

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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Statewide Edition

September 4, 1996

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

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TBC Brotherhood, WMU extend new call for North Korean relief

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — In response to another call to help stave off the starvation of up to five million North Koreans, the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Department and Woman's Missionary Union have launched a multifaceted campaign to collect and send food.

The renewed response is a result of the release of another \$350,000 from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to the North Korea relief project. The money, allocated in July, will provide rations that combined with the containers of food will feed 50,000 people, according to the FMB's human needs office. Extending the aid is necessary because the starvation threat in the country continues to worsen,

FMB officials added.

Earlier this year Tennessee Baptist churches collected about 205 boxes of food and \$4,000 for the North Korea relief project.

In the new effort Tennessee Baptists are joining with Baptists from the Arkansas and Mississippi Baptist state conventions to coordinate the latest relief project.

Shelby Association in Memphis will serve as the clearinghouse for the tri-state effort.

Promoted under the banner "Merry Christmas North Korea," Tennessee Brotherhood and WMU are asking all churches and associations to respond by sending food boxes to the state convention office in Brentwood.

Besides the foodstuffs, each contributor will be asked to do-

nate \$20 to help defray the cost of purchasing and shipping a container.

Food boxes and donations also will be received at the TBC annual meeting Nov. 12-13 at Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

Plans call for the tri-state effort to result in a 20-foot container filled with a minimum of 200 food boxes to be shipped from Memphis to Korea around Thanksgiving.

This delivery, is in addition to the 23 containers that were shipped prior to July 23, led by Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization.

Churches and associations can call either the TBC Brotherhood or WMU offices for information on food box packing specifications at (615) 373-2255 or (800) 558-2090. ■

FMB to 'rush' missionaries to Bosnia

Baptist Press

WIESBADEN, Germany — Southern Baptists are responding to long sought peace in Bosnia by rushing foreign missionaries in to help the many people responding to the Gospel there.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board expects to have four couples there by early September and two more by November in a response plan dubbed "Project Harvest Bosnia."

Three couples plan to transfer to Bosnia from western Europe. This unusual move comes because of the high response and because a year-old request for career missionaries has gone unfilled.

"The window of opportunity is presently open, but we do not know how long the cessation of war will last," said Larry Cox, field associate area director for Europe. "Everything is moving at warp speed, but this is God's timing," he said. ■

Children, youth profess faith during camps

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — During three weeks of Youth/Children's Camp this summer, sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Discipleship Training Department, 57 young people accepted Christ, according to Johnnie Hall, department director.

Hall also reported a total attendance of 772. He said that there were 133 who rededicated their lives, and 27 others made other decisions.

The campers gave \$574.34 to the Cooperative Program.

Camp pastors were John Parrott Jr., director of missions, Holston Valley Association; Ray Newcomb, pastor of First Church, Millington; and Bob Norman, pastor of Clearview Church, Franklin.

There were 47 volunteer teachers and counselors during the three weeks of camps.

Don Mauldin and Cindy Franks of the Discipleship Training Department staff assisted Hall in leadership for the camps. ■



TBCH breaks ground

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes broke ground for a two-story administration building on the Franklin campus recently. The building will house the central offices for TBCH. The facility will have a basement. Footage is 7,065 square feet per floor. Completion is scheduled for February 1997. Contract cost is \$868,790. Participants in the groundbreaking included, from left, Larry Parrott, trustees' chairman; Ivan Raley, regional vice president; Gerald Stow, president-treasurer; and James Porch, executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

- ▶ Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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In Beech Grove community

Lakewood Mission dedicates new sanctuary

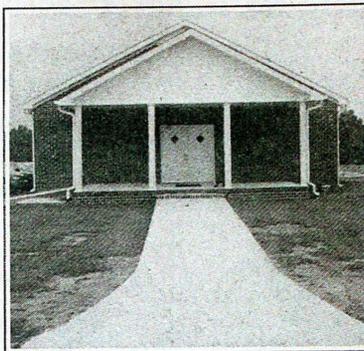
For Baptist and Reflector

BEECH GROVE — Members of Lakewood Mission dedicated their new facility Aug. 11 in an impressive ceremony.

The dedication climaxed a week of revival meetings held by Gene Vincent, pastor of First Church, Woodbury, the mother church; Thurman Seber, director of missions for Salem Association; and Larry Kirk, director of missions for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

On dedication day Seber led the morning service and encouraged those present to minister to all walks of life. After a covered dish lunch Kirk led the dedication service.

Before his message, mission pastor Charles George read an honor roll listing the names and churches who had contributed in any way to the building of this new Baptist witness in Salem Association.



STARTED LESS than a year ago, this newly completed sanctuary was dedicated Aug. 11. Lakewood is a mission of First Church, Woodbury.

The church congregation then surprised George and his wife, Ella, with a plaque expressing their love to them.

The average attendance for the day's



DURING THE DEDICATION Imogene Fitts, left, church clerk, presented Pastor Charles George and his wife, Ella, with a plaque which will be hung in the church vestibule.

events was 68.

Church members request prayer as they seek to follow God's command to "Go ye therefore into all the world. ..." ■

Vietnam pastor issues 'Macedonian call'

Baptist Press

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam — The leader of the only legally open Baptist church in Vietnam has issued a call for help to Vietnamese Christians and Southern Baptist mission agencies in the United States.

"I am praying to our merciful God who will call you, ministers and laymen, to return to Vietnam to serve the Lord among millions of our beloved countrymen's souls and serve our wounded country after many years of war," Le Quoc Chanh, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, said in a one-page letter.

Grace Baptist Church in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly known as Saigon) has grown from about 50 members to more than 500, Chanh said. It helps support several Baptist groups outside of the city. Last year it baptized more than 80 people.

"Vietnam now has diplomatic and commercial relations

with the United States," explained a Christian worker in Vietnam who asked not to be identified. "Many former citizens of Vietnam have returned to open businesses or work in foreign-sponsored joint ventures. Although the law prohibits foreigners from serving in missionary or ordained pastoral roles, opportunities for Christian tentmakers abound.

"Pastor Chanh's letter directly appeals to Vietnamese Baptists in the United States to return and help evangelize their homeland," he said.

Opportunities and need await, explained Chanh in his letter. "Even the work of Grace Church was beyond my strength. So I pray — thinking of more than 72 million souls of Vietnamese people ... and write this heart letter to you; it is a voice from Vietnam as same as a voice of Macedonia."

Chanh mailed his letter to the Vietnamese Baptist Churches Fellowship and the

Southern Baptist Home and Foreign Mission boards.

The growth of Grace church's ministries is straining the body's leadership supply. Leadership training is difficult and has not kept up with the needs of young believers. Lay men and women qualified to help lead new groups are in short supply.

"I am nearly 60 years old, and I feel my strength faint," he said. "I have only one assistant. The training of Christian workers ... is limited."

Pastor Chanh has served Baptist churches in Vietnam the past 33 years. "He had many opportunities to flee Vietnam over the years, but he chose to remain at the church," said the unidentified worker. "Many people credit his decision to remain, even in difficult days of persecution, as the key reason why Grace Baptist Church has remained open."

There is only one Protestant seminary operating in Viet-

nam. Chanh estimates today there are about 2,000 Baptists and 720,000 Protestant Christians in Vietnam. "God's work is developing, but laymen were seriously inadequate," the worker said.

Several thousand ethnic Vietnamese worship in almost 100 Southern Baptist churches throughout the United States, explained the worker.

"Some (ethnic Vietnamese) became Christians years ago in Vietnam. Others were first touched by the Gospel in refugee camps through Baptist ministry and some became Christian after being sponsored as refugees by Baptist families and congregations. In the past, they heard and responded to the Gospel's call, and now that call continues."

Chanh is praying that some will hear the call.

"I pray that God will call you and you will return to Vietnam with faiths of Noah and Abraham," he said. ■

Missouri association ousts church over woman's ordination

Baptist Press

SIKESTON, Mo. — The executive board of Charleston Association in Missouri voted Aug. 19 to withdraw fellowship from First Church, Sikeston, over the ordination of a Sikeston woman to the Gospel ministry.

The action, taken in a special called meeting of the board, came at the recommendation of the board's three-member credentials committee.

Charleston Association Director of Missions Randy Fite said 54 of the 75 executive board members were present for the special meeting, along with 13 visitors. Twenty-eight of the association's 35 churches were represented. The balloted vote on the motion to withdraw fellowship from the Sikeston church was 40-8 in favor.

Sikeston ordained Billie Fair March 31. She graduated from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in May with

a master of divinity degree. She has served as the church's outreach director and has said she hopes to become a hospital chaplain.

Fair asked the church to ordain her in a March 6 letter and the church responded a week later.

Messengers at the association's mid-year meeting in April instructed the credentials committee to meet with representatives of the Sikeston church about the matter. The meeting was held in July and

was described by Fite as "very cordial, but short." Jim Guffie, Sikeston pastor, said the church responded that it had undergone a four-year process to arrive at its position, beginning when Fair entered seminary. As for Scripture, "There is no verse that says we can ordain women, but neither is there a verse that says we can't. For that matter, no verse says we can ordain a man."

