of healthy families. Verbal and non-verbal cues must be congruent.

Healthy families also find strength in the establishment of alliances or role reciprocity. This is more than "making nice" with each other. It involves the security that comes from knowing the other family members can be trusted to be involved in strong, durable relationships.

The final characteristic of healthy families in this discussion, I call associational equalization. Cross-generational relationships with clear boundaries give strength and stability to a healthy family.

For a few weeks we will look at these seven attributes of a healthy family, individually. □



BARKLEY

Famine of Word

Are we having a famine of the hearing of the Word of God in the U.S.? Once in a while we hear this mentioned.

Recently I heard a sermon on the radio about the Word of God. Are we actually hearing the Word, or are we hearing a man who says "listen to me" and proceeds with stories about moral attitudes that we should follow. Often it is not clear just what God is saying to us.

In the sermon mentioned, I wish I had counted the number of times he referred to the Word of God and how important it is that we listen to his Word.

This also applies to teachers of all kinds. We Christians are constantly being observed as

May 29 deadline for special letters

The June 5 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* will carry letters answering this question: Do today's television shows and movies have a negative influence on families?

Tell us why or why not in 150 words or less. Letters must be received by May 29 to be included in the June 5 issue. If there are too many letters for that issue, they will be included in the June 12 edition.

We want to hear from our readers on important family issues. If you have suggestions for future questions, send them to us for consideration. □ — *Baptist and Reflector* staff

to how we live our lives. Do we know the Word well enough to live by it?

Jesus commands us to obey him if we love him. So the question is: Do we know him enough to obey his teachings or are we confused because we do not know what he is saying to us?

When we read the Bible and do not understand it, do we ask him to interpret it for us? I have found that he will when I do. So much of our problem may lie in the fact that we do not ask and we do not listen when we hear the Word.

Dorothy Blake
Alcoa 37701

One special Sunday

I would like for Southern Baptist churches to choose one Sunday each year and call it "Christian Sunday." I would like for us to encourage every Christian in the world to go to church on that Sunday.

This has been on my mind for a long time, so I decided to write to see if we can do anything about it.

I believe many people will go that Sunday. We have certain Sundays for other things like high attendance day to try and get people to come to church and other special days.

Mary Jo Richardson
Nashville 37210

Incredible

Dr. (Mark) Coppenger's re-

marks at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary concerning women are incredible. I will leave aside the issues of exegesis and church history, which Coppenger completely ignores and strike at the heart of the problem.

Many Baptists operate with a double standard — women cannot be pastors, but the Foreign Mission Board appoints women as evangelists/church planters regularly.

Why the difference? Because many pastors simply fear that women will do a better job of being pastors than some men do. It is not about theology or the Bible for people like Coppenger. It's about economics and job security.

Jim West, pastor
First Church
Petros 37845

Cash Point Church steps back in time

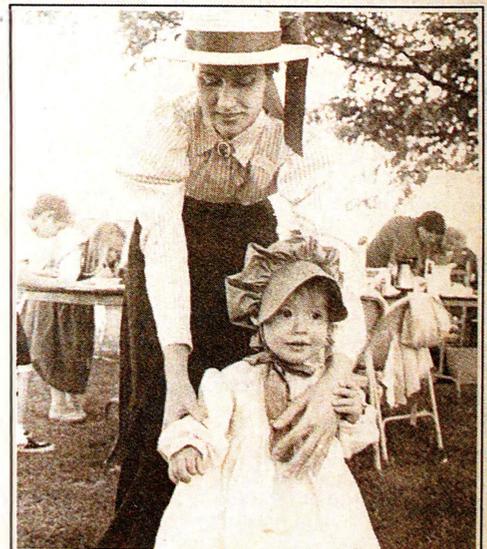


PICKIN', STRUMMIN', AND SINGIN' is a group of musicians and others who are gathered under the shade of a tree by Cash Point Church, Cash Point. The Saturday afternoon occasion was part of a May 4-5 centennial celebration. Musicians include, from left, Bill Worthy, pastor, Oak Grove Church, Goodspring; Allen Crews; Jackie Case; Calvin Holt; Peggy Holt, church pianist; Tony Hardman, minister of music; and Joe Mayberry, director of missions, William Carey Association. — Photos by Connie Davis



QUILTING is Clara Clardy of the church.

▼ **LEARNING** about spinning yarn and thread are, above, Barbara Mitchell, right, and Lauren Mitchell. Spinning is Barbara Batson from Madison, Ala.



► **DRESSED** for the occasion is Caitlyn McNatt and her mother Karen.



Partnership Missions NEWSLETTER

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

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

From the director

By Terry Sharp, director
Partnership Missions Department

For decades Polish Baptists have dreamed of a day when they would be free to build churches, establish a seminary to train ministers, and evangelize their nation without oppression from the Soviet Union. Now freedom has come, but the Polish Baptists with 59 churches and just over 3,500 Baptists, have limited resources to see their dream become reality.



SHARP

The Macedonian Call — Come over and help us — rang out almost two years ago from our brothers and sisters in Poland. Polish Baptists are looking to us to assist them in accomplishing what they cannot do by themselves. You, your Brotherhood, WMU, Sunday School, or church could help our Polish friends' dreams come true.

Would you carefully look at the projects listed in this newsletter and pray about these needs? Maybe God will lead you to be the one who can make a dream of a lifetime come true. If you are willing to work on one of the projects in The Macedonian Call, please call our office.

Tennessee Baptists, let's respond to the doors that God has opened for us to enter.

Terry

Vans needed in Michigan

For The Macedonian Call

The Michigan Baptist Convention needs vans to transport students from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., to Michigan to lead churches.

To help, please contact the Partnership Missions department at (615) 371-2021. If donating, documentation for tax exemptions will be provided. □

Dear Jerry,

Our work in Calgary, Alberta, to teach clowning was very successful. The conference was originally designed only for Southern Baptists. About 10-12 participants were expected.

However, after an article was published in the Calgary newspaper, 60 people of all faiths, including some with no faith, were enrolled. Forty others were turned away because of a lack of space. People came from Edmonton, Alberta, Montana, and flew in from British Columbia!

