

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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Statewide Edition

June 26, 1996

this week's news

- ▶ FMB trustees appoint missionaries with Tennessee ties and a missionary to Poland. — Page 2
- ▶ Tennessee Baptists honored by Home Mission Board during SBC annual meeting in New Orleans. — Page 6



AWARD RECIPIENT

- ▶ Newsletter highlights work in Canada, Poland, and Michigan. — Pages 7-10

There will be no issue next week. The next Baptist and Reflector will be dated July 10.

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



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Knoxville youth group impacts Poland

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — The largest single group to go to one location in a Tennessee Baptist partnership made a tremendous impact not only on a Polish church, but the city as well.

Seventy-eight youth and leaders from First Church, Concord, Knoxville, returned June 15 from a one-week trip to Tarnow, Poland, where they served at Tarnow Baptist Church.

This was by far the largest single group to go to Poland and the largest to go to a single site during Tennessee partnerships, said Terry Sharp, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership Missions Department.

The Concord group, led by Denny Brinkman, presented numerous concerts in schools and other locations in Tarnow.

An outdoor concert in the city's amphitheater attracted 1,000 people. When it was over, 100 had accepted Christ as Lord and Savior, Brinkman said.

"The kids definitely made an impact on

Tarnow," Sharp said.

In a faxed communication to Sharp, Irek Skoczen, pastor of the Tarnow church, said, "The group's trip here was a big encouragement to us. We really did see God at work and the group from Concord was right in the middle of what he was doing."

Skoczen noted it was a historical occasion for the church because one of their baptisms, along with an open air service, was shown on television.

In regard to the service at the amphitheater he noted "it was the largest such event our church has ever put on."

The Polish pastor agreed that the youth impacted the city as well as his church. "They were certainly noticed here in the city and they were identified as being associated with the church. Teachers from the local schools clearly expressed their satisfaction. It was noticed that nothing that we did was done for money. Nobody has ever done as much around here for free before."

Skoczen praised the group for their discipline and behavior. "Denny Brinkman

prepared the young people very well. Everything they said and their attitudes were a superb testimony to their maturity in the Lord.

"I'm encouraged, our youth are encouraged, and the whole church here is too. We're still hearing some echos from the group in the form of visitors to the church, new people at the youth meetings, and comments we receive from outsiders," he said.

The trip also impacted the Concord group, Brinkman said.

"Our kids were able to see God in a foreign culture as active, or in some cases, more active than at home," he said.

He noted they were allowed to share testimonies in Polish schools about what God has done in their lives, something they could not have done here in the United States.

In addition, he said, the Poland trip enabled the group to "see how God works across national boundaries" and enabled them to "develop a heart for foreign missions."

— See Knoxville, page 2

SBC establishes fund to assist burned African American churches

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A fund has been established to assist African American churches whose facilities have been destroyed by arson, Southern Baptist Convention officials announced June 18.

Southern Baptists and other concerned groups as well as individuals may contribute to help rebuild the 33 African American churches attacked since January 1995, primarily in the South, according to Tom Elliff, newly elected president of the SBC.

"We are committed to helping our brothers and sisters in Christ to rebuild amidst these tragic events," said Elliff, pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla., who was elected SBC president at the denomination's annual meeting in New Orleans, June 11-13.

"Greater than any hatred which fosters such reprehensible acts is the love that South-

TBC leaders plan response

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Convention leaders are making plans "concerning the specific manner in which the Tennessee Baptist Convention will respond to assist churches in Tennessee that have been destroyed by fire," according to TBC Executive Director James Porch.

The July 10 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* will detail those plans. *BSR*

ern Baptists find in their hearts for these churches that have been burned," Elliff said.

At the New Orleans meeting Southern Baptists raised \$282,000 in cash and pledges for the churches. Officials said all the money sent to the "Arson Fund" will be distributed exclusively for the rebuilding of the churches.

Southern Baptist churches are encouraged to send their gifts through the regular channel with their state conventions. The designated gifts should be marked "Arson Fund" when sent to the state convention office.

Contributions from other than Southern Baptist church-

es, marked "Arson Fund," can be sent to the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce St., Nashville, TN 37203. For more information, call Bill Merrell or Jon Walker in the Executive Committee convention relations office at (615) 244-2355.

In addition, Southern Baptist construction crews are volunteering to immediately begin rebuilding the burned church facilities. Thus far, four Baptist state conventions have sent crews to churches in need and the SBC's Brotherhood Commission is attempting to contact each of the fire-damaged congregations to assess the level of need, SBC officials said.

Those wishing to be part of volunteer construction crews are encouraged to contact the Brotherhood Commission at 1 (800) 280-1891. The commission is located at 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104. ■

Strong missions giving leads to raise for missionaries

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Prompted by stronger giving from Southern Baptists, Foreign Mission Board trustees approved an immediate salary increase during their June 7-8 meeting prior to the SBC annual meeting.

Their action allocates \$1.4 million to upgrade raises based on length of service for the SBC's nearly 4,200 foreign missionaries working in 129 countries and among 336 ethnic people groups.

Stronger than expected giving by Southern Baptist churches and a slightly lower than expected growth rate in missionary numbers freed resources needed to finance the missionary pay raise, said Carl Johnson, FMB vice president for finance.

Trustees' vote gives increases ranging from \$408 to \$3,240 per year for missionaries at the five, 10, and 15-year cycles of service, beginning July 1. See page 3 for additional news from the trustee meeting. ■

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FMB appoints missionaries; allocates funds

By Mark Kelly
For Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Meeting prior to the annual Southern Baptist Convention June 11-13, trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board allocated \$3.3 million from real estate sales in Hong Kong to meet high-priority missionary housing needs elsewhere in the world.

Related to the meeting, trustees also appointed 54 new missionaries, including two who served West Tennessee churches. The missionaries were commissioned during a June 12 service at the Superdome in New Orleans. They join more than 4,200 missionaries working in 120 countries and among 336 ethnic people groups.

The trustees' allocation of \$3.3 million from real estate sales in Hong Kong will allow them to meet housing needs in other areas.

In many places across Asia,

property purchased decades ago has multiplied in value. As mission needs change, selling that real estate can generate large amounts of money to meet strategic needs in other parts of the world. For example, several properties in Hong Kong purchased in the 1960s for \$40,000 to \$70,000 were appraised at \$6.5 million to \$12 million in the 1990s.

The allocation will purchase housing in responsive places eager for new missionaries, such as the countries of the former Soviet Union.

Among missionaries appointed were Larry and Berri Matz. A Kansas native, Matz is a former minister of childhood education at Leawood Church, Memphis. He earned his master's degree from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis. Both also cite Bellevue Church, Cordova, as being influential in their Christian growth.

The Matzes will live in the Philippines, where he will



THE MATZES

start and develop churches. Together, they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries. They have two children.

Dudley and Romi Plaisance Jr. were named representatives of Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization. They will live in central Asia.

A Louisiana native, Plaisance is a Mid-America graduate and former church planter



THE PLAISANCES

for Colonial Hills Church in Southaven. They have three children.

Two other new missionaries have Tennessee ties: Mark D. Sauter, a Carson-Newman College graduate who cited Loveland Church, Knoxville, as being influential to his Christian growth, and Clay Moss, whose parents live in Tennessee — William T. Moss of Murfreesboro and Barbara G. Goree of Brentwood. ■

Knoxville youth group ...

— Continued from page 1

Brinkman, whose group raised \$100,000 for the trip "to keep the costs down to make sure everyone could go who wanted to," said he was surprised at the response of the city.

He noted a city official gave them gifts and thanked them for what the group had done. This was definitely a first, said Brinkman, who has done many mission trips during his 16 years of youth ministry.

Brinkman chose Poland for this overseas trip because of the Tennessee partnership and it may not be the last.

"We definitely opened up the door to go back," he said, and "expanded" their view of what such a group could do.

Sharp agreed. In fact, the Concord group may have changed the course of the Poland partnership, he said.

Though the task of working with such a large group seemed at times insurmountable, Polish Baptists were willing to take the risks, Sharp

said. "They soon realized what an impact such a group could make" after witnessing the Concord team at work, he added.

"We feel like we've made a major breakthrough in Poland this summer with our teams," Sharp said.

As for Pastor Irek Skoczen, he is convinced "that many seeds were definitely sown" by the Concord team.

"Now we just have to wait and be ready to see what grows out of them. We hope the long-term effects will be as good as the short-term ones," he observed in his communication with Sharp.

In addition to the youth group, First Church, Concord, also sent six medical professionals, led by Larry Rogers, a doctor and member of First Church. They were joined in Poland by Nashville physician Dewayne Dunn of Woodmont Church.

Dunn, a veteran medical volunteer, had worked in

Poland last year trying to develop the kind of ministry that clinics have had in other countries. It had not occurred although another health care team had worked there.

Dunn said it seemed the seven-member team again would be thwarted. The church in Kriniza, which is in south Poland, was dealing with a conflict and a storm hit, which kept patients away the first day a clinic was held.

And the day following the storm the clinic at the Kriniza church was very successful as word spread, said Dunn. People even asked for information at the area post office. A Polish doctor joined them.

The team held clinics in Tarnow and visited several hospitals. They also treated children and teachers at two public schools.

The efforts were more successful than he had prayed for, said Dunn. **B&R** — Connie Davis contributed to this story.

Carson appointed missionary to Poland

FMB news service

NEW ORLEANS — Susan E. Carson was named a missionary to Poland by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board June 12.

Carson will work in student and youth evangelism and be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.



CARSON

Tennessee Baptists are currently in a partnership missions arrangement with Baptists in Poland.

A native of Oklahoma, Carson has been associate Baptist Student Union director at Pittsburg (Kan.) State University. She is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. ■

List to be mailed soon

TBC '97 dates near completion

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The convention calendar for 1997 is nearing completion and should be in the mail no later than mid-July.

The 1996-97 Church Plans Books will not be available

this year, but the list of calendar dates will be mailed to every pastor and director of missions as soon as they are available.

The previous schedule should return for next year, with the 1998 dates in plan book form. **B&R**

SS lesson writers continue

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Writers of the Spring quarter Sunday School lessons will continue through the summer months.

They are: L. Joseph Roesas III, pastor, Union Avenue Church, Memphis, *Life and Work*; Kevin Goza, pastor, First Church, Lebanon, *Convention Uniform*; and Tom Moncrief, member, First Church, Cleveland, *Bible Book*.

Because the *Baptist and Reflector* is not published during the week of July 4, a condensed version of the July 7 lessons is printed on page 14. **B&R**

Sunday morning fire destroys physical plant at SEBTS

By Lee Weeks
For Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — An early morning fire June 16 gutted Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's physical plant building.

The losses totaled about \$1 million in damages to the two-story brick building constructed in the early 1940s, with portions dating back to 1923. Offices and storage rooms filled with computers, records, paper, tools, janitorial supplies, and an array of spare parts for house repairs top the list of casualties.

No one, however, was hurt in the blaze that took firefighters from eight area fire departments nearly six hours to finally snuff out.

Firefighters eventually extinguished the blaze by extending a ladder high above the now-roofless building, pouring hundreds of gallons of water on the fire.

The school's boiler room, the seminary's primary source for heating campus buildings, which adjoins the physical plant was salvaged despite receiving water damage.

But it was the loss of a new professor's personal library being stored at the physical plant until his office was ready for use that left the greatest void for Paige Patterson, seminary president.

"To me that's the most devastating part of it because anybody that has ever had a large library and learned to be dependent upon it knows that it

becomes almost like one of the members of your household," Patterson said.

Patterson has initiated a fund drive by donating \$500 to help restore Greg Lawson's 3,000-volume library which was valued at about \$90,000.

