

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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this week's news

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MOVING? Cut out and mail address label and new address to *Baptist and Reflector*, 28, Brentwood, Tenn.

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Tennesseans respond well to WMU AIDS effort

By Teresa Dickens
 For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Southern Baptists gave \$126,457 and 123,598 items to support local and global AIDS ministries through Woman's Missionary Union's second national ministry project, Project HELP: AIDS.

Of the totals, \$17,461 and all of the items were donated by Southern Baptist churches to AIDS ministries in their communities and states. The remaining funds, \$108,996, were given through the WMU Vision Fund to support the House of Hope in Vitoria, Brazil, an AIDS hospice under the direction of Southern Baptist foreign missionary Karen Gray.

The top 10 states in monetary contributions to the project, including monies donated to local and global ministries, are Kentucky, \$18,441; Alabama, \$14,094; Tennessee, \$10,799; South Carolina, \$9,807; Texas, \$9,755; Virginia, \$8,839; Georgia, \$8,775; Arkansas, \$7,208; Missouri, \$4,814; and Mississippi, \$4,498.

The top 10 states in items donated are Georgia, 17,828; Texas, 15,663; Kentucky, 11,658; Arizona, 10,701; Alaba-

ma, 10,239; Tennessee, 9,464; Arkansas, 8,244; Mississippi, 6,841; Virginia, 5,269; and Missouri, 4,426. The items donated by churches have included a variety of things, including personal hygiene products and handmade quilts for children with AIDS.

"The response to Project HELP: AIDS has been phenomenal," said Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director. "While it might have been expected that there would be much criticism and little participation, the opposite has been true. Many pastors have written or called to express their gratitude to WMU for opening up a very sensitive area for understanding and ministry. We will never know the full impact this project has made."

Trudy Johnson, WMU special projects manager, agreed. "These totals reflect only a portion of the impact this emphasis has made in our churches and their communities," she said. "Based on the letters, telephone calls, e-mail messages, and personal testimonies we have received, persons who are HIV positive and who have AIDS have heard the message that Southern Baptists care about them."

"The project has indeed opened many doors for Southern Baptists to share the love of Christ with people who have been affected by AIDS," said Sandra Nash, chair of the Project HELP: AIDS Task Force and WMU executive board member. "I am pleased that WMU members have taken the risk in leading their churches to reach out to these individuals and families who so often are shunned and misunderstood."

Among those who have seen the impact of Project HELP: AIDS are professionals who work in ministries related to AIDS. Johnson referenced an e-mail she received from Malcolm Marler, AIDS chaplain at Birmingham hospital, in which he wrote, "Thank you WMU for opening more doors in Baptist and other faith communities with Project HELP than opened in 10 years before in the religious community."

Fred Loper, national missionary for medical missions with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, echoed Marler's comments. Loper is a member of the Project HELP: AIDS Task Force and has led hundreds of AIDS conferences during the emphasis in churches, associational and

statewide events, and on college campuses.

Loper said his experiences with Southern Baptists over the past year had revealed several things to him. First, Southern Baptists are positive about and interested in ministering to individuals affected by AIDS.

Secondly, he noted, Southern Baptists are "amazed at how much AIDS has already affected us. Inevitably during each of the meetings where I taught, people shared how AIDS had affected their own lives, their family members' lives, or their church families' lives. For some people, it was very eye-opening. They did not know that it had touched where they live."

Thirdly, the project has drawn the attention of individuals and groups outside of Southern Baptist life. Loper noted in many of the places he has been non-Southern Baptists and in some cases, non-Christians, were there.

Noting the national project does not officially conclude until September, Johnson said churches and individuals wanting to order resources related to the project may do so by calling WMU Customer Service at (800) 968-7301. ■



Holston Association elects officers

During the 210th Bi-annual Session of Holston Association, leaders and newly elected officers, from left, Tal Thompson, director of missions of the association; David Carr, pastor, Tusculum Church, Greeneville, moderator; Ron Murray, pastor, Central Church, Johnson City, assistant moderator-elect; and Steve Playl, pastor, Woodlawn Church, Bristol, moderator-elect; pause during activities. The meeting was at Central Church.

TBC churches continue strong CP support in May

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists continued their strong support to the Cooperative Program in May.

Gifts from TBC churches reached \$2,445,360 for the month, more than \$160,000 given during the same month a year ago.

Total gifts for the fiscal year to date are \$17,065,643, an increase of \$1,586,746 or 10.25 percent over the same seven-month period last year.

The budget needs for the TBC after seven months is \$15,732,078. "We are grateful for the giving of our churches and trust it will continue during the summer months ahead," said TBC Executive Director James Porch. — B&R

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Leaders recommend change in mission statement

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A change in the wording of the mission statement in the Covenant for a New Century is to be recommended to the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee by the president of the Executive Committee, its chairman, and the chairman of the Program and Structure Study Committee.

The trio announced May 30 they will recommend the Executive Committee, during its pre-convention meeting June 8 in New Orleans, amend the mission statement to include the phrase, "to the glory of God the Father." If the Executive Com-

mittee gives its approval to the amendment, it would, in turn, recommend it to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans June 11-13.

Paul Brady, pastor of Ranch Acres Church, Tulsa, Okla., had expressed concern over the lack of notice given to God the Father in the mission statement. He made a motion at the 1995 SBC meeting calling for a correction which was referred to the Executive Committee. In its September 1995 meeting, the Executive Committee declined to act upon his motion.

Morris H. Chapman, president of the Executive Committee, said, "I believe that it is the wise thing and the right thing to

do for the Executive Committee to revisit the question."

Noting the Covenant ought to magnify Southern Baptists' doctrinal agreement and mission commitment, he said, "If the mission statement as it is written has the potential to cause concern or confusion among Southern Baptists, then it needs to be reconsidered. That Southern Baptists believe in the Trinity is not in question."

Mark Brister, chairman of the PSSC agreed, "For the sake of theological clarification, we are suggesting to the Executive Committee that it include this reference to God the Father in the mission statement of the Covenant." ■

Panel OKs bill to combat homosexual marriages

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A House of Representatives subcommittee voted May 30 to approve legislation designed to enable states to refuse recognition of homosexual marriages.

The vote by the Constitution Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee marked the first action taken on the Defense of Marriage Act, H.R. 3396.

The bill says no state shall be required to recognize a homosexual marriage from another state. It also amends federal law to define marriage as "only a legal union between one man and one woman as

husband and wife" and to define a spouse as "a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife."

The 8-4 vote to report the bill favorably to the Judiciary Committee was split along party lines, with Republican members voting for it. Four amendments, two which would have seriously altered the bill, were offered by Democrats but defeated.

The legislation was introduced in both the House and Senate in early May in response to an expected Hawaii court ruling which threatens to legalize homosexual marriage in a sweeping way. In a case scheduled to go to trial this

summer, it is anticipated a Hawaii court will declare homosexual marriage constitutional.

If such a union is declared legal in Hawaii, it likely would be considered legal in all other states under the full faith and credit clause of the U.S. Constitution, unless a state is able to show it has a compelling policy opposing such unions. Eleven states including Tennessee have enacted legislation banning homosexual marriages, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

"It is gratifying to see the House move swiftly on this critical piece of legislation," said Will Dodson of the South-

ern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"The Constitution Subcommittee, under the leadership of Charles Canady, is to be commended for its action on this matter," Dodson added.

Opponents of the bill argued it is unnecessary, unimportant, a violation of states' rights, and political posturing in an election year.

Rep. Barney Frank, D.-Mass., said the bill was not required because states already are able to exempt themselves from the laws of other states.

Proponents of the bill argued it is unclear how the courts will rule minus congressional action. ■

Oklahoma pastor still only candidate for SBC president

Compiled from ABP report

NEW ORLEANS — With only two weeks remaining before the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 11-13, Oklahoma pastor Tom Elliff of First Southern Church, Del City, apparently will run unopposed for the presidency.

If no one else is nominated when the election is held June 11, it will be the first time since 1942 that a non-incumbent has run unopposed.

According to an Associated Baptist Press report, Elliff was the choice of about 80 conservative leaders, including most of the men who have held the office since the conserva-

tive swing of the convention began in 1979.

The group which included supporters of current SBC President Jim Henry, met in Atlanta last November to agree on a nominee — and thus avoid a repeat of the awkward 1994 showdown among conservatives that produced Henry's election.

Elliff was the consensus choice, although the group almost tapped Paige Patterson, architect of the conservative movement, for the president's post, according to several of the men present.

According to the ABP report, Elliff received six more votes than Patterson in a secret ballot vote. Patterson re-

turned to say he would withdraw, leaving Elliff as the group's choice.

Those leaders say Elliff's election would ease their concerns that Henry's appointments to key SBC committees have slowed the momentum of the conservative movement. Henry abandoned the practice of picking committee members who had been scrutinized by core conservative leaders.

Supporters of Henry say he fulfilled his promise to enlarge the pool of Southern Baptist leadership in a way that will create a healthier convention.

Still, others say Henry's tenure has changed nothing.

Although Elliff's consensus candidacy may indicate peace

in the conservative camp, it is not necessarily a sign of progress to Henry, who argues for a wide open election process, as in years past, when five or more presidential candidates were offered. "I think having two nominees is better. It creates a sense of more participation," Henry said.