The three-day session was extremely successful. Sixty new clowns were born and spent Sunday afternoon ministering in six different nursing homes. An ongoing clown ministry of 12 people was established at Trinity Church, the host church.

Two clowns from Georgia, Judy Wright and Sharon Nasworthy, and two clowns from Tennessee, Pat Irick and myself of Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville, led the conferences with the help of two SBC missionaries, Maxine and Gerald Reeves. The Reeves are currently assigned to Montreal in Quebec.

Trinity Church, which is pastored by Rob Blackaby, had its highest attendance in Sunday School and worship service as the clowns led in worship on Sunday morning. Blackaby is the nephew of Henry Blackaby and his wife, Jo Susan Blackaby, is a native of Springfield.

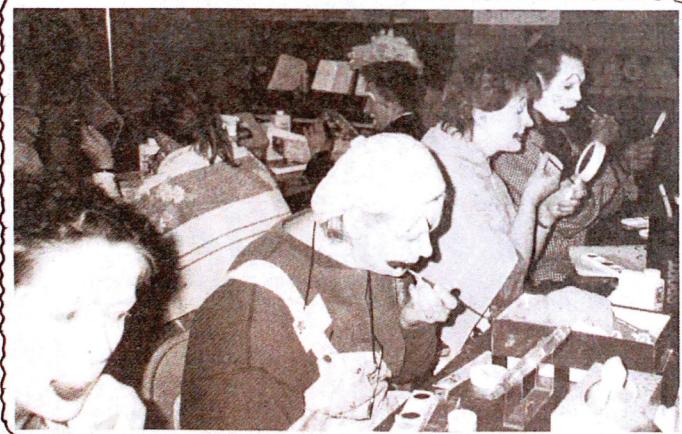
One of the highlights of our conference was working with the pastor and members of a church for hearing impaired people. They invited us to lead in worship at their church on Sunday afternoon. The deaf pastor's wife told me, with tears in her eyes, that our demonstrations of clowning with mime and sign language gave her church a whole new area of ministry that they never thought possible.

Because of contacts made through Tennessee's Partnership Missions, we shared the Gospel with many unsaved people while there. We also left many Christians with new ministry tools.

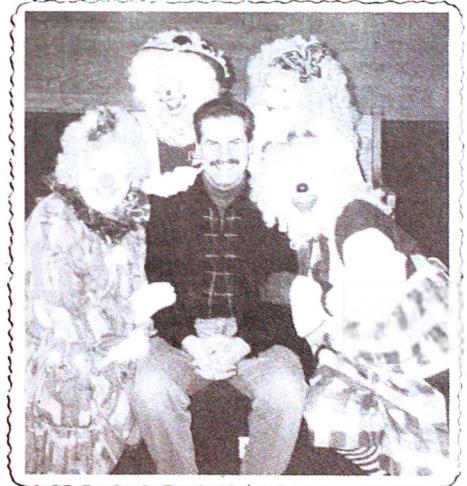
The Canadian Baptist Convention and seminary in Cochran would like for us to return next year to repeat the conference. Trinity Church would like for us to bring Central Church's Love Clowns on a mission trip next spring! You never know just where the Lord may take a clown's smile next.

Thank you for your involvement and support through Partnership Missions.

*Sincerely,
Susan Blackaby*



SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS in the clowning workshop apply clown makeup for the first time.



POSING WITH Rob Blackaby are clowns, from left, Rosie, alias Susan Fendley, Sunflower or Judy Wright, Patticake or Pat Irick, and Sugarfoot or Sharon Nasworthy.

Michigan



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date: Open
Project: Evangelism/Outreach
Place: White Lake
Team Needed: Open
Project #: O-4

Date: Summer
Project: Church Renovation
Place: Charlevoix (Safe Harbor Church)
Team Needed: Open
Project #: N-1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Church Start/Church Development
Date: Summer
Project: Church Planting
Place: Marquette (FBC)
Team Needed: Open
Project #: UP-2

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

Date: Summer
Project: Church Renovation
Place: Szczytno
Team Needed: 2-4
Project #: 11996404

Date: Summer
Project: Construction
Place: Chociwel
Team: 3-4
Project #: 11996428

Date: Summer
Project: Window Replacement in church building
Place: Kozsalin
Team: 3-5
Project #: 11996420

Date: Summer
Project: New Work Sponsor
Place: Drayton Plains (Southern Oaks Mission Church)
Team Needed: Open
Project #: O-3

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

Date: Open
Project: New Work Sponsor
Place: Detroit (First Spanish Church)
Team Needed: Open
Project #: O-3

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

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

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

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

Poland

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

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

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

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

Date: April 15-30
Project: Church Renovations
Place: Szczytno
Team Needed: 2-4
Project #: 11996404

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

Date: Summer
Project: Construction
Place: Chociwel
Team: 3-4
Project #: 11996428

Date: Summer
Project: Window Replacement in church building
Place: Kozsalin
Team: 3-5
Project #: 11996420

Date: Summer
Project: New Work Sponsor
Place: Drayton Plains (Southern Oaks Mission Church)
Team Needed: Open
Project #: O-3

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

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

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

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

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

The project consists of painting the halls in the basement and second floor and installing vinyl wall covering on the first floor where classrooms and administrative offices are located. Seminary needs \$5,000 for paint and related materials.

Date: Winter/Spring
Project: Laying floor and wall tile
Place: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw
Team Needed: 3
Project #: PM11996484

Team will install 600 square meters of ceramic floor tile. The seminary needs \$9,000 for materials.

Date: Open
Project: Install Electrical Fixtures
Place: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw
Team Needed: 2
Project #: 11996494

The seminary needs \$2,800 for materials.

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

The seminary needs \$4,000 for materials.

Date: July or August
Project: Work in Seminary Library
Place: Warsaw
Team: 2
Project #: PM11996425

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

Evangelism
Date: Sept. 1-Dec. 15
Project:

ESL/Bible Study
Place: Bialystok
Team: 6-8
Project #: 11996486

Date: Open
Project: Concert Evangelism
Place: Tamow
Team: Open
Project #: PM11996427

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

Place: Podlaski
Team Needed: 6
Project #: 11996496

Miscellaneous
Date: Open
Project: The church in Tamow needs a team to donate Music Recording equipment that is either used or new and train a person or persons in the church to use the equipment.