Lawson, who is on vacation and unavailable for comment, is scheduled to officially join the faculty Aug. 1 as assistant professor of Christian education.

Federal, state, and local investigators determined that the fire started when water from a galvanized pipe leaked onto an electrical box, causing a short in the wiring and thus igniting the blaze.

Residents of seminary housing across the street from the physical plant said flames were shooting 40 to 60 feet in

the air once the fire erupted through the building's roof.

"You could feel the heat from where we were standing (just off the front porch)," said Dawn Jones, who lives directly across the street from the physical plant.

Jones said small, red-glowing embers of debris rained on her and her neighbors' front lawns while firefighters fought the blaze. Residents were not asked to evacuate their homes for safety.

Paul Fletcher, vice president for administration, said the fire could have been much more destructive. Fletcher said the building's hard pine wood walls and floors quickly accelerated the fire into nearly a raging inferno.

"We were very fortunate

that flammable liquids stored in the warehouse were not damaged," Fletcher said. "Tons of coal stored in the coal bin were not ignited."

As for the days ahead, Fletcher said, "The building is only 60 percent insured. It is an irreplaceable loss, a financial loss to the seminary that will be very difficult to make up."

Fletcher said the seminary will continue to operate its plant services operation out of an existing metal building and part of the boiler room. Offices will be relocated to other buildings where space is available.

Fletcher said the seminary will decide what action to take after studying an architectural plan due out this summer outlining future development of seminary facilities. ■

SBC officials cite new Disney movie as example of concern

By Jon Walker
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Less than a week after messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention voted to prayerfully consider a boycott of Disney products, the entertainment conglomerate announced it is cutting movie production in half. Walt Disney Company executives said the reorganization will allow for an increased emphasis on family movies.

"Even though it seems the decision by the Disney Company is being driven only by finances, we are delighted that it will result in more family movies," said Bill Merrell, vice president for convention relations for the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

"Unfortunately, the Disney subsidiary Miramax will apparently continue unabated on its course of producing objectionable films. It would delight us even more if Disney would return to the dreams and values of Walt Disney and to the very essence of what made the Disney company so great."

Even the mainstream media have noticed Disney's increasing permissiveness in recent years, Merrell said — a trend which prompted the Southern Baptist Convention to approve consideration of a boycott during its annual meeting June 11-13 in New Orleans.

Merrell cited an article in the June 14 edition of *USA Today* which described Disney's newest animated film, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," as family entertainment "gone adult." The newspaper reported the film includes a voluptuous Gypsy dancer that, "Heaven knows most dads in the audience" will certainly notice.

"In one song, we have (a character) sing the church liturgy but also sing of twisted sexual fantasies," said Alan Menken, the Oscar-winning composer of Hunchback's music, who added that Disney chief Michael Eisner said "even if it goes PG, he would not compromise the material." *USA Today* also reported producer Don Hahn declared that Hunchback shows the "training wheels are off" for Disney films.

All of this reflects the point of the

Southern Baptist Convention's resolution (entire resolution is found on page 14) on Disney company policy, said the SBC's Merrell. "Disney has consciously shifted away from its roots in family entertainment," Merrell said. "It used to be when your kids went to a Disney film, you knew family values would be reinforced within the context of the story. That is no longer the case."

Merrell said the SBC resolution on Disney company policy was not aimed at denying health benefits to homosexuals, as widely reported in the media; rather, it was aimed at expressing disappointment that Disney's moral leadership has dissipated due to a variety of corporate decisions.

"They have established an employee policy which embraces homosexual relationships for the purpose of insurance benefits," Merrell said. "However, they also host homosexual and lesbian theme nights at their 'family' parks. I don't believe middle America is ready to accept Mickey Mouse as a militant homosexual or Donald Duck in drag."

Disney now produces books and

films that disparage Christian values, Merrell said, "and they deny that decent parents know what's best for their children. One Disney executive has reportedly said, 'parents underestimate what their children can handle.'

"They have a right to produce the movies they want to produce," Merrell said. "But we have a right to measure those movies against the plumb line of decent and moral family values and a right to decide not to do business with Disney."

"We are hopeful that Disney will rethink its well-publicized changes and set its aims on returning to be an entertainment company families can trust," he said.

The 18-paragraph SBC resolution, as adopted by messengers to the denomination's annual meeting, encourages Southern Baptists "to give serious and prayerful reconsideration to their purchase and support of Disney products, and to boycott The Disney Company and theme parks if they continue this anti-Christian and anti-family trend." ■

Disney, McDonald's agree on marketing alliance

Compiled from Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The July issue of *AFA Journal*, published by the American Family Association, voices concern that Disney and McDonald's have agreed on a 10-year worldwide marketing alliance to include cross-promotions involving both companies.

The AFA article notes, "The sponsorship pact means the Disney name will be put before the 323 million people who visit McDonald's on an average day, and the Golden Arches will become the title sponsor of some of the new high profile attractions at Disney theme

parks and resorts."

The AFA stated, "... the link is troubling because both companies, which built their fortunes on the family, are now drifting away from (that) base," referencing its ongoing national TV monitoring placing McDonald's and Disney "among the top 10 sponsors of television programs promoting the homosexual agenda."

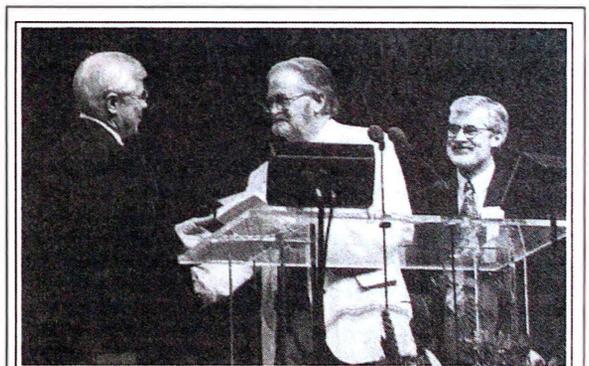
AFA President Donald Wildmon is quoted as saying, "It's an entirely new challenge for families. We can sit still and do nothing and let this new corporate media machine roll over us or ... act now and let both sides (Disney and Mc-

Donald's) know people are watching and will vote on the success of the joint promotions with a most powerful weapon — the dollar."

The *AFA Journal* listed the companies' corporate addresses, chairmen, and phone and fax numbers.

► McDonald's, Chairman Michael R. Quinlan, 1 Kroc Drive, Oak Brook, IL 60521; phone (708) 575-3000; fax, (708) 575-6942

► The Walt Disney Company, Chairman Michael Eisner, 500 S. Buena Vista St., Burbank, CA 91521; phone, (818) 560-1000; fax, (818) 560-1930. ■



SBC presentation

Baptist and Reflector Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen, center, presents a copy of *Contending for the Right to Know*, a history of the Southern Baptist Press Association to SBC President Jim Henry, left, as SBPA President Bill Webb of Missouri looks on.



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

- 26 — Pray for the seminary and particularly the volunteers from Texas who are working on the completion of the new building.
- 27 — Pray for three workers and funds to replace the windows in the Baptist church building in Koszalin.
- 28 — Pray for Allen Schmidt and Gerry Taillon in Canada as they travel great distances involved in their work as directors of Anglo and language missions.
- 29 — Pray for Mike Noble and his team of eight volunteers who have committed to a crusade project in Szczyt-no, Poland.
- 30 — Pray for the many project needs in Canada that remain unfilled. May the Lord see fit to place on the hearts of our volunteers the needs of Canadian Baptists.

Helping students

May was a time of celebration for many Tennessee families as they saw a son or daughter reach the milestone of high school graduation. Speeches were made, diplomas handed out, hats were tossed in the air. What's next?

For many of our young adults, the next step is enrollment in a college or university. No matter where the location, this will be a challenging time for Christian young people as they face a new and unfamiliar environment.

On over 100 campuses across the country, Southern Baptists support ministries for college and university students. Most are called Baptist Student Unions. In many situations, there is an adult leader known as the director of Baptist student ministries or Baptist campus minister who encourages students in their spiritual growth and involves

them in meaningful activities with other Christian students.

We would like to connect such students with the Baptist student ministry serving his or her chosen campus. Please send names, complete address, and phone number of the student to: Student Search, Student Ministries Department, Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

We will give this information to a caring worker serving on the campus the student will attend, whether in Tennessee or another state.

This may be the greatest gift a parent, pastor, youth minister, or Sunday School teacher can give a prospective college student.

Ircel Harrison
Student Ministries Dept.
Brentwood 37024

Thanks to BSSB

I heartily applaud Baptist Sunday School Board efforts to publish Bible study materials

based upon the New International Version of the Bible. I was pleased that the *Experiencing God Study Bible* is being released in the NIV. Every church I have served has had a small group who pushed the "King James only" position, and without the support of our publishing people, it has been difficult to convince people that among most Christian groups, the NIV (while not a perfect replication of the inerrant Word of God) has become the Bible translation of choice.

Approaching the 21st century, it is time we had a version of the Bible as a standard that takes into account incredible archaeological discoveries of 150 years. Most youth and young adults do not understand early modern English spoken 385 years ago. To them it is like a foreign language which needs further translation to have relevance to their lives.

Now with Sunday School,

VBS, and Bible drill materials in the NIV, our young people can grasp the relevance of the eternal Scriptures, which are not archaic rambles of an ancient age, but living words which cut to the essence of human existence. Thank you Southern Baptist leaders for helping us come out of the 17th century!

Chris Francis, pastor
Fellowship Church
Knoxville 37920

Seeks pastor

Members of First Church, New Underwood, S.D., are looking for a bivocational pastor to love them and who will love the pastor in return. The church can offer a small salary per month and a parsonage with utilities included. Send resumes to address below.

Pastor Search Committee
First Baptist Church
P.O. Box 314
New Underwood, S.D. 56661

Judge what's appropriate, Disney or anyone else

Since Southern Baptist Convention messengers approved a resolution to boycott the Disney Company, people have been having a field day with jokes and comments.

Yet, I don't think we "picked on Mickey Mouse." Mickey and Donald and Goofy really aren't the issues here.

The issue is what is appropriate for our kids.

As a Christian parent, it is my responsibility to judge what is appropriate for my kids to see, whether it is produced by Disney or any other company.

Will I boycott Disney? Yes and no.

If they produce a movie I think Joanna and Daniel should not see, then yes we will boycott it by not going, buying the video tape, or the multitude of toys and clothing associated with it.

an occasional word

— by Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor

But I am not going to make my kids stop watching Disney programming that I grew up with or new movies Joyce and I deem appropriate. Even I occasionally like to pull out a tape and watch a Disney classic or the old Davy Crockett movies with Fess Parker. Walt Disney was a master at producing clean, wholesome family movies.

We have to remember that the Disney of today is not the Disney of old. I personally don't think Walt Disney, if he were

alive today, would approve of the direction the corporation he built is headed.

I know what some will say. Even if you buy the older movies, the money is going to the "Disney of today."

That's true, but if you go to that extreme you should do it across the board — get rid of television entirely, don't shop at stores or eat at restaurants that sell alcohol (but be careful, some store that doesn't sell it may be a relative to one that does), etc.

We have to live in the world God put us in. It's not always easy, but as Christians we should be able to discern right from wrong and instill those values into our children.

So, as long as Mickey and Donald don't move in together we will continue watching them in the Wilkey household. *B&R*



WILKEY

Attending in healthy families requires three skills

families matter

— by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor

As we continue to look at the attributes that contribute to a healthy family, we focus on "attending." Generally attending is the intentional skill of paying particular attention to another person or situation in order to avoid distorted perceptions. Many a broken, battered family are wounded by the negative attributions which come from these false perceptions.