Guffie said the church exercised its autonomy. ■

Study shows Tennessee ranked third

Georgia churches lead in compensating pastors

By Mark Wingfield
For Associated Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Pastors with money on their minds ought to get Georgia on their minds, according to a new clergy compensation study.

The study comparing compensation of pastors in 13 state or regional Baptist conventions found Georgia Baptist churches provide the largest average financial support for their pastors.

Georgia Baptist churches provide an average of \$47,525 in total financial support for their pastors. Total financial support includes salary, housing allowance, Social Security equivalent, insurance, and reimbursable expenses such as auto, hospitality, and conventions.

Across the 13 conventions, the average total financial support for a pastor is \$44,563.

Of the conventions studied, Missouri ranked the lowest in average total financial support, at \$40,079.

Other conventions participating in the study and their average total financial support: South Carolina (\$46,234), Tennessee (\$45,876), Florida (\$45,731), North Carolina (\$44,891), Virginia (\$43,917), Mississippi (\$43,433), Kentucky (\$42,878), New England (\$42,582), Oklahoma (\$42,099), Illinois (\$41,750) and Ohio (\$41,203).

The 13 state and regional Baptist conventions joined for the first time this year to compare church staff compensation. A similar study has been done for the last decade in Kentucky by KBC staffers Don Spencer and Guy Futral, who coordinated the expanded research.

Total financial support packages

range widely, largely dependent on the church's average attendance and annual budget.

Across the 13 participating conventions, churches with annual budgets of \$50,000 or less are paying their pastors an average of \$24,283 in total financial support (\$19,430 in salary and housing). Churches with budgets of \$800,000 or more are paying their pastors an average of \$86,620 in total financial support (\$66,796 in salary and housing).

Actual annual paychecks (salary and housing allowance) for full-time pastors range from \$4,183 to \$125,908.

Most churches responding to the survey have annual budgets of \$300,000 or less.

The average annual paycheck for a pastor of a church with a \$200,000 to \$300,000 budget is \$37,760.

Of all churches in the study with full-time pastors, 82 percent contribute to annuity plans for their pastors. Also, 75 percent contribute toward medical insurance for the pastor, 61 percent provide life insurance, and 49 percent provide disability insurance.

Only 37 percent of churches with full-time pastors provide a Social Security equivalent for their pastors. Without it, ordained ministers must pay both portions of the Social Security tax because they are considered self-employed.

Most business employees pay half the total Social Security tax while their employers pay the other half.

A total of 3,918 full-time pastors in the 13 state conventions responded to the survey.

Other results of the survey revealed:

- Although 67 percent of full-time Southern Baptist pastors participating in a recent study hold master's degrees, only 13 percent serve churches likely to pay salaries comparable to a layperson with similar education.

This finding comes from comparing a 1996 ministerial compensation study with earnings data from the United States Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Baptist study found that, on average, only churches with annual budgets of more than \$400,000 are likely to pay their pastors more than \$47,892, the current average salary of an American worker with an advanced degree.

According to Labor Department statistics, the median annual earnings in 1996 for American workers with master's degrees is \$47,892. The median annual earnings of U.S. workers with bachelor's degrees is \$35,776.

- Despite the perceived increase in affluence of Baptist churches in recent decades, most Baptist pastors have not seen corresponding increases in pay, Spencer noted.

Progress in improving ministerial pay is "very, very slow," Spencer said.

"The thing we've seen as we compare the studies we've been doing for 10 years is the increases are just slightly ahead of the cost of living.

"When you consider that ministers are on the low end for positions with comparable education and responsibility, for them to just barely stay ahead of the cost of living it's going to take a long time to be comparable to other areas of pay."



Prayer is vital in reaching nation's cities, Lawrence says

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Christians readily recognize and voice opinions about the problems in their communities, but are they willing to spend time praying about these problems?

This question was explored during the conference, "How to Pray for Your Community," during the recent Woman's Missionary Union week here.

The conference was led by Ann Lawrence, associational consultant for WMU, which involves working with Mega Focus Cities, Southern Baptists' inter-agency effort to help associations in the nation's largest cities reach those cities for Christ.

Referencing several Scripture passages related to pray-

ing for cities, Lawrence said reaching any city for Christ must begin with prayer. She outlines four areas in which Christians can pray for their communities.

(1) Pray for unity of the churches, including prayer for pastors in the community as well as prayer for members of other churches.

(2) Pray for the personal and collective holiness of the people of God in the community.

(3) Pray for all people everywhere in the community.

(4) Pray that all will be saved and none will perish.

"God is waiting for his people to pray," Lawrence declared. "He desires that we know his heartbeat — and that is that all should be saved and none perish." ■

Experiencing God study available in binary code

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — *Experiencing God* comes in many dialects — Papiamento, Tagalog, mandarin, binary code. The first is spoken in the Netherlands Antilles; the second on an island in the Philippines, the third in China, and the fourth in space.

Cyberspace, that is.

Taught in at least 30 languages across the world, *Experiencing God*, a 13-week study offering Christians the skills to find God's will for their lives, transcends time and space beginning Sept. 16. That is the day Christians and non-Christians alike from America to Zimbabwe will connect via computer and modem to begin jointly studying the popular course produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division.

The idea of studying *Experiencing God* via internet origi-

nated with Thomas Kennedy, a native of Canada and resident of Holland, Mich. When Kennedy's work visa expired before his new one was issued this summer, the computer consultant found himself with time on his hands.

"God kind of used that time to kick this thing off," he said of the *Experiencing God* Internet study which will be launched three times a year in January, May, and September "until the people quit subscribing."

Kennedy said he explored several on-line Bible studies recently, but had become disillusioned with them when the cyber chat about Scripture turned into theological bickering.

"I spent a lot of time on different Christian computer mailing lists, but it seemed like many of the people on them were just trying to throw Bible verses back and forth like they knew more about the-

Full-time ministerial staff members, on average, earn 69 percent of what the pastors of their churches are paid.

The 1996 compensation study shows the average annual paycheck (salary and housing allowance) for a full-time staff member is \$33,755.

When benefits such as Social Security, annuity, and insurance are added in, the average rises to \$40,222. When other expenses such as conventions, conferences, books, and automobile are added on top of that, the average church spends \$42,587 in total financial support of a full-time staff member.

Among the states studied, church staff members other than pastors on average receive the highest total financial support in Tennessee, \$46,128. Florida ranks second at \$45,763, and Georgia third at \$45,675.

Also among the states studied, average total financial support for full-time church staff is lowest in Virginia, (\$38,959) and South Carolina (\$39,001).

Full-time staff members who specialize in one area, such as music or education, tend to be paid slightly more than those who carry multiple responsibilities. However, staff members with multiple responsibilities usually work in churches with smaller budgets.

Across the 13 state conventions studied, 77 percent of the churches contribute to annuity plans for their full-time staff members, 74 percent pay some portion of medical insurance, and 63 percent provide life insurance. Also, 46 percent pay a Social Security equivalent for full-time ministers who are ordained. Only 7 percent of full-time staff members other than pastors live in church-owned homes. ■

ology than the other person," he said. "I thought to myself, 'If I was a non-Christian, I wouldn't want anything to do with that.'"

"I was ashamed that we had this incredible technology and it was being used to divide the body of Christ instead of joining people together to edify him," Kennedy said.

Just as he was tiring of all computer-mediated Bible studies, Kennedy said a friend lent him an *Experiencing God* workbook.

"After the first week, I was so excited about the study that I wanted to find some other people to study it with me. So I posted an e-mail message asking if anybody was interested in studying *Experiencing God* with me.

"In the first three days, I received over 200 messages from all over the world. I was totally overwhelmed by it," he said. "Tears literally ran down my eyes." ■



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 conform, 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



CANADA • MICHIGAN • POLAND

Partnership Prayer Requests

September

- 4 — Pray for FMB President Jerry Rankin who began a visit to Poland Aug. 31 and for a leader to follow up the work of the Praxis Team in the Union Lake area of Michigan.
- 5 — Pray for a young couple in their 30s who are members of Family Life Church, Quebec, Canada. They are trying to conceive a child.
- 6 — Pray for Dr. and Mrs. Albert Warden who are teaching this month at the Polish Baptist Seminary in Warsaw.
- 7 — Pray for Fellowship Church in Oxford, Mich., which is in need of a bivocational pastor.
- 8 — Pray for Joan Larson, a member of First Church, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, who has a malignancy.
- 9 — Pray for the orphan children that WMU volunteers worked with recently in day camps in Wisla, Poland. Also pray for the Polish Seminary students who will continue to work with these children.
- 10 — Pray for Northfield Hills Church, Troy, Mich., which needs a full-time pastor.

Bravo for BSU

School always brings back memories of my time at college, UT-Martin, a school I learned about in my senior year in high school. I now see God's hand at work. I accepted Christ when I was in the 10th grade. I continued pretty much along the same path not knowing that spiritual growth was as important as other growth.