Place: Tamow
Team: 1-2
Project #: PM11996426

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

Date: September/October
Project: Assist local church in all ministries
Place: Gizycko
Team Needed: 1-2
Project #: 11996498

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



Canada

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

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

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

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

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

Place: Mississauga, Ontario
Team Needed: 5-25
Project #: PM11996616

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

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

Camp Ministry
Date: July 1-5
Project: Family Camp Pastor
Place: Grande Prairie, AB
Team: 1
Project #: PM11996641

Date: July 29-Aug. 2
Project: Children's Camp

Place: Grande Prairie, AB
Team: 6
Project #: PM1199644

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

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

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

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

Projects with Calgary Church Deaf Fellowship
Date: Open
Project: Search for Significance Workshop
Place: Cochrane, AB
Team Needed: Open
Project #: PM11996627

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

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

VBS/BYBC
Date: July 15-19
Project: VBS workers are needed
Place: Grande Prairie, AB
Team: 3 and up
Project #: PM11996643

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

Miscellaneous
Date: 1-6 months (dates are open)
Project: ESL Teacher
Place: Vancouver
Project: 1-2
Project #: PM1199662

Costa Rica

The relationship of Tennessee Baptists with Costa Rican Baptists is to assist in projects there until 1997, when the relationships becomes a two-year partnership.

Construction
Date: September/October
Project: Construction
Team Needed: 1 team of 8-12
Place: Alajuela, Costa Rica

The Baptist Camp needs help sanding and painting steel beams in the camp's gym, sidewalks connecting several buildings, and shelving installed in bathrooms and dressing rooms.

The Baptist Camp needs help sanding and painting steel beams in the camp's gym, sidewalks connecting several buildings, and shelving installed in bathrooms and dressing rooms.

The Baptist Camp needs help sanding and painting steel beams in the camp's gym, sidewalks connecting several buildings, and shelving installed in bathrooms and dressing rooms.

Thanks from Prince Edward Island, Canada

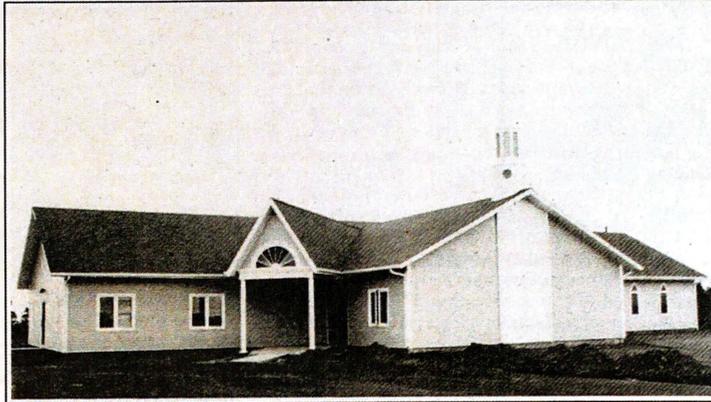
For The Macedonian Call

"Greetings in our crucified-risen Lord! I thank my God everytime I remember you. I always pray with joy because of our partnership in the Gospel."

These are the sentiments of Wallace Jordan, pastor, and the whole congregation of Community Church in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, toward their Tennessee partners.

The church body in Prince Edward Island is rejoicing in their new facilities which were built with the help of Tennesseans. The members are looking forward to upcoming partnership projects to be conducted during the summer of 1996.

"We are grateful to God for the willingness of these teams to come to be partners with us in this ministry," said Jordan. □



THE BUILDING of Community Church, Prince Edward Island, was completed during June 6 - Aug. 4 of last year with the help of 144 volunteers. Of those workers, 130 were Tennesseans.

From the office
of Partnership
Missions

By Christie Hendricks
Partnership Missions Office

Are you involved with Tennessee's Partnership Missions needs?

Many months ago the Partnership Missions Department awaited the "birth" of projects for 1996. This was a time of anticipation not only for us as Tennessee volunteers awaiting our opportunity to go and serve, but also for our partners here and abroad who have a need and made the request for help.

The faxes began flying and soon many projects were delivered to Tennessee by our partners in Canada, Michigan, and Poland.



HENDRICKS

Several months have passed since the first onslaught of new projects. Many of the needs have been met and the people those volunteers have served are rejoicing.

Volunteers continue to serve in Michigan, Canada, and Poland this year in a variety of ways, giving of their different talents. We here in the Partnership Missions Department rejoice in the many victories that are being won in the Lord's name because of these volunteers.

Yet, there are many projects that were identified so many months ago that remain unfilled. These are the needs that touch our hearts, fill our daily prayers, and consume our energy and time. That is why we need you! It is through your prayers, support, and willingness to serve that we meet the needs.

In this newsletter you are going to see many projects awaiting your prayer, your support, or possibly your participation. With that in mind, I ask that you carefully study the projects in this newsletter.

These projects are more than just words in this newspaper insert. They are real, living needs born months ago in places around the world.

You, your church, your WMU, your Brotherhood can help us make these projects a reality for 1996. Pray with us, rejoice with us, and, yes, participate with us in Partnership Missions projects.

If you need any information on partnership projects, call Christie at (615) 371-2021. □

Special Project Requests

Childcare workers in Canada

Canadian Baptists are asking for our help. They are holding their Canadian Baptist Convention in Toronto, and they need Tennessee volunteers to help provide childcare for this large gathering.

The Canadian Baptists are looking for adults talented in music and able to work with children.

Volunteers would be needed July 1-5.

Music Minister Sought

Cornerstone Church in Melvindale, Mich., is looking for a full-time minister of music.

If you are a college student working on a music degree and would be willing to relocate and study in Michigan, this would be good experience. Or perhaps you are a retired minister of music and looking for somewhere to serve God.