These observations may seem monotonously obvious and simplistic. It is not the knowledge of these truths that is deficient in the family today, but the practice of them.

Many families are not doing as well as they know they should in this area of attending. They really mean to do better, but just never seem to get around to it. James admonishes us to be "doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving ourselves" (James 1:22). I would like to suggest three practices that are vital to the

skill of attending: listening, looking, and clarifying.

Everyone of us has been guilty at one time or another of assuming what someone else was saying or at least meaning by what they said. One of the biggest obstacles to intentional listening is our practice of tuning out what someone else is saying while we plan our rebuttal to their first comment. We become so preoccupied with our planned reply that we often miss completely what the other person is saying. In healthy families each member makes a special effort to listen to what the other is saying before they pop off a rebuttal. This could have something to do with the reason the Lord gave each of us two ears and only one mouth so that we should listen twice as much and as hard as we talk.

The next practice is to look. The gestures, facial expressions, and nervous movements can communicate much more

than words at times. Accurate and healthy communication is hampered when we are unable or unwilling to look at or see the person with whom we are talking. It is helpful when we want to have heavy-duty discussions to have as few distractions as possible so that we enhance the possibility of this skill. Without appearing over simplistic, this means first turning off the TV and not trying to have meaningful discussions with your children while you take them to school in the morning.

The final part of the practice is clarification. Attending means that I make sure that my perceptions are accurate. I can't do this without using some form of restatement or questions to assess whether my perceptions are accurate. One might say, "I heard you say ..." Or one might phrase it as a question, "Are you saying ...?" or "Do you mean ...?"

Healthy families enhance their communication by attending one another with the skills of listening intentionally, looking intently, and clarifying their impressions. ■



BARKLEY

Want to adopt a retired minister?

Why should Baptists be responsible for the retirement benefits of their pastors and staff members? Shouldn't each individual take care of it?

The answers to these questions are simple. The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention is one of the most valuable tools available for retirement care. Many dedicated ministers cannot save enough on their own to satisfy their retirement needs.

Churches are responsible for them. And many churches today make certain that financial needs are met when the pastor retires.

But today we call attention to recognition of a special need. June is a month to honor loyal Southern Baptist pastors by adopting them.

Yes, some of them need to be adopted by caring Christians who want them to live comfortably.

The Annuity Board says that more than 9,000 Southern Baptist ministers or their widows receive only \$200 or less per month in pension benefits from their denominational retirement plan.

You see, it is too late for them to supplement their retirement with money of their own. They are retired and their income is settled. It cannot be improved through the financial plans of the Annuity Board.

But the Annuity Board has a plan whereby ordinary Baptists can help through adoption.

Paul Powell, president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, says it is a matter of too little, too late.

"Thousands of our churches and pastors did not make the Church Annuity Plan a priority in their salary and benefits planning," Powell said. "By the

time the reality of need soaked in, it was too late to catch up. Now, we look to the Cooperative Program to provide relief funds for the most desperate cases and to the Annuity Board's Adopt An Annuitant Program as an added blessing."

Cooperative Program funds allocated to the board are used entirely as relief grants to annuitants in need. The board also promotes the Adopt An Annuitant Program in which gifts from others are used to supplement the monthly incomes of these most needy annuitants. Each reader probably knows a retired minister whose income is insufficient.

While this is a severe problem for many retirees, Powell and others are explaining the deep need for a sound retirement program that will insure every retired minister with enough funds.

There are stacks of letters on Powell's desk telling of 30 or 40 years of faithful pastoral ministry, always in small churches, always depending on God and his people to meet modest human needs.

More than half the relief recipients receive no regular monthly annuity benefit because their churches never enrolled them in the Church Annuity Plan, and some do not even receive Social Security. He calls them old soldiers of the cross. "These old soldiers assumed nothing except a simple faith that God would provide," he said. "There is almost never a complaint, always a humble, gracious, 'thank you' for every evidence of love and care by Southern Baptists."

And every penny of Cooperative Program money received at the Annuity Board goes to a needy church or missions worker or his widow. The board divides about \$1.2 million annually to some 540 individuals

or couples as monthly or expense grants.

In 1995 an average recipient of Annuity Board relief funds was 78 years old with total monthly income from all sources of \$680 and total expenses of \$861.

Powell explains that the Annuity Board grant may barely bring the recipient up to a break-even situation. The board gave an extra check of \$175 last Christmas. The maximum monthly grant for an individual is \$180 and \$240 for a couple.

Two things are important to remember.

1. Ministers and their churches today are making better preparation for retirement.

2. Jesus said that the poor will always be with us. Whatever reason our retired ministers have for not having sufficient income, they will still need our help. They trust in God, and they count on Southern Baptists to rescue them from acute need, says Paul Powell. He asks that Southern Baptists adopt these needy annuitants and, in doing so, be God's hands to lift them up.

Individuals, Sunday School classes, men's and women's groups and churches can be involved by adopting an annuitant.

For details call or write to Gary Rickman, Church Annuity Office, TBC, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood 37024; or (615) 371-2008, or call the Annuity Board specialist at (214) 720-4708. **B&R**



Just for today
By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Young man (to lady at the desk in a swanky hotel): "Do I register with you?"

Lady at the desk: "Not by any stretch of the imagination."

Take this truth

Let me make a confession. Some few people "just aren't my cup of tea." I love them, but frankly I don't like them. I'm sure others feel that way about me.

Sad to say, when we don't like another person we usually don't like anything that person does.

That means we should try to make ourselves likeable, not by compromising our principles but by trying to be the kind of person to which others can relate in a positive way.

Memorize this Scripture

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

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to examine myself constantly, and help me to be completely honest with myself so I will not intentionally offend others. **B&R**

Independence Day calls for our best effort

Nathan Hale, young American patriot who was caught by the British and condemned to death as a spy, sparked the Revolution with just a few simple words.

It was prior to his execution September 22, 1776. "I only regret that I have only one life to lose for my country," were the words that set a standard for patriotic eloquence.

He may have remembered the message his countryman Patrick Henry loosed on the world the previous March. Speaking in the Virginia Convention, Henry tweaked the British nose with, "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death."

Whose heart doesn't quicken at these displays of courage? And how did it help the cause of freedom, we might ask.

English poet Walter Scott about 30 years later in *The Lay of the Last Minstrel*, wrote that only someone with a dead soul would not claim allegiance to his homeland.

Such a person would "be unwept, unhonored, and unsung," he wrote.

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

In just a few days we Americans have opportunity to give swift and sure allegiance to our country. And we also have opportunity to do something measurable.

I know sometimes we are disgruntled with leadership and long for the simplicity of a half century ago. Perhaps we yearn for something that was perfect, and expect that today's world will be a Utopia without hate, hardship, or irrational lifestyles.

But the gift we can give to the United States of America as we observe Independence Day is a re-birth of all that is good and fair and just.

We can be a part of that. We can each give of ourselves to act decently and with respect toward leaders and followers. We can help ensure liberty and justice for all.

We can act more than we complain. We can push mightily for churches, schools,

communities that sooth hurting people, show the way to Christ, and offer the justice that is a promise.

An old almanac was found many years ago, perhaps moldy and dusty, threadbare and crackling with age.

Its pages may have been yellowed with time, but some of its words crackled with life, rich with optimism.

"O! ye unborn inhabitants of America! Should this page escape its destined conflagration at the year's end, and these alphabetical letters remain legible, when your eyes behold the sun after he has rolled the seasons round for two or three centuries more, you will know that in Anno Domini 1758, we dream'd of your times."

We dreamed of your times!

Perhaps we of the great heritage of freedom need to learn how to cope with independence. If we do nothing with independence except to brag about it, we are not doing justice to our nation or to ourselves. It is a precious gift. **B&R**



ALLEN

Getting to know all about the community

I have been going to school, and I just graduated. Let me tell you about my learning adventure.

My school has been unique. The classroom was not located in an academic building on a campus, but has moved from place to place around our community.

I haven't studied under one professor, but have learned from many voices and opinions. The class of 50 represented a broad diversity of our larger community.

We did not receive grades, but strict attendance rules were kept and everyone did not graduate.

It was a Leadership Knoxville class. Once monthly the group of leaders gathered to

think about it

— David Hull, pastor, First Church, Knoxville

learn about challenges and possibilities of our area. Some were longtime residents and knew many of the issues. Others were newcomers like me and were eager to know everything we could learn.

The dialogue was stimulating and informative, as we had our horizons broadened while we learned. New relationships were formed and ideas discussed which will shape my ministry for years to come.

I participated in the group because my understanding of ministry in the church is

that the community of faith is to be integrally involved in the life of the larger community of the city. Too often churches hide behind the stained glass and only do "church business" in an attempt to avoid or ignore the "secular city."

The biblical witness calls for a different approach from the church.

We need to address some ways that a church can relate to the city which is home. We will address some of these from the pulpit. It is a challenge for our church's presence in Knoxville in the future.

We will explore the writings of Nehemiah as we become involved in "rebuilding the city." **B&R**

Tennesseans, church honored by HMB

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NEW ORLEANS — The Home Mission Board honored one Tennessee church and two Tennesseans during its annual New Work Awards meeting and banquet June 10 prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Among four churches honored for their work as key churches, was Kirby Woods Church, Memphis. It received an award which is the first of its kind — Key Church of the Year Award — because of the church's outstanding accomplishments, announced J.V. Thomas of the HMB.

A key church is one that commits to reaching several goals including starting five mission/ministry units each year and sponsoring at least five dependent or pre-independent satellite units on a continuous basis.

Kirby Woods Church sponsors 14 congregations, eight of which were begun during the church year 1994-95. It cooperates through Shelby Association with Westhaven Church to sponsor Winbranch and Cazassa Hope centers. It works with Love Church to sponsor Prescott Hope Center. The church also helps sponsor the Inner-City Outreach Center, Miracle Mission, and New Song Mission.

In other areas of Tennessee, Kirby Woods is sponsoring Burns Mission in Dickson and an African American congregation in Rossville with Shelby and Fayette associations and Rossville Church, Rossville.

Throughout the United States the church works with four congregations in New York; three associations in Michigan to support the Michigan/Tennessee Baptist Partnership; a mission congregation in Louisville, Ohio; with several new churches in Washington; and is working to begin a congregation in Palm Coast community, Flagler County, Fla.

Robert Pitman, pastor, reported since becoming a key church the giving of members to missions has increased over 100 percent. Currently 27 percent of the church's budget goes to missions. In addition, a special offering goes solely to missions. The church holds a 1:9 baptismal to attendance ratio.

African American worker

Richard Lee, pastor, Greater Hope Church, Jackson, and a church planter who is sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention and HMB, was recognized among two oth-

ers for work with African Americans. Willie T. McPherson of the HMB noted Lee and his wife, Lucille, helped start Greater Hope Church in Jackson just one and a half years ago and already it has reported 127 people making professions of faith, 47 being baptized, and 107 becoming members.

McPherson noted Greater Hope Church has started another congregation. It operates a radio program, a food and clothing pantry, and a day care center. Outreach projects have included an Oktoberfest and evangelical block party, the later of which drew almost 300 people.

Lee, who was one of two honorees who spoke, said after graduation from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., he was offered jobs in three states, including Tennessee. The Lees moved to Jackson, although they had never heard of the city, just two years ago because Lucille felt they were being called by God to work there, he said.

They began working with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Madison-Chester Association, and Englewood Church, Jackson, to start an African American congregation. A church building which had been closed was bought for the proposed congregation. Southern Baptists helped renovate it and do people searches to prepare for the possible congregation, said Lee.

He recalled that among 300 homes contacted, about 90 percent of the families said they did not regularly attend a Bible study.