On my second day at UTM, a friend and I looked for the Baptist Student Union. It became my second home. If I wasn't in class or in my room, I was at the BSU. I had the opportunity to serve as a resident manager for three years.

More important, though, was the opportunity to learn the meaning of "growing in Christ." Through BSU I participated in Bible studies and other informal groups that helped me to understand where I was spiritually and where I needed to be. Through BSU state conventions I met other college students and heard how God was working on their campus and in their lives. I got to know Dr. Yarbrough and Bill Henry, who then headed student work at the TBC. I also met my future wife there.

Thank you Tennessee Baptists for providing BSUs and their directors all across our state. From my experience and those of others, I know many lives have been forever changed by this ministry for college students.

David A. Stockett
Goodlettsville 37072

Tribute paid to deceased Memphis pastor

Dwight Clayton, pastor of New Song Mission in Memphis since 1993, died Aug. 15. He was 49. A good one-word description of Dwight's life and legacy is integration.

Personal integration: Most people wear several hats in life. Dwight didn't mess with "role hats"; he was just "Dwight" all the time. He was a friend of God, of people in the poorest parts of Memphis, and of mine. Dwight saw God in the inner city because he was pure in heart — a fully integrated person. He was full of Jesus and his inside matched his outside. He had Christ's love for the poor and Christ's eyes to see that the inner city is a field ripe for harvest, full of people who know they are sick and want a Great Physician.

Church integration: Dwight was personally integrated and so he started an integrated church. He may have been the only white pastor of a predominantly black church in Memphis. People were just people to Dwight, not de-

finied by race or religion or income. Dwight's idea of a good day's work meant time on the streets of Memphis to be with people. He was busy listening to people, helping meet physical needs, and always talking about Jesus who brings help and hope like nobody else.

Associational integration: Dwight didn't minister alone at New Song. He had a committed staff who continue the work. He believed that the body of Christ concept extended to include the churches of the association. Churches like Second, Memphis, Kirby Woods, Bellevue, and Brinkley Heights have joined hearts, hands, and finances with New Song to minister in south Memphis. Though it will be impossible to replace Dwight Clayton, his death provides the opportunity for more Shelby Baptist Association churches to join together as a living bridge between the inner city and Jesus.

Joy Sims
Cordova 38018

Expresses doubts

Once again the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has been explained (Aug. 14 *Baptist and Reflector*).

Evidently the writer was unable to do so within the editorial guidelines of "no more than 250 words." Perhaps the editor overlooked this after considering the alleged "many inaccurate statements about CBF" by Mr. Barner (Aug. 7 *Baptist and Reflector*). Experience makes me doubtful an opposing explanation of equal length would be published.

I commend Diane Jordan for articulating so well the line of rhetoric expounded by CBF leadership. However, in Christian love, I respectfully disagree with her summation.

When viewed within the context of the cooperative spirit of the SBC and the Cooperative Program, this Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is a misnomer. "Going your own way, doing your own thing" is not being cooperative. A more accurate name to me would be the Uncooperative Baptist Fellowship.

It is foolish to think or imply that all people who support the CBF are not "Bible-believing, Christ-centered Christians."

Unfortunately many theologically sound and correct biblical interpreters have been misled into the CBF by the contention that this is a political power struggle. Such is not the case. It is in fact a theological struggle, which some are

making a political power struggle issue.

John L. Miller
Dickson 37055

Yes, the letter in question, like Mr. Barner's and others, exceeded the word limit. The purpose of the page 4 guidelines explanation in the Aug. 21 issue was to remind readers of the guidelines, including length. Letter writers are encouraged to be accurate in all statements. Perception does not necessarily prove accuracy and truth. — Editor

On target

The recent letter written by Diane Jordan was on target.

Thank you for printing it.
Dillard A. Mynatt
Gatlinburg 37738

Multimedia visit to Jerusalem available via CD-ROM program

SOUTH MILWAUKEE, Wis. — "Pathways Through Jerusalem," a CD-ROM program by Future Vision, calls itself multimedia and, after its installation, takes little time before its wonders start to unfold.

It's not the ultimate example of what true multimedia can be, but is currently one of the best examples in the religious field. "Pathways Through Jerusalem," a two-volume CD-ROM program, brings alive the city of Jerusalem through the eyes of nine different characters and delves into the Christian, Jewish, and Islamic history of the 3,000-year-old city.

The first tour guide is King David, then we have Herod the Great with Queen Helena rounding out the first trio. The second three are Dirk the Crusader, Suleman the Magnificent, and Raphael representing modern Christian Jerusalem. The final trio has Azziz in modern Muslim Jerusalem, Tammar in contemporary

Jerusalem, and Daniella with an overview of the city's 3,000 years.

The Main Map allows you to look at more than 300 sites in and around the city of Jerusalem. The Database, which includes more than 200 entries, combines information and background concerning the city, religious events, terminology, and much more.

Future Vision also has included a Timeline that gives a general overview of Jerusalem and the history of the world. Each area has a corresponding button to help you find what you are looking for. Additional buttons give you added detail. The Source button allows you to read and hear selections from primary sources such as the Bible, Koran, Josephus, *The New York Times*, etc. The Discovery button relates to archaeologists and discoveries that bring history to life. The Legend button uses narrations and animations that relate an-

cyber corner

— by David Burzynski

cient legends and folklore to the nine tours featured in the program. The final two buttons, Video and Time Morph, help the user utilize the program's multimedia aspects.

Before we get too far here, it needs to be said there is some jumpiness to the video clips and melding of colors. The box lists minimum as 8 megs of memory, but the jewel case jacket says 4 megs minimum (8 megs recommended). The optimum motherboard memory would be 16 megs with all other programs closed while jour-

neying though the holy city of Jerusalem.

The current price is \$49.95 plus shipping and handling. It is well worth it if you haven't been or can't afford to visit Jerusalem in the next few years. And it can prove valuable to pastors as well as teachers and students of the Bible.

If you're interested in this CD-ROM program, call Softkey at (800)-227-5609. ■ — Burzynski, pastor of Southeast Church, South Milwaukee, Wis., also reviews software for *Christian Computing* magazine. This column is distributed through Baptist Press.



Week of Prayer For State Missions

Sept. 8-15

Golden State Missions
Offering Goal:
\$1,300,000

Are Americans really working too hard?

According to some experts, there are many reasons for the eroding character of the American family. Families are in trouble all over the world probably, but our first emphasis must be centered on the recovery of family values in America — standing by them, and influencing others to do the same.

No, we don't have to return to the "good old days" to get it right. Values that were valid for the family then are valid for the family now. Christian values, Baptist distinctives, never change. Nor should they be insulted by diluting them with flawed thinking.

We've discovered we can't be all things to all people, though that might bring in more money — *but we can be the right things to all the people*. Righteous living and a servant attitude is a good combination.

In a book called *Being God's Partner*, Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin asks the question that headlines this editorial. Are Americans working too hard?

In the rabbi's opinion, many Americans believe work is the emotional and spiritual center of life. That should not be true, even if you are employed by a church or a denomination.

He has determined that professionals in our country now work an average of about 44 hours each week. Many, he says, work twice as long. Factory workers work 430 more hours in a year than German workers. How about you?

Sometimes those kinds of hours are compulsory, often they are not. It has become a way of life it seems, even with families. We may be working ourselves to death — and the family is at risk.

The family needs to explore its reasons for working. Often "things" may entice us to the point of taking a second job, or working overtime, to pay for luxuries that add to the monthly bills rather than adding

to the character of the family.

The major political parties are talking a lot about family values and support for families and their needs. That is good — but we look for tangible evidence of that concern. Promises are easily made, and they should be kept.

Meanwhile, churches and communities need to do their share for families.

Jeffrey Salkin reminds us that, "Workaholism and its handmaidens, careerism and materialism, aren't only social issues — they are religious issues." And, we might add, false gods.

Whatever detracts from the vital signs of home and family contributes to heartbreak.

For the compulsive worker, work becomes a god and nothing stands in the way.

Noting that genuine religions are concerned with the "shattering" of false gods, Salkin says in a *Reader's Digest* article, that the Sabbath is "the most profound revolution in religious thinking."

Bravo! is an appropriate expression for that statement. Observance of the Sabbath, regardless of which

day you worship, recognizes the biblical standard. It tells the world that the Sabbath is significant, not just an ordinary day. It is an expression of who *owns* us, God, not the world.

Also, we can help our families not only by *protecting* them from evil, but by *nurturing* the aura and meaning of holiness within the family unit.

One of the most poignant moments in the classic film, *Fiddler on the Roof*, is the Friday evening preparation by Tevye and Golda for the Sabbath. It is a family time of worship. The prayer is tender, valiant, and sincere. It is a prayer for the wellbeing of the family, not only for the present but for the future.

Work is a gift from God, a blessing we sorely need. But the family must be properly positioned in our hearts and in our daily plans. *B&R*



Selfless giving from generous attitude: CP

For new Baptists, and old Baptists who never did learn, the Cooperative Program is the lifeline of missions, ministry, and evangelism at home and abroad.