Builders in Warsaw

Volunteers are needed in Warsaw to help complete construction of the seminary chapel roof. The Foreign Mission Board has provided the funds to buy materials to complete this project.

Polish Baptists are requesting teams for a minimum of two weeks throughout the months of June, July, and August.

Sound Equipment and Instruments Needed

The Baptist Seminary in Poland has a musical ensemble that performs at churches and community events as part of the ministry of the seminary. Sound equipment would enhance their ministry in many ways.

They need a sound system, amps, speakers, cables, mixer, monitors, stereo tape, and microphone stands and cables. The music group also could use an acoustic

and bass guitar, keyboard, and drums.

Construction/Evangelism Workers Requested

The Bray Road Church in Michigan needs a team of 20 volunteers to help members install and remodel two moveable classroom buildings which are 20 by 40 feet in size. The dates for this project are July 5-14.

The church will have a 60-foot tent for use during the effort. They are hoping to hold evening revival services and Vacation Bible School in the tent with the help of the volunteers.

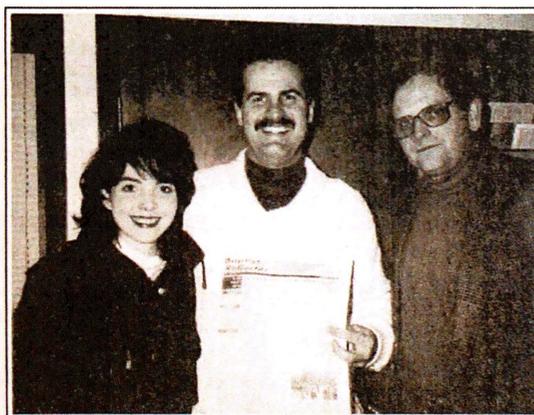
For more information on the above special project requests, contact Christie in the Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership Missions Office at (615) 371-2021. □

Daily Partnership Prayer Requests

May



- 22 — Pray for Betty Henry and the team of 11 she is leading in Tamow, Poland.
- 23 — Pray for Siloe Church in Montreal. They are awaiting a court decision with regard to an action taken against the church. Pray that the decision coming from the court vindicates the reputation of the church and thus, shows God's protection and power over evil.
- 24 — Pray for Cooperative Program giving in Michigan as it relates to the preparation of the 1997 budget.
- 25 — In February we requested prayer for Jim Searls Jr., who was attempting to begin a new work in Farmington Hills. April 14 the group had a meeting to get acquainted with its meeting facilities.
- 26 — On April 21 North Point Chapel held its first service. Jim Searls is the pastor.
- 27 — Pray for church planters to come to Sturgis, Saginaw, Goodrich, Greenville, and Luna Pier.
- 28 — Pray that the men and boys who participated in the Michigan RA Congress this month will continue their work in missions.



Canadian Baptist workers read newsjournal

Rob Blackaby, center, pastor, Trinity Church, Calgary, Alberta, holds the Baptist and Reflector as he poses with his wife, Jo Susan, and with Gerald Reeves, a missionary based in Montreal. The Baptist and Reflector provides the newsjournal to all Baptist pastors in Canada to support the Canada/Tennessee Baptist Partnership.

■ The Macedonian Call

Largest youth team from state to work in Warsaw

For The Macedonian Call

Is Poland ready for Tennessee? Or should the question be, Is this country of approximately 3,500 Baptists ready for 80 Tennessee youth and chaperones?

Well, ready or not, here they come! On June 7, Denny Brinkman, minister of music, First Church, Concord, will be leading just such a team from the church to Tarnow, Poland. The group is the largest from the state of Tennessee to work in Poland since the partnership began.

This is a big step not just for the team who will be traveling great distances to an unfamiliar culture, but it also is a big step for Poland.

This team will easily outnumber the regular members in the church in Tarnow. The church will need two buses to transport the team while in Poland. In fact, when the airplane lands in Warsaw on June 8, 74 per cent of the plane's occupants will be Tennesseans participating in the Tennessee Partnership

Missions project.

The size of the group has created complications that seemed insurmountable. The cost of food, transportation, and lodging will be great. However, since this project was adopted, the Partnership Missions Department has seen the power of the Lord working through everyone trying to make it a reality.

Because of the efforts, Poland's 59 churches and their members will witness the largest evangelism effort attempted by Tennessee Baptists in Poland to date. Although this team's contact will be limited to the community of Tarnow, its witness to Baptists across the country will be significant.

Denny Brinkman and the team have to be commended for their efforts, vision, and faith in the Lord. The Partnership Missions department will be praying for this group and asks that all Baptists across the state keep this team in their prayers June 7-15. □ — Christie Hendricks



POLISH LEADERS gathered during recent missions work in Poland are, from left, Eva Gutkowski, head of women's work for Polish Baptists; Richard Gutkowski, executive director of the Polish Baptist Convention; Malwira and Irek Skoczen, pastor of the Baptist church in Tarnow and his wife; and Anna Ruzuszyńska, a staff member of the church.

Costa Rican missionaries present partnership proposal



VISITING THE PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS office and staff person Christie Hendricks, center, are Sue Smith and Mark Grumbles, missionaries in Costa Rica.

For The Macedonian Call

Mark Grumbles and Sue Smith, career missionaries to Costa Rica, visited with the Executive Board and staff of the Tennessee Baptist Convention May 2-7 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

While in the United States they presented a formal request for a partnership from Costa Rica's Baptist leaders to Executive Board members gathered for their regular meeting. The missionaries also presented some of the needs of the country.

Grumbles said Costa Rican Baptists learned how to support partnership missions a few years ago in a partnership with West Virginia. He noted evangelistic

work in the country has been slow for about 15 years. If Tennessee Baptists will accept the challenge, he said, they can help start revival in Costa Rica and bring revival back to Tennessee as well, he stated. Smith said Costa Rican Baptists began praying at the beginning of the year that God would lead them if the partnership is accepted.

The missionaries hope the partnership, which was approved by the TBC Executive Board, will be approved by the convention during its annual meeting in November. The partnership is proposed for 1997-99.