Henry insists he supports Elliff's nomination and respects the "godly men" who selected him. But he says the need for a hand-picked candidate to preserve conservatives' gains is passe.

"Unless we are threatened in some way by people who are not committed to conservative values, then it would probably be best for it to be open." ■

Road work limits access to Baptist Center in Brentwood

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Major road construction on Maryland Way will limit access to the Baptist Center for most of the summer.

According to Mike Walker, Brentwood city manager, Maryland Way will be

closed on or about June 10, from the traffic light at the Franklin Road and Maryland Way intersection, down to the traffic light at East Park near the west end of the Baptist Center's main parking lot.

Access to the center will continue from the current Franklin Road entrance (east), and at the East Park traffic light.

Walker said the plans call for Maryland Way to reopen about Aug. 16, even though some road work will continue in the area.

Visitors to the Baptist Center should remember to choose the entrance most convenient, depending on their route to the building. — B&R

SBC leaders explore ways to eradicate racism

By Dwayne Hastings
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A task force charged with exploring ways to eradicate racism within the Southern Baptist Convention held its first meeting May 26 in Nashville.

The racial reconciliation task force, a panel formed earlier this year by the Inter-Agency Council, a group composed of the chief executives of SBC agencies, boards and seminaries, focused on examining ways SBC entities could become more reflective of the ethnic and racial makeup of the convention's membership.

"We have to realize that we're the ones responsible now," said James T. Draper Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and a member of the task force formed by the IAC in response to adoption of a racial reconciliation resolution at last year's convention in Atlanta.

Members of the task force, representing the entities of the SBC, spent most of the day describing efforts to overturn racial and ethnic bias within the convention as a whole and their particular agencies.

The task force acknowledged the challenge of getting the racial reconciliation mes-

sage to local churches, noting there is positive news on the issue not being heard by the people in the pews. The group agreed the CLC could act as clearinghouse for reports of reconciliation between believers and for suggested reading lists from the six seminaries in the area of cross-cultural relations.

Richard Land, chairman of the task force and president of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, acknowledged any transformation of the Southern Baptist Convention will have to be worked out on "person-to-person, family-to-family, church-to-church basis," saying the reconciliation will only be lasting if it begins at "the local level and works its way up to the convention leadership level."

"Racism is a sin problem," Land said. "It is a functional denial of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are seeking reconciliation because we have been reconciled in Christ Jesus — that empowers us and impels us to seek reconciliation with others," he said, citing the apostle Paul's "ministry of reconciliation" in II Corinthians 7:15.

"There needs to be very clearly taught and proclaimed the theology of reconciliation

going right along with our Christology, soteriology, hamartiology, and the like," said Gary Frost, pastor of Rising Star Church, Youngstown, Ohio, and current second vice president of the SBC.

"We need reconciliation doctrine in the midst as well so that those who are going to fight against what God is doing will have to fight from other bases than theological," Frost continued, "We need to lay a very strong theological base."

Task force members called for the development of a "pool of resources" — black and ethnic Southern Baptists who are willing to serve within the convention's structure.

"The leadership needs to be more reflective of the constituency," Frost said "Ideally, it would resemble a rainbow — the entire spectrum of American society represented within the structure of the Southern Baptist Convention."

The task force suggested the next president of the SBC meet with the Committee on Nominations immediately after his election at the convention in New Orleans "to personally appeal to them to increase the ethnic and racial representation on our boards of trust." The panel further called for

"an aggressive implementation of programs to increase racial and ethnic minorities on agency program staffs and in student recruitment."

"We have to find ways to make the distinction between acknowledging it has not been a level playing field in the past — apologizing for that and seeking to work redemptively to change that — without getting into a situation where you have different standards for different people," Land continued.

Land warned the convention must not degenerate into setting "quotas and set-asides" to guarantee minorities positions within the convention leadership.

The CLC leader explained the task force has a responsibility to not be misunderstood on this issue, saying, "There is an enormous difference between voluntary goals and mandated quotas."

Frost noted few blacks had grown up in Southern Baptist churches so there is a lack of awareness of the denominational structure and operation. "There has to be mentoring where you develop relationships at various levels so you can bring along people to understand how the system works." ■

Volunteers needed for evangelism effort in Moscow

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Southern Baptist volunteers are still being recruited to work with leaders and members of local Baptist churches in the Moscow region during the 1996 Moscow Evangelism Project, June 27-July 10.

The Brotherhood Commission is seeking four teams of four to five volunteers each to serve in four specific target areas of greater Moscow, as outlined by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries and local Russian Baptists.

The estimated cost per person for the trip is \$1,557, which includes air fare from New York, lodging, meals, in-country transportation, and insurance. Team members will be housed in private homes, local hotels or dormitories, depending upon location.

For more information, contact Herschel Wells, associate director of Adults in Missions at the Brotherhood Commission, at (800) 280-1891. ■

Workshop leaders share tips on parenting at Southwestern

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — "God gives us two ears and one mouth.

"Parents should listen and speak in that ratio with their children," Phil Briggs said in the "Developing Parent Ministry" conference held recently at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Briggs, professor of youth education and church recreation at Southwestern, teamed with conference leader Rosemary Hoover of Independence, Mo., in presenting the workshop.

Noting parent ministries currently are a popular subject in Baptist circles, Briggs applauded Southwestern for being on the forefront of the ministry for more than 20 years.

"We were doing parent ministries before parent min-

istries were cool," he said.

Conference participants were asked to complete several inventories to establish an understanding of the relationships between teens and their parents. Other exercises analyzed parenting styles involving teens, via such phrases as, "I don't have to give you reasons, just do as I say."

"Teens are living in a difficult age," Hoover noted.

"Their peers will hassle them for talking to their parents — teens want to be independent and talking with their parents gives a perception that they still depend on their folks."

Briggs and Hoover cited 10 keys to keeping love the focus of a parent-child relationship.

(1) Watch what you say and the way you say it.

(2) Listen eloquently, realizing you don't always have to

be right.

(3) Sacrifice as an expression of love, not because of the need to be a martyr.

(4) Be patient.

(5) Make your times together positive, constructive, affirming.

(6) Mutually give and receive with your teens.

(7) Be courteous.

(8) Do not take advantage of your teen's vulnerability.

(9) Have a short memory of evil and a long memory of good.

(10) Never let the commitment of love for your child die.

They also recommended improving communication by enjoying fun activities with their children. "My son wasn't much of a talker until we started golfing together regularly," Briggs said.

The workshop was presented during Youthworks 96. More than 375 participants from 10 states attended the conference — an annual effort to keep youth leaders abreast of the latest methods and trends in the field. ■



On 'sacred trust'

Alabama board, Samford agree

Associated Baptist Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama Baptist leaders have approved a "covenant of sacred trust" with Samford University aimed at resolving a conflict over who chooses the school's trustees.

Under terms of the agreement, approved May 17 by the Alabama Baptist state board of missions, trustees would be nominated jointly by the university and the state convention's commission on boards and commission, approved by the convention, and then elected by Samford's board of trustees.

Samford trustees altered the school's charter in 1994 to make the board self-perpetuating to shield the university from fundamentalist takeover.

Since 1841, Samford's board of trustees have been chosen by the Alabama convention.

The covenant was approved by a special "reconciliation committee" named last year to seek to resolve the dispute. The covenant calls on the university to "cooperate" with the state convention by submitting a budget request and annual report to the convention and by allowing the convention to participate in electing the school's trustees.

The state board approved the covenant with only one negative vote. The university's trustees endorsed the covenant enthusiastically, said Samford President Tom Corts. The proposal must be approved by messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention in November. ■

Volunteers aid tornado victims

Baptist Press

MOUNT WASHINGTON, Ky. — Less than five hours after tornadoes destroyed more than 1,000 homes in Bullitt County May 28, Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volun-

teers were on the scene.

By early dawn May 29 volunteers had established a command post and prepared meals for about 2,500 people that day and helped 27 residents clear their yards and homes of fallen trees. ■



opinion

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 confirm, it will be returned.
- ▶ Opinions and ideas expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the *Baptist and Reflector* and its staff.

TENNESSEE BAPTIST PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS



Partnership Prayer Requests

June

- 5 — Pray for the Canadian Southern Baptist Foundation and its leader, Glen Crofts of Arizona.
- 6 — Pray that all of the Canadian churches will give offerings to the convention.
- 7 — Pray for funding for five painters to paint the exterior of the apartment building at the Polish seminary in Radosc.
- 8 — Pray for Jennifer Vantrese of Dyersburg who will work with Baptist student ministries in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.
- 9 — Pray for World Mission Conferences held this year.
- 10 — Pray for funding for workers to refurbish the exterior of the Polish Baptist Union Building in Warsaw.
- 11 — Pray for these churches in Canada without pastors — Armstrong Avenue in Vancouver, Hope in Victoria, Droverscourt in Edmonton, Allan in Allan, Cophon in Cophon, Muskoday Indian Reserve, First in North Battleford, and Harvest in Brandon.