To help begin the congregation, the Lees began a day care center with the goal of eventually ministering to the parents of the children for whom they cared. The center was made possible by a private donation from

a Jackson physician, said Lee.

"God is really moving in the people of Jackson," he said.

Although he is the only black Southern Baptist pastor among 52 congregations in the association, he has been allowed to preach in many churches that have never hosted an African American speaker, said Lee. Sometimes he has felt he should title his sermon, "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," he said, referring to the movie dealing with race.

He said he and his wife have experienced culture shock because of what he termed a middle position — not accepted totally by African American Baptists because most are members of the National Baptist Convention, and not accepted totally by some anglo Southern Baptists because of his race. He said he has even been the target of opposition to the church.

However, he's sure that is

going to change. "People are going to reject us, but we're going to stick it out because people need the Lord. God is no respecter of persons," said Lee. "The walls (of racial divide) must come down."

He praised workers at the HMB, TBC, association, and Englewood Church for accepting him totally. For example, he said, Phillip Jett, pastor of Englewood, gave him a key to the church the first time they met about the church's work with the new congregation. Jett told him he had full access to the facilities of the church and to its vans.

That kind of support has made the work of Greater Hope Church possible, Lee concluded.

Other Tennessean honored

James Powers, director of missions, Concord Association, received one of three awards made to associational workers. In presenting the Town and

Country Award, Robert E. Wiley of the HMB noted Powers had led the association for nine years. When he joined the association, it had a population of 66,000 and 40 Baptist congregations. Currently it has a population of 146,000 served by 52 Baptist churches and about 20 other congregations. By 2004 A.D. the projection is the population will grow by 100,000 more.

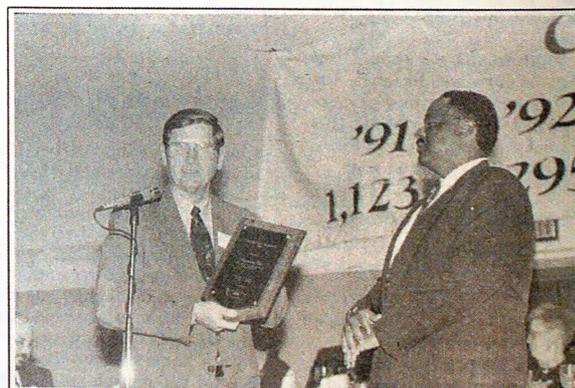
Powers has led the association to start 16 mission-type starts and 20 ministry spots. He credited the association's churches who have helped and the TBC Missions Department and executive director for help and resources. ■



ACCEPTING THE KEY CHURCH of the Year Award is Robert Pitman, second from left, pastor, Kirby Woods Church, Memphis, from Larry Lewis, left, president, Home Mission Board, as Mrs. Pitman, third from left; and Howard Bickers, right, minister of missions, and Mrs. Bickers, look on. — Photo by Mark Sandlin



RECEIVING AN AWARD for associational work is James H. Powers, right, of Concord Association and his wife, Mary, from Larry Lewis, HMB president. — Photo by Mark Sandlin



SPEAKING ABOUT the new work award to be given for work with African Americans is Larry Lewis, left, HMB president, before recognizing Richard Lee of Jackson. — Photo by Mark Sandlin



Partnership Missions Newsletter

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

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

From the director

By Terry Sharp, director
Partnership Missions Office

"Partnership mission trips don't make sense." To some doing volunteer missions is a bad use of resources and just doesn't make sense. I have heard recently from those who don't understand partnership missions how the money volunteers spend could be better used on the mission field by the missionaries or nationals that speak the language. These opponents to partnership also do not see how a volunteer group can do anything without speaking the language. Rationally by secular standards maybe it doesn't make sense, however, in Partnership Missions there is a dimension at work and as volunteers give of themselves, sacrificially give, they become totally dependent on the Lord for their strength. God uses these volunteers to make an impact where they serve.

I recently read the following excerpt of an editorial written by Editor Michael Clingenpeel which was published in the *Religious Herald* of Virginia. The editorial also mentions the detractors of partnership missions but then came this comment that I want to share with you.



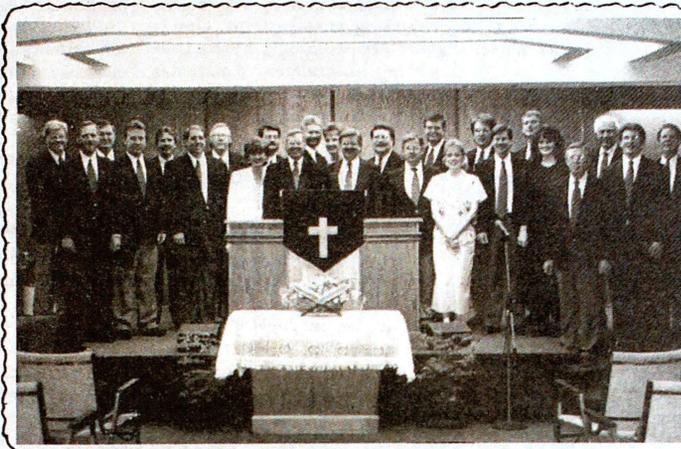
SHARP

"Many missions volunteers bring to their assignments considerable spiritual gifts, along with the prayers and material backing of their congregations. In a week or two church buildings are built, Bibles are distributed, medical and dental clinics are held, Vacation Bible Schools are conducted and revivals are preached. The teams accomplish tasks that career missionaries cannot, or should not, do because they must focus on a larger strategy of witness and training.

"One of the strongest arguments for missions partnerships is what it accomplishes in the lives of volunteers. Almost uniformly they are forced to move outside their comfort zone eating different foods, living in novel conditions, negotiating relationships in a strange language and taking on tasks for which they are unprepared. Faith rarely grows larger than the dimensions to which it is stretched by circumstances that cannot be dodged; and most of our churches are systems that make such dodging acceptably simple.

"Partnerships create conditions that almost guarantee cultural and spiritual growth."

Terry



SERVING IN CANADA are Tennessee musicians, from left, Tracy Wilson, Dan-dridge; Jim Justice, Springfield; Donnie Smith, Chattanooga; Henry Simpson, Huntington; Mike Daniel, Athens; Phillip McKibben, Somerville; Julian Suggs, TBC, Brentwood; Mary Beth Wickes, Cleveland; Larry Brant, Camden; Tom Wickes, Cleveland; John and Lisa Bunn, Elizabethton; Steve Brown, Knoxville; Dana Smith, Crossville; Dennis Johnson, Covington; Ray Hatton, Memphis; Deborah Johnson, Covington; Chris Alford, Knoxville; Lloyd Sutton, Chattanooga; Bill Poyner, Knoxville; Myra Sutton, Chattanooga; Darrell Newman, Chattanooga; Herman May, Chattanooga; Jonathan Nelms, Cookeville; and David Hyers, Knoxville.



CONSULTING WITH a student from Lithuania attending the Canadian Baptist Seminary is Tom Wickes, left, minister of music, First Church, Cleveland, with Arturas Rulinskas.

See pages 8-9 for more on
missions work done by the
musician team in Canada.

Paris resident gives van to Michigan church

You have heard the expression, "He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time." Well, in this case, David Westover, pastor of the Bangor Church, Bay City, Mich., may have just been in the "right place at the right time."

Two summers ago, the Maplewood Church of Paris

worked at the Michigan church doing construction work. At that time Westover told Lynn King, pastor of Maplewood, that if the church ever decided to get another van, the church would be interested in buying their used van.

This spring Maplewood got a new van and contacted West-

over about the old one. They gave him a price and he asked for time to pray about it and take it to the church for approval.

In the meantime, Maplewood voted to donate the van to the church and it was delivered in May when an associa-tion missionary was in Ten-

nessee and picked it up.

Thomas L. Martin, associa-tional missionary coordinator for Bay Area Association, noted the Paris church has been in-volved in financial support of Michigan pastors since the time when the van was new, 1979, and members have made sever-al trips to Michigan in it. ■

Clowns, magicians, and puppeteers needed next year

The Partnership Missions Office is anticipating several needs for the upcoming 1997 project year. Christian magicians, clowns, ventriloquists, and puppeteers are going to be needed.

Please indicate below an interest to

serve in one of our partnership sites in the upcoming year. You have a unique talent and we want the opportunity to send a group of you into the mission field to serve. To do that we must know who you are and that you are interested. Please fill in the information below and mail it to —

Partnership Mission Department
Tennessee Baptist Convention
P.O. Box 728
Brentwood, TN 37024

or call Christie at (615) 371-2021. By knowing about your interest early, we will be better able to help serve a need. ■

Calling all Christian Magicians, Clowns, Ventriloquists, and Puppeteers

I could serve in 1997 as a _____ Christian magician
_____ clown
_____ ventriloquist
_____ puppeteer

I would like to serve in one of the following areas —

_____ Poland _____ Canada _____ Michigan _____ Costa Rica

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____



Twenty-five Tennessee musicians work in Canada

By Julian Suggs, Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Music director

Our recent "Musicians on Missions" tour to Alberta Province, Canada, May 13-20, was the fruition of plans begun 18 months earlier. The Tennessee Church Music Conference (and Chorale) voted unanimously in November 1994, to undertake the planning and implementation of a project to Calgary/ Cochrane and Edmonton, Canada.

Our goals resulted in 20 ministers of music, four wives, and myself teaching music classes at the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary, four Calgary area

churches, and four Edmonton area churches.

Six classes were taught at the seminary, two for credit and the others via audit. The courses included worship philosophy, church music administration, singing, accompanying, song leading, and creative usage of the hymnal. Virtually the same kinds of courses were taught in all the participating churches.

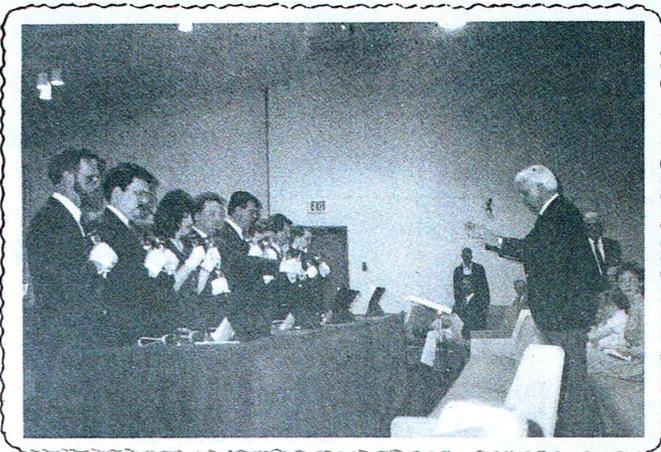
Generally, there are three summary statements that are heard in evaluating mission trips. One is "The missionaries going are seemingly blessed far more than those to whom you minister." Another is "God met all our needs, often before we were aware of them." Finally, I heard, "We are going back; another

trip is being planned for May 1998."

The people in Canada were so wonderful and we were so fortunate to have the privilege of assisting them in music ministry. Our lives were changed by being involved in this experience. It was an honor to share team responsibility with Jim Justice, president, TBC Church Music Conference, and to see everyone pitch in and help in such a dynamic way.

We had the privilege of singing together on the final Sunday in worship services. The church experiences were thrilling. The people were so receptive.

Our goals were accomplished by a greater victory than we ever dreamed possible. ■



A **HANDBELL CHOIR** formed by the musicians working in Edmonton and led by Herman May, retired minister of music, Brainerd Church, Chattanooga, performs at a church. It presented music at a shopping mall and two churches in the area.



TRIO OF Tennessee ministers of music performs at Jasper Place Church, Edmonton. Members include, from left, Jim Justice, of Springfield Church, Springfield; Larry Brant of First Church, Camden; and Dana Smith of Cumberland Church, Crossville.