The missionaries also spoke at the Nashville Association pastor's meeting and in several churches across the state. □

Be a Prayer Partner

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

Prayer Partner

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ FAX _____

Church _____

Association _____

1996 Volunteer Interest Form

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ FAX _____

Church _____ Association _____

Please check ONE of the following areas where you could serve:

Canada Michigan Poland Costa Rica

Type of project you would like to be involved in _____

Date you would like to serve _____

Estimated number on team _____

TenneScene ■ the people, their work

■ the people

■ First Church, Livingston, ordained **Robert Lancaster**, **Rick McDonald**, **Steve Taylor**, **Tim Vaughn**, and **Randy Wilson** as deacons May 19.

■ Tuppertown Church, Oliver Springs, ordained **Ardell Neal** as a deacon April 28.

■ Calvary Church, Mooresburg, ordained **Bryan Dalton** as a deacon May 5.

■ **Earl and Lucille Taylor** of Maryville celebrated 50 years of marriage May 18. Earl Taylor has served as a pastor for 20 years and as a full-time evangelist for 19 years. Mrs. Taylor has worked in the medical field.

■ the leaders

■ Park Avenue Church, Nashville, has called **Wayne Bryant**, pastor, East Niota Church, Niota, as pastor, effective April 15.

■ **Bob Habeck** of Jackson has been called as minister of music, youth, and children of Antioch Church, Humboldt, effective May 5.

■ First Church, Big Sandy, has called **Ronny Simpson** of Paris as music/youth minister. He has served as music/youth minister and music director at Henry Church, Henry.

■ Avondale Church, Rut-



LEADERS OF CAIRO CHURCH, Alamo, pose April 7 prior to burning a note representing debt on a fellowship hall. From left, front row, are **Donald Ward**, **Donald Laster**, **Bill Nichols**, **Kenneth Houston**, **Gene Climer**; second row, **Carey Raines**, and **J.D. May**, interim pastor.

ledge, ordained **Randy Morgan**, pastor, Rock Haven Church, which was a mission of First Church, Bean Station, to the ministry April 28.

■ **Dan Phillips** was ordained as a minister May 5 by Calvary Church, Mooresburg.

■ **Leclair Church**, Memphis, has called **Marvin Tharnish** as minister to youth and **Ron Pirtle** as minister of worship. Both are staff members of Crichton College, Memphis.

■ the churches

■ The music group **Southern Grace** will perform at the **Bordeaux Church**, Nashville, May 26 at 6 p.m. The church also has planned a revival June 9-12. **Milton Taylor**

of South Carolina will speak.

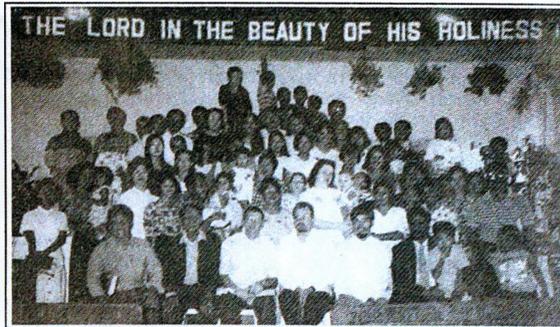
■ **The Cambodian Mission**, Memphis, of Highland Heights Church, Memphis, is seeking a youth worker. The person would work with the youth during Sunday morning worship and at a time during the week. For more information, contact **Durwood Howard**, interim minister of education, Highland Heights, at (901) 454-0546.

■ **First Church**, Paris, is seeking to expand the outreach of its prayer ministry. It is asking leaders from churches with prayer ministries to send samples of their prayer request cards, mail outs, and other related material to **Emily Daniel Cox**, prayer ministry coordinator, FBC, 313 N. Poplar, Paris, Tenn., 38242-3433.

■ **Glenwood Church**, Nashville, will hold Contemporary Worship Services June 9 - Sept. 1 at 8:30 a.m. The service will offer music, drama, and messages focused on life issues. Dress is casual.

■ the schools

■ **Belmont University**, Nashville, has hired **Janet Denton** of A+ Network in Nashville as alumni director. **Denton** was corporate market-



TENNESSEE PASTOR **Glenn Denton**, center, poses with members of a Baptist church in the Philippines and with **Kymm North**, to his right, former Tennessee pastor who is a missionary there. **Denton**, pastor, Hillcrest Church, Lebanon, and **Larry Bottoms**, pastor, Cash Point Church, Ardmore, did evangelism work in Mindanao recently with a team of 55. Over 22,000 people made professions of faith as a result.

ing/advertising manager at A+ Network.

■ **Belmont University**, Nashville, recognized **Helen Brandon Jones**, a retired missionary to Taiwan now of Woodbury, at the May 11 grad-

uation ceremonies. **Jones** received the first diploma earned by the school in May, 1995. The school also recognized **Jerri Puckett**, a student who earned the 10,000th diploma presented by the school.



ACTEENS of Westover Church, Jackson, and their leaders hold food collected for a community food bank. **Acteens**, from left, kneeling, are **Summer** and **Stephanie Griffin**. Standing are **Stan Griffin**, pastor; **Kathy Oster**, **Acteens** director; and **Jimmy Turner** of the food bank.



RECEIVING a plaque for 56 years of teaching six-year-olds in Sunday School is **Juanita Carmichel** of First Church, Dyersburg from **Raymond Boston**, pastor. **Carmichel's** daughter, **Sue Garner**, looks on. The presentation was made April 14.



ACCEPTING a plaque from the **Tennessee Baptist Historical Society** for the centennial anniversary of West Point Church, West Point, is **Jerry Flippo**, right, pastor, from **J.C. Carpenter**, director of missions, **Lawrence County Association**. The celebration was March 17.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Conflict in church bodies

By Calvin Metcalf, pastor
Central Church, Fountain City

Last week I attended a conference sponsored by the Center for Congregational Health. Twenty-five of us ministers from seven states participated in 30 hours of training in such areas as leadership styles, community building, transition needs and opportunities, conflict management, closure of relationships, and other matters pertaining

to healthy congregations.

It was a powerful week of intense exposure to the dynamics of church operations. In the weeks ahead I hope to share my new insights with you as we process the happenings within our own church.