Supports view

A letter in the May 22 issue questioned motives of Dr. Mark Coppenger (and others) who believe that women should not be pastors. The writer claimed that Coppenger ignores "issues of exegesis and church history" in taking this position and that fear rather than theology inspires this view of women's role in the church. Such charges are in error and serve only to cloud the issue.

I remember Coppenger as a fellow student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in the early 1980s. When our New Testament professor raised the issue of women pastors, Coppenger responded from a strong theological standpoint.

Furthermore, a position paper Coppenger distributed recently to Midwestern students includes a detailed biblical exegesis on the subject. In it he cites such biblical scholars and Baptist stalwarts as John A. Broadus, A.T. Robertson, and B. H. Carroll. (In addition, the paper reveals Coppenger's high view of women in God's service.)

On such an emotional issue, I would urge my brother pastor to stick to biblical discussion and not to impugn the motives of other Christians.

*Bill Horner, pastor
Pleasant Hill Church
Orlinda 37141*

Small circle

To me, the apparent arrogance in the chapel remarks of the Midwestern Baptist Sem-

nary president is appalling. A small view of Scripture was evident in his words during an intended panel discussion on women in ministry.

Exclamation mark! Period. Close the door. Draw a small circle. It is imperative that Baptist men and women submit to the authority of the Word that was made flesh and dwelt among us and still dwells. It is crucial in this chaotic world that both men and women say "yes" to the call to prophesy, pastor, minister to a hurting, angry, confused world. That is "love's prerogative."

From our study overlooking Cherokee Lake, I shall remember our world, our denomination, particular persons. Dr. Mark Coppenger will be included.

*Zenona Faust Harris
Talbot 37877*

Different opinion

I have never responded to an article in the *Baptist and Reflector* before. However, after reading the May 15 issue, I felt compelled to voice an opinion on the article entitled "Women Pastors Not Permitted, Coppenger Says."

Mr. Coppenger needs to "wake up and smell the coffee." We are about to enter the 21st century. We are not in the first century. Since Mr. Coppenger is taking such a literal translation of I Timothy 2:11-15, he is telling me I am not saved because I cannot bear children.

Excuse me! I am saved because I believe God sent his one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to be born of the virgin

Mary and the Holy Spirit; to be wounded for my transgressions, resurrected from the grave, and now reigns in heaven.

Mr. Coppenger is also telling me I cannot stand in front of any congregation and sing. A song presented in the right spirit can touch more hearts than a spoken sermon.

If women are to be seen and not heard, fewer people will know that God loves them.

*Connie L. Blair
Knoxville 37923*

Violence deplored

I think television shows and movies have a negative influence on families, especially if they show violence, rape, murder, etc.

Parents should watch television with their children and advise the children not to copy superheroes and tell them why violence is bad. Some children don't understand the reality of murder.

Parents should let television stations know what programs are bad.

One television per family was better because the family could discuss the topic during commercials.

The television should not be a babysitter.

*Kay Harris
Tennessee Ridge 37178*

Great concern

There is a great concern in my heart as I see God's people drifting away from the old paths.

While seeking materials for our VBS this year I found the only material printed for youth comes from the NIV Bible. While not fully sure it is correct, my concern does not stop with this version. It seems we are allowing so many versions into our churches.

How are we to teach our children to hide God's Word in their hearts (put it to memory) with all these versions?

May God help us to be careful with what we receive and bring to our children.

Please, Sunday School Board, give us resources using the KJV too.

*Cecil D. Bradshaw
Elizabethton 37643*

Needs filled?

If television is successful in influencing families, then it is because television fulfills a need or want. If television did not fulfill a need or want, then it would not be successful in

influencing families. Perhaps Christians are envious that television has more influence on families than they have! (Christians have negatively influenced me.)

Television is a two-way street. So does television reflect reality or is reality reflected on television? Perhaps both or neither.

There is a simple answer to television, turn it off! No one is compelled to watch TV! I am responsible for what I watch or don't watch! Who elected me (or anyone else) to be a censor!

*Jim Pennington
Johnson City 37604*



Baptist beliefs



for your family

Building strong family members — autonomy

families matter — by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor



BARKLEY

Autonomy is a cherished possession and an abused privilege in the family today. Every one of us needs the comfort of being accepted just as we are without strings and stipulations.

Can I be a good parent if I don't buy my child a new car for graduation like some of his friends' parents? Can a daughter be accepted if she does not make the same level of grades as her sister or brother?

Just as in the body of Christ (the church), all the parts are valued and needed, so also the family. Healthy families are families where every member is a cherished and important part. There are no second class family members.

Parents in healthy families instill a sense of self-worth that is not contingent upon performance. A little boy may not be able to catch a football, but he may draw a

boat better than anyone else in kindergarten. The wise parents build on the child's strength.

A part of honoring father and mother also is allowing for their individualization. Children should accept their parents for who they are without placing unrealistic and unreachable demands upon them.

Murray Bowen and other family systems theorists have called this concept of differentiation of self the cornerstone of family systems theory. Just as the chain is as strong as its weakest link, the family is as healthy as its weakest member. Healthy families are characterized by the individual strength and stability of each individual member.

This idea of autonomy and individualization also generalizes into other areas of family life. I see many parents who be-

lieve they must treat each family member the same. At Christmas time, each person must get the same number of gifts. Each child must be punished the same way.

Part of the concept of self differentiation is that everybody in the family does not have the same tastes, needs, desires, or dreams. Healthy families do not make every member march lock-step with other members in every situation.

Discipline of children must also take into account the individual personalities of the children. Some children have fragile personalities and others do not. The wise parent learns to tailor the treatment to the temperament of the individual child.

A danger of this concept is the demand by some to use their individual differences to separate themselves from responsibility and participation in the family.

We all need the freedom to be the unique person God made us to be, especially in the family. ■

Serving as advocate and window

Readers in today's world are demanding, and no publication can satisfy every whim of every reader.

In general, people read less and tune in to television more. The current fad adopted by many magazines and newspapers is bright looks and "sound bites." Instant news and instant cures apparently are "in," and in-depth news and interpretations garner smaller audiences.

Publishers do well to ascertain what discerning readers want. We do that. We make it our business. At the same time, our responsibility to the reader goes beyond instant gratification or the quick fix. We choose a middle ground.

It is possible to have that modern appearance and some of the sound bites — and to continue to provide the necessary news and features.

It is not sufficient to swathe the old package in glittering new gift wrap. Nor can we put exciting and worthwhile information in a well-used container.

So we will blend some of the best of each.

As we have announced, with this issue, the *Baptist and Reflector* offers to readers a different package — part new, part comfortably old. There will be enough of the "old" so that you will recognize the package. And there will be enough of the new to make the somewhat different package an adventure of sorts. We hope our readers will like this improved model.

You are looking at a new design this week, but the change is not so drastic as to leave our readers gasping from shock. The whole idea is to make the

paper more user friendly.

Be patient, we are not offering you the entire package with this week's issue. In upcoming weeks we plan to offer a variety of content and design features for which you have asked.

We believe it is possible to offer reviews of Christian books and music, and several additional speciality columns that will meet readers' needs. Of course, we will continue to emphasize family needs and values. Readers are encouraged to submit ideas about family and perhaps brief outlines of the local church's plan to provide for family needs — spiritual, social, physical, or other.

Remember this is our theme for 1996, and we ask Tennessee Baptist churches to join us in providing a solid spiritual support for families, and sharing ways to assist families in coping and healing.

The appearance of any newsjournal is important, but not as vital as its content. And we will continue to match any facial surgery with due concern for content. As always, we strive to supply Tennessee Baptists with the best newsjournal possible.

The paper, now in its 161st year, has an auspicious heritage. However, the heritage of excellence has to be mirrored in the difficulties and successes of each era of existence.

For almost half of its life, the *Baptist and Reflector* and its ancestors were owned by individuals who sought to provide Tennessee Baptist news to Tennessee Baptists. Sometimes they were overzealous in their efforts and let personal views and desires rule.

So when the Tennessee Baptist Convention bought

the paper and its mailing list, many readers still expected the paper to be the editor's private communicator for a personal agenda.

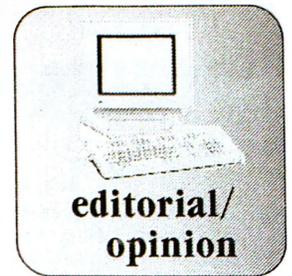
But a delicate and necessary balance was quickly developed. Every editor must have complete freedom, but at the same time, he must realize that the paper reflects the "soul" or embodiment of Tennessee Baptists. It always is the advocate of the people. Not only is it the only official source of news for Tennessee Baptists, it is their property.

A dozen years ago Muganda Shamba Samuele walked for two days to meet four Maryland Baptists at Bujumbura Airport in Burundi. He was eager to know more about Baptists from elsewhere. We were equally delighted to meet him and other pastors.

We cannot always see the missionaries, but the paper can tell us all about them and all the ministries performed by the Baptist family. Tennessee Baptists can have the news they need about their Baptist world by reading their very own newsjournal weekly.

It is vital for Tennessee Baptists, even those who are nominally involved, to be informed and reminded of who we are and what we are about.

This newsjournal is *your* window to the Baptist world, who we are and what we are doing. The view is exciting from this window, for those who have access to it. It is available to everyone. *B&R* — *Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor*



Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Ted: "How many real friends would you say you have?"