For more than 70 years, Southern Baptists have relied on the Cooperative Program to carry out this work locally, within the associational boundaries, in the state conventions and Southern Baptist Convention, and thus, around the world.

In fact, this God-given financial plan stretches dollars to support Baptist causes which one church could never reach.

When a Tennessee Baptist church gives to the CP,

a part of that gift helps people supply needs at home and far beyond. Because churches unite through the CP, our dollars can go almost everywhere to help fulfill the Great Commission.

Built on trust, the CP is the best plan, and each church gives from the heart. The CP epitomizes the word "unites." Standing alone, the church "unties."

Each person, each church that gives through the CP, honors Christ and acts unselfishly, gives its vote on how the money is used, and trusts its leaders of missions and the other work. More than an obligation, CP giving is a blessing. *B&R*

Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Deacon to pastor: "My dog died. Would you consider holding a funeral service for him?"

Pastor: "Of course not, but call my neighbor preacher. He'll do anything."

Deacon: "Okay. By the way, should I give him \$100 or \$200?"

Pastor: "Wait a minute. You didn't tell me that dog was a Baptist."

Take this truth

Do you believe we all have our price? I don't.

Watching a missionary washing a dirty patient, a visiting college chum said to her, "I wouldn't do that for a million dollars." The missionary responded, "I wouldn't either."

Memorize this Scripture

Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself (Daniel 1:8).

Pray this prayer

Lord, please help me to remember that some things are more important than money, prestige, or power.

Help me to make them my goal in life. ■

It doesn't take an expert to appreciate Rembrandt

During a discussion on a radio program I heard an explanation of techniques used by some of the great masters in painting.

I have some favorites of later vintage — Vincent van Gogh, Albert Ryder, N. C. Wyeth, Frederic Remington, Charles Russell, Bev Doolittle. They, and others, passed in mental review as I listened.

They are good, even great I think, but among the best old masters, Harmensz van Rijn Rembrandt stands at the top.

This is arguable, I realize, but for me, other than those superb scribbles of our daughters and grandchildren, he captures feelings and emotions on canvas like few painters.

Look at Rembrandt's titles for his paintings: *Anatomy Lesson of Professor Tulp*, *Blinding of Samson*, *Dante*, *Rape of Ganymede*, *Descent from the Cross*, *Jacob Blessing the Sons of Joseph*, *Man with a Magnifying Glass* — are but a few.

You could write a book with such titles, or at least a good series of short stories.

Reasons to be involved in Habitat idea

A television program often uses a "top ten" list, and I want to borrow the idea. I want to list my "Top 12 reasons to be involved in the Habitat for Humanity project. I chose 12 because of its biblical significance.

12. Free food.
11. A great way to learn how to fix up your own house.
10. A great place to learn appropriate ways to express pain after hitting your finger with the hammer.
9. Will allow you to determine whether Baptist cooks really are better than the Methodists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, and those of other denominations.

one word more

— by Wm. Fleischer Allen, editor

The Dutch master pushed back the darkness of life with his bright portraits of people and their feelings.

Late in life when his beloved wife died, he buried himself with paintings for himself. Not commissioned works, his paintings of these years have been called "majestic biblical work, done to satisfy his inner needs."

Rembrandt's most famous is *The Night Watch*. Years ago Betty and I were beneficiaries of a few days in Amsterdam during our Army days.

At the museum, we joined an eager line of people waiting to spend a few minutes looking at it.

Time flew. Our five minutes were gone before we began to realize the privilege we were experiencing.

Nevertheless, the experience is still

alive in the mind's eye — looking at Rembrandt's *The Night Watch*. Like so many of his 600 paintings, 300 etchings, and 1,400 drawings, the subjects of his work appeared real, ready to move away from the canvas. He painted himself about 100 times!

It was because of his keen ability to discern the inner feelings of his subjects, coupled with extraordinary artistic talent, that he has touched many millions of lives. In short, he was a storyteller.

He knew how to use light and shadows and contrasted them to make the light area brighter when no tint would achieve the desired degree of brightness.

Thus he heightened the drama of the biblical characters, and others, showing the humanity of each.

Rembrandt's use of light and shadows illustrates how remarkably bright our renewed lives can be after we have met the Master, to leave the shadows. ■



ALLEN

think about it

— by Larry Swift, First Church, Nashville

8. You will receive a great blessing.
7. A great way to make new friends from other churches.
6. A great way to meet fellow Christians from First Baptist.
5. You help rebuild a community.
4. It will illustrate the parable of Luke 6:47-49.
3. It will provide an excellent opportunity to witness to the community.
2. God wants us to invest our lives in the lives of others.

1. It will change your life forever!

Whatever your reason, won't you come help us build a house which will become the home of a mother and her two children?

Yes, it will be hot. Certainly, it will be hard work!

Yes, you might have some sore muscles after working. But what a great way to exhibit Christian love and concern, to share with others, and to witness to the community. Please pray for the project and how God can use you in this ministry. ■

Editor's note: Swift is coordinator of Habitat for Humanity Project, First Church, Nashville.

Holston Association to hold tent revival

For Baptist and Reflector

JOHNSON CITY — Holston Association will have a tent revival here Sept. 8-12, with John Bisagno of Houston preaching, Cynthia Clawson singing, and a massed choir for each evening. Services begin at 7 p. m.

Several other revival-related events are scheduled. The tent will be located in front of University Parkway Church, adjacent to Holston Association offices.

Bisagno, pastor of First Church, Houston, will preach each evening. He is a former president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and author of 18 books, including the best-seller, *The Power of Positive Praying*.

Clawson, well-known as a Gospel music soloist, will sing



BISAGNO

for the Sept. 12 meeting. She has won a Grammy and five Dove awards from the music industry. Julian Suggs, director, Church Music Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, will lead congregational singing. Ted Cornell, music director with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, will direct the revival choir. In addition to special music each evening by the revival choir, other Christian concert artists will be involved.

East to West, a singing duo,

will lead a youth emphasis Sept. 10 at University Parkway Church.

Holston Association has designated Sept. 8 as a day of prayer and fasting for revival, according to Tal Thompson, director of missions.

In addition to the evening events, worship services are planned at noon Monday through Thursday.

Call the association office for information about child care and children's programs, (423) 929-1196. ■



Tennessee features

SS meetings in regions get good start

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Leewood Church, Memphis, and First Church, Jackson, were hosts to the first two of eight regional Sunday School Leadership Training Conferences being conducted across Tennessee.

The two-night event trained 788 workers in Memphis from Shelby, Big Hatchie, and Fayette associations. In Jackson, 649 leaders from Madison-Chester, Crockett, Haywood, Beulah, Weakley, Western District, Gibson, Dyer, Carroll-Benton, Beech River, and Hardeman associations were trained.

This was an increase from last year in the number of attendees at both locations.

Johnny Layton, minister of education at Broadmoor Church, Memphis, said, "These were the best organized conferences yet with many options for leaders over the two nights."

Conferences for pastors, staff, general officers, outreach directors, adult workers, single adult workers, college workers, youth workers, children's workers, and preschool workers were offered in an all new format with quality conference leaders coming from Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Georgia.

In addition to the Sunday School training, leadership conferences were offered in Discipleship Training, Church Media Library, and other areas.

The remaining conferences are:

Sept. 9-10 — Two Rivers Church, Nashville; First Church, Lawrenceburg

Sept. 16-17 — Central Church, Johnson City; Red Bank Church, Chattanooga

Sept. 23-24 — Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville; First Church, Cookeville

The conference schedule is 6:45-9 p.m. each night.

Contact your local association office or call the Tennessee Baptist Convention Sunday School Department at (615) 371-2054 for a listing of personnel and topics. ■

Centennial anniversary

Former pastors help First Church, Pulaski, celebrate

For Baptist and Reflector

First Church, Pulaski, which was started by the concern of Jerome Gentry, a Black Baptist deacon, celebrated its 100th anniversary with a homecoming and revival week, Aug. 18-21. Another Black Baptist, David Howard, began the first building fund.

"These great examples of cooperation and support led us to take a love offering during our revival for Temple of Praise, the newest Black church in our community," said Ron Galyon, pastor.

J. Clark Hensley and Clarence Stewart preached on Aug. 18, and homecoming was observed in the afternoon with a picnic on the grounds. Jud Hays preached

Aug. 19, followed by Bill Morris on Aug. 20 with Melissa Bryant providing a mini-concert. Gerald Stow preached on Aug. 21, and Partners with Christ gave a concert.

There was a church-wide meal prior each evening prior to the service.

Church members helped reminisce about their forefathers as they displayed old photographs and mementoes. ■

Fayetteville's Ed Lee recognized for 60 years of ministry

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector



PARKS CITY CHURCH Pastor Don Russell, right, presents a plaque to Ed and Idella Lee. Sunday, Aug. 25, was declared 'Ed Lee Day' at the church.

FAYETTEVILLE — Sunday, Aug. 25, was not that unusual a day for Ed Lee, but it was perhaps extra special.

As he has for 60 years, Lee preached God's Word in a Southern Baptist church.