One of the prominent themes of the conference was that the church is always bigger than a minister or any combination of ministers or members. No single minister nor member must ever allow his or her ego to feed upon the church. Self-centered ministry has

a destructive effect upon a congregation.

It promotes distrust and disharmony rather than unity. Church congregations are formed by believers who bond together, not totally from what they can get, but from what they can give. Too many "getters" create an unhealthy congregation.

There is a sense in which all ministers and members are interim no matter how long they may have belonged. The church must always be seen as before us and after us, above us and be-

yond us, bigger and better than us. To ignore or violate this concept can foster conflict. □

Articles included in "Tennessee Sampler — views, insights" are written by Tennessee Baptist church and associational leaders. The articles are chosen for publication from newsletters of churches and associations. The *Baptist and Reflector* does not necessarily concur with the views expressed.

Former Tennessee pastor reflects on two years as SBC president

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Southern Baptist Convention is making progress toward racial reconciliation and the journey must continue, said Jim Henry, SBC president and pastor of First Church, Orlando.

As his second term as president draws to a close in June, Henry said the "response has been good" to passage of the "Resolution on Racial Reconciliation" at the SBC's June 1995 meeting in Atlanta.



HENRY

In an interview with the *Florida Baptist Witness*, Henry noted that while the SBC has made strides in the area of reconciliation, "recent years have sensitized us that we have some miles to go."

"We're not there yet. I think the difficulty in the Georgia church illustrates that," he said, referring to a recent controversy that erupted after a deacon in Georgia allegedly objected to the burial of a mixed-

race infant in a Baptist church cemetery.

Henry emphasized the importance of inclusiveness in Southern Baptist life, saying in committee appointments he has made as SBC president he has tried to be sensitive to the concerns of both minorities and women.

"Also I have asked each committee to be conscious of women and minorities when selecting leaders for boards and agencies in the convention," Henry said. "I told them, 'No quotas, but no barriers either.'"

Henry also suggested that theologians from churches that allow desegregating to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship should not automatically be disqualified from serving.

"I think there's a difference between a church putting the CBF in the budget and a member designating," he said. "I think if the church puts it in the budget, they've made a statement that they're not focused on SBC concerns."

"If an individual designated money to the CBF through a church, that can happen anywhere. It could happen in my church or any other church. In terms of who is going to be in denominational leadership, I believe you have to be committed."

"If a church is saying we're CBF — or both American Baptist and Southern Baptist — you're getting a mixed signal."

They may be wonderful people, but we should be focused in leadership," said Henry, a Tennessee native and former pastor of Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

Henry also suggested there are people within the SBC who are conservative but "maybe don't feel like they would be looked at to serve because they're not in a certain group or clique. I'm not talking about the CBF. Some of our people just want to know that they have an opportunity to serve."

Some within the SBC who feel left out "want to feel like they have a part," Henry said.

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**Life and Work Series
for May 26
Focal Passage:
II Thessalonians 3:3-15**

Work to do

By L. Joseph Rosas III

Paul corrected various misconceptions regarding the return of Christ in these letters. He pointed out that we live in a world in which evil is both operative and yet held in check by the grace of God. How should the Christian live in such a world? This practical concern is the focus of the final chapter of II Thessalonians.

Continue doing good things (vv. 3-5). The basis of Paul's encouragement to faithful living was "the message of the Lord" and the "things we commanded." We have the benefit of that message and the apostolic witness in the completed canon of the New Testament. Further, we can share the apostle's confidence that "the Lord is faithful" both in honoring his word and in sustaining his children by both strengthening and protecting them from the evil one. Both "God's love" and "Christ's perseverance" are essential to continue doing the good deeds that have characterized the life and witness of the church thus far.

Of particular concern in this chapter is the problem of those who are idle. We see five stages in Paul's handling of this problem: he expresses his confidence in the church as a whole; he tells the faithful majority to keep aloof from the idlers; he reminds them of the principle he had laid down during his visit; he directly addresses the unfaithful minority, the idlers themselves; and he gives instructions about those individuals who may stubbornly reject his teaching.

Consider what is best for others (vv. 6-9). Paul had every right as an apostle to make his living from his ministry of the Gospel but he willingly labored night and day so that he would not be a burden to the church. Further, he worked so that he might serve as a model they were to follow.

Behave responsibly (vv. 10-13). The Bible opens with the record of God's work at the dawn of creation. In the Hebrew mind, work and worship were intimately related. The Christian ethic is one that honors hard work. Paul had exhorted them, "Make it your ambition to ... work with your hands." The negative side of that exhortation is found here, "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." Note the play on words, "they are not busy, they are busybodies." These are people who make a practice of doing unnecessary, useless things. They pry into others' business while refusing to mind their own. Paul addresses them directly urging that they "settle down" and get to work. Regardless of their response, the rest of the church is encouraged to "never tire of doing what is right."

Relate to others redemptively (vv. 14-15). The New Testament church is to practice responsible discipline. There is both a right way and a wrong way to discipline. There is also a right attitude and wrong attitude in discipline. The goal is not to punish but to redeem. This of course is possible to the extent that the fellowship of the church really means something in the life of its members. Obviously in a church with inactive and non-resident members such discipline would be difficult to practice with consistency. We need to recover the tough love of redemptive discipline. Every Christian should find a place of positive, practical ministry in the life of the local church. Paul concludes the letter with his own signature. Perhaps this was to distinguish this letter from any epistles falsely sent in his name. We have work to do. When God is finished with us, he will call us home. □ — L. Joseph Rosas III is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis.

Teaching about prayer

By Kevin Goza

**Convention Uniform Series
for May 26
Focal Passage:
Matthew 6:5-15**

The hymn that we love to sing, "Sweet Hour of Prayer," highlights and affirms our great dependence on prayer as believers in Jesus. We are seeing a revival of true prayer among God's people. A prayer revival is a necessary prerequisite to spiritual awakening in the church. Therefore, we must pay close attention to what Jesus taught about prayer. In our passage for this week, Jesus discusses a proper attitude toward prayer (vv. 5-8), and a proper approach to God in prayer (vv. 9-13).