Ned: "Including you, about 25."

Ted: "How many would stick with you in a crisis?"

Ned: "About three or four."

Ted: "How many friends do you have to whom you would lend \$1,000?"

Ned: "You're not one of them."

Take this thought

Never take your friends for granted.

You are blessed if you have two or three who would stick with you regardless of what happens.

When he came to the end of the way, Paul had Demas and Timothy. They may have been the only ones left.

"The friends thou hast and their adoption has been tried. Grapple them to thy side with hoops of steel."

Memorize this Scripture

"A man that has friends must show himself friendly" (Proverbs 18:24).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to remember that the Golden Rule applies in the matter of friendships as much as in any other relationship in of life. ■

Here's the source when you want Baptist news

European Baptist Press Service recently told of an exhibit in Latvia of old printing equipment. It had been used illegally.

The story and photo reminded me of Brother Andrew's tales of smuggling Bibles into Communist countries years ago. I was also reminded of the secret codes of American prisoners of war in North Vietnam, developed so they could communicate even though it was forbidden. Solitary confinement was the result.

Good news will get out! And bad news also finds its way to eager ears.

Several years ago I stood with a group on a massif west of the Galilee when the guide called for our attention.

"Look north beyond the lake's shore," he said. "See the great hill. Long years ago, when there was news to share, huge bonfires were lit on that hill, and the message was relayed from hill to hill all the way to Beer-sheba.

"Or in sunlight they used flat reflective metal, like mirrors, to catch the sun's re-

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

lections and send their messages."

The *Baptist and Reflector's* curious double name belonged first to the *American Baptist Reflector*. That paper joined with the venerable *The Baptist* (founded in 1835) in 1889 to become our *Baptist and Reflector*.

A true reflector accurately reflects the image or words of the person or message. It is a good name, a proper name for a Baptist newsjournal.

The clandestine printing press was set up in Ligatne, Latvia, in 1974. It was used to illegally print Bibles and other religious literature during the years of Communist persecution.

Sources report that the press printed almost 1.5 million pages of Christian literature before it was seized by Communist authorities. When it was seized, 3,000 copies of the New Testament were found.

Baptist leaders said people were so



ALLEN

How about a test on giving of firstfruits?

Get your checkbook and turn to the first check. To whom was it written? Was it to Walmart, Foodmax, Papa John's Pizza?

Let's talk about "firstfruits giving." Why do you give? Do you give to the Lord as a way to worship, love, to give thanks?

The principles of "firstfruits giving" began with the need for the Israelites to be reminded of God's greatness and of all his acts of deliverance and provision.

Simply stated, it means that we give God the first part of our earnings as a symbolic representation that everything belongs to him. This principle is stressed again and again in the New Testament.

think about it

— by ministers serving state churches

Firstfruits giving acknowledges, through the family budget, that the first fixed expense item on the budget is the contribution to the Lord. It has always been a community event centering on worship. It is an act of worship. The church is the appropriate receptor of our firstfruits.

While the firstfruits offerings were seasonal for the Israelites, ours is ongoing because of the way we receive our income. Week after week we participate in worship through giving.

hungry for religious literature. Latvian Baptists printed more than 2,000 books either hand written or individually typed.

Telling the story! Telling the story at high risk of life was a lifestyle for this group. And they told the story because it was worthy of being told, warts and all.

Tennessee Baptists, and Baptists in other state conventions are blessed with the availability of a newsjournal that fills needs, offers news and features, and represents the people of the pews.

Think of that clandestine printing press, which printed the good news of Jesus Christ for salvation and edification. Think of the literature it printed, sharing Christian news with all who could read it.

Think of how perfect and true God's Word is for us. Think of how bereft we are when we can't get the news we need or want. We need that true reflection.

The reason for a *Baptist and Reflector*? Tennessee Baptists can serve the Lord better when they share as a great, informed family; great in numbers and great in spirit. ■

Our offerings are an indication of our love and devotion to the Lord. They are to be given cheerfully, not grudgingly, and as an act of worship.

If we fail to worship in our giving, then we have missed the point. Besides worship, giving supports the ministries of the church and the mission God has entrusted to it. It is a great joy to give to the Lord through a church or convention that is striving to fulfill God's purposes.

Will you be obedient to God? Will your checkbook look different next week? Giving really is an act of worship. *B&R* — *Trevi Otey Jr, pastor, Highland Park Church, Columbia.*

On verge of closing, church now thriving

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

CROSSVILLE — When Mike Garrett went to preach his first sermon at Meridian Church three years ago he knew the small rural congregation was on the brink of death.

However, he didn't find out until months later the lid already had been slammed shut on the coffin. Members had voted to close the church even before he came to preach.

But one member's prayers and faithfulness caused the lid to be reopened for one last look.

"A lady named Dolly Garrett (no relation) urged the church, which consisted of less than 10 people, to give it one more try," Garrett said.

Garrett, a former associate pastor and music director at a Rockwood church, was more than willing. He had been looking for a place to preach because "down deep inside I knew I was supposed to be a pastor," he said.

After a month the congregation called him as a bivocational pastor. Slowly but surely the church began to grow.

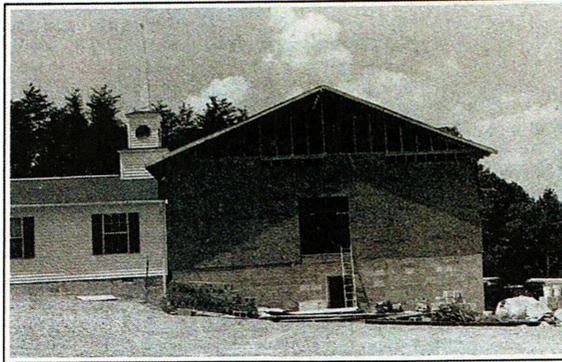
Attendance reached 30 people and stayed there for awhile. Garrett said some people told him that would be the maximum and that he should be happy with that.

The Lord, evidently, wasn't ready to stand pat. "The Lord began blessing and about two years ago we started growing," Garrett said.

Last March attendance had grown to about 70-80 in worship. Meridian held a lay-led revival and since then attendance has more than doubled, Garrett said.

"Our people are interested in witnessing and inviting others to church," he observed.

Garrett, who is now full-time pastor, is not surprised about what has happened over the past three years. "I never



CONSTRUCTION IS PROGRESSING on the new sanctuary of Meridian Church, Crossville. Much of the construction is being done by volunteer labor from the church and association.

felt anything was impossible. God can do anything," he affirmed.

When he first came to Meridian people told him the church was in a bad location. Garrett took a differing view. "I think it's a great location," he affirmed. Evidently, many of the new members do as well. One family drives 81 miles one way to church while many of the members have drives of 10 miles or more.

"It's amazing what the Lord has done," said Garrett, who refuses any credit for what God has done at the rural Cumberland Plateau Association church.

Garrett pointed out prayer and visitation is paying off. "We hold a lot of prayer meetings," he said.

The church does visitation in an unusual way. Instead of weekly visitation, the church conducts "Saturday Alive," a once-a-month visitation program held for four hours on Saturday mornings. The goal is to canvas the area 16 miles from the church in all directions. So far no one has made it past five miles, Garrett said.

On those visitation Saturdays, the church holds an informal evening service. "No ties are allowed," Garrett said. The services vary. Some times

a quartet sings or there is a simple evangelistic message given, the pastor said. Those services "are geared to lost, unchurched people. We are after the unchurched," he stressed.

With growth has come the typical growth-related problems, primarily not enough room.

Since Garrett came three years ago the church remodeled the sanctuary once, increasing seating from 80 to 170 people. The congregation now has outgrown that and is building a new sanctuary which will seat 298 people. The present sanctuary will be remodeled into Sunday School rooms. The decision to build was unanimous, Garrett noted, and added that much of the work on the new building is being done by members.

Garrett is grateful for the attitude the charter members had concerning growth.

"In many churches if you went in and started making changes, those already there would want to fight against it," he observed.

Yet, at Meridian the charter members want to grow and be in the Lord's will, Garrett observed, adding "The Lord can use a willing bunch of people."

Garrett noted that when they were thinking about building he went to visit "Miss Dolly" who had prayed the church would remain open. He did not know how she would react to the changes. Her response: "I've been praying for 40 years to see the church grow."

"Miss Dolly is an example of what faithfulness and prayers can do. The Lord doesn't call us to be successful; just faithful."

With more people growth has come about in other areas including finances. When Garrett joined the congregation the church didn't even have a budget and was giving only \$25 each to the association and the Cooperative Program.

Meridian is now working on its third budget and gives 5 percent of its income to both the association and the CP, Garrett said. Giving also has increased for special mission offerings such as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions. "The church is liberal in its giving. I never have to talk about money," Garrett said.

In addition, the church is already making plans to grow —



by birthing a new mission once it reaches 250 members, Garrett said.