The Alabama native, who launched his ministry in Tennessee at Elkton Church, Elkton, was guest of honor at Parks City Church, where he and his wife, Idella, are now members.

Lee preached the morning message, using the same text he used in his first sermon 60 years ago.

Later that afternoon, friends and family members gathered together to commemorate Lee's ministry.

Family members and others shared how Lee's ministry enriched their lives.

Lee served as pastor of several churches in Tennessee and was a director of missions in the state. He also served churches in Indiana and Illinois. Following his "retirement" in 1984 he served as associate pastor of Prospect Church, Fayetteville, and served as interim pastor of four area churches.

"He's been the busiest retired person I think I have ever known," said William Carey Association Director of Missions Joe Mayberry. He observed Lee "has been faithful to the stewardship of God's call."

Jerry Brown of Prospect Church, where Lee served as an associate pastor following his retirement, noted Lee instilled into the congregation "the importance of outreach and reminded us of the importance of senior adults."

Others spoke, noting how Lee had been an encourager to them in their ministry. During the service several letters were read from churches where Lee has served over the years and he received several gifts. ■



SHARING IN THE special day for Ed and Idella Lee, center, were their daughters, Brenda Taylor, left, of Lebanon, and Delores Williams of Inverness, Fla. The two daughters shared how much their father meant to them during a special afternoon service at Parks City Church.

Association's Big A Clubs reach children

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

ELIZABETHTON — During a missions trip to New Orleans, his first, Joe Ledford saw children in "helpless and hopeless" circumstances, he said. He kept thinking about children when he returned home. He wondered how he could prevent such heartbreak.

Ledford, a member of Lynn Valley Church, Elizabethton, and his wife, Linda, who also worked in New Orleans, talked with Becky Brumitt of Watauga Association about their concerns. Brumitt, another member of the missions team, suggested they work with children in a Big A Club she had started in a government-subsidized community.

That was two years ago, and the couple now claims as "their" children about 60 children they have met through Big A Club.

"Maybe that's why we didn't have birth children, because we wouldn't have time to do this," said Ledford, who is Elizabethton bureau chief of the *Johnson City Press*.

The ministry not only has changed their lives, but has changed their church, noted Ledford. Before the couple met the children, the church had realized its need for more children. Ledford, as Sunday School director, had led the congregation to pray for more children to attend. After getting acquainted with the children who attend Big A Club, the Ledfords encouraged their church to buy a van. They use it to transport children not only to Big A Club, which meets at the Watauga Association office, but also to transport them to Lynn Valley Church. Sunday School classes

have doubled in size and a children's choir is planned. Parents of children have made professions of faith and joined the church as a result, added Linda Ledford.

One reason for the results, said Brumitt, is the commitment of the Ledfords, who visit the children regularly to meet their families.

Similar ministries are being conducted by Baptists of the association in two other Big A Clubs, one at another government-subsidized community and one at Unaka Church, Elizabethton, which holds a club on Saturday mornings for children who live in that rural community. Also First Church, Hampton, plans to begin a club.

Barbara Grindstaff, director of the Unaka Church club, said, "There are kids galore in these hollers that don't go to church. I just wish that every church would just try it."

Anyone wishing to donate Big A Club materials, which are out of print, should contact Brumitt at the association. **B&R**



GIVING A HUG is Linda Ledford of Lynn Valley Church, Elizabethton.



← HOPING TO SINK HER GOLF BALL in a can is a Big A Club member while leaders Traci Proffitt, right, of First Church,



Hampton, and Linda Ledford, kneeling to her left, lend support. The club members got to make a golf shot after correctly answering a question from a Bible story. — Photos by Connie Davis



ARRIVING FOR Big A Club held each Monday afternoon at the Watauga Association building are children from communities in Elizabethton.



ESCORTING some children from their apartment to a van is Joe Ledford of Lynn Valley Church, Elizabethton, who transports the children to Big A Club weekly.



PACKING school supplies for children, including Big A Club members, is Becky Brumitt, director of church and community ministries for the association. She is based at the Hale Community Center in Elizabethton.



SURPRISED at his correct answer is a Big A Club member while other members cheer him on. The youth group is led by Marie Shanks, left, and Sherry Harr, center, both of Fairview Church, Watauga.



HELPING A YOUNGSTER with a craft is Joe Ledford, center.

Clinton Association welcomes World Changers

By Charlotte Benson
For Baptist and Reflector

OK RIDGE — World Changers, a ministry of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, has come and gone once again in Clinton Association. Evidence of their stay remains behind as much construction work was completed on houses in the area.

In 1990 World Changers began as a pilot program in Clinton Association. The program has expanded since then to 38 projects this year across the United States and in Nicaragua.

Clinton Association hosted two projects this summer. The first group consisted of 406 teenagers and leaders while the second group was made up of 358 workers. Both groups had hearts for missions.

The groups came from Texas, Florida, Missouri, Michigan, and Tennessee. Tennessee churches participating were Bethel Church, Greenbrier; First, Broadmoor, and Trinity churches from Memphis; First and Emmanuel churches from Collierville; East Maryville Church, Maryville; and Central Church, Knoxville.

The teenagers and leaders did various jobs such as painting, building walls, and roofing. The building supplies and addresses of homes in need of repair assistance were furnished by Aid to Distressed Families of Anderson County. During the two weeks about 30 homes were repaired.

While World Changers were meeting the needs of others, their needs were being met as



KAY HORTON prepares to help feed World Changers in the fellowship hall of Calvary Church, Oak Ridge. — Photo by Gerry Rinderer

well. Calvary Church, Oak Ridge, moved out of Sunday School rooms for two weeks so World Changers could move in. "It was a privilege to have them here," said Pastor Steve McDonald.

Clinton Association's WMU

especially was busy. Elaine Pearson, WMU director for the association, worked with church WMU directors and leaders to organize, prepare, and deliver lunches to the work crews at the various sites. Most of the 32 churches helping with the lunch ministry were from the association.

Breakfast and dinner were prepared daily by the disaster relief team comprised of about 14 volunteers.

World Changers was a group project between the Brotherhood Commission, Clinton Association, Director of Missions Mike Pearson, and Calvary Church, said David Goodwin, publicity coordinator.

In addition to the homes that were repaired, at least one person, an atheist, made a profession of faith as a result of World Changers. ■



Tennessee features

Two Rivers plans to build Habitat house

For Baptist and Reflector

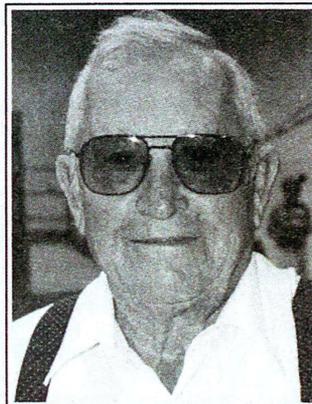
NASHVILLE — Two Rivers Church, Nashville, has announced plans to build a home under the direction of Habitat for Humanity. Construction is set for Sept. 19-28. Dedication is planned for Sept. 29.

Ray Moss, associate pastor, explained the project, which has drawn about 400 volunteers, will help the community "that we are blessed to enjoy. The Habitat for Humanity program is the essence of helping those not as fortunate to help themselves, something that is part of the call of Christ to his followers. It also impresses me that the church will have increasing opportunities like this as the government withdraws from its role in the welfare programs of the past 60 years as we know it."

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit Christian ecumenical housing ministry that builds low cost homes in partnership with low income families and volunteers. Project funding by homeowners and sponsors helps finance homes around the world. ■

Franklin Children's Home draws 200 for alumni homecoming

The annual alumni homecoming of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Franklin Aug. 17 drew nearly 200 former residents. In photo to left, former residents Larry Hays of Clinton, who lived at the home from 1955-64, Leon Taylor (1957-61) of Clinton, and Edward Paul Hyer (1959-69) of Paris reminisce. In photo to right, Porter Freeman (1919-37) of Nolensville celebrated his 81st birthday at the event.



Edward Paul Hyer (1959-69) of Paris reminisce. In photo to right, Porter Freeman (1919-37) of Nolensville celebrated his 81st birthday at the event.

Directors of missions J. C. Carpenter, Joe Mayberry set retirements

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — J.C. Carpenter and Joe Mayberry, directors of missions in Lawrence County and William Carey associations, respectively, have set their retirements. Carpenter will retire Nov. 30 and Mayberry Dec. 31.



CARPENTER

Carpenter, who has served Lawrence County Association for five years, formerly worked for the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department for five years. He also has been director of missions, Duck River Association; pastor of Trinity Church, Manchester; Plano Church, Bowling Green, Ky.; First Church, Byrdstown; Memorial Church, Livingston; and a missionary in Lawrence County, Ky.

The native of Kentucky also has been a member of the TBC Executive Committee and Hunger Committee. Carpenter is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky.



MAYBERRY

Mayberry has served William Carey Association for 20 years. He is a graduate of Vanderbilt University's Divinity School, Nashville, and Belmont University, Nashville.