Prayer must be focused on God. Any attempt to use prayer to get the attention of man will go unrecognized by God. In verse 5, Jesus does not forbid public prayer. Rather, he wants his people to approach him with the right motives. Public prayer should reflect the overflow of a vibrant personal and private prayer life. Prayer is not a tool to be used to share information with people, as a closing to a sermon, or as a device to begin a ballgame. When it is used in this way, the only effect it will have is the minimal reward one might receive from the praise of men.

It is evident that, in the mind of Jesus, the prayer closet is the place of real prayer. Verse 6 is closely connected with verse 5. The Christian should make every effort to have a personal, private time of prayer with God. The promise is that when private prayer is practiced, God notices, and is moved to respond to the faith of the prayer warrior.

Unfortunately, many think that length and language is somehow connected to effective prayer. Jesus destroyed that notion in verses 7-8. The phrase "vain repetitions" is a translation of a word that literally means "to babble." Many feel that repeating the same well-worn phrases in prayer is somehow spiritual. Jesus did not think so. Others think that beautiful

language goes a long way in getting the attention of God. Certainly, beautiful language is not forbidden in prayer. However, the words we use must have real meaning to us, and be directed to God. Jesus would be totally pleased if we kept our prayers simple and to the point. That is the method that Jesus used in teaching the great truths we find in the Gospels.

Interestingly, the phrase "vain repetitions" may also refer to nonsense syllables commonly used in the magical incantations of pagan religions. Prayer is a conscious experience. Methods and practices of prayer that go beyond Jesus' parameters are suspect. Be careful not to give satan an opportunity to have influence.

The Model Prayer of Jesus, found in Matthew 6:9-13, is Jesus' example of how God desires to be approached by his disciples in prayer. The elements of praise, commitment, petition, confession, and guidance are present in this exemplary prayer.

Most Bible students do not believe that Jesus intended for this prayer to be repeated word for word as an act of prayer or worship. To do this without thought smacks of the vain repetition Jesus spoke against in verse 7. On the other hand, the repetition of this prayer in a meaningful way should not be seen as anathema. The quoting of Scripture in prayer is always appropriate, and this Scripture should not be avoided when its use is appropriate.

Jesus gave us these prayer guidelines, not that we should analyze them to the point that we are paralyzed, but to guide us into a vibrant and effective prayer life with God. We must pray, for the reaching of our world with the Gospel depends on the prayer of his people. □ — Kevin Goza is pastor of First Church, Lebanon.

Promise of restoration

By Tom Moncrief

The people to whom Zechariah ministered were facing troubling events. Perhaps their greatest need was hope and assurance. Just as we do when we face tragedies, they needed a clear word from God to bring peace to their hearts.

Word is given (ch. 9:1-8) that the Lord is to deal with their neighboring nations and repossess the land. In re-establishing his sovereignty over these provinces he makes a place for returning exiles. His care and kingship for Israel are shown in this way. We are reminded that even when God chastises his people for disobedience his love is still real.

Daughter of Zion and Jerusalem are called upon (vv. 9-10) to recognize the king whom God provides and to rejoice. He establishes his kingdom by speaking peace. His righteous, holy character shows he is just and has the right to rule. Although expected to bring political deliverance he brought instead spiritual salvation to all who placed their faith in him. The people were led into a kingdom of peace where weapons of warfare are not required so they are removed. Peace is further revealed by reuniting and restoring the nation. The Lord's dominion is extended to the limits of the homeland promised to Israel and David.

Even when difficulties and dis-

**Bible Book Series for May 26
Focal Passage:
Zechariah 9:9-12; 10:1-2, 6-10**

couragement are faced we are encouraged by knowing that God and his promises can be counted on as true. In response we should remain faithful to him.

God promises that the covenant leads to the captives being set free so they can return. In returning and looking to the Lord they receive abundant blessings. Those who had been in warfare now experience a quiet role as spectator of the Lord's mighty acts. The people are reminded that all these blessings come from God. They were instructed to pray for the rains to come so crops would produce. The Canaanites had elaborate rituals by which they attempted to ensure rainfall. Thus Baal was made a competitor with God when the Israelites taught their Lord God was the Lord of nature and the one who sends rain.

God's people recognizing him as the source of all good things was important. The way many people pray regarding life's essentials and its catastrophes is a test of true worship. Showers or rain would be given by God to gently develop the crops.

But idolatry and superstition abounded. Idolatry resulted in con-

fusion and trouble. Many idols (money, prestige, power, fame, success) are expected to bring security and happiness today. They cannot supply needs any more than stone images can make rain.

As bad as it is to have no shepherd, it is worse to have shepherds who care nothing for the sheep. That's the kind God's people had but he was to raise up good leaders and replace the bad ones. Far from the Promised Land they would remember the Lord. On hearing God's call they, with their children, will turn back to the Lord. It is indicated that exiles will return from all countries where they had been scattered.

God is always true to his promises. His mercy is always offered and is expressed in abundant blessings for his people who turn to him in faith. Far beyond Zechariah's day another King rode into Jerusalem. Jesus established his spiritual kingdom where peace reigns in the hearts of his people. He is still loving people and drawing repentant hearts to himself. □ — Tom Moncrief is a member of First Church, Cleveland.

Emeritus missionary endured Japanese concentration camp

Baptist Press

CULPEPPER, Va. — Elizabeth N. Hale, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board emeritus missionary to the Orient, died May 8. She was 90.

Hales set sail for China in 1934 and worked there through World War II.

The depth of her commitment surfaced publicly when, during a second World War II prisoner exchange in 1943, the last of 87 FMB missionaries sailed out of Japanese-occupied China. She chose to stay.

In a Japanese concentration camp, she lived on near-starvation rations, working in the hospital with mothers and children and counseling fellow prisoners. She was there when the war ended. Against her wishes but under FMB orders, she left China shortly afterwards.

She worked in Malaysia from 1952 until she retired in 1971. □

Florida quarterback nixes *Playboy* award

Baptist Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Danny Wuerffel, a senior at the University of Florida and the school's nationally known quarterback, has turned down the "Scholar Athlete Award" for *Playboy* magazine's 1996 Preseason College All-America Football Team.