LEADING A KEYBOARD class at Cambrian Heights Church, Calgary, is John Bunn, center, minister of music, First Church, Elizabethton.

Dear Tennessee Baptists:

I saw in the people of the First Chinese Baptist Church in Edmonton, a love for Christ and a whole-hearted desire to serve Him that was greater and deeper than any I had seen in many years.

Philip McKibben
Minister of Music and Youth
First Church, Somerville

Dear Tennessee Baptists:

One of the most wonderful things to take place was the opportunity given to me to work with the Edmonton Chinese Church. These people were hungry to learn how to use new ideas of worship. At the end of our time together we sang "Just As I Am" in the regular key and in English. Then we transposed to F and they sang the last verse in Chinese. What a truly wonderful experience. I know I received a blessing for being a part of this mission trip.

Mike Dannel
Minister of Music
East Athens Church, Athens

Dear Tennessee Baptists:

As is so often the case, we may have benefitted the most as we gave of ourselves to others in the cause of Christ.

James Justice, president
Tennessee Baptist Church Music Conference
Minister of Music, Springfield Church, Springfield

Dear Tennessee Baptists:

It seems to me that our trip couldn't have been more successful, especially being the first time there: we've learned a great deal about how to meet specific needs. The effort at the seminary seemed especially successful and beneficial and I was proud to have participated in that particular aspect of our mission.

Chris Alford
Smithwood Church, Knoxville

Dear Tennessee Baptists:

What a blessing it was to be part of the Canada mission project! The people were both responsive and enthusiastic about our being there.

Herman May, retired minister of music,
member, Ridgedale Church, Chattanooga

Dear Tennessee Baptists:

In the evening I taught at Brentview Baptist Church a class in choral techniques. I had the whole choir, so we worked on enthusiasm and presentation. They sang well technically, but needed some Tennessee pizzazz in their presentation. The end product was a lot of fun.

Tom Wickes
Minister of Music
First Church, Cleveland



Dear Tennessee Baptists:

"When we sang with them. When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, I was reminded of what missions is all about. I had gone there to minister to others, and had been ministered to. I was reminded again of the beauty of our faith — wherever Christians gather, we are a loving family united in Jesus, our Lord! I thank Him and praise Him!"

Ray Hatton
Minister of Music
First Church, Memphis

Dear Tennessee Baptists:

Before we went to Canada we weren't sure what we had to offer. But it seemed that even the most insignificant points of instruction were received with such enthusiasm and excitement.

Dennis Johnson
Minister of Music and Singles
First Church, Covington



TEACHING A CHOIR singing techniques is Steve Brown, interim minister of music, West Lonsdale Church, Knoxville.



DISCUSSING SONG LEADING AND worship planning is Donnie Smith, minister of music, Lookout Valley Church, Chattanooga, with women from Cambrian Heights Church, Calgary.



TEACHING SOUND ENGINEERING is Chris Alford, left, minister of music, Smithwood Church, Knoxville, with students from Cambrian Heights Church, Calgary.

Dear Tennessee Baptists:

I was moved by the beginnings of the seminary in Cochrane and the desire of the people we worked with to learn and grow.

John and Lisa Bunn
Minister of Music & Senior Adults
First Church, Elizabethton

Dear Tennessee Baptists:

When I reflect on our eight days in Alberta, Canada I get an intense feeling of satisfaction. I am satisfied that we did our best and represented Tennessee Baptists well.

Tracy Wilson
Minister of Music and Education
First Church, Dandridge

Becoming a Prayer Partner

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



Prayer Partner

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ FAX _____

Church _____

Association _____



Michigan



Construction

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

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

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

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

Date: Summer
Project: Church Planting
Place: Flint, MI
Team Needed: Open
Project #: G-6

Evangelism

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

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

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

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

Date: Open
Project: Evangelism/Outreach
Place: Charlevoix (Safe Harbor Church)
Team Needed: Open
Project #: N-1

Date: Open
Project: Children's Work, Music
Place: Sanford (FBC)
Team Needed: 2
Project #: B-1A

VBS/BYBC

Date: Open
Project: VBS/Puppets/Inner City

Ministries

Place: Greater Detroit
Team Needed: Open
Project #: GD-7

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

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

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

New Church Start/Church Development

Date: Summer
Project: Church Planting
Place: WhiteLake
Team Needed: Open
Project #: O-4

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

Date: Summer
Project: Church Planting
Place: SE Highland Township
Team Needed: Open
Project #: O-7

Date: Open
Project: Church Sponsor for New Church
Place: Mt. Clemens
Team Needed: Open
Project #: M-2

Date: Open
Project: Start New Work
Place: Northland Association
Team Needed: Open
Project #: N-2

Date: Open
Project: Church Development
Place: Mt. Clemens
Team Needed: Open
Project #: M-3

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

Miscellaneous

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

Poland

Construction

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

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

Date: Summer/Early Fall
Project: Engineering Inspection and study
Place: Warsaw
Team Needed: 1-2
Project #: 11996415

Date: Late Summer
Project: Bartoszyce
Place: Bartoszyce
Team: 4-6
Project #: 11996406

Date: Summer
Project: Construction
Place: Chociwel
Team: 3-4
Project #: 11996428
This team will be installing a new snow guard during the day and doing evangelistic work in the evenings.

Seminary Projects

The new Baptist seminary in Poland needs several Tennessee teams to come and assist with the completion of the seminary.

Date: Open Project 1996
Project: Interior Painting
Place: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw
Team Needed: 4
Project #: 11996483

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

Date: Open Project 1996

Project: Laying floor and wall tile
Place: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw
Team Needed: 3
Project #: PM11996484
Team will install 600 square meters of ceramic floor tile. The seminary needs \$9,000 for materials.

Date: Open
Project: Install Electrical Fixtures
Place: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw
Team Needed: 2
Project #: 11996494
The seminary needs \$2,800 for materials.

Date: Late Summer/Early Fall
Project: Paint exterior trim (seminary housing)
Place: Baptist Seminary, Warsaw
Team Needed: Open
Project #: PM11996489
The seminary needs \$4,000 for materials.



Miscellaneous

Date: Open
Project: The church in Tarnow needs a team to donate Music Recording equipment that is either used or new and train a person or persons in the church to use the equipment.
Place: Tarnow
Team: 1-2
Project# PM11996426

Date: Open
Project: The Baptist Church in Tarnow needs a team to provide Evangelism through musical concerts.
Place: Tarnow, Poland
Team: the number to be determined by the team
Project#: PM11996427

Canada

Construction

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

Evangelism

Date: July/August
Project: Children's Ministry
Dixie Church requests a team of volunteers to lead in children's ministry any time between July 5 and Aug. 31, 1996. The church, located in a heavily populated multi-ethnic area, would like the team to do VBS and some puppet performances.

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

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

New Church Start/Church Development

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

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

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

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

Projects with Calgary Church Deaf Fellowship

Date: Open
Project: Search for Significance Workshop
Place: Cochrane, AB
Team Needed: Open
Project #: PM11996627

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

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

Miscellaneous

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



Special Requests

Volunteers are needed in Warsaw, Poland to help complete construction on the Seminary Chapel Roof. The Foreign Mission Board has provided the funds for the materials to complete this project.

Polish Baptists are requesting teams for a minimum of two weeks throughout the months of August, September, and October. Make a last-

ing contribution to the Baptist effort taking place in Poland today.

Do you enjoy making crafts? This is your opportunity to use that talent as a tool of witness to people in Costa Rica. Costa Rican Baptists have requested a group of 6-8 volunteers to teach local women to make Christmas crafts.

You will be teaching crafts classes in various areas of the Central Valley in

Costa Rica. We need you! This project is a great opportunity to share your creative talents with others.

Do you have the skills to participate in a health care missions project this fall? Two Poland churches have made requests for health care teams to come in September and October.

These teams will have the opportunity to provide free health care to Polish citi-

zens. Your skill can be used to witness to these people not only in need of health care, but also needing to understand the love of God.

If you are interested in participating in one of these opportunities, contact Christie at (615) 371-2021 in the Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership Missions office today.

people

■ Swan Creek Church, Hampshire, ordained **Donald Arledge, Teddy Arledge, Rusty Dodson, and Jeffrey King** as deacons June 16. Robert Gamble, director of missions, Maury Association, assisted along with former pastors Jerry Poe and Charles Ingram, and with present pastor Larry H. Glass.

■ First Church, Carthage, has ordained **Steve Dowell** and **Jerry Hutchins** as deacons.

leaders

■ First Church, Carthage, has called **Thomas L. Baines** as pastor, effective June 2. Formerly he was pastor of Bethany Church, Loudon.

■ First Church, Oliver Springs, has called **Tony J. Rutherford** as pastor. He was pastor of Northport Church, Newport. Rutherford is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. He is a native of Sweetwater.

■ **Steve Clifton**, associate pastor for music and education, Meridian Church, Jackson, has been called to First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., to serve as associate minister of music, effective June 10.

■ First Church, Jefferson City, has called **William V.**

Johnson, pastor of Northwest Church, Ardmore, Okla., as pastor, effective July 21. He is a graduate of the University of



JOHNSON

Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, where he earned a doctorate in theology. He served the church in Oklahoma seven years. Johnson also has served as pastor of a church in Denton, Texas and completed a hospital chaplaincy internship and taught at Southwestern seminary.

■ First Church, Selmer, has called two new staff members effective June 1. **Brad Replogle** of Jackson has been called as minister of music/education. He has served in that role on an interim basis for about a year. Also **Greg Wyatt** has been called as minister of youth/children.

■ Oral Church, near Lenoir City, has called **Thom Tapp** as pastor, effective July 21. Formerly Tapp served Faith Church, Loretto, as pastor since June 1993.

■ Excell Church, Clarksville, has called **Terrell D. Marcom** as pastor, effective June 16. He has served as chaplain of a multi-care center in Fort Worth, Texas. Marcom also has served as a supply minister, summer missionary, and youth pastor. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.



LEADERS OF CHAPEL HILL Church, Milan, burn a note recently representing debt on a fellowship hall and education space which the church paid in two instead of 10 years, the length allowed for payment. Conducting the ceremony are, center, from left, Clayburn Darby, Cathryn Dowdy, Charles Martin, Rosemary Witherington, and Edward McFarland. Watching are, from left, Dale Denning, pastor, and David Nelson.

■ **John Whisenant**, associate pastor/minister of education, New Hope Church, Hermitage, has resigned effective June 20.

■ **Tim Frank** has been called as associate pastor in administration and education of Stevens Street Church, Cookeville. Formerly he has been minister of education and outreach at Crestwood Church in Frankfort, Ky., for 13 years. Frank is a graduate of Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

■ **Bill McCabe** has been called as pastor of Williams Chapel Church, Springfield. McCabe is a recent graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville, Ky. He is from Summerville, S.C.

churches

■ **Riverview Church, Columbia**, held revival recently. Reed Wright of Cleveland spoke and Scott Monroe of Central Church, Chattanooga, led the music. Three people made professions of faith and one requested baptism.

■ **Grace Covenant Church, Knoxville**, dedicated its new sign May 26. It was a gift of Mr. and Mrs. William P. Slagle in memory of her brother, Hasi Hester. The three-year-old church was sponsored by Third Creek Church, Knoxville. It meets in a renovated house on its property.

■ **Tri County Church, White House**, held Global Impact Month in May. Speakers included Jerry Rankin, president, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.; Bob Schindler of Mission O-N-E; Mark Hobacovici, Nashville Baptist Association language missions director and director of Vision

International; Stan and Iva May, SBC missionaries to Africa; a couple from Bulgaria; and Larry Ressor of Global Focus. A result was that five youth people made commitments to missions work and the church to giving \$2,100 a month to missions.