Mayberry also served as pastor of Huntland Church, Huntland; Rock Springs Church, Columbia; New Hope Church, Christiana; Stewart Church, Stewart; and Tennessee Ridge Church, Tennessee Ridge. He is a native of Hickman County. *B&R*

Campers on Mission Rally set for Oct. 8-10 at Chattanooga

For Baptist and Reflector

A national Campers on Mission Rally will be Oct. 8-10 near Chattanooga. The meeting is for any campers interested in missions, said Beverly Smothers of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Campers on Mission is meeting for the first time in several years in Tennessee. Smothers hopes to use the meeting to revitalize the Tennessee chapter of Campers on Mission.

"They're not just getting together to see each other's RVs," said Smothers. "They are meeting to discuss missions projects they've been involved in and to plan projects

for the future."

The Leaf-lookers Eastern United States Campers on Mission Rally will be held at Shipp's Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park near I-75 at 6728 Ringgold Road. Those not interested in camping can stay at a motel which is within walking distance of the campground. Accommodations are available on a first-come basis.

Activities will begin with a missions fair at 2 p.m. Oct. 8 and end Thursday evening. Several meals will be shared.

For more information, contact national COM consultants Carl and Mary Reagan of Franklin, N.C., at (704) 369-7940 or Smothers at (615) 371-2044. *B&R*

churches

■ **Meadow View Church, Knoxville**, will hold its 40th anniversary Sept. 8. Fletcher Allen, editor, *Baptist and Reflector*, will speak during the morning worship service. A noteburning representing payment of a debt will be held along with a luncheon.

■ The 40th anniversary of **Lincoya Hills Church, Nashville**, will be celebrated Sept. 8. Activities include a luncheon after the morning worship service and an afternoon service at 1:30 p.m.

■ Homecoming activities of **Dickerson Road Church, Nashville**, will be held Sept. 22. Roy Sears, former pastor, will speak during the morning worship service. Activities include a luncheon and afternoon entertainment by the musical group Calvary Construction Company.

■ **First Church, Manchester**, will hold a Harvest Crusade Oct. 5-7. Frank Harber will speak and Joe Mike Hodge will lead the music.

■ **North Jackson Church, Jackson**, dedicated its church building Aug. 28. The afternoon service featured Maurice Hays and Paul Williams, who have served as interim pastor of the congregation. Kenneth Taylor, deacon, presented a history of the 87-year-old congregation. Ella Henderson, 87, was honored. She has been a member for 70 years.

■ **Holly Grove Church, Bells**, recently sent 21 members to DeWitt and Eaton Rapids, Mich., to support the Michigan/Tennessee Baptist Partnership. The group held Vacation Bible School, Backyard Bible Clubs, puppet presentations, and a youth musical. Several people made professions of faith as a re-

sult of the ministries.

■ **First Church, Nashville**, is hosting a seminar for people going through a divorce or separated from a spouse. New Beginnings will begin Sept. 15 and meet weekly from 9-10:30 a.m. through Oct. 6. Nancy Carroll will lead the seminar. Brunch will be provided at 11 a.m. Support groups will be organized following the program. For more information call (615) 664-6007.

deaths

■ **Dwight Clayton, 49**, pastor, New Song Mission, Memphis, died suddenly of a heart attack Aug. 15. Clayton, a former member of Bellevue Church, Cordova, and a former public school teacher and coach, had worked with the Mississippi River Ministry and Tim Cox, state coordinator of the ministry, for four years. A Home Mission Board Mission Service Corps volunteer, Clayton was ordained by Brinkley Heights Church, Memphis, sponsor of New Song Mission.

leaders

■ **Mossy Grove Church, Harriman**, has called **Charles Craig** as pastor, effective July 28. Craig has been pastor of Piney Grove Church, Harriman, and associate pastor of Chamberlain Memorial Church, Chattanooga. He is a graduate of Luther Rice Seminary, Lithonia, Ga., and Covington Theological Seminary in Georgia.



CRAIG

■ **William Ballinger** has



BREAKING GROUND at a new campus site Aug. 11 are leaders of First Church, Dickson, and businessmen, from left, Ed Rogers, businessman of Nashville; Dennis Spitzer; Larry Joe Scott; Larry Redden; Larry Batson; John Compton, pastor; and Frank Orr, businessman of Nashville. A \$5.7 million multi-purpose building is the first phase of the relocation to the outskirts of Dickson. The second and third phases will include more education space and a 2,400-seat sanctuary.— Photo by Connie Davis

been called as music associate, First Southern Church, Del City, Okla. He was a staff member of Mount Olive Church, Knoxville.

■ **Jimmy L. McCarter**, pastor, Zion Hill Church, Englewood, has earned his doctor's degree from Andersonville Baptist Seminary, Camilla, Ga.

■ **Beverly Hills Church, Memphis**, has called **Toby Robinson** as minister of youth/education and family.

■ **Tommy Gray**, education/worship minister, North Cleveland Church, Cleveland, Ala. His last day was Aug. 4.

■ **White Station Church, Memphis**, has called **Scott Hankins** as youth/children's director. He is an engineer at Southern Systems, Inc.

■ **Perry W. Austin**, pastor, Lakeview Church, Clearwater, Fla., has been called as pastor of Glenwood Church, Powell, effective Sept. 22. He served the church for five years and was associate pastor of Sharon Church, Powell, for eight years. Austin is a graduate of the University of South Florida and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. A reception for Austin and his family will be held Sept. 22 from 2-4 p.m. at the church.



AUSTIN

■ **Tommy Taylor** has been called as pastor of Powell's Chapel Church, Murfreesboro. Formerly he served as pastor of a church in Soddy-Daisy for seven years. Taylor is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.



Tennescene

congress for evangelists. The second National Congress for Southern Baptist Evangelists will be held Jan. 13-15 on the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary campus in Louisville. Plenary speakers will be Robert Coleman, Jerry Drace, Roy Fish, Steve Hale, Richard Harris, Ann Graham Lotz, Stephen Olford, and Glenn Sheppard. More than 20 workshops will be held. Pastors and wives may get information from Jerry Drace, NCSBE '97, 236 Sanders Bluff Road, Humboldt, 38343.

■ The first two Growth in Grace Workshops of the **South Knoxville Christian Writers and Artists Group** has been scheduled. On Sept. 13 The Art of Papermaking will be held from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. On Oct. 12 Watercoloring will be held from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Both will gather at Mount Olive Church, Knoxville. Frances Mullins will lead the workshops. For more information, call Mary Wright McHarris at (423) 577-5810. The group, which was founded in 1990, meets the last Thursday of each month at Mount Olive Church.

programs

■ **International Friends**, a Baptist ministry to internationals in Nashville, will hold a coffee Sept. 5 at Woodmont Church, Nashville, to kick off its year of activities. The coffee and weekly meetings of the organization are held each Thursday from 9-11:30 a.m. Membership is free and nursery is provided. For more information, contact Ruth Spraker at (615) 352-5751.

■ **The Billy Graham School of Evangelism Section of the Home Mission Board and the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists** are jointly sponsoring a

missionaries

■ **Brandt and Gailia Smith**, missionaries to Taiwan, are in the states and can be reached at 3364 Faxon Ave., Memphis, 38122.

■ **Roy and Joyce Wyatt**, emeritus missionaries to Colombia, may be reached at 7510 Jana Lane, Knoxville, Ky., 37931. She is the former Joyce Cope of Rogersville.



SUMMER MISSIONARIES who worked with Tim Cox, state Mississippi River Ministry coordinator in Memphis, pose during the past summer and include, from left, standing, Cox, Steven Currie of Texas, Charles Elliott of Arkansas, Laura Howell of Germantown, Katrina Kelly of Germantown, Perry Pennington of Germantown, Melissa Holland of Millington, Andrea Boyer of Millington, and seated, Jason Cox of Memphis.



PAUSING AFTER burning a note Aug. 11 representing the debt-free status of Salem Church, Parsons, are leaders and businessmen, from left, Fred Todd, businessman; Jim Littles; Fred Gilbert, businessman; Jordon Baker; James Smith, pastor; and Neal Shea. The debt was for a worship center which the congregation has enjoyed for a year.

Organizers not pleased with Hollywood 'debut' of TLW

By Terri Lackey
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — It was only a matter of time before the popularity of the Baptist Sunday School Board's True Love Waits chastity movement hit the big screen.

In the opening scene of Paramount Picture's popular movie, "Escape from L.A.," actress A.J. Langer brandishes a large lapel button that reads, "True Love Waits."

The problem is, the movie's treatment of the Southern Baptist campaign is hardly pleasing, organizers said. It seems "Utopia," the character wearing the button, is a rebellious young person and not

quite the typical Christian teen attracted to the chastity movement, according to Richard Ross, a youth consultant for the Southern Baptist agency and True Love Waits spokesperson.