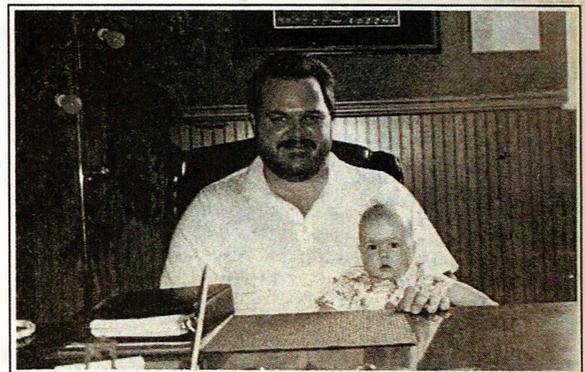
When Meridian reaches 250 the church plans to tithe 10 percent of its members to start the new work, Garrett said. The church is already setting aside 2 percent of its income for the future mission as well, he added.

"One of our visions is to grow the kingdom, not just the church," he said.

So far, Meridian is doing both. Baptisms have increased along with attendance. The church set a goal of 52 baptisms this year and already more than 20 have given their life to Christ at the Crossville country church.

Garrett stressed he did not come to Meridian with any great growth philosophy to revitalize a church.

"I personally can take no credit. I'm tickled to death to be part of it. I hope the Lord leaves me here until I retire or die," he concluded. — BGR



PASTOR MIKE GARRETT sometimes gets help in the office from his 5-month-old daughter, Holly. Garrett, a former music director, has been pastor of Meridian Church in Cumberland Plateau Association for the past three years.

Tennessean to keynote meeting

For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Shelbyville native Maurice Graham, a former Southern Baptist missionary who was held as a hostage by Iraqi forces on the eve of the 1991 Gulf War, will be the keynote speaker at the National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions' triennial meeting June 28-29 at Ridgecrest, N.C.

Graham, along with his wife and two sons, were Southern Baptists' first and only workers in Kuwait. They had been in the country less than three months when Iraq invaded Kuwait on

Aug. 2, 1990, setting off a chain of events that stranded the family in the U.S. embassy for four months.

Graham, now associate pastor of Bon Air Church, Richmond, Va., will address the NFBM gathering on June 29, closing a two-day event scheduled to include presentations by the Home and Foreign Mission boards, remarks from the SBC Brotherhood Commission, and testimonies from mission volunteers.

For more information about the meeting, call Debbie Pippin at (800) 280-1891. ■

Union students raise \$55,024 for missions

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, recently spoke at a commissioning service for more than 200 Union University students, faculty, and staff serving in summer missions.

Lotz praised the students' commitment to missions. "They are the hope, not only for the future, but also for today," Lotz said. "I think the future is very bright with kids like these."

With a ministry theme of "We Are His Hands," Union students surpassed their 1995-96 missions goal of \$48,815,

raising \$55,024.69 to date. Since 1990, Union students have raised more than \$350,000 for various missions-related causes.

Student participation continued to grow as 1,171 students served in churches or missions/ministry teams, reaching 94,431 people with the Gospel. Special ministry and revival teams are sent out by Union to raise money for the summer mission goals, and the teams further a mission of their own. Last year, the university's various ministries resulted in 1,526 known decisions for Christ, including 1,236 professions of faith. ■

Barefoot leaves legacy in West Tennessee

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Educator. Pastor. Christian gentleman. Bow tie.

Mention these descriptive phrases to any card-carrying West Tennessee Baptist and the person would probably respond: Hyran Barefoot.

Though a native of Mississippi, Barefoot's roots run deep in West Tennessee.

When he retired May 31 as Union University's 14th president, Barefoot marked 37 years of service to the Tennessee Baptist Convention-related institution — service that will continue in a new role as chancellor.

Barefoot came out of a Louisiana pastorate in 1957 to become associate professor of religion and Greek at Union. And, except for a two-year stint at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (1960-62), he has been there ever since.

Education has been a focal point of Barefoot's life. "Since I was 5 years old, the school bell has rung only two times that I didn't answer it (either as a student, teacher, or administrator)," Barefoot noted.

Though he excelled as an administrator, first as academ-

ic dean and later as president, Barefoot acknowledges teaching is "probably the most fulfilling side of education."

The teacher-student relationship is the closest and most rewarding, he noted, adding, with a laugh, that "students usually love their teachers, but no one loves administrators."

Since 1987, when Barefoot assumed the Union presidency, the university has grown in all areas with record enrollments, new construction and expansion of campus facilities, and new academic programs.

What does he want to be remembered for as Union's 14th president?

"I want to be remembered for providing for the future foundation of Union," he said, citing land acquisition that "gives us all the land we will need."

In addition, he is proud of the growth in educational programs and quality and the building activity that has taken place during this 10-year



HYRAN AND JOYCE BAREFOOT

tenure as president.

Throughout his role as teacher and administrator, Barefoot never forgot that he first began serving the Lord as a pastor.

"I always felt being at Union, a Baptist school closely tied with churches, was a part of my ministry. I never felt I got out of the ministry (when he left the pulpit)," Barefoot said.

With his distinct bow tie,

which became a public identification point, Barefoot became a familiar figure throughout West Tennessee churches.

On two different occasions (1957-60 and 1966-75) Barefoot served as bivocational pastor of Woodland Church, Brownsville. In addition he has held numerous interims. Among them have been Englewood and Westover churches in Jackson; Ararat Church, Huntersville; Southside Church, Dyersburg; Clover Creek Church, Maury City; Maury City Church;

and First Church, Finley. He also led church Bible studies or served as pulpit supply for numerous other churches in the state.

He is proud that Union is closely tied with so many churches in the area. "It would be almost impossible to go to any church in the area that does not have someone associated with Union (in some capacity)," he said.



Union has long been interested in being partners with the churches, the retiring president continued, noting the school has sought ways to be related to the pastors and to relate them to Union.

The university offers a summer pastors school, a monthly pastors conference, a Spring Bible conference, and also holds an appreciation banquet for pastors and their spouses, Barefoot continued.

Union's efforts have resulted in solid relationships with the churches and their leaders. "If you try to be genuine friends with people, they're not going to fuss with you as much," he observed.

Relationships built locally and throughout the TBC are one reason Barefoot is optimistic about the future of not only Union, but the other two TBC-related schools (Belmont and Carson-Newman) as well.

Noting that the future of private schools is not as bright as it was 25 years ago, Barefoot said the schools that will succeed in the days ahead will be those that can acquire and manage resources.

Barefoot said Tennessee Baptists are to be commended for "putting as much of their resources as they do in education." Tennessee Baptists' three colleges and universities "will survive and survive well," he predicted.

As for his own future, he too "will survive and survive well." In his role as chancellor (Southern Baptist Theological Seminary administrator David Dockery assumed the Union presidency June 1) Barefoot will deal with external relationships with churches and the TBC and assist in fundraising. In addition he and his wife, Joyce, plan to do some traveling. "I don't worry about having something to do," he said.

"I have never faced retirement with the fear I would be bored," the new chancellor added.

Looking back on his 37 years at Union, Barefoot said the time "has been a very fulfilling experience.

"I have nothing but appreciation for the people I've served with, the churches and pastors, and the Tennessee Baptist Convention as a whole," he said. — B&R

Major accomplishments during presidency of Hyran Barefoot

1986-87

- ▶ Elected president, February 1987
- ▶ Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program Established at Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis
- ▶ First Endowed Chair (\$650,000) — O.P. Hammons family
- ▶ School of Business Administration established

1987-88

- ▶ Inaugurated as 14th president of Union University, Oct. 16, 1987
- ▶ Centrifuge program established (4,000+ students), summer 1987

1988-89

- ▶ Blasingame Academic Complex dedicated, April 1989
- ▶ Forty acres west of Walker Road purchased (\$400,000), March 1989

1989-90

- ▶ Sixty-one acres on Jackson campus sold (\$3 million)

1990-91

- ▶ Graduate program re-established — master of education — June 1990
- ▶ McAfee Residence Complex completed — 32 apartments (\$1,858,000)

- ▶ Missionary-in-residence home completed (\$45,000)

1991-92

- ▶ Country Club Lane entrance and road constructed (\$286,190)
- ▶ First Habitat for Humanity House completed by Union students

1992-93

- ▶ All-time student enrollment record — 2,430
- ▶ First university-sponsored medical/dental mission trip to Honduras
- ▶ Master of Education program accredited

1993-94

- ▶ Student Union Building completed (renamed in May 1996 the Barefoot Student Union Building), (\$4.2 million)
- ▶ Relationship established with Colegio Batista Mineiro, Brazil

1994-95

- ▶ Master of Business Administration Program launched
- ▶ Construction of the Alumni/Student Plaza including The Circle and Alumni Walk

Country duo to perform overseas

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — As sons of Baptist preachers, David Wooten and LaFloy Johnson grew up "on the road" — moving from church to church with their parents as their fathers pursued their callings to share the Gospel.

Now, Wooten, son of Herman Wooten, longtime California pastor and associational director of missions, and Johnson, whose father, the late Billy G. Johnson, served in churches in Mississippi and Alabama more than 40 years until his death in 1990, are, in the words of famous country singer/songwriter Willie Nelson, "on the road again" as the Christian country musical act "Spiritwind."