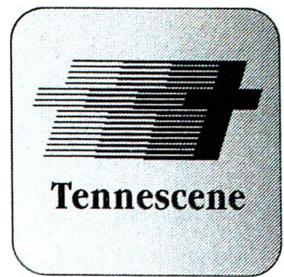
■ **Westover Church, Jackson**, contributed 1,000 gift bags for the Woman's Missionary Union Olympic ministry project. The church has an average of about 100 in Sunday morning services. Leading the project was Kathy Oster, Acteens director; Doris Granthum, WMU program director, Stan Griffin, pastor; Gene Stanley, Brotherhood director, and Faye Long, WMU director. Griffin attributed the extraordinary effort to members participating in the *Experiencing God* study.

■ **Lincoln Heights Church, Tullahoma**, will be in revival June 30 - July 3. Harold Hunter, evangelist of Nashville, will speak and Lloyd Smith will lead the music.

■ **Trinity Church, Cordova**, will hold dedication services for its first building June 29-30 and in July. The church has been meeting at Cordova Community Center since it was founded in 1994. On June 29 a reception and open house will be held from 1-4 p.m. A video presentation and other visual displays will be available. On June 30 a dedication program will begin at 10:45 a.m. Two concerts, July 14 and 28 also will focus on the dedication. The building is 38,000 square feet and is multi-purpose.

deaths

■ **Thomas Elmer Mason**, 94, died recently in Springfield. He was pastor of First



Church, Savannah (two different times); First Church, Centerville; First Chilhowee Church (now First Church), Seymour; Calvary Church, Erwin; and Grace Church, Springfield. He led the construction of a church building and pastor's home for each of the churches he served. He retired in 1964 and continued his ministry serving churches on an interim basis in Robertson County. Mason is survived by his wife, Cassie Dean, who is of Springfield.

■ **Hubert Greene**, 83, of Elizabethton, died recently there. He was pastor of Zion Church, Elizabethton; Pine Grove Church, Mountain City; Vaughns Gap Church; Powder Branch Church, Johnson City; Lynn Valley Church, Elizabethton; Butler Church, Butler; and Northside Church, Watauga. He also was a farmer. Memorial donations may be made to the memorial fund of Lynn Valley Church, Rt. 7, Elizabethton 37643.

■ **Kathryn Hammerly Giers**, 89, wife of the late Carl J. Giers, died recently in Birmingham, Ala. Carl Giers was pastor emeritus of Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham, and the former pastor of First Church, Chattanooga, from 1948-59.

state events

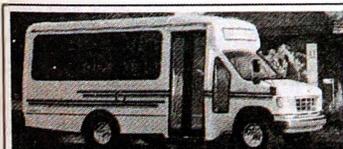
■ **The Tennessee Baptist Nursing Fellowship** held its annual meeting June 1 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. Bill Prine of Clarksville spoke on Good Samaritan Ministries of First Church, Clarksville. Joyce Montgomery, professor, and Carla Sanderson, dean of nursing, Union University, spoke. Jan Bennett reported on missions work she did in Venezuela.

the schools

■ **Carson-Newman College**, Jefferson City, has added four new degree programs to its offerings for the fall semester. New degrees include computer science, long term health care management, athletic trainer, and music theory.



RECEIVING A PLAQUE on the 150th anniversary of Woodlawn Church, Nutbush, June 2 is James Edmonson, left, from S. Ray Jones, director of missions, Big Hatchie Association. The plaque is from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. Eighty-five people gathered for the celebration.



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Theme speakers preach humility, repentance

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — God's blessings will not be fully realized until Christians humble themselves before God and repent of their sins, according to six theme interpretation speakers during the June 11-13 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans.

They cited 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Evangelist Ron Dunn of Irving, Texas, said that before people can seek the face of God through prayer they must first humble themselves. "That's your responsibility."

A seminary professor said that reformation in prayer would ignite revival across the world.

"We don't just need new hearts to go in the same old direction," said Donald Whitney of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

John Avant, pastor of Coggin Avenue Church, Brownwood, Texas, said he has seen firsthand where true repentance and confession of sin has spurred revival. It happened on Jan. 22, 1995, after a student from nearby Howard Payne University read from the Old Testament Book of Joel during the invitation and wept for revival.

"Our altar suddenly filled with people weeping, praying and seeking God," Avant said, noting the church has seen "changed lives" since then.

Other theme interpreters were Missouri pastor Larry Nail, Don McMinn of Intimate Life Ministries of Irving Texas, and Houston layman Paul Pressler. ■

Messengers present motions for consideration

By Joni Hannigan
For Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — "Are they going to simply say, 'We are not going to act on it,' without any explanation?" messenger Robert L. Garringer asked June 12, during a session of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Garringer, of Memphis, Mo., questioned the status of his motion "instructing" the SBC Annuity Board to refrain from investing in companies that profit from the sale of alcohol, tobacco, or materials which "undermine biblical morality." Learning it was to be referred to the Annuity Board, Garringer said he wanted messengers, not the denomination's retirement plan agency, to decide whether it was a good motion.

In a determined quest to follow his motion and assure its consideration, Garringer doggedly returned to the microphone to first introduce the motion, then request it be amended to read "strongly recommended" in place of "instructed," to move that his motion be voted on "immediately, ... as soon as possible — today," and finally to speak in support of his motion.

Messengers in the Wednesday morning business session eventually voted to move the debate up a day, overriding the decision of the Committee on Order of Business that first suggested the motion be referred to the Annuity Board and then had placed it on the schedule to be debated Thursday.

Calling for Annuity Board leaders to "screen every company competing for Baptist dollars," Garringer said they should immediately confess their "failures" and not repeat what he characterized as "elitist" practices of the past.

Speaking against the motion, Thomas E. Miller Jr., Annuity Board senior vice president for public relations, said the board's internal investment policy, unannouncedly approved by trustees, prohibits investments in companies that are publicly recognized as engaged in activity contrary to Southern Baptist principles.

Liquor, tobacco, gambling, pornography, and abortion industries are named in the policy, which, according to Miller, also excludes any company whose products, services, or activities are publicly recognized as being incompatible with the moral and ethical posture of the Annuity Board. Although Miller said he was

in "spiritual agreement" with Garringer, he said the motion would be "literally impossible" to enact without increasing the risk of "punitive damages" to the board. The motion failed after finally coming to a vote on the convention floor.

Three motions decrying the recent burnings of African American churches joined almost a dozen resolutions presented on the same subject.

Tom Cocklereece, University Church, Fairbanks, Alaska, proposed assisting African American churches with financial support and volunteer labor. His motion was referred to the Brotherhood Commission for further consideration.

Other motions proposing prayer and assistance to African American churches destroyed or damaged by fire were introduced by R. Zack Zbinden, Briarwood Church, Ringgold, Ga., and Dennis Sartain, Lebanon Church, Anderson, S.C. Zbinden's motion was referred to the SBC Executive Committee for further action, while Sartain later withdrew his motion based on the numerous actions already suggested.

By the close of the Tuesday night session (June 11), a total of 29 motions had been presented. They ranged from a request to "bombard" the White House with complaints of how Christians are persecuted in some countries to a call for an SBC bylaw change to exclude agency heads from recommending candidates for trustees of their agencies to the SBC Committee on Nominations.

The lone motion scheduled for debate during the closing session of the annual meeting on Thursday was a motion by F. Leslie Kammerdiener Jr., Osawatomie (Kan.) Southern Church.

Kammerdiener's motion called for the Executive Committee to report at each convention meeting on actions taken regarding all motions referred to the Executive Committee at the previous year's convention. Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman said he "totally approved" of the motion's intent. The motion passed handily.

Two motions similar to Kammerdiener's, one made by Larry Blackmon, First Church, Hearne, Texas, and one by Fred Smith, Central Church, Grand Prairie, Texas, were referred to the Executive Committee, along with the following motions:

► By Thomas Houston, Laurel Hill Church, Char-

lottesville, Va., to ensure at least one of the three top SBC offices — president, first, and second vice president — be filled by a layman.

► By Wyndham Cook, Westside Church, El Dorado, Ark., requesting a bylaw change to prevent SBC agency heads or their staff from recommending individuals to serve as trustees of their entities. An effort to divide the question for an immediate vote failed.

► By Albert Lee Smith, First Church, Birmingham, Ala., asking the Executive Committee to prepare and distribute pamphlets and other information contrasting the theological views of the SBC with those of the Alliance of Baptists, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and others.

► By David Rice, Kingsley Lake Church, Starke, Fla., to establish a four-year liberal arts university accountable to the SBC.

► By Ron Wilson, First Church, Thousand Oaks, Calif., involving the re-routing of Cooperative Program funds through the SBC Executive Committee.

► By T.C. Pinckney, Good News Church, Alexandria, Va., to determine when a church is in violation of Article III of the SBC constitution. Article III lists criteria for messengers who are members of cooperating Southern Baptist churches.

Among other motions sent to the SBC Executive Committee were four requests involving geographical or time changes to the SBC annual meeting. The motions entailed were requests that:

► The annual meeting be scheduled later in the month of June, by Eldridge Cullum, Fairmount Memorial Church, Richmond, Va.

► The annual meeting be held regularly in cities where SBC work is not well established, by David B. Roberts, Beaconsfield Church, Eastpointe, Mich.

► The convention meeting be held one year in the Northeast United States, by John Gillert, Berkeley Church, Berkeley Springs, W.V.

► Annual SBC meetings be held by satellite broadcast or in regional locations, by Bob Lilly, Catonsville Church, Baltimore.

In the first motion addressed to the North American Mission Board — to be created from a merger of the Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Radio and Television Commission —

Michigan messenger Roberts requested the development of a series of television and radio spots to "enhance the image of Southern Baptists."

Two motions referred to the Committee on Order of Business for consideration in planning the 1997 annual meeting were:

► A request to recognize the "God-given talents of a more representative panel of preachers, readers, speakers, singers, and other leaders" at future SBC annual meetings, by Randy Woods, Cordesville First Church, Moncks Corner, S.C.

► A proposal that people from the New England states and those north of the "Mason-Dixon Line" be asked to participate in the programs of the SBC annual meeting programs, by William Miller, pastor of First Church, LaPlata, Md.

Two motions referred to the Baptist Sunday School Board were:

► By Chester Ward, Northeast Church, Ponca City, Okla., asking the board not to use the name "LifeWay Press" on materials sold to other denominations or non-Baptist groups.

► By Kenneth Barnett, Christ Church, Denver, requesting the board to stop publishing the "old" 12-volume *Broadman Commentary*.

Three motions referred to the Christian Life Commission included:

► By Anis Shorrosh, Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., to "bombard" embassies and the White House to protest for human rights and freedom of religion for Christians being persecuted in other countries.

► By Joe Strahan, Northside Church, Vicksburg, Miss., asking the commission to establish a proxy voting system to communicate with corporate managers.

► By Marlene Boswell, Grove Avenue Church, Richmond, Va., recommending the agency's name be changed to the "Christian Ethics and Religious Commission."

A single motion dealing with Christian education was referred to all SBC agencies and institutions. The motion, calling for better use of "empty" church facilities, was made by Martin T. Angell, Northrich Church, Richardson, Texas.

Three motions were ruled out of order, including one which asked for the money saved from SBC restructuring to be used for missions. ■

'All in favor, hold up your ballots'

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

NEW ORLEANS — For an organization as large as the Southern Baptist Convention, there are many opportunities for chaos to take over.

Just think of the pandemonium if 30,000 messengers voted and there was no quick and dependable method for counting the ballots.