"It's just not something I want to be associated with, and there's a whole lot of bad

connotations that go along with that magazine," said Wuerffel, who has attended First Church, High Springs, Fla., the past three years.

Wuerffel was notified of the honor by the school's sports information department. He told them to call the magazine and tell them "it was something I was not interested in doing."

The senior quarterback has spoken at churches, "True Love Waits" rallies, and youth conferences sponsored by the Florida Baptist Convention. □

Bosnians seek peace in Jesus

Baptist Press

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Thousands of people in this war-weary land seek peace for their battered spirits. Many are finding Jesus Christ is their only remedy.

Larry Cox, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary from Greenwood, Miss., tells of Christian believers who described the day a rocket fell outside their house and killed six neighborhood children who were playing.

"I have seen destruction after hurricanes and earthquakes, but the destruction here is much worse because it was deliberate destruction," said Cox, administrator of the FMB's central Europe work. He visited the area in mid-April.

"There is a window of openness right now in Bosnia. People all over the country are open to talk about their relationship to God," he said.

FMB administrators are preparing a "mobilization plan" to help Southern Baptists respond quickly to post-war needs.

And a church starter for Sarajevo is among the top priority requests for FMB personnel in 1996. □

Baptist Christian schools to hold leadership seminar

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Author and preacher Peter Marshall will be among the featured speakers during the Southern Baptist Association of Christian Schools' "Christian School Leadership Seminar 96" June 13-15 at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

SBACS is a professional Christian education organization of Southern Baptist Christian schools and their leaders. Registration information may be obtained by calling the association at (800) 722-2764.

The association was founded in 1979 and, in 1993, hired an executive director, John Chandler.

SBACS President Frank Webb of Mt. Juliet Christian Academy said the annual business meeting will include discussion of establishing a foundation and an honors recognition program for students in writing, music, art, drama, and sports. □

Southeastern names dean of students

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary has tapped a familiar face on campus to be the school's new dean of students.

Allan Moseley, pastor of First Church, Durham, N.C., and adjunct professor of Old Testament at Southeastern, has been named vice president for student services, dean of students, and professor of pastoral leadership and church ministries.

Moseley said he believes more than 14 years in the pas-

torate have prepared him for the multidimensional job of seminary administrator and professor.

Moseley is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He earned a doctor of theology degree from Samford.

He fills the vacancy left by Danny Akin who resigned recently to become vice president for academic administration and dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. □

Kentucky newspaper adds staff members

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The *Western Recorder*, newsjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, has added two veteran Southern Baptist journalists to its staff, according to Editor Mark Wingfield.

David Winfrey, associate director of news and information at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has been named news director.

A Tennessean, Pat Cole of Elizabethton, also will join the staff as partnership editions editor and special projects coordinator.

Cole has been director of news and information at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1987. □

Texas committee votes against excluding gays

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS — A study committee will recommend against amending the Texas Baptist constitution to exclude churches with homosexual pastors or deacons, because the state convention already has the power to oust those churches, the *Baptist Standard* reported May 8.

The 14-member committee named to study seating of messengers at the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting passed a statement saying homosexuality is forbidden in the Bible. The committee declined to recommend a constitutional change because the convention already has the power to exclude messengers that "would be divisive and disruptive" to the convention's fellowship and purpose.

Both conservative and moderate leaders in Texas spoke out in favor of the compromise on the potentially divisive issue. □

Bowden talks baseball, spiritually

Baptist Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — What does a football coach know about baseball?

Bobby Bowden, head football coach at Florida State University, recently offered this insight from a spiritual perspective.

"First base is Jesus Christ," Bowden said during a worship service sponsored by First Church and Hutchinson Missionary Church at the Montgomery Civic Center.

"Second base is those good deeds, like coming to speak here today," said Bowden, a Baptist layman who said he maintains an active speaking schedule out of a sense of responsibility. "I don't like to hear athletes or coaches say they are not role models," Bowden said. "We are. We're either good ones or bad ones."

Back to baseball: "Third base is those honors like national championships, bowl games, and Heisman trophies," said Bowden, who led FSU to the 1993 national championship.

"The home plate is heaven.

"If you miss first base," Bowden added, "you'll never make it home."

Bowden's comments were reported by the *Montgomery Advertiser*. □

Colin Powell speaks at Mobile fund-raiser; emphasizes family

Baptist Press

MOBILE, Ala. — Retired Gen. Colin Powell said he agreed to deliver the keynote address at a University of Mobile fund-raising event because he is impressed with the school's progress.

More than 350 supporters of the Baptist-affiliated school attended the event, which signals the start of a \$30 million multi-phase campaign to provide additional resources.

At the dinner, Powell stressed family values, saying his parents "were united forever in marriage" and provided him with the values of a family — knowing the difference between right and wrong and believing in God, hard work, and the value of an education.

He prescribed the same remedy for America. "We all have to start thinking as family again." □

Literacy missions result in decisions, new churches

By David Winfrey
For Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Southern Baptist literacy missions volunteers recorded 836 professions of faith during 1995, according to a report from the Home Mission Board.

Literacy ministries also produced at least 99 church starts during the past 10 years, said Gayle Leininger, a national missionary for such work. Most churches were ethnic congregations, resulting from new Christians who took conversational English lessons, she said.

Literacy missions consists of three programs: adult reading and writing, conversational English lessons for ethnics, and tutoring for children and youth.

More than 950 Southern Baptist churches

are involved in literacy missions, according to annual reports from 30 state Baptist conventions.

Last year, nearly 19,000 students were ministered to in weekly classes. More than 4,800 workers minister to adults and children through literacy missions, Leininger observed.

"Every time those students meet with a tutor or teacher, the Bible is read," Leininger said. "It's relational evangelism in its best form."

Southern Baptists trace their advent in literacy missions to 1956 when Congregationalist missionary Frank Lauback Sr. challenged Southern Baptists at a Baylor University chapel service to get involved. Out of that the Home Mission Board conducted its first workshop to train people how to do it, she related. □