The "road" will even span an ocean. The duo, along with their band, has received an official invitation to participate in a month-long series of crusades in Norway, Sweden, and Italy beginning Oct. 9 of this year — and invitation from Dub and Doris Jackson, crusade coordinators for Western Europe for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"It is my plan to have you and your group in a different church each night, beginning in Norway, moving into Sweden, and moving on into Italy," Dub Jackson wrote in a letter to Wooten and Johnson. "There is absolutely no way to know just how much God will use all this to draw people to him and see many come to know him as Lord and Savior. My personal conviction is that (the crusade effort) is the most effective way to presenting the Christian message outside of our nation ... You are desperately needed."

Country music in Norway, Sweden, and Italy?

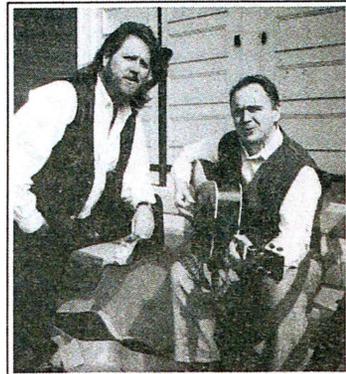
"Country music has always been popular in Europe," Wooten said. "But since Garth Brook's 1994 European tour, the Europeans' love for it has

soared to new heights.

"We believe it will provide an excellent medium to present God's message of love and forgiveness to those who might not otherwise be exposed to the Gospel," Wooten said.

Jackson, who recently returned from a trip to Europe to meet with European Baptist leaders, said they were very excited about plans to use music as a drawing card for the crusades. "Country music seems to be very popular over there," he observed.

Christian country music — which Johnson defined as "faith and family



RECORDING ARTISTS LaFloy Johnson, left, and David Wooten perform.

music" — "is beginning to get its feet wet" in Europe, said Gene Higgins, president of the Christian Country Music Association, based here. "Country music has got a solid market in Europe," he noted.

One reason for the accelerated popularity of country music in Europe has been the exposure of country music artists such as Brooks, Dwight Yoakum, Mary-Chapin Carpenter, and others through video programming,

said Amelie Tseng, a spokesperson for County Music Television based here.

CMT entered the European market in October 1992 through the gateway of Great Britain and since then viewership "has grown tremendously throughout Europe," Tseng said, adding Norway and Sweden are among countries where CMT programming is available.

Johnson and Wooten did a five-week concert tour in Wooten's home state of California to help raise the necessary funds for Spiritwind's missions trip. The duo kicked off their ministry venture in March by performing their initial concerts at Johnson's church, Crieveewood Church, and Wooten's church, Haywood Hills Church, both in Nashville.

"It's always good to perform at home," Wooten said of Haywood Hills. "But this was particularly meaningful to me. I know that my church is standing behind us in what we believe God is directing us to do."

Further concerts are planned in Tennessee and beyond: a Mississippi tour in June; a Florida tour in July; a Midwestern tour — Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas — in August; and various dates in September.

The pair met in 1995 after Wooten moved to Nashville. "I saw David's press packet laying on the floor at the office of the Christian Country Music Association," Johnson said. "I picked it up and started reading it. When I found out he was a Baptist preacher's son and had been a Baptist preacher himself, I wanted to meet him. But, when I heard his tape, I really wanted to meet him. He's a great singer."

Wooten, who attended Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in the San Francisco area and is an ordained minister, was pastor of three California churches before forming Spiritwind in 1986. The group performed throughout



California and the western United States until he moved to Nashville. In 1994, Wooten recorded a project which carried two of his songs, "He'll Never Change" and "Contented Man," onto airplay charts tracking Christian country radio stations throughout the United States.

"When LaFloy asked me if I would be interested in forming a group to participate in the European crusades, I knew it was time to rekindle the Spiritwind flame," Wooten said. "God has really been blessing our efforts."

Johnson, a 1985 graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, moved to Nashville — for the third time — in 1989 from Mississippi, where he was working as a newspaper reporter and part-time church music director.

"I was 19 the first time I moved to Nashville," Johnson said. "I thought I was something special, but, truthfully, I was a green weed. I stayed in Nashville about nine months, spent all my savings and then moved back to Mississippi." The second time, he lasted a year and a half.

However, the third time — 12 years after the first — "as they say, has been the charm," with Johnson eventually working his way into the tight-knit Nashville music community.

"I'm grateful that the Lord has put David and me together," Johnson said. "If all we believe God has given us to do comes true, it will be a miracle; but, of course, we've got a God who is in the miracle business." ■

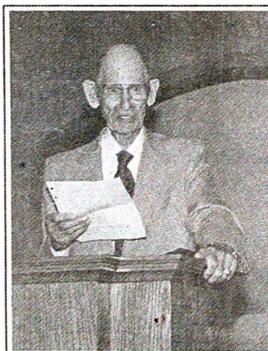
Powder Springs Church observes 175th anniversary

For Baptist and Reflector

POWDER SPRINGS — As Boyd Kitts, 85, presented the 175-year history of Powder Springs Missionary Church May 19, he noted that much of the history was no longer available, but he could recall some of it since he was a member while growing up.

In the 1920s, the train played an important part in the growth of the church, recalled Kitts. Each Sunday morning it brought the preacher. He also remembered the young girls who waited for the train's arrival — not to greet the preacher, he said with a sheepish grin, but to meet their boyfriends, who accompanied them to church.

In 1929 the church, which is located in the hills northeast of Knoxville, named a committee of three to buy a stove, reported Kitts. It only took seven



PRESENTING a history of the church is Boyd Kitts, the oldest male member of Powder Springs Missionary Church.

members to raise the money to buy it, he added.

A few years later minutes reported the pastor was paid \$8 a month. That may sound like a pittance, said Kitts, but window panes which were



GREETING FORMER PASTORS following the morning worship service is Mike Inklebarger, right, pastor, speaking to Joe Wright, left, of Knoxville; and Dennis Johnson, a current member of Powder Springs. — Photos by Connie Davis

bought for the church at that time only cost 15 cents each.

The church's history is a proud one, said Kitts, and includes the starting of another church, Fairview Church, Luttrell.

An important period of its history was in the 1960s when members built the current building, many working and giving sacrificially, said Kitts.

"There's been a lot of good

people who have served in this church. While we're not the biggest church, we preach what it takes — the Bible," concluded Kitts.

The oldest member, Fleta Donohue, was recognized along with former pastors Joe Wright of Knoxville, who served 1976-82, and Dennis Johnson, a current member of Powder Springs Church who served from 1993-94.

David Tydings, director of missions, Grainger County Association, preached during the morning service. He also presented a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to the church recognizing the anniversary. Mike Inklebarger, pastor, and Lawrence Standifer, treasurer, received it.

During the service Inklebarger noted, "Only through the will of God could this church endure down through the ages." ■

churches

■ **Hermitage Hills Church, Nashville**, began celebrating its 40th anniversary in April which will culminate Aug. 25.

■ **Calvary Church, Knoxville**, has celebrated its 11th anniversary in the English as a Second Language program in coordination with Knox County Schools.

■ **Center Grove Church, Tullahoma**, held revival May 5-8 which resulted in one person making a profession of faith, one joining the church, and several others making other spiritual decisions. Milton Hicks, pastor, First Church, LaVergne, spoke.

■ **First Church, Ross-**

ville, needs help to construct its new building. The congregation sold its building to a Baptist African-American congregation at a much-reduced price to assist it. The church's new location is located near Collierville. The congregation needs help in electrical, duct, and sheetrock work. Contact Bob Campbell, director of missions, Fayette Association, at (901) 465-8613, for more information.

leaders

■ **B.L. Willis**, interim pastor, Oak Grove Church, Milan, and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary April 21. Willis has served churches for 37 years.

■ **Ridgedale Church, Chat-**

tanooga, has called **Dan Parker** as associate pastor and minister of education.

■ **Laneview Church, Kenton**, will honor **Noel A. Edwards** on the 50th anniversary of his preaching ministry June 22. Edwards will preach during the morning service which will be followed by a luncheon and from 2-6 p.m. an open house. If attending the meal or for more information contact Don Cooper, pastor, at (901) 749-0190.

■ **First Church, Hohenwald**, has called **Greg McFadden**, pastor, Bardwell Church, Bardwell, Ky., as pastor, effective June 11.

■ **Jeff Rackler** has been called as director of family ministry for the summer at Center Grove Church, Tullahoma, effective May 19. Rack-

ler is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville. Center Grove Church is his home church.

■ **Darin Kress**, pastor of Virginia Avenue Church, Bristol, for seven years, has been called as pastor of Scott Lake Church, Lakeland, Fla., effective June 16.



POSING during a recognition of their 50 years of ministry are Wayne and Margaret Markham on April 14 at First Church, Lake City. Markham, who has served the church three different times as pastor, was named pastor emeritus. He also served other churches in the state, Kentucky, Illinois, and South Dakota.



BREAKING GROUND for a Christian Life Center May 5 are leaders of Oaklawn Church, Crossville. From left, David Mahan, pastor; Linda Presley; Pauline Sherrer; Warren Wilson; and Bob Gilreath. The 11,700 square foot facility will include a gym, kitchen, and educational space. It is expected to be completed by this fall.