Rated R, the movie is set in the year 2013. Los Angeles is no longer a part of the United States, having been leveled by a massive earthquake and cut off from the mainland by a flooded San Fernando Valley. The "island" of Los Angeles serves as a prison camp for the nation's undesirables. At the time, the United States is ruled by a president who has moved the capital city to Lynchburg, Va. It is his daughter who runs off to L.A. with a

black box full of secret codes. She is the same one wearing the TLW button, Ross said.

"The movie presents the president's daughter as somewhat mentally confused, suffering from having retreated into a world of virtual reality and cyberspace," said Ross, who recently viewed the movie to verify the actress was wearing the button. "Since (film director) John Carpenter depicted the president's family as emotionally and spiritually twisted, he certainly did not place a True Love Waits button on the daughter as an affirmation of the campaign."

Ross said the character,

Utopia, is nothing like the students who are carrying the True Love Waits message to their high school campuses this fall, Ross said.

Referring to the new True Love Waits Goes Campus campaign, Ross said Christian students attending U.S. secondary schools are organizing a major display of True Love Waits pledge cards for Valentine's Day 1997. The goal, he said, is to gain the participation of students in all 56,000 high schools.

While Ross believes the directors of "Escape from L.A."

used the True Love Waits moniker with a tongue-in-cheek approach, he said he believes they unwittingly paid the chastity movement two compliments.

"First, since they placed the movie in the year 2013, they obviously inferred that the campaign will be alive and well into the new millennium. Second, the very fact they included the TLW button reveals they believe that most movie-goers would recognize that phrase. Satire is only effective when viewers understand it." ■

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TALL
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TRACK	Check-In Times, Dates	Cost
1A - Advanced Adult Campcraft	10 a.m., Sept. 19	\$82
1B - Basic Adult Campcraft	10 a.m., Sept. 20	\$65
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2B - TAR Survivor Level	10 a.m., Sept. 19	\$82
2C - TAR Pathfinder Level	10 a.m., Sept. 20	\$65
2D - TAR Searcher Level	10 a.m., Sept. 21	\$62
3 - General Brotherhood	4 p.m., Sept. 20	\$62
4 - Associational Program	4 p.m., Sept. 20	\$62
5 - Disaster Relief Program	4 p.m., Sept. 20	\$62

Preregistration is requested. Early registration deadline is Sept. 1. After deadline, cost is additional \$5 per person. For more information, call TBC Brotherhood Department at (615) 371-2025.

Obedience

By L. Joseph Rosas III

Focal Passage — Hebrews 3:1-2, 12-14; 4:14-16; 5:7-9

The Baptist Faith and Message says, "All true believers endure to the end." This understanding of what is popularly called "once saved, always saved" is based upon the doctrine of election, God's gracious purpose in calling persons to justification, sanctification, and glorification through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Just as Israel was brought out of Egypt in order to enter and possess the promised land so that God might be faithful to his covenant promise to Abraham, we have been saved for God's purposes. The exhortations and warnings of the book of Hebrews are reminders not to lose sight of God's ultimate purpose.

Faithful to God's calling (ch. 3:1-2). We are "holy brothers who share in the heavenly calling." Holiness refers to our being set apart by God or saved for a purpose. In a very real sense, we did not find him, he found us. If one is in danger of drifting away, the best way to restore life and vitality to a relationship is to concentrate upon the source of that relationship, Jesus Christ. Faith is the root, obedience is the fruit of that relationship.

Warning against unbelief (vv. 12-14). The first of five warnings was that we not carelessly drift away. The second warning is more serious concerning a "sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God." When our hearts grow cold to God, it is easy to become cynical and unbelieving. This leads to a willful turning away from God. Our temptation is to live like the secular materialistic culture around us. We can too easily turn from the true and living God to follow the idols of the postmodern age in which we live. The antidote is daily mutual encouragement. Sin is deceitful in that it lulls us into disobedience. "We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly ..." does not mean that salvation is earned through endurance. Rather it indicates that endurance is the sign of authentic salvation. The faith that flickers at the finish was faulty from the first.

Aided by the Son (ch. 4:14-16). Our endurance is based upon the completed work of Jesus our High Priest. "Jesus" refers to his humanity. "Son of God" reminds us of his deity. He is able to sympathize with or share our feelings of weakness. He has experienced temptation much as we do though he was proved to be without sin. Because he is on our side, we can approach God with confidence. We find both mercy and grace before God because of the completed work of Christ in our behalf. Mercy is available if we sin. Grace is available to give us victory over temptation.

Submitted to the Father (ch. 5:7-9). "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." Jesus is the example of what it means to submit to God. His death upon the cross bearing the sin of the world was the ultimate test of his willingness to obey God. We are not saved because we obey God. We obey God because we are saved. As Paul expressed, "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith — and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast." We are saved "to do good works." Salvation is not earned by works, it cannot be lost due to their absence. However, assurance of salvation comes only as we "trust and obey, for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus." ■ — L. Joseph Rosas III is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis.

Beginning again

By Kevin Goza

Focal Passage — II Kings 23:1-8a

"I wish there were some magical place, called the 'Land of Beginning Again ...'" So begins the poem that speaks of mankind's desire to be able to throw away all the rubbish from the past, and to have a new start on life.

When the believer gets serious about obedience to God's Word, the "Land of Beginning Again" is at their fingertips. Josiah's renewal was far-reaching, touching every area of life. That is the only kind of renewal God knows.

Covenant renewal — vv. 1-3

First things first. When the scroll was found (ch. 22:8), and Josiah heard the words of the scroll; his heart was pierced. Could it be possible that God's commands, something that was so prevalent in their lives as a nation over many years, be lost and all but forgotten?

Even more astounding is the sad fact that today we live in a country founded on God's principles, but those principles seem all but forgotten in many places

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of leadership. We have more Bibles in print today than at any other time in the history of the world, but most of them remain unopened and unread!

So, the first act of beginning again was to renew their commitment to God's covenant found in his Word. Josiah called together his nation's leadership and led them in a covenant renewal ceremony. They pledged to follow God's commands without wavering. Josiah took his place, along with Moses and Joshua, as a mediator between his people and their God.

The fall of Babylon

By Tom Moncrief

Bible Book Lesson

Focal Passage — Revelation 17:6-13; 18:2-5

Matters seemed to be going well for those who opposed God by killing his faithful ones. John was shown a splendidly arrayed woman drunk with blood of saints and martyrs of Jesus (ch. 17:6). Those organized against God not only persecuted Christians but enjoyed doing so. It seems they thought nobody could stop them.

John marveled at what he saw possibly because of the finery with which the woman was outfitted. He probably was also amazed that in her apparent defeat of good, evil seemed to have the victory. John had been invited to look at judgment of the great harlot but instead sees her destroying God's people.

But the angel proceeds to show her fate. He said he'd explain to John the meaning (vv. 7-13). The beast described as "was, and is not; and shall ascend ..." is intended to imitate God. God's never-dying life contrasts with world power which is constantly passing away to come forth in new forms which also pass away.

Although evil seems to disappear it really does not. In John's day Rome was the prominent form of world power. In a real sense it is

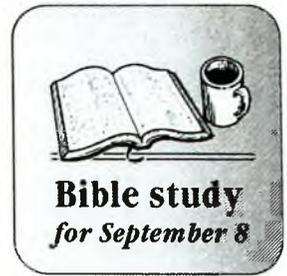
embodied in every age and always conflicts with God. God is in control no matter what nation rules at any particular time.

Finally, the supernatural power which sustains evil world leaders opposing God shall go to destruction (v. 11). But the fullness of world power has not yet been reached. The conflict will continue but for a little time. The world powers have one fixed purpose — to oppose God's kingdom in Christ (v. 13).

Another angel comes from heaven to announce the fall of Babylon (ch. 18:1-3). This angel, having recently been with God, glowed brightly reflecting some of God's splendor to the earth. In like manner, Christians should reflect Christ to the world. The angel announces with a mighty voice Babylon's utter destruction and desolation.

Her fall symbolizes the destruction of false religion which opposes God's people. Because it beguiles and corrupts people and leads them from God and into sin false religion is finally obliterated. People are persuaded by false religion to trust in self-indulgence and arrogance which destroy character.

Another voice from heaven calls for God's people to leave the city (vv. 4-5). This is God's message from



Religion renewal — vv. 4-7

With a renewed commitment to the covenant came a renewal of religious practices. Anything in the temple that spoke of heathen worship was removed. Cult items were taken outside Jerusalem to the Kidron Valley to be burned, and their ashes taken to Bethel, which constituted a public denunciation of the place.

He also dealt directly with pagan priests, dismissing them from their places of leadership. True renewal comes through renewed hearts and lives. If the individual is unwilling to repent and accept God's forgiveness, they cannot experience renewal.

In Josiah's time, these reforms were sweeping. They caused quite a stir among many people. Renewal is never easy, but once we set out on the course of renewal, we must not look back.

Worship renewal — v. 8a

The Levitical priests were also subject to the renewal from God's Word. The old, pagan ways to which they had grown accustomed would not honor the King of kings and Lord of lords. Worship was once again focused on God, not on man's desires.

In serving at the high places, they had been taken away from their primary commitment to God's law. They needed personal renewal. Therefore, they were not dismissed from the fellowship, but were recalled for renewal.