For years, messengers to the SBC annual meetings have heard Lee Porter say the same words.

His message is something like this: "We are ready to vote. Please take your ballots and pull out ballot number three, and only ballot number three."

Then Porter carefully talks messengers through the entire process — with the exception of telling them "how to vote."

He tells them to punch out their choice, making sure the little scrap of displaced paper is completely separated. The former denominational employee has been explaining the process to Southern Baptist voters for 19 years.

He is the convention's registration secretary, and at the convention here June 11-13, he was re-elected for his 20th term in office. Now retired in Lawrenceville, Ga., Porter is a former Baptist Sunday School Board employee and pastor of Bell Road Church, Nashville.

Only once or twice has Porter been seriously challenged for the office and in many of those 20 years he has not had opposition.

Porter recalls how the voting process has changed over the years. He can remember the days when messengers were asked to get a piece of paper and write down their choice for the presidency or any other vote.



PREPARING to process a ballot, Lee Porter, second from left, explains their duties. From left, Jimmy Epting, South Carolina; Porter, John Faris, Maryland-Delaware; Bob Campbell, Somerville, and Bill Horner, Orinda.

While that may have been sufficient many years ago, it is vital today for votes to be carefully taken and carefully counted.

The number of registered voters is much larger and many votes involve complicated issues. Competition in recent years has been hot and sometimes argumentative.

Controversy came to the convention, but Porter's leadership and the absolute honesty and accuracy he embraces have not wavered.

He takes the process seriously, and insists that elected tellers and leadership share his feelings.

As he reports to messengers the results of a ballot, he shares the news with everyone at the same time. Officers hear when the messengers hear.

When ushers bring the ballots to the tellers' room, they do not enter the room. Nor does anyone else, no matter their title, except Porter, the elected tellers, and the ballot counter operator.

Tellers receive the ballots,

stack them correctly, and make certain they are ready for the counting computer.

They work carefully, efficiently, and without delay. Porter stresses to tellers that it is more important to be efficient and correct in the procedure than to be fast.

"You are chosen and elected as special officers of this convention.

"Your job is to help keep me free of mistakes and able to report an honest and fair election," he says.

For one who has attended 50 Southern Baptist conventions, Lee Porter knows the importance of integrity in the balloting process.

On the evening of the convention's first day, all elected tellers meet Porter in the counting room. He thoroughly explains to them the entire process, step by step.

Don't come to the room until there is a ballot, he says. He tells them to meet the ushers at the door, take the containers from them, empty them on the sorting tables, and return the

empty containers to the ushers. Tellers are assigned their role by the committee chairman, who sits close to Porter during convention proceedings.

Tellers place the ballots on the machine, the company operator runs them through, and counted ballots are returned to boxes and labeled for that specific election.

The computer prints out the results of the voting.

Oh yes, if you are standing

close to the counter, you can see it reject a ballot with the wrong number, or a ballot with any defect. It just won't accept them.

Porter has a few other bits of advice for the tellers. First, he says, tellers don't tell.

And remove your badge if you plan to speak in convention action, or when voting. Never put your hands in your pockets when you are on the job, and never handle anyone's ballot.

Porter says the SBC has been using the same computer company since 1983, but the same people do not repeat as operators.

The company counts ballots for many cities, counties, and businesses around the country.

So when you are impatient about the tedious directions given, or how long it takes to count and report the ballots, be thankful for the integrity of the process. (Note: Allen was a teller during the 1996 SBC annual meeting.) **B&R**



BOB CAMPBELL, front right, director of missions, Fayette Association, and other tellers listen to the computer operator explain how ballots are tabulated. — Photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen

Businessman comes to SBC to work; discovers God had other plans

By Mark Kelly
For Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — When Mike Smith came to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans, it was strictly a business trip. But God had other plans.

Smith, 38, provided the lighting system for the meeting, held in the Louisiana Superdome June 11-13. His MDS Lighting Inc. of Warner Robbins, Ga., has helped light and stage events and concerts all over the country.

The Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans was just another job for the successful young businessman.

But as he sat at his control panel, lo-

cated on the auditorium floor right in front of the platform, he listened for two days as one speaker after another talked about how God has changed their hearts and put their shattered lives back together.

"I listened to the preaching and singing. I heard the testimonies of people who came from broken families and drug and alcohol abuse and God saved them," said Smith. "Finally, it all got to me, and I decided it was time for a change."

Smith, who himself came from a family torn apart by alcoholism, felt his own drinking and vices made him unworthy of God's love. When he heard the testimonies, he knew he could be forgiven too.

"I sat and thought about my life, that I'd be 39 in August. I wondered where I would be in 11 years at age 50," he said. "I wondered about what kind of father I am to my two kids, what kind of values I'm passing along to them. I wondered what kind of husband I am to my wife.

"And then there's the afterlife."

On his way to the Superdome at midday Tuesday, June 11, Smith met a couple of men in the hotel elevator. The two talked between themselves about people they were praying for. He told them, "You guys pray for me too. My life is a mess."

As they walked from the hotel to the convention center, one of the men, Alan Puckett, minister of evangelism for

Beaver Run Church, Norcross, Ga., talked with Smith. Puckett prayed for Smith before they parted company. Later, during the afternoon session of the convention, Smith sat at the lighting control board and thought about his life.

"I felt like my life was just going down the tubes," he said. "I was tired of living that way."

Suddenly Puckett was there at Smith's station. They talked for a few moments, and then Smith prayed to receive Christ.

"I felt it in my heart when I gave my life to Christ," he said.

"Now I feel clean. I've got a new beginning. I've got a fresh start on my life." ■

Condensed Sunday School lessons for July 7

Life & Work

Chasing After The Wind

Focal Passages: Ecclesiastes 1:17-2:4, 8-11

The central Bible truth of this lesson is that looking for true meaning in life without including Christ is as futile as chasing after the wind.

The real meaning of life comes when one knows Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior, not through wealth, wisdom, or self-gratification.

Although his name is not used anywhere in Ecclesiastes, Solomon traditionally has been considered its writer. The writer does not claim to be Solomon, however. Other scholars think the writer was an unidentified person who has seen how Solomon's vast empire failed to bring meaning to his life.

In verse 11, the writer reflects on everything he had done only to discover that in reality he had accomplished nothing.

While this lesson at first glance seems to be pessimistic, it is not the end of the story. People can find true meaning in life and fulfillment through Jesus Christ. ■ — Compiled by B&R staff

Convention Uniform Praising God as Creator & Sustainer

Focal Passages: Psalm 104:24-34

This lesson serves as a reminder that we should praise God who is creator and sustainer of all things. It is also a reminder we are dependent upon God.

Psalm 104 begins with an actual praise to God in verse 1. The remainder of Psalm 104 goes on to describe the interrelations between God and his creation of the animate and inanimate. Some call this the ecology psalm.

The psalmist did not profess to understand all that God created and did, but he was convinced of God's wisdom and good purpose that was behind what he did.

It is easy for Christians today to agree with the psalmist. All it takes is to get up on a cool, crisp fall morning and look at the leaves in their radiant beauty and know that only God could do such a thing. Like the psalmist, we should not forget to give thanks and praise God for not only creating his world, but sustaining it as well. ■ — Compiled by B&R staff

Bible Book

John's Vision of Jesus Christ

Focal Passages: Revelation 1:1, 3, 9-13, 16-20

This quarter's lessons from Revelation should give encouragement and hope as Jesus Christ is revealed in his victori-

ous power. Christians experience severe persecution which may even take their physical lives, but they are secure in Christ for all eternity.

Scholars have differing views on the interpretation of Revelation, but most agree that the John named as the writer is John the apostle who also wrote the Gospel and three epistles bearing his name. The revelation was given to John by an angel who received it from God. It involved "things which must shortly come to pass." Its intent was to illumine the purpose of God in Christ to and through the church. ■ — Tom Moncrief

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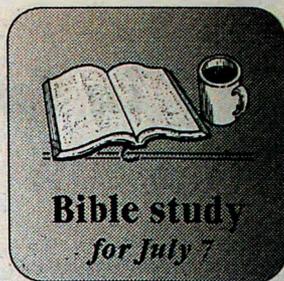
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for July 7

Classified

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PART-TIME MINISTERS: East LaFollette Church is searching for a part-time minister of youth and a part-time minister of education. Each position is open to male or female and requires minimum of 20 hours a week. Send resumes to East LaFollette Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1156, LaFollette, TN 37766.

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SBC resolution on the Disney Company

Editor's Note: In response to inquiries, we are printing the full text of the Disney resolution, as amended by messengers to the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans.

WHEREAS, Southern Baptists and their children have for many decades enjoyed and trusted The Disney Company's television programming, feature-length films, and theme parks which have reinforced basic American virtues and values; and

WHEREAS, The virtues promoted by Disney have contributed to the development of a generation of Americans who have come to expect and demand high levels of moral and virtuous leadership from The Disney Company; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, The Disney Company has given the appearance that the promotion of homosexuality is more important than its historic commitment to traditional family values and has taken a direction which is contrary to its previous commitment; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, we have watched the worlds largest family entertainment company with growing disappointment as Disney Company's moral leadership has been eroded by a variety of corporate decisions, which have included but are not limited to:

- (1) Establishing of an employee policy which accepts and embraces homosexual relationships for the purpose of insurance benefits;
- (2) Hosting of homosexual and lesbian theme nights at its parks;
- (3) Choosing of a convicted child molester to direct the Disney movie "Powder" through its subsidiary Miramax Productions;
- (4) Publishing of a book aimed at teenage homosexuals entitled *Growing Up Gay: From Left Out to Coming Out* through its subsidiary Hyperion, connecting Disney to the promotion of the homosexual agenda;
- (5) Producing, through its subsidiary corporations, objectionable material such as the film "Priest" which disparages Christian values and depicts Christian leaders as morally defective;

WHEREAS, These and other corporate decisions and actions represent a significant departure from Disney's family-values image, and a gratuitous insult to Christians and others who have long supported Disney and contributed to its corporate profits; and

WHEREAS, Previous efforts to communicate these concerns to The Disney Company have been fruitless; and

WHEREAS, Boycotts are a legitimate method for communicating moral convictions; Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we as Southern Baptist messengers meeting in annual session on June 11-13, 1996, go on record expressing our deep disappointment for these corporate actions by The Disney Company; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we affirm the employees of The Disney Company who embrace and share our concerns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage Southern Baptists to give serious and prayerful reconsideration to their purchase and support of Disney products and to boycott Disney Company stores and theme parks if they continue this anti-Christian and anti-family trend; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage the Christian Life Commission to monitor Disney's progress in returning to its previous philosophy of producing enriching family entertainment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage state Baptist papers and national Southern Baptist publications to assist in informing the Southern Baptist family of these issues; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Convention requests the Executive Committee to send a copy of this resolution to Michael Eisner, CEO of The Disney Company, and to encourage the Southern Baptist family to support this resolution with our purchasing power, letters, and influence. ■

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Missions

By L. Joseph Rosas III

Focal Passage — Romans 15:15-19, 23-24, 30-32

I grew up outside of Millington in Lucy Church. Southern Baptist Foreign missionaries, Drs. Marvin and Jean Pitts had family connections in our church. When we prayed for, gave to, or learned anything about missions I always thought about Marvin and Jean. They personified the entire world mission enterprise in my mind. One day our pastor challenged us saying, "everyone is either a missionary or a mission field." I came to realize that missions means more than someone going "over there," it includes every Christian's active involvement in sharing the claims of Christ.

The call of God to missions (vv. 15-16). Paul claims to have written boldly, openly, and frankly in order to remind his hearers of their standing and responsibilities before God. The word for minister refers to a priest or servant of God. All of us are believer priests. A priest is one who stands before God in behalf of another and one who stands before others in behalf of God. In reality every Christian is called to be a minister by the grace of God. We may earn a living through various vocations, but we are all to be full time servants of God.