PAUSING IN FRONT OF THE BAPTIST SEMINARY in Warsaw, Poland, while working there May 11-15 to support the Poland/Tennessee Baptist Partnership are, from left, Charles Layton of the Foreign Mission Board; Stan Roach, associate pastor, Hickory Ridge Church, Memphis; Taras Marchak, interpreter; Gary Hines, Brook Hollow Church, Nashville; Volodya Hryshko, pastor in the Ukraine; Bucky Phillips, music evangelist of First Church, Clarksville; and Marek Budzinski, pastor, First Church, Warsaw. The Tennesseans helped conduct evangelistic services at First Church, Warsaw, and saw 20 people make professions of faith.



Tennessee samplers

Live it!

By Tom Suiter, pastor
Indian Springs Church, Kingsport

Remember who you are and where you live. As a child of the Father, born-again into his family, you are in Christ and Christ is in you.

That means that you are complete in him. So now in your everyday life live the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is your life and you are hidden in him.

The enemy cannot get to you to destroy you from within — you are a new creation, but he does still work on us through the flesh. So yield your fleshly members to Christ and allow them to

serve him in instead of sin.

This is the victorious life that God intends for each of us. It is already yours — so live it! ■

Life isn't fair!

By Michael S. Lester, pastor
North Etowah Church, Etowah

Life isn't fair! And there's abundant proof that this conclusion is true. You can see it in your own life, as well as in the lives of others.

It appears you were dealt a bad hand. When the coach picked players for the first string, you were passed by. A promotion at work came open and it was quickly filled by someone with less experience and qualifications than you possess. Many who don't work as hard and aren't nearly as appreciative as you seem to have much more.

There are many examples of unfairness and injustice in our world. You can see them every day in the courtroom, the children's hospitals, or the unemployment line. And sometimes

we're angry with God for causing or allowing these things to happen.

Yet, some of these folk who appear to be victims go through life as victors. Rather than comparing what they don't have to what others do have, they regard life as a gift — a great windfall! As long as they stay focused on what has been given them, they experience incredible joy.

Life isn't fair. Be thankful we don't get all we deserve! John Claypool wrote, "We were called out of nothing ... in an astonishing act of generosity for which we can claim no right. If grace is your starting point, everything is going to appear in a different light." ■

Increasing knowledge

By Stanley J. Sims, pastor
Blessed Hope Church, Kingsport

Proverbs 1:5 tells us, "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning." The Bible tells us that fools despise wisdom and instruction (Proverbs 1:7).

Of those that do desire wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, many "hope" in all the wrong places.

According to Proverbs 2:6, the only place to look is to the Lord. "For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding." Education is wonderful; however, it is possible to know many facts and still not know the "truth."

In order to learn from the Lord, we must have a submissive attitude. We must hear as well as "attend" (or continue) to his Word, and we must be "doers" and not "hearers" only. It is impossible to bake a cake without gathering all the ingredients together and following all instructions.

Instead of looking to anyone else, we should look to God. The Bible tells us in Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

As we learn from the Lord by seeking him, waiting upon (or "attending to") him, and doing what he tells us to do, our "learning" will, beyond a shadow of a doubt, increase. ■

Experiencing God Study Bible scheduled for release in NIV

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The most popular study Bible published by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman & Holman Publishers will soon be available in the contemporary translation most popular with Christian readers.

The New International Version (NIV) of *The Experiencing God Study Bible* was released June 1.

Wendell Overstreet, Bible marketing manager for Broad-

man & Holman, said when the study Bible was first published in the New King James Version (NKJV), it was "extremely well received. Many readers expressed their appreciation for a Bible that brought the concepts of the 'Experiencing God' study course to life in a full Bible.

Still, many people loyal to the NIV translation requested that B&H produce an NIV version, so there is a substantial demand for this Bible."

The current NKJV of the study Bible has sold about 115,000 copies since the fall of

1994, with a third printing underway. This provides a favorable outlook for the NIV version. ■

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Love others

By L. Joseph Rosas III

Focal Passage — Romans 12:9-21

God has demonstrated his love for us on the cross, poured his love into our hearts, and refuses to let us go. Now Paul focuses on agape as the basis of Christian fellowship.

Express genuine love (v. 9a). The English word "sincere" comes from the Latin, it literally means "without wax." In the pottery business an honest craftsman did not attempt to hide cracks or flaws in his work with bees wax, hence he was said to be "sincere." Here the word means "without hypocrisy." As Christians we are not to hypocritically put up a front pretending to love our brothers and sisters in Christ, we are to love genuinely. I John 4:8 warns, "whoever does not love does not know God."

Love other Christians (vv. 9b-13). Genuine love is not blind sentiment, it includes discernment. We should hate that which is evil and hold tenaciously to that which is good. Paul urges that we be "devoted to one another" which describes our natural affection for relatives. This is tied to "brotherly love." Although both terms originally applied to blood relationships in the human family, Paul reapplies them to the tender, warm affection which should unite the members of the family of God.

We are also admonished to accord "one another" the highest honor. "Never be lacking in zeal" or, literally, "don't be lazy" in zeal. In other words, our love should be energetic or characterized by enthusiasm. The triplet "joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer," has at its heart our confidence in the Lord's return. We are to be generous with God's people who are in need. Koinonia refers to both sharing in the trials of others and sharing from our resources.

Love when it's difficult (vv. 14-16). "Blessing" and "cursing" are opposites. Paul echoes the teaching of Jesus who told us not only to bless but also to "pray" for and "do good" to those who curse us. Genuine love is characterized by good will to those who oppose us. Further, love never stands aloof from others' joys and pains.

We are to have sympathy by knowing when to rejoice and when to mourn. "Live in harmony" means "think the same thing" or "be of the same mind." We share the mind of Christ, therefore we should have a common attitude toward our brothers and sisters. Genuine love is also humble.

Love your enemies (vv. 17-21). Paul anticipates these verses with his command "do not curse." Instead of seeking revenge, we are to do good things in behalf of our enemies. We not only avoid inflaming situations, we should take the initiative and pursue peace. Allow God to punish the evil doer.

For our part, we are to serve our enemy by meeting his practical needs. "Burning coals" refers to the conviction and change of heart that may come as a result of our loving response to our enemy. As we obey these various commands we "overcome evil with good."

It has been said that love is the most talked about and least applied word in our vocabulary. You've heard the ditty, "To dwell above with those we love, that will be such glory; but to live below with those we know, now that's another story."

Our relationship to God is demonstrated by our love for our family in Christ. Also, our response to those who would be our enemies is the clearest evidence that we who were once the enemies of God have been loved into a relationship with God that transcends all boundaries. ■ — L. Joseph Rosas III is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis.

Faith and relationships

By Kevin Goza

Focal Passage — James 2:1-13; 4:11-12

Christian relationships are difficult at best, not because they are not a joy to experience, but because anything that brings glory to God is contrary to this world. When Christians walk together in spiritual agreement, God is revealed in their relationships. Why? Because our relationship to God is inseparable from our relationships with other people. In this passage, James addresses two barriers to strong relationships: showing favoritism and passing judgment.

Impartiality — ch. 2:1-13

The word translated "respect of persons" is a compound of two Greek words, which literally means, "to lift up the face." The word is a translation of a Hebrew positive phrase which originally meant "to accept a person with favor." Later, the phrase took on a negative meaning, and referred to showing partiality to those who had power or prosperity over those who were weak and poor.

James makes it clear that those who trust Jesus as

Convention Uniform Lesson

Savior are never to show partiality. In verses 2-4, James gives a classic example of blatant partiality. Why would anyone place the rich in a higher position than the poor?

Because a person stands to benefit from someone with resources, while a person stands to lose with someone of poverty. However, James says those rich without Christ are the ones who took advantage of the Church, dragging Christians into court and slandering the name of Jesus (vv. 6-7).

The "royal law" came from Leviticus 19:18. Jesus

A call to repent

By Tom Moncrief

Focal Passage — Joel

1:1-4, 14; 2:11-17

The circumstances of life are used by God to shape believers into the image of Jesus Christ. His purpose is not hindered when those circumstances are difficult. God is at work to lead us to become all he wants us to be.

God's judgment against sin (ch. 1:1-4). An unprecedented and unforgettable locust plague was experienced in Joel's day. He called on the people for serious reflection on this calamity. They all needed to consider the meaning of the situation, and they were in need of direction from God.

The locusts kept coming like a mighty army. The destruction was so severe that there was no grain for offerings of worship sacrifices. These offerings symbolized continuing fellowship between the Lord and his people. Everyone was affected by the locust plague. The people's joy was sapped away.

Modern disasters remind us of the need to stay in good relationship with God. We should take care to make our lives count for eternity. When disaster strikes it is too late to get ready for it.

The call for a solemn assembly (v. 14). The priests were to call

the people together for a solemn assembly. This was a time for repentance and seeking God's forgiveness and cleansing. Food was cut off along with provisions for sacrifices.

As a result joy and gladness were not at God's house where he especially met his people. The prophet proclaimed the day of the Lord was near. It was time to seek God's intervention.

We are called on to gather with other believers to worship the Lord and discern his leadership as we commit ourselves to him. It is important to remember the congregation worships only as individuals each do so personally within the group. We can seek his mercy and grace through worship in his house.

The coming day of the Lord (ch. 2:11). Joel likens the circumstances of his day to the "day of the Lord," a time when God will judge the world. He has strength to perform his purpose, and the terror of the day cannot be endured. The Lord is to come at his time and all must stand before him.