In a day when many are talking about a renewal or worship practices, we must seek to remain centered on God's Word, and seek God's desire for our worship. We cannot let the world dictate to the church how God will be worshiped. ■ — Kevin Goza is pastor of First Church, Lebanon.

heaven telling his people to separate themselves from Babylon to escape her punishments. It is a warning for the church to not share in the principles of false religion.

God judges false religion wherever it is found. There can be no compromise with anything artificial. God's people must have a godly heart and a holy life. God forgives and forgets repented sins but he remembers all which are not confessed. They receive his judgment (v. 5).

John presented reasons for deserting the worldly city. There is always danger of taking part in sins with others (v. 4). Such participation would lead to sharing in her plagues. Quite an accumulation of sins "are heaped high as heaven." Accepting the city one also accepts her liabilities (v. 5). And judgment was inevitable (v. 9).

Punishment for sin seems severe but it shows the seriousness of opposing God. God's judgment is never vindictive but is always in keeping with the sin. God is always just. The city representing false religion gloried herself and claimed to be self-sufficient. The Lord God is judge of all. He is Lord of lords and King of kings. None can stand before him except in Jesus Christ. In Christ there is life and absolute victory. ■

— Tom Moncrief is a member of First Church, Cleveland.



for your
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Teens need divorce support at church

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Teenagers dealing with the pain of their parents' divorce need support at church, maintains a licensed professional counselor.

Of the 50,000-plus divorce recovery support groups in the U.S., most are offered by schools, hospitals, and community agencies, Sandi Black said during a recent Baptist Sunday School Board conference here.

Black, a Texas Baptist from Fort Worth, said she believes "church is a place where families need to heal."

And she added Southern Baptists now appear to be leading out in the effort with discipleship courses like "Healing the Wounds: Teenagers Learning to Cope with Divorce," curriculum produced by the BSSB for youth affected by divorce or those interested in helping friends affected by divorce.

"I can remember when churches wouldn't even talk about (divorce) as though it was not in their church. It was somewhere else," she said. "The typical family is no longer a mother, father, two children, a dog, and a picket fence," she said.

The changing family has caused youth ministry to change as well, she said, joking that "youth ministers used to be the people who took youth on trips and kept them too busy to sin."

Now, youth ministry goes beyond relating to youth; it includes parents too.

The road to recovery for divorce is much like the grief and loss process, Black said. Youth coping with the loss of family as they have known it first express shock, numbness, and the denial response of "this isn't happening."

Other stages then follow — anger, bargaining, depression, and then hope. ■

'KidShare' helps children cope with divorce

By Julie Nall
For Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY — For many of the estimated one million American children whose parents' marriages fail each year, divorce is more devastating than death. There is a finality to death that is lacking in divorce, explained Beth Yates, a member of the Missouri Baptist Convention's Bible study team.

Early in her career, Cindy Ann Pitts, children's minister at First Baptist Church, Houston, was counseling with a young girl who was really broken over the issue of her parents' divorce.

"Katy, can I pray with you about your family?" Pitts asked the child. "No," Katy answered. "I've prayed and prayed and prayed, and Daddy's still going away."

The encounter challenged Pitts to seek a comprehensive resource to help children suffering through divorce. Finding none, she developed *KidShare: What Do I Do Now? Helping Children Deal with Divorce*, a 12-week support group for children in third through sixth grades whose parents have divorced.

The overall goals of the program are:

- (1) to provide a safe place for children to talk about their feelings.
- (2) to lead children to discover they can trust God to help them daily in practical ways.
- (3) to promote emotional, spiritual, social, and mental health.
- (4) to help children look forward to the future with

optimism.

A support group focuses on specific emotional needs, explains a handbook designed for parents of KidShare participants. Children involved in the group are encouraged to talk about their feelings and to listen actively as other children share their experiences.

The children learn to give and receive emotional support from others. The group provides a safe place where children from similar situations can share their feelings, adjust to change, and learn new behavioral skills.

The weekly sessions include homework assignments for KidShare participants to take home and work with their parents, said Carol Johnson, a divorced mother who has served as a facilitator for a group at First Church, Jefferson City, Mo. The assignments are very important because they draw the children and parents together, she said.

"Divorce is an adult problem that children are forced to deal with," Yates said. She also has served as facilitator of a KidShare group at the Jefferson City church. "The approach is not to tell children they shouldn't feel what they're feeling, but to help them understand their feelings, to label them, and to learn how to express them appropriately."

The group does not serve as a substitute for professional counseling, Yates emphasized. The parents' handbook notes the facilitators of KidShare are not professional counselors, therapists, psychologists, or psychiatrists. They are loving Christians who have displayed skills in working with children and

who have a concern for children from divorced homes.

The KidShare curriculum has a strong Christian perspective, an important element to set it apart from other support groups, Johnson noted. "This is not a 'preachy' program," she said. "There is nothing condemning about the curriculum while it still tells the children that Jesus loves them."

While working to develop the KidShare material, "most of what I've learned, the children have taught me," Pitts said. "Lots of children have great healing from being able to talk about their feelings. Children feel isolated. For them, it is their own personal tragedy. Many express, 'I thought I was the only one who felt this way.'" The children also learn the divorce wasn't their fault, Johnson stated. Some kids think, "If I'd been better, this divorce wouldn't have happened," but KidShare helps them realize they are not to blame, she said.

The KidShare groups, which meet for 12 weeks, generally are divided by ages and meet for one-and-a-half-hour sessions. Pitts said every time she gets two facilitators and six children, she begins a group, sometimes having five or six groups going at once.

KidShare also can be used one-on-one between a facilitator or pastor and a child. Yates said it would be ideal for a KidShare group to be scheduled the same time as a church's adult divorce adjustment ministry group.

"There are times that parents are concerned about information that their children will

share," Pitts wrote in the parents' handout. "Remember that your child, just like you, needs a safe place to talk about personal matters. Facilitators will respect and protect your family's privacy. They will remind the children weekly that the information shared in the group must not be discussed away from the group. It is amazing how well the children follow this policy."

Yates reflected that "the most amazing thing to me with the first group I've taught is that the children often don't express their feelings because they don't know how to label them. Often it is harder to talk about something you don't have a word for."

She said one child shared he had "a bad feeling inside" and he didn't know if he was angry or sad.

Through KidShare, he figured out he was feeling depressed. By the end of her first 12 weeks as a facilitator, Yates noted, the children would come early and didn't want to quit sharing at the end of a session. She attributes that to the children finding some positive adults in their lives who were there every week to listen to them — not correct them, judge them, or give them advice.

"Twelve weeks are not going to take away what a divorce has done to children," Yates said, "but hopefully it will give them some tools to deal with their feelings in the future."

KidShare: What Do I Do Now? is published by LifeWay Press of the Baptist Sunday School Board, 127 Ninth Ave. North, Nashville, TN 37234. ■

Broken marriages can be fixed, says family therapist

By Marv Knox
For Baptist Press

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — "You don't have to stay in a broken marriage," family therapist Ernest Castro told participants in a summertime Hispanic women's conference. "It can be fixed."

Rather than disintegrating into divorce, most marriages can be salvaged by approaching conflict constructively, Castro said.

Castro, who works with couples in Wichita, Kan., painted a bleak picture of American marriage. "Approximately 50 percent of marriages end in divorce. Fifty percent of the remainder believe the only option is to stay in a marriage that doesn't work."

Unfortunately, millions of Americans turn to hopeless solutions for failing marriages, he said. They drown themselves in alcohol, gorge themselves with food, sedate themselves with drugs, or immerse themselves in work, he explained, noting,

"They don't fix it."

At the core of troubled marriages is unresolved conflict, Castro continued. In every marriage, spouses bring different perspectives on conflict and varying ideas about how to handle it.

But "the only way to deal with conflict is to work through it," he stressed, noting two "paths through conflict" determine how most people try to resolve conflict.

"The automatic response is defensive and protection," he said.

This "intent to protect" fuels further conflict, because it keeps the partners from resolving the conflict, he said.

People who reflexively protect themselves seek to avoid personal responsibility for the conflict, he said.

And although they may react passively or aggressively, they instinctively see themselves as a victim and the other person as the cause of the conflict, he reported.

In this mode, "unhappiness always is the product of unloving behavior," he said. Even if the person denies a problem ex-

ists, the result is continued conflict and unhappiness.

However, the key to resolving marital conflict is "the intent to learn," Castro said.

In trying to learn from the conflict, individuals assume responsibility for the relationship as well as their own feelings, he said. They are able to understand the different perspectives they bring to their marriage, how those perspectives shape their feelings, and how to work together to build their relationship.

"The idea is not to be defensive, but to be heard (in the conflict) and make the other person feel heard," he noted.

Conference organizer Margarita Trevino urged conference participants to find one confidant to whom they can tell their cares and concerns. "It's important to have one person to share what's on our hearts"; otherwise, problems cannot be processed and resolved, said Trevino, president of Christian Education and Research Institute in Keller, Texas. ■