The work of God in missions (vv. 17-19). The glory of Paul's ministry was his service to God. He never got over the excitement of being made new in Christ. His focus was not on himself, his gifts, or his abilities. Paul realized that any results from his ministry were traceable to the grace and power of God at work in and through him. The Gospel is to be shared in word and deed. Jesus said all authority was given to him and the disciples would receive power after the Holy Spirit was given. Paul had fully proclaimed the good news of Christ.

The financial support of missions (vv. 23-24). Some years ago there was a cartoon in the *Baptist and Reflector* that showed the world with the phrase "Send the Gospel." The caption read, "If you \$ away ... you end the Gospel." The Gospel is like water, it's free but it costs something to pipe it to you.

As Paul made plans for his further ministry, he sought to go to Rome to have fellowship with the church and to give them the opportunity to assist him financially in support of his further ministry to Spain. Paul reminded the Philippians that their gift would share in the fruit of the ministries. Southern Baptists support more than 8,000 missionaries in America and more than 130 foreign countries.

The prayer support of missions (vv. 30-32). Paul knew the rigors of travel. He planned to go first to Jerusalem and then to Spain. Therefore he requested prayer. Notice that through prayer the Romans shared in his struggle. Prayer is prompted by Jesus Christ and the love that the Holy Spirit produces in our hearts. Paul has specific concerns: deliverance from those who were disobedient to the Gospel, acceptance of his ministry in the Jerusalem church, and finally that in God's will he might come to Rome with joy and they might be mutually refreshed. Each day we pray specifically for missionaries on their birthday. Once a week we share a missionary moment with our congregation. Take advantage of the toll free numbers at the FMB (1-800-395-PRAY) and HMB (1-800-354-PRAY) and pray specifically for mission needs. ■ — L. Joseph Rosas III is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis.

Faith and righteousness

By Kevin Goza

Focal Passage — James 4:1-10, 13-17

Self-centered living is encouraged in contemporary society. The question is, does God accept self-centeredness as a viable approach to life? James addresses this issue as it pertains to faith and righteousness in daily living.

Desire hinders righteousness — vv. 1-5

James asks and answers a basic question (v. 1). The root cause of all dissension and bitter conflict in the world is the insatiable desires of man. The ultimate choice facing all people is whether to please God or oneself. Desire is at the bottom of all the problems that ruin lives and divide people. It is no accident that the Ten Commandments end with a prohibition against covetousness (Exodus 20:17).

As James points out, desire has inevitable consequences (vv. 2-3). It has the power to set people against one another. When desires for money, power, or position consume an individual, it leads to fatal results. Life becomes focused on competition for things

Convention Uniform Lesson

rather than on obedience to God, driving people to commit shameful deeds. No wonder most family break-ups can be traced back to a desire fulfilled in an ungodly fashion.

It is interesting that James mentions unanswered prayer in this discussion. When a person's prayers are focused on what will gratify their desires, they are essentially selfish, and therefore not according to God's will.

The individual who is consumed with worldly desires is considered by God as one who has broken their marriage vows (v. 4). The Bible frequently uses the imagery of the marriage relationship as a picture

of how God views our relationship to him. One cannot walk powerfully with God and be bound by the world (v. 4). The intent of verse 5 is to summarize the teaching of all Scripture. Our God is a jealous God who will tolerate no rivals to his attention.

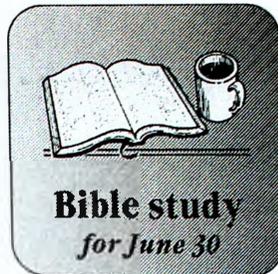
Worship facilitates righteousness — vv. 6-10

How can a person overcome the power of desire? Through God's overcoming grace, which he gives to his children. The "proud" are those who place themselves above others, while the "humble" are those who acknowledge their dependence on God, and thrive therein. The humble draw near to God in worship, accepting his protection from evil, his cleansing from sinful desire, and his single purpose for life and living. Becoming humble before God can be a painful experience. The joy of earthly desire becomes mourning for the sinfulness of selfish pursuits. However, in humility comes strength, for the Lord himself gives victory to the truly humble.

Planning reflects righteousness — vv. 13-17

If one rejects humility before God, their only resource for making choices is circumstances. James reminds us that we must put our lives into an eternal perspective. Nowhere does the writer criticize planning for the future. Rather, we are to place all our planning into the hands of God, who is aware of what tomorrow holds. As we prepare for the future, we must realize that our best plan may fall short of God's best plan for our life.

James ends this section with a warning. Having been told that the future is in God's hands, and knowing God's principles for planning, we have a responsibility to apply those principles. ■ — Kevin Goza is pastor of First Church, Lebanon.



God's judgment and promise

By Tom Moncrief

Bible Book Lesson

Focal Passage — Malachi 3:1-4, 7-12a; 4:5-6

Malachi depicts God in dialogue with his people regarding their circumstances which were brought on by their unfaithfulness to the Lord. They had questioned "Where is the God of judgment?" This was answered by announcing God's plan to send his messenger to prepare the way for God to come in judgment.

God's messenger (ch. 3:1-4).

The people questioned God's judgment as they saw evil flourishing and felt no apparent worth in worship and became content in offering less than their best to God. The prophet responded that these wrongs were to be set right by the Lord in person. The messenger would prepare the way for his coming.

It is not clear who this messenger would be. It is clear that his role was to call for repentance and true service to the Lord. After this preparation, the Lord would come. The messenger of the covenant is parallel to "the Lord whom you seek" and thus seen as an appearance of Yahweh in the character of Israel's covenant God.

His judgment is for the purpose of cleansing or purifying which would begin with the priests. After

this Judah's offerings would again be acceptable to the Lord as before.

A plea to return to God and be blessed (vv. 7-12a). God reminded the people they had experienced problems keeping the terms of their covenant relationship with God. They seemingly did not understand how they had been unfaithful. So God asked if man would rob God.

They had robbed God by failing to bring tithes and offerings into the storehouse or treasury of the Temple as the law required. Such disobedience resulted in crop failure and suffering which that produced. Yet, God called on them to put him to the test by bringing the tithes and offerings and see his blessings in return.

God is pointing out a basic principle. Whenever people are content to offer less than the best to God, their concept of God is distorted. This results in the whole life being out of focus. Man is created in God's image to have fellowship with the Eternal and his spirit does not find rest until it rests in God. When that happens, the life is open toward God to receive him and his

blessings.

The promise of Elijah (ch. 4:5-6). Prophecy had been used of the Lord to get

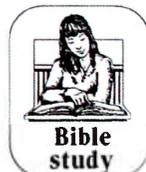
his message to his people. Numerous prophets had served the Lord, but the people did not heed their message. Yet another prophet in the spirit and zeal of Elijah would effect a mighty work in preparation for the day of the Lord.

God will ultimately appear in judgment or redemption depending upon man's response to the message. This points out the fact that God strives to lead men to repentance before he comes in judgment upon them.

This prophet like unto Elijah will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and vice versa. The fathers are the ancestors of the nation who were godly men in their day. The children are sin-laden descendants of Malachi's

day.

When Elijah's ministry results in children's hearts being drawn to the Lord then both groups will bring honor to the Lord's name. Thus the Elijah ministry will make it unnecessary for the Lord to smite the land with a curse because repentance has brought peace with the Lord. ■ — Tom Moncrief is a member of First Church, Cleveland.





world news

unless they have police protection. But it is unclear whether police protection has been offered at the local level. ■

Perkins named Record editor
Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — William H. "Dusty" Perkins was named the 11th editor of *The Baptist Record* by the executive committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board June 18.

He replaces W. Guy Henderson, who recently announced his June 30 retirement from the position he has held almost six years.

Perkins, 40, has served four years as associate editor of the 119-year-old Mississippi Baptist newsjournal — the fourth-largest in circulation in the Southern Baptist Convention. The Mississippi native and his wife, Marla Karen, are active members of First Church, Jackson. ■

Southwestern names Craig Bird new PR director
Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Craig Bird, a former Southern Baptist missionary journalist to Africa, has been named di-



Tennesseans attend SBC meeting in New Orleans

The two couples above were among 1,000 Tennesseans who were among the 13,706 registered for the 139th annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention June 11-13 in New Orleans. To the left is Bill George of the TBC Missions Department and his wife, Linda. In photo to right is Pastor Steve Taylor of Cornerstone Church, Clinton, and his wife, Diane. — Photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen

rector of public relations and news and information at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, effective June 10.

Bird, 46, has served in Nairobi, Kenya, as an overseas correspondent for Africa with the Foreign Mission Board since 1986. He and his wife, Melissa, have been on a leave of absence due to medical problems which will prevent them from returning to Africa.

"Melissa and I regret very much that medical problems kept us from returning to Kenya as missionaries," he

said. "I suspect the deepest parts of our heart and souls will always belong to Africa."

Prior to joining the FMB in 1986, Bird was a feature editor with Baptist Press, the SBC news service. He has won more than 50 awards for news and feature writing and photography.

Bird noted that by going to Southwestern which has trained more "Southern Baptist missionaries than any other school" will keep them in contact with "the missionary spirit that is at the heart of the Gospel." ■

HMB shipping delays expected

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Customers needing Home Mission Board materials in July and August are asked to place their orders by June 28 to avoid shipping delays caused by the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

The Olympics are scheduled for July 19 to Aug. 4. Area postal carriers have told the HMB marketing department to expect disrupted service during that time. ■

Ten Indonesia churches destroyed

Baptist Press

SURABAYA, Indonesia — Ten church buildings here were destroyed and at least one pastor left permanently lame by a mob who attacked during Sunday morning services June 9.

None of the churches destroyed were Baptist. Still, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board administrator in Indonesia issued a call for prayer June 12 for Christians and government leaders to act in wisdom.

Police arrested some of the mob of about 1,000 and found a list with about 50 churches they had targeted in Surabaya. It is unclear whether any is related to Southern Baptist work.

Officials in the Christian division of Indonesia's Religion Department have suggested churches not meet for a while

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Secretary to SBC presidents retires at Oklahoma church

By Dana Williamson
For Baptist Press

DEL CITY, Okla. — With the election of Tom Elliff as president of the Southern Baptist Convention June 11, Marge Malone made history by serving as secretary to three men who have served the SBC as its highest elected official.

Malone, who retired June 1 as pastor's secretary at First Southern Church, Del City, Okla., has not only been secretary, but advisor, friend, and constant source of encouragement to Elliff, Bailey Smith (SBC president, 1981-82), and James T. Draper Jr. (SBC president, 1983-84). Another former pastor, John Bisagno, and Elliff also served as president of the SBC Pastors' Conference, and Smith was president of the BGCO in 1979.

"I have never known a staff member anywhere in captivity who was kept by every successive pastor," said Bisagno, who hired Malone 31 years ago. "All the pastors saw such marvelous skills, spirit, and gifts

in this woman, they said, 'Let's keep Marge.'"

Because of the positions her "bosses" have held in the convention, her voice is recognized by secretaries, pastors, and convention leaders across the country.

"There are very few people in the convention who don't know Marge," said Elliff. "She's raised three pastors and is working on a fourth," laughed First Southern's current pastor.

Smith said Malone probably retired once it became likely Elliff would be the new SBC president.

"She was my secretary when I held that position," Smith joked, "and no one with her intelligence would want to do that twice."

"Across the Southern Baptist Convention, Marge Malone is considered the standard by which church pastoral secretaries are measured," Elliff commented.

"Pastors need to talk to her to find out how to run an office." ■