A call for repentance (vv. 12-17). The coming day of the Lord is sure and terrible. God extends hope,

quoted this passage when he was asked about the greatest commandment (Mark 12:28-31). God's law is that of love for neighbor, whether they be rich or poor (v. 8). If we keep that command with a heart committed to Christ as Lord, we are being found faithful.

The next phrase is sobering, indeed. Respect of persons is sin, and any sin committed is sufficient to separate someone from God. One does not have to break every commandment to be a transgressor. To say that partiality is not as great a sin as, say, murder, is not sufficient reason for a holy God to overlook that sin.

Christians will be judged for the sins they commit that deny the love of Jesus to others (v. 12). Using the example of Jesus, Christians are called to be people of mercy. We who have experienced God's mercy will show mercy (v. 13).

Judgment — ch. 4:11-12

Evil speaking and judgment are tools people use to tear down others. Vicious talk is more than harmless comments. Rather, it is a habit that is designed to hurt and destroy.

Judgment is a personal position taken against the behavior of others. When we judge, we place ourselves above God and his law by presuming to see into the hearts and minds of others, which is something only God can do.

Being judgmental is not the same as making judgments. We must make good decisions about people and circumstances in order to survive. Being judgmental is different in that it is personal and does not give priority to the best interests of others. A judgmental attitude does not edify the body of Christ. □ — Kevin Goza is pastor of First Church, Lebanon.



Bible study
for June 9

Bible Book Lesson

however, in his offer to deliver all people who turn to him. Turning to God from sin is repentance. All people must repent or perish.

The offer of deliverance expresses God's mercy and grace. He is always ready to forgive. Joel refers to the Lord returning and repenting.

When man repents, he changes his will toward God. When God repents, he is willing to make a change in response to man's repentance. God surely has no sin of which to repent, but he is willing in his mercy to change to forgiveness when man repents of his sin.

Joel's urgent appeal to return to the Lord with all your heart originated with God and not Joel himself. The Lord's character was declared to be the basis of the appeal. Turning to the Lord must be from the depth of one's being and an expression of inner attitude.

Blowing the trumpet indicates sounding the message so all will hear. They were to gather at God's house — all the people — to make prayer for divine mercy. They would express their deep contrition by weeping.

God's response, to spare them, was a reaction to their confession and would be a witness to the nations. ■ — Tom Moncrief is a member of First Church, Cleveland



world
news

Draper, McDowell headline BSSB report at SBC

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr., along with Josh McDowell, creator of the national "Right from Wrong" campaign, will headline the agency's report to the Southern Baptist Convention June 11 at the Superdome.



DRAPER

Draper will present the formal report, using the theme, "Bearing Abundant Fruit," and will outline preparations the 105-year-old board is making for 21st century ministries.

McDowell, whose campaign is sponsored by more than 50 groups including the BSSB, will address the convention on family values. For the campaign, the board has published a series of resources on Christian values for all age groups. ■

Baptists open new hospital

Baptist Press

KIGOMA, Tanzania — Two days of ceremonies marked the opening of Kigoma Baptist Hospital here.

More than 100 Baptists and dozens of other supporters walked through and around the hospital, singing and stopping at various points to pray for the facility's ministry, according to Southern Baptist missionary physician Bill Harrington. More than 300 attended dedication ceremonies and an open house the next day.

In a related matter involving Harrington, one of two lawsuits filed against him by disgruntled former employees has been dismissed as groundless. The second lawsuit remains to be resolved.

The Kigoma facility, unlike traditional mission hospitals, opens with only a \$10,000 subsidy from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. It will generate its own funding. ■

Georgia paper celebrates 175 years of service

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The dedication of a historical marker, a White House briefing, and a reception at the U.S. Capitol were highlights of the celebration of the 175th anniversary of *The Christian Index*.

The country's oldest religious newspaper, the *Index* was founded in the nation's capital in 1822 by pioneer Baptist missionary Luther Rice.

Members of the Georgia Baptist publication's staff and board of directors, Georgia Baptist leaders and historians, and other friends of the *Index* were in Washington in early May for a "heritage tour" to mark the journal's beginnings.

The paper originally was known as *The Columbian Star*. The historical marker has been erected near the corner of E and 10th streets in the city, just around the corner from historic Ford's Theater. ■

SBC attorney explains term 'incorporators'

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — In the proposed charter of the North American Mission Board, which will be presented to 1996 Southern Baptist Convention messengers in New Orleans, Georgia law allows a provision for someone to act on the new agency's behalf before trustees can be elected in 1997.

That "someone" is "incorporators."

SBC attorney James P. Guenther of Nashville, said the actual creation of the new corporation will occur soon after the 1996 convention approves the amendment to by-law 15 and "well before" the 1997 convention convenes in Dallas.

Incorporators will be "permitted to cause the publication of the required 'notice of intent to incorporate,' to reserve the name of the corporation, as well as other details which must be carried out for the NAMB, Guenther said. ■

Leonard accepts Wake Forest post

Associated Baptist Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Bill Leonard of Samford University has been named as the first dean of Wake Forest University's new divinity school.

Leonard, chairman of the religion department at Sam-

Former illiterate earns seminary degree in Canada

By Nancy Carter McGough
For Baptist Press

COCHRANE, Alberta, Canada — Once Eddy Emerson gains a concept, there's no stopping him.

Emerson was functionally illiterate until he was 28 years old. Up until then he could only read a few basic words, such as "and," "the," "to," "mother," and "father."

But on May 4, 20 years after he was taught to read by a school teacher at his daughter's elementary school, Emerson earned the associate of divinity degree at Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary in Cochrane, near Calgary.

His grade-point average was 3.82 out of a 4.0. In letter grades that is a high "A."

"When I first came here my greatest fear was that I couldn't function at this academic level. But after the first term I knew I could do it," he recalls, adding, "I'm a self-motivator. At first I slugged it out the hard way. Then I developed a system in which I put information together in order



EDDY EMERSON and his wife, Dori, recently celebrated his graduation from Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary.

to study for exams."

That tenacity kept Emerson in school as a youth until he earned his high school diploma. He says he did it by being socially promoted and by cheating on tests.

When he finally acknowledged to his daughter's teacher that he never learned to read, she began teaching him phonics using flash cards. Within six weeks he was reading at a third-grade level. Within a year he was reading at a 12th-grade level.

It took him several more years to respond to the call to ministry he first experienced as a 15-year-old, not long after his conversion. An unsuspecting Sunday School teacher called on Emerson to read from the Bible. The experience was so humiliating that "I didn't set foot into church for 10 years."

Now as a church leader, Emerson says he never asks people to read. "I ask for people to volunteer to

read."

Shortly before graduation, Emerson was called as bivocational pastor of Bell Rock Church, Village of Oak Creek, Ariz.

He is using his own personal experience to help others. He is a certified literacy teacher through the Southern Baptist Convention's literacy program through the Home Mission Board. "If I could encourage anyone to read or to help someone else to read, I

ford, will assume his new role July 1. The divinity school is scheduled to open by the fall of 2000 with about 45 students.

Leonard formerly taught church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., before moving to Samford. ■

Land testifies in Washington

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Federal officials recently told a congressional committee they have yet to uncover a national conspiracy in the burnings of predominantly black churches' buildings in the South, but some panel members and witnesses called for more attention to the problem.

Richard Land, head of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, told the committee the "African American community needs to hear the overwhelming condemnation of the burning of their churches" from the white community.

"While it is true that Southern Baptists have not always stood for racial justice and equality, God has, his Word

has, and with his help, we do now and we shall in the future," Land said.

He joined a panel of black leaders and pastors, which followed a congressman and panel of federal officials, in testifying at a May 21 hearing on church fires in the southeastern United States before the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee.

The hearing was prompted by an increase in burnings of church buildings, especially of predominantly black congregations, in the last 17 months. Since the start of 1995, there have been reports of fires at 37 church building, 28 of them with predominantly black congregations. ■

Foreign missionary dies in wreck

Baptist Press

CADIZ, Ky. — Daniel R. Hill, a Southern Baptist missionary to Thailand, died May 22 in an automobile accident near Cadiz.

Hill, 54, was driving to Indianapolis to attend a son's graduation from military boot camp when he apparently fell asleep at the wheel, according to state police. His car left the road and overturned. Hill was thrown from the car and later pronounced dead at a Paducah, Ky., hospital.

An Atlanta native, Hill served as a church planter and evangelist in Bangkok, Thailand. He was in the United States for two months of study. He was completing requirements for a counseling degree at Georgia State University at the time of his death.

His wife, Delores, was in Thailand, when the accident occurred. They have four grown children. ■

Mississippi editor to retire

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Guy Henderson, editor of *The Baptist Record*, will retire June 30 after six years with the state paper of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Henderson, 68, and his wife, Lois, will remain in Mississippi, although he told Baptist Press he would like to assist in some overseas pastorates in the future.

Henderson has been with the Mississippi Baptist Convention for 18 years. Before that he was a missionary with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for 20 years, serving in Korea and the Philippines.

The Hendersons have four children, including a daughter and her husband who are missionaries in Costa Rica. ■



LAND